

Reach for the Stars

BR BUZZ: The Newsletter of Blue Ridge Schools



Star Lab helps students reach stars

The mini planetarium teaches about the constellations and solar system. STEM education is partnered with fun.

Five Blue Ridge teachers took free training and then rented the Star Lab from ASU for \$100 for two weeks. 1100 students K-6 experienced the Star Lab. Science, math, and language skills were integrated into classwork.



**BRHS
Baccalaureate
May 28
6-7 pm**



**BRHS
Graduation
June 2
7 pm**



**Summer Food
program June 5
Kick off 10:30 am at
BRHS**

1

JIawei CHEN

Baird Scholar

2

RAPHAEL BANUELOS

Notre Dame

3

AMRY OREA

PEO Star Scholar

Look around and you'll see stars

When needs arise the Blue Ridge community rises to the challenge

The Rodeo Fire burned over 500,000 acres in 2002 but today green grasses, shrubs and young trees have covered the once blackened hills with renewed life.

In 2008, budget cuts and RIFs swept over the Blue Ridge School District like a wildfire. The loss of one third of the student enrollment over the next seven years deepened the damage and **Blue Ridge became a burned over District.**

Now Blue Ridge is rising from the ashes. Three major projects funded by the Blue Ridge Bond are under way. The first project will add two major playground areas to the Porter Mountain campus. The second major project will improve drainage and parking. The third project is the renovation of the science rooms to become kindergarten rooms. **Blue Ridge is back and better than ever.**

"**BR Rising**" is being launched to recognize the contributions of school and community members. Those who exemplify one or more of the Core Values in the advancement of the District Vision will be honored as **BR Stars.**



One August day in 2008, the commitment of BR alums Troy and Trent Gillespie enabled many others to join in the construction of the original play areas now being renovated at the Porter Mountain School

“Commitment: work willingly with persistence and determination in support of a common or shared vision”

The BR BUZZ is published by the Office of Superintendent Mike Wright
Editor Nancy Stidham BR PRC
nstidham@brusd.k12.az.us

The Official Newsletter of Blue Ridge Unified School District

BR STARS PROVIDE LASTING LEGACY

Troy and Trent Gillespie from Western Materials graciously donated their time, materials, and equipment to level an area for a playground at the new Porter Mountain School. The value of this donation was \$8000.00. Troy is shown on this page running the heavy equipment on August 22, 2008.

On August 15, 2015, Troy and his cousin Trent were killed in a tragic accident. Their legacy of commitment continues in the many hours and dollars that community volunteers donate to Blue Ridge Schools. Troy and Trent Gillespie are truly BR Stars.

