

Cochise County School  
Superintendent's Office



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Superintendent

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“Try to learn  
something about  
everything and  
everything about  
something.”

Thomas Huxley



# The County School Connection

SEPTEMBER 2014

Hi All,

Welcome back! Hope everyone is refreshed and excited about the new school year. We are currently working on school board elections for 21 districts and have submitted agenda items to the Board of Supervisors to cancel all elections where the number of seats equals the number of candidates. These board-members-to-be will be sent Certificates of Election even though their names will not be on the ballot as a cost-saving measure permitted by statute. The contested elections will be on the November ballot and you can read all about the elections on page 3.

At this year's ASBA Law Conference, there were very few new laws to discuss (good news), but I was impressed by a presentation on 50 Myths and Lies That Threaten Arizona's Public Schools: The Real Crisis in Education. This book was written by David Berliner, Gene Glass and 21 PhD student researchers. I have summarized their findings and am pleased to report that there is nothing wrong with education in Arizona or in the country. Of course, many of the myths are espoused by groups with various agendas and they probably even generate monetary rewards. This book uses data, research, and logic to debunk certain myths regarding education. My favorite statements, which I have changed to make them true, are:

- One type of school (charter, public, or private) is not doing better than the others.
- Teaching problem solving, creativity, and high level thinking skills is more beneficial than memorization of facts.
- We are producing an adequate amount of students in the STEM areas.
- Class size does matter!
- Retaining students in their former grade is not beneficial.
- Performance pay is not a dependable way to evaluate teacher effectiveness.
- Not all students can reach basic academic proficiency (despite No Child Left Behind philosophies.)

And there's additional data regarding English acquisition, school uniforms, homework, and zero tolerance. If you are interested in hearing the other side of the story, please read this book. You will feel good about what our educators are doing and how well our schools are performing. The statistics prove it!

Have a great year! We are here to serve you.  
Trudy

## Save the Date

Join us for the 2015 S.M.I.L.E. Conference scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2015, at Buena High School.

Dave Weber, the epitome of motivation, has been contracted as the keynote. This professional development opportunity promises Stimulating, Motivating, Innovative Learning for Educators including presentations by Beyond Textbooks, PBS, Thomas R. Brown, Virtual Field Trips, and more.





**Join us for the 90th Annual Cochise County Fair  
September 25 – 28, 2014  
The 2014 Fair theme is "Where Memories Begin."**

All teachers are invited to bring their students' art projects to the Education Department at the Cochise County Fair. The forms and instructions for submission are available on our website, [http://cochise.az.gov/cochise\\_schools.aspx?id=462](http://cochise.az.gov/cochise_schools.aspx?id=462).

Entries must be delivered to the Cochise County Fair Education Department (in the 4-H Building) in Douglas on Wednesday, September 24, between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. The exhibits will be judged on Thursday morning and will be on display through Sunday. All entries must be picked up on Sunday, September 28, between 5:00 and 7:00 PM.

General Admission is \$6.00 for ages 13-adult. Children ages 5-12 are \$3.00 and children under the age of 5 are admitted free. Advance pass (unlimited rides) carnival tickets may be purchased prior to Sept. 25, at the Fairgrounds office, for \$20.00, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday. When the Fair starts, on Sept. 25, these tickets will be \$25.

Friday, September 26th, is Students' Day with \$1.00 admission for students, ages 5 to 17.

For more information and the Cochise County Fair Schedule of Events, visit <http://cochisecountyfair.org/>.

You may also contact Karen Enriquez at [kenriquez@cochise.az.gov](mailto:kenriquez@cochise.az.gov) or (520) 432-8952.

### Grant Will Supply Books

The Cochise County School Superintendent's Office is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation. This will allow us to fund our project, "I Have a Book! Creating a County of Readers."



Especially with the passing of Arizona Revised Statute 15-701, which requires 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to be retained if they are not successful in reading, the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office realizes the

need to support schools in their efforts to teach children to read at or above grade level. Through *Toys for Tots* and *Read On Cochise County*, we have distributed books throughout the county and want to give all students the chance to have reading books to keep.

The grant will cover the cost of books to be distributed to students in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in the twenty-two public school districts and seven charter schools in Cochise County. A variety of high-interest, grade-leveled books will be purchased for each grade so students will be able to select a book they want for their very own.

### October 15th Cochise County Spelling Bee Deadline



Schools must be enrolled with the Scripps National Spelling Bee office in order for their students to compete in the county-level spelling bee and in the 2015 AEF™ Arizona Spelling Bee. School enrollment began on August 19, 2014 and will end on October 15, 2014. The per-school enrollment fee is \$130 if paid by credit card; add \$7.50 if paying by check for a total of \$137.50. Late enrollment is from October 16 through December 14 and will cost \$130 plus a \$75 late charge and \$7.50 if paying by check. Small schools may request reimbursement for these fees.

Enrolled schools will receive many spelling bee resources directly from Scripps; a complete list is available at [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com). Links to both the 2015 Rules and 2015 Instructions may be found on the AZ Education Foundation website, <http://azedfoundation.org/programs/arizona-spelling-bee/>.

The Bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2015. Please contact Karen Enriquez with any questions at (520)432-8952 or by email at [kenriquez@cochise.az.gov](mailto:kenriquez@cochise.az.gov).

### School Board Election News

The following schools will have School Board Elections on the ballot this November:

**Bisbee Unified**

Vicente Abril  
Joni Giacomino  
Kym Kennedy

**Pomerene Elementary**

Michael Brogan  
Bradley Hamilton  
Chet Judd

**Bowie Unified**

Jared Allred  
Michael Myers  
Robin Ragan

**San Simon Unified**

Monica Bidegain  
Jerry D. Cranford  
Ruby Sipes

**Douglas Unified**

Edward "Eddie" Gomez  
Mitch Lindemann  
Mary Morris  
Mario A. Ramos Sr.

**Tombstone Unified**

Ben Barber  
Keith Guin  
Brian "Randy" Keeling  
George Nerhan

These School Board Elections were cancelled, having the same or less candidates as seats, and the following people will be appointed as though elected:

**Apache Elementary**

William "Bill" Kimble  
Michael Wood

**Naco Elementary**

Susana Urcadez  
Dawn Walker  
Rosa Ramirez

**Ash Creek Elementary**

Shauna "Cobb" Conger  
Judith Leiker  
John O. Lind

**Palominas Elementary**

Bo Hall  
Diane M. "Dee" Puff  
Vicky Pickett

**Benson Unified**

Frank "Chic" Maldonado  
John "Jack" Comaduran

**Pearce Elementary**

Charles Brown  
Ed Curry  
Alva Wilcoxson

**Cochise Elementary**

Frank Flanders  
Kristine Carper

**Sierra Vista Unified**

Marjorie "Marge" Carrithers  
Debra Scott

**Cochise Technology**

Rosa Aguallo  
Clint Sanborn  
Marlene Plumb  
Mark Goodman  
Tara Finch

**St. David Unified**

Nelson Daley  
Katie "Kathleen" Miller  
Darek Anderson

**Double Adobe Elementary**

Joan Cardona

**Valley Union High**

Sharon Clifton  
Mary Jones  
Freddy Zamora  
Bob Porter

**Elfrida Elementary**

James Fletcher  
Jamie Mahaney  
Janice Owen

**Willcox Unified**

Gary Clement  
Doris Jones

**McNeal Elementary**

Patsy Rineer  
Mike Vasquez

### 2014 Cochise County Summer Teachers' Conference



The Cochise County School Superintendent's Office, in conjunction with the Southern Arizona Regional Education Center (SAREC), hosted the Cochise County Summer Teachers' Conference.

The conference, held on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Colonel Smith Middle School on Ft. Huachuca, consisted of SPA (Standards, Performance and Assessment), and full day Phase II and Phase III Arizona College and Career Ready Standards' sessions. The STEM sessions presented by a phenomenal group of local, talented teachers and Ms. DaNel L. Hogan, Director of The STEMAZing Project, were exciting half-day, hands-on, project based workshops.

In keeping with the SPA theme, products and services supported by local businesses and Freeport McMoRan were also raffled at the end of the conference. The grand prizewinner, Terrie Shulko from Carmichael Elementary School in Sierra Vista, was awarded a Destination Bisbee Basket, consisting of a gift certificate for dinner at Café Roka, an exquisite suite at the Canyon Rose Suites, and a Hot Stone Massage experience by Warm Hands Therapeutics. Congratulations Terrie!



### Dates to Remember

- Sept. 19-20 ARSA Conference
- Sept. 23 ASBA County Workshop
- Sept. 25-28 Cochise County Fair
- Oct. 3 AASBO Training

### AASBO School Business Management Training Scheduled

The Cochise County School Superintendent’s Office is sponsoring the AASBO School Business Management Training for all school superintendents and school district business office staff members. The classes will address important areas of school business and will be delivered on nine Fridays through ITV at the Cochise County School Superintendent’s office in Bisbee.

The \$245.00 registration fee includes all course materials and instruction for the entire set of nine sessions. The fee for single sessions is \$75.00 The AASBO training contains the most updated revisions to school business practices. The schedule is:

School Business Management 1	October 3, 2014
Budget and Finance 1	October 24, 2014
Budget and Finance 2	October 31, 2014
Purchasing	November 14, 2014
Budget and Finance 3	December 5, 2014
Personnel	December 19, 2014
Accounting	January 9, 2015
Transportation/Maintenance/Facilities	January 23, 2015
School Business Management 2	February 6, 2015

Participants will receive a certificate recognizing school business management training hours completed. For more information or to register for this training, contact Susan Arndt, [sarndt@cochise.az.gov](mailto:sarndt@cochise.az.gov) or 520-432-8951.

### Understanding & Teaching Economics in US History

A Workshop for Middle & High School Teachers  
Sierra Vista, Saturday September 20, 2014  
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Cochise County School Superintendent’s Office and the University of Arizona, Sierra Vista are sponsoring a FREE workshop presented by the Thomas R. Brown Foundation for teachers of Social Studies, History, Civics, Government, and Economics.

This workshop will include both solid content aligned with Arizona standards, and engaging lessons you can replicate in your classroom. The lessons use problem solving, team work, interactivity, and role playing that make the content memorable for students and fun for you to teach. Clarify your understanding of underlying economic factors of major topics across US History! Understand them better, teach them better, make the lessons stick, earn PD hours, and fulfill Arizona Social Studies Strand 5 requirements.

Participants will receive five hours of professional development. Breakfast and lunch will be served on site.

THERE IS NO FEE, BUT YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER.  
Register online at: <http://oe.eller.arizona.edu/cochise/>.

### Barber Announces Annual Student Programs

As a new school year begins, Congressman Ron Barber is announcing his annual programs for students.

Nominations for entrance into Military Service Academies are due by November 7th and interviews will be held in early December. In November, students across Southern Arizona will be asked to participate in the holiday card drive for troops deployed overseas.



Additional information is available through <http://www.barber.house.gov>.

### Contact Us

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