



# The District Dialogue

*News from the Laveen School District*

**November 2023**

## Rogers Ranch STEM Academy Hosts Engineering Day

Rogers Ranch STEM Academy students in Grades 5-8 participated in a day of engineering challenges, with the help of Intel employees, during the school's Engineering Day.

Engineers from Intel visited with the students and discussed engineering as a career option. They also guided students through two engineering challenges. Students designed boats out of clay to see which design could hold the most weight. Winners of the clay boat challenge had the opportunity to demonstrate their engineering skills by creating a device that could protect an egg from breaking when dropped from heights ranging from 5 to 20 feet (see image above).

## Laveen Schools are the Highest Performing Schools in the Community

The Arizona Department of Education recently awarded letter grades for schools based on performance from the spring 2023 state assessments.

Three schools; Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy, Rogers Ranch STEM Academy, and Paseo Pointe Dual Language Academy; were awarded "A" grades. All other Laveen schools received a "B" grade.

Laveen District schools outperform all other elementary and middle schools in the community.



## Wanda Fernandez Recognized as School Psychologist of the Year

Laveen's District Lead Psychologist Wanda Fernandez has been named the 2023 School Psychologist of the Year by the Arizona Association of School Psychologists (AASP).

Fernandez is well-known throughout the district for her leadership, professionalism, mentorship, and problem solving.

She was recognized at the Association's awards luncheon.



## County Superintendent Reads to Desert Meadows Kindergartners

Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson visited Desert Meadows School to read to kindergartners in Ms. Jessica Russell's class.

Watson read *"Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon"* to the class.

Each student received their own hard-cover copy of the book to take home.

Ms. Russell's class was selected because she recommended a book for "Mr. Watson's Book Club" this year.



## Students Participate in Special Olympics Field Day

Laveen's Student Services Department held its annual Special Olympics Field Day at Laveen School.

Special education students from across the district participated in the event which brought activities such as soccer, bocce ball, ladder ball, and so much more to them.

Along with Student Services staff, NJHS students from Cesar Chavez High School helped run stations and support the students.





## Trailside Point, Laveen School Celebrate Intramural Championship Wins

Congratulations to intramural champions Trailside Point Performing Arts Academy and Laveen School!

The Trailside Point boys basketball team won their match over Vista del Sur.

Laveen took home the softball trophy, beating Vista del Sur.



## EFGA Students Meet with Malawi Pen Pals

Eighth grade students at Estrella Foothills Global Academy had the opportunity to virtually meet their pen pal friends from the Likuni Girls Secondary School and the Likuni Boys Secondary School in Malawi.

Students shared photos and asked each other questions. It was an incredible cultural experience for EFGA global learners.

Kim Rillero with Urban Farming Education organized the event.



## Arizona Cardinals Visit Rogers Ranch

The Arizona Cardinals brought their mini skills camp to Rogers Ranch.

Cardinals volunteers, along with player Kaden Davis and School Resource Officers, assisted running students in Grades 5 -8 through several drills.

It was a beautiful morning to get fresh air and exercise.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy



#8 in Arizona Middle Schools

#22 in Arizona Elementary Schools

# 2024





Laveen's 10th Annual

# WINTER *Festival*



**December 1, 2023**  
**5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

David Glasser Athletic Complex  
5001 W. Dobbins

*Join us for an evening of games, activities,  
entertainment, vendors, food, photos with  
Santa, and much more!*

Free admission.  
Tickets sold for select activities.

Proceeds benefit the  
Laveen Education Foundation.

[www.LaveenSchools.org/Winter-Festival](http://www.LaveenSchools.org/Winter-Festival)