



November 12, 2021

Dear SUSD Parents and Guardians,

It has been a trying week for the district, and while concerns about other matters are being addressed in different arenas, we want to share with you news of what our students and educators have been continuing to do at SUSD: *excel*.

SUSD in the Community

Last week, we told you of the Saguaro High School visual arts and robotics students' installation in the annual Scottsdale Arts Canal Convergence event along the Scottsdale Waterfront. The display attracted the attention of the *Scottsdale Progress*, which published a [terrific story](#) this week about the combined student/local artist project that began way back last summer. The event is so much more than an art show and lovely canal-side stroll: you can also experience the Convergence, including Saguaro's scavenger hunt, through [augmented reality](#), or AR, that is accessed through your cell phone's camera. The Convergence wraps up its annual run Sunday evening. We hope you get a chance to head over there to take it all in.

Ingleside Middle School 7th grade English Language Arts teacher Jordan Holland is in the news, too. She is the *Arcadia News* "[Teacher We Love](#)" for November. Ms. Holland, who lends her coaching talents to the school's girls volleyball and soccer teams when she's not in the classroom, has been teaching at Ingleside since 2018. She was nominated by an appreciative student.

Veterans Day

SUSD schools celebrated Veterans Day this week in myriad ways. Cochise Elementary transformed its annual recognition of family and community members' service to the nation with a car parade, reminiscent of a homecoming parade, that wound its way around through the school's parking lots. At Tavan Elementary, students formed a heart on the field to salute veterans and tomorrow, the Desert Canyon Middle School marching band hits the road for Yavapai County to take part in Prescott's annual Veterans Day Parade. The band will also be featured in the coming weeks in an ABC 15 feature that was filmed earlier this week with news anchor and Saguaro alum Katie Raml.

On Stage at SUSD

Coronado High School's Thespians present *I HATE Shakespeare* next Thursday and Friday, November 18 and 19, at 6 p.m. in the Eugene L. Hanson Auditorium. Join them as they make their way, sometimes unconventionally, through some of Shakespeare's greatest works in a hilarious, easy-to-understand way. You may even leave with a better appreciation for the Bard himself!

We also want to let you know that the run of Chaparral Theatre's production of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, the story of children housed at a German concentration camp during World War II, has been [extended](#), with shows on Monday and Tuesday next week, November 15 and 16, at 7 p.m.

Athletics

It's been a big week in SUSD athletics: both the girls and boys Desert Mountain High School swim and dive teams swam away with Division 2 state titles last weekend, as did the Chaparral High School girls team in Division 1. The boys finished just a scant two points behind Desert Vista to claim second place. Also, we have been remiss in not telling you of the Saguaro High School boys golf team's achievement late last month in taking second place in the Division 2 tournament. Congratulations, Wolves, Firebirds and Sabercats, for the incredible amount of hard work you put in to be able to compete at such a high level, while at the same time staying engaged in your studies. And thank you, coaches, staff and parents, for leading our students to these memorable achievements.

The first National Signing Day of the school year was this week, and once again, SUSD will be sending well-rounded student athletes around the country next school year to compete in their chosen sport at the college level. Well done.

We want to remind you that our middle school student athletes take to the pitches, fields and courts from south to north tomorrow for the second quarter's sports festival. The girls will be playing soccer and softball; boys will be playing basketball and soccer. Find your team's schedule [here](#).

Lastly, we hope you will join us in celebrating American Education Week next week, November 15 -19, by saying thank you to Scottsdale Unified's 3,600 full-time and part-time employees who support our district every day. Together, they keep our school buses rolling 2,300 miles every day, challenge and inspire our students to dream big, manage school front offices, distribute nutritious breakfasts and lunches, lead their schools' educator teams, and keep our schools and athletic grounds safe and in ship-shape. In particular, our education support professionals will be recognized on Wednesday, November 17, and our substitute educators will be celebrated a week from today, Friday, November 19. We are grateful for all of our employees' ongoing dedication to your students, their schools and our district.

Best regards,

Scottsdale Unified School District [Cabinet](#) and [Leadership Team](#)