



Payne Junior High School

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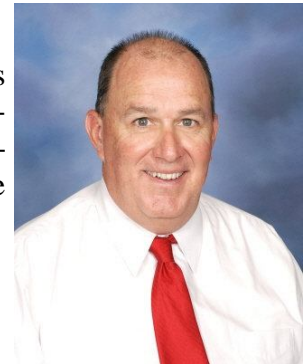
Fall 2011-2012

Principal's Message

Dear Panther Parents, Students, and Staff,

Welcome to our school newsletter. We hope you find it informative and enjoyable. Our goal is that this newsletter will be another opportunity for us to share with you the wonderful things happening at Payne Junior High.

As our second quarter of the year draws to a close, we ask that you help us keep your student focused on a positive academic conclusion to this first semester. I encourage you to use the District's STI website to track your student's academic progress. If you are not familiar with how this website works, please let us know.



Thanks for trusting us with the education of your child!

Paul Bollard,
Principal



Winter Wellness

The Wellness Committee is having a raffle for free messenger bags to students who can document that they have done 300 minutes of exercise. These bags are cool and can easily be decorated with fabric paint and rhinestones!

The Wellness Committee welcomes your input whether you are a student, teacher, or parent. Our webpage on the main Payne website explains our goals. Please contact Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Penner, or Mr. Mitchell if you are interested in joining!

After winter break all drinks and snacks will meet the Alliance guidelines!



The **PJHS Knowledge Bowl Team** finished in 1st Place in the state of Arizona in the Middle School Division of the Knowledge Master Open. With a score of 1308 out of 2000, the Panthers finished 165th out of 545 teams from all over the U.S. and the World!

1st Quarter Sports

The **8th Grade Boys Soccer** Team had a very successful season during the first quarter of the school year. The boys advanced all the way to the EVC Championship game where they faced Bogle. After a tough fight, the Panthers lost to the Bulldogs. The team celebrated their success and growth at the end of the season, and awarded Tayt Smith the Coy Payne Award for his tremendous contribution to the team in both athleticism and attitude. Coach Toth is very appreciative of all the hard work her entire team demonstrated on the soccer field this season. Way to go Panthers!

The Panther **Flag Football Team** enjoyed a great season this year finishing with an overall record of 7-2. PJHS won the opening round of the playoffs in resounding fashion against arch rival SanTan 28-6. In a thrilling EVC Championship game, Payne battled up and down the field only to fall short in the final minutes of the game 12-8 to Willis. Congratulations on a successful season Panther football.

The **7th Grade Boy's Soccer Team** performed well this year. The Payne Panthers ended with a record of 5-2. Casey Broker and Adamos Apergis were the team's leading scorers. Josh Garrido and Sean Sovereign made many great saves in goals as well. The seventh grade team played well as a team all season. Coach Lanman believes the team took a step in the right direction for next year.

The **7th Grade Girl's Volleyball** season was great! The team consisted of Shea VanCamp (Coy Payne award recipient), Alexandra Fisher (MVP recipient), Hailey Fredericks (Most improved recipient), Julia Malinas (Best Attitude recipient), Olivia Vernon, Gabrielle Emery, Katherine Gloss, Ashlynn Henry, Serene Augustain, Brytnie Carrasco, Kiara Johnson, Havannah Burnes, and Lindsay Boylin (Manager). The team came to each practice and gave 110% with a positive attitude! Each girl improved throughout the season. They battled hard for wins during all of their seven games. Their overall record was 3 and 4. However, most of the losses were nail biters, and the win could have gone to either team. Coach Davis is very excited for next year!

Author Visit

By Mr. Giaramita's 5th Period Class

As the students walked into Payne Junior High's Media Center, their attention was focused on a large, mystical wizard's hat and a pair of oversized, funky sunglasses which were placed on a podium. When Jennifer Anne Kogler confidently approached the stand to introduce herself, silence swept the room as her words captured everyone's interest. No one in the crowd had ever been in the presence of such an intriguing and professional author, and they anticipated the stories, advice, and experiences which helped lead to her success. Everyone in the room knew that with her guidance, they too would be able to pursue their dreams.

According to Ms. Kogler, creativity is the foundation and main ingredient in an accomplished novel. She illustrated several ways in which she stimulates and activates the potential of the imagination. One lucky student was chosen to wear the wizard's hat to prove there is no limit to what the mind can conjure. This lesson was made clear when this magic trick failed, yet succeeded in showing the power of fiction. Providing us with the secrets of how she honed her craft, our minds were opened up to new possibilities. For instance, her fantasy novel was inspired by many real life events and people she knew. The setting took place in Crabapple, a fictitious town modeled after a coastal city in California. Merging reality with the impossible can create a world that captivates the reader's attention.

As she read the first chapter of her novel, she cast a spell over her audience. Like a wizard enchanting the students, her words created powerful images and painted colorful pictures in everyone's mind. Her story was brought to life before our eyes with her artistry and her masterful skill with language. She truly created art with her words.

The audience was surprised to hear that not only was she a successful author but also was attending law school, proving that there are two sides to every person. Kogler is a logical and rational lawyer by day and a magical, imaginative story teller by night. Perhaps the best lesson of all was that through perseverance and dedication, anyone can achieve their dreams.



Coy Payne Visits Payne Junior High By Mr. Giaramita's 3rd Period Class

Perched high in the bleachers, students strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of Coy Payne, the namesake of Payne Junior High. As he stepped into the spotlight, students erupted into a standing ovation. Eventually a hush of respectful silence fell upon the auditorium, as he began to speak. He regaled us with his inspirational life story and the difficulties and successes he encountered during his impressive career.

Starting out as a teacher, he soon became a principal and eventually worked his way up to become the first African-American mayor of Chandler. Through each step in his path, his dedication to improving lives and devoting himself to others was heart-warming. His moving story filled everyone's minds with dreams of success. Even through the technical difficulties with the microphone, he held the audience's rapt attention and they hung on his every word. His commanding and booming voice filled the auditorium despite the malfunctioning equipment and his message echoed through everyone's minds afterward.

Many students and staff member were fortunate enough a brief word and a quick handshake with Mr. Payne. Mr. Giaramita fondly recalls the experience: "It was an honor to finally meet the man whose value of academic excellence built the foundation for our school." Many students expressed similar sentiments. Haley Hofmann said, "I always wondered how our school got its name, and now I'm even more proud to be a Payne Panther." As Mr. Payne spoke, it was evident the morale and spirit of the school had been lifted.

One of the highlights of his visit was when he recognized each team individually by name and color which led to thunderous applause and lively cheering. The special moment was made even more significant when he expressed his pride at what our school has accomplished. When Mr. Payne concluded his visit and walked out the double doors, the students anticipated the fulfillment of his promise to return. As he left the campus, the sun cast his long shadow upon the school yard, students thought of the man and his words, as they pondered this endearing experience.

Acknowledgements

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Design Editors:

Reeti Banerjee, Ruchi Banerjee, and Olivia Ciccone

2nd Quarter Sports

Congratulations to the **Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams!** Friday was the EVC Championship Meet. Panther Girls came in second out of 8 teams with Joyce Kuang coming in 3rd out of over 150 runners. Jhaerie (Jarry) Sebastian came in 8th overall! Amazing job by the girls!!!

The Boys **WON THE EVC CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**, bringing home our 1st EVER banner for boys cross country!! Cade Burks and Ethan Burton beat over 190 runners by coming in 1st and 2nd overall! What an unbelievable finish!

Other top Payne runners include: Emma Howell, Addison Sherman, Braelyn Deem, Ryan McQuillan, Josh Tucker, and Elijah Smith.

It was an incredible day for both cross country teams!!! Great job runners!!

The 2011 **8th Grade Boys Basketball** season was an outstanding success. We started off the season with a few kids ill and others playing tournaments out of the State, but that didn't stop us from getting valuable work done in practice. All of the players focused on getting better as both an individual and as a team by doing various drills and scrimmages. We got on a roll from the start of the season winning the first 4 out of 5 games. This carried over into the Tempe Holiday Tournament where we played teams from all over the Valley. These teams were great competition and even though we only went 1-2, all the games were very close. In the EVC tournament we played our arch rival Santan, which beat us by 1 point in the preseason and 3 points in the regular season. The boys played the best 1st quarter of basketball that they played the entire season but ended up falling short at the end. All of the players worked extremely hard throughout the season and were great kids to coach. I am extremely proud of each and everyone of them and I know they will all be very successful in their future basketball careers.

The **8th Grade Girls Soccer** team ended the season as the undefeated East Valley Conference Champions! During the season, a total of forty-five goals were scored against other teams and only two goals were scored on the Panthers! The team did an amazing job playing both offensively and defensively. All eighteen girls contributed to the success of the team. The Panthers celebrated their victory with an end-of-the-season pizza party and fast-paced game of indoor soccer. Coach Toth is extremely proud of her team, as they are the first girls' soccer team to win back-to-back EVC Championships at Payne. In two years, the team has been victorious in every game. Way to go Panthers!

The **7th Grade Girls Soccer** Team finished the 2011 season 8-0. They capped off their run with two huge wins in the playoffs. They beat Newell Barney 4-1 in the semifinals and San Tan 3-0 in the championship game. The Offensive MVP for the season was Baylin Self and the two defensive MVPs were Mychaela Bennett and Morgan Keith. The Most Improved Player award went to left forward/midfielder Isabella Vojacek. The honor of the Coy Payne Award was given to Olivia Vernon. Game after game, these ladies showed the East Valley Conference what it takes to play as a team and win as a team. They are looking forward to an opportunity to make a run for the championship next year!

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- Dec. 22– Teacher Inservice/Work Day - No School
- Dec. 23 – Jan. 5 - Second Intersession
- Jan. 6 - Teacher Inservice/Work Day - No School
- Jan 11 & 12: 8th Grade CTE Fieldtrips
- Jan. 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday - No School
- Jan 17th & 18th EXPLORE Test Results Distribution and Review (During SS Classes)
- Jan 23rd High School Registration Basha/Perry (During Math Classes and in Library)
- Feb 1st High School Registration Pick-up (Math Classes/Library)
- Feb. 9 - Junior High Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 20 - President's Day Holiday - No School
- March 9 - Third Quarter Ends (43 days)
- March 12-23 - Third Intersession
- March 26 - Teacher Inservice/Workday - No School



Action, Romance, and Mystery: What is Writer's Club Writing Now? **By Riley Custer**

Are you a crazy writer? Do you love to read books fresh off the press? Then come and join writer's club! Writer's Club is a place where you can share your creative writing skills with other students just like you who enjoy reading and writing. This club happens every Wednesday from 8:00am until 8:50 in the library. Various novels—from chills and thrills to romance stories—written by your peers (even boys!) are now being published into a book. These teeth-clenching, heart-wrenching tales will have your nose glued to the pages from beginning to end. Copies of your peers' work will be available soon in the library. If you want to see your work in a book, join the Writer's Club!

Who is the Panther? **by Megan Corsi**

A Payne interviews the Payne Panther to try to discover his identity. Do the Panther's answers give you any hints to who he is?

Megan: What is the first letter of your first name?

Panther: D.

Megan: Are you a boy or a girl?

Panther: Boy

Megan: Why do you like being the Payne Panther mascot?

Panther: It's fun and exciting.

Megan: What grade are you in?

Panther: 8th

Megan: How long have you been the Payne Panther mascot?

Panther: Since 8th grade.

Megan: Does anyone know who you are?

Panther: Yes, a couple people.

Megan: Do you do any sports besides being the school mascot?

Panther: Yes

Megan: Are you in any clubs at Payne Jr. High School?

Panther: No

Megan: Why is your identity a secret?

Panther: It's a mystery; people will have to find out who I am

Megan: What did you have to do to become school mascot?

Panther: I had to talk to Ms. Bartlett.

Megan: Do you stink and sweat in your costume?

Panther: Yes

Megan: How come the mascot does not show up at anything other than school assemblies?

Panther: They don't ask.

Megan: Do you have rules you have to follow in order to be the mascot?

Panther: Yes—fun and crazy.

Megan: Do you have different dance routines you have to practice and perform?

Panther: No.

Megan: Thank you for your time.

Panther: No problem.