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# Connections

May 2019

## YES to Altar Valley Excellence!

Altar Valley School District is committed to challenging every student to excel. For the past two decades, the Three Points / Robles Junction community has supported Altar Valley School District by voting YES for a 10% maintenance and operations (M&O) override. The district would not be able to maintain the level of educational services that Altar Valley students deserve without the support from the community for the M&O override. Since 2000, the community has voted YES to allow the district to fund basic programs such as:

- Full-day kindergarten
- Free athletic programs and drama
- Small class sizes
- Competitive teacher salaries

A YES vote allows the district to continue providing full-day kindergarten for all students at no cost to parents. The facts are very clear - students in full-day kindergarten make greater gains in reading skills, language development, and mathematics. Full-day kindergarten is the foundation needed to reduce future student failure. The state of Arizona only funds half day kindergarten. The M&O override not only allows the district to provide full-day kindergarten, but also keeps class sizes smaller. If the M&O override **does not pass**, the district will need to consider:

- Charging a fee for full-day kindergarten with increased class sizes or;
- Reducing the kindergarten experience to a half day, also with increased class sizes

A YES vote for the override enables the district to maintain low classes throughout the district. The M&O override enables Altar Valley School District to maintain class sizes that average 22 students per class. A continuation of the M&O override will assure on-going sound educational practices that center on adequate teacher-to-student ratios at all grade levels. If the override **does not pass** the district would need to consider:

- Eliminating teaching positions
- Increasing class sizes throughout the district

A YES vote for the override allows the district to provide free athletics and drama programs for students. Additionally, it allows us to fund expanded educational programs that

include Paxton Patterson, a STEM career exploration program, along with art, library, and physical education. If the override does not pass the district would need to consider:

- Charging a fee for students to participate in after school athletics and drama
- Elimination of programs such as art, library, and physical education

A YES vote for the override enables the district to maintain competitive staff salaries. Currently, AVSD's average annual teacher salary is almost \$50,000. The continuation of the M&O override assures our ability to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers. If the override **does not pass** the district would need to consider:

- Eliminating teaching positions
- Increased class sizes

Altar Valley School District governing board and staff are committed to excellence. We are thankful for the nearly 20 years of continued support from the community. The Altar Valley School District M&O override increases the school district's budget by 10% for seven years, though the last two years are used for phasing out the override by one-third each year. If the override is not approved on November 5, 2019 the district will need to begin implementing the reduction plans outlined above for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you would like to see first-hand how we are using the M&O override dollars, please attend one of our all-star end of year activities happening this month!

Come see the Spring drama performance of, *Advice from the Desert*, on Thursday, May 9, 6 pm at Altar Valley Middle School cafeteria.

Altar Valley Night of All-Stars is also a wonderful event to see and experience all the amazing things AVSD students have learned throughout the year, on Wednesday May 15, 5 pm to 6:30 pm at both schools.

There is much more going on this month so please be sure to review our calendar of events in the newsletter and our district website at [altarvalleyschools.org](http://altarvalleyschools.org). You can also follow us on Facebook. Thank you for your continued support and your YES vote for Excellence at Altar Valley School District!

# Altar Valley School District All-Stars!

## ★ ★ ★ ALTAR VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ★ ★ ★



**April  
Student of the Month**

**Dakota L.**

**7th Grade**

Dakota is helpful to classmates, instructors, and staff that work at AVMS. He is always the first student to help, no matter what it is. If assistance is needed with picking things up off the floor, cleaning up a mess or throwing things away, he immediately jumps up to do it. He is responsible regarding any classroom job he is assigned. He is always well mannered, good natured and kind to his peers and staff. It is a pleasure to have him in the classroom.

Academically Dakota is a student who listens to instruction, stays on task, and completes his work in a timely manner. He is focused when assessing, and his proficiency level for Benchmark testing shows it. He has improved from scoring Proficient in Quarter 1 to Highly Proficient in both Quarters 2 and 3.

Congratulations, Dakota!!



**April  
Employee of the Month**

**George Woodley**

*5th-8th Paxton Patterson Lab*

Even though Dark Matter has been defeated and the Intergalactic Galaxies have prevailed against the negativity, we want to recognize **George Woodley** as our April staff member of the month! George is always willing to do anything to increase the positive mindset with all of our students and staff! She always has great ideas and is always find solutions to problems!

Mrs. Woodley is always willing to help make our lives easier as educators. She is willing to partner up with us to improve student test scores and help facilitate teaching whenever possible. In the Paxton Patterson Lab George sets a high standard for her students and instills in them the confidence to reach it. This award is well deserved! Congratulations, Ms. Woodley!

## ★ ★ ★ ROBLES ELEMENTARY ★ ★ ★



**April  
Student of the Month**

**Damian M.**

**Kindergarten**

**Teacher: Mrs. Bankhead**

Damian is an intelligent, creative and kind student. Damian has a can do attitude, he is always willing to try and try again until he gets it right. Damian is excelling at reading, counting, adding and subtracting. We are all so proud of his new understandings and delighted that he finds opportunities everywhere to read, write, and draw. For this and many more reasons, he is our Robles All-Star student!



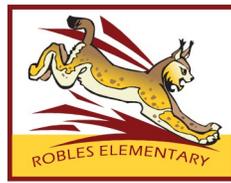
**April  
Employee of the Month**

**Tresa Callabrizzi**

*School Monitor/Attendance Clerk*

Ms. Callabrizzi started the year learning a new position that requires her to wear so many hats, from discipline, testing, and attendance clerk to helping in any capacity she is needed. In addition to being the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Coordinator she took on Students council in the middle of last year.

While wearing so many hats she still able to stay calm and provide support to all who need it. Ms. Callabrizzi has done an outstanding job juggling all of her duties with grace and professionalism. The students respond well to her and are very fond of her because they know she cares. We are so lucky to have her as one of our leaders.



## Robles Student Council (STUCO)

*By Tresa Callabrizzi, STUCO Advisor*

Robles student council has been working hard this year learning the rules of meeting etiquette, the voting process, and responsibilities involved in being a student council officer. Members attend weekly meetings to discuss thoughts and ideas to improve the student climate and culture. STUCO recently had a very successful fundraiser to help support the end of the year field day event for Robles.

Thank you to everyone who participated!! Student council members walked in the holiday parade, sent thank you letters to St. Paul's, and participated in the quarterly awards assemblies. They have also been researching information on Titus our school tortoise so that we can make his habitat more self-sufficient. Currently, student council members are working on an anti-tobacco campaign to present to students at all grade levels as well as a healthy choices booth for field day.

Soon we will begin the process of electing next year's officers and saying a sad goodbye to our 4th graders as they move on to middle school. They are all looking forward to our end of year awards celebration. Thank you to all the student council families for allowing me to spend this time with your students during this school year. It has truly been a pleasure!



## CHILD FIND

Children who are between birth and twenty-one years of age and have a developmental delay, or are suspected of having a disabling or emotionally handicapping condition, may be eligible for special services. To determine if a developmental delay exists, professional evaluations and/or assessments may be conducted in the areas of:

- Physical Development
- Cognitive or Mental Development
- Social and Emotional Skills
- Language and Speech Skills
- Self-Help Skills (e.g., dressing, feeding, etc.)

Altar Valley School District's CHILD FIND can help with a free screening and referral for diagnostic and/or early intervention programs.

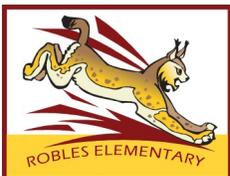
**For newborns through two year olds, parents may contact:**

Department of Economic Security  
Division of Developmental Disabilities Child Family Services  
4710 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St.  
(520) 745-5588, Ext. 535

**For three through twenty-one year olds, contact:**

Altar Valley School District  
Special Services Director  
(520) 822-9201

### ALTAR VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Robles Elementary**  
9875 South Sasabe Road  
Tucson, AZ 85736  
(520) 822-9418

10105 South Sasabe Road  
Tucson, AZ 85736  
Phone: (520) 822-1484  
Fax: (520) 822-1798

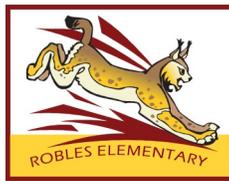
<http://altarvalleyschools.org>



**Altar Valley School District 51**



**Altar Valley Middle School**  
16350 W. Ajo Highway  
Tucson, AZ 85735  
(520) 822-9343



Dear Robles Families,

I want to take this opportunity to celebrate our partnership and bring to light all the wonderful accomplishments that we have had this year. It has been amazing to have you and your student at Robles Elementary School.

One of our many accomplishments this year has been our focus on communication with our families through the implementation of Class Dojo, Facebook, website, email, auto dialer, text messaging, and the old fashion way, flyers. This has enabled us to stay in touch and communicate with you more effectively and consistently. As a Principal, I like being able to share some of the coolest moments and latest happenings through the school story feature on Class Dojo. I hope you all have enjoyed the photos and videos we've shared. Having the multiple communication modalities have helped us keep you informed so that you don't miss anything that is going on at Robles.

At Robles, we love having our community and families over. This year we decided to make as many opportunities as possible to get our community and families to visit us and see what we are all about! We had luncheons for different holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, the Veteran's Day, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade partnership breakfast. In addition to this we have a quarterly Bobcats of Excellence assembly, the Holiday Program, and coming up soon Night of the All-Stars!

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) is a system for supporting the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students. PBIS continues to get stronger at Robles. We are able to track our students and staff climate and culture through the surveys, to make sure our students are staying on track honoring their quarterly contracts, enjoying the rewards of staying discipline referral-free, having good grades and attendance.

We had the honor of introducing the Ben's Bells Be Kind Program to Robles last year. This year we were able to sustain and continue to grow in kindness by cultivating kindness awareness through visuals such as our beautiful mural installation and the Wednesday Be Kind t-shirt day, as well as weekly Friday kind lessons in each classroom. Ben's Bells Be Kind Program was a big part of our year, with mini bell recognition for staff, Be Kind assemblies, and activities for all! We are excited to continue with this new tradition!

Students had opportunities to earn field trips and attendance to some pretty cool events this year. The Magic Rain Forest Play, and the Ted Walker, Old Tucson Field trip as well, as the preschool pumpkin patch field trip were so much fun. In August, we had the NED Show come to present an awesome character education lesson to our bobcats. In December we had the Mini-Magic Flute Opera Presentation, and coming up soon we will have TRICO present to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

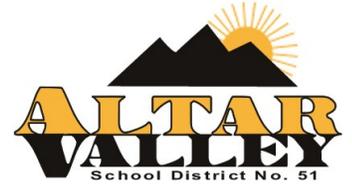
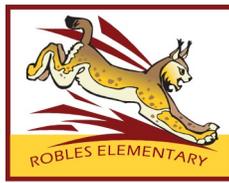
This year we are proud to say our attendance has improved. We all know how important it is to be at school learning. Thanks you for giving us the opportunity to make this year a successful one for your student.

Robles Elementary Preschool elected to be part of the First Things First, Quality First redesign pilot program. Our Preschool staff has gone through an intensive and long training to ensure that your little Bobcats get the most out of the opportunity to be in preschool. I hope you have had the opportunity to visit our preschool classrooms to see the wonderful job the preschool staff has done. Teachers have also committed to attend a training every month at Make Way for Books. Make Way for Books in exchange has donated a lending library to each of the preschool classrooms. I hope you have seen the nice tote bags donated by them as well.

At Robles we are working hard to ensure all students are reading at grade level or above. In addition to our new English language arts curriculum implementation, we also had a couple of Book Giveaways to ensure all students have books they can read at home. We appreciate your support as you ensure that your students read at least 20 minutes every day at home. We also enjoyed opening our doors during Dr. Seuss Week for community members, and families to come read to our Bobcats. They love seeing all of you here!

All in all, we had a fabulous year and I am looking forward to the last month of activities! I hope to see you all here for the upcoming Night of the All-Stars, preschool and 4<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and kindergarten celebration!

Rosalinda Rodriguez, M.A., Ed.S.  
Robles Elementary Principal  
Altair Valley School District #51  
rrodriguez@avsd.org  
(520) 822-9418



**Challenging Every Student to Achieve Excellence!**

### ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. David Dumon**  
Superintendent

**Mr. Joshua Peebles**  
Principal  
Altar Valley Middle School

**Ms. Rosalinda Rodriguez**  
Principal  
Robles Elementary School

**Ms. Julie Waters**  
Director of Federal Projects /  
Professional Development

**Ms. Jan Chen**  
Psychologist  
Special Services Director

**Mr. Dan Tankersley**  
Director of Operations

### GOVERNING BOARD

**Mr. W. John Williams**  
President

**Mr. Robert Ethridge**  
Vice President

**Mr. Chris Isabel**  
Member

**Ms. Shanee Page**  
Member

**Mr. Martin Hudecek**  
Member

### **Robles May Activities**

- |      |   |    |                                      |
|------|---|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1    | CBM Growth Celebration                  | 16 | Bobcats of Excellence @1:00PM        |
| 3    | Last Day to Check out Library Books     | 17 | Preschool Promotion Ceremony @9:00AM |
| 6-10 | Teacher Appreciation Week               | 20 | 4th Grade Promotion @1:00PM          |
| 8    | School Nurse Day                        | 21 | Kindergarten Celebration @9:00AM     |
| 8    | Governing Board Meeting @6:00PM         | 22 | Robles Field Day                     |
| 8    | Robles Site Council @2:45PM             | 22 | Early Release/Last Day of School     |
| 8-10 | Mt. Lemmon Trip- 4th Grade              |    |                                      |
| 14   | Library Closed for the Rest of the Year |    |                                      |



## AVMS Celebrates the 2018-2019 School Year



As the principal of Altar Valley Middle School I am so very proud of all the amazing achievements, successes, and growth we have all had throughout the year. As you will read below, we have been working very hard at AVMS and we are very proud of all of our accomplishments.

Our 5th grade students and teachers celebrated their successes and growth each quarter this year with an Eagles Day! At the end of each quarter and after showing growth on their assessments, students were able to play board games, play outside, spend time on the computers, do an art project, or even play some music to celebrate all of their hard work and dedication. The 5th grade students also got to celebrate having the best attendance trophy twice this year at the Eagles of Excellence awards assemblies. Way to go 5th grade!

The 6th grade classes had several projects in Social Studies culminating in the Roman Market celebration! Teachers and students all dressed up and looked the part at the awesome market as students were providing all of their information on the food, clothing and other items of that time period. 6th grade students also participated in Eagle Days, Kidstruction team projects, the Lego League competition and received the CBM math trophy too!

7th Grade worked really hard this year and have been preparing for their final year at AVMS! They were proud to represent their class at the Intergalactic Council Meeting on March 26 and really started to show and celebrate their growth! Students also got to watch daily positive videos from the whole AVSD community wishing them good luck on the AzMerit tests. The girls basketball team celebrated an undefeated regular season this year! Great work, Lady Eagles!

Last, but not least, our 8th grade Eagles! As we approach the end of the 2018-2019 school year, and now that you have met with your high school counselors and picked out all of your classes, I want to extend my congratulations to you and your families on your impending promotion to high school! The next step in your academic career is perhaps your most critical, as you will take on more responsibility and greater challenges than ever before. Yet, because of your repeated exhibition of strength and determination to succeed inside the classroom, I look forward to the wonderful things that await you next year and beyond as you continue to pursue your academic and professional goals. Congratulations, Eagles and see you at Promotion!

At Altar Valley Middle School this year we got to create and install our BE KIND Mural and it was such an awesome and proud experience for everyone at the our school! Great work, Eagles! I would also like to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly supporting our kids and helping them achieve their goals and soar to new heights! Families, students, and the community should all be so very proud of the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of Altar Valley Middle students!



*Just a few of our awesome 6th graders at the AVMS Roman Market!*

**8th Grade Promotion**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2019 @ 6:00 PM**  
**-on the NORTH FIELD of AVMS-**

Let's do this, Eagles!  
Be responsible, be respectful, and be Kind

Josh Peebles  
Principal  
Altar Valley Middle School



*The Lady Eagles basketball team finished their undefeated season and brought home the 2nd place trophy in tournament play!*



**Below, you will see some important dates and celebrations regarding your student and AVMS:**

**Board Meeting** - May 8th- @ 6:00 p.m.

**Spring Play Evening Production** - May 9th @ 6:00 p.m.

**Night of All-Stars** - May 15th @ 5:00 p.m.

**Eagles of Excellence** - May 17th @ 12:45 p.m.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion** - May 21nd @ 6:00 pm on the NORTH FIELDS of AVMS

**Last Day of School for students** - May 22nd

**DISCOVERY STEM CAMP** - June 6th - June 27th, Monday-Thursdays

**Summer Registration** July 24th @ 8:00-4:00 and July 25th @ 9:00-5:00



*The new AVMS BE KIND Mural!*

## Discovery STEM Camp at AVSD

Get ready, campers! It's time for Discovery STEM Camp 2019! This year, summer camp will run from Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. The hours for the program are 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation are all provided.

Our summer camp provides instruction and student engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Each grade level's curriculum is focused on a different kind of energy: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is Weather, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is Magnetic Energy, 4<sup>th</sup> grade is Wind Energy, 5<sup>th</sup> grade is Solar Energy, 6<sup>th</sup> grade is Kinetic Energy; 7<sup>th</sup> grade is Thermal Energy, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is Building Energy (energy efficiency). During summer camp, students have the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities relative to the type of energy that they're learning about. Activities are project-based, relevant, and fun!

In order to increase access to STEM-related learning opportunities for our students, we always provide real-world learning experiences in the form of two STEM-related field trips during summer camp. In the past, we have visited the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Reid Park Zoo, and the Flandrau Planetarium. The past two summers, we have also taken in a movie at the Harkins Spectrum Theater complete with popcorn, candy, and drink. Stay tuned for more information on this summer's field trips!

Registration forms have been sent home with students, but if you have not received one and are interested in enrolling your child, please stop by the front office of either school to pick up a form. We are looking forward to another fun and exciting summer!

Bus schedule available on our website at [www.altarvalleyschools.org/Transportation](http://www.altarvalleyschools.org/Transportation)



## COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

The Altar Valley School District intends to apply for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) grant for Altar Valley Middle School. The application is due May 6, 2019. If awarded, the grant will fund before- and after-school programming for five years starting in the 2019-2020 school year.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is the only federally funded source dedicated exclusively to out-of-school-time programs. Arizona's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program supports student participants in meeting the State's rigorous academic standards. Funded programs are designed to align with State and school goals and specifically assist targeted students in their school-day learning objectives.

**\*\* Please note calendar events are subject to change. \*\***

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 	6 	7	8 Robles Site Council Meeting @ 2:45 AVMS Site Council Meeting @ 4:00 School Board Meeting @ 6:00	9 May 9th Spring Drama Production 6:00 4th Grade Mt Lemmon Trip - May 8-10	10	11
12 	13	14	15 Night of All-Stars 5:00-6:30	16 Bobcats of Excellence PK & K 1:00 1 & 2 1:30 3 & 4 2:00	17 Preschool Promotion Ceremony 9:00 Eagles of Excellence GYM 12:30	18
19	20 4th Grade Promotion Ceremony 1:00	21 Kindergarten Celebration 9:00am 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony @ 6:00	22 Robles Field Day 4th Quarter Ends Last Day of School Early Release	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	30

## Night of Altar Valley All-Stars!

Please join us Wednesday May 15, 2019 from 5 pm – 6:30 pm at Robles and AVMS to celebrate our Altar Valleys All-Star Students! This end of the year culminating event will highlight each schools successes and learning for the 2018-2019 year. At Robles Elementary you will get to travel through a variety of habitats and Altar Valley Middle School you will get to experience innovation at its finest. There will be so much more on display such as: An Art Show, the Paxton Patterson Lab, student fitness testing and results, Government and History projects, Title I information, Override information and free books at Robles. Cookies and punch will be available at both schools.

Events like this are made possible because of the voter-approved 2014 10% Maintenance and Operations Override. This override money provides funding not only for evening events such as the Night of Altar Valley All-Stars, but also for full-day Kindergarten at Robles Elementary. It allows us to maintain low class sizes and enables us in attracting and retaining the highest quality staff. Funding also ensures that student at Altar Valley Middle School can participate in after school sports and drama for free.