



FHUSD Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sweeney, FHHS Principal Tom Brennan, Four Peaks Rotary Club member Paul Perreault and president Jay Schlum present Dawn Oester with the Teacher of the Month award for December.

Teacher of the Month

Fountain Hills High School teacher Dawn Oester has been named the Four Peaks Rotary Club's Teacher of the Month for December, 2015.

Input from local principals helps the Rotary Club recognize teachers on a monthly basis throughout the school year. In addition to the recognition, the club provides a \$200 check for the teacher's use.

Principal Tom Brennan recently shared with Rotary visitors why Oester was nominated for the recognition.

"Mrs. Oester has been a dedicated member of the Fountain Hills Unified School District teaching staff since 1986—that's 29 years of love and passion invested into the students of Fountain Hills," Brennan said.

"Mrs. Oester is a true teacher-leader, one who exemplified life-long learning and who has remained flexible and nimble throughout her career, always adapting to the needs of our ever-changing student population."

Brennan highlighted Oester's recent work with

Schools

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project with a trip to Costa Rica in April, where they assisted a local school, put in some manual labor hours and had the opportunity to experience a different culture.

While many of their classmates spent their spring break poolside, FCCLA members had their "fun in the sun" walking across sky bridges, clearing trails and pitching in during English lessons.

This year's big project was called "Sustain," which focused on the many aspects of creating a lifestyle that uses less, saves more and treats the environment with a little more care.

Inappropriate

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office investigated a potential inappropriate off-campus relationship between a local high school student, 18, and a student teacher in late April.

News of the incident came out April 15 when High School Principal Tom Brennan emailed high school parents to explain the situation.

Essay contest offered

The Fountain Hills Coalition is set to kick off the annual essay contest for all local high school students, running from Jan. 4-29.

Entry forms and contest rules will be available in all Fountain Hills High School English classrooms, as well as the Fountain Hills Branch Library. The deadline to drop off entries is Jan. 29.

Prizes for this year's es-

say contest include \$1,000 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third.

Interested students are encouraged to write an essay of 750 words or less on one of the following topics.

"The parent-teen relationship is not always easy. Share any thoughts on how you feel either you or your parent(s) could improve this relationship."

"Many families face addiction struggles. Share an experience where addiction has impacted you, your family or a friend. What do you think can be done to help? (Do not include names)."

"We live in an often stressful world, both globally and personally. What activities and actions do you engage in that bring you personal peace? In what ways does this help?"

Awards for this year's contest were funded in part by Gold Level participants O'Financial, Kent Martinson, The Fountain Hills Times, Tait D. Elkie and Fountain Hills Law Firm, Phil's Filling Station, Christopher Peer CPA, Dr. Dana Weinreich DDS, Rendos's Pizzeria, Stephanie of Sami Fine Jewelry, Dori Wittig of Sonoran Lifestyle Real Estate and Silver Level sponsors Meridian Bank and Stop & Go Driving School.



Michael Cuchanek provides "more cowbell" at the 2015 Fountain Hills Middle School Arts in the Courtyard.

earn one of the Merit scholarships is not a common occurrence.

"It's a great honor for the high school, but it's primarily a testament to the work Roland has done here," Brennan said at the time of the announcement.

"It's pretty rare. We've been fortunate enough to have some semifinalists and some finalists over the years, but to have an actual Merit scholarship winner is a big deal and a great honor for us and especially for Roland."

Terrific Kids



Four Peaks Elementary School is proud to present Jessica Adams (fifth grade) and Holland Boozer (fourth grade) as a Terrific Kid for the week of Dec. 13.



McDowell Mountain Elementary school is proud to present Gage Mumford (kindergarten), Jake Miller (first grade), Teryn Dean (second grade) and Nicholas Case (third grade) as Terrific Kids for the week of Dec. 6. The program, sponsored by Noon Kiwanis, recognizes students for positive achievements with respect to attitude, helping out, kindness to others, etc.



McDowell Mountain Elementary school and Noon Kiwanis Club member Pat Costa are proud to present Celestyn Pham (kindergarten), Ava Ozdiker (first grade), Mark Miner (second grade) and Jacob Sommerschild (third grade) as Terrific Kids for the week of Dec. 13. The program, sponsored by Noon Kiwanis, recognizes students for positive achievements with respect to attitude, helping out, kindness to others, etc.

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