

Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office



Trudy Berry
Superintendent

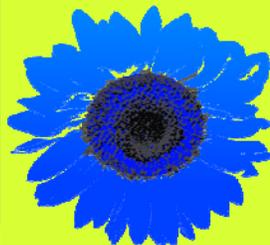
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Bisbee, AZ 85603

520.432.8950

<https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home>

“When educating
the minds of our
youth, we must
not forget to edu-
cate their hearts.”

- Dalai Lama



The County School Connection

APRIL 2015

Hi All,
Happy Spring! Happy testing. They seem to go hand-in-hand. Congratulations to the 2015 Cochise County Teacher of the Year winners! Out of 20 nominees, the category winners are: Special Projects – Ben Rodriguez, Benson Unified; Elementary – Pam Carns, Tombstone Unified; Middle School – Katie Tinnell, Sierra Vista Unified; and High School/Cochise County – Nidhi Mehta, Willcox Unified. We are certainly very fortunate to have so many fantastic teachers in Cochise County and I heard it was very difficult to choose a winner from such a dynamic and impressive group. Keep up the good work! We appreciate you!

Everyone has heard about our school funding crisis, but we received good news last week regarding the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Federal legislation which provides “Forest Fees” to our districts, which contain land that cannot be taxed locally to support the school. The offset is Forest Fees which come from the federal government (payment in lieu of taxes). According to the Arizona Association of Counties, “The Senate passed H.R. 2 which would reauthorize Secure Rural Schools for FY14 and FY15. This reauthorization includes \$500 million to support local schools, roads, law enforcement and other critical services. This bill would bring nearly **\$13 million to Arizona's counties**. The Senate passed the bill 92-8, with both of Arizona's Senators voting yes. The bill is now headed to the President's desk and he is expected to sign it. Funds will be disbursed no later than 45 days after the bill is signed.” The Cochise County share for our schools is \$183,329.28, and we received \$31,287.28 in March. Based on this information, we should be disbursing the remaining \$152,042.00 by the end of the fiscal year.

A Future Ready Summit was held in Arizona last week. The goal of the summit was “to help school district leaders improve teaching and student learning outcomes through the effective use of technology.” The event attracted people from all over the United States. Our county was represented by a Sierra Vista Unified team and a Cochise County team, which consisted of Frank Bell, Ft. Huachuca; Jim Phillips, Bisbee Unified; Terry Reyna, McNeal Elementary; Joel Todd, Cochise Technology (JTED); and myself. Our focus will be to bring technology integration ideas back to our districts and to have every classroom teacher equipped to teach 21st Century Skills so our students will be prepared for the future. We hope to share the Future Ready tools with all of our county districts. For information on any of these topics, please feel free to contact me.

We are here to serve you!
Trudy

Finance Deadlines and Reminders

Summer Payroll Run (June 19 th)	*Due June 12 th
Summer Payroll Run (June 29-30)	Due June 24 th
Proposed District Budget	Due by July 5 th
Tax Rate Calculations	Due by July 15 th
Adopted District Budget	Due by July 18 th
Advice of Encumbrance	Due by July 18 th

*Submit to our office.

**Reminder – July 1st ASRS contributions change to 11.47, while ACR lowers to 9.36.

Congratulations 2015 Cochise County Teachers of the Year!

2015 COCHISE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Nidhi Mehta



Nidhi Mehta
Willcox High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Katie Tinnell



Katie Tinnell
Joyce Clark Middle School
Sierra Vista

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Pam Carns



Pam Carns
Huachuca City Elementary
Tombstone

SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Stars for Student Connections



Ben Rodriguez
Benson High School

The Highlights of **The Every Child Achieves Act of 2015** currently being developed can be found at:
http://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/The_Every_Child_Achieves_Act_of_2015--summary.pdf

Title 1 Only (Title II—X at website) **ESEA Authorization**

The bill ends the federal test-based accountability system of No Child Left Behind, restoring to states the responsibility for determining how to use federally required tests for accountability purposes.

Federally required two tests in reading and math per child per year in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school, as well as science tests given three times between grades 3 and 12.

Federal grants to states and school districts to help improve low performing schools that are identified by the state accountability systems. School districts will be responsible for designing evidence-based interventions

States, working with school districts, have the responsibility for creating accountability systems to ensure all students are learning and prepared for success. They will be entirely state-designed but must meet federal parameters.

Annual reporting of data of groups of children, which provides valuable information about whether all students are achieving which includes low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and English learners.

The bill affirms that states decide what academic standards they will adopt, without interference from Washington. The federal government may not mandate states to adopt any particular set of standards, including Common Core.

Congratulations 2015 Law Day Winners!

Contest winners, their parents, teachers, and school administrators are invited to the Law Day 2015 Celebration at 9:30 A.M. on May 1, at Bisbee High School auditorium. In addition to receiving an award, the contest winners will read their entries or comment on their artwork to the audience. Guest Speaker is Rebecca Orozco, from Cochise College.

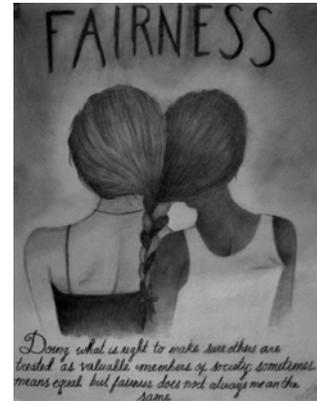
ESSAYS

6th -8th Grade

- 1st – Megan Rose VanSickle / Benson USD – Mr. Bilodeau
- 2nd - Kaylee Merrill / Pomerene Elementary – Mrs. Jansson
- 3rd – Lacy Hamilton / Pomerene Elementary – Mrs. Jansson

9th – 12th Grade

- 1st – Terry Mahan / Benson High School – Ms. Lamb
- 2nd – Micah Stull / Benson High School – Ms. Lamb
- 3rd (Tie) – Anissa Roybal / Bisbee High School – N. Baker
- 3rd (Tie) – Mikhaila Steninger / Benson High School – Ms. Lamb



POSTERS

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

- 1st – Brynn Barney / Pomerene Elementary – Mrs. Jansson
- 2nd – Justin Ciminski / Pomerene Elementary – Mrs. Jansson
- 3rd – Jesus Soto / Pomerene Elementary – Mrs. Jansson



GRAPHIC ARTS / PHOTOGRAPHY

6th – 8th Grade

- 1st – Veronika Kyles / Colonel Smith Middle School
- 2nd – Zosia Krupa / Colonel Smith Middle School
- 3rd – Ivy Hutchinson / Colonel Smith Middle School

9th – 12th Grade

- 1st – Lindsey Benson / Douglas High School
- 2nd – Orianna Casillas Serrano / Bisbee High School – Mrs. Roberts
- 3rd – Anastacia Frizzell / Bisbee High School – Mrs. Roberts



June 29th - July 1st
Tucson, AZ
Registration Fee: \$125

Enjoy three days of engaging, hands-on professional development at The STEMAZing Institute. Each three-day strand is facilitated by master educators and includes a kit of equipment and supplies worth \$50 or more so you can implement what you have learned when you return to the classroom. Strands are designed to provide you with your own background development as well as lessons which can successfully be implemented in your classroom with your own modifications and differentiation.

For more information, or to register, go to:
<http://www.pimaregionalsupport.org/STEMAZing>

If you would like to receive *The County School Connection* by email, contact Nikki Madden at kmadden@cochise.az.gov or 432-8950.

Dates to Remember	
April 30	Equity Town Hall (Buena HS)
May 1	Law Day (Bisbee HS)
May 6	CASA Meeting (UA South) CEF Meeting (CCSSO)
May 25	Memorial Day
May 30	“We Are Listening” Town Hall (Buena HS)



Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) provides opportunities to help schools utilize STEM activities to improve student achievement and better prepare students for college and careers. One such opportunity is in the support and networking of out-of-school STEM Clubs. Over the past three years, SFAz has assisted in the creation of STEM Clubs in schools throughout the state. This has included developing an online STEM Club Guide, coordinating the two Annual Arizona STEM Club Conferences, and providing seed funding for the creation/expansion of over 200 STEM Clubs across the state.

For more information, or to join the STEM network, go to: <http://www.sfaz.org/stem/>

Diane Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction
2015 “We Are Listening” Tour
 9:00-11:30 a.m.
 Saturday, May 30, 2015
 Buena Performing Arts Center
 Sierra Vista, AZ



Town Hall
For educators, parents, students and stakeholders
Equitable Access to Excellent Educators
 Thursday, April 30, 2015
 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 Buena High School Cafeteria
 Sierra Vista, AZ

Cochise County Legacy Project

The purpose of the Cochise County Legacy Project is to memorialize the history of a group, continue its legacy, instill pride, and envision the future. In an effort to discover as much information as possible, every department is developing presentations that include various people and events that were part of their history. Our office is looking for stories and pictures, and is conducting interviews of people who have information regarding the County School Office going back to 1880. If you can assist us, please call Nikki at 432-8950 or email kmadden@cochise.az.gov.



Be a WeatherBug School



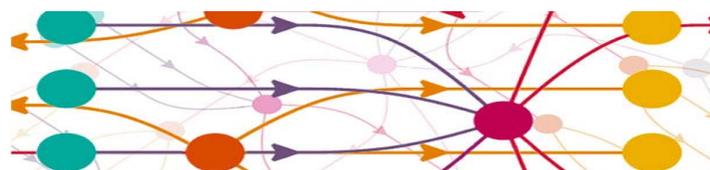
KOLD News 13 is encouraging local schools to join their WeatherBug Schools Program as a way to increase weather awareness, weather safety and STEM initiatives.

Member schools can participate in running their own weather stations, using lightening sensors, and employing mobile devices to obtain weather alerts. Schools use the data collected to plan activities and in classroom lessons.

For more information and/or to register your school, go online to: <http://weather.weatherbug.com/weather-education/>.

Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants provide funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. Grant funding is provided to assist in the following areas: 1) Implementing new or expanding existing literacy programs; 2) Purchasing new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives; and 3) Purchasing books, materials or software for literacy programs. Maximum Grant Amount: \$4,000. **Deadline is May 21, 2015**

For more information, visit http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx



Contact Us		
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