



The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

February 2023

Rogers Ranch Students Compete at Space Competition

Twelve Rogers Ranch students visited the Biosphere in Oracle last month for the Southwest Space Settlement Design Competition. Rogers Ranch was the only middle school competing at the event against high school students from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Students worked in teams to complete an aerospace engineering project. Their project was to design a vehicle to enable long-term surface exploration of Mars for the purpose of identifying candidate sites for a future settlement on the Martian surface. NASA scientists were on hand to assist students with questions or offer clarification. Teachers and other adults were not allowed to assist the students.

It was exhilarating to watch the students take what they were learning in 8th Grade science to solve problems on Mars. After the presentations, the scientists gave feedback to each team.

Love Laveen Schools?

Send us a little note and tell us why.

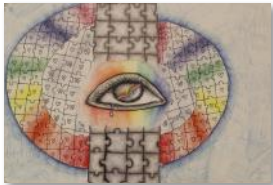
www.LaveenSchools.org/Love-Laveen-Schools



Peace Poster Artists Recognized

The Laveen Lions Club sponsors a peace poster competition annually and each school in the Laveen School District is invited to participate. One winner is selected from every school and an overall winner is selected to represent the Laveen Lions Club in the District 21 A competition.

The winners this year are Sienna Rapacz, Vista del Sur; Felipe Valenzuela, M.C. Cash School; Sir'Dorien Harkness, Laveen School; Azaria Rodriguez, Cheatham; Micah Lozoya, Trailside Point; Sarah Lopez, Desert Meadows School; Eva Villa, Paseo Pointe; and Natalie Lucero, Estrella Foothills.



Artwork by Rapacz

Rapacz's work was submitted to the District 21A competition.

Laveen Students Shine at County Regional Spelling Bee

Two Laveen students both placed in the recent Maricopa County Regional Spelling Bee.

Estrella Foothills Global Academy 4th Grade student Alrick James won the Maricopa County Region 3 Spelling Bee on February 2. James was the Laveen School District Spelling Bee champion.

James will now move on to compete in the Arizona State Spelling Bee on March 18.

Laveen Elementary School 6th Grade student Shadia Mbaju took 4th Place in the regional bee. She was the runner-up in the district bee.

Congratulations to both students and their families. We are very proud of them!



Alrick James



Shadia Mbaju



Trailside Point Student Tapes Second Episode of *Abbott Elementary*

Trailside Point student Anthony Carr, Jr. was cast to play the character "Joshua" in the ABC hit mockumentary series *Abbott Elementary*.

Carr, Jr. initially appeared in the "Attack Ad" episode.

"Joshua" returns in a second upcoming episode which Carr, Jr. recently filmed.

Three Teachers Recognized for National Board Certification



M.C. Cash's Salina Franklin is Laveen's latest teacher to become National Board Certified. Franklin is an exceptional needs specialist. Additionally Lauren DiDonna, also an exceptional needs specialist at M.C. Cash, and Steven Humble, Desert Meadows science teacher, have recently renewed their certification.

This is the highest certificate an educator can achieve in the United States. The process for obtaining National Board Certification is a rigorous and reflective process that requires teachers to showcase the National Board Standards in their practice. It can take 3-5 years of continual work to achieve certification.

Chef in the Garden Brings Asian Spinach, Temaki, to Cheatham Students

Cheatham kindergarten students had the opportunity to try temaki through their Chef in the Garden program.



Chef Lori Hashimoto, of Hana Japanese Eatery, introduced the students in Mrs. Turnbull's class to the Asian spinach. They learned how to prepare the vegetable and made rolls with avocado and orange. The temaki was a new food experience to many of the students.



Students also learned how to plant spinach in Cheatham's own garden.

The Chef in the Garden program is provided through a grant by the Blue Watermelon Project. Local chefs visit classrooms on a regular basis and introduce them to new fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, and herbs.

Paseo Pointe Celebrates Lunar New Year

Paseo Pointe celebrated the Lunar New Year with a parade, costumes, and performance of "Happy New Year" in Mandarin. They also learned more about musical instruments that originated in Asian countries.



Third-grade teacher Natalie Cheang organized this event which was featured on ABC15. [Watch the story.](#)

District Recognized for Public Relations

Laveen was recognized with three ASPRA*ations Awards by the Arizona School Public Relations Association.



Laveen received an Award of Excellence for a Multimedia Marketing Campaign (Mission: Kindergarten) and two Awards of Excellence in Photography.