



SAHUARITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #30

350 W. Sahuarita Road, Building 10

Sahuarita, AZ 85629-9000

Ph: (520) 625-3502 x1000

Fax: (520) 625-4609

Office of the Superintendent

December 16, 2013

Dear Community:

Season's Greetings! I wanted to pass along a few informational items for my December report.

Congratulations to Mrs. Elaine Hall on her formal installation as Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) President for 2014. She gave a very nice acceptance speech at the Annual Conference. It is great that Elaine's leadership and dedication to the cause of excellence in public education will now provide service to our entire state. We are all so proud!

One of our Governing Board Members, Mr. Tom Murphy, and I teamed with Dr. Jeff Bennett from the University of Arizona to make a presentation at the Annual ASBA Conference. It was about our *Sahuarita WINS!* regional planning initiative. It is great to be invited to share our story on a larger stage and convey about the innovative and promising practices that are emerging from our efforts.

I am pleased to share that **we are working with the Southern Arizona YMCA in pursuit of a plan to offer a swimming initiative this summer, specifically targeted at making sure that every second grader learns to swim and be water safe.** The program is conceptually planned to take place in our Sahuarita Aquatics Center.

I am honored to communicate that **I have been asked to serve as an Honorary Commander at Davis - Monthan Air Force Base.** In this role, I will have an opportunity to learn more about the Air Force mission here in our own region, and to support partnerships of understanding, service, collaboration, and shared support.

I was just informed that **Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. John Huppenthal, is coming to SUSD.** Specifically, in January, 2014, he is coming to speak to the Walden Grove HS students, staff and community in regards to their progress, growth, and promise, as a new Arizona public high school. In the short time since it opened, WGHS has expanded its program offerings, achieved AdvancED accreditation, raised student achievement, and developed exciting new programs.

I have learned that we received about \$146,000 in contributions from the Country Fair White Elephant (CFWE), on Thursday, December 12, 2013. This amazing organization exemplifies, at the highest level, a spirit of community service and outreach. Their support truly enriches the quality of education that is delivered to students at all of our schools. Thank you, CFWE!

Did you see the Sports Page in today's (December 15, 2013) AZ Daily Star? Our student, **WGHS swimmer, Trey Cashion, was named the AZ Daily Star's Boys Swimming Athlete of the Year. Congratulations, Trey! Your dedication and commitment to excellence are inspiring!**

I wanted to communicate that all of our **schools will be officially closed during the Christmas break**, from December 23, 2013-January 3, 2014. Our **District Administration Center will be open regular hours, from 7:30 AM-4:00 PM, on December 26-27, and January 2-3, to serve you.**

Finally, in this holiday season of hope, thanksgiving, and joy, I want to again convey my gratitude for the honor of serving our community as your superintendent. I feel truly blessed to be working with you, as we strive to be the absolute best that we can be in service to our students. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.
Superintendent