



# AVAXAT ELEMENTARY

## Gator Gazette

April 2016

### “A Message from our Principal”

Parents,

Avaxat’s 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in State Standardized Testing known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). This test has also been referred to as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). In either case, the test will have a different look than the paper and pencil tests we are all familiar with.

These tests are web-based assessments which will be given on a computer, and in one of the school’s computer labs. These tests are computer adaptive assessments and questions will change to a student’s challenge level based upon their responses. These adaptive assessments will provide more precise information of a student’s achievement level than the previous multiple choice tests of the past.

The schedule for the assessments is as follows:

#### **April 25<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>: All 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students (Math and Language Arts)**

This year we are providing a 4-week window for test completion to optimize student success. All students will be provided the opportunity to complete their assessments in the morning prior to their scheduled lunch times. Therefore, parents please attempt to schedule any appointments for your children after 12:00 PM if needed.

Here is the weekly CAASPP assessment schedule:

- April 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Navarette, & Barton Language Arts
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Navarette, & Barton Math

Here are testing tips for students and parents:

- Attend school and be on time every day.
- Get plenty of rest overnight.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Remain positive and do try very best.

Finally, feel free to review the State CAASPP resources: [CAASPP Q & A](#)

Thank you for continued support and encouragement of student success.

David Ciabattini

Principal

**“Learn More, Respect All”**

## April

04/04 Students Return  
04/08 Kindergarten Field Trip to SCEGA  
04/15 Coffee with the Principal 8:30 MPR  
04/20 Fourth Grade Field Trip to San Luis Rey Mission  
04/22 PTA Multi Cultural Night 6:00-8:00  
04/22 "Twins Day"  
04/22 Café con Ciabattini 8:30 MPR  
04/25 Student of the Month 1st Grade  
04/26 Student of the Month 2nd Grade  
04/27 Student of the Month 3rd Grade  
04/27 First Grade Field Trip to Los Alamos Sports Park  
04/28 Student of the Month 4th Grade  
04/29 Student of the Month 5th Grade



## May

05/03 Lunch with the Principal Grades 1-3  
05/03 Kindergarten Field Trip to DeJong's Dairy (Mr. Barnett, Ms. Barnyak, Ms. Eikmeier)  
05/05 Kindergarten Field Trip to DeJong's Dairy (Ms. Schultz, Ms. DiPierro)  
05/12 Kindergarten "Here I Come" 5:00-5:30 (Incoming Kindergarten)  
05/13 Ice Cream with the Principal 1:00 MPR  
05/14 Band at Mulligans 10:00  
05/15 Choir Concert 8:15-8:45 for Grades 2/3 - 8:45-9:15 for Grades 4/5 and Parents  
05/18 Street Painting for All Students  
05/18 Open House 5:30—6:30  
05/20 PTA Honorary Service Awards  
05/24 Last Day of Band  
05/25 Santa Rosa Plateau visits Third Grade  
05/26 Third Grade Field Trip to Santa Rosa Plateau  
05/26 Fifth Grade Field Trip to Shivela Middle School  
05/27 Crazy Sock Day  
05/27 Second Grade "Spring into Summer Spectacular!" 8:30 a.m.  
05/27 Fourth Grade Frontier Days 9:00-12:00  
05/30 Memorial Day Observance—No School  
05/31 Student of the Month Grades 1 and 2



## June

06/01 Student of the Month 3rd Grade  
06/01 Fourth Grade Rocket Day 9:30-11:00 Field  
06/01 AVID Students Field Trip to UCR  
06/02 Student of the Month 4th Grade  
06/03 Student of the Month 5th Grade  
06/03 Third Grade Living Wax Museum 1:00-2:00 Quad Area  
06/06 Fourth Grade Father's Day Celebration 12:30-1:20  
06/07 Lunch with the Principal All Grades  
06/07 Fourth Grade Water Day 1:00-2:15 Field  
06/10 Last Day of School



## Character Counts

Respect is our character pillar for the month of April We witness our respectful Avaxat students everyday....

- \*\* Following the Gold Rule
- \*\*Being tolerant of differences
- \*\*Using good manners
- \*\*Not using bad language
- \*\*Being considerate of the feelings of others
- \*\*Not threatening
- \*\*Not hitting or hurting anyone
- \*\*Dealing peacefully with disagreements and danger



**Thanks for supporting our Character Counts Program!**

## PTA News

April 11th - 22nd is the Smart Card Fundraiser

April 13th Kona Ice

April 15th Coffee With the Principal

April 22nd Café con Principal

May 11th Kona Ice

May 13th Ice Cream with the Principal at 1:00

May 16th - 20th Teacher/Staff Appreciation

May 20th HSA Awards and Brunch

May 27th Chuck E Cheese Night from 3:00-9:00



Thank you for your Support!

The Avaxat PTA

## Support our Military Veterans

Avaxat is collecting toiletries items to donate to our local Military Veterans. **Please bring in any NEW wrapped items to the office and place in the big red box.** Donations are distributed in our community to help our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for us. Thanks for your help!



- Deodorant
- New socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Petroleum Jelly

- Toilet Paper
- Lotion
- Shaving Creme/Razors
- Female Products
- Hair Conditioner





## Counselor's Corner

April is a huge month for test prep in California and all the schools are focusing on the CAASPP test that most students take. This test reflects the knowledge that your child has gained over the course of the year. Taking high stakes testing can be nerve racking; however, there are some tips and tricks to help your student get the maximum test score possible. The following tips will provide suggestions for you on how to approach test taking with your kids.

- ✓ Make sure that your child does all their homework, reading and math assignments, this will help make sure your child is prepared for the test.
- ✓ Encourage your child to space out their studying and homework assignments so that they won't be forced to cram on the night before the test.
- ✓ If you are anxious about your child's test, it's ok but try to keep cool around your child, you don't want them to get anxious about their tests too.
- ✓ Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test. Praise your child about the things he or she does well.
- ✓ Provide a quiet, well lighted area with little distractions to help your child study efficiently.
- ✓ Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test (8 hours is ideal). No falling asleep to TV, Tablets or Mobile Phones.
- ✓ Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.
- ✓ Talking about the test with your child can relieve stress about test taking.
- ✓ Praise/reward your child when they do well on a test or for their hard work preparing for a test.
- ✓ Encourage them to do better if they don't do well.
- ✓ Review any previous tests or assignments that your child has gotten returned and go over any mistakes they have made and make sure that they understand what they did wrong and how they can improve for the next test.

In tests like the CAASPP children will be asked to justify their answers on the multiple choice questions so the student can confirm whether the answer is correct. Make sure that your child takes their time, reads through the question completely and checks their work. If your child does all of this, chances are that they will get the highest possible score which makes you, your child and the whole Avaxat community proud.

Finally take the opportunity to preview the test, so the your children will know what to expect. You can preview it by going to <http://capt.tds.airast.org/student>. Your classroom teacher can also help you navigate the process. If you have any question feel free to contact me and we can help you all so your child can do their best this year!

Felipe R Zañartu  
School Counselor at Avaxat Elementary School  
951 696-1402 x 2198  
[fzanartu@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:fzanartu@murrieta.k12.ca.us)