



**Sacaton**  
Elementary School District #18

# Newsletter

May (Pilkañ Biadag/Kai Chuk'lik Mashath) 2018

**GOVERNING BOARD**

President, Ms. Jane Johnson  
Clerk, Mrs. Elaine Moyah  
Member, Ms. Anika Evans  
Member, Mrs. Laurie Thomas  
Member, Vacant

District Superintendent: [Cherryl Paul](#)

District Website: [www.sacatonschools.org](http://www.sacatonschools.org)

Follow us on Twitter: [@SESD\\_YES](#)

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## **Superintendent's Corner**

Dear Families,

A very productive school year is drawing to a close. Before we launch into summer break, it is fitting to take a moment or two to reflect on our accomplishments. First, I want to recognize each and every staff member for the dedication, talent, energy and care you bring to school each day. Educating our students for a successful future is important and influential work. We continue to focus on improvement and finding ways to leverage our resources—people, time, dollars and relationships—toward boosting success for students and creating the system of strong and excellent schools of which our community can be justifiably proud. Together, we are making a visible difference for our students, families and community.

Due to the joint efforts of staff and community, Sacaton Elementary School District experienced an extraordinary 2017-2018 school year as you will note when you read all of this year's accomplishments on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming promotion as we celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders' accomplishments and next steps in their personal journey towards excellence.

When positive education is provided to students, they have opportunities to learn how to become independent decision makers who take responsibility for their own lives and their communities. Sacaton students are motivated and responsible learners who maintain positive relationships with each other, the staff, and the surrounding community.

I greatly anticipate the future of our schools and I look forward to leading more initiatives for the benefit of all students and the community. Have an incredible summer spending time with your child(ren). We look forward to all of the new opportunities that next year will bring ~ YES!

*Two Schools, One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!*

Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent

[@cherryl\\_paul](#)



# 2017-2018 District Achievements

## Categorized by the District's Adopted Key Priority Areas

### Excellence in Student Learning

- ✓ Free full-day PreSchool
- ✓ Highest student enrollment in 10 years!
- ✓ SESD Band: Bronze at the Pageant of Bands Festival
- ✓ Literacy Initiative and TRE training to support instructional practices
- ✓ AzMERIT Student Achievement
- ✓ iPads in all preschool - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms
- ✓ Perfect Attendance Awards
- ✓ Indigenous Robotics Competition Awards
- ✓ Chief Azul Scholar - Finalist
- ✓ First Lego League Regional Tournament Ranking Outcome: 15th out of 28 teams
- ✓ Completion of Phase I and II of the SESD Community Orchard Legacy Project
- ✓ myON Electronic Reading Platform
- ✓ Student Recognition: myON Top Readers
- ✓ PBIS Az Film Festival 2017 Video Winner
- ✓ Middle School Gallup Survey Results
- ✓ 98% of Certified Teachers Trained in TRE
- ✓ Wi-Fi on buses
- ✓ Increase in Academic-based Field Trips
- ✓ Twenty-two unique programs offered based on student interest
- ✓ Obstacle Course
- ✓ Middle School Playground
- ✓ Implementation of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in morning announcements
- ✓ Theater Club performance

### Excellence in Employee Engagement

- ✓ Strategic Plan: Governing Board Adoption of: Mission, Vision, Core Values, Key Priority Areas, Motto
- ✓ Certified Teacher Evaluation Tool, Improvement Plan, and the Classified/Administrative Evaluation Tool
- ✓ DEQ Grant for \$150,000.00 to purchase two new buses
- ✓ Governing Board Staff Recognition for Service:
  - 10 -19 years: Certificate of Appreciation
  - 20+ Years: Plaque of Appreciation
- ✓ Aligned District Committees
- ✓ Staff Exposure to Google Docs
- ✓ Every employee 15-minute meetings with the Superintendent
- ✓ Superintendent Weekly Messages to support communication and improve alignment
- ✓ Thinking Map Training: Trainer of Trainers
- ✓ The hiring of staff for after-school tutoring
- ✓ The hiring of staff for summer school
- ✓ Behavior Coaches attended PBIS Conference
- ✓ Implementation of 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- ✓ All staff will receive a pay increase for the 2018-2019 school year
- ✓ Contracts for the 2018-19 school year revised to meet legal guidelines
- ✓ Weekly leadership meetings to improve communication
- ✓ Monthly meetings with the nurses and GRHC

### Excellence in Organizational Improvement

- ✓ Governing Board Adoption of: Mission, Vision, Core Values, Key Priority Areas, Motto
- ✓ Standard operating procedures for addenda, hiring process, and registration
- ✓ First Aid and CPR Certification Courses
- ✓ Restructured Preschool Program
- ✓ Student tracking on the school bus
- ✓ Adoption of Two-Year School Calendars; Payroll Calendar
- ✓ Tyler Technologies System, Employee Web Portal and Time Clock Plus integration to drive effectiveness
- ✓ Facilities utilized to promote SESD: murals
- ✓ Application for continuous grant opportunities
- ✓ Completion of 2017 Audit and follow-up processes
- ✓ District-wide lockdown: safety procedures
- ✓ Revised procedures for notifying families of excessive absences
- ✓ Personalized nameplates on doors

### Excellence in Community Relations

- ✓ Mul-Chu-Tha Art Contest winners
- ✓ Arizona Diamondback's \$2500 STEM Grant
- ✓ Yes, 2 Life! Poetry Contest Winners
- ✓ Reading + Math = Fun! Night
- ✓ Student-led Culture Night!
- ✓ Astronomy Night
- ✓ First Lego League Community Support
- ✓ Parent Focus Groups
- ✓ 50+ Volunteers for Interview Panels and other District Needs
- ✓ Electronic Access available to District Newsletters
- ✓ 30 Participants at the Governor's Summit
- ✓ Twitter accounts established to support the branding of SESD
- ✓ Mul-Chu-Tha Parade Participation
- ✓ Superintendent involvement in GRHC
- ✓ Hosted annual ASBA meeting and SB coalition meeting
- ✓ Continuous participation in GRIC activities
- ✓ GRIC Light Parade Best Entry Award—Transportation Department

### **Governing Board approved School District Motto, Core Values, Key Strategic Priorities, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement for 2018-2023**

#### **Motto:**

Two Schools, One Voice  
Home of the Braves - YES!

#### **Core Values:**

Empowerment, Compassion,  
Respect, Vision, Community

#### **Key Strategic Priorities:**

Excellence in Student Learning  
Excellence in Employee Engagement  
Excellence in Organizational Improvement  
Excellence in Community Relations

#### **Vision Statement:**

We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our himthag.

#### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to engage students to take ownership of their learning, embrace their culture and contribute to the world around them.

## Sacaton Elementary School District Goals 2017-2018

Governing Board Approved August 8, 2017

### 1. Domain: Results

Performance Data

Goal: Support data collection, optimize instructional delivery, and enhance student engagement with programs and services that develop and nurture every student.



### 2. Domain: Leadership

Vision for Learning and Achievement

Goal: Participate in a Strategic Planning process designed to capture the voice of stakeholders to inform a meaningful and relevant Strategic Plan (2018-2023).

### 3. Domain: Systems Alignment and Integration

Safe, Orderly, and Engaging Learning Environment

Goal: Ensure the safety and security of all buildings; provide intellectually inspiring learning spaces focusing on the social and emotional growth of students.

### 4. Domain: Processes

Appreciative Inquiry Culture

Goal: Document, deploy, and monitor processes with fidelity demonstrating collaborative problem-solving techniques.

### 5. Domain: Capacity Building

Human Development

Goal: Provide opportunities to engage all employee groups in programs and initiatives.

### Important Upcoming Events and Announcements

Spring and Kindergarten Cap and Gown Photos -May 4<sup>th</sup>

Visit with Superintendent Paul—May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00-4:00 pm or May 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 am in Room D8 at the Middle School. Refreshments will be served.

Middle School O'otham Himthag Thash (Native American Studies) -May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Governing Board Monthly Meeting—May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

Elementary School O'otham Himthag Thash (Native American Studies) -May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

**Summer School Hours:** The District office will be open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, beginning June 4<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. **The District office will be closed on Fridays.**

### PRESS RELEASE

Pinal County School Superintendent Jill Broussard has decided not to appoint a Governing Board member to the vacant seat on the Sacaton Elementary School Board. The seat will remain vacant until the election in November, 2018.

If anyone is interested in running for the Sacaton Elementary School Governing Board in the November, 2018 election, please contact Brenda Katterman at the Pinal County School Office for an election packet at 520.866.6565 or visit our website at [www.pinalesa.org](http://www.pinalesa.org) to download a copy.

## **Band Competition**



On Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Sacaton Braves Concert Band attended the Pageant of Bands at Deer Valley High School and competed against seven other elementary and middle school groups. The bands were adjudicated by three judges, who categorized the groups with either gold, silver, bronze or a participation rating. At the end of the performance, judges gave the group a master class with suggestions for improvement. This was Sacaton's first band competition and they received a bronze rating!

## **What is Bullying?**

According to the SEDS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, the definition of bullying is "repeated acts over time that involve a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying can be physical in form, verbal, or psychological. Cyber-bullying includes bullying through the misuse of technology."

Although acts of name calling, threats, or physical contact are not acceptable behavior, they may not fit the definition of bullying if it happens during a single and/or isolated incident. Please keep in mind that bullying behavior occurs repeatedly over time. Regardless, always notify an adult immediately if either type of behavior occurs so it can be resolved by school district staff. When adults respond quickly and consistently to inappropriate behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

## **SESD Preschool: The Faces of our Future! YES!**

Our preschool program is currently participating in the Quality First evaluation process. This has been a very exciting time for our staff. Our Quality First evaluator randomly selects preschool sessions to conduct observations and uses a rating scale with multiple indicators. Once the entire evaluation process is completed, the results will be received and reviewed by preschool staff. This evaluation will identify areas of strength and areas to target for professional development. This will help our preschool staff identify a goal for the upcoming school year.

We continue to be at the highest enrollment that the Sacaton School District preschool program has seen! We truly believe that our children are our future and ensuring that they have an excellent beginning is our mission! YES!

## **Providing EXCEPTIONAL student services: The mission of the ESS staff!**

As we close out the year and look towards the 2018-19 school year, the ESS staff will be reviewing program structures, staff needs, student needs, and master schedules to ensure that all of our needs are being met. We want to ensure that students have access to appropriate services to make progress in the least restrictive environment. We will be working with the site administration to ensure that the master schedules align with our students' needs and all ESS staff have access to the full array of district curriculum. We want to ensure that the school environment is inclusive of all of our students, which in turn, will promote greater learning. We are all in this TOGETHER!



### **Head Lice**

Parents are the key for prevention and treatment of head lice.

- A. Spend 15 minutes once a week looking for head lice or nits. Set a day and time aside to carefully look.
- B. Teach your child not to share hats, scarves, brushes, combs and hair fasteners.
- C. If you see nits or lice within ¼ inch of the scalp, then treat your child.
- D. Follow 14-day treatment plan and mark your calendar to help you keep track.
- E. If after 14-day treatment crawling lice are still present, contact your healthcare provider.



### **New Registration Processes Are Coming!**

Sacaton Elementary School District is currently working on revising the registration process for new and returning students. This is a joint effort between the elementary school and the middle school secretaries and district staff. We are revising our paperwork and processes to best meet the needs of our district and parents, but still remain compliant with required documentation and information. We are hoping that our new process will streamline the registration process for new students and do away with redundant paperwork for returning families. We will be rolling out our new forms for the 2018-19 school year soon. Families will be using our new forms and process during the summer for newly enrolling students/families. We also plan to combine the enrollment process with our Meet the Teacher activities that will occur in August. If you need any information regarding enrolling your child, please feel free to call the district/school offices.

### **Culture and Language Program**

The month of May is Kai Cu:klig Mashath and is also known as Pilkin Baithag Mashath (ripping of the wheat month). Students will learn about the Pilkan harvest with our Tohono O'otham relatives, and will also learn how important it is to honor Je'e on Je'e Thash (Mother's Day). Students will then reflect on the importance of Memorial Day.

Our theme for the month is on desert animals. Students will learn about the common insects and animals that we see around our homes at this time of the year including the pesky va:mug (mosquito). We will also learn about the monsoon season. Students will draw pictures of elements associated with the monsoon including the Jegos (dust storm). In addition, they will be informed of the O'otham New Year celebration in June and also the picking of the has:shan baithag, or cactus fruit.

The number one song in O'otham during our classes this month was "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," followed by a close second, "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Preschool and kindergarten students enjoyed singing "Ring Around the Rosie" in O'otham.

We all had a fun and exciting school year, and so much was learned by both students and staff! We are looking forward to next school year. Thank you Mrs. Martin for assisting in the Culture Classroom. Have a safe and restful summer! Thova epom nei (We shall see you again). Sapo.

## Our Community Orchard Update



On April 19th 3TV (KTVK) on-air personality Dave the Garden Guy made two live television broadcasts appearances featuring our Community Orchard. He interviewed students and teacher Mr. Alberto Alaniz. During the broadcast, many individuals and organizations were recognized, including the Gila River Indian

Community for providing the funds via the Tribal Allocation Grant for the purchase of the 144 trees. The Community Orchard Project couldn't have happened without the support and blessing of the SESD Governing Board, Superintendent Paul, and Principal Bonds. Under their leadership and vision, the Community Orchard is now complete and will be maintained by the students in the future. The varieties have been expanded to include Fig, Blood Orange, and Blood Grapefruit trees. The state-of-the-art Solar Irrigation System ensures adequate water distribution. This system was installed with support from our vendor partner Ewing Irrigation and Supply. The tree supplier, Greenfield Citrus, did a wonderful job in establishing and preparing for the replanting. Community members are invited to visit the orchard at any time, and will ultimately be able pick fruit from the trees. Please check out the videos of the live broadcast below.

<http://www.azfamily.com/story/37996517/garden-guy-helps-sacaton-school-plant-an-orchard>



## Tailored Technology Report



Augmented Reality is the adding of graphics, sounds and/or touch feedback into our natural world to create an enhanced user experience. Augmented Reality is unlike Virtual Reality. Virtual Reality requires you to inhabit an entirely virtual environment. An example of a virtual reality environment is "Second Life". AR uses your existing natural environment and simply overlays virtual information on top of it. Applications of AR can be as simple as a string of text or as complicated as an instruction on how to perform a life-saving surgical procedure. AR can highlight certain features (a painting in a museum), enhance understanding (a physics experiment) and/or provide accessible and timely data (digital games like Pokémon Go). In the classroom, Augmented Reality apps can run on a multitude of different devices and platforms such as Chromebooks, iPads and smart phones.

Teachers are constantly challenged to find ways to keep students' attention in the classroom when their outside world is full of all kinds of highly compelling and visually stimulating media. In today's world it isn't the television set that captures a child's fancy rather it's YouTube, Snapchat or Instagram. Augmented Reality is a great way of engaging our students and at the same time allow learning to occur.

### Student Recognition



Gila River Indian Community Lieutenant Governor Robert Stone showed his support at April's regular Governing Board Meeting as he shook hands of students being recognized for their efforts and achievements! Go Braves!

### STEAM Day Activities

32 seventh grade students attended STEAM Day activities on April 13 at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. The students were invited to take part in several classes that included **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math**. After beginning the event playing several games (Foosball, Connect Four, ping pong), students took part in science experiments, coding exercises, making pottery, and several math games. Sacaton Middle School was one of three schools in attendance.



### Poetry Helps Support Literacy

April is National Poetry Month. Reading and writing poems helps support literacy and enhances language acquisition and supports writing skills. The following list outlines why children should write, listen to, and create poetry:

- Develops understanding and perceptions about the world
- Find unusual connections between things
- Develops creative expression and to frame thoughts, feelings, and ideas
- Learn to listen and appreciate the ideas of others
- Learn to share ideas and hear feedback
- Develops a wide vocabulary

Listening to poetry also helps children become fluent readers and creative writers, while writing poetry helps children learn to revise their ideas and develop a precision with language. Learning a collection of poems gives children and adults shared memories, a shared heritage, and shared understandings.

# *Congratulations!*

**The Sacaton School District #18 Governing Board, Administration, and Staff wish the following 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the very best as they continue their educational journey into high school and beyond!**

Lilliyn Allison  
Mandy Anton  
Alicea C. Apkaw  
Alaynia Austin  
Anthony Braveheart  
Brysen R. Brown  
Belen Burnette  
Jasmine Carreno  
Kaylee J. Case  
Seth A. Corella  
Kayla D. Delowe  
Alyssa G. Enos  
Ivan L. Enos  
Daymon J. French  
Ayana Hernandez  
Lightfoot Howard  
Andrew Jackson  
Cordell Jackson  
Daniel J. Johns  
Davian R. Johns  
Brian Kelly  
Alexander Kyyitan  
Randall I. Kyyitan  
Dwayne Leos  
Kevin Lewis  
Monique D. Madril  
Adan Makil  
Alexander Manuel  
Jaylynn Mark  
Illianna Miguel  
Deseray Miles  
Lindsay Miller

Marisol S. Monarrez  
Simone Natani  
Graciella Nieto  
Destiny Ochoa  
Omyra A. Osife  
Justalene Paul  
Aniya Quiyo  
Summer Ramirez  
Nikki Randall  
Heather Raphael  
Estrella Rascon  
Jerilyn E. Rhodes  
Caitlin Rivers  
Caroline Rivers  
Shae R. Rivers  
Sianna Rivers  
Ethan A. Rocha  
Syann A. Rocha  
Jose R. Rodriguez  
Miguel Rodriguez  
Nicole L. Romero  
Israel I. Rose  
Damien Stewart  
Miranda Sullivan  
Azule A. Thomas  
Pandonlyn Thomas  
Jordan J. Ute  
Angel C. Valenzuela  
Aliya T. White  
Nathan A. White  
Deona Wilson  
Cierra Yazzie

**You are cordially invited to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony on May 23, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Gymnasium.**

