

From the desk of Ms. Branch

To say that the ending of this school year turned into an epic ending would be an understatement. It is so wonderful to be back to our normal routines as we wrap up the last three weeks of school. Seeing the precious faces of the reason we are here each day filled my heart with such joy last Friday! They are the reason I choose to do what I do each day and the reason why I have dedicated the last 29 years of my life to education. This principal is so happy to see school life as it should be once again!

With the missed six days of instruction, many parents may still be wondering if and when the instructional days will be made up. Our Governing Board held a special session last Thursday to vote on a motion to suspend Governing Board Policy IC and modify Kyrene's instructional calendar. As a result of that vote, the only change to the calendar will involve May 24th. Thursday, May 24th will remain the last student day; however, it no longer will be an early release day but rather a full day. Students will dismiss at 2:35 PM on Thursday, May 24th and then, with the final bell, school will be out for summer!

Our teachers will continue to teach and provide instruction through May 24th. Our staff recognizes that within the remaining three weeks of school, their obligation is to make up the instruction that was lost due to the six-day walkout.

Each year, I have a difficult time writing my last principal message of the year. This year is no different. Goodbyes are never easy and at the end of a school year we say goodbyes to employees who are moving on, to students and families who will no longer be with us, and, of course, to all our amazing fifth grade students. My feelings can best be summed up using some lyrics from Rihanna's song Farewell, *"I'm gon' try to hold it all in, Try to hold back my tears...Farewell, Somebody is gonna miss you, Farewell, Somebody is gonna wish that you were here...That somebody is me."*

I am preparing to say goodbye to yet another group of fun-loving, caring, well-rounded student leaders as our fifth graders get ready to leave Mirada for middle school. This group of students shine brightly and they are ready to go out and show the world that they can and they do make a difference! Their greatness comes from their hearts. They are caring children who have been and will continue to *"be the change they want to see."* These students have matured into great leaders who will be leaving Mirada with universal principles that will help carry them through the years ahead. They are leaving behind a legacy at Mirada that will be remembered as they chose kindness over heartlessness, courage over fear, peace over turmoil, and love over hate. Each of our fifth graders have touched my life and will not be easily forgotten. I am so proud of each of them. I am proud of who they are. I am proud of what they have accomplished and what I know they will accomplish in the future. I wish each of them the very best and I encourage them to go forth and leave a legacy of peace, love, dreams, and leadership!

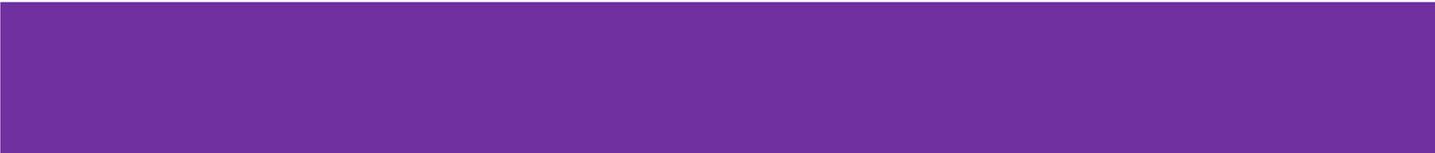
To the parents/guardians of our outgoing fifth graders and to the other families leaving us at the end of the school year, thank you for sharing your precious children with us. They have touched our lives in a very extraordinary way.

We will also be saying farewell to a number of staff members who are leaving us. The list is long (some years are like that!) so I am recognizing them in another section of our newsletter. Please join me in thanking them for their service to Mirada Leadership Academy and join me in wishing them the very best in their next journey.

As I reflect on the 2017-18 school year, I do so with great gratification. Together, we have accomplished our academic goals of improving student achievement with a strong focus on writing. Collectively, we have provided the opportunities for and have watched our students grow academically, socially and emotionally. We have lived our mission statement of inspiring academic excellence, celebrating strengths, developing leaders, and honoring diversity. We have dreamed big and we have inspired our students to dream big! We grew in greatness and look forward to continuing the journey during the 2018-19 school year!

Finally, it is my wish that you all have a safe, love-filled, fun-filled break and that your summer dreams do come true!

Ms. Branch



Staff Farewells

The first group we will honor and say farewell to are our four retiring employees.

First grade teacher, Mrs. Mulder, will be retiring after spending the last 18 years of her illustrious career at Mirada Leadership Academy. Mrs. Mulder is a master teacher who has played an important role in teaching many young children how to read. What an amazing gift!

CCD teacher, Ms. Halbig, will be retiring after spending 23 years in the Kyrene School District. She has taught and advocated for children with development delays during her tenure as a teacher and has deeply touched the lives of many.

Music Teachers, Mrs. Attanucci and Mrs. McCleve will be retiring as well. Mrs. Attanucci has been with the District since 2009 while Mrs. McCleve began her Kyrene career in 1988. It has been our pleasure having them share the love of music with our students.

Next, we have five teachers who are leaving Mirada for various reasons.

2nd Grade Teacher, Mrs. Propps always enjoys an adventure! The new school year will find her teaching middle schoolers at Centennial Middle School in Ahwatukee. Mrs. Propps has spent the last seven years at Mirada teaching both second and third grade. Her enthusiasm and intensity in teaching is one of the many things she will be remembered for here at Mirada.

Gifted Resource Teacher, Mrs. Massar joined our staff at the beginning of year. She has provided our identified gifted students with additional support throughout the school year. She brought her years of gifted expertise to our gifted program and her support has been appreciated.

1st Grade Teacher, Mrs. Neely will be teaching in a private school closer to her home in Mesa. Mrs. Neely joined us mid-year during the 2016-17 school year. She is a teacher known for engaging her young students in learning and for bringing much joy to her students.

3rd Grade Self-Contained Gifted Teacher, Mr. Abraham is returning to his hometown of Chicago. Mr. Abraham moved to Arizona two years ago and became part of the Mirada staff at that time. His understanding of giftedness has allowed him to provide our gifted students with learning and activities designed for creativity, critical thinking, and deepening of knowledge.

CCD Teacher, Ms. Heinkel has been teaching our K-2 CCD students for the past four years. She has created a loving, caring environment in which all children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. With a heart for children with special needs, Ms. Heinkel will be working on her Master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an applied behavioral analysis certification. Her passion has always been teaching special education and she will continue to pursue her passion as she makes a move to Dayton, Ohio.

The last group of employees leaving us this year include some of our support staff and our school psychologist.

School Psychologist, Lynn Krivda, has resigned her position and will continue her work in the private sector. Ms. Krivda has been our school psychologist for the past three years. We are appreciative of all the support she has provided our students, families, and staff.

Instructional Assistants, Kristina Sherlock, Art Trevino, and Laura Stanley are also pursuing personal goals when they leave us at the end of this school year. **Amy Becker, a preschool IA** is transferring to the same role at another Kyrene school. The role of an instructional assistant is vital to the work and success of our students and Kristina, Art, Amy and Laura have all been a huge part of our work and our student success. We wish them all the best as they begin new journeys.

Crossing Guard, Dave Menzel joined the Mirada family three years ago and has been a constant figure out on Galveston Street since his arrival. His job is crucial to the safety of our students and we are so grateful for his love and dedication to our students.

We are thankful for the time, energy, and love that each of these employees has given to our school community. We wish each of them the very best and we encourage them to continue to dream big! Our hearts are blessed to have known them and they will be dearly missed.



You're Invited!



Mirada Players

Present...

“I Have a Dream”

**a musical story of
Growth Mindset
Thursday, May 10th
7:00 p.m.**

**Mirada MPR
Admission is free
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)**

**LAST
DAY OF
SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY, MAY 24
FULL DAY**

Last Call



Please check

Lost & Found

all items left will be donated



Thank you Mirada PTO!

**Our staff is being celebrated this week
with wonderful lunches,
tasty treats and special gifts.
We all are feeling loved and
very appreciated.
Thank you to the PTO members
who planned such a terrific
week for our staff!**

MIRADA TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Food Services Information:

The current online payment system, e-funds, can be accessed throughout the year from www.kyrene.org/foodservices. If you have weekly, bi-weekly, monthly automatic payments scheduled you need to turn off this feature prior to end of school, to stop the charges from continuing to occur over the summer months. You need to re-activate this payment plan when the new year begins again.

Summer Meals Hotline Information: For many kids, summertime means food, friends and fun. For families who count on school breakfast and lunch, however, the summer months can be stressful and family food budgets have to be stretched even further. Free summer meals, funded by the USDA, are available to kids and teens ages 18 and younger at summer meals sites across Arizona. To locate a free summer meal site near you, please visit www.eatwellbewell.org/summerfood/ or text FOOD to 877-877. Visita www.comesanovivemejor.org/summerfood/ o envía el tex to: COMIDA al 877-877 para más información.



Breakfast is Cool!

Every day is a perfect day for a school breakfast! As the summer approaches, kids often become more restless and distracted at school. You can help to make sure that their last weeks of school are productive by ensuring that they begin the day with a nutritious breakfast. Studies show a good breakfast makes kids more alert, less distractible, and better behaved in school; it can even improve their test scores! Let's keep our students focused by making sure they begin every school day with a balanced meal at home or at the School Breakfast Program.

Health Office Year End Information

Medications: At the end of each school year, all student medications must be removed from the Health Office by a parent/guardian. If your child has medication at school please stop by the Health Office to pick it up by May 24th, the last day of school. Any medication not picked up by 3pm on Tuesday will be destroyed and disposed of following FDA and Kyrene School District guidelines.



Attention 5th Grade Parents: Are you ready for Middle School? Are your child's shots up to date? Students 11 years of age and older are required to have one dose of Tdap vaccine if 5 years have passed since their last dose of tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine. Most children had their last DPT when they were 5 years old, so most 11 year old children will be due for a booster. Students 11 years of age and older are required to have one dose of Meningococcal vaccine (MV, MCV4, or Menactra). These immunizations will be due by the first day of school in August if your student

Information you need to know

- Mirada front office will be closed for the summer beginning Tuesday, May 29th
- Mirada front office will reopen Wednesday, July 18th from 12:00pm-6:00pm
- Teacher assignments will be given out at Meet the Teacher Night- Monday, July 30th 5:30pm-7:00pm
- First day of school is Thursday, August 2nd
- Please be sure to check out our Mirada webpage over the summer to keep informed about things happening at Mirada and to see our updated supply list.

<http://www.kyrene.org/mir>



**PTO Restaurant Night &
Yearbook signing event!**

Friday, May 18th



Yearbooks still on sale! \$16.00

Don't miss out!

**MEET THE
TEACHER!**

MONDAY, JULY 30TH

5:30P.M.-7:00P.M.



Community Partnerships

We are grateful for the community partnerships which support the great learning that occurs at Mirada each day. Your support is appreciated and makes a difference for our students.

Intel ~ Mid-First Bank

Jonathan Ramos of Farmers Insurance ~ Caliber Collision

All our tax credit donors

All of the local businesses that support our school



Thursday, August 2nd



**Enjoy your
summer break**



May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 	10 Mirada Players 7:00pm	11 Freaky Friday Dress	12
<h2>MIRADA TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</h2>						
13	14	15	16 Student Leadership Day 	17	18 Kindergarten Musical 8:15 am Yearbook Signing 	19
20	21	22	23 Full Day	24 Last Day Full Day 5th grade Kickball Game. 8:00am	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	 ENJOY YOUR SUMMER BREAK!	

Front Office Staff
 Principal: Nancy Branch
 Asst. Principal: Kali McKenna
 Secretary: Katie Jarchow
 Attendance: Carol Vidaure
 Health Office: Kristi Johnson
 Melissa Stawiecki

Phone Numbers
 School Office: 480-541-4200
 School Fax: 480-541-4210
 Attendance: 480-541-4201
 Health Office: 480-541-4220
 Cafeteria- 480-541-4226
 Kids Club- 480-541-4360

School Hours
 7:45am to 2:35pm
 Mon, Tues, Thurs,
 and Fri
 7:45am to 12:35pm
 Every Wednesday

THREE MESSAGES
 WE WILL SHARE
 WITH YOUR
 CHILDREN EACH
 DAY!

 We believe in them!
 We won't let them
 fail!