



Haukeness Reports on CDE's Interim Commissioner's Visit to our District

It is hard to believe that next week will mark the official close to the first half of the school year. Students and staff will be enjoying a well-deserved Christmas break. I would like to thank each and every staff member that works every day to keep our students safe, nourished and learning to their potential.

Interim Commissioner, Katy Anthes with a Colorado Department of Education team visited our district last week. I would like to thank the building administrators and teachers that hosted the team. Commissioner Anthes was very complimentary on the level of instruction and commitment to student achievement that was evident in each school and classroom we visited. The CDE team also recognized the level of education we are providing with limited resources under the current school finance formula which greatly impacts rural districts such as ours. I appreciate Commissioner Anthes, taking time to see our district first hand and to hear from the district and schools about the barriers we continue to address.

As we move forward into the second semester, there will be more information forth coming to educate our community and staff on the challenges our district faces under the current finance formula for districts throughout Colorado.

There will be no school on January 3rd as teachers will be planning for instruction using the winter benchmarking student data. School will resume for all students on Wednesday, January 4th. I look forward to the second semester and the learning that will take place during the upcoming months. My goal is to be present in every school every week. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.



Manauh Principal, Donetta Jones and
Katy Anthes, Interim Commissioner of Education

High School Teachers Identified as Outstanding Educators by CSU

Montezuma-Cortez High School is a member of the Colorado State University Alliance Partnership. Through this partnership, students, teachers, counselors and other community members are provided with a variety of opportunities intended to promote access to higher education. Through the Outstanding Educator program, individuals who have made a significant positive impact on the lives of students are recognized.

M-CHS teachers recognized are Ray Harriman, Susan Wisenbaker and Eric Chandler.

Aron Engel said of Mr. Harriman; "Ray is one of the most sincere people I have ever met, he gives and is very understanding. Despite me not going to GCU (where his son is a recruiter) he was very supportive of me coming to Fort Collins. He truly is one of the best people I know"

Yuanyuan Chen praised Mrs. Wisenbaker. She said "I had Mrs. Wisenbaker as my Mathematics teacher for three years during my high school years. Mrs. Wisenbaker has encouraged me, believed me and helped me the most."

Jennifer Sturman felt that Mr. Chandler should be recognized. She said "Mr. Chandler has always striven to aid students in whatever they undertake, whether it be in academics, athletics, or personal pursuits. Mr. Chandler has shown interest in every student's future goals, and he has personally offered me advice in several areas of my life. Mr. Chandler's genuine interest in the well-being of me and all of his students has made him an influential person in my life."

District Hosts Student Teacher Candidates

The District hosted 14 elementary student teacher candidates from Fort Lewis for a tour of our district and elementary schools on Friday, December 2. This is part of a new partnership with the Rural Education Outreach program which seeks to help connect new teachers with rural districts and schools through site visits and other avenues.

The teachers visited Kemper and Mesa and had the opportunity to visit classrooms, school gardens, and learn about potential student teaching opportunities in the Cortez District. The visit concluded with lunch at the high school and conversations with District Staff about the great work happening in our District. One participant said "We felt so welcomed. It was personally and professionally helpful for me to visit and to see and hear about what's going on in Cortez, and to get a deeper and broader sense of the enthusiasm."

Board Policy DD: Funding Proposals, Grants and Special Projects

If an individual school, department, or staff member finds an opportunity to apply for a grant or award, please know that there is a process in place to do so.

School Board Policy DD and Regulation DD-R outlines the process. The first step would be for a staff member to prepare a written description of the proposed project and submit it to the staff member's immediate supervisor. Before you take any action to apply, one needs to complete the Letter of Intent—Grant Application form which is an attached exhibit to Policy DD. This is submitted to your principal or supervisor for approval. He/she then submits the form to the Curriculum/Grants department for approval or denial. Only after this final approval should you pursue the grant or award.

If you are awarded the grant/award, all fiscal accounting for it, MUST be handled through either the District's Director of Finance or the Grants Fiscal Manager.

Please do not hesitate to contact Phyllis Lockhart, Grants Fiscal with any questions or concerns.
plockhart@cortez.k12.co.us

Superintendent and Board Members to Attend CASB Annual Conference.

Superintendent, Lori Haukeness and Board Members, Eric Whyte, Sherri Noyes, Sherri Wright and Kara Suckla will be attending the 76th Annual CASB Conference in Colorado Springs on December 8-11. They will have the opportunity to attend varied workshops and listen to several well-known distinguished speakers.

CASB provides services, information and training programs to support school board members. Programs are designed to enhance school board effectiveness and help board members increase their knowledge, boost their efficiency and connect with their communities.



It's that time of year again. The Cortez Public Library and the Pinon Project are **teaming up to provide Christmas trees, lights and decorations to needy families in the area.** If you have extra items please drop it by the library, 202 N. Park St., Cortez, CO., 970-565-8117 (ask for Laura.) We promise everything will go to a good home and make a difference to a family who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

District Administration

Lori Haukeness, Superintendent
Dan Porter, Assistant Superintendent
Carla Hoehn, Director of Finance
Jeanette Allen, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Carol Mehesy, Director of School Improvement & Grants
Mark Knox, Director of Technology

BRIEFLY...

Due to Winter Break, **pay checks for December will be issued on December 16.** The January checks will go back to the regular schedule of January 25.

If you have not already checked out the **District's Facebook Page**, so do soon. You will find up-to-the minute news and announcements posted there.

We would like to have your feedback on the newly designed District newsletter, The District Connection. **Is there something you would like to see addressed or reported**, any news you would like us to know about? Send your input to Phyllis Lockhart. plockhart@cortez.k12.co.us.

Staff: If you have worked in certain elementary and secondary schools that serve low income families you may be eligible for the **Teacher Loan Forgiveness program**. Our district schools fall into that category. Please go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher#is-the-school> or contact the H.R. department at 565-7282 ext. 1133 to find out if you qualify.

Retired High School

With the passing of Ballot Question 3A, the district has been moving forward with the project design for the abatement and demolition of the Retired High School. The public bids will be posted by the end of next week with the bids being awarded by mid-January.

Boettcher Teacher Residency Great teachers start here

Please join us for an information session about the Boettcher Teacher Residency; Thursday, December 15, 2016—5:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the District Office. You will have an opportunity to:

- Meet our team and learn about the application process
- Network with other attendees and ask questions
- Walk away with a deeper understanding of the exceptional support, training and benefits provided to Boettcher Residents
- Experience and engage in some of our guiding principles

We encourage all those that are interested in applying for the 2017 - 2018 Residency to attend. Register at the link below.

[BTR Info Session, Cortez](#)

