

PHOENIX

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Back to School 2023



Welcome Back!

Our students returned to school Sept. 6 and hit the ground running! They have already learned so much and we can't wait to see what the school year brings!



Phoenix Inducts First Members Into Music Hall of Fame

The Phoenix community filled the John C. Birdlebough auditorium recently as the Phoenix Central School District inducted its first two members into the newly-formed Music Hall of Fame.

Kayleigh Moyer and the late Anthony "Mr. P" Pietricola became the inaugural members of the Phoenix Central School District Music Hall of Fame. Kayleigh is an alumna of the Class of 2011, and Anthony was a longtime educator in the district.

Moyer is a session musician and drummer who has toured North America, Europe, and China, and has worked with many well-known musicians such as Big & Rich, Keith Urban, Thompson Square, and Postmodern Jukebox.

Pietricola was a renowned and respected

musician as well, performing alongside some of the 20th century's biggest names in music, such as Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., and Mary Lou Williams. He also served as a music educator in Phoenix from 1960-1980. He lived to be 104 years old.

"This is so humbling," said Moyer. "This community has given me so much. The arts programs here at Phoenix are truly incredible, and I count myself lucky and proud to be a Firebird."

"We've been talking about this for several years now," said Phoenix Superintendent Christopher Byrne. "Last year we really pushed to make it happen, and I'm glad we did. Our goal is to recognize the accomplishments of the incredible musicians, actors, actresses,

directors, and anyone else who has contributed to the Phoenix music program throughout the years."



Kayleigh Moyer and Tony Pietricola Jr., son of Anthony Pietricola, standing in front of the new Phoenix Music Hall of Fame wall.



Reading initiative pairs Phoenix varsity athlete with elementary counterparts



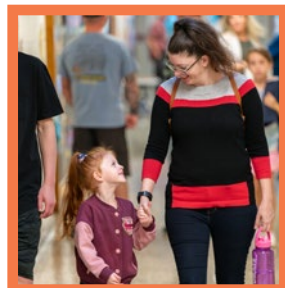
A new reading initiative recently launched in the Phoenix Central School District, as the "Meet the Firebirds" collaboration took flight.

The program unites varsity student-athletes with elementary students throughout the school year. Athletes meet with elementary students in their classrooms, read a book, and answer any questions that the youngest Firebirds may ask. The athletes also promote being active and the importance of physical fitness.

"This program brings our students together as a Firebird family," said John Jeffries, PCSD's Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics. "The younger students are thrilled to be making connections with varsity athletes, and our athletes really enjoy reading and sharing their time with the elementary students."



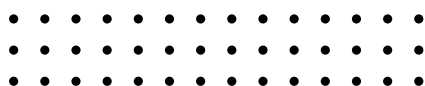
Open houses showcase student work



The Phoenix Central School District recently held separate open house events showcasing student work and welcoming families into each building.

Families stopped into the schools and were greeted by teachers and building administrators as student work lined the hallways. Students showed their families their classrooms and some of the projects they have been working on since the start of the school year.

The district hosts various events throughout the year to boost family engagement and strengthen its connection among families and the school.



Phoenix CSD employees celebrate milestones

Twenty-two Phoenix Central School District employees were recognized during a recent all-staff day for reaching service milestones this year.

The employees, who combined for more than 425 years of service to the district, each received a pin commemorating their dedication to the PCSD.

"We are incredibly grateful to have such dedicated employees," said Nicole Covell, PCSD's Executive Director of Instruction and Personnel. "These folks have shown an unwavering commitment to our students and our school district. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and your last contributions to our Firebird family."

Employees recognized for 15 years of service were: Juanita Bowersox (bus driver); James CoFrancesco (PE teacher); Adam Crossett (English teacher); Tina Discenza (teaching assistant); Rachel Faulkner (first grade teacher); Katha Halstead (teaching assistant); Cindy Lees (clerical); Sheryl Lovell (bus driver); Donna Parker (senior food service helper); Chris Prenoveau (PE teacher) and Lisa Sykut (reading teacher).

Employees celebrating 20 years of service were Noelle Burdick (reading teacher); John Dalgety (social studies teacher); and Sue Raymond (clerical).

Seven employees were honored for 25 years of service each, including Andrea Kelsey (science teacher); Kevin Doll (technology teacher); Michael Harter (technology teacher); Sue Ellen Lucas (teaching assistant); Nancy Mastine (English teacher); Jean Smith (clerical); and August Smith (bus driver).

Longtime district employee Michelle Rudy was recognized for 30 years of service in clerical.



15-year employees



25-year employees



20-year employees



30-year employee

Homecoming 2023

Our students and staff showed school spirit during Homecoming Week with a pep rally, parade, athletic events, and plenty of orange and black! **Go Firebirds!**



JCB Drama Club to present 'She Kills Monsters' as fall production

The John C. Birdleough High School Drama Club is preparing to present its fall play, "She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen. The fast-paced teenage dramedy will have a three-day run on the JCB stage from Nov. 2-4.

"We are extraordinarily proud to present a play unlike any other we have done in the past," said the show's producer Lisa Spereno. "It is modern, filled with cool '90s music, darkly lit combat scenes, layered characters and a setting that is definitely not always what it seems."

The play tells the story of one sister trying to deal with the loss of her younger sister. When Agnes finds Tilly's DUNGEONS & DRAGONS notebook, she places herself in the world of fantasy role-playing games, finding adventures full of killer fairies, unpleasant monsters and chock full of '90s pop culture references.

"The play is heart-pounding, heart-breaking and heart-warming as the audience learns, along

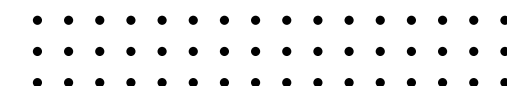
with Agnes, that geeks and warriors can exist in the same person," Spereno said.

According to Spereno, the show may not be suitable for children due to light swearing, monsters and some gory sequences. There is also a very modern take on relationships. It is best suited for a tween to teenage and adult audience, she said, noting that young children may be frightened by the monster and battle scenes.

Due to the short duration of the show (100 minutes), there will not be an intermission. However, concessions will be available in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. before the Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 evening showings, and after the Nov. 2 matinee show. There will be Monster Mocktails, other beverages and merchandise for sale.

Show dates and times are 4 p.m. Nov. 2, and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 and Nov. 4. General admission tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and

students. Tickets may be purchased in advance by emailing Lspereno@phoenixcsd.org or visiting www.showtix4u.com/events/JCBDramaClub and paying a small fee online to use a credit card. Tickets will also be available at the door (payable by cash or check) for each show.





Phoenix Central Schools

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Mission Statement

The Phoenix Central School District is committed to a challenging educational program that promotes academic and personal growth for all students. Each student will become a confident, productive, responsible individual with a strong academic foundation, and the ability to make positive ethical choices. Our goal is to cultivate a sense of pride, character, and accountability in our students and community. The Board of Education, staff, parents, students, and community share responsibility for this mission.

A Message from the Superintendent:



It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. We are thrilled to see that our students have started the year with enthusiasm and a thirst for knowledge.

Our dedicated teachers and staff are ready to nurture their growth and guide them to success throughout the academic year. As we kick off the new school year, we want to express our commitment to providing the best education possible for your children.

At Phoenix CSD, we strive to offer a well-rounded educational experience for all our students. To that end, we encourage all our students to take full advantage of the many opportunities we provide beyond the classroom, which includes athletics, extracurriculars, after-school learning camps, clubs and organizations. We believe there is something for everyone to get involved in and develop their passions.

As a district, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive, respectful and supportive learning environment. We encourage you to stay engaged with your child's educational journey and to reach out to us anytime you have questions and/or ideas. Together, we will help all students reach their full potential.

As the school year unfolds, let's embrace the excitement and possibilities that each new season brings. We look forward to a year filled with growth, achievements, and memorable experiences for all our students.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic school year!

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Byrne

Superintendent

315-695-1555

cbyrnephoenixcsd.org



Stuff-a-Bus provides PCSD families with school supplies

Nearly 160 Phoenix Central School District students started out the year with new school supplies and backpacks, thanks to the annual Stuff-a-Bus campaign.

The school supply distribution effort was a part of a decades-long partnership between Phoenix schools and the United Way of Greater Oswego County. Each year, Stuff-a-Bus provides hundreds of students with the necessary classroom supplies for the start of school. School supplies such as folders, backpacks, notebooks, rulers, binders, pens and pencils are collected and distributed.

"The generosity of our community never ceases to amaze me," said PCSD's Stuff-a-Bus coordinator Marla Leitner. "We are so grateful to everyone who donated supplies so our students have everything needed to be ready to learn each day. Our Firebird family always answers the call to help."



PCSD staff members prepare to distribute school supplies during this year's Stuff-a-Bus event.

The Phoenix Central School District Board of Education, its officers and employees, shall not discriminate against any student, employee, or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, sex, age, or disability. This policy of nondiscrimination includes: access by students to educational programs, counseling services for students, course offerings and student activities, recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or terminations.