

Tavanival a success

Written by Becca Bogdansky
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Hundreds of students, parents and members of the community turned out Saturday at Tavan Elementary School for the school's annual carnival, Tavanival.

[\(More photos, click here\)](#) .

Kids who came to the outdoor event played carnival games, jumped in bounce houses, got their faces painted and saw the inside of a cop car. Attendees also enjoyed pizza, tacos and snow cones donated by local vendors

In addition to the food, fun and games, Wells Fargo representatives promoted savings at a young age with a savings incentive program, and State Farm representatives stressed the importance of safe streets and healthy kids.

State Farm representative Greg Acedo was thrilled to partner up with Tavan.

"It gives us the chance to meet more families in the community," he said. "We should have more stuff like this — especially in Phoenix."

Patrol officer Rich Baker of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department, who has a granddaughter at Tavan, brought his patrol car for kids to see up close and personal. Baker allowed kids to see the inside of the vehicle and play with the lights. Kids also received toy police badges.

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Members of the Tavan Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization put Tavanival on each year to bring the community together and give parents and teachers time to mingle, Tavanival coordinator Sarah Bethke said.

“Our goal is to break even,” Bethke said. “This is not typically a fundraiser for us.”

Bethke, who has a first-grader at Tavan, had the support of 110 volunteers to make Tavanival a success. Volunteers included family members, Tavan students and local high school students.

Some volunteers were students who take part in a service-learning program that allows them to earn school credit for volunteering in the community.