



# OSBORN

## Superintendent's September Update

**TO: GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF & COMMUNITY**  
**FROM: Dr. Michael Robert**  
**DATE: September 30, 2023**

### **Osborn Seeks \$100 Million Bond and Continuation of Capital Override**

This November, community members within the **Osborn School District** boundaries will be asked to vote on a Bond initiative of \$100 million and the continuation Osborn School District's District Additional Assistance (Capital) Override. The funds from the DAA Override make sure teachers have the technology and curriculum supports needed for high quality teaching and learning. It is a continuation of the DAA Override passed in 2017. Since this is a continuation event, there is no tax increase for the DAA override. Bond funding will be used for the construction of a performance / auditorium facility, facilities and grounds improvements, classroom modernization projects, and an energy efficient (EV) bus fleet. The state funding formulas are inadequate to keep up with the district's capital needs. Without these bond and override funds, the district will not be able to maintain and upkeep facilities as well as provide for the future of the school facilities in the way the community has come to expect. Please review the district override [Fact Sheet](#) for financial and program information.



### **OSDEF Honors Osborn's Teachers of the Year**

[Osborn School District Educational Foundation](#) invites you all to **BUY TICKETS NOW** for the Osborn Teachers of the Year celebration on Saturday, October 22. We will honor the 3 educators selected as Osborn's Teachers of the Year:

**Maria Green**  
**Jorge Meza**  
**Dachi Regis**

Longview Elementary 3<sup>th</sup> Grade Dual Language Teacher  
Clarendon Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Encanto Elementary Special Education Teacher



**LAST CHANCE** to  
buy your tickets  
for this amazing  
celebration. Click  
the link [HERE](#) for  
tickets.

# Encanto Student Involvement off to a Fast Start

All of our Osborn schools have launched student clubs and activities, but at **Encanto School**, a campus for students ages 3-9, leadership gets to be demonstrated at the earliest of ages. Most schools will see a student council for a traditional pre-K-6<sup>th</sup> grade campus with its highest leaders being pre-adolescents. But at Encanto those leadership roles are held by students that are just 7- and 8-years old! These amazing Encanto leaders received certificates of membership from their principal, **Felipe Carranza**. Leadership skills are not something that



*Student Council 2023-2024*



**Encanto's Girl Scouts 2023-2024!**

just come to a child automatically. Students get opportunities to learn and build those skills in class, but there are also ways to create further learning in afterschool classes and clubs. Encanto has a thriving troop of near 20 **Girl Scouts** that held their first meeting earlier this month, building friendship and so much more. Encanto also has a beautiful way of building a warm culture within the school by gathering the whole student body and parents together in its beautiful central amphitheater to celebrate one another and Osborn's Core Values. In September they celebrated Joy in school. They showed that beautifully in unison, led by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, through singing an Encanto School song that celebrates who they are as Encanto Roadrunners when they come together each day. The song was written by Encanto's music teacher **Jordan Blanton**.

You can watch and listen at [this link](#).

## Montecito Students Celebrate and Encourage Peace

Dr. Maria Montessori once said, "Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war." The Montessori students at **Montecito Community School** gathered to enhance this message on September 21, the International Day of Peace. Students presented families, staff, and community members with peace-related items: music, flowers, olive branches, and more. Students also came together to sing "Light a Candle for Peach," a message you may see written in the student messages in pictures.



## The Day is Just Getting Started....

That's the message at **Osborn Middle School** right about 4:00pm every day, because when the school day ends, the afterschool activities begin! Are you into sports? How about volleyball and soccer. You like clubs? Try out Cooking Club, Drama Club, Arts & Crafts, Gardening, Culture & Language, Photography, Mural Club, Board Game Club, and Robotics. How about leadership, social, and self-care learning activities?

Then come to Rooted Sol, Self-Care Besties, or Student Council. And if you just need a good spot to be before the school day begins, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Firehawk Academy has both Open Gym and Open Library from 7:30-8:30. There's always something for everybody at OMS!





## Solano Students Celebrate New Solano Park Additions



thank you to the **City of Phoenix Parks Department** for bringing this vision to life and to Cowtown Skateboards for giving away skateboards to our (thrilled!) kiddos...again!

One year ago we were recognizing **Cowtown Skateboard's** "Boards in the Barrio" event at Solano Park as they continued to work with the City of Phoenix in anticipation of the opening of the skate park they had encouraged and worked on for years. On September 18, **Solano School** students had the honor of attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the brand new Solano Park Skate Park, led by **Councilwoman Betty Guardado** (an Osborn parent 😊)! The transformation of this park, with a skate park, refinished basketball court, and new pickleball courts, is incredibly exciting, and we can't wait to see our Solano students taking advantage of the amazing things that have been accomplished here! Humongous



## OMS – PXU Partnerships Thrive

**Osborn Middle School** and **Phoenix Union High School District** have partnered over the years, brought together by the amazing work of OMS and Clarendon music teacher **Julia Georges**. OMS band students have had the chance to alternate years of performing with our feeder schools of **Central High School** and **North High School**. OMS band students have either

performed at football games or in concert with their marching bands or concert bands. This past weekend, OMS band students attended a Central High School football game and were able to play in-game and half-time music with the Central marching band, while encouraging the cheer squad and football teams at Central to a rousing 63-7 victory! Way to go OMS Bands! Hopefully they are able to envision themselves in a year or two marching and playing under those Friday Night Lights. And thanks for the Instagram shout-out, Bobcats.

PHOENIX  
**PXU**  
UNION



## AZTR Year 2 in Full Swing

Osborn was fortunate to be one of the inaugural districts participating in the **Arizona Teacher Residency Program** last year, with 7 amazing educators teaching in Osborn schools this year. For the 2023-24 school year, 4 residents are placed in Osborn, being supported through their coursework and classroom placements by amazing

Osborn mentor teachers, as well as by district program coordinator **Kelly Kesterson-Walker**. This year they are in class 4 days per week, with Fridays dedicated to coursework at the Arizona K-12 Center. Here you can see them in their Structured English Immersion course taught by 2021 National Teacher of the Year **Juliana Urtubey**. Recruitment is beginning for Cohort 3 to begin in fall 2024. To inquire about more information, click the link [here](#).





## Hispanic Heritage Month in Osborn Schools

Osborn's schools are all kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15-October 15 as a show of pride in the richness of culture present in our city, among staff and students, and celebrated and studied in our dual language programs.

**Clarendon School** encourages Latino/a pride and excellence and the role education can play to move our students forward. Trauma Surgeon and Clarendon mom, Dr. Gina Renteria Shirah, spoke to 6<sup>th</sup> grade dual language students as a part of their speaker series for Hispanic Heritage Month. **Longview School** staff and students kicked off the month with a day of celebration as many came to school wearing cultural attire.



## Osborn Is a RISE Grant Recipient!



We are happy to announce that Osborn is an Arizona Department of Education Raising Indigenous Success in Education (RISE) Grant recipient. This \$60,000 grant will allow us to introduce additional supports for our Native American students and families with a focus on Longview and Osborn Middle School. We have hired **Enriqueta Wanatee Diego** as a liaison to provide additional support with student and family engagement. She will work side-by-side with **Amber Stevens**, Osborn's Native American Specialist. The grant will also support a Native American Committee that will plan and facilitate multiple family events at each school beyond the quarterly

parent meetings. You can always learn more and support our Native students by attending and being part of our quarterly Native American Parent meetings. Check school calendars and our social media channels regularly for dates and details.

### Board Meetings

- Tuesday, October 10: OSDEF Meeting; 5:00pm
- Thursday, October 12: Special Meeting of Osborn Governing Board; 5:30pm
- Tuesday, October 17: Regular Meeting of Osborn Governing Board, 5:30pm
- Thursday, November 2: Work Study Session of the Osborn Governing Board; 4:30pm

### Upcoming Events

- Monday, October 2: OMS Girls' Soccer and JV Volleyball
- Tuesday, October 3: CL Fall Concert, 6:00
- Wednesday-Friday, October 4-6: ½ days of school and Parent-Teacher Conferences for all schools
- Wednesday, October 4: OMS Choir and Band Concert, 6:00
- Monday-Friday, October 9-13: NO SCHOOL, Fall Break
- Monday-Friday, October 16-20: National School Lunch Week Celebrated in all district cafeterias
- Tuesday, October 17: OMS Girls' Volleyball and Girls' Soccer
- Thursday, October 19: OMS Boys' Soccer
- Wednesday, October 25: ENC Planting Day
- Friday, October 27: ENC Fall Festival, Movie Night, and Canned Food Drive
- Tuesday, October 31: ENC Halloween Parade
- Tuesday, November 7: Election Day—Bond and DAA Override on the ballot!



Click the links to follow Osborn School District on our Social Media Platforms

