

Laveen raises over \$7,000 to benefit Mexico's earthquake recovery efforts

Laveen raised over \$7,000 dollars to benefit Mexico in the wake of their recent earthquake. The district held a Dress Down Day fundraiser in which students could dress out of uniform and staff could dress in business casual attire for \$1. All eight schools and district departments participated. Parents and community members also made donations.

The idea came from Brittney Downs, a third grade teacher at Paseo Pointe — the district's dual language immersion school. The school was celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and students were researching various Spanish speaking countries when the earthquake struck. "In the midst of our efforts to celebrate these cultures, Mexico was hit by a tragedy. Helping will connect our students to the Mexican people in a way that goes deeper than just studying their culture," Downs explained.

The money will be sent to GlobalGiving which provides critical resources such as housing, medical aid, water, and emotional support.

Paseo Pointe celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

As a dual language immersion school, Paseo Pointe strives to educate students about world cultures.

The month of September is a dedicated time to celebrate Hispanic and Latino Americans heritage and culture. Paseo Pointe School, along with their PTA, hosted many activities and events during this month.

A Hispanic Heritage bulletin board contest was held to highlight the many Spanish-speaking countries in the world. Classrooms decorated the hallway bulletin boards with information on the selected countries. Families then had an opportunity to judge the boards at the PTA's Family Night. Winners were: 1st Place — Nicaragua (Ashley Perez's preschool class); 2nd Place — Chile (Christine Iwinski's 3rd Grade class); and 3rd Place — Dominican Republic (Lindsay Delgado's 4th grade class).



A Hispanic Heritage Parade was also held with students representing their assigned country.

Laveen students help Texas classrooms recover from Harvey

Following Hurricane Harvey's destruction, two Laveen schools held school supply drives to help the schools and students in Texas.

M.C. Cash students brought in over 2,000 items. "The project instilled a sense of pride among Cash students who were able to help those less fortunate and provided an opportunity for classrooms to come together and work toward a common goal," noted school counselor Shannon Gregory.

Paseo Pointe also sent 200 pounds of notebooks, markers, and loose leaf paper to a school in Houston.

Meadows girls participate in Intel program



Over 50 female students from Desert Meadows School attended Intel's TEC (Technology Engineering Computer Science) is for Girls event held at Phoenix College. This event gave the girls an opportunity to engage in hands-on science activities, under the guidance of Phoenix College staff, to explore their interest in pursuing a career in the STEM field.

These activities included building a solar oven, programming a simulated lunar rover, and building a functional tower out of common classroom materials.

Paseo classroom receives \$715 in literacy materials

Paseo Pointe teacher Ren Fahey received a \$715 grant to provide personal libraries for his classroom.

The DonorsChoose.org grant provided 30 copies of the following books: *The Outsiders*, *The Giver*, *Hatchet*, and *Among the Hidden*, as well as a DVD of *The Giver* and *A Cry in the Wild*.

Fahey's literary project is designed with an eye toward creating multiple student and parent engagement outcomes. Students will participate each quarter in a literary and genre study. Each student will receive one book per quarter. Since the books are theirs to keep, they will be able to highlight passages, add comments, and bring the books home to share with their parents.

They will then create projects to reflect how well they understood the novel study. Students will present their projects to classmates either digitally or with poster boards at the end of each quarter and, as a class, will watch the movie that accompanies the book.



Meadows students are on T.R.A.C.K.

Desert Meadows implemented their T.R.A.C.K program this year to support the school's behavioral and social expectations. T.R.A.C.K. stands for Trustworthy, Respectful, Accountable, Collaborative & Kind.

To celebrate their T.R.A.C.K. stars, Meadows passes out "Bobcat Bucks" that students can redeem at the Bobcat Buck store every other Friday.



This approach is already paying off because of teachers' efforts to recognize students. So far this year, the school has recognized over 300 students with positive postcards or referrals.

