



October 2018

Parents,

## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

Happy Halloween! It is certainly a busy time at Arcadia High School right now with many things that I would like to share with you. I'd like to start by letting you know that our early release professional development time this afternoon was spent furthering our multi-year initiative to embed literacy in all content areas. Our work today focused on teacher collaboration to develop rigorous prompts for students to respond to following their reading of a challenging text selection. I know that early student dismissal times can impact families, so I want you to know that we try to utilize these opportunities to further our collective capacity to help students learn and grow. Our next early release is Wednesday, November 7, 2018 with a focus on technology integration.

In terms of athletics and activities, we are concluding our Fall sports season and heading into Winter sports. I'd like to complement our Fall sports athletes for their successes on and off the field – including our Volleyball Team (qualified for playoffs), Swim and Dive Team (qualified for playoffs), Cross Country Teams, Golf Teams (Boys State Championship with Tucker Clark individual State Champion, Gavin and Chaz Aurilia as top 10 individual medalists) (Girls Golfer Ella Crowson as individual state tournament qualifier), Spiritline Teams, and the Football Team (6 win improvement this season over last). The Spirit of Arcadia Marching Band is concluding its festival season and looking to repeat as State Champions in November. Lastly, this past week saw the curtain rise on our Fall play, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. We have some remarkably talented students here at Arcadia, and it is a joy to see those talents on display.

This past month was also busy in regards to testing. October saw not only PSAT testing, but also SUSD Quarter One Benchmarks in English Language Arts and Mathematics. In November, our testing efforts turn to AzMERIT for students taking off-sequence semester two classes (credit recovery, e-learning) in our AzMERIT tested subjects (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> grade Math and ELA courses).

There are some upcoming events I would like to share with you: Senior Parent Night/Balfour Orders (11/6), Early Release (11/7), Fall Dance Show (11/15 and 11/16), SUSD Showcase at Arcadia (11/17), and Marching Band State Championship (11/17).

I would like to thank all parents who took the SUSD parent survey and those who participated in the community forum to provide input on the SUSD Superintendent Search process.

Professionally,  
Todd Stevens

Principal – Arcadia High School



Did you know that the District offers a Gifted Pre-K Academy at Redfield and now Kiva Elementary for next fall? The Gifted Pre-Kindergarten Academy (GPA) is designed for identified young children who have superior verbal and quantitative abilities. The District's GPA provides an advanced and rigorous academic curriculum while sparking curiosity, igniting creativity and nurturing talent. Students have access to advanced materials in reading and mathematics based on individual student mastery levels. SUSD provides gifted placement screening at the Mohave District Annex to identify gifted students. The testing window opens in November in a one-on-one testing environment. A nonrefundable fee of \$120 is due two days before the scheduled appointment to confirm the testing session. All students must be 4 years old on or before August 31st. For more information on gifted services, call 480-484-5014 or visit

<https://www.susd.org/index.php/programs/susd-gifted-learning>



## DISTRICT CORNER

We often hear from parents that they want to market the District more. Showcase is just one initiative created in response to this request. It's the District's only all-school annual event held especially to "showcase" what is special about each of our schools. Last year, we welcomed more than 3,000 friends, family, staff and students. This year, we want Showcase to be even bigger, so we've moved it to Arcadia High School, 4703 E. Indian School Road. Be sure to invite your friends, family and neighbors who might be going to school outside the District down to Arcadia on Saturday, November 17 from 10 am to 1 pm. In addition to the family-favorite student performances, we'll have on-the-spot job applications and open enrollment so people can apply to join the SUSD family that day. We'll also have food sampling in the cafeteria and school buses for children to check out. There is lots of open green spaces for the little ones to get their exercise while reviewing the displays of each school and our wonderful programs that truly make SUSD the best place to work, learn and support!