

Superintendent Report

April 5, 2016

We had a number of students place in the **Tucson K-12 Poetry Contest** sponsored by the University of Arizona and the City of Tucson. This is the third year our young poets have placed in the competition. This year, the students are from Grijalva, Carrillo, and Roskruge elementary schools. GATE teacher Kevan Kiser-Chuc submitted the poems for her students.

The contest is open to all kindergarten through 12th grade students from the Tucson area. Winners receive a cash award along with a hand shake from Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Poet Laureate Rebecca Seiferle. The awards ceremony took place at the Student Union at the University of Arizona during the Tucson Festival of Books. Students were asked to read their poems, and their work will be highlighted on 4th Avenue starting in April. Congratulations to our outstanding poets. Please come on up!

In the Kindergarten – 3rd Grade category:

1st place: Erika Prieto Hermosillo
3rd grade, Grijalva Elementary

2nd place: Eizel Marckie Oliva
2nd grade, Grijalva Elementary

3rd place: Nicholas Garcia
3rd grade, Carrillo Elementary

3rd place: Jiselle Rivera
3rd grade, Carrillo Elementary

In the 4th – 6th Grade category:

1st place: Manuelle Fraire
5th grade, Roskruge Elementary

2nd place: Amare Cypriano
5th Grade, Grijalva Elementary

3rd place: Mason Daniel Weisbrod
5th Grade, Carrillo Elementary

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Next I'd like to ask **Sheila Marquez** to come up. Ms. Marquez teaches anatomy and physiology and is the science club adviser at Tucson High. She was a Circle K Teacher of the Year Nominee, and we are very proud to have her with us at Tucson Unified.

We would like to show video that aired on KOLD that shows you a little more about what makes Ms. Marquez an exemplary teacher.

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/30956251/teacher-tribute-tucson-highs-sheila-marquez>

Show video

Ms. Marquez was also here for recognition back in December when she received her National Board Certification.

Congratulations, Ms. Marquez, and thank you for the great work you do in your classroom!

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Congratulations to our **Operations Department** for its latest energy efficiency award. TEP recently presented its BrightEE (pronounced Brighty) to 12 customers and contractors who used the company's cost-effective energy efficiency programs to achieve significant energy savings and environmental benefits.

Tucson Unified was recognized for energy efficient improvements at more than two dozen TUSD schools and other facilities that helped the district save more than 6.5 million kWh in 2015.

We are very proud of our efforts to save money and protect the environment through our energy efficiency programs. I'd like to invite Mr. Stuart Duncan, Chief Operations Officer and representatives of the Operation Department to come on up.

Last year, the team also received 2015 Green Power Leadership award for "Green Power Partner of the Year" from the EPA! Great work team!

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Congratulations to the **Tucson High Magnet School Ecology Club and Student Council**, which secured a \$5,000 grant from the City of Tucson's Environmental Services department to install water filling stations to reduce plastic water bottle use and to purchase equipment to help them in their recycling efforts.

Andrew Quigley, director of Environmental Services, is here to present a big check to the clubs. Can I ask you all to come up?

I would also like to present a Certificate of Appreciation to the **City of Tucson** for supporting our students' environmental projects.

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Next up, we have a state champion in wrestling. I would like to invite **Marco Rivera** from Tucson High Magnet School to come up.

Marco is a sophomore and took first place in Division 1 in his weight class, becoming the school's first to win a state championship since 1995. His overall record was 26-3. He also placed in some tough tournaments, coming in third in the Peoria Tournament of Champions and in the Flowing Wells Invitational.

I know that Coach DeBerry is very proud of Marco, who he has worked with since Marco was in fifth grade at Roskruge. Marco would head to the gym to work with the Tucson High wrestling team at that early age.

Congratulations to Marco, Coach DeBerry and to the entire Badger wrestling team for a great season.

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We also have a standout wrestler for Sahuaro with us tonight. **Constantino “Tino” Murillo** was state runner-up in his weight class in Division II. Coach Patterson said he is proud of Tino, who has had a great high school wrestling career. In his junior year, he was 40-4, and in his senior year his record was an outstanding 44-4.

Several colleges have expressed interest in Tino, including Briar Cliff, Adam’s State, Lindenwood Belleville, Bacone, Iowa Lakes Community College, Embry Riddle, and West Point.

Come on up, Tino.

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Next we move to girls soccer and the Palo Verde team, who were runners-up in Division 3. The Palo Verde team had a 23-2 record and a team GPA of 3.1.

They scored 137 goals with 81 assists, recorded 13 shutouts, and player Jackie Igulu set the state record with 62 goals in a season. Their coach, Jim Mentz, was named Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to Coach Mentz and the entire Palo Verde girls soccer team, which includes the following All-Section players:

First Team

Emily Doyle
Jackie Igulu
Marilyn McFeaters
Khadijo Mohamed

Second Team

Michelle Sigala
Sara Voirin
Cecilia Sanders-Diaz

Honorable mention

April Moya
Janet Squire
Maria Falcon
Dominique Smock

Player of the Year

Jackie Igulu

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Continuing on our soccer theme, I'd like to welcome the boys team from **Pueblo Magnet High School**. They were the state champs in their division, beating Buckeye Union High School with a score of 2-1 for the trophy.

The team was coached by Francisco Urtuzuastegui. He has been one of the grounds men at Pueblo for over 20 years and this was his first year coaching. The team won their last 11 games straight, and the Mr. Urtuzuastegui was named Arizona Coach of the Year.

Some of the standouts from the team were:

Efrain Robles – 1st team All State

Daniel Atondo – 2nd team All State

Ledwin Lopez – 2nd team All State. He only allowed 3 goals the entire State tournament.

I'd like to congratulate the entire Pueblo Boys soccer team. Please come up!

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Next we have **Joshua Bayer**, a senior at Catalina High School, who was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, nominated by U.S. Congresswoman Martha McSally. Joshua was also accepted into the United States Air Force Academy. We are proud that he was accepted to both! The latest we've heard is he'll be attending the Air Force Academy in June.

Throughout his high school tenure, Joshua has had to battle and overcome many adversities. For most students, quitting would have been an option, but for Joshua, absolutely not.

These challenges have pushed this young man to currently hold a 3.58 GPA, and he has been an active member in the Trojan community. Joshua's involvement includes football, track, JROTC, spirit line, student council, and serving as the site council student representative. And that's just naming a few!

Come on, up Joshua. I'd love to shake your hand.

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Next, I'd like to call up **Bart Peterson**, an athletic trainer at Palo Verde. I recently received a letter from Larry Cooper, the chairperson of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Mr. Cooper praised Mr. Peterson service to his profession and the valuable work he contributes as a member the Secondary School Athletic Trainer Committee.

Mr. Cooper said, "Bart is an extremely valued member of our committee and contributes significantly to the mission of the committee and the National Athletic Trainer's Association."

Thank you for your service to your profession and to our students at Palo Verde Magnet High School.

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I would next like to invite **Kelsey Grizzle**, a student at Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School, to come up. Kelsey has been honored with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country. It was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Dodge nominated Kelsey in recognition of her volunteer service. Kelsey volunteers for TRAK, Therapeutic Ranch for Animals and Kids. She feeds the horses and has taken retired horses away to other facilities. She also works with Cold Wet Noses, an organization that fosters dogs, working with these animals until they are adopted.

Thank you, Kelsey, for making a positive contribution to your community. You are an example for your peers, and adults, too!

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Next I would like to talk about the Black History Month Brain Bowl. The African American Student Services Department hosted the 2nd Annual Black History Month **Brain Bowl** on February 23rd at Utterback Middle School.

The Brain Bowl was created to give middle school students an opportunity to learn about African American culture, heritage and contributions to our great country. Students also learn about African American history within our Tucson community.

Eleven schools competed in this head-to-head competition for bragging rights, and Mansfeld Middle School has won both years!

Members of the top three teams come on up when I call your name.

1ST PLACE/Mansfeld

Rene Junius
Carlie Scupin
Simone Mclee
Abigail Russell

2ND PLACE/Dodge

Ainsley Stratton
Grace Driskill
Jennifer Busby
Brenda Ramirez Torres

3RD PLACE/Secrist

Trevion Watkins
Angel Alba
Kitana Hagler
Eric Foiryolo

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Up next is the Burney Starks Oratorical Contest. This is the first year for the contest, and it is named in honor of an individual who committed his life to serving students in our District and in the Tucson Community. Mr. Starks' also enjoyed acting, singing and speaking.

To honor Mr. Starks, the African American Student Services Department hosted the 1st Annual Burney Starks Oratorical Contest. Winners of the contest received a financial prize sponsored by the Educational Enrichment Foundation and The State of Black Arizona organization. Students also performed their speech during a "Black Consciousness" Poetry Competition on February 21st at the University of Arizona Modern Language Building.

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to the African-American Student Services Department for honoring Burney Starks, who was so important to our Tucson Unified family.

Winners, when Mr. Hart calls your name, please come on up!

Middle School

- 1ST PLACE Octavius Thomas/Robins K-8 School
- 2ND PLACE Savanna Vigil/Doolen Middle School
- 3RD PLACE Latanya Taisha Khissy-Beyniouah/Booth-Fickett

High School

- 1ST PLACE Constance Mwamba/Pueblo Magnet High School
- 2ND PLACE Sky Zion Reyno / Tucson High Magnet School
- 3RD PLACE Victoria League/ Santa Rita High School

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Finally, I would like to honor a member of our community who has provided support to Tucson Unified students for about 30 years.

To date, **Marie Cephers** has spearheaded a reading program to support students, taken students on Black College visits, provided workshops on college planning and funding, and has collaborated with our district and African American Student Services to host eight African-American Youth Heritage Day conferences, serving more than 400 students each year.

Ms. Cephers, will you please come up, and can I ask the room to give her a round of applause?

On behalf of the entire Tucson Unified School District, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our students' futures.

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