



# CHALLENGER NEWS

December 12, 2025

## Upcoming Mariposa Events

### DECEMBER

NEHS Kindness Food Drive continuing through December 15

15 - Last day of NEHS Kindness Food Drive

16 - Governing Board Meeting, 6:00pm

19 - Lost & Found packed up for Kyrene Resource Center  
Last day of the Quarter 2

22 - Jan 5 - Winter Break, Schools Closed

### JANUARY

6 - School Resumes, First Day of Quarter 3

**Reminder: Every Wednesday is Early Release at 12:15pm  
Every Friday is Mariposa Spirit Day!**

## Message from Principal

Dear Families,

The first half of the 2025-26 school year is ending. As we approach this holiday season, I am grateful that Mariposa is fortunate to have a community that supports their children and provides the encouragement needed to experience the success imperative to their educational and personal development. This has been evidenced repeatedly over the last several months as our community has come together to advocate for Mariposa to remain open. A decision will likely be made at the Kyrene Governing Board meeting on Tuesday, December 16th @ 6:00 P.M.

This week has been an active and engaging time for our students and our families. We celebrated National Computer Science Week with Chip's Gaming Adventure activities in every classroom, our PTO hosted the Polar Express, Penguin Path and Barro's Restaurant Night and we ended the week with Childsplay performances. You will find a Streamyard Video of Chip's Gaming Adventure activities below and we will be posting on social media in coming days featuring how technology is used within the curriculum to

enhance student learning. An added feature this year was watching students from First and Fifth and Kindergarten and Fourth grades collaborate during the activities.

Simultaneously, I am excited about the Spring of the 2025-26 school year. When we return, following the holiday break, we will celebrate our diversity with the Mariposa World Fair on Saturday, January 10th from 12:00 - 2:00.

Your tax credit contributions continue to have an impact on Mariposa students and classrooms. We have been able to use the funds for field trips, First Lego League Club which is competing on Saturday, Broadcast Team, continue our tradition of our NEHS Club and purchase additional items for our school store to name a few. Thank you for continuing to make Mariposa a priority in your tax credit giving. Please see important details below.

***The deadline for making a tax credit contribution is April 15th.*** Law ARS 43-1089 (E) allows taxpayers to receive a tax credit up to \$400 for a joint tax return. Individual returns are a \$200 maximum credit. **That is a tax credit - a dollar for dollar reduction of what you owe in state taxes!** You can make your contribution online at <http://www.kyrene.org/credit>, download a form from the website, use the one included in this newsletter and send it in or pick up a form at Mariposa's front office. Thank you for your continuing support.

On behalf of the Mariposa Family, we would like to wish you a joyous holiday season! Your kindness, generosity and commitment to your children's learning are admired and appreciated! Our staff is grateful for your ongoing support. I look forward to welcoming Mariposa's students and families back to school on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 as we begin the third quarter of the 2025-26 school year.

Your Partner in Learning,

Spencer Fallgatter, Principal

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## Computer Science Week 2025

We had a great week celebrating Computer Science Week (CSEd Week) here at Kyrene de la Mariposa Computer Science Academy. Our students throughout all of our classrooms took part in a fun gaming adventure working together to showcase their computer science and robotics skills with new projects and some buddy classrooms! Thank you to our Computer Science and Innovation team for planning this fun event and to all of our teachers for making it a successful adventure! Mr. Ballatore was our emcee walking us through the adventures in the classrooms.

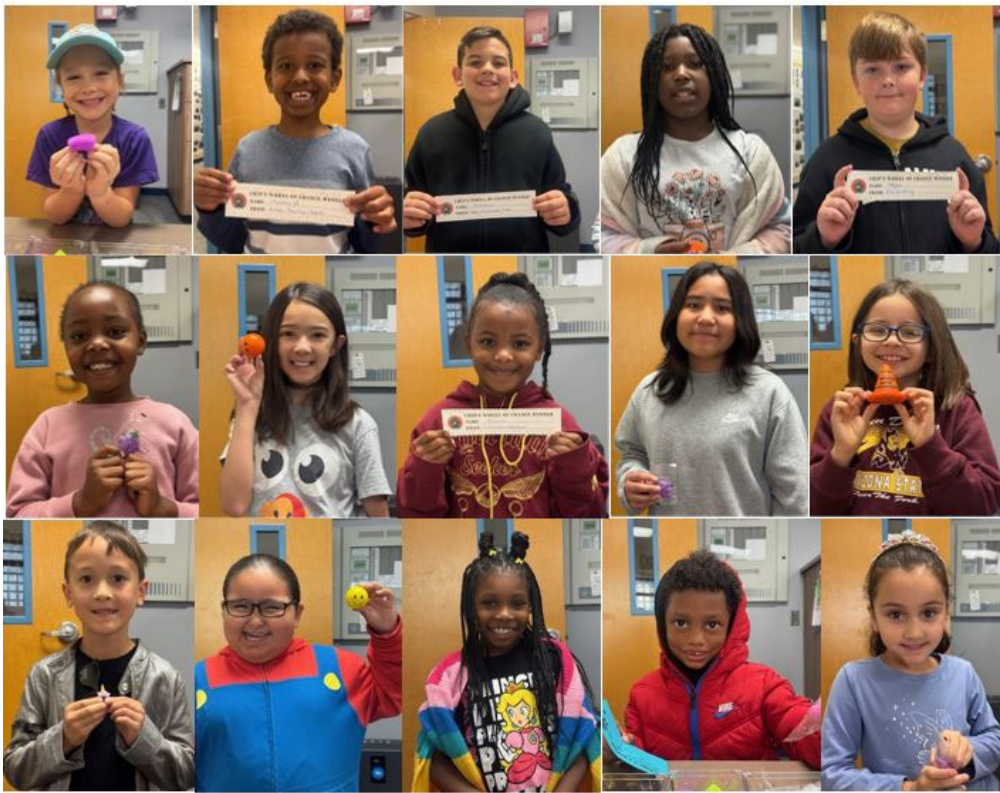
Please sit back and watch our [Chip's Gaming Adventure 2025](#)



## Chip's Cheers Winners!

Students who have received Chip's Cheers were recognized by teachers or staff as a leader on campus by following Chip's Way:  
**Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.**  
 Congratulations!

K	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Eliza	Aisha	Azariah	Ariah	Livi	Sebastian
Isaiah	Emma	Connor	Ashonti	Kiarah	Bryson
	Za'Kai	Danica	Hussein	Troy	Emma
		Levi		Kamal	



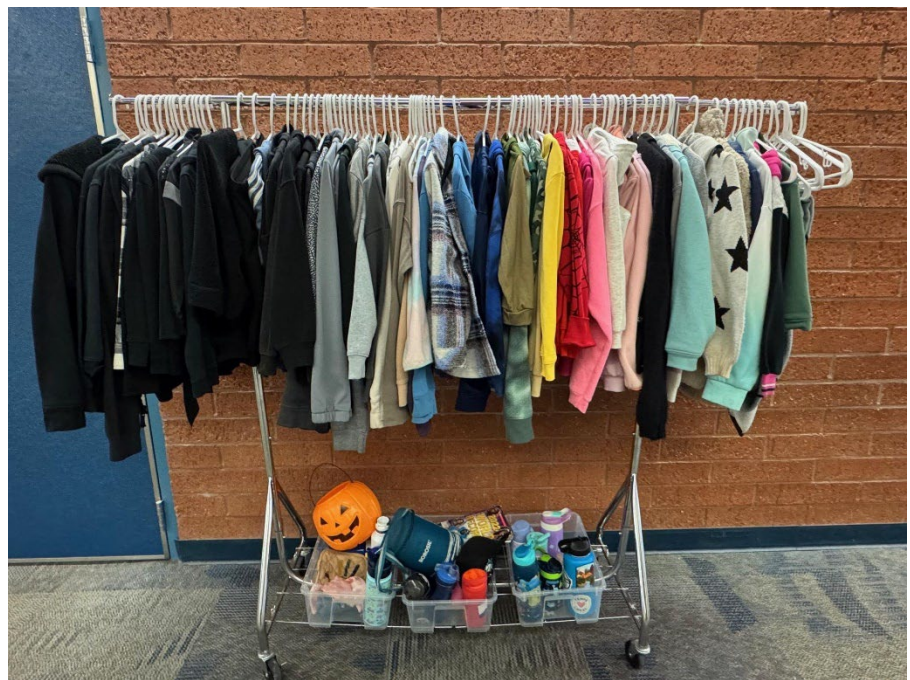
## Lost & Found

### Parents:

Please remind your student to claim their lost items.

The lost and found will be outside in the front of the school at dismissal time for parents to look through for any of their students missing items.

Any items remaining after December 19 will be donated to the Kyrene Family Resource Center.



## NEHS Kindness Food Drive

It's the final push for our NEHS Kindness Food Drive. This coming Monday, Dec 15 will be the last day to drop off donations to the food drive helping our community. The boxes are filling up but there is always room for more.

They are asking for the following items:

CANNED PROTEIN  
(tuna, chicken, salmon, etc.)  
PEANUT BUTTER  
JELLY  
CEREAL

Please have your student bring any donations to their classrooms and the Mariposa NEHS will collect everything.

All donations will benefit our Kyrene Family Resource Center. Thank you for your support.



## Childsplay Theatre at Mariposa

Thank you to your continued tax credit donations we are able to continue to invite Childsplay Theatre to our school. Childsplay performed two shows of their show, The Imaginators. It was such enjoyable experience for the students to get whisked away into a land of imagination! Thank you for your continued tax credit donations and your support of Kyrene de la Mariposa.

About the Show:

### The Imaginators *By Dwayne Hartford*

Moving to a new town means new schools, new friends, and big changes. Anne is determined to fit in, even if it means ignoring her younger brother, Tim. But when they meet their quirky next-door neighbor, Nina Frances Elizabeth Vanderhelden, she opens the door to a world of make-believe, adventure, and unexpected bravery. With only a few moving boxes and wild imaginations, the three set out on an epic journey—battling the child-eating Mooklecratz, creating secret worlds, and discovering the power of storytelling.

The Imaginators is a heartwarming and humorous play that reminds us that imagination is a superpower, friendships are found in unexpected places, and the best adventures begin when you dare to play.





## Polar Express Night

Thank you Mariposa PTO for hosting our Annual Polar Express Night on Wednesday, Dec . Our Polar Express Conductor (aka Principal Fallgatter) read the holiday classic Polar Express to our students while they enjoyed cookies and crafts. Thank you families for coming out and making this a memorable event for the season.



## AZPBIS Achievement Award




Hi Mariposa families,

Thank you again for your support of our **Kindness is Sweet Fundraiser!** We appreciate all the volunteers who made the Day of Awesomeness a fun time for all Mariposa students!


We've taken the guess work out of holiday gift ideas for our amazing Mariposa teachers and staff. Learn what they like and get great gift ideas. [2025-2026 Mariposa PTO Teacher and Staff Favorites](#)




Teacher Gift Wrap-A-Thon Thursday, December 18th starting at 7:30am - Join us to wrap gifts for our amazing Mariposa Teachers! If you can't donate your time, please consider donating tape, holiday wrapping paper, gift bows, or holiday gift tags that can be dropped off at the front office through December 17th. [Holiday Gift Wrap-A-Thon for Mariposa Teachers](#)



Shopping for the holidays? Get your family and friends a gift card to Main Event and 50% of the proceeds go to Mariposa! More info here: [Main Event Gift Card FUNdraiser](#)



**Main Event Fun Cards Supporting  
Kyrene de la Mariposa PTO**



-   
Per Order  
**\$20**
-   
Donated Back  
**50%**
-   
Order by  
**January 1**

[Order](#) <https://groupai.se/mainevent67069s>  

## PTO Calendar of Events



We've made it easy for you to stay in sync with our events. **Subscribe to the PTO calendar and MAGIC...** it appears alongside your personal calendar.

Android Calendar: [Android PTO Calendar](#)

iPhone: [iPhone PTO Calendar](#)

## Mariposa PTO Family Directory

## [View the Family Directory](#)

Please reach out to us at [kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com](mailto:kyrenemariposapto@gmail.com) or send us a message on [Instagram](#) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

### Your Mariposa PTO Board

Co-Presidents:

Jennifer Olonan and Kelsey Wolf-Donnay

Secretary: Jennifer Pratt

Treasurer: Sarah Alexander

In-School Support: Jeni Fuhrmann

Fundraising: Suzanne Percy



## Connect with the PTO:

[Mariposa PTO Facebook](#)

[Mariposa PTO Instagram](#)

[Mariposa PTO Website](#)

## District Communication

### Support Our Families This Season.

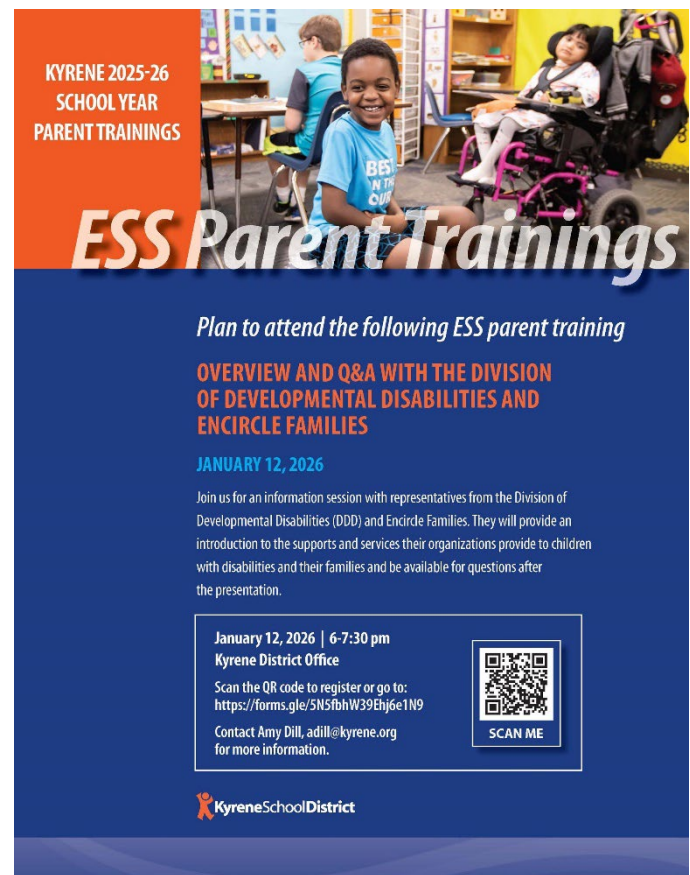
More Kyrene families are counting on community support this holiday season. The Kyrene Foundation's Winter Wonderland Donation Drive provides gift cards so families can purchase holiday meals and gifts for their children. **With a 35% increase in need, the Foundation aims to raise \$50,000 to support more than 1,300 students.** Currently, just over \$13,000 has been raised. Every contribution brings warmth and hope. Monetary donations can be made through the [Kyrene Foundation's website](#).

## ESS Parent Training: January

Overview and Q&A with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Encircle Families.

Join us for an information session with representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Encircle Families. They will provide an introduction to the supports and services their organizations provide to children with disabilities and their families and be available for questions after the presentation.

[Registration for Overview with DDD and Encircle Families](#), Jan 12, 2026, 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the District Office.

The poster features a photograph of a young boy in a wheelchair smiling, with other children in the background. The text on the poster includes: 'KYRENE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR PARENT TRAININGS', 'ESS Parent Trainings', 'Plan to attend the following ESS parent training', 'OVERVIEW AND Q&A WITH THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND ENCIRCLE FAMILIES', 'JANUARY 12, 2026', a description of the session, a QR code with 'SCAN ME' text, and contact information for Amy Dill at the Kyrene District Office.

KYRENE 2025-26  
SCHOOL YEAR  
PARENT TRAININGS

# ESS Parent Trainings

*Plan to attend the following ESS parent training*

**OVERVIEW AND Q&A WITH THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND ENCIRCLE FAMILIES**


**JANUARY 12, 2026**

Join us for an information session with representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Encircle Families. They will provide an introduction to the supports and services their organizations provide to children with disabilities and their families and be available for questions after the presentation.

January 12, 2026 | 6-7:30 pm  
Kyrene District Office

Scan the QR code to register or go to:  
<https://forms.gle/5N5fbhW39Ehj6e1N9>

Contact Amy Dill, [adill@kyrene.org](mailto:adill@kyrene.org)  
for more information.

 SCAN ME

 KyreneSchoolDistrict

## Long-Range Planning Information

Kyrene School District recently added a new section to the long-range planning web page with data, charts and other frequently requested information related to potential school consolidation. You can find this new section, along with proposed boundary maps, FAQs, links to meeting videos, committee information and all related communications over the past year at [www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan](http://www.kyrene.org/longrangeplan).

## REPEAT INFORMATION

## Support Kyrene de la Mariposa with the Arizona Tax Credit

Your tax credit contributions to our Computer Science Academy continue to positively impact Mariposa students and classrooms. Thank you for considering supporting Mariposa with your tax credit giving, and thank you for being a part of our school.



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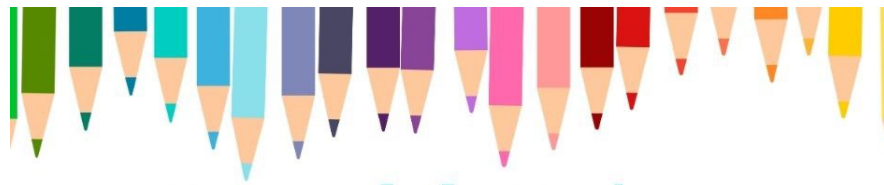
## Kyrene de la Mariposa Kindergarten Showcase

Do you have a kindergartener ready to start their learning journey—or are you new to the community? Join us for our Kindergarten Showcase Night on Wednesday, January 14 at 5:30pm!

This special evening is your chance to meet our exceptional teachers, explore our classrooms, and learn about the unique programs that make our school such a wonderful place to grow and learn.

Come see firsthand how we integrate technology, nurture curiosity, creativity, and confidence in every child.

We can't wait to welcome your family to our community!



# Kyrene de la Mariposa

Computer Science Academy

## Kindergarten Showcase

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

5:30pm - 6:30pm



This is for incoming 26-27 school year kindergarten students. We invite you to join us and discover why Mariposa is the right choice for your family.



### Contact Us

**Kyrene de la Mariposa**  
50 E Knox Rd  
Tempe, AZ 85284

**Phone:** 480-541-3800  
**Fax:** 480-541-3810  
**Attendance:** 480-541-3801

**School Hours:** 7:30 am - 2:15 pm  
*Early Release Wed: 12:15 pm*

**Office Hours:** 7:00 am - 3:30 pm  
*Wednesday: 7:00 am - 1:30 pm*



**ADAPTABLE LEARNER • SELF-ADVOCATE • COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR**  
**COMMUNICATOR • CRITICAL THINKER • PROBLEM SOLVER • COLLABORATOR**  
**READY FOR THE FUTURE. HIGH SCHOOL. COLLEGE. CAREER. LIFE.**

A+ School of Excellence™

