



CHALLENGER NEWS

December 19, 2025

Upcoming Mariposa Events

DECEMBER

- 19 - Last day of the Quarter 2
- 22 - Jan 5 - Winter Break, Schools Closed

JANUARY

- 6 - School Resumes, First Day of Quarter 3
- 7 - EARLY RELEASE, 12:15pm
- 10 - Annual Mariposa World Fair, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
- 12 - Mariposa PTO Meeting, 5:30pm-6:30pm, Library
- 14 - Kyrene del Pueblo Showcase Night, 5:00pm-6:30pm
- 21 - Kyrene Middle School Showcase Night, 5:00pm-6:30pm

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



Message from Principal

Dear Mariposa Community,

As Superintendent Toenjes shared with our community earlier this week, the Kyrene Governing Board has made the difficult decision to close six Kyrene schools. While Mariposa is not on the list, of which I am grateful, our school community will still experience changes because of school closures.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation and gratitude to the parents, staff and students who played a role in keeping “Mariposa Together.” Mariposa is a very special community, anchored by caring and committed families who put their children at the heart and center of their decision making.

At the same time, there are three schools that will close at the end of this year and three the following year. One of those schools is Pueblo Middle School, which will close in the 2027-28 school year. Many of our families have students who have attended, who currently attend or who are slated to attend in the next couple of years. As our Superintendent, Laura Toenjes, stated earlier, this will bring sadness, uncertainty and a deep sense of loss. Kyrene del Pueblo has been an important part of the Mariposa community for the last thirty-eight years.

It is an important time to come together and provide support to all Kyrene schools, their families and most importantly the students as our district makes this transition. I am confident that Kyrene will continue to grow and thrive.

I could not be prouder than to be the principal of such a wonderful school and would like to wish our families and their children a blessed and joyous holiday break!

Sincerely,

Spencer Fallgatter, Principal

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 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Layla	Luna	Ian	Lucas	Marilynn	Carys
Lena	Iris	Kayden	Asher	Mayah	
	Hannah		Iyonna	Jayce	



Thank You Students!

On today's morning announcements, Principal Fallgatter gathered the students who attended Kyrene Governing Board meetings and/or the Kyrene Public Hearings over the past few months to say "Thank you!". Some of these students used their voices to address the Board and share their thoughts, feelings and concerns regarding the school closures and how the closing of Mariposa would affect them, their families and their friends. This civic engagement reflects the skill of being a "Community Contributor" as shown in [The Portrait of Kyrene Kid](#). The Mariposa staff is so proud of you all for your efforts and energy throughout this process. You should all be proud of yourselves, as well.



Mariposa NEHS

Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to the HEHS Holiday Food Drive. The donations have been counted and boxed up for delivery to Kyrene Resource Center. The NEHS will proudly be dropping off over 200 items on behalf of Kyrene de la Mariposa.



Holiday Caroling

Our NEHS students visited Hawthorn Court at Ahwatukee Memory Care to sing Holiday Carols and spread holiday cheer to their residents. They also had time to visit with them and give cards that some of the students made for them.





Mariposa Running Club

The Mariposa Running Club (Grades 3-5) part of the Kyrene Intramurals, participated in their final 1-mile fun run in conjunction with the Kyrene Cross Country Championship at Aprende Middle School. We are so proud of our Challengers who participated in the run! Thank you to Coach G. for helping our students train for this event over the past few weeks! Also, thank you to Principal Fallgatter, Asst. Principal Tucker, Ms. Bernice and all of the families who came out to support and cheer on the team at Aprende on Saturday.

Congratulations to 5th grader, Sage C. who placed first in the Girls Race for Grades 3-5 with a time of 6:55.

You can find the results for the Kyrene Cross County Championship and the Kyrene Running Club (page 15-19) here: www.wingfootfinish.com/result_details.cfm?ResultsID=1390





LEGO League

It was a great weekend for our Mariposa Chip's Challengers! On Saturday, our FIRST LEGO League Team, Chip's Creators, showed off their STEM skills they have been working together on for the past couple of months. They participated in the Arizona FLL Challenge UNEARTHED, that included research, problem solving, coding and engineering and worked as a team to program a robot to complete games and challenges.

A fun fact... your Mariposa tax credit donations help cover the competition registrations and materials our students use with Mariposa's First LEGO League.




Mariposa World Fair

Mark your calendar... our Mariposa's Annual World's Fair is coming on January 10th from 12-2 PM! Come learn about all the different cultures represented at Mariposa with amazing cultural booths, traditional dances, trivia, a raffle and more! This event is free for all families. Thank you for encouraging harmony and understanding in our community!

Sign up to Volunteer! [World Fair Volunteer](#)

Questions? Please contact Ms. Rees at srees@kyrene.org.

See you all in January!



AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE DAY

**MARIPOSA
WORLD FAIR**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH
KYRENE DE LA MARIPOSA
12:00PM-2:00PM**

FREE EVENT

Flag Parade, Passports, Trivia, Crafts, Cultural Music, Folk Dancers,
Cultural Performances, Food Trucks, Games, Prizes!

**RUN YOUR OWN
CULTURAL BOOTH!**

**VOLUNTEER TO
HELP!**

The poster features a central globe with various national flags around its equator. A small robot stands on top of the globe, and an airplane is shown flying in the sky above it. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The bottom of the poster has a green grassy field. Two QR codes are located at the bottom, one on the left and one on the right, with arrows pointing from them towards the central text.

Capture The Flag



Kyrene Capture the Flag provides an opportunity for grade 3-5 students to have fun and develop team sportsmanship!

Practice begins the week of January 12th with practice twice a week.

The class finishes with a tournament on February 28th at Akimel A-al Middle School

[Register online](#),
or call 480-541-1500



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The class finishes with a tournament
on February 28th at Akimel A-al Middle School

Registration Fee: \$100



<https://kyrene.arux.app/course/2997/kyrene-athletics-25-26/kyrene-elementary-intramural-capture-the-flag>

Register online, or call 480-541-1500

Showcase Nights

Mark your calendars for the upcoming showcase nights and share with your friends and community.

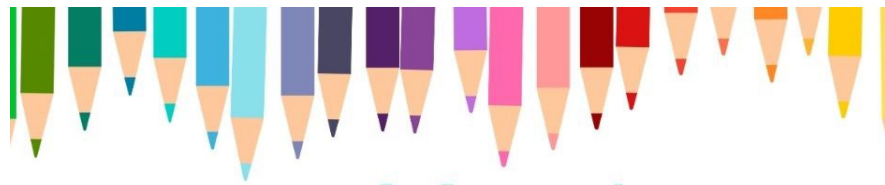
Kyrene de la Mariposa Kindergarten Showcase

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!



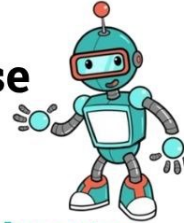
Kyrene de la Mariposa

Computer Science Academy

Kindergarten Showcase

Wednesday, January 14th

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.



School Showcase

Kyrene Middle School showcase night will be held on Wednesday, January 21 from 5:00pm - 6:30pm. Feel free to stop by and learn what Kyrene Middle School has to offer.

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Kyrene del Pueblo's showcase night will be on Wednesday, January 14 from 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Come learn about the typical day of a 6th grader at Pueblo and enjoy performances from Pueblo Performing Arts. Our 6th grade classroom will be open for tours, after which you can enjoy food and drinks in the amphitheater.



A Message from Your Mariposa PTO

Hi Mariposa families,

We had so much fun at the annual Polar Express Night last Wednesday! Thank you to all the volunteers who made it a success. Add your photos from this and other fall events [here](#) to be included in the yearbook.

We also want to thank all the volunteers for helping kids shop at the Penguin Patch Holiday Shop and wrap presents for teachers and staff. All of your efforts and donations are appreciated.

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](#)

Save the date for a **Celebrate Mariposa event** on Saturday, Jan. 10, between 2 and 5 pm at Green Park, following the Mariposa World Fair. We'll start selling yearbooks and have other fun ways to support Mariposa in 2026!

Our next PTO monthly meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 12, from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Library or online. We're excited to plan activities like the Sweetheart Family Dance on February 7!

MAIN EVENT

**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>

GroupRaise+ **MAIN EVENT**

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 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

Nominations Open for the Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Awards!

Kyrene de la Mariposa is full of dedicated, caring, and passionate staff members who make a difference every day. Help us recognize their impact by nominating a deserving member of our team for the 37th Annual Tempe Diablos Excellence in Education Awards. This is a meaningful way to celebrate the people who make our school community thrive. Nominations will be accepted through January. Learn more and submit your nomination at kyrene.org/diablos.

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.

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/SNSfbhW39Ehj6e1N9>

Contact Amy Dill, adill@kyrene.org
for more information.

KyreneSchoolDistrict

REPEAT INFORMATION

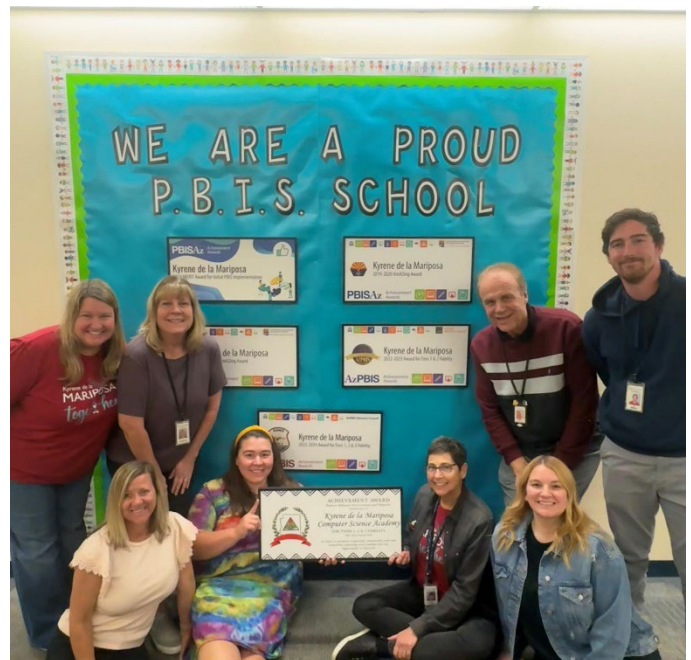
Support Kyrene de la Mariposa with the Arizona Tax Credit

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.



AZPBIS Achievement Award

We are excited to share that Mariposa earned a 2024-2025 AZPBIS Achievement Award for our dedication and commitment to implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) to improve academic outcomes and support the well-being of staff, students, families, and the community. Principal Fallgatter notes that this award recognizes the dedication of school staff and our community to uphold our school expectations every day: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. Together, we are building a school culture that is more positive, proactive, and supportive for all our students so that they can be successful citizens and leaders of our nation.



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

 <p>PORTRAIT OF A KYRENE KID</p>	<p>ADAPTABLE LEARNER • SELF-ADVOCATE • COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR COMMUNICATOR • CRITICAL THINKER • PROBLEM SOLVER • COLLABORATOR</p> <p>READY FOR THE FUTURE. HIGH SCHOOL. COLLEGE. CAREER. LIFE.</p>
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A+ School of Excellence™

