



# BESD BUZZ

A COMMUNITY PASSIONATE ABOUT STUDENT SUCCESS

FALL 2023

**CS100 AWARD**  
**ONE OF ONLY 11**  
**AZ SCHOOLS**  
**RECOGNIZED**

**LEADER IN ME**  
**PROGRAM**

**AN EXAMPLE FOR AZ SCHOOLS**



**PLUS**

**5-STAR**  
**KITCHENS:**  
**BESD CAFETERIAS**  
**RANKED**



# BUCKEYE DISTRICT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO BECOME LEADERS WITH NEW PROGRAM

The Buckeye Elementary School District is implementing a new program at two of their campuses this year. Leader In Me will be an ongoing program designed to capitalize leadership among students.

Kindergarten through 8th grade students will be participating in this new initiative that will incorporate the teaching of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. In addition, all students involved will be provided with leadership roles in the classroom to further strengthen the curriculum and provide students with real-world experiences.

The district's mission is to strive for continuous improvement to ensure all students are prepared to excel in a global society. As part of the program's paradigms, students will learn:

- "Everyone can be a leader.
- Everyone has genius.
- Change starts with me.
- Empower students to lead their own learning.
- Educators and families partner to develop the whole person.

In looking for ways to strive for excellence we saw Leader In Me as an opportunity to develop leadership capabilities within our students," says Dr. Anna Carino, principal at WestPark Elementary.

The program began this school year at WestPark and Inca Elementary Schools.

[READ THE KJZZ ARTICLE HERE](#)

# JOHN S. MCCAIN III ELEMENTARY RECEIVES CS100 AWARD

*for commitment to computer science*



John S. McCain III Elementary School was recognized nationally for its commitment to providing at least ten hours of computer science to every K-5 student in the 2023-2024 school year.

Buckeye Elementary School District's newest campus is the only free C-STEM school in the west valley. With a state-of-the-art building and a competitive curriculum, the school continues to break the traditional school environment and has become a model for schools across the nation.

Currently, the school embeds core content with various form of technology into daily lesson plans. Staff and students engage in computer literacy, robotics, AI, 3D printing and virtual reality across each grade level, on a weekly basis.

"Just as technology grows and adapts we must continue to expose our students to the newest technological advancements and how they can use this knowledge to better themselves and their communities. We do not view computer science as a special class that only some students get to participate in- all our students engage in computational thinking and computer science," says Dina Cegelka, principal at JSM III.

John S. McCain III Elementary was only one of 11 schools in Arizona to be awarded across the nation.

#BESDISTHEBEST

AS SEEN ON TV ...



A Valley school is getting high marks for its computer science program. FOX 10's Anita Roman has more from John S. McCain III Elementary School.

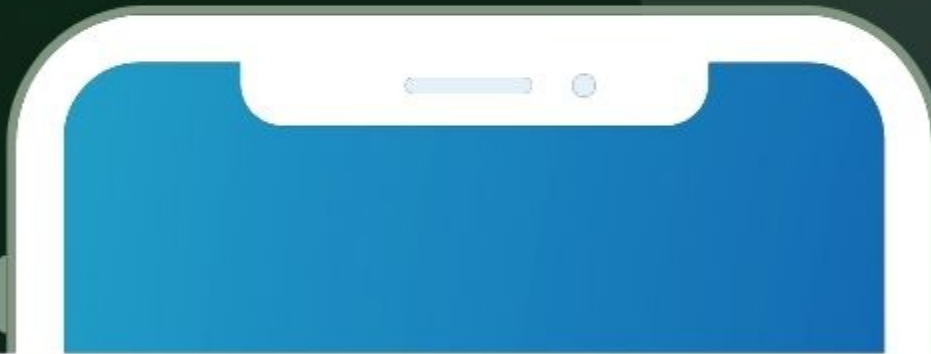
NEW

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NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPT. 4TH



INSPIRING THE COMMUNITY

# TIGERS FIGHT TOGETHER

*Buckeye students run 5k to support classmate battling cancer*



A group of twenty elementary school students participated in a 5K run to support their nine-year-old classmate who is currently battling cancer.

Marionneaux Elementary School's Run Club participated in the CHAMP 5K Run for Childhood Cancer Awareness in Tempe to raise awareness for their classmate's condition.

Their third grade classroom peer, Michael, has been battling cancer for five years. After getting news that the family's insurance won't cover Michael's new treatment, classmates decided to help the family and raise awareness through a 5k run that promotes childhood cancer awareness.

"It makes me incredibly proud to see our Marionneaux students and staff supporting Michael's journey and raise awareness for kids like him who are all fighting this horrific disease. It has been an honor and inspiration to see Michael on campus as he continues his fight and his journey," says Nick Forgette, principal at Marionneaux Elementary.

Micheal's treatment team at Phoenix Children's Hospital are in the process of appealing the insurance's decision. To read more about Michael's story, please visit their page [here](#).



WATCH THE ABC15 STORY HERE



## DID YOU KNOW?

Buckeye ESD is the biggest employer in the city?

We are proud to have more than 700 staff members grow with us!

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE



# BESD GROWS TOGETHER

*a message from BESD's acting superintendent*

Great things are happening in our district and we are eager to accelerate our rapid improvement in regards to student learning, as well as our efforts to deeply engage the community as a vital partner. Buckeye is one of the fastest-growing cities in the entire nation and a strong public education system is an essential component of any future success; quite simply, when our students do well, they are best positioned to support the needs of a growing community.

They are our future leaders, workers, innovators, and community role models - and we are committed to facilitating their success.

No school district can be successful without a strong community-district partnership, and you will notice my focus on strengthening that relationship. I am eager to work directly with city, community, and business leaders to coordinate and maximize our efforts.

Together, we have directly aligned interests and a shared need to answer the question: how can we collaborate for the betterment of the community that we all love? I can think of no more exciting challenge.

READ OUR DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLAN



Thank you for your continued support of our students and our schools!

*Dr. Chad Vanese*  
Acting Superintendent



## 5-STAR KITCHEN

Buckeye ESD was recognized by Arizona's Family Dean's List for following proper health code procedures set by Maricopa County's Environmental Services Department. Congratulations to the BESD child nutrition staff!



voted as the **BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** AND TOP 3 BEST PLACES TO WORK



A PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE **high-performing district**

[besd33.org](http://besd33.org)

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WHY BUCKEYE? LEARN ABOUT OUR CAREERS HERE



# BESD BUZZ



**BESD**  
**GROWS**  
*together*



**Grow With Us!**  
enroll today

