

## McClintock HS Spanish teacher rated best in U.S.

McClintock High School Spanish teacher Laura Zinke has been named the 2015 Outstanding Teacher of the Year at the Secondary Level (Grades 9-12) by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

"Being the recipient of the AATSP Teacher of the Year at the Secondary Level is the most prestigious honor a teacher of Spanish or Portuguese can receive," said Zinke. "Many excellent candidates from across the country participate, and I am humbled to have been selected...this year.

"Spanish is not just my profession, it is my life; it is who I am and I cannot imagine my world without Spanish classes, AP students, and Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica."

Zinke has been an AP Spanish teacher for more than 30 years. In addition, she is the Foreign Language Department chair at McClintock, the Campus Gifted coordinator and the director of Peggy Payne Academy, Tempe Union High School District's gifted program located on the McClintock campus.

She also serves as president of the AATSP Arizona Chapter.

The former Fulbright Teacher exchange participant to Córdoba, Argentina, was named Arizona Language Teacher of the Year in 2009.

The AATSP awards banquet will be held July 19 in Denver during the organization's annual conference. Zinke will be honored with a certificate, commemorative plaque and a check for \$500.

## Peer review reaffirms MCC's accreditation status

Mesa Community College's accredited status with the Higher Learning Commission has been continued; a result of a recent comprehensive evaluation by HLC peer reviewers.

"This is wonderful news and an affirmation of the quality of our institution. A demonstration of our continued commitment to excellence since receiving initial accreditation in 1967," said MCC President Shouan Pan.

"The rigorous accreditation process, and thoughtful engagement of HLC reviewers, allowed us to fully examine how best to improve our ability to serve our students and our community in the short and long term."

Accreditation is a voluntary peer review process to help colleges and universities critically evaluate their purposes and how effectively those purposes are accomplished.

The process ensures the institution meets threshold standards and is engaged in continuous improvement activities.

MCC's mission is to excel in teaching, learning, and empowering individuals to succeed in our local and global community, according to Pan.

The college is designed to be a resource for college and career readiness, transfer education, workforce development and lifelong learning.

## Kyrene Kids Club camps continuing through July 24

Children who live in South Tempe/West Chandler neighborhoods don't have to suffer the summertime blues.

The Kids Club Camps offered by local Kyrene schools are a great way for kids to have fun in a structured, safe, well-supervised atmosphere.

The program features weekly field trips, on-site events and daily enrichment clubs. This summer, camp includes new program offerings such as theme rooms and new field trip destinations.

Even returning students will be sure to have an enjoyable summer.

Families can register for partial weeks, by the

week, for a month or full the whole summer.

### Locations

Kyrene de la Mirada: 5000 W. Whitten Drive, Chandler.

Kyrene del Cielo: 777 N. Desert Breeze Blvd. East, Chandler.

Grades: K-5 PLUS 3 & 4 year old programs available at Estrella and Mirada

Dates: Now through July 24.

Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Information: [www.kyrene.org/communityed](http://www.kyrene.org/communityed) or 480-541-1500

## July 14 set for public review of school district's 2015-16 budget

The Kyrene School Governing Board will hold its annual public hearing on the upcoming year's budget at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 14 at the Kyrene District Office, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe.

The proposed budget can be viewed on the Arizona Department of Education website at [www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Forms/Budgets/ProposedBudget/EntitySelection.aspx](http://www.ade.az.gov/schoolfinance/Forms/Budgets/ProposedBudget/EntitySelection.aspx)

Kyrene Elementary School District is rated an "A" school district by the Arizona Department of Education. The District operates 19 elementary and six middle schools in Chandler, Tempe and Phoenix.

The district employs about 2,000 individuals

who serve approximately 18,000 students from pre-school to eighth grade, making it one of the largest employers in the area.

Regular meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public, usually on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 7 p.m. in the Governing Board Room, Ben Furlong Education Center, 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe.

For more information on exact meeting dates and the agendas check Board Docs (24 hours prior to meeting). Governing Board Meetings are livestreamed and available on archive as well.

More information at [www.kyrene.org](http://www.kyrene.org).

## Christmas in July generates food for less fortunate

"Christmas in July" is an annual food drive to help raise money and collect non-perishable food to stock the shelves of United Food Bank.

You can participate by making a cash contribution or by donating non-perishable food items. Every \$1 you give will help provide five pounds of food to benefit some of the community's most vulnerable members. For information, contact the Chandler Chamber of Commerce, 480-963-4571 or visit [www.unitedfoodbank.org](http://www.unitedfoodbank.org)

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