

**Superintendent Report**  
**October 18, 2016**

The **Roberts-Naylor** community let us know about a remarkable project and donation led by **Mrs. Fabiola Lynch** and her mother, **Fabiola Lopez**.

Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Lopez spent six months making special school supply bags for all students in the first grade at Roberts Naylor K-8. The bags are quilted out of small pieces of material, and in all, 70 bags, all with beautiful, unique patterns, were donated.

Here's what Principal Connie Zepeda shared about the project: "This was a mother and daughter project that took approximately six months to complete. They sought community support by asking for donations for material and everything else needed to complete the project. This was not just a regular school supply "box." It is a piece of craftsmanship that they hoped will remind students in first grade that anything can be possible. It was made to last a number of years, the target being college years. Inside students found school supplies, but more than that, they found a pair of ladies that want to remind them "Si Se Puede: "all you got to do is believe in yourself."

Thank you to Tucson Extermination, Patricia Rendon, Mauricio and Victoria Lynch, Quilt Basket, Wendy Hirsch and Aida Figueroa, who also helped with the project.

This is the type of support that means so much to our students and our district overall. I want to give special thanks to Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Lopez for using their talents to make a difference in the lives of children who I know will treasure these bags for years to come. Thank you.

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As you probably know, May is a pretty busy month around here. We have school performances, finals, grading and graduation, just to name a few things.

On the last day of school, **Stefanie Boe**, who heads of our Communications team, learned about a grant that gave schools in Arizona the chance to earn a \$100,000 fitness center through the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils. The only catch: The deadline for submission was just three working days away, and school was out for the summer.

Time to mobilize.

A committee quickly identified **Hollinger K-8** as a school that met the grant requirements, which included being an elementary or middle school, having the space for the center, having a PE teacher and several other criteria.

Once that was decided, a team was assembled to compile the necessary information, make a video to show Hollinger was the perfect fit, write up the requisite information and take photos of the room to submit with the application.

Principal **Brian Lambert**, P.E. teacher **Lesley Cook** and **Mary Canty** and **Brent Pantaleo** from the Communications department led the effort to get the job done, and parents generously took their children to the school to be featured in the video. Remember, this was on the first day of **summer break! The students were Mariano Diaz, Emiliano Diaz, Isaura Diaz, Diego Duenas, Sebastian Duenas and Kenji Azarias**, and the parents were **Dalila Diaz, Perla Duenas and Jansen Azarias**.

The result: The application was submitted on time ... and Hollinger K-8 won the \$100,000 fitness center! What an amazing feat!

The center will be dedicated on Oct. 25 at a community-wide event at the school.

I would like to thank everyone involved for their amazing effort. I am so proud, and I am so happy for the Hollinger community.

Here's a look at the outstanding video that helped Hollinger earn the grant.

**VIDEO**

Come on up, everyone!

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I'm pleased to congratulate **Maria Servellon**, a student at **Pueblo Magnet High School**, for completing the Perry Initiative Orthopedic "bones and power tools" workshop. The Perry Initiative partners with medical centers, universities, and high schools to host outreach programs for girls in high school. Participants perform mock orthopedic surgeries and conduct biomechanical engineering experiments, while also hearing from prominent women engineers and surgeons in the field.

Ms. Servellon told Dr. Andrew Lettes, a teacher in the Bioscience Program at Pueblo, that the experience was not only life-changing, but was "humerus," – as in the humerus bone.

Congratulations, Maria. Please come up!

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Please help me congratulate **Amy Lizarraga** and **Jaylinne Urbieto** of **Cholla High Magnet School** for winning gold medals and earning the state's Number One spot in their category at the recent Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Leadership Conference/Competitions! They will represent Arizona during the national FCCLA conference in San Diego in July!

Ms. Lizarraga and Ms. Urbieto presented an Illustrated Talk on "*Education Issues in AZ and TUSD*" to a panel of judges.

Here's what teacher Gloria Nelson said about their presentation: "Amy and Jaylinne were extremely professional and included aesthetically-pleasing visuals of testing statistics, socio-economic graphs, interview results from several TUSD schools (including our own), Cholla's newsletter, and our "I Am CTE" poster in their presentation. As a team, they earned 96 out of 100 available points, a score that included a physical portfolio, their oral presentation, dress and appearance (they were sharp!) and their overall knowledge of the topic. I am super-duper proud of these young ladies, who will be candidates next year for state-level FCCLA officers"

Congratulations to these fantastic students! Please come up for a picture.

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Our next honoree is **Meilii Halfmann**, a business teacher at **Magee Middle School** who received the Arizona Business Educators Association Educator of the Year Award for Middle and Junior High Schools this summer.

The criteria was extensive and included:

- Contributions to business education through teaching.
- Participation, committee work, and offices held in professional business-related organizations.
- Evidence of professional development, including activities such as speaking at conferences, chairing conference committees, facilitating conference sessions and contributing to professional publications.
- Involvement in departmental/administrative responsibilities or working with student organizations.
- Contributions to business education in the community organizations.

Congratulations, Ms. Halfmann, and thank you for you hard work and dedication to our Magee students.

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