



# The Tolleson Quarterly

## A Message from Your Superintendent



Dr. Lupita Hightower  
Superintendent

Dear Tolleson ESD Families & Community;

As we look to the 2023-2024 school year that begins on Wednesday, August 2nd, we hope you will share information about our programs and schools with your families, friends and neighbors. We know many families and students enroll with us who live beyond our district and school boundaries, and we encourage them to join us!

I want to introduce to you our great line-up of school leaders for the 2023-2024 school year. They include:

- Arizona Desert Elementary School: Principal Ms. Brenda Catlett & Assistant Principal Ms. Jodi Madrigal
- Desert Oasis Elementary School: Principal Ms. Cynthia León & Assistant Principal Ms. Jamie Robarge
- Porfirio H. Gonzales Elementary School: Principal Mr. Joseph De la Huerta & Assistant Principal Ms. Cassandra Ortega
- Sheely Farms Elementary School: Principal Ms. Rebecca Ford & Assistant Principal Ms. Amy Bowen
- Tolleson Virtual Academy (Grades 5-8): Ms. Krystal Bolf

We are grateful to have such amazing leadership on our campuses, and I encourage you to participate in our back-to-school nights to meet the leaders, teachers and staff at each school. Stay tuned for more details on our back-to-school night events and register on our website at [www.TollesonSchools.com](http://www.TollesonSchools.com) to receive up-to-date news and events from our district. We have designed all new websites to keep you more informed. You can catch a glimpse of the new websites inside this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing our treasures back at school on August 2nd. Until then, have a restful and re-energizing summer break!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lupita Hightower  
Treasure Hunter & Superintendent  
Tolleson Elementary School District



## ABOUT TOLLESON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tolleson Elementary School District (Tolleson ESD) is an education community ensuring All Children are Capable of Success - NO EXCEPTIONS! We deliver a well-rounded education through a breadth of opportunities - academics, arts, athletics, extra-curricular activities, sound nutrition, counselors, nurses and other student supports. Through common values of gratitude, respect, humility and diplomacy, we embrace and support all members of our community including our students, teachers, staff, leadership, families, parents, community members and community leaders to establish an environment that enables us to achieve our goal and deliver on our promise -

**All Children are Capable of Success - NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## Important Dates

### August 2023

- 2nd, Wednesday
  - First Day of School.
- 9th, Wednesday
  - Governing Board Meeting.

### September 2023

- 4th, Monday
  - Labor Day. No School.
- 6th, Wednesday
  - Governing Board Meeting.
- 13th, Wednesday
  - Teacher In-Service. No School.

### October 2023

- 4th, Wednesday
  - Governing Board Meeting.
- 9th-13th, Monday-Friday
  - Fall Break. No School.

### November 2023

- 1st, Wednesday
  - Governing Board Meeting at Porfirio H. Gonzales Elementary School.
- 10th, Friday
  - Veteran's Day. No School.
- 20th-24th, Monday-Friday
  - Thanksgiving Break. No School.

### December 2023

- 13th, Wednesday
  - Governing Board Meeting at Arizona Desert Elementary School.
- 22nd, Friday
  - Early Release.
- 25th-January 5th, Monday-Friday
  - Winter Break. No School.

For more detailed and up-to-date information, visit [TollesonSchools.com](http://TollesonSchools.com). Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

**TollesonSchools.com**  
**623-533-3980**

# WESTSIDE IMPACT TEACHERS & PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our Westside Impact Award Teachers & Principal of the Year. We are proud to be part of this organization, and so pleased to honor and celebrate these teachers and this principal who are highly effective educators and dedicated to ensuring All Children are Capable of Success – NO EXCEPTIONS! Thank you for being leaders in our Tolleson ESD Education Community!



Teacher of the Year  
Ms. Samantha Willie  
Arizona Desert  
Elementary School



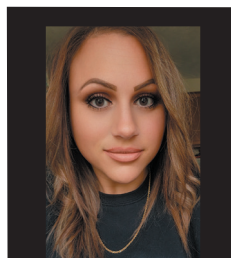
Teacher of the Year  
Ms. Laresse Shipp  
Desert Oasis  
Elementary School



Teacher of the Year  
Ms. Lucy Quezada  
Porfirio H. Gonzales  
Elementary School



Teacher of the Year  
Ms. Christina Ontiveros  
Sheely Farms  
Elementary School



Teacher of the Year  
Ms. Julia Steffen  
Tolleson  
Virtual Academy



Principal of the Year  
Ms. Brenda Catlett  
Arizona Desert  
Elementary School

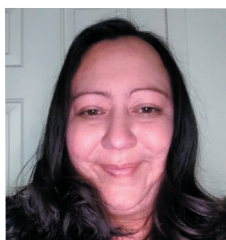
## CELEBRATING OUR TEACHERS & STAFF

Each quarter we celebrate and honor teachers and staff across our district. Here we highlight those from 3rd & 4th quarters. Thank you for your dedication each-and-every day to our students and families.

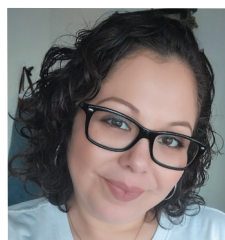
### 3rd Quarter Honorees



Ms. Maria Estrada  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Arizona Desert  
Elementary School



Ms. Vanessa Meder Delgado  
K-8 ELL Teacher  
Desert Oasis  
Elementary School



Ms. Cindy Murillo  
Paraprofessional  
Porfirio H. Gonzales  
Elementary School



Ms. Ashley Nelson  
5th Grade Teacher  
Sheely Farms  
Elementary School

### 4th Quarter Honorees



Ms. Franki Diaz  
7th/8th Grade Writing Teacher  
Arizona Desert  
Elementary School



Mr. Timothy Ferrera  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Desert Oasis  
Elementary School



Ms. Chelsi Cook  
Preschool Speech Pathologist  
Porfirio H. Gonzales  
Elementary School



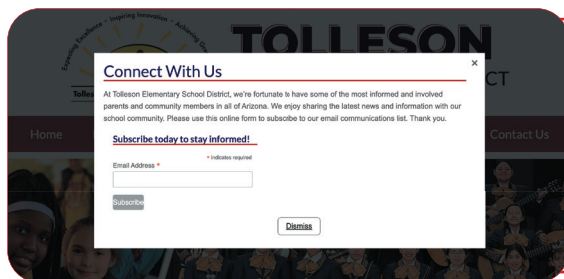
Mr. Kofi White  
P.E. Teacher  
Sheely Farms  
Elementary School



## NEW WEBSITES - ENHANCED COMMUNICATION



We have been busy building new websites to improve our communication with our families and entire education community. Keeping up-to-date information available to you is a top priority. Please don't hesitate to let us know at any time if you have ideas that will help us improve our websites. They are chock full of content including calendars, learning resources, meal menus, Governing Board information, district departments, news, strategic plan, safety plan and so much more. Please check out the new websites at [www.TollesonSchools.com](http://www.TollesonSchools.com).



### Connect With Us

Register today on our new website to keep up to date on the latest news at Tolleson ESD. Just visit [www.TollesonSchools.com](http://www.TollesonSchools.com) and share your email address.

## NEW ATHLETIC FIELDS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The ribbon cutting ceremony for our new athletic fields at Arizona Desert Elementary School was a great celebration. We thank our entire community for their support of our bond election that made these fields a reality for our students and families. They will be enjoyed for many decades to come.

The fields include: an artificial turf baseball field, artificial turf soccer field, a new restroom and concession building, as well as civil and landscape improvements.



**TollesonSchools.com**

**623-533-3980**

## District Governing Board

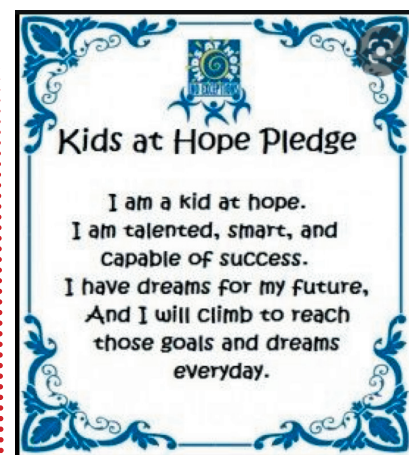
### GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Tida Garcia, President  
tgarcia@tesd17.org  
Roberta Garcia, Vice President  
rgarcia@tesd17.org  
Anthony Aponte, Member  
aaponte@tesd17.org  
Belinda Quezada, Member  
bquezada@tesd17.org  
Samuel Quezada, Jr., Member  
squezada@tesd17.org

### New Webpage

For more information about our Governing Board and meetings, please visit [www.tollesonschools.com/Governing-Board](http://www.tollesonschools.com/Governing-Board)

**All Children are  
Capable of Success –  
NO EXCEPTIONS!**



### Copia en Español

Si desea una copia de este informe en español, por favor llame al 623-533-3980 o visite nuestro sitio web en [TollesonSchools.com](http://TollesonSchools.com).



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Tolleson, AZ 85353

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## Elementary Schools

Arizona Desert  
Desert Oasis  
Porfirio H. Gonzales  
Sheely Farms  
Tolleson Virtual Academy

\*\*\*ECRWSSSEDDM\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Preschoolers through 8th Graders

# JOIN US

TOLLESON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Tolleson ESD where all children are capable of success – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

At Tolleson Elementary School District we are all treasure hunters committed to search for all the talents, skills and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. We believe All Children are Capable of Success – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Located just off Interstate 10 West of downtown Phoenix, our five schools – Arizona Desert, Desert Oasis, Porfirio H. Gonzales, Sheely Farms, and Tolleson Virtual Academy - are ready to welcome you and your children to enroll at any time throughout the year.

- Academics: Preschool, Kindergarten - Free, Full-day Programs, English Language Learners, Gifted Education, Special Education, Targeted Academic Interventions • Science & Technology: Computer & Technology Lab, Library & Media Center, Science Labs • Beyond Academics: Art, Athletics, Bands, Physical Education • Health Services: Counselors, Nurses, Banner Children's Community Clinic • After School & Clubs: 21st Century & TASK, Student Council, Yearbook Club • Additional Supports & Services: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Student Transportation (for those who qualify), and Community Education for Parents



**WELCOME CENTER**

We are here to help you enroll  
at any of our 5 great schools!  
9401 West Garfield Street  
623-533-3980



**ARIZONA DESERT  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

8803 West Van Buren Street  
PreKindergarten - Grade 8  
623-907-5260



**DESERT OASIS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

8802 West McDowell Road  
PreKindergarten - Grade 8  
623-533-3901



**PORFIRIO H. GONZALES  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

9401 West Garfield Street  
PreKindergarten - Grade 8  
623-907-5181



**SHEELY FARMS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

9450 West Encanto Boulevard  
PreKindergarten - Grade 8  
623-907-5270



Beginning August 2023  
Serving Grades 5-8  
623-533-3900

**TollesonSchools.com 623-533-3980**