

Quarterly Newsletter

December (*Sko:mag 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

Follow us on Twitter: [@SESD_YES](#)

Superintendent's Corner

Dear Families,

This is the time of year we give thanks for the multitude of blessings bestowed upon us. As a school, we are thankful for: our families, students, staff and district support. Each day brings another student who declares their enthusiasm for learning and pride in their school. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the tremendous support you provide to Sacaton Elementary School District. We are experiencing the highest numbers we have seen at our sporting and evening events. This high turnout shows your level of involvement in education.

We strive to provide effective learning for all students with each student engaged in meaningful and relevant learning, every day. We provide comprehensive educational programs and a wide variety of activities that build a solid foundation of knowledge and skills, encourage mindful higher-level thinking, and inspire all students to pursue their interests.

Staff members will continue to have a greater impact on student learning as we pursue our Strategic Plan. At Sacaton Elementary School District we are striving to produce successful engaged students who enjoy the process of learning. Adults are working to meet students' individual needs to provide a supportive, equitable educational foundation that is on track to be performing at and/or above grade level.

We work closely with families and community members to align SEDS goals and initiatives with the GRIC initiatives to maximize learning. We have celebrated many accomplishments during the first semester and look forward to the learning that awaits us all during the second semester.

I would like to personally thank and recognize outgoing Governing Board Member Ms. Anika Evans for her commitment and dedication to improve education for all children. We welcome incoming Governing Board Members Mr. David Anderson and Ms. Judy Antone. It is a pleasure to work alongside of all of our Governing Board Members.

Happy Holidays,

Mrs. Cherryl Paul, Superintendent
Two Schools, One Voice. We are Sacaton Braves. YES!



[@cherryl_paul](#)

SESD Strategic Planning

Call to Action

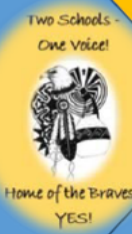
Sacaton Elementary School District is in their 2nd year of gathering input from stakeholders (employees, students, Governing Board members, community members, business partners, etc.) to complete the **SESD 5-year Strategic Plan**.

Through this year's professional learning opportunities, collective thoughts created objectives for key priority areas: *Excellence in Student Learning* and *Excellence in Employee Engagement*. In addition, SEDS now has objectives identified for *Excellence in Organizational Improvement* and *Excellence in Community Relations*.

Your input is extremely valuable and stakeholder feedback is being collected to ensure necessary and sufficient objectives will lead to *Excellence* in all four priority areas. Please provide your feedback by accessing our website www.sacatonschools.org. If you would like clarification or have additional feedback, please contact Superintendent Paul at 480-204-8577 or cpaul@sacatonschools.org.

SACATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #18 STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2023

For input visit www.sacatonschools.org

| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Core Values</u></p> <p>Empowerment- We inspire others to live to their full potential. Compassion- We treat each other with kindness. Respect- We treat each other with dignity.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Vision- We encourage futuristic thinking. Community- We collaborate and value stakeholders.</p> </div> </div> | | |
|--|---|--|
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Vision Statement</u></p> <p>We take pride in personal, academic and cultural development and pursue life-long learning with excellence while advocating for our himthag.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Mission Statement</u></p> <p>Our mission is to engage students to take ownership of their learning, embrace their culture and contribute to the world around them.</p> </div> </div> | | |
| Key Strategic Priorities | Key Strategic Objectives | Key Strategic Measures |
| 1 Excellence in Student Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a guaranteed and viable curriculum in every classroom. Engage students in activities that develop and nurture every student. Provide a safe and orderly learning environment. Engage students in equitable and challenging learning experiences that ensure achievement of learning expectations. Students use data to monitor academic growth. | % improvement using the evaluation instrument, # of programs and services, % of student engagement, Survey Results, % growth and achievement on assessments, % Student Achievement Portfolios, % of discipline referrals, % daily student attendance |
| 2 Excellence in Employee Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement effective hiring processes to address district needs. Provide a competitive salary and benefits package. Appreciate and recognize performance improvement. Create and encourage an empowering professional environment. | # of retention rates, # of applicants for each posting, # of applicants promoted within the district, Competitive salary and benefits package, # of recognition opportunities, # of collaborative PD opportunities, % improvement on annual employee satisfaction survey |
| 3 Excellence in Organizational Improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate programs and services using multiple data sources. Demonstrate stewardship in the deployment of resources aligned to organizational priorities. Identify, document, deploy and monitor key processes leading to sustainability. | # of programs evaluated, # of initiatives with appropriate funding, # of documented, integrated and deployed processes |
| 4 Excellence in Community Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy communication strategies to exceed the needs of stakeholders. Publicize programs and successes to increase student enrollment. Provide opportunities to involve and engage stakeholders in key programs and initiatives. | # of communication strategies, % increased enrollment, # of engagement opportunities |

Important Upcoming Events and Announcements

- December 21: Second quarter ends
- December 24-January 4: Winter Break (No School)
- January 7—School resumes; Third quarter begins
- January 16: Lunch with the Superintendent, Middle School Campus, Room D8
- January 21— Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)
- January 24—Culture Night at Middle School Campus
- February 18—President's Day (No School)
- February 28—School Pictures by Lifetouch

New Staff Joining the Sacaton Family

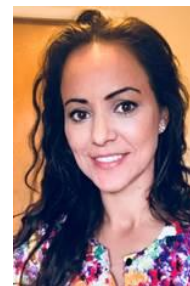
Sacaton Elementary School District #18 would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Sacaton Braves!



| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Laurie Ocampo—3 rd Grade Teacher | Estera Pantea—ES Counselor |
|---|----------------------------|

Sacaton Elementary School Welcomes New Counselor

My name is Estera Pantea and I am the new school counselor at the elementary school. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the needs of the Sacaton Elementary School District by upholding the highest possible standard of academic integrity abiding by ASCA (American School Counselor Association). This will occur by providing various academic, social-emotional, and curriculum/program support services. I look forward to bridging strong relationships with our team and students. To all parents/guardians, thank you for the opportunity I will have in working with your child(ren).



Transportation Department Fast Facts

Who to Contact for Concerns: Mr. Mike Smith, Transportation Director, 480-390-8147

Who to Contact for Bus Changes: Dispatcher, 520-562-8600 ext. 3043, 8:00-11:00 am (no bus changes will be accepted after 11:00 am)

General Information:

11 bus routes * 452 students per day * Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 * 812 miles daily

- 3 specialized and 2 mid-day pre-K routes: mid-size/small buses, curb-to-curb service
- 6 regular routes: 84- and 77-passenger buses
- First bus departs at 6:15 am and last bus returns at 5:00 pm
- Activity buses (tutoring/after school activity) depart at 5:15 pm and return at 6:00 pm

Student wi-fi access on each bus. Please encourage your child(ren) to wear school IDs on a daily basis as they are used to swipe as they board and exit the bus.

Coming Soon: Parent tracking of student bus location and pick up/drop off via internet or smartphone app.

In The Middle News

Welcome to the Student Assistance Center! Our new school counselor, Mrs. Arlisa Crank-Townsend, has been busy establishing relationships with students through individual counseling sessions and small group and classroom guidance lessons. Our new Comprehensive School Counseling Program was developed based upon survey results by parents, students and teachers. Students are receiving services to prepare them for a successful academic, personal, social/emotional, college and career life. The services include:



- **Weekly and bi-weekly one-on-one counseling sessions** help students gain an awareness of themselves and the world around them. This is a safe and private place for students to talk about the thoughts and experiences they do not understand. With the help of an adult who listens without judgement, students benefit from learning life-long skills and strategies to help them successfully manage life circumstances. Additionally, students review their current grades and determine ways to improve.
- **Weekly classroom guidance lessons** focus on topics selected by parents, students and teachers as the top priorities for success in life. Guidance lessons provide students an opportunity to participate as a community of learners focused on preparing to live and work in the 21st Century.
- **College and Careers** explorations require students to identify their interests, talents and skills through a series of assessment inventories. During the months of November and December, students are completing the Career Interest Inventory as an introduction to college and career readiness.
- **Small Groups** run up to 5 weeks in duration and are made up of 6-10 students with similar needs and/or interests. Group sessions will begin in January and will cover topics including, but not limited to, self-esteem, making friends, good decision-making, loss and grief, divorce, parent-child relationships, anxiety and stress, depression, and my life matters.
- **Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences** are conducted using a team approach. The main focus is the success of the student! We discuss all factors affecting a student's overall school progress. Parents are the first teacher, and we heavily rely on parents to help us understand the needs of their child(ren). Students are active participants and help make decisions about their educational career.
- **Business Partnerships** are critical to the advancement of our school and its mission to prepare students for life after high school. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and talents with our students, please contact our school counselor. We will host our Annual College-to-Career Fair during second semester. It will be our privilege to have you share about your education, training and career.

Attendance Goal

The Gila River Indian Community, along with the Tribal Education Department, has set goals for Community schools through an initiative to improve education in Gila River. In support of the initiative, SEDS will be providing an end-of-year incentive to students who have good attendance throughout the school year. 2 iPads will be given away to students via a drawing at both the elementary and middle school. Students who have good attendance for each school quarter will be eligible (2 or less excused absences per quarter). This means that a student can have 4 entries in the drawing if they meet the criteria each quarter. SEDS's goal is to meet or exceed the 93% attendance rate goal established by the Gila River Indian Community. Please help us by ensuring your child attends daily.

GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SUCCESS

**Every Minute
in School Counts**



Sports News



Flag football and girls soccer seasons have come to a close. The seasons produced great effort by our players and coaches for both sports! The competition against schools in our new conference is stout and our student athletes in both soccer and football have stepped up to the task and have competed well.

The 2018 flag football team has persevered through a tough season. It has been a season of learning and improvement. The

group of players have been working hard to improve themselves as individuals and as a team. We look forward to a much improved and exciting team next season.

The 2018 girls soccer team displayed wonderful Sacaton Brave character during their first season as part of the Signal Peak Athletic Conference. They kept good attitudes and showed good sportsmanship towards each other, other teams in the conference, and the referees throughout the season. Our girls soccer athletes demonstrated responsibility both on and off the field. As well as maintaining their academics, many of the girls were involved in second extracurricular programs and the girls managed their time and continuously put forth their best efforts in all of their activities. The girls persevered during tough games and long practices and represented Sacaton Middle School well.



As always, students need a completed physical on file with the school to be able to participate in practices or games. We look forward to a large turnout of participating student athletes in the upcoming seasons of baseball and girls basketball with practices beginning January 8th, 2019.

Curriculum Enrichment and Gifted Education



The third and fourth grade enrichment classes recently worked on a Water Rights Project that captured the Gila River as it was in the past. They are also creating a topography map that gives a detailed representation of natural and artificial features of the area. The students are using different techniques to make pottery, landscapes with papier mache, painting, and carving.

The 5th-8th grade classes prepared for their First Lego League competition which took place on Saturday, December 8, 2018. The students traveled to the Southeast Mesa Qualifier at ASU Polytechnic Campus to compete against other teams.



School Uniforms

To help families comply with the dress code, uniform colored t-shirts can be purchased at the front office at each campus. The cost is 2 shirts for \$5.00.

Providing EXCEPTIONAL student services: Mission Possible for the ESS staff!

The Arizona [State Performance Plan](#) contains an indicator that reports parent involvement in the special education process. Indicator 8: Parent Involvement—requires ADE/ESS to annually submit survey data on the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. All districts/charter schools in the state must give every parent/guardian of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) survey instructions and a login code. The window for the parent survey ends on May 31, 2019.

What does this mean for Sacaton Elementary School District parents and staff?

The ESS Office has printed off each letter for the parents/students that have been issued a login code. This list is based on last year's enrollment. The ESS Office will mail the letters home to the parents. Case managers will also maintain a copy of the letter in case any parent needs another copy. Case managers will also be able to use the information to assist parents with taking the survey. The parent letter contains information about how to complete the parent survey. If the parent does not have access to a computer, smart phone, or tablet, they can use any school computer to complete the survey. The case manager can also use the letter at any upcoming IEP meetings to assist the parent with taking the survey at that time.

Should you have any questions about this survey or the process for completing it, parents can call the ESS Office at: (520) 562-8600 ext. 2030.

Tailored Technology Report

By: David Roman, Technology Integration Specialist

Reading is so important to our lives. We need it to understand the world around us, but also because it's something that we love to do. That love of reading doesn't always happen immediately for everyone. I remember reading as a chore. It was hard and I didn't like it all. However, something changed for me around the age of ten...my grandmother's encouragement. She had me reading all the time. You don't get good at something unless you practice, practice, and oh yeah, practice some more. Once I became good at reading, reading for fun and enjoyment was the next logical step. That love of reading is what we want for our children, but to get there we have to look at different ways of motivating and challenging each one to do it.

Motivation is different for everyone. Some students read because they love it. Students who struggle with reading need our help to find their motivator. Many times student motivation for reading is linked with their reading confidence level or personal interests. Here at Sacaton Elementary School District, we have a reading program that addresses both of these areas. It is called the myON reading program.

The myON reading program provides a personalized way for students to be motivated by their reading accomplishments. Students can see how many books they have read, how much time they are spending on reading, and even their Lexile growth (reading level). All of these tools are excellent for self-motivation. In addition, the myON teacher dashboard allows educators to review their students' data quickly and to take the time to talk to their students about their progress. Teachers see the results immediately and the students are able to receive immediate feedback from not only the program, but also from their teachers. The program is web-based so that anyone who has a connection to the internet can access the program. At Sacaton Elementary School District every student has an account that can be used year long. Yes, that includes the summer vacation time, too. The program even allows students to download books to their smart devices (iPhone, Android phones, iPads, Chromebooks, tablets, etc.) so that they can read while offline. Currently the myON library contains over 6,500 books, and if needed, we can expand this online digital library. If you are interested in learning more about myON, the following link is very helpful: <https://about.myon.com>.



The Nurse's Corner

Diabetes and Prevention

Know the Signs and Symptoms

- **Hunger**- at times extreme, and associated with weight loss
- **Increased thirst**
- **Increased urination** (“accidents” in a toddler and older children previously toilet trained or more frequent diaper changes in infants)
- **Fatigue**
- **Irritability or unusual behavior**
- **Blurry vision**

If untreated, the following symptoms can occur that require immediate medical care!

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Belly pain
- Rapid breathing and drowsiness
- Loss of consciousness

Prevention and Risks:

Risks can include: Having relatives who have diabetes, and being overweight or obese. Talk to your pediatrician about concerns and take your child in for regular check-ups. Regular physical activity is also very important. Use resources in the community for assistance in wellness and diet (Life Center 520-562-7940).

GRIC Tribal Education Receives Grant

The Gila River Indian Community's Tribal Education Department was recently awarded the Native Arts Initiative Grant to fund the “Sewing Through the Ages” Project. This project is aimed at teaching the basics of sewing to families within the Community. Beginning in 2019, families will take part in 8 sewing classes with Master Sewers from the Community and a final show. Families that participate will be provided with all materials and be able to take home their own sewing machine after participating in all of the classes. There will be limited spots available so be sure to keep an eye out for registration information to be a part of this project.

If you have any questions in the meantime feel free to contact the Culture Program at the Tribal Education Department at (520)562-3662 or email: Anthony.Gray@gric.nsn.us.

Legacy Community Orchard Update



It is with joy and humility that our Legacy Community Orchard is thriving and ALIVE! As with any growth, there are some painful moments. October's high temperatures affected some of the fruit and burst the skins of some lemons. Additionally, early cold November temperatures injured some orange trees and we have lost 3 plum trees. However, they are under warranty and will be replaced. SESD was gifted 75 cubic yards of composted wood chips from Greenwaste Recycling in Gilbert, AZ. Also Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) will be providing almost 80 Cubic yards of wood chips to start our own composting project later this year. Mr. Trotter, Food Service Director, is helping Mr. Alaniz learn how to

compost. A school wide vegetative waste initiative is underway to help with waste material from our cafeteria.

Students are actively distributing compost to the tree wells that helps them understand volume as a quantity of measure. This understanding of how much mulch per tree, measured in cubic feet, provides hands-on math and science principles. Having the mulch in the tree wells mitigates weed growth and ultimately provides vital nitrogen and other essential nutrients for orchard maintenance.

SESD was named as a state finalist by Samsung Electronics in the STEM "2019 Solve for Tomorrow Contest." The project challenge is to create a non-lethal rodent trap to be used in our Legacy Community Orchard. The design will use Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to help solve the problem. The state winner will receive a \$20,000 technology package from Samsung. We are honored to have been able to participate and move on to the next phase of the competition.

Skills for Early Reading

Phonological Awareness are skills students must learn to master reading which include listening skills, rhyme and alliteration, sentence segmentation, syllable blending and segmenting, onset rime blending and segmenting, and phonemic awareness. Phonemic Awareness is a crucial pre-reading skill that is taught and assessed to ensure that students can hear and manipulate sounds.



Some activities you can do with your young child(ren) at home to increase Phonological Awareness are playing rhyming games or say rhyming words at home. The words can be make believe as long as they rhyme. Saying or signing Nursey Rhymes can help children build awareness of sound patterns of language and plays an important role in a child's linguistic and early literacy development. While hearing and recounting nursery rhymes, children are developing crucial early literacy skills.



Sacaton

Elementary School District #18

Culture Night

*Please
Join Us!*

January
24TH, 2019

- Middle School Campus
- Dinner Served at 5 pm
- Student-Led Program begins at 6 pm

*Drawing for (4) \$50
Walmart Gift Cards*

For transportation needs,

Call 520-562-8600 ext 3043 by 1/23/19



LUNCH WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Come and enjoy some lunch and
join in the conversation with
Superintendent Cherryl Paul

Wednesday

September 19, 2018

November 7, 2018

January 16, 2019

March 6, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Middle School Room D-8



No personnel issues will be discussed during this. We value your input for these meetings and
discussions. Please send your topics of discussion directly to Mrs. Paul

Cpaul@sacatonschools.org