



Unified School District # 51

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Kalen's Kloset News

For Staff and Community Members

June 2023 - Issue 1

Hello - My name is **Laurie Marley**. I am the Family Resource Specialist for Chino Valley Unified School District. My job involves identifying homeless students and communicating with the adults in their lives to ensure they have the same opportunities for success at school as other students. I am also able to help any student or staff member who needs assistance with things like food, school supplies and clothing. My office is called "Kalen's Kloset". It is located at 650 E. Center Street. My office phone number is 928-593-5422 and my email address is lmalley@chinovalleyschools.com. I plan on sending out a newsletter similar to this at the beginning of each quarter. Please tell me what you think

Kalen's Kloset

If you don't know about Kalen's Kloset or if it's been awhile since you've been in, please come see what is available for students in our district. There are school supplies, personal care items and clothing for every size child. We accept donations of clean, gently used clothing, toiletries, school supplies and food.

Hungry Kids Project

The Hungry Kids Project sends weekend meal bags home with students who may not otherwise have enough food at home for the weekend. This project is completely funded by outside donations. 328 students took a bag of food home every Thursday this past year. You can contribute by bringing macaroni and cheese, tuna, fruit snacks, granola bars, instant oatmeal, small jars of peanut butter or Pop-Tarts to Kalen's Kloset.

Got Sneakers?

If you have sneakers that don't fit anymore, please bring them to Kalen's Kloset. We are able to recycle them and make a small amount of money by doing so (\$0.50 - \$2.00 per pair). We can then use that money to purchase items for Kalen's Kloset. Thank you.

Homelessness

Homelessness is defined by the Federal Government as those who are "lacking a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. You might be homeless if:

- you live in your car
- you live in a shelter
- you live in a tent or camper
- you live in a home with someone else who owns/rents the home in their name (grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, etc.)
- you live in a place with no electricity or water
- you live in a place that is not normally considered a home (barn, cave, shed)
- you live in a motel

Children who are homeless are entitled to the same educational opportunities as other children. Please contact Laurie Marley, the school district homeless liaison if you think you might be homeless or if you know someone else who is experiencing homelessness. She can help acquire necessities.

Students are homeless if they live with their parents and their parents are homeless. Students are often considered homeless if they live with someone other than their parents. In fact, unless the adult has permanent guardianship, legal custody or is a foster parent, children living with someone other than the parents are most likely considered homeless.

Food Pantry

The most recent pantry was held on April 8 and we had the biggest turnout ever! 176 students and three staff members were represented. Those families shopped for the food they needed from over 4,000 pounds that was collected. Each child also got an Easter Basket donated by Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity. The next pantry will be held on June 10 at Heritage Middle School. If you would like to help sort food, please come to the cafeteria at about 8:45 AM.

Community Cougar Cafe

Our first ever Community Cougar Cafe was held on January 27. It was a fun event for every family! There were chili dogs made by Chino Valley High School Culinary students, chips, soda and two kinds of cake. Each family got to construct their own gingerbread house with prizes for the best. We plan to have more events like this next school year.

Did you know that socks are the number one requested item at homeless shelters?

Would You Like to Sponsor a Student?

There are many students in our district who would benefit from a little help from you. If you would like to sponsor a student for next school year, the cost is \$190 for a child ages 3-12 or \$230 for a child ages 13-18. "Your" student will receive a gift from you every month - clothing, school supplies, a birthday gift, books and a Christmas gift. You will (hopefully) get a thank you note from your student every month. It's a great deal for everyone involved.

Did you know that **Bombas Socks** really does donate to organizations that help homeless people? To date, we have received over 10,000 pairs. We give them to students and share with the Chino Valley Police Department to share with community members.