



Message from the Superintendent

As we say goodbye to 2017 and welcome in 2018, it is a time of great reflection and appreciation for the difference every district staff member makes every day in the lives of our students. At the beginning of 2017, the district was identified as one of the lowest performing districts in the state of Colorado. Through focused 90-Day Plans and an extremely dedicated staff who gives their all far beyond the school day, the district is off turnaround for the first time in eight years. District reform is being accomplished without any additional resources and without additional staff, which demonstrates how a focused and a dedicated staff can move the district forward.

In appreciation and recognition of the dedication and hard work, the Board of Education at the November 14 board meeting approved an early release for staff on Wednesday, December 20. The regular SEED meetings are cancelled and **staff will be released at the end of their respective school's day.** I hope you have a blessed holiday. It will be a privilege to work with you and accomplished more great things as we move into the New Year.

School Board Members Receive Oath of Office

On November 28th at a special board meeting, newly elected School Board Directors were given the Oath of Office and Board Officers were elected. The seven member board consists of the following members:

Sherri Wright — President	District C
Sheri Noyes — Vice-President	District F
Kara Suckla — Secretary	District G
Tammy Hooten — Treasurer	District E
Dr. John Schuenemeyer — Member	District B
Brian Balfour — Member	District A
Josiah Forkner — Member	District D

Out-going member, Eric Whyte, was presented with a plaque and thanked for his eight years of service. His presence on the Board has enriched the lives of all students and he served as an example for all.

Aztec New Mexico school shooting

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Aztec School District, our neighbors, competitors, and friends in Aztec NM. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the deceased students.



Students represent Cortez at CASB Convention

Last week, a group of five M-CHS students traveled to Colorado Spring to represent our district at the CASB Student Leadership Strand. Student leaders from across the state participated in the three-day event.

The goal of the Student Leadership Strand is to build our student leaders' capacity to lead change and innovation in their school communities and to become the leaders our state needs to guide us into our future. M-CHS student Andrea Sena said, "The student leadership conference showed us many valuable and useful ways that students can help to improve schools. It taught us to speak up and make positive changes in our school. To me, along with many other students across the state, this was the most valuable aspect of the conference."



Left to right... Kale Hall, Jasmine Soza, Noah Rainer, Andrea Sena and Carmen Navarro

Seidlitz 7 Steps to a Language-Rich Interactive Classroom

In the Seven Steps training, teachers experience a full day of highly effective and interactive strategies designed to promote student achievement and develop academic language...and every single one can be accomplished with a few post-it notes and index cards. Participants in this session deepen their understanding of why academic language gaps occur and leave with strategies to overcome those challenges. Teachers appreciate the hands-on, practical approach of this training as well as the outcomes it generates for students.

We hope to see you there! Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (five Wednesday Book Club sessions to follow). It is scheduled for the District Admin PD room. For information or to register, contact Trina Lee tleec@cortez.k12.co.us.

District Leadership Pilot

The district is pleased to announce a new opportunity for aspiring school leaders. The district has received grant funding to support a training this spring for a cohort of teacher leaders who aspire to become district level or school leaders in the future.

This training will be aligned to our district work with UVA and will focus on a deep dive into turnaround leadership competencies. This training will be facilitated by a consultant with expertise in school turnaround leadership and will include two in-person sessions and a virtual book study component. The sessions will take place in the spring and the cohort will be limited to 5-10 participants. CEU's will be given for this training.

If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity, please send a letter of interest to Lori Haukeness expressing why you would like to be considered and what strengths you believe you would bring to a district or school leadership role. These letter should be received by January 17th.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Carol Mehesy at cmehesy@cortez.k12.co.us.



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

BRIEFLY...

The Native American Parent Advisory Committee (NPAC) will hold a meeting Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the board room of the administration building at 400 N. Elm Street. NPAC exists to promote the educational welfare of Native American students at home, school and within their tribe. Please join us.

A Special District Accountability Committee (DAC) meeting will be held on December 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the board room at the administration building, 400 N. Elm Street. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the final 2017-2018 district budget.

School Safety — The district will be having a parent/guardian informational meeting on the District's Safety Plan at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14 at the CMS Library.

Christmas Winter Events

Beech St.—Christmas Parties, 12-20-17-9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Kemper — Christmas Parties 12-20-17

Lewis-Arriola & Pleasant View

Christmas Around the World, 12-20-17, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Manaugh

Christmas Program, 12-20-17, K-2 at 8:30 a.m., 3-5 at 9:30 a.m.

Mesa

Christmas Music Program, 12-7-17, K-2 at 6:00 p.m., 3-5 at 7:00 p.m., MCHS Auditorium

Pleasant View

Annual Christmas Program, 12-18-17, Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Program at 7:00 p.m.

CMS

Winter Band Concert, 12-12-17 at 7:00 p.m.

Winter Festival Program, Choir/Jazz Band, 12-18-17 6:00 p.m.

MCHS

Shop with a Cop, 12-16-17, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Band & Choir Winter Concert, 12-19-17 at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Kiva

Winter Program, 12-14-17 at 6:00 p.m., MCHS Auditorium



Transportation Dept.

Entry in
Christmas Light Parade