



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
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## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 1.4

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Margie Jones, Administrative Assistant

**PRESENTED BY:** Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

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I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD student and staff achievements:

### CFSD Foundation's 2021 Teachers and Distinguished Educators of the Year

Our CFSD Foundation has named its 2021 Teachers of the Year, Jason Reinhardt (high school business & finance) and Meghan Gulley (2nd grade, Ventana Vista), and the 2021 Distinguished Educators - Shireen Behzadi (high school English), Ramon Sepulveda (high school and Sunrise Drive band), and Holly Clark (4th grade, Ventana Vista).

The Foundation's Teacher of the Year program highlights the contributions of CFSD teachers. "Nominees are those who have gained the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers, and who inspire learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities." (CFSD Foundation website)

### Robotics

The high school FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team, Pioneer 327, is headed to state competition based on their successful showing at the January Palo Verde Invitational. Pioneer 327 was the runner-up for FTC's top prize, the INSPIRE Award, which is given to the team that embodies overall excellence and gracious professionalism. The team also earned the following awards: 1st place in the CONNECT Award (connecting the dots between community FIRST, and the diversity of the engineering world), 2nd place in the THINK Award (removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking), and 4th place in ROBOT GAME (most points scored in the 3-minute challenge). Team members are Josh Barlow,

David Berk, Henry Bonomolo, Braden Cantor-Goldner, Danil Clayton, Joseph Cohen, Delaney Endean, Zak Gruber, Divya Gupta, Dale Nelson, Seth Rojas, Spencer Schiller, Mallika Sunder, Gianluca Tenino, and Josh Tint. The team's advisor is Charlotte Ackerman with assistance from community volunteer Mark Haye.

### All-State Jazz Band

High school senior Kevin Ravellette was named to the Arizona All-State Jazz Band for the 3rd consecutive year as the 1st Chair Saxophone. The CFHS Jazz program has been represented in the Arizona All-State jazz Band every year since 1996.

### Science Olympiad

At the January 16 Casteel Invitational Tournament for Science Olympiad, the high school SciOly Blue and Silver teams placed in the top three for 15 of the 16 events, with 9 first-place finishes. The Science Olympiad advisors are high school science teachers, Terry Fortunato and Kevin Duong.

### Speech & Debate

The speech & debate team competed recently in the Wildcat Cup with the following team members who broke in their rounds: 1st place - Romit Banerjee and Josh Tint (Duo Interpretation), 2nd Place - Jake Martin (Congress) and Romit Banerjee (Humorous Interpretation), 4th Place - Josh Tint (Program Oral Interpretation), and Semifinalist - Maria Cazzatto (Open LD). The team's advisor is Angela Hill, high school English teacher.

### Flinn Scholarship

CFHS senior Josh Tint is among the 35 Arizona high school seniors who have been named finalists for the Flinn Scholarship. CFHS has a proud tradition of producing 15 Flinn Scholars since 1996. The Flinn Scholars Program, in partnership with Arizona's three state universities, provides enriched educational offerings while covering tuition, housing, and study abroad opportunities. In March, finalists will be interviewed by a 5-person panel to select 20 Flinn Scholars.

### Studio Art

These CFHS Studio Art students won Gold and Silver at the Southwest Region of the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards: Maria Cazzato - Silver in Painting, Ava Sheppard - Silver in Drawing, and Mallika Sunder - Gold and Silver in Digital Painting. Their teacher is Zoe Reinhardt.

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**Recommended Motion: Information Item**