

Guest List 3.10.15

Bart Peterson, Palo Verde Trainer +1

Eric Brock, Principal

Martha Damek, Soleng Tom Counselor +2

Holly Colonna, Director

Oscar Dotson, Principal

Onelio "Kobe" Madrid Calderon, Pueblo Magnet HS student +7

Auggie Romero, Principal

Sahuaro Basketball coaches (2) +4

Roberto Estrella, Principal

Matt Medina – Senior Manager, Customer Service, Dun and Bradstreet

Robin Serna – Senior Manager, Sales, Dun and Bradstreet

John Hald – Director, Sales, Dun and Bradstreet

Kristina Allen, Director

Joan Gilbert, Science

12 students from various High School STEM clubs

Mary Mendoza, Tolson Elem. Health Aide +1

Dawn Fode, Oyama Elem.

Ryan Wilson, Principal

Donna Johnson, Director of Health Services

Sarah Roberts, TUSD Nurse

Attendance Awards-Dunham, Safford, Mansfeld, Palo Verde

Susan Stansberry, TFCU Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Gaspari, TFCU Chief Operations Officer

Alexandria Soto

Lisa Valenzuela

Dana Limperis

Kathleen Neighbor

Sharon Thwing

April Monroe

Kathleen Gordon

Georgina Bejarano

Brenda Hunter

Christine Fell

Luz Harvey

Ginger Stevenson-Arzani

Ruth Aguilar Hansen

I'd like to talk about **Bart Peterson**, who is the athletic trainer at Palo Verde Magnet High School.

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association will induct Mr. Peterson into its prestigious Hall of Fame in April. The Hall of Fame is the highest honor a member of the association can receive.

Honorees are recognized for making significant contributions to the profession of athletic training.

At Palo Verde, Mr. Peterson directs athletic health care for 22 teams and over 600 student-athletes. Under his direction, Palo Verde received the Safe Sports School Award in 2013.

Mr. Peterson has served task forces that focused on important safety concerns such as heat acclimatization and appropriate medical care for secondary school-aged athletes.

Congratulations on this honor and thank you, Mr. Peterson, for taking such good care of our student athletes.

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Martha Damek, our counselor at Soleng Tom Elementary has been named a “Women of Spirit” honoree by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which is an international nonprofit public service organization.

The organization chose Ms. Damek because of her wonderful work with children as an educator, mentor and leader.

Ms. Damek has been a counselor with TUSD for nine years and has worked in education for 34 years. For the past three years, she worked at Soleng Tom and Borman. This year, she is at Soleng Tom full time.

At Soleng Tom, she facilitates Love and Logic Parenting classes and support groups for children including a Growing Up Successful program, friendship groups and loss and divorce groups. She also coordinates Christmas Giving Trees to help families in need.

And she facilitated the process for Soleng Tom and Borman to become Kind Kid Campuses. Last year Soleng Tom performed 1,300 acts of kindness!

These are just a few examples of the outstanding work Ms. Damek does for our children. It’s no wonder she was the 2013-2014 Counselor of the Year and that she was chosen for the ‘Women of Spirit’ Award.

Congratulations, Ms. Damek!

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Pueblo Magnet High School is extremely proud of **Onelio "Kobe" Madrid Calderon**. He was One2015one of 10 recipients of the Dorothy Finley Outstanding Teen Citizen Awards. And out of those 10, he was chosen for the 2015 Crystal Apple Award.

The students chosen for the Outstanding Teen Citizen Awards have worked hard to improve their own lives and have also contributed to the community or made a difference to others.

The awards are given by the City of Tucson's Parks and Recreation department, Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus, and the Metropolitan Education Commission's Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress.

Kobe was chosen as the Crystal Apple recipient because the panel was impressed by what he has overcome in his own life and because they believe his is a powerful inspiration for his peers.

Congratulations, Kobe.

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I am excited to announce that [Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp.](#) has made a donation of nearly \$21,000 to help our high schools grow their science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

The funds will go for programs at Tucson High Magnet, Pueblo Magnet and Palo Verde Magnet for their STEM projects.

At Tucson High, the funds will be used to enhance independent scientific research in biotechnology.

Pueblo will transform its community garden into a STEM garden.

Palo Verde will focus on engineering and will support the school's NEBULA mobile engineering trailer.

What's neat about the donation is that it comes from the company and from employees. Dun & Bradstreet encourages employees to save for their children's college and matches their college contributions with dollars that go to public schools.

Last year, the company donated \$10,000 to TUSD, and this year they've more than doubled that contribution.

I would like to thank Dun & Bradstreet and their employees for their dedication to TUSD and education as a whole.

We have students and teachers and administrators here and folks from the company here: Please come on up:

Matt Medina – Senior Manager, Customer Service

Robin Serna – Senior Manager, Sales

John Hald – Director, Sales

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I recently received a wonderful letter from the American Cancer Society to let us know about the great work of Sahuaro High School's boys' and girls' basketball teams in the Coaches vs. Cancer Suits and Sneakers Awareness campaign.

Steve Botkin, head coach of the girl's basketball team was the first in Southern Arizona to participate last year. The idea is that coaches wear sneakers with their suits to raise awareness about the fight against cancer. In his first year, he and his team raised \$750. This year, they raised \$1,647.

This year, **Jim Henry**, and the boys' team and their Booster Club joined the campaign. They raised funds for the American Cancer Society and for the mother of one of the players who was diagnosed with cancer. Their efforts raised \$3,300.

Here's what the American Cancer Society said about the Sahuaro folks: "I wanted to make sure you knew how grateful the American Cancer Society is to the coaching staff of basketball teams, the Booster Club, staff and faculty and the student body of Sahuaro High School for participating and embracing the Coaches vs. Cancer Suits and Sneakers Awareness Campaign. Sahuaro High School demonstrated a positive, community-minded image that aligns well with the District's Priority of Community Engagement."

Thank you so much, coaches, for this great work.

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Lately there's been a lot of talk in our state about what's considered classroom spending and what's not. Nurses and health assistants have at times been placed into the category called "administration."

Anyone who works in a school district knows: kids need help on our campuses. There are tummy aches, fevers and medicines to be given. There are anxieties about school, tears from issues at home, hearing tests and more.

Often, our nurses and health assistants save lives. And that's exactly what happened last month at Tolson. **Ms. Dawn Fode**, a TUSD Occupational Therapist wasn't feeling well. Luckily, **Ms. Mary Mendoza**, Tolson's health assistant could tell something wasn't quite right.

Mary asked Dawn for her diabetic kit, tested her blood glucose and found her to be in crisis. Mary quickly went into action, treating Dawn and calling 911.

According to **TUSD Health Director Donna Johnson**, Mary's actions kept Dawn from going into a diabetic coma.

Mary, Dawn—please come up here so we can give you a big round of applause. Thank you!

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March is National Social Work Month, and I would like to thank all of the social workers who support the children of Tucson Unified School District for their dedication.

The district has 27 social workers who provide counseling, support collaboration between schools and outside agencies, working with parents and staff on interventions for students, community referrals and crisis interventions.

This work is extremely important to children, and we are grateful to have our social workers in our schools. We have some of our social workers with us tonight. Please stand up so we can give you a round of applause.

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This month, we are happy to recognize our elementary, K-8, middle school and high schools that have made strides in school attendance.

First place for most improved at the elementary level is **Dunham Elementary**.

Congratulations to Manzo for coming in second and Hudlow for coming in third.

At the K-8 level, first place goes to **Safford Magnet**. Second and third were Morgan Maxwell and Hollinger.

Mansfeld was the most improved middle school, and Magee and Valencia were second and third.

And finally, at the high school level, congratulations to **Palo Verde Magnet School**. They won first place for most improved this month, and Rincon and Cholla came in second and third.

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I would like to thank Tucson Federal Credit Union for a very generous gift they are giving for the Pueblo Magnet High School Cyber Café. Tucson Federal Credit Union has been doing great work for teachers and the district as a whole for many years. Today, they are presenting a check for \$10,000 to be used for improvements at Pueblo's Café. If I can have the representatives of the credit union come up.

Susan Stansberry – Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Gaspari – Chief Operations Officer

Thank you for your generous support of our Pueblo kids.

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Typically **Love of Reading** has been a weeklong celebration of reading. For TUSD, one week just wasn't enough, so we expanded it to Love of Reading Month. I had the honor of reading to kids at several schools, and many more members of the community also spent time showing children the value of a great book. I'd like to show a collection of photos from Love of Reading Month. Thank you to everyone who was able to visit a school and read!

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I would like to thank all who participated in the March 7 **teacher job fair**. The fair was a big success and was attended by more than 340 applicants, who were able to visit with representatives of 56 schools. The schools each had tables to showcase their programs. Some even had videos and life-size mascots on hand.

We issued 28 letters of intent for teachers in areas including math, science, exceptional education and English Language Development, and all participants will receive letters to inform them of next steps, such as matching them with principals, setting up interviews and such.

Letters will be sent to all participants letting them know next steps; e.g., matches with principals, keeping their application for further consideration and timeline for potential 2nd round interviews if principals choose. We told applicants that most likely those interviews could happen during or after spring break.