

PAGE UNIFIED PUSD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monthly Newsletter March 2021



www.pageud.org

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On the Cover

Rory Begay, Lake View Primary's Student of the Month, stands in front of a bulletin board art installation of wings, created by Sandra Frank, a long-time para-pro who passed away in Deceember.

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

HOLD FAST

Yá'át'ééh shik'éei d6ö shidine,é! Charles Weiss yinishye. Kin łichíí'nii éi nishli, Bilagáanaa éi bǎshishchiin, Táchií'nii éi dashicheii, Bilagáanaa éi dashináli.

Parents, Staff, Students, and Community Members,
Ya'at'eeh!

I have given almost 18 years of service to my country and just from my own experiences in dealing with military life and being deployed and the many challenges I had faced, I am sharing what Hold Fast means to me. To bear down, stay the course, continue to believe in or adhere to an idea or principle “when times get tough one needs to Hold Fast and ride it out”. To stay strong, do what is right, see it through, no surrender, stay true, continue to believe, grit it out. We have all faced many challenges, but this too shall pass.

I have been a part of the Page community for 20 plus years and have attended Desert view, Lake View, and Page high school, which brings back many memories for me. Now my kids have attended school here. Over the years I have gotten to know people and made new friends and new coworkers. I feel that Page and the Navajo Nation has been home to me for quite some time now and a close-knit community. I have seen and felt the struggles and challenges we've faced this past year due to COVID-19, however this is a new year with new hopes and dreams, I think we need to keep positive and remain optimistic.

Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a health crisis, an economic crisis, and a crisis for children's education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reports that in response to the pandemic schools have closed in 160 countries, affecting more than 1.5 billion students. In many cases, schools have adopted online or remote learning, where students continue to interact virtually with each other, and parents have stepped up as temporary teachers.

For the most part, schools have had to provide the resources to implement remote learning, students need to



Charles Weiss
Board Member

have access to computers, printers, and reliable internet connections at home, and parents need to have the ability, time, energy, and patience to turn into home-school instructors, on top of other responsibilities. Yes, it has been a lot to ask. However, in the worst-case scenario, learning will simply stop, and already acquired knowledge and abilities will start to fade. A single missing factor, a lack of a working computer or internet access, parents tied down with work or caring for other relatives which can mean that the worst-case scenario becomes reality for a given family. Even many families who have struggled financially through this pandemic are struggling with successfully implementing remote learning and home schooling for their children. Inevitably, the challenge has become great for those already at a disadvantage while families in poverty have faced obstacles as they try to take on the role, even more so if English is a second language.

In the meantime, many single parents, ensuring the education needs of their children are being met, while continuing to earn an income has been extremely challenging. In short, the disruption of the educational environment during the pandemic will have disparate effects across the socio-economic ladder. The achievement gap between children from both ends of the ladder has risen due to school closures. Nevertheless, education is important for our children because they are the future

of the world and they should be updated with current affairs. They are the pillars of the nation, to develop a country and the world the future should be secure, and the children are the weapons to build the nation with all their knowledge and education.

Allen Bloom said, "Education is the movement from darkness to light." Education in our society is imperative to gain respect from others. To lead a happy and prosperous life, one needs to be successful with their education to obtain a great job and be successful in life. It helps in earning money and fulfilling the basic needs of life. Not only does it assist in providing for everyday needs, it can help you grow in a career and fulfill dreams. It also helps one to set personal and career goals. The importance of education for every person is to live independently and to gain freedom. Indeed, education will protect a person both financially and help them to live their life on their feet.

Why Education is Important for our Country:

- People will become better citizens with education.
- You will get to know the importance of voting only through education.
- It will help you to get a job.
- People can learn the difference between good and bad.
- If a student is willing to work hard, they can grow and develop themselves and become law abiding citizens.
- Help in creating a better society to live in while striving for the betterment of our country.
- Education will support mothers who are single or alone
- Raise the children rightly as they are the future of

the country

- Solves unemployment in the country

I know that the past year has been extremely challenging however, the Superintendent, teachers, principals and staff have been working very hard to make things possible for our students in order to set them on the right path for success. I strongly believe their efforts will significantly improve with parental involvement. I hope this message will encourage positive parent-teacher relationships to help children feel good about school and promote success.

I feel for the teachers who are experiencing enormous pressure right now. They are going above and beyond every day for the children of and yet their impact on our communities is immeasurable. Teachers are truly the lifeblood of our educational system and integral to our economy. Remember, teachers support all other professions. There is no playbook for schooling during a pandemic, but I believe every teacher is doing his or her best to ensure our children are supported and learning. Let us all show some grace for our teachers. It may be a small act of appreciation, but it will go a long way.

Hold fast to the morals and values you were raised with. Not to make it up as you go and rationalize wrong behavior. Take a stand, plant your feet, anchor down and hold your ground. Because if you stay true to yourself and HOLD FAST you will make it. Never quit never give up!

Thank you for supporting us in educating our children and for the privilege of working with our future leaders.

Sincerely,

Charles Weiss

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

STEVEN LAW
PR COORDINATOR

SLAW@PAGEUD.ORG

PHS Student, Arabell Grimshaw, Will Attend University in Japan

High School students are often told by their teachers, parents and instructors to dream big and set their sights on new horizons. Arabell Grimshaw, a senior at Page High School, took that advice more literally than most, when she applied to the Tokyo International University, even though she felt her chances of being accepted were low.

"It felt like a long-shot," she said. "I wasn't confident I met the school's expectations or fit in with the rest of the applicants."

She applied to other colleges in case she wasn't accepted to TIU, but that didn't happen.

Grimshaw recently learned that she has been accepted, and she is ecstatic. "I was very surprised to see I had been accepted," she said. "I was not confident due to not having the highest GPA, and I assumed my math ACT score was going to bring down my chances. When I was accepted I was very excited and even now I can barely believe it."

Grimshaw will attend all four years at Tokyo International University, where she will study International Relations. Tokyo International University is located in Kawagoe, a suburb of Tokyo, Japan.

"I looked into international opportunities when looking for colleges, and it aligned with my plan to get to Japan and learn the language," she said, "and I realized the major I chose is something I am fairly passionate about."

Tokyo International University is a private, research-oriented liberal arts university working in collaboration with Tokyo University in the greater Tokyo Area. It's regarded as one of the most cosmopolitan international institutions of higher learning in Japan. The majority of the classes are taught in English, but some will be taught in Japanese. Grimshaw doesn't yet speak Japanese, but says she plans to learn while she's there.

Grimshaw says her interest in Japan and Japanese culture began during junior high. "I don't remember an exact moment that started the interest, but in middle school and high school I have listened to Japanese pop, watched YouTubers and vloggers in Japan and I watched anime like a lot of middle schoolers did," Grimshaw said. "Watching the vlogs of the train rides, the restaurants and festivals made me fascinated with the tourist culture."

As Grimshaw's curiosity with Japanese culture increased, its appeal to her has only deepened.

She's looking forward to immersing herself in her classes, the life of a student abroad and an intriguing culture that, until now, she has only been able to imagine. "I love the idea of walking around Tokyo and exploring



Arabell Grimshaw

back roads and hiking mountains around the country," she said. "I love the ocean and the idea of living near the ocean in a country of all forms of life and culture is amazing to me. The language itself has always appealed to me with how complicated it seems to be, the three alphabets and the sounds that English simply does not use is interesting to study and learn."

Grimshaw has been a very active student while attending Page High School. She has participated in the Culinary Club, she was in concert band and has been in marching band for two years. She is the president of the high school's Writing Club, and she's finishing her seventh season of Colorguard, as she is serving as its captain.

Like many seniors, Grimshaw was disappointed to spend the majority of her final year of high school in a virtual setting. "It has been fairly frustrating actually, everyday grew to feel the exact same and the class loads were not easy. The online system makes me unmotivated and it's been hard to focus. At the same time, I am aware my teachers are doing all they can and a few haven't been attempting to make the situation better than it is."

"Arabell is an amazing person," said Crystal Codner. Codner teaches ninth grade English and coaches Grimshaw in Colorguard and Winterguard. "She's a very opin-

Q & A with Jaydean Jordan

Page High School art student

Jaydean Jordan is a senior at Page High School. She was interviewed by **Shundine Fowler**, a Page High School writer and journalist.

Q. I noticed that you are very creative and have a huge passion for your artwork. What was your inspiration for your creativity?

My inspiration for my art is life, color, and imagination. The world would be nothing without it. Being able to live gives us an opportunity to understand the world around us. Some people may not have what another person has. Like seeing color, but having hands to feel. Or not seeing what another person sees. Being able to live doesn't mean to have all sense to have sight, hearing, smell and taste. Art to me is being able to believe things and have a different idea of that one project. You can talk to someone about it, or feel texture. To see color, even think of how something tastes, may bring back a memory. Creativity to me is an original idea of what I see. It's how we want to see something come to life or to see how it comes out onto paper.

Q. Has your passion always been art or do you have another passion that you would like to share?

My passion has always been art up until I saw my mom and sister wearing makeup I learned how to do makeup. The idea of color is just amazing, it's beautiful. Picking up a paintbrush, and pencil is the same type of art as makeup it just doesn't last as long.



Jaydean Jordan



Works from Jaydean Jordan's sketchbook.

Q. I know that you are a senior this year, so, are you thinking of pursuing art as your career goal by going to a college or trade school? Or are you going to be an independent artist?

Yes, I am thinking of pursuing art as a career goal.

Q. Do you take any art classes or are you self-taught?

I have been a self-taught artist until high school when I met a teacher, Susan Tucker, who helped me become better with my art by teaching me new techniques and teaching me how to use different tools. She inspired me to do more by expanding my mind.

Q. Where did your artistic abilities come from?

My artistic abilities came from my father. As a kid I used to spend a lot of time with him. He used to draw with me every time I came back from school or whenever we had time to be with him.

Q. Now on to your artwork. What is your art style called or based off?

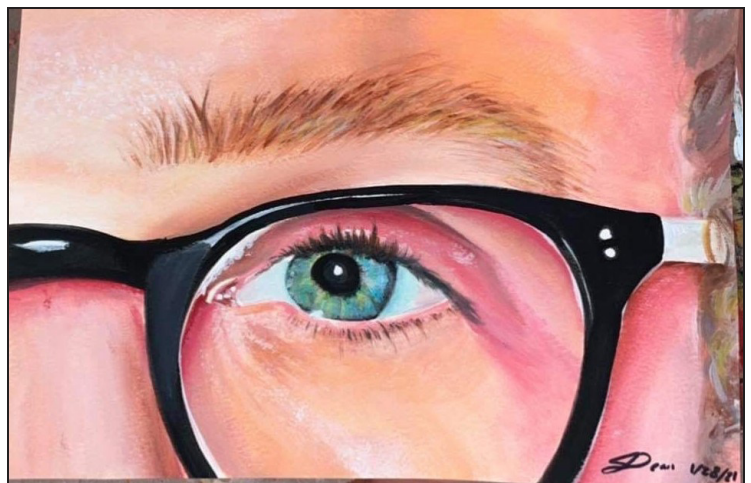
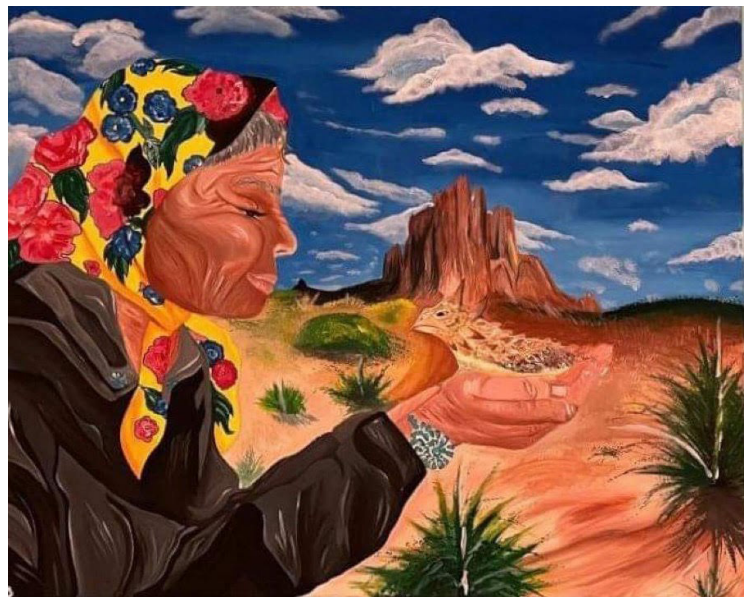
My art style is based off of life and my moods. It depends on what I'm feeling at the moment. I don't stick with one art style my style can move from realism to pop art.

Q. Does any of your culture develop into your pieces?

Yes, my favorite paintings that I have done does develop native culture.

Q. Do you have themes you like to explore in your artwork?

Answer: Yes, I do have themes to my art work. I do work that involves Human life, civilization and nature.



From Jaydean Jordan's sketchbook.

Grimshaw from pg. 3

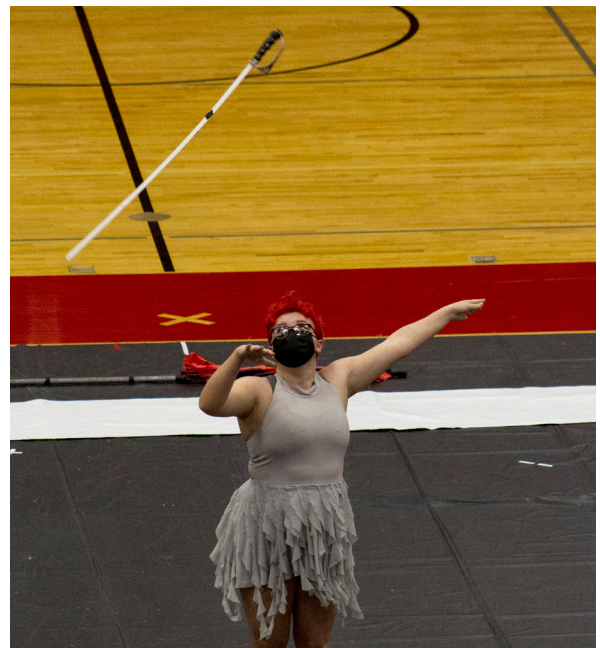
ionated, vocal individual. She's not afraid to speak her mind, or speak up for others."

Codner says Grimshaw has played a large role in keeping Winterguard and Colorguard viable. "She and Braxton Harris arranged and performed amazing pieces and through that they recruited other students to the program. She helps the new students see the beauty of Colorguard as a sport and an art."

Grimshaw will be performing with her team and as a soloist in Colorguard this season.

Grimshaw will travel to Japan in August, and she says going to invite every opportunity into her life, to practice what the Japanese call Jihatsu Hi, which is a day of spontaneity and adventure. "If I get invited to a tea ceremony, I'm going to go. If I get invited to go hiking I'm going to go. I'm going to try calligraphy, and explore Tokyo's strange little alley markets. I can't wait to do all that."

Grimshaw has dyed, bright red hair, that speaks to her strong, extemporaneous personality. She has a curious mind, an adventurous spirit and she's an expert at making new friends. Arabell Grimshaw is walking, whirling, talking, laughing, sparkling Jihatsu Hi personified.



Grimshaw performs a saber toss during a recent Colorguard performance.

The Future is a Tab Waiting to be Opened

Mrs. Talbot's 5th Grade Class is Thriving in Digital Environment



Like every class in Page, in Arizona and throughout America, the beginning of the school year was challenging for Jody Talbot and her fifth grade class. Mrs. Talbot teaches an ELL class. English, Navajo, Filipino and Spanish are spoken in her class.

During the opening weeks of the 2019-20 school year, instruction, curriculum and everything else was moving slower than usual as students, as well as their parents, were handed the additional task of learning how to use the Chromebooks, how to navigate the Google classrooms and other digital platforms. But now, seven months into the school year, the students have learned the necessary technology, and Talbot is watching them doing some amazing things with it.

"I've seen my students grow a lot in regards to technology this year," Talbot said. "What they've learned in that regard is pretty impressive. I have students who are creating digital posters, digital art and making and sharing their own Google slideshows. Some of them are surprisingly sophisticated too."

Using Google classrooms allows students to move into break-out rooms where groups of students can meet and discuss assignments or collaborate on projects. This was all confusing in the beginning, but now that students have it figured out, they're making great use of it, said Talbot. "It's been interesting to watch," she said. "It's interesting to see kids step up and take charge of the discussion or the project, become leaders and presenters."

From the beginning of the school year, Talbot and her students have been taking virtual field trips. Most of the virtual field trips have taken place at various museums, which have added virtual tours to schools and the public

during the pandemic.

Talbot has discovered that the prospect of attending digital field trips is a great tool to motivate her students to participate more in class, which leads to better performances on tests and more bridges the homework gap. The class can earn points for such things as coming to class on time, showing kindness and keeping their cameras on. That one, says Talbot, is particularly important.

"Having cameras on is a big thing," she said. "It improves a students' engagement a lot. They do better on test and they do a better job turning in their homework."

Mrs. Talbot's class has been working toward a virtual Disney World tour, and just this week the students met the necessary objectives. The class will begin their virtual tour this Monday and continue during the week during Social Studies class.

As slow as classroom instruction moved at the beginning of the school year as students and parents familiarized themselves with the new technology, Talbot thinks having the ability to understand and use that knowledge will accelerate learning for students in the future.

"They can be working on a project on one tab, collaborating with fellow students on another tab, and researching information on Google or YouTube on another tab," said Mrs. Talbot. "I've seen them become a lot more self-reliant learners this year, and that will help them be better students in the years to come."

Another important lesson teachers, students and parents have learned during the pandemic school year is striking a balance between the digital life and real life. Doing everything remotely can turn into a grind, especially for kids, Talbot said. "Taking breaks to walk around, or



Mrs. Talbot's in-person students take a ten minute break once an hours. Mrs. Talbot says it's important to take breaks and do physical activities to balance out time in front of a screen.

play helps a lot.

Despite how nimble her students have become with technology, it still can't compete with in-person learning. Mrs. Talbot has 27 students in her class, 16 of whom are attending in-person. As much as her students have improved at their on-line abilities, the students attending in-person are performing better all-around.

"Since kids have come back, I have seen improved test scores," said Talbot. "Having paper packets and using paper and pencil have helped a lot."

She and her class are at their desks for 50 minutes, then go outside and play for ten minutes.

Mary Stahl, Desert View Intermediate Principal, said Mrs. Talbot's blend of online and in-person instruction is nicely balanced.

"Mrs. Talbot has great relationships with her students, and focuses on their success and achievements" Stahl said "I was just in her classroom today. They're studying the Industrial Age right now and her students were eagerly telling me all about the lightbulb, the telegraph and the assembly line.

"We're very fortunate Mrs. Talbot chose to be a Bobcat."

Help Your Student Improve Grades, Bridge the Homework Gap with the PowerSchool Parent Portal

The school district will soon be half-way through spring semester. With spring break approaching, it's the perfect time to check on your student's performance and get caught up on missing homework and assignments. One of the greatest tools available to parents to help their kids perform better in the classroom is the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Parents and guardians can access Parent Portal on their phones, via an app, or on any internet connected device. Using Parent Portal, a parent can see their child's

- **Grades**
- **Test scores, and missing tests**
- **Missing assignments and homework gaps**
- **Attendance and tardiness**

The Parent Portal feature is very user friendly. Parents can set it up so they will receive alerts for nearly every aspect of a student's academic success. They can receive alerts if their student is absent or tardy, if their grade or test scores falls below a certain level, or if their student is missing assignments.

Parents with students in multiple school can access the information for all their students from a single dashboard. Parents can also email their student's teacher directly from the Parent Portal dashboard.

If you're a parent who doesn't yet use Parent Portal, you can contact the school's registrar or attendance clerk for assistant getting it set up. You can also contact PUSD's PowerSchool's Specialist, Suzanne McClelland for assistance.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Classified Employee of the Month - January 2020



Joann Gonzales

Certified Employee of the Month - January 2020



Rena O'Neal

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Rory Begay
Lake View Primary



Aaden Delmar
Desert View Intermediate



Ozzlyn Begaye
Page Middle School



Steven Kelly
Page High School



Ronald Smith
Manson Mesa High School



Roxanne Blake
Sage & Sand Virtual Academy



Announcements

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DATES TO BE AWARE OF IN MARCH

- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Desert View Intermediate: March 8th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Page High School: March 9th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Page Middle School: March 10th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Lake View Elementary: March 11th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ Manson Mesa High School: March 11th
- Parent/Teacher Conference @ All Schools (Day): March 11th
- Spring Break: March 15-19.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CAMERAS ON

PAGE UNIFIED
PUSD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parents, while in our remote-learning environment, please encourage your student to keep their computer's camera on and have them sit in front of it while attending classes virtually.



THANK
YOU!

STUDENTS WHO SIT IN FRONT OF THEIR CAMERAS ARE:

More accountable for their actions and role as a student | More engaged with their teachers and classmates
More likely to pay attention to the lessons and curriculum | Better prepared for test and quizzes



Canyonlands Healthcare -Lake Powell Medical Center and Urgent Care

Lake Powell Medical Center

928-645-8123

Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Urgent Care

928-645-1700

Hours: Monday -Sunday 7 a.m. -7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, closed for lunch: 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Services Provided

Medical, behavioral health/counseling, substance use/abuse recovery, dental, family planning, pharmacy, and free contactless medication delivery within city limits of Page.

Most insurances accepted, as well as financial assistance available with our sliding fee program.

Local information, including information on Covid-19 vaccinations, are updated on the Canyonlands Healthcare website and Facebook page. Covid-19 vaccine hotline: 928-645-6633.

Y E A R B O O K

All Yearbooks for Page High School can be purchased through the student store for \$65.