

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
IN MIDDLE
LEVEL
EDUCATION!**



○ ISSUE 2 ○ VOLUME 1 ○ DECEMBER 2006

Arizona Middle Level Association

Spotlight on Cocopah Middle School

By: Tere Peterson (Principal)

Cocopah Middle School ROCKS! For the last four years the state has designated CMS as an excelling school. Academic achievement, although very important, is not the only focus on Cocopah's campus. We truly believe in meeting the needs of the whole child. In order to accomplish this tall feat, every staff member is committed to and responsible for every student.

We address the middle schoolers' academic, social and emotional needs in a variety of ways. Academically, Cocopah's teaching staff utilizes a mentor/coaching model to assist both new teachers in the teaching profession and teachers who are new to CMS. Veteran teachers are trained by expert curriculum specialists who have developed an



effective district mentoring model. Teachers work together, dialog and reflect on best instructional practices which yield powerful teaching and learning results.

Research shows that socialization in the middle school is challenging. Cliques abound while bullying and ostracizing are common practice among this age group. Our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program assists in transitioning our elementary students to middle school by using middle school students as role models for our incoming sixth graders. Our LCRW (Lead-

ership and Character Building through the Reading and Writing process) class directly matches a seventh grade mentor to a sixth grade mentee. Students in this class utilize Covey's, Seven Habits of Effective Teens and character education to establish a foundation that promotes a positive and safe environment. This class also partners with Junior Achievement and a variety of non-profit agencies to address service-learning projects such as; Adopt-a-Family, canned food, clothing and toy drives, and the Katrina relief fund.

Cocopah ROCKS... because we truly are a Learning Community that places students as our priority and we collaboratively work together to create a safe, healthy and dynamic middle school that balances academic rigor with positive socialization processes.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

▶ THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OUR WINTER SOCIAL AT THE YARDHOUSE, ON DECEMBER 19TH. WE HAD A WONDERFUL TURN OUT!



THE NEXT AMLA MEETING WILL BE AT COCOPAH MIDDLE SCHOOL. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SOON.

▶ APRIL 26

AMLA BREAKFAST GRAYHAWK COUNTY CLUB

Teaching in the Middle

Adolescents and Learning

By: Sharon Longert
Large numbers of students enter secondary schools unprepared to handle the increased demands of the content laden coursework. They need skills

and strategies to make that information intrinsic. Visit the link below for suggested strategies:

<http://www.teachnet.org/ntol/howto/adjust/>

Send teaching tips to:
ahiemstra@susd.org

Kids Korner

By: Karen Raufmann (student author)

In the Mars Explorer elective at Supai Middle School, students get the chance to experience learning and researching about Mars. We have calculated the latitude, longitude, depths, and widths of channels on Mars.

We have made trips to ASU and talked with Dr. Phil Christensen and have talked to many other scientists. Our class has given a PowerPoint presentation at Arizona State University to the NASA Mars Exploration research staff at the Mars Space Flight Facility.

Our class has done a lot of interesting research containing information on Mars

All of us have learned information that we will be able to remember for the rest of our lives.

We are grateful to the scientists who have helped us in our study, which we could not have conducted without them. We are also grateful to ASU and Mr. Gardner for allowing us into their space and for teaching us what we know. Each of us is much more intelligent in the Mars area now. We have benefited from this study in all sorts of ways. For example, we have learned to work with people that we might never have worked with otherwise. Now, we are looking forward to continuing with our study and seeing what others do with our data.

Edited by the Mars Explorer Class



Supai Middle School's Mars Explorer Class



Join AMLA Today!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN MIDDLE LEVEL

EDUCATION!



Join AMLA at:

<http://cmweb.pvschools.net/~bbecke/amla/index.html>

AMLA Member Schools

Arcadia Neighborhood Learning Center

Cheyenne

Cocopah

Copper Ridge

Supai

Desert Canyon

Superior

Desert Shadows

Estrella

Explorer

Glassford

Greenway

Heritage

Hillcrest

Ingleside

Mohave

Mountain Trail

Mountainside

Prospect

Shea

Sierra Vista Academy

Sierra Vista MS

Sunrise

SUSD Exec. Director of Middle Schools

SUSD Curric. Specialists