



Principal's Note

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3

Labor Day - No School

September 5

Half Day

Release at 12:00 PM

September 6

6:00 PM

Governing Board Meeting
(Laveen Education Center)

September 7

Dollar Dress Down Day

September 14

Picture Day

September 18

5:30 PM

Site Council Meeting
(Library)

6:00 PM

PTO Meeting
(Library)

September 19

Half Day

Release at 12:00 PM

Peter Piper Family Event

12:00-7:00 PM

September 21

Dollar Dress Down Day

The 2018-2019 school year is off to an amazing start! Thank you to all the families who attended our first Site Council and PTO meetings. It's exciting to begin planning our yearly events.

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, 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

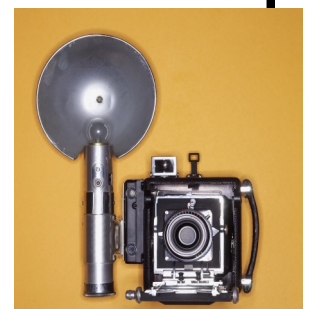
Jessica Epacs, Principal

PICTURE DAY!

September 14th

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 or the front office for this form) and return the completed form to your child's school. All parent referrals are due on or before Thursday, October 4, 2018.

This year's gifted focus is "Supporting Gifted Students All Day, Every Day." Gifted students need enrichment all day, every day...not just when they attend a gifted class once a week. Our position as gifted instructional coaches allows us to go into classes and work with teachers to cater to gifted students in their lesson planning and instruction. By working with teachers and supporting in the classroom, gifted students get gifted services EVERY DAY, ALL DAY!

Attention all Parents: 2018 Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Parent Institute is in October! The cost is \$30 per adult for members and \$40 for non-members. Student programs are also offered for an additional cost. Check the link to learn more.

The Parent Institute will be held on: October 20th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at [1016 N. Burk Street, Gilbert, AZ 85234](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1016+N+Burk+Street,+Gilbert,+AZ+85234). The Registration Link is: <https://aagt.wildapricot.org/event-3027089/Registration>

AAGT's 2018 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:

Erin Lebish - elebish@laveeneld.org: Trailside Point and Desert Meadows

Rowe Van Meter - rvanmeter@laveeneld.org: Rogers Ranch and Laveen

Shalane Harris - sharris@laveeneld.org: Paseo Pointe and M.C. Cash

Tamara Chaney - tchaney@laveeneld.org: Vista del Sur and Cheatham

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 14th. 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 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: SR268176Q0 (zero)

What's Happening in Specials?

Art

September in Art Class we are working on our "Art to Remember" fundraiser. All grades (K-8) are creating art that can be printed on keepsakes such as a mug, ruler, ornament, t-shirt, nightlight, sketchbook cover, and many more! Order forms will be sent home with students in October .

Music

This month in music we are working on steady beat and high vs. low sounds in kinder. 1st and 2nd grades are working on rhythm, improvisation, and so-mi solfege. 3rd grade is working on sight reading music using rhythm syllables and solfege. 4th grade is starting recorder karate. 5th grade is learning how to listen to music and decipher the form of the music, the tempo, the composer's intent, and how to accompany as an ensemble. The 6th and 7th grade musical theater class will be starting their unit two which focuses on music and performance from the Renaissance, where we will be learning specific shows by Shakespeare. 8th grade is just now finishing up a performance project lip sync battle. They are continuing on to the composition process of their musical producing project.

Band

Band is off to a great start this year! We have 35, 5th graders! So far, they have learned their first 3 notes. 6th grade is working out of Essential Elements Book 2. If your student has not purchased their book, please contact Milano Music to order your book. 7-8th grade band students are working on their first 2 songs of sheet music for the year. Reminder- during testing, 5-7 grade students do not have band class. 6-8 band students, please email Mrs. Wolfe if you are interested in auditioning for/ participating in an honor band this year.

PE

In PE for the first couple weeks of school we have been learning different cooperative games. With 5th-8th Ms Powers class has been in badminton and Mr. Carroll's class has been in a basketball unit. Starting in September Mr. Carroll's class will be moving into team handball. With K-4 they have been learning different cooperative games as well in PE and are currently in a basketball unit.

Spanish

If you have received a volunteer packet for Spanish - please return to Mrs. Fala. It will be used in the classroom. Thank you to all parents who volunteered and returned the materials quickly! Also - thank you to those who offered and are willing to do more in the future. Gracias! One more thing - if you have a volunteer form you are filling out - please include your e-mail somewhere on the paper.

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).