



OSBORN



Superintendent's Update

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT www.osbornschools.org

TO: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF & COMMUNITY

FROM: Dr. Michael Robert

DATE: September 27, 2021



The Data is Clear—Masking Works to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Schools

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released reports this week with data from schools nationally as well as specifically looking at Arizona schools. Whether locally or nationally, the data came to similar conclusions. Masks in schools help prevent COVID-19 outbreaks and spread. The Arizona study showed that schools without masking mandates since the inception of school in the 2021-2022 school year were 3.5 times more likely to have a COVID-19 outbreak than schools with universal mandates in place. This study looked at the data from more than 1000 schools in Maricopa and Pima counties, where 75% of Arizona students reside. Interestingly enough, the national study showed a correlation between school masking and community spread. It showed that counties where schools required mask use showed less transmission in the greater community than counties with no masking mandates. The budget enacted ban on mask mandates was supposed to go into effect this Wednesday, September 29, but that provision has been struck down in court. I am happy to announce that our mask mandate will remain intact. I am very proud of our district for the measures taken to mitigate infection and spread of COVID-19 this year: following CDC guidance on masking, following MCDPH guidance on quarantines, social distancing, cohorting, effective ventilation procedures, pooled testing, etc. When policies exist to the detriment of the public good...literally the public health...we have an obligation to speak up and act up. Osborn has been proud to speak up all year thus far, and will continue to do so. Thank you for your continued patience and support throughout the past 18 months!



Montessori Students Honor International Day of Peace

September 21 was the celebration of the United Nations declared International Day of Peace, with a theme this year of "Recovering Better for a Sustainable and Equitable World."

Montecito School Montessori Program students were led by their teacher **Tere Obrochta**

in celebrating this day of peace and sharing a song of peace with the older students at Montecito. Maria Montessori truly believed that each generation of children presented a renewed hope for a peaceful world

and incorporated those global themes in a curriculum of respect for the child and for humanity. Take a peek at what's been happening in the Montecito Montessori class this past month. The program at Montecito this year consists of the Primary classroom (for ages 3-6, or preschool and kindergarten), with plans to expand to a Lower Elementary classroom for next year (ages 6-9, or 1st-3rd grades). Share the word with any families who may be interested in a public Montessori opportunity this or next year.



District Community Partners Return to Campus



The new school year has brought two new programs into Osborn schools. **Encanto School** is continuing their partnership with **Gabriel's Angels**. It is beyond exciting to have our community partners back on campus to provide services to our students. Once a week, Lacy visits Encanto to support social emotional needs of students on campus. Students are selected and participate in developing their social skills while practicing with a therapy dog. Gabriel's Angels first came to Osborn at Solano School where they are still working, and additionally with services at Longview.



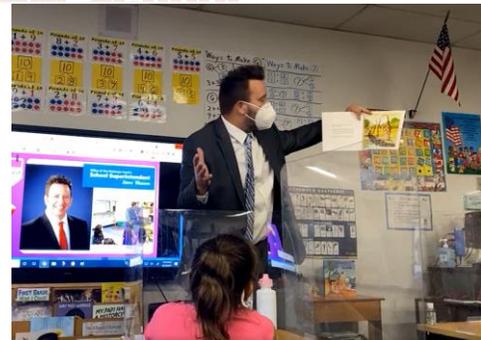
Osborn Receives Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant

Congratulations and words of gratitude to Osborn IT Director **Jamal Dana** and Federal Programs Specialist **Dr. Emerald Woodland** for their work in writing a grant for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). The FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is a \$7.17 billion program that will help schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. ECF will help provide relief to millions of students, school staff, and library patrons and will help close the Homework Gap for students who currently lack necessary Internet access or the devices they need to connect to classrooms. To supply Osborn with more than 150 hotspot devices and an additional 1000+ laptops or Chromebooks, our ECF funding totals \$433,535.



County Superintendent Visits Longview School

Longview School 1st grade teacher **Tara La O'Garcia** reached out to Maricopa County School Superintendent **Steve Watson** to recommend one of her favorite books for "Mr. Watson's Book Club." On September 15, Supt. Watson chose to visit Mrs. La O'Garcia to read the wonderful story [The Paper Bag Princess](#) to her class and bring a free copy for each of her 23 students. Mr. Watson has visited Osborn schools multiple times in his tenure as County Superintendent, and it was a joy to have him come share the gift of reading, along with books for the students, on this visit. Thank you Supt. Watson for visiting Longview! You can view part of the event and also follow Osborn on our Facebook page [here](#).



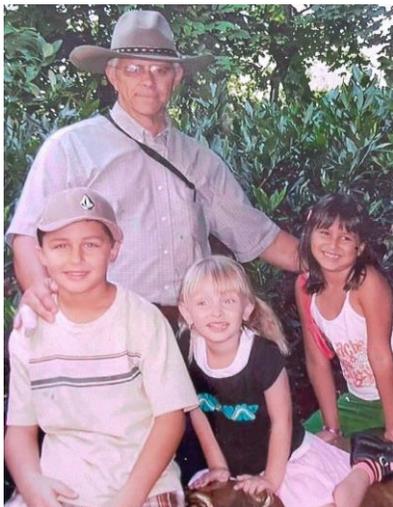
Solano School Welcomes new Partner in Emotional and Mental Health

Solano School has worked tremendously hard to welcome back the parents and students of the community. Off to a wonderful start, many families have expressed needs that arose before and were strengthened during the time of the pandemic. We are so grateful to all our community partners who have been with us long term and those who we encountered through the pandemic. There are so many social, emotional, and mental health needs that have emerged over the past year that Solano Principal **Lisa Norwood** was excited to connect with **Community Family Services**. They were an additional member of the community support team at Solano during the pandemic that formalized their partnership with Solano this year. One truth about this time during and headed to post-pandemic, is that there can never be a limit where we cannot continue to accept the assistance our partners and community agencies are able to offer to the families of our community. Welcome CFS to Osborn!



COMMUNITY FAMILY SERVICES, LLC





Rest in Peace: We are sad to announce the passing of Mr. Philip Mackey, husband of longtime Clarendon School Administrative Assistant **Rosi Mackey**. Philip was a marksman in the military who even received a presidential medal for his skill. He was a musician, loving husband, devoted father, and caring grandfather. This is one way we saw him within Osborn over these past years, with his walking stick, walking back and forth to and from our schools with his grandchildren. Rosi and her kids and grandkids already miss him. We keep Rosi and her family in our prayers at this time.

Congratulations to **Dr. Emerald Woodland**, current Osborn Federal Projects Specialist. Dr. Woodland has been selected to be the next Director of Human Resources for Osborn. Dr. Woodland completed her administrative certification through the ASU iLead Program during her teaching tenure at Clarendon School. She has spent her entire educational career here in Osborn and brings a bold vision for leadership of the human resources department, with a boots on the ground perspective of the current life of what it is like to be a teacher in Arizona's public schools. She hopes to bring an equity lens to all aspects of the district as she takes on this new role mid-year.



Osborn Schools closed, Monday, October 4-8 for...



Board Meetings

- Monday, September 27: Special Meeting/Retreat of Osborn Governing Board and Administration, all day event
- Tuesday, October 12: Osborn School District Educational Foundation Meeting, 5:00PM
- Thursday, October 14: Governing Board Work Study Meeting, 4:30PM
- Tuesday, October 19: Governing Board Regular Meeting, 5:00PM