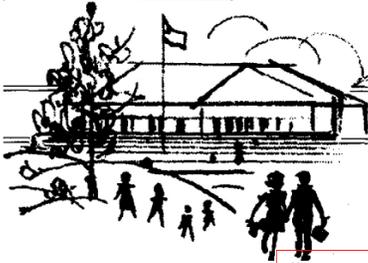




Graham County School News



Graham County School Superintendent

Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 9, Issue 6

"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website
www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

Around the country, *Pomp and Circumstance* is still being played, but in Graham County, our graduates are busying themselves with plans for the summer and fall. It was a pleasure attending so many award and scholarship events to see how the fruits of their labor paid off.

This time of year I'm always asked if I'm glad school is out so things can slow down. This is our busiest time! In addition to assisting with school budgets and all of the day-to-day fiscal needs of our schools, the Graham County School Office operates an Education Service Agency. We have been preparing for our annual Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy and it kicked off on Monday June 3rd on the EAC and Thatcher High School campuses. Our classes are packed and we are very pleased to bring high-quality professional development opportunities to our Graham and Greenlee educators.

In July we will host our second cohort of educators as they embark on 100 hours of intense math professional development through Intel Math. Additionally, we are planning for all of our other opportunities for fall and spring. We are busy, but the effort is worth it!

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The Graham County School Office is a member of the East Central Regional Service Center—ECRSC—which includes Gila, Greenlee and Pinal counties.

*Our Goal:
Provide Regionally –Based Service, Support and Technical Assistance, in Collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Education Innovation to Race to the Top Participating LEAS to Implement their LEA Scopes of Work*



Dates to remember:

 **June 3-6** Southeast Arizona Teachers' Academy at EAC

 **June 14** Flag Day

 **June 15** 4-H Auction at the Graham County Fairgrounds

 **July 4** Independence Day

 **July 15-26** Intel Math Cohort II

 Reminder: The Graham County General Services Building is now open **Monday—Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We are closed on Fridays.**





Arizona Common Core Standards Resources

Arizona educators, families and others can find out all information regarding Arizona's Common Core Standards by visiting the following website:

ArizonaCommonCore.org

Preparing Arizona students for college, career and life

Across the state, **Arizona's Common Core Standards** are being implemented to ensure that all students have the academic knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, career and life. To support their implementation, the Arizona Public Engagement Task Force, an independently formed statewide collaborative of more than 30 organizations, has worked in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education to provide information and resources to parents, educators, students and businesses leaders about the standards. The Task Force has also created the Arizona's Common Core Standards *Communications Tool Kit* that provides superintendents, principals, teacher and other community leaders with the tools to communicate to families and community members about the standards.

Save the Date

The Batmobile is coming to Graham County!

No, not THAT Batmobile. This one is the

Best **A**ssistive **T**echnology **M**obile lab.

Assistive Technology Specialists will bring a whole van of assistive technology gadgets and gizmos for you to explore—from low tech to high tech and everything in between.

When: Tuesday September 17, 2013

Where: Graham County General Services Building

Safford, AZ

Times: TBA

Presented by: Mary Kenney, Assistive Technology Specialist

Arizona Department of Education

Exceptional Student Services

www.azed.gov/special-education/assistive-technology/

More information will be forwarded to all schools as it is received.

Capacity Building Coaching Training Series



Purpose

Capacity Building Coaching is a six-day interactive training series that increases the level of a coach's knowledge and skills throughout the acquisition of effective coaching strategies and techniques. Training is designed to develop and improve coaching skills while teaching research-based strategies to support and coach individuals and school-based teams.

Training Outcomes

Participants develop skills related to:

- * Identifying the language of coaching
- * Facilitating planning and reflecting conversations
 - * Dealing with difficult people
 - * Coaching individuals and teams

Who Should Attend?

Current or retired education professionals, including teachers, administrators, directors, instructional/content coaches, school psychologists, related service providers, and any other professionals interested in developing and improving communication and coaching skills.

Next Cohort

Dates:

Session 1: July 9-10, 2013

Webinar: Sept. 19, 2013, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Session 2: October 24-25, 2013

Session 3: November 14-15, 2013

Location:

Sheraton Phoenix Airport

1600 South 52nd Street

Tempe, AZ 85081

480-967-6600

The total cost of all six days of training is \$720. For more information about registration, please contact Abby Sanchez at 602-364-3026 or abby.sanchez@azed.gov. Presented by the Arizona Department of Education.

The Power of Play

Einstein Never Used Flashcards. That's the title of a book a colleague suggested to a co-worker worried that her 4-year-old might fall behind her little friends whose parents packed their weekends with violin lessons and soccer leagues, and evenings with flashcards of letter sounds and vocabulary. These parents have fallen into the trap of believing if we keep children engaged solely in academic pursuits, they will learn more. This view dismisses one of the most critical ways children learn; imaginative play.

Play is to early childhood as gas is to a car. It provides a strong foundation for intellectual growth, creativity and problem solving. It also serves as a vehicle for emotional development and for the development of essential social skills. While not apparent to many adults, children pick up a myriad of skills by playing together. Simon Says teaches impulse control. The problem solving, creative thinking, negotiating, and teamwork involved when a group of 3-year-olds build a fort rival the machinations of any modern boardroom.

So, recognize play and encourage it in children. The following is recommended:

- ◆ Play should be pleasurable and enjoyable.
- ◆ Play has no extrinsic goals.
- ◆ Play is spontaneous and voluntary.
- ◆ Play involves active engagement from the player.
- ◆ And, play contains an element of make believe.

Become an advocate for play. Provide resources for stimulating play. Encourage imagination. And, join in the fun! By honoring play as a natural way children learn, we encourage their success in school and in life.



Congratulations to Safford Middle School Students and Teacher Marie Arrington!

They did it! Under Mrs. Arrington's guidance, these SMS 7th graders competed in an international video-conference competition and placed 2nd!

The students collaborated on and created "Copper and Its Impact on the Community" and educated a group of their peers in Victor, Montana using video-conference technology. Congratulations!

Final Graham/Greenlee Sumdog Contest Results

Graham and Greenlee students participated in the final Sumdog Math contest May 17-23, 2013.

The results:

Four schools played—Thatcher Middle School, Fairbanks Elem., Ft. Thomas Elementary and Duncan Elementary.

234 Students correctly answered 62,958 out of 72,152 questions.

New contests will begin in the fall. For more details on Sumdog, and to plan ahead for your students' participation, visit:

<http://www.sumdog.com> or call 1-877-978-6364.





PBS Teachers is Moving: June 1st

Come see our new home!



On June 1, 2013, the resources you know and love in PBS Teachers will transition over to PBS LearningMedia—THE go-to destination for tens of thousands of digital resources.

Just as with PBS Teachers, you can instantly access resources for FREE—wherever you are, whenever you need them.

PBS LearningMedia now offers over 30,000 resources from 130 content producers including WGBH, the Jim Henson Company, NASA, and Annenberg Learner. Remember to search, save, and share your favorite resources. Create an account now! www.pbslearningmedia.org

Do You Already Use PBS LearningMedia?



If so, we'd like to know more about how you use digital content and PBS LearningMedia in your classroom. Please complete a brief survey before May 3rd. Your answers will help us enhance and evolve your PBS LearningMedia experience.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6BMJL2V?>

[utm_source=FullList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TeachersTrans](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6BMJL2V?utm_source=FullList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TeachersTrans)

Fast Facts

- PBS LearningMedia (www.pbslearningmedia.org) offers access to 30,000+ digital resources from 130+ trusted media partners.
- More than 850,000 educators have registered access to PBS LearningMedia content
- In the past year, more than 3.2 million pages were viewed by visitors to PBS LearningMedia.

Eight Passport—Become an ASSET educator and receive exclusive savings!



Eight Educational Outreach-ASSET Professional Development Team

asset@asu.edu 602-496-1104

Backpack Saturday

We're giving away 28,000

Backpacks to

Arizona Students!

Saturday July 27, 2013

8:00 a.m.

The first 100 children who visit their local restaurant will receive a Free Backpack!

Backpacks provided at McDonald's restaurants throughout Arizona.

***Excludes Walmart McDonald's and shopping mall McDonald's restaurant locations.**

Visit <http://community.mcdonalds.com/phoenix> for other school and health related events happening near you.

Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

Investigating Your World With My World GIS

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/media/investigating-your-world-my-world-gis/?ar_a=1

This teacher guide will introduce you and your students to applications of geographic information system (GIS) software in social studies and science. The collection's twelve projects were designed to span a range of curricular areas and grade levels and to use the powerful features of My World GIS to help students learn key content and practice spatial problem solving. Be one of the first 500 educators to download this guide, and get the My World GIS software free for 90 days!

Arthur and Rochelle Belfer National Conference for Educators: Social Studies

July 11-13, 2013

Application Deadline: June 21, 2013

www.cvent.com/d/jcqdfn

This conference for middle, high school and community college faculty is designed for educators with less than five years experience teaching about the Holocaust, but educators with more experience may attend. Registration is free, but participants must cover their own transportation and accommodations.

Sign up for e-Newsletters

US Government Mint

www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/network

Annenberg Learner

www.learner.org/mailman/listinfo/updates

www.learner.org/about/news/updates

Arizona Project WET

<http://ag.arizona.edu/arizonawet>

NASA Education

www.nasa.gov/education

Earth Observatory

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD>

SESE—ASU School of Earth and Space Exploration

<http://sese.asu.edu/newsletter>

Sail the Book

<http://www.sailthebook.net>

Promotes maritime literature—to blend art, history and science using Google Earth.

“The Ugly Journey of our Trash”

<http://www.projectaware.org/infographic>

This Project Aware marine debris info-graphic now available to embed on your site or blog or as a printable version for classroom, campus or other public spaces.



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Verizon Foundation Grants

Deadline: Continuous, Jan.- Oct.

Elementary and secondary schools registered with the National Center for Education Statistics, as well as eligible nonprofits, may apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Verizon awards grants to innovative, technology-based approaches to literacy and K-12 education.

www.verizonfoundation.org

Intel Community Grants

Deadline: Quarterly

Intel Corporation is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in the communities where the company has a major presence. Intel vigorously supports education through grants for programs that advance science, math and technology education, particularly for women and underserved populations.

<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/corporate-responsibility/applying-for-grants.html>

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education

Application Window: May 1st –Oct. 30th

Please visit www.freeportinmycommunity.com

Click on: Our Programs

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500

A school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year

State Farm Good Neighbors YOUth in the Driver Seat Grants

Deadline: June 23rd.

Learning to Drive is one of the most exciting milestones in a teen's life. To support teens and their teachers in this rite of passage.

Learn more at:

www.ysa.org/grants/youthinthedriverseat.org

KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can become eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

<http://grants.kaboom.org>

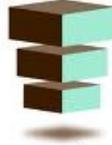
DoSomething.org Seed Grants

Deadline: ongoing

Are you working to start a community action project or program with your friends? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? A \$500 DoSomething Seed Grant is given out every week to help young people like you!

Visit the website:

www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants



EXPECTMOREARIZONA.ORG®
Ready Kids • Ready Graduates • Ready Workforce

Expect More Arizona is building engaged leadership and public commitment to ensure a world-class education system for all students. We raise public awareness, educate, advocate and mobilize Arizonans to support these five building blocks:



World-Class Academic Achievement

Arizona students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs.



Excellence for All

Arizonans embrace the state's diversity and value the potential of every child's life. Every Arizona student has the opportunity to attain an excellent education, regardless of zip code, background, or special need.



Commitment to Innovation

Arizona students are critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who are prepared for the jobs we want in Arizona and who will strengthen Arizona's global leadership and quality of life.



Strategic Investment

New and existing resources are strategically invested in Arizona's students, birth through career, to improve student achievement and to grow the number of world-class educators and schools.



Communities Working Together

Arizona's business and community leaders, elected leaders, voters, educators, parents and students work together with urgency, optimism and a long-term view to ensure that every Arizona student succeeds in college, career and life.

SAFFORD CITY
GRAHAM COUNTY
LIBRARY



808 S. Seventh Ave.
Safford, AZ 85546
(928) 432-4165

The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. It's free to Graham County students. Visit the library's homepage at www.cityofsafford.us and click on the Homework Help icon. This will lead you to the icon for Tutor.com. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with First Things First to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!



The SE Arizona Workforce Connection team promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, workers and communities across Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties workforce solutions that achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

1910 W. Thatcher Blvd.

Safford, AZ

928-432-6932

www.seazworkforce.org

New to the area? Need information?

The Graham County Resource Center is a one-stop shop to find information on all services offered in Graham Co.

It is open Mon.—Fri. from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

301-B East 4th Street (across from the Safford Bowling Alley) Safford, AZ 85546 928-428-7231

The Parent Connection

203 W. 5th Street Safford, AZ 85546



FREE "Parents as Teachers"

Individualized and personalized parenting classes for parents of children from birth to five

Classes are available year-round and will be scheduled to fit your schedule!

RSVP to Debbie Heaton at 928-428-0711 or email dheaton@arizonaschildren.org

Contact Debbie Heaton at 928-428-0711 or email at dheaton@arizonaschildren.org to sign up.

First Steps New Parent Group

Groups are offered at varying times on the following days:

Monday—Tuesday—Wednesday

Please call for times and to RSVP

Please RSVP for any of these classes/opportunities by contacting:

Debbie Heaton

928-428-0711 email:

dheaton@arizonaschildren.org

Sponsored by Freeport-McMoRan

Copper & Gold



Graham County Fair Information

In an effort to generate more fair entries and community involvement, Graham County Parks and Fair Director, Annette Watson will be implementing new programs for the 2013 Graham County Fair. Annette will be providing more information on how her staff will be offering assistance to teachers and students including providing entry tags, pick up and delivery of fair entries, prizes for the most school entries, etc.

Please mark your calendars for Oct 10-13, 2013 and plan on getting your class and individual students entered!

For more information you can contact Annette at awatson@graham.az.gov or 928-428-7189.

Volunteers are always needed, and if you would like to help make the Graham County Fair a success, consider offering your time and talents!



Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Teacher Appreciation Night
August 17, 2013
Sponsored by
Tucson Electric Power

You are invited to a night dedicated to educators. Desert Museum staff and other community education programs will showcase 2013-14 offerings. Registered teachers will receive free admission and a \$5.00 dinner voucher for the Ironwood Terraces Grill and 10% off in the Gift Shops. In addition to these programs, you can enjoy the Museum's Summer Saturday Evening programs.

Registration for this event is required.

Go to: <http://www.desertmuseum.org/visit/teacherapp.php>

From Paul Anger, Director—Eastern Arizona Discovery Park

Popular Astronomy Lectures Can Now Be Seen on YouTube

We are happy to announce that the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lectures, featuring noted scientists giving nontechnical illustrated lectures on recent developments in astronomy, are they are now available on their own YouTube Channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/svastronomylectures/>

The talks include:

- * Frank Drake discussing his modern view of the Drake Equation
- * Michael Brown explaining how his discovery of Eris led to the demotion of Pluto
- * Alex Filippenko talking about the latest ideas and observations of black holes
- * Natalie Batalha sharing the latest planet discoveries from the Kepler mission
 - * Anthony Aguirre discussing how it is possible to have multiple universes
 - * Chris McKay updating the Cassini discoveries about Saturn's moon Titan.