

Dear Parents, Students and Community,

I speak to you this week as a Principal that is sad for many reasons. It has been a tough week here at the Middle/High School. On Monday a young adolescent made a very poor choice and that choice caused a chain of reactions that has had the school and the community reeling for the past week.

Initially the poor choice caused some students to be injured. That in itself is enough. But many other things occurred as well. There became a need for fire, police, paramedics, bomb sniffing dogs, hazmat, and chaos that all could have been avoided if someone would have just thought about the consequences of their actions.

The community has placed a lot of blame on the school and school officials without knowing the facts and that is very unfortunate. Whatever you have heard on the news and read in the papers in many cases was stated and printed without having all of the facts first. When doing further investigation those entities have discovered that they spoke in haste and that the school wasn't at fault in many of their actions. But it is really too late to fix the damage that those statements have caused. Once again this community is making harsh statements about what an awful place JO Combs Middle School is. Once again I am going to stand up and tell you it is not. It is a school filled with great kids, good teachers, good counselors, a good support staff and an administrative team that is working with all to make improvements everyday. We all care about your kids and are working to make this a better place for them everyday.

This incident did indeed teach us many things that we need to improve. We will be adding an alert button to our website. We are working on a prerecorded message for our phone system. We are working on whatever glitches occurred with Global Connect that caused families to receive their messages very late or not at all. We are working on evacuation procedures and improvement of them. Since nothing like this has ever happened in the district a lot of decisions were being made on the spot as we went. Much was learned that day. But I believe everyone did amazingly well and all children were kept safe after the incident occurred.

On Tuesday, April 7 we are holding a Community Forum in the Multi Purpose Room from 7pm – 8:30 pm to give all the opportunity to ask your questions and get them answered. The school district, Pinal County Sheriff and Rural Metro will all be present to answer those questions. The forum is open to parents, students and community members.

What is happening at Combs High School:

April 8	4:00 pm	Softball	Queen Creek
April 10	No School		

COMBS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE MAY 14 6PM – 8PM
PARENTS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY INVITED
COME SEE THE NEW BUILDING FOR THE FIRST TIME
COMPLETED

Brenda Mayberry, MED
Principal
Combs High School
Combs Middle School