

January 8,  
2013

**GREAT NEWS!**

January 7 — Second Semester Begins  
January 10—Papa John's Pizza Night  
January 14—Report Cards sent home!  
January 15—Grades 3-5 Spelling Bee

January 17—5th Grade Performance 6 PM  
January 21—MLK Day / No Classes  
Jan. 28—Feb. 1 “Souper” Bowl Food Drive  
Feb. 1—2nd Grade Breakfast & Flagraising

## Abia Judd is Awarded a.....

### Character Education Grant.

Thanks to the work of AJ's Character Education Team of parents and staff a \$6,620.81 grant was awarded to Abia Judd in November, 2012. This grant will help Abia Judd continue to enhance its Character Education Program. The Arizona Department of Education awarded this grant for the purpose of **INCREASING the involvement of parents, students and staff in our Character Education Program and DECREASING the number of student behavior referrals.**

Implementation of an added Character Education feature will begin in second semester — January, 2013. This new project-based character education club called Pawsitive Jaguars will be held once a week for 14 weeks. The new club focuses on K-2 to educate and instill everyday character, values, and ethics through activities, videos, plays reading units and community service projects.

\*A special parent in-service will be held on **February 26—Monday. This will be an opportunity** for parents to increase knowledge, support, and implementation of character education. Details will be communicated as we are closer to the date. **Please mark your calendars now.**

### Jag Tags....

are given out to students when they are “caught” displaying good character. The Jag Tags include the student's name, action/deed, pillar(s) of character that were employed, date and who issued the Jag Tag. A Kid of Character Ribbon is given out weekly and includes a picture taken with the Principal. Recipients of the Kid of Character are recognized in the Jag Journal (posted on the website every month).

**Defining Character Education:** Kevin Ryan, founder and director emeritus of the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University, writes that good character is “knowing the good, loving the good, and doing the good.” These functions of the head, (knowing the good) heart (loving the good), and hands (doing the good) provide a good, if brief, summary of the intention of character education, which strives to teach students to understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values. There are more formal definitions of character education which include:

- “. . . the intentional proactive effort by schools, districts, and states to instill in their students important core, ethical values such as caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility, and respect for self and others.” (Character Education Partnership)
- “. . . the deliberate effort to develop good character based on core virtues that are good for the individual and for society.” (Thomas Lickona)
- “. . . teaching children about basic human values, including honesty, kindness, generosity, courage, freedom, equality, and respect. The goal is to raise children to become morally responsible, self-disciplined citizens (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development).

### Our Newly Elected Character Council Representatives for this school year are:

**Third Grade**—Kaylie Hillig, Julian Ashurst, Liberty English, Crew Todd, Millie Diener, Jacob McElfresh. **Fourth Grade**—Chandler Weber, Victoria Keickhefer, Billy Brown, Samantha Perry, Ashlyn Hill, Cade Buettner, Tommy English, RJ Saffer. **Fifth Grade** — Madison Weinrich, Logan Luedeman, Skyler Price, Ceejay Pestana, Sydney DeMoss, Rhett Pearce, Cade Thein, Jessica Price



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ABIA JUDD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jaguar Journal



## **KIDS OF CHARACTER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:**

**Kindergarten:** Shawn Severson, Jacob Dewsnup, Braydon Paeselt

**First:** Jaylynn Baccellia, Jace Julander, Hayley Belli, Sienna Russo, Marah Murphy

**Second:** Garrett Ryner, Riley Holmes, Micah Buettner, Julia Gisi, Orion Arreola, Grace Schamber

**Third:** Matthew Leach, Brody DeBorde, Camille Mangum, Rielly Beavers, Abigail Oden, Katie Kieckhefer

**Fourth:** Emma Lloyd, Laila Huddle, Jordan Christopherson, Zoe Quillen, Zack Regalado, Chandler Weber, Dylan Belli, Ayden T.

**Fifth:** Madison Weinrich, Emily Hobson, Emily McMahon, Caitlynn Dickinson, Logan Luedeman, Kaden Dougan, Emma Arroyo, Denali Skinner

### **Superintendent's Awards:**

Each quarter teachers at each school select one student per grade level to be the recipient of a special award. The Superintendent's Awards were created to recognize special students who show good character but sometimes do not get recognized for their hard work. For the second quarter of this school year the following students from Abia Judd were selected to receive this award: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Emma Arroyo, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Russell Saffer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Kayla Courtright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Ashley Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Macall VanWormer, Kinder – Sutton Smith

### **Yearbook Cover Contest:**

Thank you to all students who entered the yearbook cover contest. We were very impressed with all of the entries. The winning entry for the front cover was Bella Gallardo. The winning entry for the back cover was Geneva Raber. Congratulations Bella and Geneva! There were runners up in each grade level except Kinderdergarten and their entries will have a place inside the yearbook. The runners up were:

First Grade: Matthew Stringfellow

Second Grade: Terenee Brambila

Third Grade: Kade Roberts

Fourth Grade: Jack Bruce

Fifth Grade: Emma Arroyo

### **2nd Semester Clubs:**

**Registration forms for Spring Semester After School Clubs** will be sent home in mid-January. Be sure to return them in a timely manner - clubs fill quickly. Those club will begin the week of February 4th.

### **Science Fair**

The Abia Judd Science Fair will take place Thursday, February 21st. Please look under the A.J. home page for the Science fair link. There you will find all the information needed to complete your project. If you would like a hard copy some will be available in the office. Science boards can be purchased in the office for \$3.00. All entries must be brought to school the morning of the 21st and left in your home room until a P.T.A. volunteer comes to collect them. Students and Parents can come and view all the entries from 6-7p.m. that same evening. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Steen by email or at 717-3263.

**The Khan Academy is a great source to practice math skills from 1st to 12th grade level. There are also videos on science and other subjects. Math skills for elementary are found under arithmetic/pre-algebra. First watch the videos and then practice the skill. This is a free website. <http://www.khanacademy.org>**

**Did you know the state adopted new education standards in 2010 that will dramatically change what students will learn in school? Did you know that there will be a new state test for these standards that will replace AIMS?**

These standards are called **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** and have been adopted by 46 states. These standards require a progression of skills with rigorous learning, complex reading, and open-ended assignments. Next year, PUSD teachers will be teaching CCSS to all students. Learn how the CCSS and new assessment will affect your family and what you can do to help your child in this transition. **Monday, January 28, 6 pm to 7 pm, Lincoln School (more dates to be announced)**

**From the IT Department:  
Technology News**

In an effort to keep up with the demands of **21st century learning**, Prescott Unified School District (PUSD) is moving forward in the area of educational technology. We have implemented Google Apps For Education for staff and students. This allows PUSD students and staff to collaborate in new ways and will allow all users to access their electronic resources and documents from multiple locations through the internet.

To access this collaborative system, each student has been given a Google Apps for Education account including a PUSD email address hosted by Google. Students in grades K through 8 cannot email outside of PUSD, but can send and receive emails within the district. Students in grades 9 through 12 sometimes need email accounts for online classes, off-site educational resources and contacts, access to college admissions, and more. Therefore, high school students have email accounts that do allow contact outside of PUSD.

The use of these new tools is covered in the previously signed Acceptable Use Policy for technology as part of admission into PUSD. This is a tool that a teacher may choose to use to assist in the education of your children. Some teachers have implemented the use of these tools, and some have not.

PUSD is compliant with the federal Children's Internet Protection Act, and remains vigilant in keeping harmful and offensive material off PUSD systems. However, even the best technology cannot replace direct supervision of students when on computers connected to the internet whether at school or at home.

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Below is a copy of an article written by Sue Lord for the Prescott Audubon Society's Wingtips magazine December/January issue:

**The Junior Prescott Audubon and Nature Club Makes its Debut at Abia Judd Elementary School in Prescott, AZ!**

*by Sue Lord, Student Support Specialist, Abia Judd Elementary.*

I have had the privilege of introducing all facets of the natural world to children through my outdoor nature camps in Colorado and Arizona for over 25 years. This year I took over the reigns of the afterschool Hiking and Bird Watching Club at Abia Judd Elementary School from Ms. Bronwyn Butterfield, after her retirement this past spring. I chose to expand the club, not only covering ornithology and bird-watching, but to include an overview of our natural habitat, including geology, local flora and fauna, water conservation, an introduction to environmental concerns, climate change, hiking, rock-climbing, nature crafts and plays.

The 15 junior naturalists, ages 5-11, who took on the after-school club have been enthusiastic, engaging and full of wonder. In the past, the club has only been offered in the spring; but, I decided to expand it to both the autumn and spring semesters. I inherited a wealth of materials that were provided to the club from The Prescott Audubon Society. The binoculars, field guides, DVD's, Audubon Adventures, bird books and manuals have been essential tools and materials for the educational benefit of my young naturalists. Without all of the above, our club would not be as well-endowed, nor as educational — many thanks!

At Abia Judd, we are very fortunate to have our own "Secret Garden", which was lovingly established after being awarded an environmental grant over 10 years ago. We also have access to the grounds at Granite Mountain Middle School, as well as the Nature Center. With a 'hop, skip and a jump' our naturalists can enjoy Mother Nature right around the corner!

After a fruitful meeting with Sharon Arnold and Cathy Palm-Gessner, it appears that the newly coined, 'Junior Prescott Audubon and Nature Club' will strengthen our ties with the Prescott Audubon Society, as well as the Highlands Center for Natural History and the Heritage Park Zoological Society. We are hoping to have an Owl Pellet Dissection Party!, a field trip to Heritage Park Zoo for a Raptor Demonstration, a Pioneer Day at the Nature Center with volunteer naturalists from the Highlands Center, and a field trip to one of the lakes for bird-watching and riparian habitat life.

We are very fortunate to live in such a diverse topographical region that appeals to so many different kinds of natural life. It only makes sense — perfect sense — to expose young children to our natural treasures. To me, this is the greatest gift, all of us can give to young people!

**Many thanks to the Prescott Audubon Society Board of Directors for graciously approving a request to purchase 8 new junior binoculars for our club's use and supplying all materials for our Owl Pellet Dissection party in December. I also would like to thank Eric Moore, proprietor of Jay's Bird Barn for selling the binoculars "at cost" so all of our junior naturalists can utilize a pair this semester.**