

PAGE UNIFIED PUSD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter November 2020



www.pageud.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Board Corner | 1 |
| Meet Peter Jones, PUSD's Medical Covid-19 Specialist | 2 |
| PUSD Creates Covid Response Teams at Each School | 3 |
| PUSD Awarded Lucrative Grant | 4 |
| Custodians Recognized for Getting Schools Ready | 5 |
| Desert View Teachers Hope Art Will Inspire Art | 6 |
| Cross-Country Team Goes to Sectionals, State | 7 |
| Employees of the Month | 8 |
| Students of the Month | 9 |
| Snapshots | 10 |
| Max and Symond Martin Place 1st, 2nd in Art Contest | 13 |

Vision

A community of learners who direct our collective actions and resources toward the unique learning needs of every child in order for all students to become college and career ready and successful in a global society.

Motto

Collectively Committed to Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.



Mission

Our schools are passionate about the learning-for-all mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for the education of every student that walks through our doors every day.

BOARD CORNER

For the last two years, I have had the privilege of serving as a board member for the Page Unified School District representing both the voice of families and the community. Since I began, I have maintained a vision and goal dedicated toward improving student outcomes and achievement. As a member of the school board, my fellow board members and I are charged with meeting and upholding state and federal regulations by which the local school is governed. One of our most monumental tasks is the selection of a qualified Superintendent, one who has the best interest of students and families at heart. My fellow board members and I feel this task has been accomplished, and along with the Superintendent, will work to support policies that align to our mission.

In order to realistically achieve the outcomes we set forth, we must ensure that we have access to the resources needed to turn those goals and outcomes into a reality for all. These resources include finances, facilities, qualified staff, and time. These are just a few of the things that we, as a team, we must do to see marked improvement in school outcomes. This is not just a teacher's dream but this the dream for our community, for we are all seeking the same goal for a brighter future for the next generation.

In looking at the goals (hopes and dreams with a timeline) of our current superintendent and his team and the plans that they are putting forth, it gives me hope for our students that they will achieve their goals and greatest potential. It has always been my



Ed Franklin
Board Member

dream to give more of myself to the growth of our children so that they may have a bright outcome. I have given years of service to my country and community, but everything pales in comparison to the support given to this team and the students who attend school in this district.

Meet Peter Jones

PUSD's Medical Covid-19 Specialist

As part of its effort to safely return to in-person learning, the Page Unified School District has hired Peter Jones as its Medical Covid-19 Specialist.

Jones will head the district's Covid Response Team, and coordinate the efforts of each schools' Covid Response Team. In addition, he will work with state, county and local health organizations to bring new information and guidelines to the district and he'll report back to the health agencies any covid-related occurrences in the district.

Jones says one of his main objectives is to maintain trust and transparency with Page families and community. "If anyone on campus – student, teacher or staff—tests positive for Covid-19, we will immediately communicate this with all our stakeholders," said Jones.

One of Jones' primary responsibilities is conducting checks to ensure that the schools and the Covid Response Teams are practicing the safety and mitigation protocols.

Jones analyzes Covid case numbers occurring in Page, in the county, the state and the Navajo Reservation on a daily basis.

"The idea is to keep everyone informed and up to date," said Jones.

Jones says he and the Covid Response Teams will be pro-active and do all they can to prevent Covid from arriving at our schools. "The one action that will help us the most is good parental involvement," he said. "If your kid is displaying symptoms, please keep them home for a while until they can be checked."

Jones is confident that if the community takes necessary precautions we can prevent any large Covid outbreaks from reaching our schools. "We're all in this together. Let's work together and help each other out. It's up to us to prevent the spread of this virus."

Jones, a native of Galveston, Texas, has lived in Page for four years, employed as a physical therapist assistant at Lake Powell Physical Therapy, and Zion's Way. He is married to Page native, Lynny Pearce Jones. They have two kids, ages four and two.

Jones first came Page in 2007 while serving his LDS mission. "It was then that I first got to know the area," he said. "I loved it here then, and still do."



Peter Jones

Jones first met his wife during his mission. Years later they connected on Facebook and again at Brigham Young University. Because of their prior acquaintance, they made an easy connection, said Jones.

Jones earned his bachelor's degree in exercise science and physiology. He's licensed to practice physical therapy in Utah and Arizona.

After graduating from BYU, Jones and his family moved to San Antonio, Texas. It was not a good fit, Jones recalls. "The congestion of the city was pretty terrible. What should have been a 20-minute drive took an hour. That's when we took a longer look at Page. Both my wife and I like page's small-town feel and its strong community bond. I really like the friendly, supportive nature of Page."

Jones and his family are involved with their church, and Lynny is also active in a mother's group.

PUSD Schools Train Covid Response Teams

Page Unified School District schools moved to hybrid learning on October 12th, which saw some students returning to in-class learning, while some of their classmates remained home and attended classes virtually. In preparing for students return to schools, the district created and trained a Covid Response Team at each school. The District also has a District-level Covid Response team.

The District Covid Response Team is headed by Peter Jones, PUSD's Medical Covid Specialist, Security Coordinator, Josh Malnack, and Special Education RN, Pat St. Germain, with support from Human Resources Director Terry Maurer, Student Support Services Director Tashina Williams and Maintenance Director, Cody Chischilly.

The District derived its safety protocols from the CDC, Coconino County Health Dept., and Tuba City Regional Health Care.

In addition to the District Covid Response Team, each school has its own Covid Response Team. The principals from each school selected between five and ten of its teachers, para-pros and administrators to serve on each school's team.

The week before Page schools moved to the hybrid learning model, the District's Covid Response Team spent part of a day training the teams from each school how to use the equipment they'll be using – such as forehead temperature scanners, and the proper wearing of Personal Pro-



Staff take the temperatures of students when they arrive on campus.



Students practice social distancing throughout the day. To help with that, school hallways are marked with tape spaced six feet apart.

See RESPONSE pg. 11

PUSD Lands Lucrative Violence-Prevention Grant



Jeannie Wood



Lisa Horsley

In mid-October the Page Unified School District learned it had been awarded a grant worth more than \$709,000 that will be used to create a program to prevent school violence. PUSD was one of five Arizona schools awarded the grant.

PUSD will use the money to create two new full-time positions at the District: a Threat Assessment Coordinator, and a Restorative Practices Program Coordinator. The grant will provide enough monies to fund the program for three years. By the end of the three years the District hopes to have developed a sustainable school violence prevention program.

The School Board is slated to approve the job descriptions for the new positions during November's regular school board meeting, after which the District will begin the hiring process. The District plans to have the positions filled and the project ready to begin before the end of January 2021.

The grant will also include money for training students and teachers, developing multi-disciplinary programs and processes, and staff members to come in and author new protocol books.

Jeannie Wood, Director of Federal Programs and Grants, and Lisa Horsley, a Student Achievement Teacher at Lake View, were the program's main grant writers. As they were preparing the grant, Wood and Horsley received input from Security Coordinator Josh Malnack, Executive Assistant Lynne Hoffmann, Student Support Services Director Tashina Williams, counselors from Page Middle School and Page High School, Jeremiah Stewart and Jeff McIntyre respectively, as well as representatives from Canyonlands Healthcare, Encompass Health Services, and Coconino County Behavioral Health.

The group met several times virtually last May and June to discuss what the Districts' school violence prevention program should include and how best to apply it to the needs of the District.

"We hope this will provide us with the infrastructure and personnel necessary to meet the needs of our students, schools and community, to make substantial changes," said Horsley.

See GRANT pg. 12

A Clean Sweep!



Our custodians deserve a big "Thank You" for their hard work this summer cleaning up our district. Let's give them the recognition they truly deserve. And thank you to everyone who has said a good word on their behalf. This is a tough time for all of us in the fight against Covid.

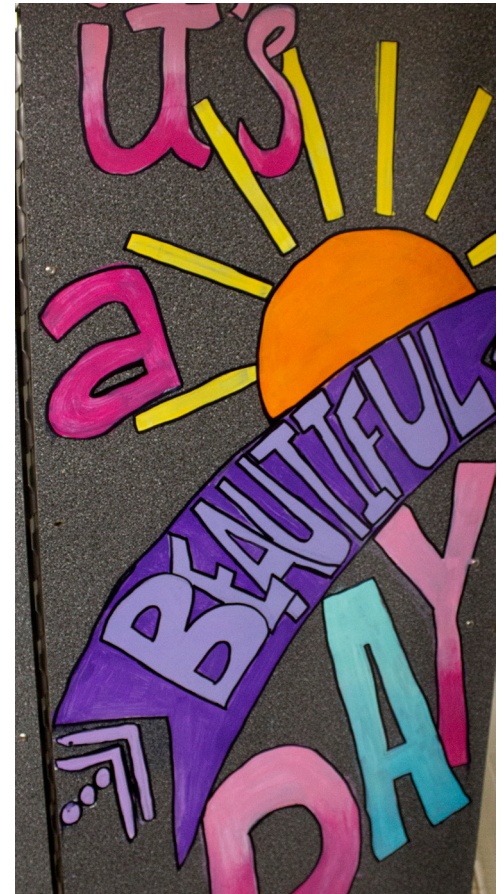
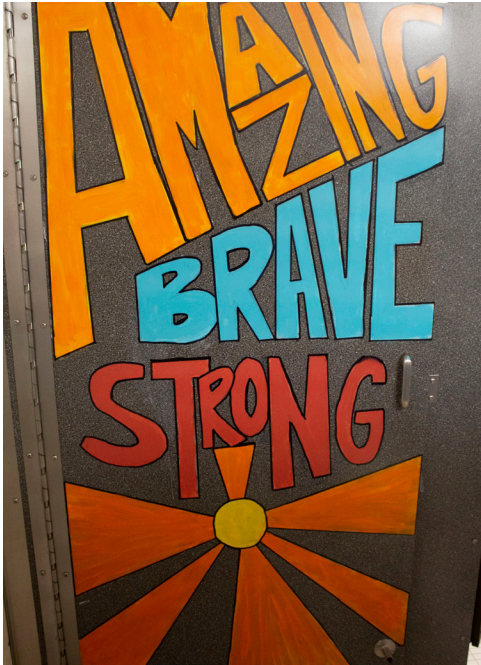
This group worked tirelessly to make our schools a safe, healthy environment for our kids.

Top Row: Bobby Nez, Lopez Fowler, Johnson Fowler, Leo Shepard, Larry Blake and Ricky Nelson.

Bottom Row: Jamie Farrell, Rosita Benally, Effie Grey, Esther Salt, and Lynette Rehma.

Not shown: Bernita Bennet.

Desert View Hopes its Latest Art Installation Inspires More Art



When Desert View's students returned to their school earlier this year they found that several of the school's bathroom stalls had been turned into colorful art murals.

The outside of each stall door had been painted in cheery colors, with happy scenes and uplifting quotations.

The project was the idea of fifth grade teacher Fran Tucker, and reading specialist Lauren Viers, with the backing and support from Desert View Principal, Mary Stahl, and its teachers.

"We wanted to beautify the school and give our students some inspiration," said Tucker.

Painting the bathroom doors was a good place to start. Each door has finite space, and possesses an uncluttered, clean canvas.

Tucker kicked off the art installation. She came in on a weekend and made some hand-drawn designs on some of the bathroom doors. The next weekend more than half of the teachers, and their principal, joined her and painted the doors.

Tucker has aspirations that the project will inspire larger, more ambitious art projects throughout the school. The walls of Desert View are comprised of metal sections, painted a plain beige.

"It would be pretty easy to do," said Tucker. "A class could be given one or two panels and throughout the year they could work on it and create something pretty special. We have so many talented artists, and it's important for the kids to see themselves in this school, because

it's their school."

Tucker believes artistic involvement from the students could be a very positive tool to encourage self-expression and open new doors of confidence. "I think a lot of our kids may not think they're smart because they may not do well on a test, but they may discover that they're good at art and expressing themselves. Art is a great outlet for kids."

Tucker says art can also be a great way to get students interested in other areas of instruction. "When they finish their painting or art project I

See ART pg.11

High School Cross-country teams Prepare for Sectional and State Meets



2020 Running Devils: Back row: Sophia Cambridge, Cody Slim, Joel Beard, Quentin Davis, Trevor Walker, Tanner Dugi, Rex Martin, Gavyn Begay, Shaydon Begay, Coach Theo Martin.
Front row: Jade Reid, Grace Barney and Jaddah Whitehair. Not shown: Hunter Jensen, Trent Holiday, Colton Yazzie.

Page High School's cross country team got an October surprise this year, when they learned there would be sectional and state meets this year.

Sectionals will be held this Thursday, Nov. 4th in Rose Mofford Park.

The Running Devils learned they were going to sectionals on October 21st.

"It was a real shock when Ernie Rivers called and told me the news," said Cross Country Head Coach Theo Martin.

Every two weeks Coach Martin sent his team members workouts to do on their own. He increased that to twice a week after school started in August with the hopes that his team might be able to compete for part of the season. Coach Martin also called his team members every couple weeks just to check in on them.

The track website Mile Split has the Running Devils ranked third behind South Point Catholic and Prescott.

"I think we have several runners who kept in shape and will do well," said Coach Martin, "but we also have a few

who didn't think we'd have a season this year, and they haven't kept up with their training like they would have during a normal year."

Eleven Running Devils competed in a club race, Desert Twilight, earlier this season. "It was a good chance to see where our fitness level stood," said Coach Martin.

Senior runner, Rex Martin, was also happy to hear the news that there would be a sectional and state meet. "I'm pretty excited about going to state one last time," he said. "For a while I didn't think I'd have that chance."

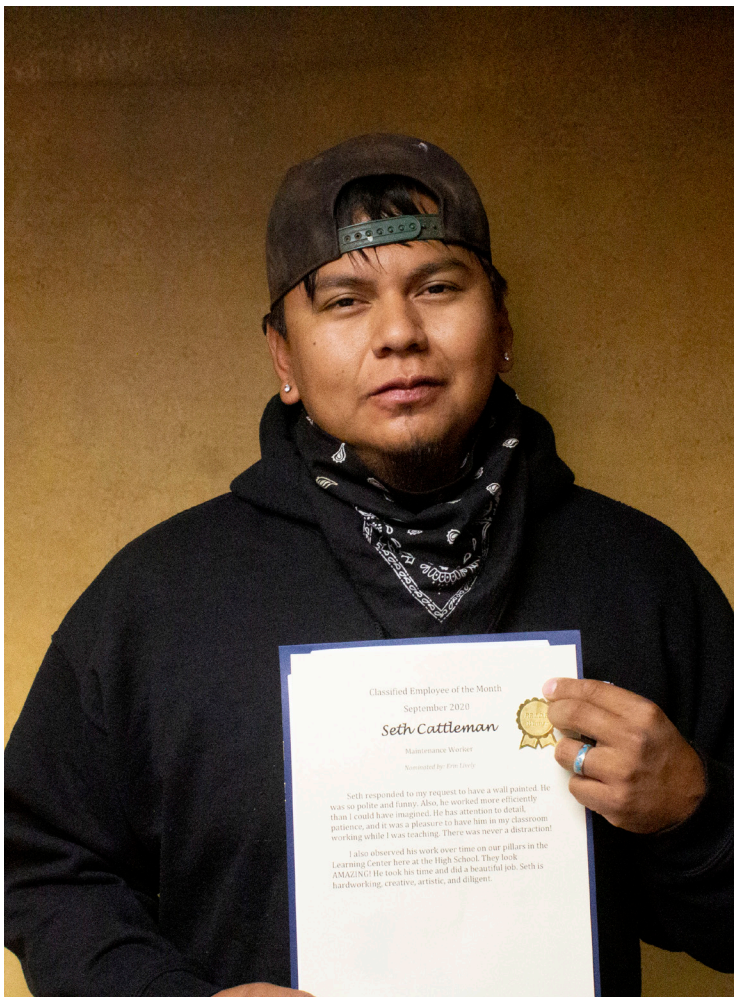
Rex has been training all summer and into the fall just in case part of the season was salvaged. He hasn't competed in any high school meets, but has ran in several 10ks and 5ks.

The state cross-country meet will be held in Crossroad Park in Gilbert on Nov. 11th, and Coach Martin expects several of his runners to qualify.

The Running Devils cross-country team has taken first in state for the last six years.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Classified Employee of the Month - Sept. 2020



Seth Cattleman

Certified Employee of the Month - Sept. 2020



Julia Redman

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Ethan Espinoza
Lake View Primary



Olivia Cayaditto
Desert View Intermediate



Mayson Conley
Page Middle School

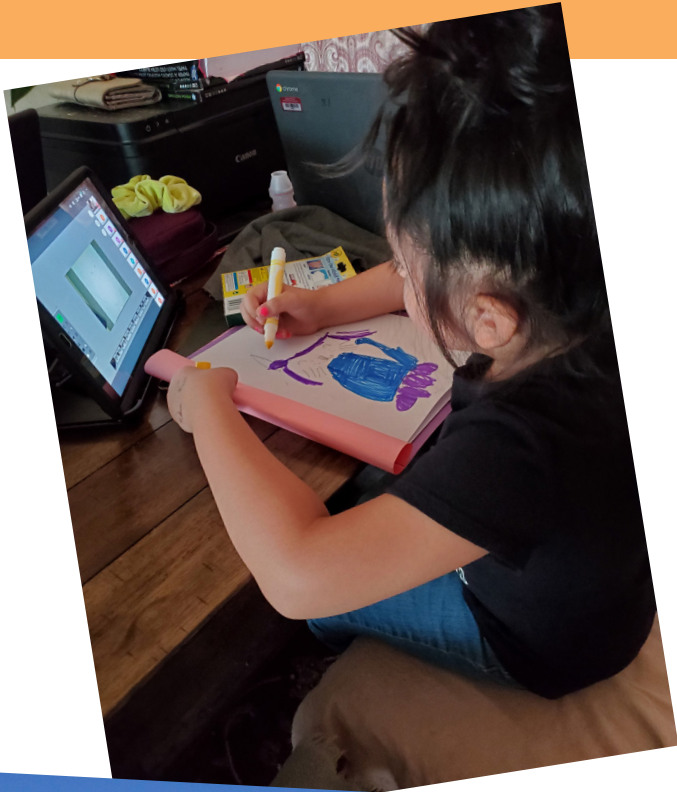


NishShoni Gerena
Page High School



Eutopia Creagh
Manson Mesa High School

SNAPSHOTS



ective Equipment.

Members of the response teams also learned how to identify a student or adult who is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms and the protocols to follow if they are.

When a student arrives at school, they are met by a screener who takes their temperature with a forehead scanner and visually examines them to see if they appear healthy. The student is given breakfast in a sack as they enter the school building. Inside the school, students are met by nurses, or para-pros who lead the children to their classroom and help them stay six feet apart as they walk down the hall. In the weeks prior to students return to in-school curriculum, staff placed tape of the floors spaced six feet apart. Inside their classrooms, the student will sit at a desk that is spaced away from other desks. Masks are required anytime a student or adult is on campus.

If a student arrives on campus with Covid-19 symptoms, or if they exhibit symptoms during the day, the student will be taken to an isolation room. A Certified Nurse Assistant will stay with any student or students in the isolation room. If necessary, each school will open additional isolation rooms. The school will contact the student's parent, and, if possible, the parent will pick up their child and take them home. If a student or staff member shows symptoms of Covid-19, the school's Covid Response Team will then contact the District's Covid Response Team, and Peter Jones, the District's Medical Covid Coordinator. The Coconino County Health Dept. will be informed, and if the student lives on the Navajo Reservation, the Tuba City Regional Healthcare Center will also be informed. The Covid Response team will also initiate contact tracing, identifying all persons the symptomatic student or adult had interact-

ed with that day.

"We'll stay transparent," said Josh Malnack. "We'll report any Covid cases that occur at the school."

"I think we can handle it and handle it well," said St. Germain. "We've had several weeks experience with the On-site Support Services that allowed us to identify and work through any problems and that has given us a great head start to more students returning to school."

Jones says he and the Covid Response Teams will be pro-active and do all they can to prevent Covid from arriving at our schools. "The one action that will help us the most is good parental involvement," he said. "If your kid is displaying symptoms, please keep them home for a while until they can be checked."

The District has been working toward students returning to in-school instruction for months.

PUSD's Maintenance Director, Cody Chischilly, and his team spent a great deal of the summer and early fall preparing for the day when students would return to school.

They installed plexi-glass shields in places where students and parents come into contact with school staff. Desks in classroom and lunch rooms are spaced out, and in many cases divided with plexi-glass shields.

The schools are taking additional precautions throughout their classrooms and halls. In an effort to prevent students from gathering together too closely, students will not be allowed to use lockers, and all drinking fountains have been fitted with coverings. During lunch, students will no longer congregate in groups at a table, but instead they'll sit at a student desk, which have been spaced out to meet social distancing regulations.

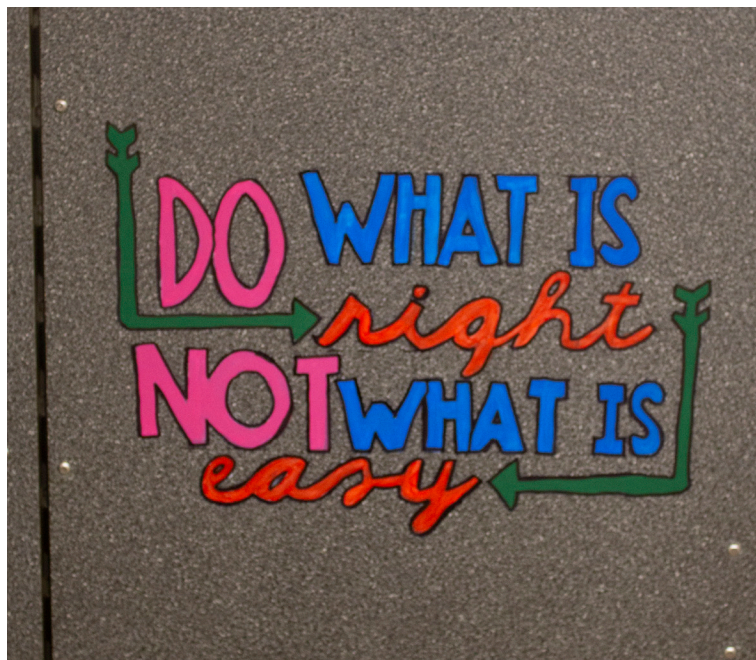
ART from pg. 6

have them describe to me what they're painting is, and I write it down verbatim," Tucker said. "Then I read their words back to them. 'Look, you just wrote a story.'"

Art and design is a great and fun way for students to learn they may be visually and spatially gifted, or good at problem-solving and finding creative solutions, said Tucker.

Viers loves the idea of opening a larger outlet for a child's natural artistic abilities. "Art encourages creativity and inspires kids to think in new ways," said Viers, "and seeing their own ideas and creations on the walls of their schools will make them feel more welcome here. As educators it's important to teach our kids that school isn't all about math, science and social studies. It's beneficial in many ways for kids to express themselves in multiple modalities."

Desert View wishes to extend a big Thank You to Ace Hardware, who donated all the paint and supplies.



“We already have a lot of key things and people in place in terms of preventing school violence,” said Wood. “This program will help us more clearly define and enact our safety protocols.”

One of the key goals of the program will be developing partnerships with outside organizations and agencies as a way to stay abreast of new guidelines and form channels of collaboration, said Horsley.

Part of the Threat Assessment program PUSD will establish will include how to identify and neutralize imminent threats to student and staff safety. Five thousand dollars from the grant will include three days of training from team members with Salem-Keizer on their Student Threat Assessment System. The organization will provide education and resources to identify an immediate and systematic response to youth who pose a serious threat to commit violence to others.

The grant will also include ways to prevent things from ever reaching that level. In recent years, a big part of preventing school violence is learning to identify patterns of behavior that could lead to violence and providing systems of help for the student before behaviors reach violent levels, such as disconnection/loneliness, abuse at home, anti-bullying, anxiety, anger and violence, suicide/self-harm and substance abuse.

Eight thousand dollars of the grant will go toward guest speakers from Value Up, an organization started from the Columbine shooting survivors who will visit PUSD campuses and spend two days doing school assemblies, conducting student training and providing professional development and teacher training.

The grant allows its users a certain amount of flexibility in how its funds are used. In addition to establishing safe-

ty-prevention protocols, some of the grant money will be used to integrate more social-emotional learning into the District’s current practices.

“With the amount of historical trauma that has occurred in this area, this grant is really important for us,” said Horsley.

Life under Covid has also added a great deal more stress to nearly everyone’s life, and any funding that can go toward social-emotional learning will be greatly welcome.

The application process turned into a bit of a red-tape juggernaut for Wood and Horsley. To begin with, the grant used an application system Wood was unfamiliar with, and as she soon discovered that it was less-than-user friendly. “We utilized everyone in our technology department at some point, just helping us navigate their system,” said Wood. “We felt accomplished just getting into the system.”

Secondly, the timing was pretty bad. When Wood learned about the grant, less than three weeks remained before it closed on June 9. She was writing the grant at the same time she was part of the Continuous Learning Plan committee that was examining the challenges of re-opening PUSD’s schools under the specter of Covid-19. She was also helping write the AOI application for what would become Sage and Sand Virtual Academy. And on top of all that, she was also making preparations for her daughter Kylie’s graduation.

“June was a pretty chaotic month,” she recalls.

The Stop School Violence Grant is offered through the U.S. Office of Justice). This was only the second year the U.S. Office of Justice has offered the grant, and PUSD’s first time applying for it.

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE ADDED TO THE SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT

STEVEN LAW
PR COORDINATOR

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Max Martin Wins 1st Place in PUSD Logo Contest

Symond Martin Earns 2nd Place



1st Place
By Max Martin

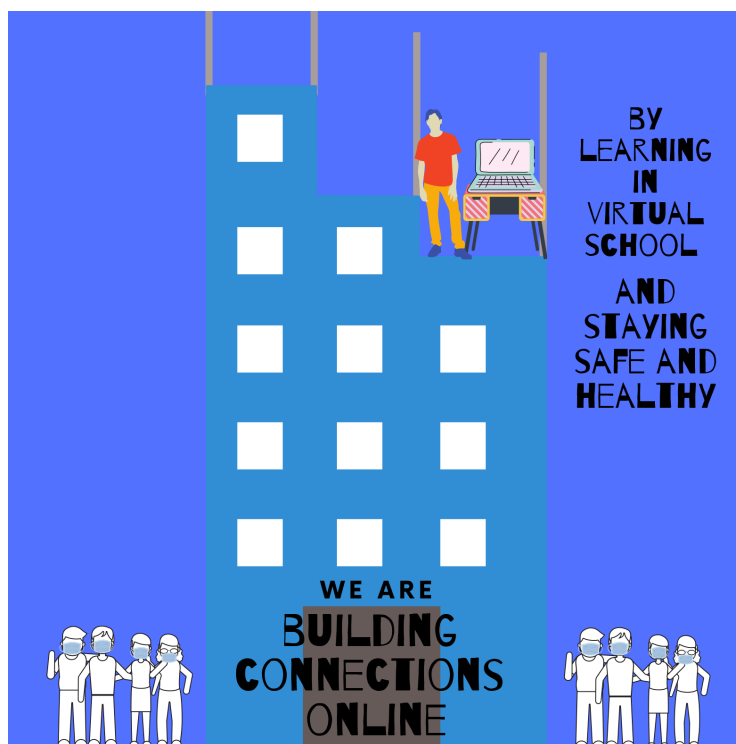
Page Unified School District's theme for the 2020-21 school year is Building Connections. With some of us attending classes in person and others attending virtually, it's more important than ever to make efforts to stay connected with our friends, our teachers and our school community.

With that in mind, PUSD held an art contest where we asked students to create for us a logo, or a piece of art that displayed that idea of Building Connections.

We wish to extend a big congratulations to Max Martin, a fourth grader at Desert View, who won first place for his entry. First place includes a prize of \$100.



Max Martin



2nd Place
By Symond Martin

Max created his art on his computer using an app called Canva. Max said he wanted to portray the concept that we can stay connected through our computers even if we're separated in real life.

Second place went to Symond Martin, a 7th grade student at Page Middle School. Symond also used Canva to create his art. He'll receive \$50.

"We can stay safe and still learn without losing touch with our friends and teachers," he said.

Symond and Max are brothers. Their art contributions will be recognized by the School Board during the November 10th regular meeting.

Their artwork may appear in District promotional materials.



Symond Martin