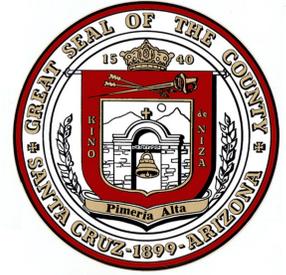


Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez Newsletter



“Education must not simply teach work, it must teach life.” -W.E.B. Du Bois

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Contact Information:

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone number: 520-375-7940

Address: 2150 N. Congress Drive, Ste. 107

Nogales, AZ 85621

[Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office Website](#)

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office serves as the fiscal agent to all school districts in Santa Cruz County, and acts as a liaison to the Arizona Department of Education. Responsibilities include budget assistance, auditing, and approving payments of payroll and expense vouchers submitted from all school districts. Along with basic administrative functions, this office coordinates elections for school districts and maintains records of school personnel certification. This summer, our office was very busy with community outreach, trainings, and summer camps, as well as, hosting one of Santa Cruz County's biggest events; The 2018 Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner Ceremony.



Santa Cruz County School
Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, at the
2018 Teacher of the Year Awards Ceremony

Upcoming Events

- Santa Cruz County Film Festival October | 18-20
- Santa Cruz County Job Fair: Nogales High School | October 10
- Red Ribbon Week | October 23-31
- Meet and Greet Agencies and Schools | November 1
- Hosting Arizona Association of County School Superintendent's Meeting | November 1
- County Spelling Bee | February 8

The 2018 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year



Pictured above from left to right: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, 2018 Teacher of the Year Melissa Jauregui, and Nogales Rotary Club president, Edmundo Gamillo.

The Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year event was held August 10, 2018 at the Quality Hotel Americana in Nogales, AZ. The event was coordinated between the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office and the Nogales Rotary Club. This year's Teacher of the Year recipient was Ms. Melissa Jauregui, a 5th grade elementary school teacher at Calabasas School. She was one of twenty-one participants nominated to receive the award. All nominees were selected by their peers, and the recipient of this year's award was chosen by a panel of judges consisting of teachers and business leaders from within the county.



Pictured above: Dr. Roman Soltero, Principal at Wade Carpenter Middle School, and his daughter enjoying the Teacher of the Year event.



Pictured left: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's office staff after a successful Teacher of the Year event.



Pictured above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez awarding the 2018 Teacher of the Year runner-up, Ms. Gynna Yvette Rosas a 4th grade teacher at Bracker Elementary School.

2018 Summer Camps for Kids

This summer the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office held three summer camps for the community's youth. The three camps included a summer academy hosted by the CREO Program for Youth Career Connect students, the third annual University of Arizona Pharm Camp sponsored by the Healthy Students Grant for students interested in pharmacy and health sciences, and the Summer Robotics Camp. The Young Leaders Rise summer academy took place from June 25-29th. The camp was organized and directed by Ms. Lidielisa Esquivel who obtained a grant from Arizona Area Health Education

Centers. Using seven volunteer seminar leaders, the group organized a week-long camp with various break-out sessions, seminars, career orientation advisors, and many other fun activities, including a field trip to Madera Canyon. The Third annual University of Arizona Pharm Camp invited 7th and 8th grade students to the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College to be introduced to topics in STEM, with a focus in pharmacy and health science. The camp was under the direction of the University of Arizona's Associate Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Theodore Tong. The camp included hands-on activities, field trips, laboratory exercises, and discussions, as well as a culminating project prepared by the students to show what they learned to their families and community. The Summer Robotics Camp was extremely popular with the 3rd through 5th grade students. The week-long camps had students building robots on the first day. As the week progressed, the projects got more intricate and increased in their degree of difficulty. Students

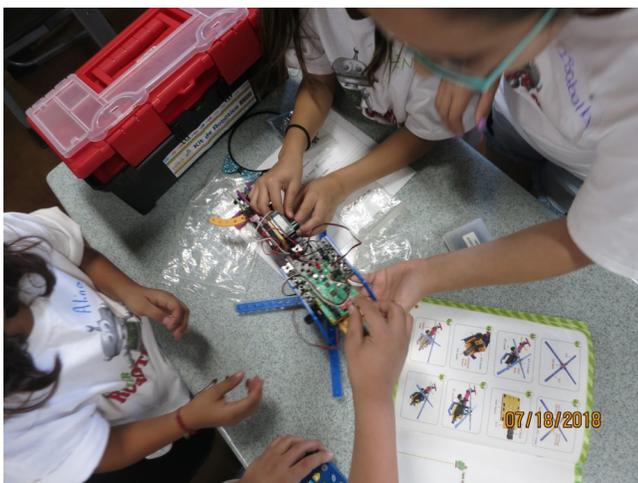
used critical thinking, problem-solving and logic to build each of their structures. However, the most important lessons learned came from working cooperatively in groups and teams in order to accomplish their goals. Instructors Brenda and Carlos Valdez from Zigma Consulting held closing ceremonies on the last day of each of the sessions. Parents were invited to attend as students showcased their robots and competed against other teams. Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent, sponsored all summer events.



Pictured above: Students at the Mariposa Community Health Center during our county's Third Annual Pharm Camp.

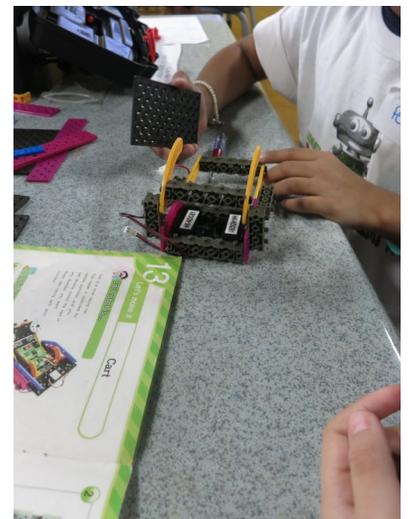


Pictured above: Students at **Young Leaders Rise Summer Academy**.



Picture left: Students from the 2018 **Robotics Summer Camp** assembling a robot.

Picture right: Student reads instructions as other students begin to assemble robots.



Professional Development for Teachers



Pictured above: Shari Attebery instructing the class on **Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child**

Santa Cruz County educators took advantage of a series of professional development opportunities this summer offered by the Superintendent's Office. This allowed teachers to earn continuing education hours and learn new methodologies to take back to their classrooms. The workshops offered were as follows: Teaching Reading Effectively— presented by: Bette Lovelace and Gloria Carrington, Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child— presented by: Shari Attebery, and Designing Active Learning Lessons presented by: Denise Ryan. The course content included current research and evidence-based practices that are necessary for the development of the technical skills of reading along with academic vocabulary and deep comprehension. Important components of an effective comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers,

competent writers, and critical thinkers were included in this five- day training. Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child participants learned strategies for recognizing and responding to students that struggle with anxiety, experience grief, or struggle to control their anger. They also learned how invisible stressors can affect learning and what can be done to help students learn appropriate coping skills for dealing with uncomfortable emotions. Participants learned specific and deliberate student engagement strategies, where they are most appropriate during a lesson, and lesson design. Planning opportunities allowed teachers to incorporate the best practices helping students meet learning targets, achieve more, stay motivated, collaborate, and develop a sense of accomplishment.



Pictured left: Shari Attebery, Counselor for Marana School District, speaking to local teachers.

Pictured right: Denise Ryan, Program Director for Pima County School Superintendent's Office.



Artists in Residence: Erik Cork

Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office is continuing its launch of the arts initiative in our county schools: ***Santa Cruz County Arts for Learning in partnership with Young Audiences***. The program welcomed the first visiting artist in residence for the 2018-2019 school year the week of September 10th – 14th. Erik Cork, author and creator of ***Cork's Coast-to-Coast Classroom: Rebuilding the Writing Foundation***, engaged third grade students and teachers in an all-day writing workshop designed to motivate and encourage all to celebrate a campus-wide love for literacy and language. Mr. Cork and his wife Cynthia, traveled from school to school with a truck load of equipment and student materials until his one of a kind, six hour writing

presentation reached all 660 3rd graders from Elgin K-8, Patagonia Elementary, Little Red School, Lincoln Elementary, Mary L. Welty Elementary, A.J. Mitchell Elementary, Coronado Elementary, Challenger Elementary, Bracker Elementary, Calabasas K-8, Mountain View Elementary, and San Cayetano Elementary. The students and teachers experienced Mr. Cork's dynamic and highly interactive session filled with music, movement, and of course, rap that incorporated writing terminology, English Language Arts strategies, and FUN! Pencils were burning up the pages of the colorful workbook that went hand in hand with the presentation and students could hardly wait to show their finished work to their proud teachers.

Students weren't the only ones enjoying Mr. Cork and his positive energy, teachers walked away with effective approaches to teaching the writing standards and innovative tools to use back in their classrooms to enhance their writing lessons. A community reception was held mid-week to honor the artist in residence at the Americana Hotel where former Young Audiences volunteers, local organizations, and school communities could gather together and get to know the artist and his program. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office sponsored the workshops and evening event with the support of Nogales Unified School District #1 who contributed to help cover costs for Nogales Public Schools. Thank you to District Superintendents and Principals who embraced the project and hosted the workshops. ***Santa Cruz County Arts for Learning*** is looking forward to many more arts integrated activities throughout the school year including the Holiday Nutcracker performance and spring music festivals.



Pictured above: Erik Cork introducing himself to 3rd grades from Bracker, Challenger, and Coronado.



Pictured left: Students from throughout the county working on Erik Cork's Workbook.



Pictured right: Erik Cork interacts with students during his workshop.

2018 Santa Cruz County Fair

The 2018 Santa Cruz County Fair was held from September 20th through the 23rd at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Sonoita, AZ. Students throughout Santa Cruz County were given the opportunity to enter art projects, according to their category, into a contest where they were displayed and judged. Year after year residents throughout Santa Cruz County volunteer to help judge the art contest. The exhibit displayed student's hard work and creative art projects. Besides the art contest, there was much to do at the County Fair. Activities ranged from playing games, to fair rides, to petting zoos. The fair brought families together, as well as the community.



Pictured left: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Santa Cruz County Fair Coordinator Patricia Barraza –Preciado and judges for the fair from throughout the county



Pictured above: Santa Cruz County Attorney Mr. George Silva



Pictured above: Ceramics Threads made from students across the county



Pictured above: Santa Cruz County Special Events Coordinator Patricia Barraza-Preciado

Jump Back to School | Back to School Blitz

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office donated various school supplies that were given out to elementary students at back to school events. Nogales Unified School District #1 held the Jump Back to School event and Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 held the Back to School Blitz. Along with these two events, supplies were also donated to east county public schools. In total, over 1500 elementary students from throughout the county received donated school supplies from our office.



Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez handing out pencil boxes, markers, crayons, and backpacks



Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez

Vote 4 Education

An Excellence Education for all Arizona students

We all want the best future for Arizona students. That means high school can no longer be the finish line. In today's world, the majority of jobs require more education or training. We must work together to ensure every child has access to an excellent education that prepares him or her to succeed. This is an issue that impacts all of us – Arizona's economy and our overall quality of life.

We have dedicated educators and hard-working students, but they can't do it alone. As voters, our children are counting on us to make sure education is a top priority for our elected leaders. Being an informed voter is both an opportunity to change the future, and a deep responsibility that every American shares.

Why Your Vote Matters

In a few short months, Arizonans will head to the polls to make their voices heard on everything from our governor to local school district bonds and overrides. Elected officials impact education in a variety of ways, from statewide decisions on funding to local determinations about curriculum.

To learn more, visit ExpectMoreArizona.org/Vote, where you'll find key questions to ask candidates, voter guides, more details about bonds and overrides, and easy tools to contact your elected leaders.

**VOTE 4
EDUCATION**

Introducing Our Program Director for First Things First Home Visitation Grant



Pictured above: Clair Danielson, First Things First Grant Director

On July 1, 2018, the Santa Cruz County Superintendent's Office was awarded the First Things First Home Visitation Grant, Los Padres son Los Primeros Profesores ("Los Padres"). Los Padres will serve a minimum of 62 families in our community with various needs ranging from teen parents and first time parents, to grandparents raising grandchildren and court appointed legal guardians. The program is designed to serve pregnant moms and children between the ages of 0-48 months. The Program Director, Clair Danielson, will be hiring one full time and four part-time Parent Educators whom will be serving the educational and developmental needs of the children and families in the home. Parent Educators will be conducting a minimum of bi-monthly visits to all families and will increase that amount as needed. Los Padres Parent Educators will receive a week-long training in the Parents as Teachers Curriculum in Phoenix at the end of October. In addition to attending the Parents as Teachers Curriculum training, the Program Director will also be attending the Parents as Teachers Conference in early October. All interested families, with pregnant moms and children 0-48 months, are encouraged to call the Superintendent's Office for additional information

Meet the Staff



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent



Christopher Young
Chief Deputy
Santa Cruz County School
Superintendent's Office



Maya Donnelly
CREO Program Director
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office



Teresa A. Sprigg
Governor's Healthy
Families/Healthy Youth
and Healthy Students
Program Director
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's
Office



Danna Gallardo
Education Director
Santa Cruz County
Juvenile Detention
Education Program



Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina
Bookkeeper
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office



Patricia Barraza-Preciado
Accounting Specialist/
Special Events
Coordinator Santa Cruz
County School
Superintendent's Office



Adrian Chamberlain
Secretary
Santa Cruz County
School
Superintendent's Office



Sergio Delgado
Office Clerk
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office