



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8

Classes Resume
Open Enrollment begins

January 10

Half Day
Release at 12:00 PM

January 11

Governing Board Meeting
Laveen Education Center,
6 PM

January 15

MLK/Civil Rights
No School

January 18 and 19

Parent Teacher
Conferences
Half Day
Release at 12:00 PM

January 23

Site Council/PTO
5:30 PM, Library

January 24

Half Day
Release at 12:00 PM

January 25

Kinder & 1st Winter
Program at 6:00 PM

Principal's Note

Happy 2018! Welcome Back Tigers!

It's January and time for open enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. If you know of any families that are interested, please tell them to contact our front office!

Congratulations to our Drama, Music, and Band students that participated in all Winter concerts, we have so many talented Tigers on our campus! A special thank you to those that attended the events. We know it was a packed house! We appreciate your flexibility and dedication to our students.

Site Council and PTO meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd. Site Council will begin promptly at 5:30 pm.

Don't forget Parent Teacher Conferences are the week of January 16th.

Jessica Epacs

Principal

**Site Council and PTO Meetings
are an EXCELLENT
way to earn volunteer hours!
Tuesday, January 23 @ 5:30 PM**



THANK YOU!!

*YOUR TAX CREDIT
DOLLARS PROVIDED THE
FOLLOWING:*

After School Tutoring
Grand Canyon
Band
Field Trip Transportation
Chess Club
Softball
Football
Girls on the Run

Before School Tutoring
8th Grade Washington DC
Choir
Robotics Club
Drama Club
Volleyball
Basketball

Please complete your 2018 tax donation so we can offer even more extra curricular opportunities.

Yearbooks are now on sale! Just \$25 and sold online ONLY! ~ Each class will have their own unique page!

YBPay.lifetouch.com

Yearbook ID Code: 12989618

Deadline is 3/23/18. Order yours today!



Open Enrollment 2017-2018

We will begin accepting 2017-2018 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. Forms are available online and in the office. 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 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.

Please contact the office at 602-237-3046 if you have any questions.



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

Volunteer Hours Update

Families that have completed their 7 hours 150 (27%)

Families with some hours 211 (37%)

Families with no hours 202 (36%)

As of December 2017 we have noticed a decrease in volunteer hours. Families, please remember our Vista student/parent handbook states: **At least one adult from each family that enrolls their child at Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy is expected to volunteer a minimum of seven hours for the school year.** As a reminder, volunteer hours may be earned at classroom and school functions, as well as things done at home. Here are just a few ideas to help you get involved at Vista.

- Classroom help with students or copying
- Read a book to a class
- Volunteer with the Walking School Bus
- Organizing, cutting, etc. school items at home
- Chaperone field trips
- Help clean up the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch
- Attend Site Council/PTO Meetings on Tuesdays, January 23, 2018, February 20, 2018, March 20, 2018, and April 17, 2018 @ 5:30 PM in the Vista Library

We love parent involvement! Volunteering connects home and school. Please find out more from your child's teacher, the Vista del Sur website, or the PTO website. Thank you for all you do!

January Gifted News 2018

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. If you have a student that you would like to have assessed for placement in the gifted education program, please contact their teacher for a referral/permission to test form. Before referring your child for Gifted Testing, parents are asked to review the parent 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> All parent referrals are **due on or before Thursday, January 25, 2018.**

Circle Your Calendar for these Two January Events:

ATTENTION ALL 7th & 8th Grade Honors and Gifted Students:

High-achieving seventh and eighth grade students are encouraged to apply for the Barrett Honors College Summer Scholars Program at Arizona State University this summer. Students who are selected will spend one week on the ASU campus taking classes and learning about college life. The online application to the ASU program is due **March 5, 2018**. Full scholarships are available. More information and application can be accessed at: <https://eoss.asu.edu/bss/ssp/apply>

You and your student are invited to attend the short informational presentation on the ASU Summer Barrett Scholars program that will be held on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy**. ([3908 W. South Mountain Ave., Laveen, AZ 85339](#)) Students are not required to attend the information night in order to apply for the program. All the information is available online on ASU's website. (see above)

ATTENTION all gifted families – the date for our Gifted Family Enrichment Night has changed. (It has changed from March to January – please change the date on your family calendar!)

NEW DATE:

January Gifted Family Enrichment Night
“Stargazing for Everyone”
Friday, January 19, 2018
6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Laveen Elementary School – Gym
[4141 W. McNeil Street](#)

[Laveen, AZ 85339](#)

Crossroads: Dobbins Rd. & [43rd](#) Avenue

Presentation starts at 6:30 p.m. in the gym and then we will move outside to the three large telescopes to view the winter sky! Please join us and bring your camera.

Ravae Johnson - Vista - rjohnson@laveeneld.org

The logo for Gifted Education features the words "Gifted" and "Education" stacked vertically. Each letter is a different color and has a hand-drawn, bubbly appearance. The colors include shades of green, blue, red, and purple.