

January 12, 2015

Superintendent Report

Sports are an integral part of the middle and high school experience at Tucson Unified, and we have a quite a few of our outstanding athletes to here tonight.

Let's start with the **Gridley Track Team**. Here is what principal Dave Davies told us: For the past three years, Gridley has been very fortunate to have two outstanding track coaches, Tim Watson and Jeri Saiz. They have worked to build a solid track and field program at Gridley. The Girl's Track team has been the TUSD Girl's Track Team winners for the past the years, with the Boy's Track team in the top 5.

This season, the Gridley Track team did what no Gridley Track team had ever done, with a combined score of 370 points, the Gridley Boy's and Girls Track team were awarded the title of TUSD Middle School City Track Meet Champions. They were given the Traveling Trophy for the first time in since it was started in 1980 with Naylor Junior High, the first name ever placed on the trophy. Ms. McGlory, Gridley's Assistant Principal, had the broken trophy repaired, refurbished and Gridley's name inscribed upon it. It is with Gridley pride we welcome the 2014-2015 City Track Champions.

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Next we have the **CE Rose girls volleyball team**. Here's what Coach Angel Sobrino said about the team:

The C.E. Rose Girls Volleyball team did a fantastic job this year. The team finished the season 11-0 as the TUSD middle school girl's volleyball champions. The team of 22 grew as a whole throughout the season, having only a few return players and was determined to succeed. The ladies were very excited after winning the division champions award but were anxious to start the tournament knowing of the talented teams that we would be facing throughout.

Every game that we won seemed like a dream and took us a step closer to achieving our ultimate goal. Finally reaching the championship, we did not get to a good start as Secrist middle school beat them in the first game something like 20-8. The second team knew it was up to them to get us back in the game and was able to win and give our team a fighting chance at the title.

The Secrist team did not make it easy for us, but after coming back from a rough start to the third game and with the odds against us, the team knew this was our night.

I am honored to have coached both boys and girl's volleyball teams for the last three years and having made it to the championship three times in the last two years. This is a great group that not only succeeds at sports but in their academics as well. Being a small school with only 203 middle school students and having such success only makes our achievements that much sweeter.

Our next group of athletes is the **Borman Boys and Girls Cross-Country team**.

The team had 41 runners in grades kindergarten through fifth grade and five coaches. They are Coach Redlin, Coach Wills-Hodge, Coach Amber, Coach Regina and Coach Montes.

Both the boys and girls won first place in the Roskruge Open.

The coaches let us know that they are so proud of this team because they've all worked so hard to earn the 2015 championship trophies. Many of these runners have never missed a practice.

Another cross country powerhouse is **Dodge Traditional Middle Magnet School**. The girls placed first in the City Championships, and the boys placed second. It is so wonderful to have our middle school athletes working hard and playing hard!

Next we move to high school sports, starting with the **Sahuaro Girls' Golf team**. They finished as the 2015 Girls Golf State Champions. Kathryn Ottman was the individual State Champion for the 4A State Girls Championships.

This is the second time in three years that the Sahuaro Girls' golf team has won a State Championship. Last year they finished second.

Coach Megan Hughes was chosen by the Arizona Daily Star as the coach of the year. Kathryn Ottman was chosen by the Daily Star as the player of the year. Taylor Hughes finished fourth overall in the State Competition and was named to the Daily Star first team. Halley Hughes was named to the Daily Star second team. The State Championship team consisted of Kathryn Ottman, Taylor Hughes, Halley Hughes, Tea Bravo, Serenity Guerrero, Cameron Carr, Nikki Hacker, Diona Lumia, Katrina Esquivel.

Assistant volunteer coach Stan Hacker was instrumental in helping the girls with their golf game as well.

Next we move to swimming, starting with **Sabino High School's** Taylor Nations.

Taylor has an incredible swimming record and has committed to the University of Arizona.

Most recently, she was voted AIA Division II Girl's Swimmer of the Year and was named Athlete of the Year by the Arizona Daily Star for both 2014 and 2015.

Congratulations, Taylor, on an excellent senior year and an impressive high school swimming career.

I would also like to honor Coach Melanie Paulson, who after only two years at Sabino, was awarded AIA Division II Swim Coach of the year.

And next we have the **Cholla Chargers swim team**, which finished 12th out of 44 teams in the Division II State Swim Meet and walked away with three runner ups and one state champion.

- Senior Brent Zang finished 2nd in the Boys 200 & 500 Meter Freestyle. He competes nationally for Ford Aquatics and USA Swim Regional Team
- Junior Braden Christensen placed 2nd in the Boys 100 Meter Backstroke and placed 1st in the Boys 200 Meter Individual Medley.

Congratulations to these outstanding athletes!

Next I would like to recognize the **Tucson High Football team**. Under Head Football Coach Justin Argraves, the Badgers were the 2015 Division 2 Section 1 Champions. This was their first football section championship in over 30 years. They made the 2015 Division 2 State Playoffs and won the 2015 Tucson Football Officials Association Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations, Tucson High. This is an awesome showing, and we are proud of all of the players.

Pueblo Magnet High School also had a great football season. They were the Division IV Section II Champions and qualified for the State playoffs for the first time in 25 years.

The Pueblo Football Team also participated in this past year's Susan B. Komen Cancer Walk as well as raised \$800 in donations for breast cancer awareness.

Thank you, Pueblo Warriors, for your hard work and your efforts to raise money for this important cause.

I recently found out we have an American record-setter on one of our campuses!

Rene Romero competed in the USPF Powerlifting Championship and won the Teenage Division. Not only did he win his division he set 3 American Records. He set an American Record with a 248 pound Bench Press and 2 American Records in the Deadlift 391.3 pounds.

Could Rene and Principal Israel Macias-Reyes of Project MORE high school come up please?

Rene competed in a Power Lifting event which is called Push-Pull. It involves the pushing of a heavy weight such as Bench Pressing from your chest to arm's length in one fluid movement. The pull portion of this contest involves the Deadlift event and this involves lifting a loaded bar from the floor to waist height, in one smooth non jerking movement. Rene competed in the Teenage Division and broke American Teen Records in the Bench Press and in the Deadlift.

Rene set both the American and the Arizona records! Way to go Rene!

Rodel Principal Finalists

A great principal wears many hats. From guiding students and teachers to meeting with parents and sometimes, lunch duty. Basically, whatever it takes.

The Rodel Foundation of Arizona recently recognized the best principals in our state including two of our own. Could Mr. Frank Armenta of Cholla Magnet High School and Dr. Dan Schuler of Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School please come up?

Frank and Dan were recently named finalists. I was honored to nominate both of these campus leaders. Day in and day out, you are leading your teams to excellence. Thank you!

Economics Award

Awesomesauce.. that's the way the Alice Vail Middle School Facebook recently shared the great news, about a great teacher!

Congratulations to Gale Mitchell of Alice Vail Middle School for earning the 2015 Ed Eisele Excellence in Economics Education Award from the Office of Economic Education in the Department of Economics and the McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Arizona.

Ms. Mitchell and the Alice Vail principal and staff, could you come up please?

Here's a snippet from the award letter to Ms. Mitchell: "Your application, including the lesson you submitted and the recommendation letters submitted on your behalf, demonstrate your superior commitment to teaching economics to students." The competitive award comes with \$5,000! Way to go, Ms. Mitchell!

Recently, our **Human Resources** department was honored at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Arizona Wellness Council, receiving the Official Gold Seal of Good Health Keeping for 2015-2016.

Take a look at the celebration for our team and teams across Pima County. **VIDEO**

Anna Maiden, Chief Human Resources Officer was recognized as a Champion of Worksite Wellness for Senior Leadership.

Michelle Garcia, Human Resources Associate was recognized as a Champion of Worksite Wellness for her work as a Wellness Committee Member.

And Alex Rodriguez, Magnet Coordinator at Cragin Elementary was recognized as a Champion of Worksite Wellness for Personal Achievement. He lost 33 pounds since starting the program!

They are each role models in their areas and promote a healthy lifestyle!

This is also a good reminder for all of our employees to take advantage of the Wellness program we have here at Tucson Unified School District. You get rewarded for participating and making your health and wellness a priority! Find all the information you need to get involved on the district intranet.

Communications Award

Back in April of last school year, we heard about the largest deployment in history at Davis-Monthan Air Force base. With an elementary school on campus, we knew we had to do something to show our students, staff and families our support.

The idea was born for the Red, White and Blue for Borman day. Our communications team set out to reach our schools, our community and ultimately the global community with this effort. It was a touching day as people literally around the world wore patriotic colors to show the Borman family we were thinking of them.

Could the communications team come up—along with the Borman principal, Ms. Kathy Sisler and anyone from the Borman community?

I'm happy to announce: the communications team was recognized for their efforts to tell the story of the Red, White and Blue for Borman day with an IMPACT Certificate of Excellence from the Public Relations Society of America in the Special Events and Observances category.

Thank you to all our military men and women for your service!

Speaking of awards...

While we're on the topic of awards, I wanted to give you a quick list of the ways in which our team has been recognized since the adoption of the Strategic Plan just 18 months ago.

--College Board's AP Honor Roll

--2015 National Blue Ribbon School, Drachman Montessori Magnet Elementary School

--A+ Schools of Excellence, Carrillo Magnet School and Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School

--U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Green Power Community Rankings

- Ranked #2 of the Top 30 K-12 Schools. Also on the list: Austin (TX) Independent School District and Arlington County (VA) Public Schools
- Ranked #12 of Top 30 for On-site Generation. Also on the list: Apple, Google, Wal-Mart and the cities of San Diego, CA and Las Vegas, NV

--Governor's Award for Energy and Technology Innovation

--Metropolitan Pima Alliance Common Ground Award for Five Year Strategic Plan

--Financial Awards

- April 2015 – Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014
- May 2015 – Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014

--People's Choice Award from Expect More Arizona for our Infant and Early Learning Centers at Schumaker and Brichta

We put together a nice booklet for our last Strategic Plan update to the community—I brought copies for you today and wanted to let you—and the community---know that we have the entire presentation up online at TUSD1.org/strategicplan

End of report