



OSBORN



Superintendent's Update

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT www.osbornschools.org

TO: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF & COMMUNITY

FROM: Dr. Michael Robert

DATE: November 16, 2021



Childhood Vaccination Clinics Launched

We have held two pediatric vaccination clinics thus far! On Saturday, November 6, **Osborn Middle School** hosted a day-long vaccination clinic, in partnership with Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Phoenix Union High School District and elementary partners, and Safeway/Albertsons health clinics. That was followed up with an after-school clinic at **Solano School** on Wednesday, November 10. That clinic involved our ongoing COVID vaccination partnership with **Native Health**. Thus far, approximately 500 doses were administered combined at the clinics. Native Health returns again this Saturday, November 20 at **Clarendon School**. That clinic will be in the school gym from 10:00am-2:00pm. It is an amazing celebration for so many families who have waited 19 months since the onset of the pandemic for the chance to provide this level of protection for their school-aged children. Now all Osborn students from Kindergarten-8th grade have the opportunity to be vaccinated! Each child's parent will also receive a \$50 gift card to Target upon the completion of their child's second dose. Those already fully vaccinated can receive their gift cards from OMS today!



Osborn Receives Transportation Modernization Grant

Osborn is being fully funded for the \$2,000,000 grant we submitted for transportation modernization. This grant was made possible through **A For Arizona**, an Arizona non-profit with a vision for building an educational system that prepares all students to participate in a global economy and contribute to their local community. The funds specifically will accomplish 4 things: 1) fund 3 electric school buses and electric charging station, 2) solar covering for our bus fleet (covering necessary to protect the battery life...solar to increase our energy savings beyond what our bond project did), 3) mobile data terminals in our fleet loaded with GPS for notification for staff and parents, tracking of students loading and unloading from buses, traffic information for drivers, emergency notifications, and vehicle health information, and 4) kick start funds for the Encanto-Clarendon Safe Routes to School project initiated by community members and parents in their neighborhood who have been meeting with city officials for 7 months in planning. Grant amounts ranged from \$25,000 to the maximum \$2,000,000. Osborn was one of five awardees to receive the maximum grant award. Thanks to **Dr. Emerald Woodland** for writing this grant in a compressed time period, and to **John Bachler** and **Colleen Toscano** for rallying to provide the financial and technical information necessary to make this award happen. Osborn continues to lead the way in energy efficiency since our successful 2017 bond initiative!



Return to Community Participation in School Events



Since the pandemic closed schools in March 2020, we had not had any school events that included large community participation. Mitigation strategies in our schools allowed for students and staff to be on campus for the close of the 2020-2021 school year. To begin the 2021-2022 school year, we have allowed vaccinated community volunteers and partners to return to the buildings to resume services to our students. Two events that for the first time invited large groups of parents and community to campus (but with limitations on numbers of participants and social-distancing strategies still in place) have taken place or been planned for the near future. The first **Osborn Soccer Tournament** was held on Saturday, November 4 at **Longview School**. This is an event that is a culmination of school teams formed and practicing as part of each elementary campus 21st Century Afterschool Program. Clarendon, Longview, and Solano fielded teams at the 4th/5th and 6th grade levels, with separate boys and girls teams. It was a clean sweep for **Clarendon School** this year, with all four of their teams taking home the victory!



Coming up soon, **Osborn Middle School** and band teacher **Julia Georges** are planning for an outdoor winter concert. Details are upcoming, but this is an exciting step in our return to community planning. Mrs. Georges is working with the OMS administration on the steps being taken to assure a safe, but exciting concert for students and their families. Finally, the OMS winter sports teams (funded through the **Osborn School District Educational Foundation**) are exploring how we can have fans in attendance at our winter sporting events. Many high schools and middle schools have returned to full attendance at school events. We have been mindful of community spread and vaccine availability as we look to take steps in changing any COVID mitigation strategies. With our vaccine clinics, and hopeful increased numbers of vaccinated students and community members, we will look forward to inviting our community and parents to many events in 2022 at all of our schools. Keep your eyes peeled for invitations to an event near you!

Arizona Teacher Residency Program Coming to Osborn

The heart of outstanding teaching and teacher leadership for many years came through our involvement in the creation of a professional development school and certification program. When that ended 5 years ago, we maintained working with universities for student teaching placement, but the strengths we found when teacher candidates were embedded in our district for a whole year



while learning content and working toward certification and a Masters was missing. That will return as we are one of three districts that will partner with **Northern Arizona University** and the **Arizona K12 Center** in the launch of the **Arizona Teacher Residency Program (AZTR)**. Teacher Candidates will spend one year post-Bachelors degree working within our system, doing student teaching, and engaging in coursework toward their certificates. Upon earning their teaching certificate, they will work for a minimum of 3 years within the district, while also completing their classwork for their Masters degrees. You can read more about the residency program [here](#). There is already a

demand for potential students for the program. We will be working with AZTR Director, **Dr. Tori Theisen-Homer** from the Arizona K-12 Center, to find the masterful teachers who will mentor these teacher candidates. The AZTR was launched on October 25th at Encanto School, with speeches from NAU President **Dr. José Luis Cruz Rivera**, Arizona Superintendent of Instruction **Kathy Hoffman**, and Executive Director of the AZK12 Center **Dr. Kathy Wiebke**. Osborn's official partnership was formalized when the



**ARIZONA
TEACHER
RESIDENCY**

Governing Board approved our status as one of the 3 inaugural partner districts in the AZTR Program. We look forward to getting started right away!



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Osborn Montessori Program to Expand in 2022-2023

We were super excited to launch the [Osborn Montessori Program at Montecito Community School](#) this year with the Primary program, serving children ages 3-6, in a multi-age, Montessori setting. Next year we will be adding a second Primary classroom. The Primary program is two years of preschool and the kindergarten year, all within one classroom setting. While the preschool years charge a tuition, the kindergarten and elementary years are tuition-free like all public school education. The beautiful, hands-on setting teaches independence as well as behavioral, emotional, and intellectual development. We will also be launching our first Lower Elementary classroom next year as well. The Lower Elementary classroom is for students ages 6-9 (1st-3rd grades), also in a multi-age setting. Next year's Lower Elementary will include just 1st and 2nd grade students. We will be holding an Informational Meeting for Osborn employees next Monday, November 22 at 4:30pm for you to learn more about Montessori education, the Osborn program, and how you can enroll for the 2022-2023 school year. The future Lower Elementary teachers, **Jill Singh** and **Katrina Roberts** will lead the session and answer your questions. A future information and recruitment session for the community will be announced soon.



Future Board Meetings

Tuesday, November 16: Governing Board Regular Meeting, 5:00PM

Thursday, December 2: Governing Board Work Study Meeting, 4:30PM