



# Leading With Heart and Courage

## *Mirada's Message May 2020*

Composing this final principal message of the 2019-2020 school year, is not easy. Knowing that some of our families have experienced loss due to the pandemic is heartbreaking. Knowing that the fear of the unknown has caused stress and anxiety to many in our Mirada community moves me to sadness. Not being able to enjoy the presence of our precious Monarchs these past ten weeks and not being able to give those goodbye hugs has tugged at my heart. And yet, while it is a difficult message, it is also a memorandum filled with much pride.

As you well know, without much notice, life as we knew it changed. And with that transformation, came the need to adapt in ways we had never imagined. Alterations and adaptations to teaching and learning required the support of everyone. Kyrene School District leadership embarked on an immediate plan to keep learning going during school closure. Our Mirada students were asked to engage in lessons online ~ separated from their friends and teachers ~ while also becoming very familiar with "Zooming." Mirada teachers supported students with their online learning without being able to bring the art of teaching to their students. They excelled at encouraging their students while also keeping relational connections alive. Our support staff checked in with students who needed additional support. Parents became teachers and worked to help their child stay engaged in the learning even while many were working from home as well. Mirada's PTO supported families in need. A Mirada staff food drive resulted in three SUV's filled with groceries, along with cash donations, to support the Kyrene Family Resource Center. Together we did it! We created. We survived. We served. We cared for each other. I could not be more proud of our entire community! My heart is filled with much gratitude for the Mirada Leadership Academy community as well as the entire Kyrene School District.

Speaker and author, Simon Sinek, likens this time as one which has forced us all into a dark tunnel. But fortunately, we can see the light. While we don't know when that total light will be revealed, we know it will come. We also know that when we come out of the dark tunnel, we will be different people living a new norm. Our lives will not be the preservation of what we had, but rather the creation of what will be. Parents and staff alike are wondering what the next school year will entail. While we don't know the answer to that yet, we recognize that there is an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and our schools and the possibilities may be something greater than we could have imagined. At this moment, scenarios and models for educating our Kyrene students are underway. I am so proud to be part of the Kyrene School District where creative models are already being imagined.

While planning for the next school year is proceeding, this school year has come to a close. I want to thank you for sharing your beautiful children with us this year. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious gifts. Thank you for your extraordinary support in your child's education. Please give your child a hug from me and let them know how extremely proud I am of them for their perseverance and engagement in learning over the past ten weeks. My heart continues to be with you all. Wishing you all peace in the midst of this difficult time.

Warmly,

*Ms. Branch*



HAPPY  
SUMMER

## *Ms. Branch's Farewell to our Extraordinary Fifth Graders*

Dear Fifth Grade Students,

In my long career as a principal, you will be remembered as the fifth-grade class who finished the year stronger than any other. I will recall that you were the class that truly lived our motto of "**Leading with Courage**" as you completed your time at Mirada in the midst of a ten-week long quarantine. You persevered and conquered distance learning. You became experts at "Zooming." You sacrificed the end of the year activities that are part of Mirada Leadership Academy traditions in order to ensure your own safety and the safety of others. Your flexibility, adaptations to change, your leadership, and your extraordinary courage in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic are to be commended. I have known many of you since you started at Mirada in preschool or kindergarten while others of you I met just this year. No matter how long you have been here, please remember that each of you have a special place in my heart.

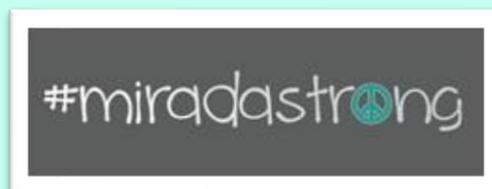
Your fifth-grade class ~class of 2020~ is a fun-loving, caring, and accomplished group of student leaders. You are ready to go show the world that you can and you do make a difference! You are significant and your greatness comes from your hearts. You have matured into remarkable leaders who will be leaving Mirada Leadership Academy with universal principles that will help carry you through the years ahead. The 8 Habits you have learned and lived at Mirada set you apart from others. Your recognition of the importance of being kind to all and leading with heart will serve you well. You are leaving behind a legacy at Mirada that will be remembered as you chose kindness over heartlessness, courage over fear, peace over turmoil, and love over hate. Each of you have touched my life and will not be easily forgotten. I am so proud of my extraordinary fifth graders. I am proud of who you are. Remember to always be you! I am pleased with what you have accomplished and what I know you will achieve in the future.

My wish for each of you is that you go forth and leave a legacy of peace, love, dreams, and leadership wherever you go. I love you all and will miss having you at Mirada. Always remember, once a Mirada Monarch, always a Mirada Monarch! And don't forget that we are always here for you.

Love,

*#quarantinedbutnotforgotten*

*Ms. Branch*



### **Online Curriculum Access and Summer Learning**

Curriculum and Educational Resources will be available to families through the website, learning platforms, and other programs through July 17. This will include i-Ready and Mathia for math support. Wixie and Google Classroom lessons will also continue to be available although teachers will not monitor the platforms as they were during school closure. After July 17, student passwords will be reset to load rosters and prepare for the 2020-21 school year.

We strongly recommended that students continue reading during the summer months. Access to a free, easy-to-use reading app to support regular reading practice at home is accessible through clever. The Rivet app provided access to 3,500+ free books across eight reading levels and 14 categories. It is also recommended that students continue mathematics learning and practice in i-ready and Mathia.

## Important Message Regarding Return of Laptops

Kyrene Families,

If you checked out a loaner laptop (and/or wifi hotspot) from Kyrene for use by your student(s) during the school closure it is now time to return the device to the District Office.

All loaner laptops (and wifi hotspots) will be collected the week of **May 26th - May 29th, 2020** to ensure we have enough time to prepare devices for the 2020-2021 school year.

- Please return your laptop May 26th - May 29th, 2020
- Drop off hours will be 7am - 5:30pm Tuesday through Friday
- Please return the laptop to the same location where you picked it up:  
8700 S Kyrene Road, Tempe AZ 85284 (Kyrene District Office)
- You will not need to get out of your vehicle - collection will occur in a drive-up process.

### **IMPORTANT- Action Required:**

To ensure proper social distancing and efficient traffic flow please select the drop-off time that works best for your family here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945A5A822AA8-kyrene1>

We hope you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

# SUMMER BREAK

## Gifted Child Find Notice

All public school districts have an ongoing "Child Find" obligation. This means that the Kyrene School District will identify, locate and evaluate all children within their geographic boundaries who are in need of special education and related service. Kyrene makes gifted testing available for students at school sites three times per year by application. Applications are due for the first round of testing for 2020-21 on July 20, 2020. If you think your child may be gifted, please visit the website at [www.kyrene.org/gifted](http://www.kyrene.org/gifted) for information about gifted education, services, and testing in Kyrene. More information about the child find process can be found at [www.kyrene.org/ESS](http://www.kyrene.org/ESS).

## Mirada Leadership Academy

*Be Here. Be You. Belong.*

# Mirada Leadership Academy for the Win!

The *Tempe Diablos Charities* hosts an annual celebration to recognize the outstanding and dedicated educators in the Tempe community. During their virtual celebration on May 4<sup>th</sup>, two **Mirada Leadership Academy** teachers were honored.

Third grade teacher, Susan Edinger, was announced as the winner of the *Kyrene Leadership Award*. Ms. Edinger is an educator who provides strong leadership at both the District and school level. Additionally, her enthusiasm inspires others – children and adults alike.

Kindergarten teacher, Kirstin Williams, was recognized as the *Kyrene Teacher of the Year*. Mrs. Williams inspires young minds and helps build a foundation for young children's academic, social, and emotional success. She is a teacher who leads and serves with her heart.

We are so excited that the judges appreciated all that the Mirada community values in these two outstanding educators and selected them to receive these awards. We also appreciate that the *Tempe Diablos Charities* values and celebrates outstanding educators.

*Congratulations,  
Ms. Edinger and Mrs. Williams*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
**AWESOME**  
TEACHERS





# May 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <b>Last Day of School!</b>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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!**