



# The District Dialogue

News from the Laveen School District

October 2022

## Vista del Sur again named a National Blue Ribbon School



Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy has once again been named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon School program recognizes overall academic excellence. Blue Ribbon Schools show outstanding results for all students.

Vista was nominated as an Exemplary High Performing School, receiving this distinction for the performance of all students on state assessments in both the Math and English Language Arts sections in ad-

dition to other state performance targets.

The school will be recognized at an award ceremony in November in Washington, D.C. Here they will receive the coveted National Blue Ribbon flag that will fly at their school as a reminder of their exemplary teaching and learning. "All of us at Vista are honored to serve as an example of quality instruction and learning for schools across the nation," said Principal Jessica Epacs. "This honor affirms the dedication of our students, staff, and parents in making Vista a community of excellence."

Vista del Sur was one of only six schools in Arizona to join this esteemed community in 2022. They also received the award in 2016.

For more information about this prestigious award, visit our website, [www.LaveenSchools.org](http://www.LaveenSchools.org).





**Community celebrates opening of  
Desert Meadows Early Childhood Center**

## **Stretch of 38th Ave to be named in honor of late M.C. Cash Principal Lisa Sandomir**

The stretch of 38th Avenue, between Wier Ave. and Roeser Rd., will be renamed “Sandomir Way” in honor of the late M.C. Cash School Principal, Lisa Sandomir.

The Phoenix City Council approved the Laveen School District’s request to rename the street at their October 12, 2022 meeting. The request was previously reviewed by the Laveen Village Planning Committee.



Sandomir passed away October 27, 2021 after sustaining injuries in a car accident the day before. Sandomir was the principal of M.C. Cash Elementary for 15 years and had a tremendous impact on the M.C. Cash neighborhood and community. Thousands of local residents were educated under her and she saw multiple generations of families go through her school.

M.C. Cash school faces this street and is the only property affected by the name change.

The district plans to have an unveiling celebration once the new signs are installed.





## Paseo Pointe celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with annual parade

Paseo Pointe held their annual parade in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.

Each class selected a Spanish-speaking country to study. They then decorated their bulletin boards with facts about that country. During the parade, they held their designed flags and banners to represent the country their class selected.

Many students and staff dressed in traditional attire for the parade. Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15.

## 3rd and 4th Graders join Superintendent's Math All Stars Club

District Superintendent Dr. Sprout held an assembly at each school to introduce all third and fourth-grade students to the Superintendent's Math All Stars Club, challenging students to spend 15 minutes a day practicing math skills.



Students who join the club will be given a Chromebook to use at home for the duration of the school year. Students will participate in the ALEKS online math program, a companion product to the district's math curriculum. ALEKS uses adaptive tools to tailor students' math practice to their identified needs.

Dr. Sprout will appear in Google Classroom videos monthly to congratulate students and introduce the month's challenges and monthly prizes.

## Desert Meadows wins Rocket League Esports competition

Desert Meadows won their first Rocket League Esports competition in the Western Region Middle School Esports Conference (WRSEC) against Karios Middle School in Vacaville, California three games to one.

WRSEC is made up of over 50 middle school teams in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Washington state.

During the fall, schools play Rocket League (ESRB rated E for everyone) in an eight-week season.

Technology coach JD Williams launched and supports student Esport teams.







## Excellence in Education Award Recipients Named

Each year, one teacher from each school is recognized with the Excellence in Education Award. This award honors individuals who exemplify quality teaching and professionalism. The following teachers were recognized for their work in the 2021-2022 school year: Charlene Saltarelli, Desert Meadows School; Kassey Rysdyk, Vista Del Sur Accelerated Academy; Malissa Iler, Trailside Point School; Caitlin Seay, Rogers Ranch School; Regan Cunnington, M.C. Cash Elementary School; Natalie Urick, Estrella Foothills Global Academy; Lindsay Delgado, Paseo Pointe School; Julia Mister, Cheatham Elementary School; and Logan Wasie, Laveen Elementary School.

## District receives Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) has once again awarded Laveen School District the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE).

This award recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency.

The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending 2021.



## District Administrators honored with Pinnacle of Leadership awards

Each year select administrators who exhibit exceptional leadership, outstanding accomplishment, and dedicated service to Laveen's students and community are honored with the district's Pinnacle of Leadership award.

This year nine administrators were recognized: Nicole Goodwin and Melissa Garcia, M.C. Cash School; Jessica Epacs and Erin Scagnelli, Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy; Robert Caplinger and Reed Brotherton, Laveen School; Erin Lebish, Estrella Foothills Global Academy; and Julie Carson and Joe Roselle, Laveen Education Center.

