

**Cave Creek Unified School**  
**District Update**

**[www.ccusd93.org](http://www.ccusd93.org)**

**May 8, 2008**



**School Dates**

<b>Thursday, May 22</b>	High School Graduation – Phoenix First Assembly 13613 N. Cave Creek Rd.
<b>Wed. /Thurs. – May 22/23</b>	Early Release - Grades 9-12
<b>Friday – May 23</b>	Early Release - Grades K-11 – Last Day of School

**Governing Board Meeting**

The next CCUSD Governing Board meeting is May 13, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Governing Board Room located at 33016 N. 60<sup>th</sup> Street beginning at 6:00 p.m. All Board meetings are open to the public.

**Christopher Verde Lawsuit Update**

There was a lawsuit filed in the Fall of 2007 by residents of the former Christopher Verde Unified School District to oppose the merger of Christopher Verde District with Cave Creek Unified School District. CCUSD was informed yesterday that the lawsuit was unsuccessful therefore, the former Christopher Verde School District remains a part of Cave Creek Unified. CCUSD is pleased that the issue has been resolved in favor of students and families remaining as part of the district.



**Cave Creek District/School Information**

**Media Moments**

**CCUSD and its schools have been featured recently in the following stories:**

**AIMing for Success with Maureen Pape from Cactus Shadows High School**

[www.azcentral.com/12news/schoolsolutions/articles/2008/04/16/20080416aimsm-CR.html](http://www.azcentral.com/12news/schoolsolutions/articles/2008/04/16/20080416aimsm-CR.html)

**Kicks For Nick featuring Ed Feiler of Cactus Shadows High School**

[www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/04/28/20080428nesoccer0428.html](http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/04/28/20080428nesoccer0428.html)

**Dissolution of Christopher Verde School District Upheld**

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/115798>

**Media Myths and Facts**

**Myth:** A local media source reported this week that Cave Creek School District Administration is hosting a “Summer Retreat” locally for Administrators amid budget cuts in the District.

**Fact:** CCUSD Administration meets on a monthly basis with Administrators for planning purposes. There will be no "Summer Retreat" for Administrators. A daylong Administrator's meeting was held in February to work on improving internal and external Customer Service. Thanks to business partners Southwest Airlines, The Boulders, Harold's Corral, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Rubio's Mexican Grille, Starbucks at the Summit and Make a Wish Foundation, the meeting was sponsored and no district costs were incurred.



## **Recognition Programs**

### **National History Club Honored as Best**

Congratulations to Cactus Shadows History Club Advisor **Mark Sweeney** who has been selected to receive one of the five History Club "Advisors of the Year" awards. The National History Club has partnered with The Churchill Center to co-sponsor this award. Mark will be receiving a copy of Jon Meacham's *Franklin and Winston* book and a certificate for his efforts. The NHC recognizes Mark for the outstanding activities with the CSHS History Club. Additionally, **Bethany Bennick**, class of 2009, is this year's recipient of the award. Bethany will receive an autographed copy of *His Excellency: George Washington* by Joseph Ellis along with a placard on the inside cover noting her accomplishment. The National History Club chapter at Cactus Shadows was founded in 2002 by history instructor Mark Sweeney and is the first NHC in the state of Arizona.

### **CSHS Band Takes Top Honors in DC**

Congratulations to the **Cactus Shadows Band Program** under the direction of **Gary Wykoff**. The students were in Washington D.C. last weekend at the Washington Heritage Music Festival, where they competed against 15 other schools. The Concert Band earned a Silver rating, as did the Jazz Ensemble and the Color Guard came up with the highest rating of Gold. The group overall won the Sweepstakes Trophy for the Highest overall combined score in the instrumental competition, as well as the Adjudicators Trophy for the overall highest score at the competition. Way to go Band! **Elyssa Hartsock** won a Maestros award for her outstanding individual musicianship. Elyssa is the drummer in the Jazz Ensemble.

### **CCUSD Teachers Honored**

Teachers in the Northern Arizona University/Cave Creek Unified School District Master's degree cohort were honored by an invitation to present their research at the Teacher Research Conference in Tucson on May 3, 2008. Black Mountain Elementary teachers: **Gina Finley, Stephanie Gamber, Katie Quinn, Tina Small, Steve Smith**; Lone Mountain Elementary teachers: **Kelli Jens, Pearl Stumpf** and Desert Arroyo Middle School teacher: **Amanda Brooks-Taylor** presented research conducted over the course of this year under the direction of Dr. White. Their individual research projects are the culmination of the graduate program and fulfill the university's capstone. The conference theme this year was, *'Voices in the Village: Teacher Researchers Share Their Stories.*

## Writing Awards to Kate LaRue and Stephanie Rioux of Sonoran Trails

**Kate LaRue**, an eighth grader, won Best Essay and **Stephanie Rioux**, a seventh grader, won Best Poem in a contest sponsored by *A Peek at the Peak*, the magazine published by the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association. Kate's winning essay is entitled *Preserving Our Desert for the Benefit of All* and Stephanie's poem is entitled *Preserving the Sonoran*. Both girls attend Sonoran Trails Middle School. For more information or to read Kate and Stephanie's essays go to [www.thepeakaz.org](http://www.thepeakaz.org) – Keep writing, Kate and Stephanie, we are proud of you!

## Beyond The Four Walls – Staff and Student Stars

Thanks to all who responded to the call for staff and students who go above and *Beyond the Four Walls*. Cave Creek Unified School District is looking for students and staff members who excel – *Beyond the Four Walls* of school. If you have or know of a student or staff member who is an award winning athlete, artist, author, equestrian, actor, chess player, etc., CCUSD wants to feature them in publications and on the website located at [www.ccusd93.org](http://www.ccusd93.org) in a section called *Beyond the Four Walls*. Please contact Nedda Shafir, Public Information Officer at [nshafir@ccusd93.org](mailto:nshafir@ccusd93.org) or by phone at 480-575-2063.



## Community Corner

### Don't Miss Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.

The fun and educational TV series from your childhood is back and theater students in CCUSD are performing it. Join Desert Foothills Theatre, Gecko Teatro and Desert Foothills Community Education's Acting Up! as they perform SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE JR. This fun show is performed by kids for kids. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and are available at the door or online at [www.desertfoothillstheater.com](http://www.desertfoothillstheater.com).

### Barnes and Noble at Desert Ridge Presents:

Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm at Barnes & Noble Booksellers [www.barnesandnobleinc.com](http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com) located at 21001 N. Tatum Blvd. **Bill Carter**, author of *Fools Rushed In: A True Story of Love, War and Redemption*, and the director of *Miss Sarajevo*, an award winning documentary produced by **Bono** brings us *Red Summer*, a vivid account of the danger, madness pain and exhilaration of working on a salmon fishing boat and living in a small village on the furthest edge of Alaska. There is no charge for the event.

### Falcon Fastpitch Softball Tryouts

Calling all softball players in the CCUSD born between 1993 – 1997. Here is a great way to improve your game and get ready for middle and high school softball. Tryouts are Saturday, May 17 from 8:30 am - 11:30 am at the Cactus Shadows High School Varsity Field located at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & Dove Valley. Here is an opportunity to play softball year-round with middle and high school teammates. Parents are encouraged to stay at the tryouts to observe the coaches and players who can also give out all the details on the team. Space is limited, so

come on out! Visit [www.falconfastpitchsoftball.com](http://www.falconfastpitchsoftball.com) for more information or e-mail Coach Gianni at [dggianni@uicalumni.org](mailto:dggianni@uicalumni.org)

### **Qwest Gives Back to Schools Program**

Qwest is announcing its 1% Back To Schools Program. All Qwest customers have to do is to sign up online and AutoPay and Qwest will donate an amount equal to one percent of your monthly bill, before taxes to the public school district of your choice in the 14-state region. To learn more, go to [www.qwest.com/onepercent](http://www.qwest.com/onepercent) .

**For additional information, contact Nedda Shafir, PIO at 480-254-0124.**