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February 2019

Hello again, Scottsdale Unified School District Families,

After last week's taste of what many of our relatives back east endure each winter, it is good to see the sun shining again in the Valley! You have to admit, though, that seeing snow on our mountains was quite a beautiful surprise.

Mother Nature tried to wreak havoc with the dedication ceremonies for our two, new elementary school campuses, but they went off without a hitch. On Feb. 6, parents, students, teachers, staff and neighbors gathered on a blustery afternoon to celebrate the completion of Hopi Elementary School, located at 5110 E. Lafayette Blvd. in Phoenix. The following week, the Pima Traditional School community came together with the entire student body in a nice and dry gymnasium to dedicate the new campus at 8110 E. Osborn Rd. in Scottsdale. These new schools would not have been possible without your support of the November 2016 bond and capital override elections. Thank you for providing these school communities with modern facilities that accommodate the way students learn and teachers teach. They will become landmarks in their communities, as were their predecessors.

Earlier this month, the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Governing Board approved new K-12 math textbooks. The approved recommendations were the result of a massive, 10-month effort by an 80-member committee of teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists and parents to identify gaps in the current textbooks, develop criteria for new ones and review the latest materials. The group took into consideration student and teacher instructional materials, homework assistance resources and online materials for students, professional development offered to teachers, and alignment with Arizona mathematics standards. I want to thank the committee for its commitment to excellence in the future math instruction of SUSD students.

Speaking of the future, I would like to remind you that our last batch of Kindergarten Roundup events takes place district-wide next week. SUSD offers free, full-day kindergarten. Our classrooms are warm and inviting environments for little learners. Our state-certified teachers provide engaging instruction and understand the need for not only their students to feel comfortable spending that time away from home, but for parents to feel the same. See the complete rundown of March 4 - 7 Kindergarten Roundups [here](#).

Lastly, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue leading SUSD through the 2019-2020 school year. We have done some great work over the past nine months, and I look forward to continuing to implement significant initiatives with the Math and Science Academy at Saguaro High School and the Success Initiative in the Coronado Learning Community. I also look forward to overseeing the continued expansion of the district's International Baccalaureate, Gifted and STEM programs, working with the Scottsdale Parent Council and helping restore SUSD's good name. This community deserves the best.

Thank you,

Dr. John A. Kriekard
Superintendent