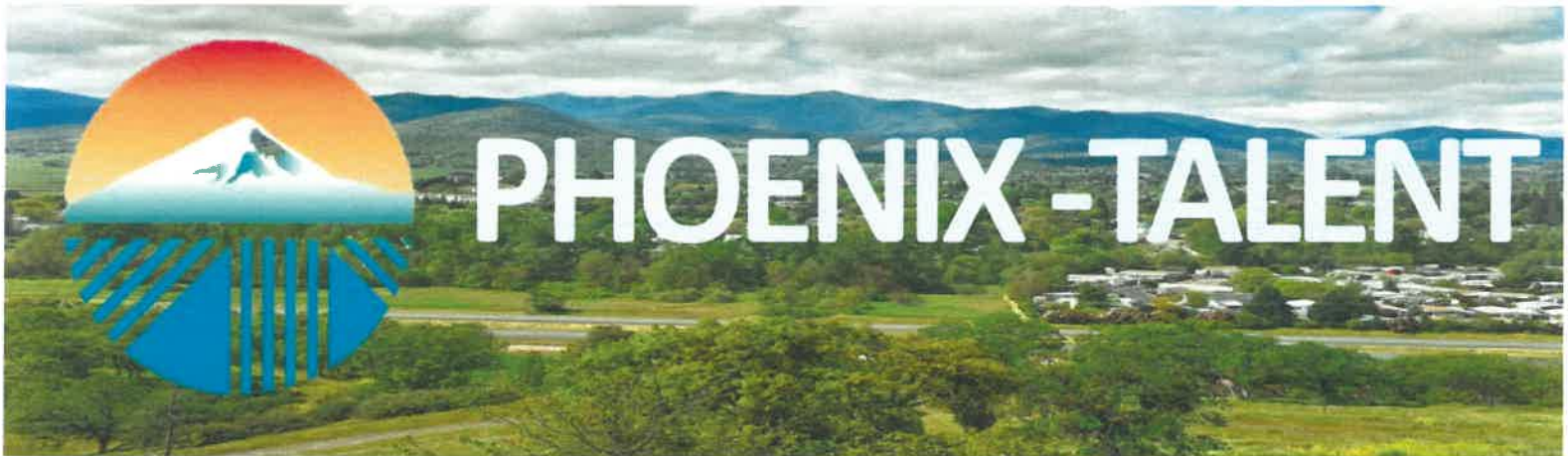


# WHAT'S THE NEWS....



*The monthly newsletter for Phoenix-Talent Schools*



## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Over the years, Laura has served our district in so many ways and recently, she has expanded her services to help support some of our most vulnerable students. Laura Millette goes above and beyond to help those in need. Her understanding that everything begins and hinges upon being in relation to our families is at the core of who she is and how she serves. Through our transition to distance learning, Laura has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of individual families and students. Whether helping families access resources, provide moral support to those experiencing hardships, providing guidance when families feel stuck, and thinking outside the box to creatively solve problems she is always busy finding ways to help. Through her connections, she was able to organize volunteers and deliver literally thousands of pounds of donated food to our local community. In the last month, she has been able to help a parent keep his kids safe by working in coordination with our child protective services, she helped a family remove a broken washing machine from their home and secure a new one, she has helped one of our students access much-needed healthcare and those are just a few examples of how she impacts our community. Each day during her daily meal drops in the school van she grabs a few books at a time to deliver as to not overload families all at once with resources. Laura truly leads from the heart and is a tremendous blessing to our community. Thank you Laura!

### Inside the April issue:

- Staff Highlight
- Equity/Resilience
- Re-opening in Fall

## Heroes!

**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



### Re-Opening Fall 2020

This is the question on everyone's mind as we wrap up this year and turn our thoughts to the fall. As you know, this is a tricky question and districts across the nation are beginning to build contingency plans for the opening of the 2020-21 school year. Our district is in close contact with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and continues to meet with them weekly. Ultimately, guidance and policy will come from OHA and ODE as it did from the onset of this pandemic. As you may remember, districts throughout the state were responding to guidance from these two organizations in the early stages of this closure. It felt like we were trying to narrow in on a moving target for a few weeks, but I know OHA and ODE were processing and delivering the best guidance possible with the information they had to work with. Thanks again for your patience during the early stages, it seems like that was years ago with COVID time. In addition to the procedures, systems and policies we will be implementing, we will also be navigating through a very difficult budget scenario over the next few years due to the economic impact of COVID-19 shutdown in our state. As we move forward in providing Excellence for Everyone, we ask for your patience, while we continue to receive daily updates and respond accordingly for the health and safety of our students and staff. At this point, we are planning to be able to move across a continuum of *distance learning-hybrid model-in person learning (Official guidance will come from ODE the week of June 8th)*. This takes planning, resources and flexibility by district staff and the families we serve. These are challenging times and as we receive information, we will release it to our students, staff and community. Thank you in advance for patience, grace and flexibility!



### Equity and Resilience

We would like to share some exciting news and something that will help kick-off our year in the fall! Many of you know, we hired Lisa Rullman as our Social Emotional Learning/PD coordinator. Though she doesn't officially start until August, she has been hard at work on her own time preparing and planning for how this position will support staff in our district. We will share more later, but wanted to highlight a new section in the departments tab on our website called Equity and Resilience. Lisa is skilled in providing guidance and professional development to staff and has knowledge, awareness and compassion necessary to carry this work forward. We are grateful she chose to serve in our Phoenix-Talent school community! Take a look if you get a chance! Plus, stay tuned for a quick survey in the next couple weeks to prioritize our work moving forward.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ptsequityandresilience/home>



### Greatest good that has come from all this...

As we complete a crazy, unprecedented, unusual, stressful and enlightening year, we would like to hear from you on what good came from this pandemic in your view. Or, what surprised you in a positive way in implementing a distance learning model (in just a matter of a few days!).

Email answers to [brent.barry@phoenix.k12.or.us](mailto:brent.barry@phoenix.k12.or.us), would like to archive these for future use! FYI, it was a tie last month with 2 OHES teachers having crazy/funny/weird distance learning stories: Kelly Reid and Jennifer Chitwood.

*I have 3 dads whose wives are not home because they are essential workers. They sit with their kindergarten sons for our session. Half way through the first session one of the dads held up a note that said "do either of you play video games specifically Fortnite" ...from there I lost control. The kids know we don't talk about video games in speech class but the dads who have been starving for adult attention had somehow formed their own therapy session.. One dad even said to another dad's son .."I know you can say this sound better..listen to how I say it." I have also had to remind them there is only one Speech teacher in our speech class. (K.R)*

*Jennifer was texting with a parent and received this (mis)text back: "his army ranger #\$\$@ \*%& videos are ruining my Madden live streams!"....he then realized he sent that to his kids teacher, "oops"...seems Jennifer's text delivered to him when he was texting a co-worker and if you have ever experienced a (mis) text like this that was meant for someone else (as a lot of us have), I hope it was an appropriate text.*

