



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 1.4

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

OPENING ITEM: Outstanding Achievements

SUBMITTED BY: Margie Jones, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Mary Kamerzell, Superintendent

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

State Championships

Basketball -

The CFHS boys basketball team captured the state title in their first season in the 5A division, defeating Peoria Centennial 59-45. The Falcons finished the 2020-2021 season with a 19-1 record, with their only loss coming to this year's 4A champion, St. Mary's. Team members are Cody Blumenthal, Luis Burrel, Trace Comeau, Carson Furrier, Dylan Hadley, Even Hernandez, Will Menaugh, Marcos Orozco, Carson Peabody, Ben Pinckney, and Fletcher Redondo. Their coach is Doug D'Amore with assistance from David Orozco.

Science Olympiad-

The CFHS Science Olympiad Blue Team won the 2021 Division C State Championship, held virtually and hosted by Arizona State University. The Blue Team competed against 19 teams and placed in the top 10 in all 23 events, with 5 first-place finishes. The Silver Team captured first place in 2 additional events. Team members are Francesca Barela, Jerry Barela, Maria Cazzato, Om Chabra, Zac Cramton, Aditi Ghosh, Bhargav Ghosh, Rohini Ghosh, Ava Gill, Dean Gill, Zak Gruber, Rebecca Han, Joseph Han, Andrew Nesnadny, Margot Nicholson, Sarah Nielsen, Alycia Oh, Nicole Richards, Simon Rubin-Toles, Max Rubin-Toles, Anabelle Samuels, Stephen Shaw, Emily Song, Josh Tint, Mariasha Taariq,

Kulindu Vithanachchi, and Noah Wellman. The team's coaches are Terry Fortunato and Kevin Duong, CFHS science teachers.

Robotics

Correction: OG 6th grader **Matthew Meislin** was omitted from the listing of team members noted in March's outstanding achievements. He is a member of our Team 5151 that won the Innovation Award at a recent FIRST Lego League regional tournament.

On March 20 at the FIRST Lego League (FLL) State Championship, 2 of the 3 Community Schools teams won awards. Team 5155 PedEx won the Core Values Award. Team members are Juan Estaban Aguirre (OG), Conner Belakovsky (EC), Sa'id Badereen, Landon Chang (OG), Braeden Gracy (OG), and Zac Young (OG). Team 5151 Psychlists won the Innovation Award. Team members are Madison Chiem (SD), Simon Crawford (SD), Audrey Dessent (SD), Matthew Meislin (OG), Warren Moore (SD), Nicholas Pickard (OG), and Aiden Zhou (OG). Team 5153 Turninators qualified for state. Team members are Owen Cantor-Goldner (EC), Ethan Lin (EC), Anthony Milo (EC), and Christian Pierson (EC).

Charlotte Ackerman is the coordinator of CFSD's FLL program and head coach for the teams. She is assisted by community volunteer, Mark Haye, who is the co-coach for Teams 5155 and 5153. Sunrise Drive teacher Judy Dong and parent volunteer Jenny Dessent are co-coaches for Team 5151. CFHS student Braden Cantor-Goldner serves as a mentor to Team 5135.

Writing Award

Nina Raju, EC 8th grader, received the regional *Scholastic Gold Key Award* from The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Teens in grades 7-12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. Nina was recognized in writing for her short story, *Connected*.

Teacher Recognition

EC teacher Sandy Merz partnered with the Arizona K12 Center and the Maricopa County School Superintendent's Office to develop the *Voices for Impact Training Guide and Engagement Toolkit*. His contribution furthers the work to support and advance teacher leaders in Arizona schools.

MZ teacher Kathleen Bowman was accepted into the New-York Historical Society's National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, *Women and*

Colonization: Early Encounters in the American Colonies. It includes a 2-week summer program that takes place remotely, followed by 3 days of in-person learning in New York City in January 2022.

Science

Five high school bioscience students (Megan Bime, Gabriel Declercq, Annalise Mendoza, Kulinda Vithanachhi, Anglieca Ingram) participated in the Arizona Junior Science and Humanities Symposium on March 20. Megan Bime took 4th place and is moving to national competition to present her research. Their CFHS teacher is Tiffanie Bialis.

Several CFSD K-12 students won awards at the 2021 Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation (SARSEF): Kindergarten – Autumn Andrews-Hanna (CV), “Animal intelligence: How smart is Jasper?,” Amelie Puell (CV), “Wondering if Plants Like Milk,” 1st Grade – Myla Closterman (CV), “Connecting With Electricity,” Sebastian Bonomolo (VV), “Milk and Cookies,” 2nd grade – Clara Frey (CV), “Hoe Do Different Flours Affect Chocolate Chip Cookies?,” Abby Henson (CV), “What is an ant’s favorite food?,” 3rd Grade – Isabelle Babst and Sumachaya Sumchachool (CV), “Life Cycle of a Fruit Fly - Does it Depend on the Type of Fruit?,” 4th Grade – Luke Frey (CV), “Which is more important for cloud duration and thickness: temperature or water?,” Amelia Holmes (CV), “Bzzzz” What’s That White Stuff?,” Class of 19 (SD), “Germ-Free vs. Germy,” Zeke Bialis (VV), “How Do Masks Really Measure Up?,” 5th Grade – Greta Barber and Sofie Collins (SD), “Stop That Rot!,” Audrey Dessent (SD), “K-Cup or No Cup?,” Kaela Gracy (SD), “ Quick Reproduction,” Finley Johnson (SD), “A Masked Problem,” Elina Koenst (SD), “Stretchy Slime,” Sophia Novak (SD), “Freezing Substances,” Lucas Raymond (SD), “Meet Your Meat: My Investigation of Meat Tenderness,” Ava Ruggieri (SD), “Wool vs. Cotton Saddle Pad,” Mia Corriego (VV), “What Type of Milk Has the Most Foam?,” Lillian Dupont (VV), “Back to Black and White,” Theodore LeBlanc (VV), “Are You Full Yet?,” Cole Levy (VV), “The Sedona Red Rock Experiment,” Mateo Perez (VV), “Do Video Games Affect Your Reaction Time?,” Salome Nifong (VV), “Devil’s Toothpaste,” Katherine Struthers (VV), “How Much Water Passes Through Different Cement Mixers?,” 8th Grade – Iliana Wisniewski (EC), “The Power of Drops – How the Proportionality of Small to Large Raindrops Affects Erosion,” High School – Megan Bime, “Changes in Bile Acid During Obesity and Prebiotic Treatment,” Gabriel Declercq, “Indian Monsoon,” Zachary Keyes, “Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor’s Ability to Maintain Pluripotency in Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Compared to That of Nine Similar-structured Small

Molecules,” Annalise Mendoza and Kulindu Vithanachchi, “How the Pandemic Impacted Activities and Mental Health.”

Graphic Design

Sarah Farley and Abed Zahlan, CFHS students, won awards at the Tucson Area High School Graphic Design Championship. This year’s project was to design a promotional poster for the Fox Theatre. Sarah’s design won the Pro’s Pick Award, and Abed’s design won the KIT’s Choice Award. Both designs will be used in theatre and promotional materials. Their teacher is Kim Gassman.

Music

Four EC students were invited to participate in the Governor’s Arts Chamber Youth Singers of Arizona. They are among 27 singers’ grades 7-12 from the state. Our students are Sterling Edwards, soprano; Kiera Kuehnle, alto; Ben Silverman, baritone; and Zach Pittner, bass. Their teacher is Julia Higgins.

Three CFHS students made the Arizona Music Educators Association’s All-State Choir: Alex Aguilar, Tenor 1; Romit Banerjee, Tenor 2; and Tristan Holmes, Bass. Their teacher is Jeffrey Evans.

Nine CFHS students were selected by audition to the Arizona All-State Band: Logan Douglas, percussion; Matthew Jacobs, English horn; Diego Jaquez, tuba; Tyler Kebo, percussion; Claire Kross, oboe; Robby Pawloski, trombone; Amelia Prucinsky, clarinet; Zach Russell, clarinet; and Hannah Seo, trombone. Their teacher is Renee Shane-Boyd, CFHS Director of Bands.

Aidan Trujillo, CFHS senior, was selected to perform in a special jazz video recording project of the song REUNION, composed by Benny Golson. Aidan was one of 5 local high school jazz music students along and a Tucson Jazz Institute (TJI) alumnus brought together virtually to record the video. The group’s name: TJI ‘Quarantine’ Combo

Athletics (5A All-Region Awards)

Girls Soccer - First Team –Katelyn Kelch, Offensive Player of the Year; Caitlyn Maher, Player of the Year; Flavia Burrell, Emma Danforth, Elizabeth Kight, Solei Moton, Emma Nance; Second Team – Emmy Barker, Uriah Burrell, Rylie Crane, Bea Johnson, and Annie Tacey. The team’s coaches are Sou Moussa-Torres and Kelly O’Connell. Sou Moussa-Torres was named Region Coach of the Year.

Boys Soccer – First Team – Dylan McCartney, Player of the Year; Cole Revis, Caleb Galas; Second Team – Brandon Martz, Dylan Orosco, Ty Pham-Swann, Ian Stuckey; Honorable Mention – Caleb Galas, Gabe Green, Joshua Juganaru, Ryan Mulay, and Renato Souza.

Girls Basketball – First Team – Reilly Clark, Player of the Year & Offensive Player of the Year; Katie Burns; Second Team – Syerra Perez; Honorable Mention – Allison Carrier. Eric Nelson was named Coach of the Year.

Boys Basketball – First Team – Cody Blumenthal, Offensive Player of the Year; Will Menaugh, Player of the Year; Carson Peabody, Defensive Player of the Year; Honorable Mention – Trace Comeau, Dylan Hadley, and Marcos Orozco. Coach Doug D’Amore was named Coach of the Year.