



The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

March 2023

Three Special Education Students Receive “I Can Do It!” Awards

Three Laveen students are the recipients of the Arizona Council for Exceptional Children’s 2023 “I Can Do It!” awards.

Mabil Mabil, 4th Grade student at Laveen School was nominated by teacher Mary Turner. Issac Hlebak, 4th Grade student at Trailside Point, was nominated by teacher Laura Walker. And, Salma Salceda, 8th Grade student at Laveen School was nominated by teacher Jennifer Veney.

This award recognizes students for excelling, despite their disability, in academics, art, athletics, community service, employment, self-advocacy, technology, or independent life skills.

These students were recognized at a recent Laveen Governing Board Meeting. The Council featured Mabil and Salceda in their conference video which can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV8I91vBqk4> (Timestamps - 12:08 Mabil Mabil, 13:44 Salma Salceda)



EFGA Student Places at State Spelling Bee

Estrella Foothills 4th Grade student Alrick James took 5th Place in the recent 2023 Arizona Spelling Bee!

James was the youngest student to place in the Top 5 of Arizona spellers.

James advanced to the state-level bee after taking 1st Place in the Maricopa County Region 3 Spelling Bee in February. He was also the champion in the Laveen School District’s bee.





Estrella Foothills Students Complete International Baccalaureate Writing Requirement

Estrella Foothills Global Academy students in Grades 6-8 are all part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme, and strive to approach learning with an international mindset, specifically by participating in critical thinking and inquiry-based learning activities. Three of the school's IB students have gone above and beyond demonstrating IB learner attributes.

Kayleigh Mauk, 8th Grade, has been accepted into the IB program at North High School next year. She demonstrates attributes of not only being knowledgeable but principled in all that she does in and out of the classroom.

Amari McCullum and Robert Wells, both 7th Grade students, have demonstrated being inquirers and communicators in their IB summative writing assignment in English Language Arts. Students were asked to research and evaluate the Victorian Era and Industrial Revolution to make connections and explain the author's purpose in Charles Dickens' *"A Christmas Carol."* IB students in their junior year of high school are required to write a 2,000 word essay. These two students doubled that by writing over 4,000 words!

EFGA IB English Language Arts teacher Natalie Urick was recognized for her leadership in helping these students develop the IB learner attributes.

Governing Board Vacancy Announced

The Laveen Elementary School District (LESD) is providing public notice of the opportunity for the residents of the Laveen School District to serve as a member of the Governing Board. There is one (1) seat available on the Governing Board to serve from the date of appointment until after the November 2024 election.

Those interested in serving on the Governing Board should visit www.LaveenSchools.org/Board-Vacancy for details, eligibility requirements, and the application.

Applications are due on Friday, March 31, 2023, by 4:00 p.m.



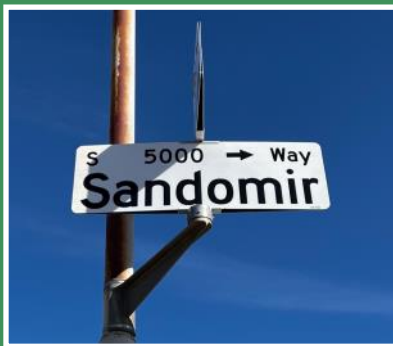
Classified Staff Members Recognized with Exceptional Service Awards

Fifteen classified staff members were recently honored as recipients of the 2022-23 Exceptional Service Awards—the Laveen Elementary School District’s highest recognition for classified staff. These individuals were nominated and selected for displaying the following attributes: strong attendance and dependability, high quality and quantity of work, excel at working harmoniously with others, expert in their job responsibilities, regularly show initiative and creatively solve problems, and provide excellent customer service. Their commitment to our students, staff, and community is greatly appreciated.

This year’s Exceptional Service Award recipients are:

Mathew Arockiaraj - Bus Driver
 Juan Cabral - Groundskeeper
 Michael Hall - Guest Teacher, Laveen School
 Sheila Hall - Behavior Monitor, Desert Meadows
 Tammy Heydari - Guest Teacher, Vista del Sur
 Virgilio Ignalig - Instructional Associate, Rogers Ranch
 Shari Reed - Health Associate, Paseo Pointe
 Andrea Sanchez - Cafeteria Manager, Paseo Pointe

Jennifer Schneider - Library Associate, Estrella Foothills
 Cynthia Sanchez - Bookkeeper, Business Office
 Maria Sida - Custodian, Cheatham
 Cynthia Soltero - Behavior Monitor, M.C. Cash
 Elizabeth Jimenez - Human Resources Technician
 Cory Tait - Maintenance Technician
 Ashley Thirdgill - Student Success Associate, Trailside Point



38th Avenue Renamed “Sandomir Way”

It's official! 38th Ave, between Wier and Roeser, is now Sandomir Way. The street’s name was changed to honor late principal Lisa Sandomir who served the Maurice C. Cash Elementary School for over 15 years. The school will now have a Sandomir Way address. Read more at www.LaveenSchools.org.



MESA Teams Perform at Regional Design Day

Students from Vista del Sur and Rogers Ranch participated in the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Regional Design Day at Grand Canyon University on February 11. Students either participated in challenges or received feedback on their designs.

Vista's "On-Site Engineering" team placed 2nd out of approximately 25 teams during this regional competition. The "Attack Vehicle" group from Rogers Ranch School was one of the few groups with a moving robot.

The Rogers Ranch and Vista "Hack Attack" groups were able to compete against other teams, and consistently ranked in the Top 5 during those practices.

These groups will now use the practice and feedback from the event to help them prepare for MESA Day, which will be held at GCU on May 6.

Vista Student Selected as Uvalde Ambassador, Leads School Mural Project



Vista del Sur student Keely Lotz was selected as an Uvalde Foundation for Kids Arizona Student Ambassador. Ambassadors represent the Foundation's mission to end violence.

Keely was selected for her Kindness and Antibullying Art Mural project that she spearheaded at Vista del Sur. Words and images of kindness, friendship, and hope were painted in the school bathrooms. Vista art teacher Lorie Baxter has been assisting Lotz and her friends with the murals.

Keely dedicated this project to a friend who took her own life.



Lotz