



Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy

MARCH 2018

TIGER PRIDE POST

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2
Read Across America Day

March 7
Half Day Release, 12:00 PM

March 8
Governing Board, 6:00 PM,
Laveen Education Center

March 12-16
Spring Break - NO SCHOOL

March 20
Site Council/PTO Meeting
5:30 PM, Library

March 20
Teacher Job Fair
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Laveen Education Center

March 23
Spring Picture Day

March 28
Half Day Release, 12:00 PM

Principal's Note

It's March and we're gearing up for spring. No surprise our Arizona weather has already been very unpredictable. Please make sure your child/children are dressed for the season. Remember light jackets need to be uniform color to be worn indoors (navy or white). It's always a good idea to label jackets, lunchboxes, etc. so items can be returned when misplaced.

AzMerit has sample questions available on the Arizona Department of Education website www.azed.gov. The samples provide our students the opportunity to experience an interactive online assessment. This year Laveen Elementary School District students will be taking the AzMerit online. So the more experience our students receive with the online format and tools the more prepared they will be in April for the state assessment, AzMerit.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful Spring Break!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Epacs

Deadline to purchase Yearbooks **March 23!**

Order online at: YBPay.lifetouch.com

Yearbook IDcode: 12989618

Yearbooks are being sold online only this year.
Don't miss out, be sure to order yours NOW!

Stranger Danger



Student safety is our first priority in the Laveen Elementary School District. We feel it is important to provide you with the following reminders to better ensure the safety of our students.

Walking To/From School

Students should never walk to and from school alone; they should always travel with at least one friend. Have your child take a specific route and point out places along the route where he/she could go to get help, if needed.

Stranger Danger

Instruct your children to never talk to strangers. If a stranger approaches them, they should follow the tip, “No, Go, Yell, Tell.” If they’re in a dangerous situation, they should loudly shout “No!” run away, yell as loud as they can, and immediately tell an adult.

Please take the time to remind your children about the importance of being cautious and aware, and what to do if ever approached by a stranger.

If you or your children ever notice any suspicious individuals near any of the bus stops, schools, or in your neighborhood, immediately call 911 or contact the Phoenix Police Department at (602) 262-6151.

Thank you for your help in ensuring the safety of Laveen’s children. If you have any questions, please call your school office.

From the Health Office

Please do not send **ANY** over the counter medication to school with your student!

Check the lost and found often. Items will be donated at the end of this month!



Mrs. Jessica Epacs, Principal
Mrs. Megan Hamburgh, Assistant Principal
3908 W. South Mountain Ave.
Laveen, AZ 85339

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Attendance: (602) 237-3046 Ext. 3303
Fax: (602) 237-1976
School Hours 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Office Hours 7:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**VISTA DEL SUR
ACCELERATED ACADEMY**

Gifted Education

NEW THIS YEAR!

The Gifted Team has completed the spring gifted testing. This Spring, the district began using the online version of the CogAT. Students were comfortable using this new format and the reports generated provide helpful feedback for the parents and teachers. We look forward to meeting with parents of newly identified gifted students during the Spring Orientation meeting on Monday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy Gym.

Middle school students from Rogers Ranch School and Vista del Sur recently participated in the annual MESA Engineering Central Region Design Day. Students brought their design challenges to share with the judges and received feedback in preparation for the State championship in April. Students have been preparing projects in the nine different challenges, which include: bridge design, golf ball launchers, contraptions, solar car racers, computer science, Arduino projects, on-site engineering design, and duct tape and cardboard canoe challenge. Eighty four students attended this event at Grand Canyon University in February.



Recently, every campus in the district selected four students to represent their school in the District's Geography Bee. On Tuesday, February 20th, the District Geography Bee was held at the Laveen Education Center. The GeoBEE consisted of eight different rounds of questions. Then the top scoring students from each campus participated in the final round which produced two final contestants. The championship round helped to determine the District winner. We are proud of all the students who were selected to participate in the District's first Geography BEE. Many have created presentations to share with the group regarding one of the continents of study.



Dr. Johnson presented the awards to the 2018 District GeoBee contestants: (L-R) Berdina Riggs, 2nd place, Trailside Point; Lauren Salaz, 1st place, Vista del Sur; and a tie for 3rd place to: Celeste Lamadrid, Vista del Sur and Caleb Woosley, Laveen Elementary.

What is Happening in Specials?

Art

This month 7th and 8th graders are finishing their Magazine Collage Portraits, 6th are making Clay Mugs, and 5th are recreating Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" using oil pastels. K-4 are painting and weaving.

Band

Band- Congratulations to Mia Coronado for participating in the Solo and Ensemble competition on February 24. She received a Superior rating for her duet. Upcoming events include the 7-8th graders combined rehearsals and concert with Betty Fairfax High School. Our first combined rehearsal is Thursday, March 8, 2018. Also, All-State band is coming up (Saturday, March 17). We have three students who will represent Vista Del Sur (Mia, Selene, and Elyssa). Please make sure to attend band tutoring to get your songs passed, so you will be allowed to attend.

Music

This month in music K-1 will be starting a new unit all about solfege and sight singing. 2nd-3rd grade will be wrapping up all of their instrument unit and starting a new unit on note letter names and rhythm reading. 4th and 5th grade will be finishing recorder karate and starting a new unit on composition. 6th grade is going to be performing their hip hop compositions for solo performance assessments. Jr. High will be wrapping up the quarter learning all about the musical Hamilton. We will be beginning a new quarter with choir for 7th and 8th graders for the fourth quarter.

Spanish

4-8 Grade parents....please ask your kids about their puppet show. Yes! You can help them create a puppet. What a fun family activity. We'll be doing the scripts in class. No due date as of yet. I will let you all know when I see how the students are progressing with their scripts. In the meantime they can make them at home. 2-3 Grades are doing the same thing but with less puppet lines. They will be doing all their work in class. You will see puppets come home in a few weeks.

Taxpayers Can Lower Their Taxes and Support Our Students

You can send all your state taxes to the State of Arizona **or make a contribution to a public school** and receive a State Income Tax Credit for up to \$200 for tax payers who file a tax return as single or head of household and a maximum of \$400 for married couples filing jointly on your State Income Tax Return.

A.R.S. §43-1089.01 gives you this opportunity to help your local school. **A tax credit, which is the dollar-for-dollar reduction of your tax liability, is better than a tax deduction, which only reduces your taxable income before taxes are computed.** The tax credit is available to **all** taxpayers, regardless of whether they have children in school. **Donations must be received by April 15th in order to be eligible for the 2017 tax credit year.**

For more information, go to our website at www.laveeneld.org and click on Tax Credit Donations or call your school office.