Reflections in Teaching

Please enjoy some reflections from fellow beginning teachers throughout our school district. We split them up in their regional areas. We also took some photos and chatted with teachers on some of their successes through these first two quarters! We hope you enjoy!

Arroyo Chico Region

A big congratulations to Lynn Bradley, Doolen sixth grade science teacher, on winning $5,000 for classroom materials through the Wishes for Teachers program!

Kenyon Richey from Lineweaver Degrazia project & Puffin project. Last pics are how the kids decorated an ornament for the holidays. Each kiddo is represented on an ornament.
Students love working in construction. They learn and apply and build! They appreciate how hard Mr. Otaibi works and support!

In Mishari Otaibi’s construction class at Catalina High School, one of his students is working on a nightstand. A little mistake in constructing, and Mr. Otaibi goes through a strategy to fix.

Silverbell Region

Natalie Benigno, first year teacher, Pistor Middle School, Physical Education. This semester I think I’ve been successful at forming relationships with my students and having a good rapport with them. I will say the days I get to plan together with my other two PE teachers is great too! I like collaborating with my team and creating successful lessons for all our students.

I’ve learned a lot about what I like to call “the behind the scenes work” that goes into teaching: documenting, grading, PLCs, PDs, etc. I thought I had experience in parent communication, especially since I coached my whole life, but I am still learning about that as well! In reality, I’m learning every single day that a lot of curveballs get thrown your way and there is always more to learn to be an amazing teacher. I also found out how loud my voice can get...LOL.
Maryon Rocha, **Pistor Middle School**, 8th grade ELA. Ms Rocha wears a bright red wig to make the kids laugh on School City testing day!

**Pantano Region**

- Jacob Dennis, 9th & 10th ELA, **Sahuaro**: I have become more willing to adjust my curriculum to suit the needs of my students. Additionally, my seating arrangement has been very successful in comparison to how my room was set up last year.
- Riley Kane, ELD I & II, **Sahuaro**: I have developed a great relationship with my students. As a first year ELD teacher, I have learned so much about language acquisition and ELD procedures.
- Mary Larrea Young, Kinder, **Dunham**: I have learned the value of working collaboratively, not just with my team, but with the greater school community and our students’ families.

This is Mr. Micah Mills, 6th-8th Art Teacher at **Gridley Middle School**. With Mr. Mills’ guidance, his students created this door display of Santa’s Workshop!
Arcadia Region

“Stranger Things” are happening in the 6th grade at Vail Middle School! Thank you for your showing off your Halloween spirit, April Armstrong, Sarah Stitt, and Samantha Jacquez (aka Joyce, Eleven & one of the boys).

At Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School, math teacher Kristen Leyva works with her students on graphing and creating DESMOS Snowflakes. Students went up and explained how they were able to create the snowflake designs on the Promethean board. This was also a special day for Kristen because it was her graduation day from the University of Arizona. She chose to celebrate with her students! Students were very excited to congratulate Ms. Leyva! Congrats Kristen and happy graduation!!!!
Santa Cruz Region

Mr. De Leon, 1st grade teacher (dual language) at Roskruge. Mr. De Leon created two walls, one for his vocabulary and the other one for the syllables covered since the beginning of the school year. Check out the board: the kids came up with those words just by using the syllables they have covered so far. It is amazing!

Meet Laura Niverson, IB Prep English 10 teacher at Cholla. Students enter her class and hand her their phone, which she places in an assigned, numbered pocket behind her desk. She quickly takes attendance using the cell phone numbers and can see who is absent. At dismissal time, she calls the numbers a few at a time and students collect their phones. The payoff? Minimized student distractions and restroom breaks, maximized time on task, Ms. Niverson can get through her entire lesson, and have increased student engagement!

Mentor Marco Ruiz enjoyed decorating these beautiful sugar skulls with a beginning teacher’s class.
An Interview with James Butler

James Butler is the Director of Instructional Technology at Tucson Unified. Mr. Butler shares his thoughts in this interview.

How long have you been in Tucson Unified School District?
I have been working in this position for four years.

What is an interesting fact about yourself?
I sang with Chicago Symphony Orchestra in my youth.

How do you support beginning teachers?
I am here to help provide and facilitate instructional technology training to incoming teachers, primarily understanding and utilizing Office 365.

What is one piece of advice you would offer to beginning teachers?
Build a house one brick at a time. Don't try to do everything at once.

Anything else you would like to share to our beginning teachers?
We're the only school district in Arizona that truly "lives" in cyberspace. Our address is 1010 E. tenth street. All Digital!!!
Awesome things happening during your break! If you are staying in town and are curious what to do – here are some events happening:

Here are a couple of great sites to explore around this town during the break:

https://www.10best.com/destinations/arizona/tucson/attractions/holiday-attractions/

https://travel.usnews.com/Tucson_AZ/Things_To_Do/

December 21
How does an evening with the likes of Cher, Dolly Parton and Barbra Streisand sound? It’s what impersonators extraordinaire the Edwards Twins offer. They’ll recreate some of the holiday variety shows that were so popular in the 1970s and ’80s, at the Gaslight Music Hall, 13005 N. Oracle Road. Showtime is 6 p.m. $35-$55. 529-1000, gaslightmusichall.com

December 23
Ballet Tucson’s “The Nutcracker” is 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Tucson Music Hall, 260 S. Church Ave. The professional dancers in the company join with children from Ballet Tucson’s dance school to bring the story to life. $30-$58. 1-800-745-3000, ballettucson.org

December 24
Unscrewed Theater has the younger set in mind with it’s “Elves Gone Bad” improv show. There will be Santa, those elves and a pirate — and expect the kids to participate. Geared toward children 4-8. It’s at 1 p.m. at 3244 E. Speedway. $5. 289-8076, unscrewedtheater.org

December 25
The Valenzuela family plays in fake snow in front of “Frozen” themed decorations on the corner of Kleindale Road and Fox Avenue during the opening night of the Winterhaven Festival of Lights in 2015.

The Winterhaven Festival of Lights is packed with imaginative Christmas lights, music — there’s even theater in the neighborhood. This annual event is a perfect walk after a big dinner. And it’s free, but donations to the Tucson Community Food Bank are happily accepted. 6-10 p.m. The Winterhaven neighborhood is bordered by North Country Club Road, East Fort Lowell Road, North Tucson Boulevard and East Prince Road. winterhavenfestival.org

December 27
It’s nearly impossible to resist “Man of La Mancha.” The songs are glorious, the story about Don Quixote is mesmerizing. Arizona Theatre Company is staging the musical; performances are 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. Tickets are $46-$73. 622-2823, arizonatheatre.org

December 28
Leno is coming back to Tucson -- Credit: Courtesy Casino del Sol
December
The Beginning Teacher Mentor Chronicle 2018

Ready to lighten things up? Comedian Jay Leno can do just that. He’s performing at Casino del Sol at 8 p.m. at 5655 W. Valencia Road. It’s a 21 and older show. Tickets are $45-$85. 1-855-765-7829. casinodelsol.com

December 29
A little soul music is good for, well, the soul. And George Howard plays it very well. His Motown and Soul dance party is at 7 p.m. at The Gaslight Music Hall, 13005 N. Oracle Road. $12.50. 529-1000.

December 29, 2018

NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl

**Time:** Kickoff at approximately 11:15 AM Mountain Standard Time

**Admission:** $25-$200

**Description:**

Tucson's official football festival, the fourth annual NOVA® Home Loans Arizona Bowl, will kick off at approximately 11:15 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018 at Arizona Stadium on the University of Arizona campus. This annual post-season college football game will match teams from the Mountain West and Sun Belt conferences again this year and will be televised by CBS Sports Network. The participating teams are to be announced.

December 30

A new gallery in the area where the gift shop once was at the Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave in Tucson, AZ on October 11, 2017.

The Tucson Museum of Art has totally revamped its space. Now there is more gallery space — and more room to exhibit pieces from its permanent collection. The current show is "Dress Matters: Clothing as Metaphor," which features works with clothing as a central theme, and it's a knockout. There's also an exhibit looking at Tucsonans who have designed for and dressed us over the past half-century or so. TMA is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. It's at 140 N. Main Ave. Admission is $12; free to children 12 and under. 624-2333, tucsonmuseumofart.org
Have you seen our website? Many of you have shared your “whys” but if you haven’t, we would like you to be featured on the website! Please send to your mentor a little blurb – we really would love to have all our beginning teachers posted on the website. Check out some of your fellow TUSD beginning teachers and read about why they became a teacher!

http://www.tusd1.org/Information/Mentoring-Program/what-why

We hope you had a great beginning experience and semester, learning new ways to engage your students and find resources to support your teaching craft. We thank you for all you do to make our students successful. You really do make a difference! Wishing you a wonderful and well deserve two-week break and we will see you in 2019!