



Principal's Note

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 4

Labor Day - No School

September 6

Half Day
Release at 12:00 PM

September 7

6:00 PM
Governing Board Meeting
(Laveen Education Center)

September 8

Picture Day

September 19

5:30 PM
Site Council Meeting
(Library)

6:00 PM
PTO Meeting
(Library)

September 20

Half Day
Release at 12:00 PM

October 9-13

Fall Break - No School

The 2017-2018 school year is off to an amazing start! Thank you to all the families that attended our first Site Council and PTO meetings. It's exciting to begin planning our yearly events. At our next Site Council meeting on September 19, we will review our annual AZMERIT data.

This year's Curriculum Night was a great success. Our teachers showed how to login to our ELA and Math curriculums and shared some instructional strategies that will support our students and families.

Our softball and Boys' Basketball coaches and athletes are preparing for the upcoming season. National Junior Honor Society, Robotics, and Student Council have all started recruiting students for a great year of extra-curricular activities. Field trips are also in the planning stages for this school year. Our Laveen Elementary School Board recently approved our eighth grade Washington, D.C. trip and we will have the fourth grade Grand Canyon trip on the September agenda. We are so excited about the number of activities we are able to provide to our students through parent support and tax credit donations. Vista's office staff can support you in making your tax credit donation therefore don't hesitate to contact the front office with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Epacs

Jessica Epacs, Principal

PICTURE DAY!

September 8th

Uniforms are not required.
However, it is a "dress up" day.

NO JEANS PLEASE!



Gifted Education News

The Laveen Elementary School District believes that early identification is important for the intellectual and emotional health of gifted children because it enables early intervention. Consequently, the Governing Board of the Laveen Elementary School District has adopted a multifaceted approach to screening and identification. Students who exhibit gifted characteristics may be referred for gifted testing. Copies of referral forms are available at all district schools and the district office. Gifted referral forms will be provided to all parents or guardians upon request.

Gifted services are provided at each school in the Laveen District. Laveen's gifted program is designed to encourage excellence and optimal talent development among gifted students. Instruction for gifted students K-8 is individualized through differentiated instruction in the classroom on a daily basis. Appropriate modifications are made in the learning environment and in the complexity and organization of content to be mastered. Learning and thinking process are emphasized. A variety of service options are provided to enhance the unique potentials of each gifted student.

If you have a student that you would like to test for gifted services, please contact their teacher for a referral and permission to test form. Before referring your child for Gifted Testing, parents are asked to review the parent referral and permission to test form. This form contains a checklist of gifted behaviors. It is also helpful to review the below link and checklist created by Dr. Bertie Kingore: <http://www.bertiekingore.com/high-gt-create.htm>

If you feel that your child may be a Gifted Learner, please complete the Parent: Gifted Referral and Permission to Test Form (ask your child's teacher for this form) and return the completed form to your child's school. All parent referrals are due on or before Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

This year's gifted focus study is "Discovering My Place on the Map - Developing Geo-literacy." We look forward to exploring the field of geography through a variety of lessons designed to help students consider questions posed by geographers as they think about the world. Geographers use the five themes of geography to help answer these questions:

Location: Where is it located?

Place: What's it like there?

Human/Environment Interaction: What is the relationship between humans and their environment

Movement: How and why are places connected with one another?

Regions: How and why is one area similar to another?

Attention all Parents: 2017 Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Parent Institute is in September! The cost is \$30 per adult. Student programs are also offered for an additional cost. Checkout the link to learn more.

The Parent Institute will be held on: September 23rd from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at the Phoenix Coding Academy, 4445 N. Central Avenue. The Registration Link is: <https://aagt.wildapricot.org/event-2558082>

AAGT's 2017 Parent Institute is a one-day event geared towards the needs of Arizona's parents of gifted and talented children. Their goal is to advocate, educate, and communicate on behalf of gifted learners in the state of Arizona. Student programs are offered for an additional cost the day of the event as well!

Gifted Team Contact Information:

Elizabeth (Betty) Ehret – ehret@laveeneld.org: Trailside Point, Desert Meadows and Paseo Pointe

Rowe Van Meter – rvanmeter@laveeneld.org: Rogers Ranch, MC Cash, Cheatham and Laveen

Ravae Johnson – rjohnson@laveeneld.org: Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy

McKinney-Vento

In a temporary living arrangement?

Are you currently experiencing temporary living arrangements due to eviction, job loss, or a traumatic event? Laveen Elementary School District offers services to families through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Act requires that children and families who are in a temporary living situation be offered services and supports. Please contact Delphine Avila at 602-237-9100, ext. 3051, or at davila2@laveeneld.org to inquire further about qualifying for this program.

Fall Picture Day

Fall picture day will be held on Friday, September 8th. Students are not required to wear their uniforms however, they are expected to dress up nicely for their photo. This is the photo that will be used for the school yearbook and IDs so we want to be sure everyone looks their best! *Students who choose to wear jeans will be required to change.*

This year we are continuing with online ordering: Mylifetouch.com

Use this code: SR267130Q0 (zero)

National Junior Honor Society

6th-8th grade students interested in applying to NJHS, applications are due to Mrs. Urick by Friday, September 15th. Please be sure to read the application thoroughly to ensure a completely filled out application.

Regular school attendance is essential for academic success. When students are absent, late, or leave school early, it places a burden on the teacher, the school, and potentially on the other students in the classroom. It certainly has an impact on the student. Research shows a very strong positive correlation between student attendance and academic success.

Regular school attendance of a child of school age is required by state law and Laveen Elementary School District Policy JH states, "... absences shall be excused only for necessary and justifiable reasons."

The state requires schools to report the cause of student absences and tardies and, in addition, indicate whether the absence or tardy is "excused" or "unexcused." The following is a list of excusable absence reasons as allowed by the Laveen Elementary School District not to exceed 10% of instructional days scheduled for the school year:

Illness

Doctor appointment

Bereavement

Family emergencies

Major religious holidays of the family's faith

Out of School Suspensions

In accordance with state law A.R.S. §15-802 and Laveen Governing Board Policies JE and JH, student absences and tardies are recorded as excused for the reasons listed above. All other absences and tardies, including those made at the discretion of the parent or guardian, are recorded as unexcused.

Students with ten (10) or more consecutive unexcused absences are withdrawn from the school, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-901(A)(2).