



Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy

TIGER PRIDE POST

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4
Fine Arts Club Play 2-3
6-7 p.m.

December 7
Fine Arts Club Play 4-6
6-7 p.m.

December 8
Laveen Winter Festival,
4-9 p.m.
Laveen Education Center

December 13
Staff Development Early Re-
lease, 12:00 p.m.

December 14
Governing Board, 6-8 p.m.,
Laveen Education Center

December 22 - January 7
Winter Break, NO SCHOOL

January 8
Classes Resume
Open Enrollment for
2018-2019 begins

**2018-2019 Kindergarten
and 1-8 grade open
enrollment begins at
7:30 AM on Monday,
January 8, 2017.**

Principal's Note

I cannot believe we are almost halfway through the 2017-2018 school year! We have had a wonderful first half of the year and are looking forward to many exciting events this month. Please see the "What's Happening in Specials" section in our newsletter and be sure to read Vista reminder emails. The Laveen Education Center is hosting a winter festival that is sure to be fun for all on December 8th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you know any families looking to enroll their children in Vista, our open enrollment process begins January 8th. Returning students will receive their recommitment letters during parent teacher conferences held in January.

Thank you for all that you do for our students and community. Have a safe and restful holiday break!

Mrs. Epacs

YEARBOOK PICTURES

The Yearbook Club needs your pictures! Parents and students please share your pictures of sporting events or campus events, such as the carnival. Email them to Marsha Haas at mhaas@laveeneld.org



*Have a safe and
restful Winter
Break. See you on
January 8, 2018!*

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2018-2019

We will begin accepting 2018-2019 school year open enrollment forms for prospective students on January 8, 2018. Forms will be accepted between the hours of 7:30am and 3:45pm. The date/time that the completed form is received is a priority; therefore this form is not available online and must be submitted in person. The form must be signed by a parent, but can be picked up/turned in by a friend or family member.

All applicants will first be placed on a prospective student list and assigned an assessment screening time upon submitting their open enrollment form. Your testing information card will provide you a list of documents you need to bring to testing and the date that testing result emails will be sent. We do not provide assessment scores to the parents, as they are used for school use only. A student will not be considered for acceptance if required documents have not been received.

Acceptance at Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy is based on the following:

- Assessment test scores
- Laveen School District residents
- Prospective students with siblings currently attending Vista del Sur
- Out of district residents
- Date/Time open enrollment form was submitted

All openings are on a first come first serve basis and we fill enrollment openings from our waiting list. This means that if you are placed on the waiting list we will contact you immediately if space becomes available. Unfortunately, we are not able to tell you what number your child is on the waiting list because lists are constantly changing based on the criteria above. Openings are based on available space within each grade level, your child may not be testing to fill an available seat but rather to be placed on the waiting list.

What's on the Assessment Screener?

Kindergarten– Letter names, letter sounds, shapes, colors, count to 50, quantity discrimination (what number is smaller or larger), sequencing, reading readiness (locate the title, where to start reading on a page, pointing to words as adult is reading)

1st Grade-Kindergarten expectations listed above, phoneme segmentation (blending letter sounds into words c/a/t), reading fluency

2nd – 8th Grade-On grade level and above grade level standards-based assessments in Math and English Language Arts (ie. a student starting 3rd grade in the upcoming 2017-2018 school year will take assessments on both 3rd and 4th grade standards), reading/math fluency assessments

Dress Code

It's getting cold, especially in the mornings. Please remember acceptable attire is as follows:

- Solid white, navy, or light blue shirt with collar, such as a polo or dress shirt/blouse.
- Solid navy blue or tan khaki slacks, shorts, skirts, or jumpers. No jeans (of any color).
- All shorts, skirts, and jumpers must be an acceptable length.
- Any undershirts/undergarments must be white.
- **When coats are necessary, only navy, white, gray or light blue sweatshirts are allowed in class and must be worn over a uniform shirt. When outside, students may wear any type of coat.**

Please refer to the student handbook for more details.



What's Happening in Specials

Art

These past few weeks Kindergarten through 4th grade have been recreating famous Artist's paintings, from Claude Monet to Edvard Munch. 5th through 8th graders have been working on their cultural projects about the Aztecs, Egyptians, Australian Aborigines, and Greeks. They have been using a variety of mediums, such as sand, paint, clay, colored pencils, and more!

Music

This month in music k-3 we are focusing on our singing techniques and learning the basics of pitch and rhythm to start working on composition. For 4th-5th grade we are composing songs and performing them on recorders. Students in 6th grade have undertaken a huge composition project where they composed a complete song and are recording it onto garage band. In doing so they are learning what it takes to be a composer and a music producer in the music industry. Students will be showcasing their compositions in class in the weeks to come. Jr high will be finalizing their performances for their concerts and will be focusing on performance assessments for the month of December.

P.E.

The weather is turning cooler so we can finally get outside with the upper grades and start our hockey unit. Primary grades are working on new tag games such as clothespin tag. As usual, we are always working on playing well together and random acts of kindness.

Gifted Education

Fall gifted testing is underway. Letters regarding test scores will be sent out in mid-December 2017. If you would like a student to be tested, they may test during the spring testing window, if they have not already tested this school year. Referral forms are due by January 23, 2018.

Gifted seventh and eighth grade students the opportunity to view the ASU campus during November scholarship field trips to the ASU Business and School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning where they learned how this year's geography theme translates into college degrees. Students experienced hands-on how the global economy works and how to think spatially!

December field trips include the 4th grade trip to the Musical Instrument Museum, the 5th grade trip to the Phoenix Art Museum and the K-3rd grade trip to see a Chinese Shadow Puppet presentation.

Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in the November Childsplay presentation of "Tomas and the Library Lady" and the Fall Parent PAD meeting. This play shows how important it is for people to appreciate and celebrate each other's cultural differences and how we can enrich each other's lives.

We encourage parents to find ways to experience this year's cultural and geographic adventure at home. Try new food, visit a new place, do a little research – have fun in the journey!

Please circle the following events on your calendar:

1) ASU Summer Barrett Scholarship program presentation – Vista del Sur Library 5:30 p.m., January 23, 2018.

Information Link: <https://eoss.asu.edu/bss>

2) Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Annual Conference (AAGT) February 1st and 2nd, 2018. <https://aagt.wildapricot.org/Events>

3) Spring Gifted Family Enrichment Night and Parent PAD, March 23, 2018 at Laveen Elementary School. "Stargazing for Everyone" – View the spring skies through large telescopes.

- All Gifted Enrichment Nights and Gifted Field Trips are funded by tax credit donation dollars.
- Please consider donating to the gifted tax credit fund this year. Check "gifted" when donating.
- NOTE: Tax credit money can be divided between school and gifted – just note amounts.
- Please encourage friends and family members to donate – All Arizona tax payers can participate.
- The Link: <http://www.laveeneld.org/about-laveen/tax-credit/>



Gifted
Education