

District Dialogue

Bi-weekly news from the Laveen Elementary School District

February 9, 2018

M.C. Cash alumnus receives scholarship to Stanford

Former M.C. Cash student Leobardo Lopez has been accepted to Stanford University on a four-year, full ride scholarship.

Lopez participated in the QuestBridge National College Match that pairs the nation's most prestigious universities with students that have achieved academic excellence in the face of economic challenges.

Lopez currently attends Betty Fairfax.

Vista alumni honored by Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Former Vista del Sur student Cecy Abigail Mendoza won a Silver Award for Technology through the Phoenix Regional Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF).

The HHF Youth Awards honor high school seniors for leadership in the classroom and community.

Mendoza attends Metro Tech.



Preschool is coming to Desert Meadows

Laveen will be expanding its preschool program to Desert Meadows for the 2018-19 school year.

Last year the district launched two preschool programs, a dual language immersion and general education preschool, on the campus of Paseo Pointe. Due to the success of both programs, the general education preschool will move to Desert Meadows. Paseo will continue to offer a dual language preschool.

Both programs are tuition-based. Registration began this week. For more information and to join the preschool interest list, visit the [district website](#).



M.C. Cash teachers become National Board Certified

Congratulations to M.C. Cash teachers Lauren DiDonna and Amber Helms. These two teachers have recently received their National Board Certification.



DiDonna

Helms

National Board Certification (NBC) is the highest professional certification in the teaching profession. To become certified, teachers must demonstrate standards-based evidence of the positive effect they have on student learning in alignment with the program's core areas. Developed by teachers, the National Board Standards represent a consensus among educators about what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

Laveen schools participate in Kindness Challenges

Two of Laveen's schools participated in recent activities promoting kindness.

Vista del Sur met the Middle School Kindness Challenge. They are one of 61 schools across the nation that are Kindness Champions making a commitment to kinder, stronger, and safer classrooms and schools for all students. Stand for Children's Kind Schools Project presented them with a kindness badge for their efforts that now appears on their [GreatSchools](#) page.

Rogers Ranch School participated in the Great Kindness Challenge last week. This week-long activity encourages students to perform as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. Using a checklist of 50 kind acts, all Rogers Ranch students accepted the challenge to show the world that kindness matters.



18th Annual Community Parade



Cultivating a Community

McDonough, Hall are December's Employees of the Month

Employees of the Month for December were Sarah McDonough, M.C. Cash 8th grade teacher and Michelle Hall, Child Nutrition Specialist.



McDonough

McDonough comes to work ready to challenge her students to put forth their best effort day in and out. She is an advocate for her students and serves as a positive role model to them. She treats every student with respect and ensures all students follow the school wide expectations. She believes that every student is talented and capable of success. Her lessons are rigorous and she pushes her students to succeed. As her team lead, she demonstrates initiative and is always willing to meet with colleagues to share information and resources. She addresses concerns and celebrations with finesse and professionalism.



Hall

Hall ensures that school cafeteria operations go off without a hitch. Whether there is an equipment malfunction or late delivery, she steps in to ensure that our students eat a balanced meal and are ready to learn. She takes on many responsibilities and tasks with enthusiasm and does so without reservation. She is well respected by cafeteria staff for her willingness to support our kitchens and coach employees. Customer service is her strength and she easily handles situations calmly and professionally. She is active in our community, participating in the Laveen parade and serving as Mrs. Claus at the Winter Festival.