

Cochise County School
Superintendent's Office



Trudy Berry
Superintendent

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[https://
www.cochise.az.gov
/schools/home](https://www.cochise.az.gov/schools/home)

“A mind when
stretched by a new
idea never regains
its original
dimensions.”

Anonymous



The County School Connection

NOVEMBER 2014

Hi All,

Congratulations to all of our new school board members! There were seats up for re-election in all (21) of the county school districts, except Ft. Huachuca where the members are appointed. There were six elections that actually appeared on the ballot because of contested seats. (See results on page 2.) This is a good indication that people still want to serve and to make a difference in their community. I applaud all of you who won your seats by having no competition or because you ran in the election and people believed in your desire to improve education. Thank you for participating!

In the past, it was easy to find school board members to serve on school boards because schools had plenty of money to operate and that provided for regular salary increases. In the last few years, school board members have had to make some very difficult decisions when it comes to limited budgets and cuts to education, as well as more school choice leading to less enrollment, which funds education. The issues have also been complicated by Common Core standards being introduced and debated, evaluation and performance-based teacher pay requirements, and superintendents assuming more responsibilities and having part of their pay tied to student assessments.

This is especially frustrating in a time when young people are not pursuing teaching careers and the Baby Boomer teachers and administrators are retiring in record numbers. The question is where will we find our future workforce and who will want to be a teacher when the academic stakes and stress are so high?

After this last election, which according to Chuck Essigs (ASBO) had among the lowest voter turnout ever, we will be anticipating a change in policy. The new Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction both campaigned on a platform opposing the Common Core Standards. In our state, standards and assessment are established by the State Board of Education with the Superintendent playing an implementation role in the process. However, the Governor appoints members to the vacant seats on the State Board and there are four to be filled. The future of education in Arizona is at a turning point, so it will be interesting to watch the new regime as they decide what is best for our children.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or comments. We are here to serve you!
Trudy

2015 SMILE Conference
Logo Design Contest

Submissions Due Friday, November 14th

Contact Karen Enriquez for more information
kenriquez@cochise.az.gov

Congratulations Newly Elected School Board Members

Local school boards are an American institution and at the heart of this country's public education system. School board members are responsible for decisions influencing all areas that affect students and staff in their schools. While some roles and responsibilities are implicit, others are specifically mandated (A.R.S. §15-341) or specified (§15-342) by Arizona law. Everything a board does is focused on providing the best education possible for the children in their community. Board members are elected by voters within the school district and are part of the general election in even-numbered years.

Congratulations to our newly elected school board members:

Bisbee	Joni Giacomino, Kym Kennedy
Bowie	Jared Allred, Michael Myers
Douglas	Edward "Eddie" Gomez, Mitch Lindemann
Pomerene	Michael Brogan, Chet Judd
San Simon	Jerry D. Cranford, Monica Bidegain
Tombstone	Ben Barber, Keith Guin

Holiday Cards for Troops

In November, Congressman Barber's Southern Arizona offices will collect holiday cards to be sent to members of the armed forces and veterans. Students across Southern Arizona as well as individuals will be asked to participate in the holiday card drive.

The cards are given to military personnel at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca and the 162nd National Guard who are stationed in Arizona and deployed overseas. Cards are also distributed to veterans at the Southern Arizona VA Medical Center.

A brief message of thanks should be written inside each card. Envelopes are not necessary, but if they are included, should be unaddressed and unsealed. Members of the military who receive cards from school groups often like to respond so cards from schools should have a school address and teacher's name on each card along with the student's first name.

Cards can be delivered or sent to:
 Holiday Cards for Troops
 77 Calle Portal, Suite B-160
 Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

For more information, call (520) 459-3115.

Spelling Bee Deadlines



The 2015 Cochise County Bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015 and will be held at the Cochise College Student Union Community Room in Sierra Vista. Registration will begin at 9:30 am and the Bee will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Schools and districts should plan to host their local bees prior to January 23, 2015. School and District Champion forms and instructions will be sent to participating schools in early December and must be returned to the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office no later than January 23, 2015 to be eligible to compete in the Cochise County Bee.

Schools must be registered with the Scripps National Spelling Bee office. Scripps registration information is located online at www.spellingbee.com.

For more information, you may contact Karen Enriquez at kenriquez@cochise.az.gov or 520-432-8952.

CenturyLink Teachers and Technology Grant Program

The CenturyLink Foundation has partnered with the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) since 2006, to implement the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation's Teachers and Technology grant program in Arizona.

Any full time PreK-12 educator that is located in CenturyLink service areas is invited to apply for up to \$5,000 through this competitive grant process. The program is a unique opportunity to improve student achievement through the use of today's technology.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is midnight, Friday, January 2nd, 2015. Winners will be notified in April.

To apply, go to: <http://aztea.org/awards-grants/grants/>



The State Board of Education has announced AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) as Arizona's new statewide assessment to replace AIMS in reading, writing and math. The test will be administered by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a private, not-for-profit test vendor, and will be overseen and controlled by the Arizona Department of Education.

Along with assessing students' instructional progress, AzMerit will be a basis for assigning letter grades to schools.

AzMERIT will be administered for the first time in April 2015 to third grade through high school students. Districts will have the option of taking the test via pencil and paper or on a computer. More detailed information, including sample tests, will be available soon.

For more information go to <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit/>



School Garden Grants from the National Gardening Association

Deadline: December 5, 2014

Do you have plans to plant a garden at your school? If so, the National Gardening Association's annual Youth Garden Grants program can help with the funding. To be eligible, schools must plant a garden that includes students aged 3-18 years old in the planning and planting.

Prizes: 20 schools will receive a \$500 gift certificate to the Gardening with Kids online store; 10 schools will receive raised gardening beds.

<http://grants.kidsgardening.org/2015-youth-garden-grant-0>

Dates to Remember

- Nov. 14 AASBO Training
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving
- Nov. 28 Cochise County Offices Closed
- Dec. 5 AASBO Training

2015 Arizona Educational Foundation's Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest

The Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest is a creative writing contest open to students in grades 7 through 12. Criteria and entry forms are made available to schools statewide in October and are accessible online. Entries are judged in three age categories: 7th/8th Grade; 9th/10th Grade; and 11th/12th Grade.

Every participant receives a letter of commendation and a commemorative pen. First, second and third place winners in each of the three age categories are invited for lunch and a ceremony in February on Statehood Day at the State Capitol in Phoenix. They receive an award certificate and are invited to read their winning essays aloud. In addition, first place winners receive a \$50 Amazon gift certificate; second place winners receive a \$25 Amazon gift certificate and third place winners receive a \$15 Amazon gift certificate.

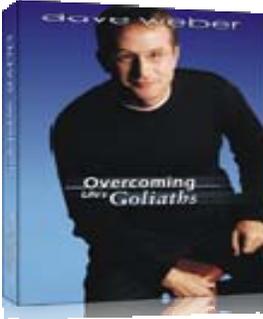
Each year the Arizona Educational Foundation establishes a theme for the contest. The theme for the 2015 Polly Rosenbaum Writing Contest is "Write a Creative Piece Convincing Non-Voters to Vote."

For more information, go to: <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/polly-rosenbaum-writing-contest/>



Contact Us

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Dave Weber



Keynote Motivational Speaker
Will Make You

SMILE!

Stimulating
Motivating
Innovative
Learning for
Educators

Date: Jan 30, 2014

**Location: Buena High School
Sierra Vista**

**Co-Sponsored by
the Arizona Department of Education and
SSVEC**

The cost for attending is \$35.00
which includes a continental breakfast,
lunch and materials.

Districts/Schools paying by PO, elec-
tronically submit the Excel template pro-
vided by our office to
kmadden@cochise.az.gov.

For self-pay individuals that wish to at-
tend, register at [www.cochise.az.gov/
schools](http://www.cochise.az.gov/schools).

For questions regarding conference
Registration, contact Nikki Madden at
(520) 432-8950 or
kmadden@cochise.az.gov.

For all other questions, contact Karen
Enriquez at (520) 432-8952 or
kenriquez@cochise.az.gov.

Watch for updates and SMILE!