



Leading With Heart and Courage

Mirada's Message March 2020

We were honored to be a host site for the *Leader in Me* National Symposium last Wednesday. Our students put on a fabulous production centered around the core values of leadership and they rocked their performance. Additionally, participants visited a number of classrooms and had conversations with our students about their academic learning, their leadership notebooks, and their personal mission statements. All of our Monarchs shined brightly! We had the distinct honor of having Sean Covey, author of *7 Habits of Happy Kids*, join us as well. He was very impressed with our students and school culture that focuses on leadership. The recent *Student Learning and Leadership Showcase* was also an extraordinary event and our attendance was off the charts! Thank you so much for supporting your child's learning in such an exceptional style. Our students are growing and making great progress. We are now looking forward to celebrating their knowledge as our 3rd-5th grade students prepare to take our state assessments. Here is some important information regarding testing as well as some other highlighted opportunities/events for the upcoming weeks.

- ❖ **State Testing for grades 3-5** will begin at the end of the month when 4th grade participates in the AIMS Science assessment. AzMERIT testing will begin the first week of April. Please note the dates (these will be sent home by individual classroom teachers) and do everything you can to assure your child is present for testing.
- ❖ At Mirada Leadership Academy we consider testing season a **celebration of learning** and an opportunity for students to *show off* their skills. "Queen Merit" will make an appearance once again at our kick-off assembly! Each third, fourth, and fifth grader will take the writing, reading, and math portion of AzMERIT, while fourth grade will also take the AIMS Science assessment. Fourth graders will be taking the science assessment on March 26th. AzMERIT will take place during March 30th - April 24th and specific testing days will be spread throughout that window. After spring break, your child's teacher will reach out in class newsletters or through an email communication with the specific dates that your child will test. If you have questions specifically related to state testing, you can reach out to your child's teachers or to Mrs. Anderson, our site testing coordinator.

❖ Using the 7 Habits for Preparing for State Testing Season

- ❖ **Be Proactive:** Make sure to keep a growth mindset during testing season and think of it as something we get to do, rather than something we have to do.
- ❖ **Begin with the End in Mind:** Have a plan to get plenty of rest, a good breakfast and a positive attitude for your testing days.
- ❖ **Put First Things First:** During testing season, make sure you prioritize your big rocks and put the important things first, so that you can focus on the important events in your life.
- ❖ **Think Win-Win:** AzMERIT offers sample assessments <https://azmeritportal.org/sample-tests.html> online that allow students to practice the tools that will be used throughout the test. For example, where to find the text to speech button, where to find the highlighter for the text, and how to navigate through the questions. The purpose for the practice assessments is to have students familiarize themselves with the tools. Practice tests are not for content practice

as that is what they receive each day in the classroom. By practicing at home, it helps the students feel more confident and comfortable. It is a win-win for sure!

- ❖ **Seek First to Understand, and then to Be Understood:** Encourage students to continue to listen and engage in classroom discussions and listen to instruction in school so that they perform to the top of their game on the assessments.
- ❖ **Synergize:** Work together as a family to have a positive attitude about state testing and a positive outlook for the outcome! Here at Mirada, we look at it as a celebration of everyone's learning!
- ❖ **Sharpen the Saw:** Always take time after a testing session or testing day is over to find time to relax your mind, body and soul. Do something you enjoy doing and enjoy time as a family to celebrate the accomplishment!

OTHER UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES/EVENTS

- ❖ **Parent Satisfaction Survey** window is currently open. Only 10 percent of our families have taken the time to complete the survey. We always set a goal of 100%, so we need the other 90% of our families to please take the survey. Let's be the first Kyrene school to hit the 100% mark! Thank you for investing the time in order to provide us with valuable feedback about Mirada Leadership Academy.
- ❖ **Mirada Field Days** will take place on Friday, March 6th for grades 3-5 and Wednesday, April 1st for grades K-2. Watch for more information coming home soon! Volunteers needed!
- ❖ **Spring Break and No School Day** – March 9-16th. Students will return on Tuesday, March 17th.
- ❖ **Community Outdoor Movie Night** – March 27th. Mark your calendars, bring your lawn chairs or blankets out to our field, and enjoy a movie on the large outdoor screen. Food trucks will be onsite so that you can enjoy dinner and a movie all at the same time. More details are provided in the body of this newsletter.
- ❖ **Kindergarten Experience #2** is Friday, March 27th, from 8:15-9:15 AM. Incoming students will spend an hour in a kindergarten classroom enjoying a brief encounter of what is to come! Parents will meet with administration, a kindergarten teacher, and members of our PTO to learn more about Mirada Leadership Academy, our Kindergarten program, and PTO. Some of our student ambassadors will also be providing a school tour. Please plan on joining us and please invite any neighbors or friends who might be interested in learning more about Mirada Leadership Academy kindergarten to come join us as well.

TAX CREDIT DONATIONS

In case you didn't know, and if you haven't yet made a tax-credit donation for your 2019 taxes yet, taxpayers can donate to schools through April 15th. Under the Arizona tax credit program, tax payers can direct a portion of their state income tax to a specific school and at Mirada Leadership Academy, we use the funds for a variety of programs such as field trips, *The Leader in Me* program, Mirada Players Theater Club, new Makerspace Lab resources, additional recess supervision and equipment, guest authors, etc. The maximum tax-credit for an individual is \$200 and for a married couple, \$400. For more information on the tax credit program, go to www.kyrene.org/credit.

Warmly,

Ms. Branch





MIRADA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Incoming students will spend the hour experiencing kindergarten while parents/guardians will spend time with the Principal and a Kindergarten teacher.

Please plan to join us and let neighbors and friends know about this special event!
Please note, Kindergarten enrollment is completed online.

www.kyrene.org

Mark your Calendar

Spring Break

March 9 – March 16

School resumes Tuesday, March 17

ENJOY
SPRING
BREAK

Let's Celebrate Breakfast!

During March, schools throughout the country will celebrate National School Breakfast Week with visits from national, state and local leaders, food demonstrations, games and other activities. It is a great time for your child to try school breakfast!

Breakfast menus are available at
www.kyrene.org/foodservices
to what is being served each day.

KYRENE DISTRICT NEWS

Curriculum Blog

Curriculum & Assessment has begun a new blog entitled, "Curriculum Connections." This is a place to learn about the excellent instruction that is happening in Kyrene classrooms. This blog will be updated periodically and shared on social media. Topics will vary and we hope to have many schools and teachers featured. The first two posts are about the research-based approach to our ELA curriculum and ways families can support reading comprehension at home. Share the page with colleagues and families.

<https://www.kyrene.org/Page/51876>

Kyrene School Quality Survey for Families

A link to this year's survey was emailed to all families. Thank you for taking the time to participate, providing us valuable feedback on areas such as academic preparation, student support and behavior, family involvement, and school leadership. The results help us make sure our schools are places where every student thrives. The survey closes on March 6th. **As always, we appreciate your support!**

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Friday, March 6th

8:30-10:15 a.m.



Kinder, 1st & 2nd

Wednesday, April 1st

8:30-10:15 a.m.

Counselor's Corner

Certified School Counselor: Clarissa Chavez, MSW **P:** 480.541.4369 **E:** cduran Chavez@kyrene.org

Hello Mirada Families, welcome back to Counselor's Corner!

Did you know that every Mirada classroom has a calming area?

What is a calming area?

A calming area is a specific place that your child can visit to take a break and self-regulate (or calm down) when they are feeling sad, angry, stressed or worried.

Why are calming areas important?

When a child takes a break in a quiet calming area, they are able to regulate their brain and body. This allows them to think about how to solve the problem they are experiencing. Once they have calmed down they are capable of communicating to an adult regarding what caused them to be upset and what they need.

How do I help my child use their calming area?

When you notice that your child is becoming sad, frustrated or worried, it is important to remind your child that they may need to visit their calming area. This could sound like, "I see that you are really upset right now, why don't you visit your calming area for 10 minutes and then we can talk about what's bothering you."

What does a calming area look like?

A calming area can look however you and your child decide. Chances are you already have calming area items in your home! Some items that calming areas typical have include:

- Pillows
- Bean bags or other types of comfortable chairs
- Books
- Stress balls
- Stuffed animals
- Coloring supplies

Other helpful items may include a timer or a feelings chart. However, the most important part of a calming area is that it is a quiet space in your home that your child feel is a safe and comfortable place they can go to when they are upset.



YEARBOOK

2019-2020

YEARBOOK SALES

Supply is limited so reserve your copy of this years' yearbook today!
Orders will be filled on a first-come basis.

Orders due by: April 1, 2020 – Cost is \$17.00

You can pay online at www.miradapto.org

Cash (exact change only) and checks (to Mirada PTO) also
accepted in the front office.

Please join us for one of the
most exciting nights of the year!

Movie Night
Friday, March 27th



Featuring:
TOY STORY 4

The gates open at 6pm and
the movie starts at sunset.

Admission is FREE!

This fun family event also
includes FREE face painting.

Food trucks, hot drinks,
and treats will be
available for purchase.

We hope to see
you there!



UPCOMING!

PTO Fundraiser
Restaurant Night

WHEN: Thursday, March 19

WHERE: Barro's Pizza

Warner and Kyrene
8830 S. Kyrene Rd

**Mark your
calendars!**



March 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 PTO Room Parent Celebration 6:30pm	4  Spirit Day	5	6  Field Day 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 ENJOY SPRING BREAK						
15	16 No School	17 School Resumes 	18  Spirit Day Report Cards Go Home	19 Restaurant Night 	20	21
22	23	24 3rd Grade Field Trip	25  Spirit Day	26 4th Grade Science Test	27  Kinder Experience 8:15-9:15AM PTO Movie Night	28
29	30 AZ Merit Testing Begins	31				

Front Office Staff

Principal: Nancy Branch
 Asst. Principal: Michelle Anderson
 Secretary: Tasha Cho
 Attendance: Carol Vidaure
 Health Office:
 Kristi Johnson
 Melissa Stawiecki

Phone Numbers

Front Office: 480-541-4200
 School Fax: 480-541-4210
 Attendance: 480-541-4201
 Health Office: 480-541-4220
 Cafeteria: 480-541-4226
 Kids Club- 480-541-4230

School Hours

7:30am to 2:30pm
 Mon, Tues, Thurs,
 and Fri
 7:30am to 12:30pm
Every Wednesday

THREE MESSAGES WE
 WILL SHARE WITH YOUR
 CHILDREN EACH DAY!



We believe in them!
 We won't let them fail!
 What we are doing here
 is important!