

Apache Junction Unified School District

FOCUS IN SCHOOLS



Navy JROTC cadets from Apache Junction High school visited the USS Higgins, a guided missile destroyer, in San Diego as part of four-day military orientation trip during June.

Community Urged to Commit to Educational Excellence

The Governing Board, administration, faculty and staff of the Apache Junction Unified School District have a vision that we are inviting the residents of our community to support.

This vision expects, provides, demands and holds itself accountable for nothing less than excellence in everything we do. This vision is underscored and driven by a deep-seated, honest commitment we have made to ensure that our school system provides all students a quality opportunity to learn within safe campuses with the highest quality teachers, while participating in enriching and advanced courses and experiencing 21st Century Learning.

The driving force behind this vision is simple. Students graduating from Apache Junction Unified School District must be prepared to be competitive in a global community, a global community that demands our children be better prepared tomorrow than they are today. Today's children are tomorrow's doctors, contractors, software developers, parents, and leaders.

Today's children are the men and women of tomorrow who will be responsible for making sure democracy flourishes and our nation remains strong.

In order to make sure that our students are successful in a global economy, our school system must evolve and we must improve. We must change the way we work with our students, change the way we hold ourselves accountable, and change the level of expectations we have for ourselves and for our students. We must improve the rigor in our classrooms, improve resources and materials our teachers use with our children, improve the safety on our campuses, and improve our relationships in the community.

Successfully preparing students to be competitive after high school requires the support and commitment on the part of everyone in the local communities. Support and commitment can be seen in many ways, from attendance at the Friday night football game to participation in a parent-teacher conference. Support is shown by attending our "Meet Your Teacher" events and enjoying our band, choir, and drama productions. But support must also come in the form of ensuring the financial

resources are available to sustain the goal of achieving excellence.

Incoming Superintendent Dr. Chad Wilson articulates it in this way, "It is our responsibility to provide all students a first-rate educational experience. We're not talking about providing luxuries, or 'bells and whistles.' If you look carefully at our programs, you will see we have cut, and cut deeply, the last three years."

He emphasizes, "We're talking about being able to provide the necessary components for a well-rounded education, being able to provide a safe and secure learning environment for an educational experience that will serve our students well after high school, and prepare them to become contributing members of our local, national, and global community."

Governing Board President Wendy Moore has stated, "We were elected to this board to make sure that this educational system is running as efficiently and as effectively as possible. We ask our community to join us in making Apache Junction Unified School District 'Arizona's First Choice.'"

AJHS' NJROTC Cadets Visit San Diego

Fresh off having been awarded NJROTC Distinguished Unit Status with Academic Honors for the 2008/2009 school year for the fourth consecutive year, 40 cadets in the Apache Junction High School NJROTC (Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps) recently returned from a four-day Military Base Orientation trip to San Diego.

While there, the cadets

got a chance to experience military life. They stayed in barracks at Camp Pendleton's Marine Base's Talega's area, site of the movie "Heartbreak Ridge." They visited the Naval Aviation Depot at Naval Air Station North Island, the USS Higgins (a guided missile destroyer), rode aboard and piloted an LCU Landing Craft, participated in a ship damage control training exercise and visited the Navy Working Dog program.

One of the high points of this year's trip for the group was meeting a Marine Brigadier General. Marine General Angela Salinas, the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, took 20 minutes out of her very busy schedule to talk with the visiting cadets.

Camp Invention = Science Fun



Camp Invention, a weeklong non-profit summer science enrichment experience, convened again during June in the new AJHS science building.

Sixty-one students entering grades 1-6 participated in the program, facilitated by teachers and middle school students. The lively and imaginative topics, experiments and exercises make learning fun, and along the way creative thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills are developed. In the inset photo, Hunter Holst (l) and Samson Crammer break down one machine in order to use the parts to create a new machine with a different purpose.



Letters Awarded Now For Academics, too!

At Apache Junction High School, school letters proudly displayed on letter jackets and sweaters are no longer just for athletes.

Students excelling academically are being awarded capital "A" academic school letters, thanks to a new program that was introduced this spring by Principal Jim Denton, to reward "hard work and commitment" towards academic achievement.



Requirements necessary to be awarded the "A," or an additional bar to put on it for repeating the academic feat, are as follows: Seniors - 3.7 GPA; Juniors - 3.8 GPA; Sophomores - 3.9 GPA; and Freshman - 4.0 GPA (freshman receive a certificate only).

FREE Immunizations

The school nurses of the Apache Junction Unified School District would like to remind parents that all students must be up to date on all of their required immunizations to attend school.

Parents can now take their children, newborn to 18 years of age, to the Pinal County Health Department Office any time of the day, Monday through Saturday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and get them the immunization shots they need for FREE. No appointment is necessary. The office is located N. Idaho Rd. and Highway 88 in the Roy Hudson County Complex in Office 301 just south of the Motor Vehicle Department. Immunization records must accompany the child or teen.

This expansion of hours and days of available service are the result of stepped up efforts in the last two years to raise the immunization rate in Pinal County.

For more information, call 1-866-960-0633.

AJUSD 09-10 Academic Calendar

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| August '09 | 12 School Begins |
| September '09 | 7 Labor Day (No School) |
| | 23 Teacher In-Service Day (No School) |
| October '09 | 9 End of Quarter |
| | 15-16 Parent/Teacher Conferences (1/2 Day) |
| | 19-23 Fall Break (No School) |
| November '09 | 11 Veterans Day (No School) |
| | 25 Thanksgiving (1/2 Day) |
| | 26-27 Thanksgiving (No School) |
| December '09 | 18 Last Day of Semester (1/2 Day) |
| | 21-31 Winter Break (No School) |
| | 25 Christmas |
| | 31 New Year's Eve |
| January '10 | 1 New Years Day |
| | 1-3 Winter Break (No School) |
| | 4 School Resumes |
| | 18 Civil Rights Day (No School) |
| February '10 | 4-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (1/2 Day) |
| | 15 Presidents Day (No School) |
| March '10 | 12 End of Quarter |
| | 15-19 Spring Break (No School) |
| April '10 | 2 Spring Holiday (1/2 Day) |
| May '10 | 27 Last Day of School (1/2 Day) |
| | 31 Memorial Day |

2009-2010 School Year Begins Wednesday, Aug. 12

Project HELP Seeking New School Essentials

Project HELP Coordinator Lailani Capozzi asks that while people are doing their Back to School shopping this summer that they pick up an extra bag of socks or underwear for students whose families are having economic difficulties.

Anyone wishing to donate school supplies is asked to refer to the following wish list for badly needed items: erasers, hand sanitizer, highlighters, colored pencils, protractors, rulers, scissors, scotch tape, hard two and three ring binders, rubber cement in a jar, and composition books.

They will reopen the week of Monday, August 3, to accept new Back-to School items from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. every day that week.

After that week, regular donation hours will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday, until 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

Financial donations are welcome at any time and can be mailed to the AJUSD Project HELP, 195 E. Superstition Blvd., Apache Junction, AZ 85119.

School begins for all AJUSD students this year on Wednesday, August 12. Applications for assistance will be taken at Project HELP on Thursday, August 13 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and every Tuesday and Thursday morning thereafter. But children must be attending school a full two weeks before assistance will be distributed.

For more information, call 480-288-2955.

Child Find: Free Screenings + More for Kids

How does my young child (infant to five years old) compare with other children his/her age? Does he/she have any problems I should know about? How can I find out? What activities in the community are available to my child/children?

The answer to these questions and many others can be obtained by parents free of charge when they bring their families and attend the Apache Junction Child Find held on Saturday, August 8, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center at 1035 N. Idaho Road. The developmental screenings will consist of approximately a half an hour of activities designed to assess a child's hearing, vision, social and communication skills and motor development.

Representatives from the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department and

community providers will have information on the activities available for local children throughout the year.

The Apache Junction Unified School District is partnering with several other agencies in the community to sponsor this free event. They are Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department, Apache Junction Police Department, Apache Junction Head Start and Early Head Start, CAC Child Development Center, Apache Junction Early Intervention Program, Apache Junction Fire District and the Apache Junction Library.

Any agencies or businesses interested in participating are urged to call Jamie Sullivan, City of AJ Facilities Manager, at 480-474-5241. For information on the event itself, call 480-983-2181.



AJUSD Summer Hours & Schedules

Summer hours are being observed at all of the Apache Junction Unified School District schools as well as the District Administrative Center. Hours are 6 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. All school offices within the Apache Junction Unified School District will be closed from July 6 to July 17 to allow for staff vacations. The District Office is the only exception and will remain open.

School offices will reopen on Monday, July 17, 2009 and will be open 6 a.m. until 4 p.m. for student registration and school business until Monday, July 27, when they will resume regular hours. The start of school is Wednesday, August 12, 2009. If you haven't yet registered your new student, please do so as soon as possible. For more information, call 480-982-1110 and follow the menu for reaching the individual school office.

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Attention 2009 AJHS Graduates...

DVD disc recordings of the 2009 Graduation ceremony are currently for sale at the AJHS reception desk. The price is \$10 each. Call 480-982-1110, ext. 2300, for more information.



Free Lunch For Kids through Friday, July 17
Desert Shadows Middle School
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., M-F