

# Gator News



## Avaxat Elementary School

24300 Las Brisas Road, Murrieta, CA 92562  
Phone 951 696-1402 Fax 951 304-1629

Principal - David Ciabattini  
Assistant Principal - Twila Kelly Van-Ramhorst  
Counselor - Felipe Zanartu

### A Note From our Principal

Welcome students and parents to the 2016-17 school year! The first day of school always brings both excitement and anxiety for students, parents, and staff too. Regardless of whether this is your first experience at Avaxat or a returning student the anxious feeling exists in all of us. One of many goals we have is to make students and parents feel comfortable on our campus. Our overarching goal, or school vision, is to prepare all learners to live their dreams. Please take comfort in knowing your children are in great hands here at Avaxat and I invite you help us with every child's life long preparation.

As in past years Avaxat takes pride in our focus on the whole child. To help us with this challenge we have added a new fulltime Assistant Principal, Twila Kelly-Van Ramshorst "Mrs. Van", to our staff. Mrs. Van has been added to our staff to help every student succeed and build a strong community culture. Mrs. Van will be visible on campus helping students with their academic, emotional and social needs.

My focal points this year will be Achievement, Attendance, Parent Outreach, and AVID Elementary. I look forward to working collaboratively with students, staff, and parents in achieving our goals. I thank you in advance for your support this year. Finally, lets have fun as we journey through this year in partnership towards helping every child achieve their dreams.

Sincerely,

David Ciabattini



*Learn More, Respect All!*

### Calendar of Events

- 08/10 First Day of School—Welcome Back!
- 08/12 PTA General Meeting 9:00 MPR
- 08/15 PTA Membership Kick-Off
- Back to School Nights—See below**
- 08/22 Band Begins
- 08/24 Valentines for Vet Kick -Off
- 08/30 Later Gator Classes Begin
  
- 09/05 Labor Day Holiday—No School
- 09/09 Last Day to Join Band
- 09/09 Wear Red, White and Blue
- 09/09 Coffee with the Principal 8:30
- 09/12 School Pictures (Kindergarten/1st)
- 09/12 Reflections Program Begins
- 09/12 PTA Kids Come First Fundraiser
- 09/13 School Pictures (Grades 2 and 3)
- 09/14 School Pictures (Grades 4 and 5)
- 09/14 Kona Ice—After School
- 09/16 PTA Grandparents Dance
- 09/16 Spirit Friday

### BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

- |             |                   |                  |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| August 16th | Kindergarten 5:30 | First Grade 6:00 |
| August 17th | Second Grade 5:30 | Third Grade 6:00 |
| August 18th | Fourth Grade 5:30 | Fifth Grade 6:00 |



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Avaxat Elementary School

### **PTA and Classroom Volunteers**

Please consider joining our PTA this year. Membership is only \$9.00 and it helps support many programs and supplies that benefit our students. Thanks to the past and present board members for making great things happen at Avaxat. Books????

Also, we welcome you to volunteer in your child's class. Stop by the Avaxat Office and complete a blue volunteer card. A copy of your driver's license is also required.

Thanks and we will see you soon!

### Student Breakfast and Lunch

Menus, along with our meal applications are available on line and we have copies in the office. You must reapply each year.

Payment can be made at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com)

#### Breakfast Prices

Full Pay \$1.50 Reduced Price \$.30

#### Lunch Prices

Full Pay \$2.50 Reduced Price \$.40

Bottled Water \$.75 Milk or Juice \$.50



## A Message from our Assistant Principal

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. I am thrilled to be a part of the Avaxat Elementary School community as your new Assistant Principal. I have served as an elementary school teacher and administrator in general education and special education since 1991, and am very happy to be a part of the Gator family here at Avaxat. I have three grown children, the youngest of whom will start college this fall. I live with my husband of thirty years and our dog.

This year we will have AVID starting on campus at the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade levels, with other grades to follow in the future. I know this will prove to greatly assist our students with notebooks, agenda planners and note taking strategies. I look forward to meeting you and your students as we start the 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,

Twila Kelly-Van Ramshorst

Tkelly-vanramshorst@murrieta.k12.ca.us



Welcome back Alligators!

### Counselor's Corner

I hope everyone had a restful and exciting summer and is ready to come back and learn. To all the new students and families, I look forward to meeting you all and to those who have been here a while, welcome back!

As we make our way to school, every student should make it a goal to be here as much as they possibly can. Remember alligators, if your not here you are not learning. Students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. We need to make school attendance a priority. By doing this, we are helping students to learn and accept responsibility, which is an important lesson for a successful life. Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career, as well as into their chosen career. Regular attendance is critically important, because students who miss school miss out on instruction. They miss out on learning experiences, class participation, and an opportunity to ask questions. As a result, they are more likely to fall behind, and they are more likely to drop out. So be mindful of days that your child misses, we value every day with your child. Every day is an opportunity for them to grow and be successful.

Avaxat is fortunate to be able to have a professional school counselor daily in our school. As a school counselor, I feel privileged to be able to work with students and families to remove barriers to learning (e.g. Academic Skills, Social Skills and Personal Issues). Most students may see me in the classroom a few times a month giving lessons on social skills, empathy, emotion management, problem solving and/or career exploration. For students who need more help, I conduct interventions to help kids problem-solve personal issues like violence and bullying. Individually, I may be in contact with you and grade level teams about how to help students cope and thrive after traumatic events that may happen in and around our community. I provide brief counseling to students so they are able to be successful in the learning environment. If there is a greater need, I provide resources for parents to get additional help. All lessons, whether individual, group or school-wide are designed to build competencies in personal/social, academic and career development. When we remove barriers to learning and build social & life skills, students "Learn More and Respect All."

If you have concerns about how your child is doing at school, please feel free to schedule a time to talk to me about it. School counselors are always here to help! I will do my best to provide students with the support necessary for them to be the most successful student they can be here at Avaxat and beyond.

Mr. Zañartu, School Counselor

[Fzanartu@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:Fzanartu@murrieta.k12.ca.us)

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Avaxat Elementary School Site Council

Nominations for Parent Members

2016-17 through 2017-18 School Years

Do you want a chance to be an important part of your child's school? Here is a *great* opportunity for you to do so! Become a member of the School Site Council (SSC)! This is an important committee that we have at Avaxat Elementary School involving parents. At this time, the Avaxat SSC has a minimum of three, two year vacancies.

**What is the SSC?** School Site council is a parent and staff advisory committee to the school. This committee is important because it advises the school about policies and programs and votes on the school plan. The SSC makes decisions regarding the federal and state categorical funding, which includes Title I and Economic Impact Aid.

**What are the duties of the SSC members?** The primary duty is to attend six meetings and work with committee members to make decisions which are in the best interests for all learners.

**If you are interested in being a SSC member, please fill out the bottom part of this letter and return it to your child's teacher at Avaxat by Friday, August 19, 2016.**

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**I wish to nominate myself for a two-year term as a member of Avaxat's SSC \_\_\_\_\_**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print

Please Print

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following information about me place on the ballot. (3-5 sentences)

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Please complete biographical information by attaching an additional page, if needed.