

Superintendent's Report 11.17.14

For the Superintendent's Report tonight, the Board and I would like to begin by recognizing an outstanding student from Pueblo Magnet School. Her name is Katelynn Curry, but at school, she's known as Kat—or The Kat, according to her guidance counselor.

The Kat recently received the Kino Rotary Character Award, and you will see it is much deserved when you hear about some of the wonderful work this senior does at school and in the community.

Kat has taken a leadership role in Pueblo's Lunch and Learn program. The program brings community leaders in to speak to students during lunchtime. Kat helped create the program, and she even cooks for it. She is also a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and is heavily involved in the school garden project and harvesting and selling at the farmer's market. She is a role model for other students and keeps the garden project going.

Kat also volunteers at Higher Ground as a tutor. She is in cosmetology now, and once she finishes up that area of study, she plans to move to Portland to become a writer.

Congratulations, Katelynn, on your recognition from the Kino Rotary. We are proud to have you in TUSD!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

The next person I would like to recognize is Krystal Scheid [PRONOUNCED "SHYED"], who was named Magnet Coordinator of the Year.

Ms. Scheid has been at Drachman Montessori for about six years. First as a teacher and later as magnet coordinator.

During her time at Drachman, the school has made improvement on integration and has an integrated kindergarten. It also has made huge strides in student achievement. In fact Drachman moved from a "C" to an "A" this year in the state's grades.

Ms. Scheid has met or exceeded her goals in the number and quality of recruitment activities that are so important in our magnet schools, and she is 100 percent in compliance with timely and accurate reporting.

We appreciate the hard work Ms. Scheid puts in at Drachman, and we congratulate her on being named the Magnet Coordinator of the Year for 2013-2014.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

We had a very interesting group visit a couple weeks ago. About 20 educators from China visited Tucson to learn more about our Opening Minds Through the Arts programs.

Joan Ashcraft, director of fine and performing arts and OMA, and her team put together a comprehensive and exciting itinerary for the visitors. They saw OMA in action at Kellond Elementary School and Dietz K-8 School.

They were also treated to an incredible performance by the Mariachi Azlán de Pueblo High School at the San Xavier del Bac Mission. It was a beautiful performance in a beautiful location.

If you are wondering how the Chinese educators heard about our wonderful program, the answer is the power of the Internet. They saw our website and were intrigued to learn more about the power of the arts in schools.

Dr. Ashcraft, thank you for being a wonderful representative of TUSD and the arts. We can all feel a sense of pride when visitors want to learn more about the work we do.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

The next recognition is for a groundbreaking—no pun intended—accomplishment by the Manzo Elementary garden team. Manzo is the first school in Pima County to get an Arizona Department of Health Services Certification. What does that mean? It means that foods grown in Manzo’s incredible garden can be cooked up and served in the cafeteria.

If you’ve never seen Manzo’s garden, it is an impressive operation. Not only do they have a full in-ground garden, they have a greenhouse, a mini-LEO project like the big one at the Biosphere 2, they have a tilapia ecosystem, chickens, composting, rainwater cisterns ... it’s really quite incredible.

I know a lot of work went into gaining the certification to enable the school to supply its own food to the cafeteria. In restaurants, they call that Farm to Table—quite the trend these days. It’s exciting to realize we are the first in our county to have Farm to Cafeteria program!

Thank you to the following staff who helped make this happen!

Shirley Sokol, Director, Food Services

Moses Thompson, Food Services Coordinator

Mark Alvarez, Principal, Manzo Elementary School

Michelle Welsh, Food Services Nutrition Program Coordinator

Joan Gilbert, Science Program Coordinator

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.....

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the schools that win the honor of flying the Attendance flag this month. This is a great initiative we are running for the school year. Each month, the school with the highest percentage of attendance gets the flag. We are recognizing the first, second and third place winners for October tonight.

For elementary schools, the first-place winner is Soleng Tom with 96.2 percent attendance. Borton Elementary is nipping at Soleng Tom's heels. Just 1/10th of a percentage point separates the two. Borton comes in second with 96.1 percent, and Hughes was not far behind with 95.9 percent attendance. That's awesome for all three schools!

Come on up, Soleng Tom!

For K-8 schools, the winner this month is Miles with 95.9 percent attendance. Drachman came in second place with 94.8 percent and Pueblo Gardens is creeping up is Pueblo Gardens with 94.7 percent attendance.

In the middle school division, the October winner is Dodge Traditional Magnet by a pretty good margin. Dodge had 96.1 percent. In second place was Gridley Middle School with 93.5 percent, and Magee had 93.1 percent.

Congratulations, Dodge!

And finally, in the high schools, University was the October winner with 95.3 percent attendance. Sabino came in second with 93.2 percent, and Sahuaro was third with 90.3 percent.

Do we have a Penguin in the house? UHS, please come up!

END OF RECOGNITION