



# Paw Prints

August 2017



**T**rustworthy . **R**espectful . **A**ccountable . **C**ollaborative . **K**ind

**Desert Meadows Students and Families,**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer break. As we begin another great school year at Desert Meadows, I am excited about many of the improvements we have been working on over the summer.

New This Year:

- School-Wide Behavior Implementation Program (T.R.A.C.K.)
- Increased Volunteer Opportunities
- Student Council
- New 5-8 Social Studies Curriculum
- Student ID Cards
- Monthly Student Celebrations

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure an amazing school year. Please don't hesitate contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child or our educational program.

Respectfully,

**J.P. Ketcham, Principal**

## **Student ID Cards**

Beginning in August 2017, all students attending Laveen schools will be required to wear a student identification badge at all times while on campus or on the bus.

In addition to serving as school identification, the badges will contain a bar code for students to use as they go through the cafeteria line. Students utilizing Laveen's bus transportation will also swipe their badge as they board and exit the bus.

Replacement ID Costs:

ID Card	\$2.00
Badge Sleeve	\$1.00
Basic Lanyard	\$1.00
Combo	\$4.00



## **Meadows Students are on T.R.A.C.K.**

At Desert Meadows, we believe in creating an environment that encourages and prepares students to be productive citizens. We do this by ensuring that all students are provided with a well-rounded education that emphasizes both academic and social growth. We strive to create conditions that are both rigorous and supportive and utilize a standards based curriculum in all core academic areas. Helping students understand how to interact with adults, peers and members of the community are also part of becoming a Bobcat. We use the PBIS program (*Positive, Behavior, Intervention, and Support*), to teach students about our behavioral expectations. At Desert Meadows, we look to create positive behavior by recognizing and teaching the desired behaviors.

To create a common language amongst our staff and students we use the acronym T.R.A.C.K. We believe that all Bobcats are:

**T**-trustworthy

**R**-respectful

**A**-accountable

**C**-collaborative

**K**-kind

Staff will be on the lookout for these traits on a daily basis. At Desert Meadows, we strive to promote the positive, rather than focus on the negative.

## **Positive Incentives at Desert Meadows School**

**Daily/Weekly** - Students can receive a 'Bobcat Blast' which is a positive referral, students can earn Bobcat bucks for the store, and students can get a positive postcard in the mail.

**Monthly** - When a student is displaying positive behaviors aligned with T.R.A.C.K, they can receive "Bobcat Bucks" as a celebration of their commitment to positive behavior. With "Bobcat Bucks, students can buy items from the school store. Each month, a student from each homeroom will be awarded the "Bobcat of the Month" award. These awards will be presented to students who demonstrate academic growth and exhibit T.R.A.C.K behaviors.

**Quarterly** - Students who have shown academic progress and exemplary behavior will be eligible for quarterly grade level incentives. These incentives will be determined by the grade level and will be designed to fit students' interests.



# August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15 Band Rental Night 5:30 - 6:30 Gym	16	17	18 <b>DRESS DOWN DAY</b> \$1.00	19
20	21	22 PTA Meeting 6:00 PM Library	23 <b>No School</b> Professional Development	24	25  \$2.00	26
27	28 Galileo Pretest	29 Galileo Pretest 	30 Galileo Pretest	31		

## Gifted Education News August 2017

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 for this form) and return the completed form to your child's school. All parent referrals are due on or before Tuesday, October 31, 2017.

This year's gifted focus study is "Discovering My Place on the Map - Developing Geo-literacy." We look forward to exploring the field of geography through a variety of lessons designed to help students consider questions posed by geographers as they think about the world. Geographers use the five themes of geography to help answer these questions:

**Location:** Where is it located?

**Place:** What's it like there?

**Human/Environment Interaction:** What is the relationship between humans and their environment

**Movement:** How and why are places connected with one another?

**Regions:** How and why is one area similar to another?

### **Gifted Team Contact Information:**

- Elizabeth (Betty) Ehret - [ehret@laveeneld.org](mailto:ehret@laveeneld.org): Trailside Point, Desert Meadows and Paseo Pointe
- Rowe Van Meter - [rvanmeter@laveeneld.org](mailto:rvanmeter@laveeneld.org): Rogers Ranch, MC Cash, Cheatham and Laveen
- Ravae Johnson - [rjohnson@laveeneld.org](mailto:rjohnson@laveeneld.org): Vista del Sur Accelerated Academy

## Excellent Attendance Equals Better Students



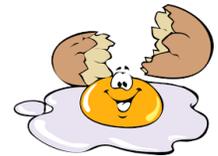
There is a strong correlation between good attendance and high student achievement. Help your child be successful by making sure that they are at school daily and on time. Our front gates open at 7:30 and the bell to line-up rings at 7:50. We look forward to excellent, on time attendance from all of our students.

### Student Absences

If you need to call your child in late or absent, please call the attendance line at 602-304-2020, option 1. Please leave the first and last name of the student, their teacher's name, the reason for the absence, and who is calling.

### Morning Nutrition = Student Success

To help guarantee the success of our students, please encourage your child(ren) to join us every morning beginning at 7:30 am for a free nutritionally balanced breakfast. A healthy breakfast is the first step to academic success.



## Taxpayers Can Lower Their Taxes And Support Our Students



You can send all your state taxes to the State of Arizona or make a contribution to a public school and receive a State Income Tax Credit for up to \$200 for tax payers who file a tax return as single or head of household and a maximum of \$400 for married couples filing jointly on your State Income Tax Return. A.R.S. §43-1089.01 gives you this opportunity to help your local school. A tax credit, which is the dollar for dollar reduction of your tax liability, is better than a tax deduction, which only reduces your taxable income before taxes are computed. The tax credit is available to all taxpayers, regardless of whether they have children in school.

For more information, go to our website at:  
<http://www.laveeneld.org/about-laveen/tax-credit> or call the school office.

## 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 Delphina Avila at 602-237-9100, ext. 3051, or at [davila2@laveeneld.org](mailto:davila2@laveeneld.org) to inquire further about qualifying for this program.