

# THE FW INSIDER

## LUIS BLANCO INTERIM LAGUNA PRINCIPAL



Alan Schmidt, principal at Laguna Elementary, will be called up to active military duty for much of the 2024-2025 school year and the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Schmidt has learned that he will be deployed to Djibouti, which is on the eastern coast of Africa near the Middle East. He will be engaged in training and preparation during the month of September 2024, will be back on campus in October, and will be deployed from November 2024 through September 2025. In Mr. Schmidt's absence, Mr. Luis Blanco, assistant principal at Douglas Elementary, will serve as interim principal at Laguna. His appointment will become effective on July 1, 2024. Mr. Blanco has served as an assistant principal at Douglas Elementary School for the past three years. He is eager and excited for this new opportunity as his childhood parallels many of our students' experiences, and he has a deep care and respect for our community. This will translate into his work as Interim Principal, in which he will strive to sustain Laguna's strong supportive culture while Mr. Schmidt serves his military service. Congratulations to Mr. Blanco on his appointment to lead the awesome Longhorn team!

### LEAVING AFTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

If you are considering retirement or thinking about making a change and leaving the District at the end of this school year, please have a conversation with your principal or director as soon as possible. While we will be sad to see you go, it is helpful for us to have as much advance notice as possible so we can have time to look for and hire a suitable replacement. Thank you in advance for communicating to let the District know of your plans. Also, feel free to contact Stacie Stuart at 8825 if you have additional questions.



### CONGRATS NATIONAL BOARD TEACHERS

Congratulations to our newest National Board Certified Teachers, Alex Gutierrez and Tracy Bostic and our teachers who renewed their certification, Wendy Nogami, Emily Toney, and Marcy Graf! According to the AZK12 Center, Arizona had 83 new National Board Certified Teachers and 121 teachers who maintained their certification this year. We have a lot to celebrate with 16 National Board Certified Teachers in our district and even more working toward this great accomplishment! Thank you to all of our NBCT's for your diligence and passion for excellent teaching and learning. If you are a teacher in the District and interested in learning more about pursuing National Board Certification, the next round of pre-candidacy classes starts on February 6th. For more information, contact KaiAnn Stamp at [kaiann.stamp@fwusd.org](mailto:kaiann.stamp@fwusd.org) or 8831.



### JUNGLUTH WINS MATH AWARD

Please join us in wishing a sincere congratulations to Eric Jungbluth, who was honored last weekend by the Center of Recruitment and Retention of Mathematics Teachers (CRR). Eric was named the Mid-Career & Veteran Teacher of the Year for Excellence and Resiliency in Mathematics! This award is incredibly well deserved. Mr. Jungbluth has taught in Flowing Wells for thirteen years. He is a math leader at Hendricks Elementary School and we are so fortunate that he chooses to teach in the Flowing Wells District! Congratulations, Eric!