



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 2, 2017

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus- New Structure for Leadership Teams at Country Place. In conjunction with consultants **Charles Fonbuna** and **Mike Suto**, the Lighthouse Team and the Leadership Teams at Country Place Leadership Academy have evolved. We will have Leadership Teams focused around three major areas- Culture, Leadership and Academics. The teams will align with and be based on the Leader in Me Framework. The Lighthouse Team will provide the vision for our school and enhance the Synergy between the teams. We hope this will allow staff, students and parents to work together to transform our school and our community!

Leadership Focus-Aligning Academics and The 4 Disciplines of Execution. What is up with and the talk about WIGs, PIGs and Mountains? Our staff had the opportunity to work for a day with Franklin Covey Consultant **Mike Suto** on Aligning our Academic Instruction. The staff learned The 4 Disciplines of Execution Process for enhancing our ability to execute our goals. The process will be practiced by our students and staff this year. Step 1: Identify your Wildly Important Goals or WIGs. Research has shown that by focusing on the Wildly Important (2 or 3 goals) greatly increase our chances of success. Step 2: Identify Lead Measures. Determine and measure what actions you can take that will increase the likelihood of reaching your goal. Step 3: Create a Compelling Scoreboard. Keep a simple and visible scoreboard to track your results. Step 4: Create a Cadence of Accountability. Setup an appointment with an accountability partner to discuss your progress. This process should help our students and staff be more focused and successful in reaching their goals this year and into the future! A PIG is a Pretty Important Goal.

Collier Elementary

Collier Elementary is off to another great start this year. The students and staff are excited about the new Wonders/Studysync for ELA and Engage NY for Math. The students in grades 3-8 have been issued their new Chromebooks and many teachers have already begun to incorporate the laptops with the new curriculums to enhance each lesson.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 9, 2017

Littleton Elementary

On behalf of the entire Littleton Elementary School community, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! Our Firebirds arrived on campus and were greeted by eager and passionate staff members who are committed to ensuring all our students reach their full potential.

This year we are introducing a new curriculum as well as providing every student in 3rd through 8th grade with a 1:1 device. These resources will help our teachers create an engaging, rigorous, and relevant learning experience for our students.

On Friday, July 28th, **Mr. Jim Verrill**, Principal held a Back to School Assembly for each grade level. Students were introduced to new staff, expectations were shared, and a spirit of excitement and pride was fostered.



As we embark on this new school year, we look forward to partnering with each of our stakeholders. We all play an integral part in helping all of our students have success, no exceptions! Our school has adopted the idea that we “Can’t hide our pride!” We are looking forward to all the “proud” moments we will be celebrating throughout this school year. We take great pride in our community, we take great pride when our students Rise Up to meet expectations, and we take great pride in all our students’ accomplishments. We take great pride in being Firebirds!!

Let’s have an amazing 2017-2018 school year!!

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel. Thank you to the **Estrella Vista Teachers** for continuing to build relationships with students and their families! The team continued their annual Community Walk and visited over 750 homes in effort to inform families of Meet the Teacher Night, the 2017-2018 school start date and provide a personal welcome back for the school year!

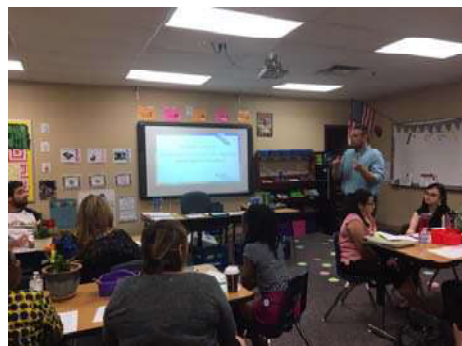


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 9, 2017



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Make Your Day Pre-Service Training. We would like to give a huge shout out to the Hawk Teacher Leaders who supported Make Your Day Pre-Service training by offering a variety of differentiated trainings. It was reported by several Estrella Vista staff that this year's training was the best it's ever been. Thank you to **Ms. Danielle Stone**, Kindergarten teacher; **Ms. Laura Montano**, 1st grade teacher; **Mr. Sean Cappello**, 3rd grade teacher; **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher; **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade teacher; **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade teacher; **Mr. Antony Brophy**, P.E. teacher, for coming in during the summer to plan with your teams for your session and providing meaningful professional development on Make Your Day!



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. Thank you **PTSA** for all that you do! We would like to recognize **Ms. Alison Asencio**, PTSA President; **Mr. Isaac Asencio**, Vice President and **Ms. Susie Salas**, Secretary for their dedication to supporting Estrella Vista through parent and student involvement activities as well as recognition and support for staff. So far this year the PTSA has provided staff breakfast during Pre-Service, spoken to staff about the importance of participation and recruitment for volunteers for our events and hosted our first Peter Piper Pizza family night. We look forward to more events from this phenomenal group this year!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 9, 2017

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Celebrating New Voices to the Estrella Vista Team. We would like to celebrate the new teaching staff to our family and look forward to hearing their voices in exceling this year! Welcome **Ms. Mallory Moore** ~ Kindergarten teacher from Missouri; **Ms. Karla Encinas** ~ 1st grade teacher from the Avondale community; **Ms. Janalene Kellar** ~ 2nd grade teacher from Arizona; **Ms. Taylor Oliva** ~ 2nd grade teacher from Michigan (not captured in photo); **Ms. Kari Burd** ~ 3rd grade teacher back from Michigan; **Ms. Liz Ricario** ~ 4th grade teacher from Arizona; **Ms. Alexis Hullaby** ~ 6th grade teacher from Kansas; **Ms. Brandy Chaidez** ~ 8th grade teacher from Arizona; **Ms. Sarah Pigza** ~ Band teacher from Ohio; **Ms. Paige Lamb** ~ Resource teacher from Michigan; **Mrs. Adriana Amavisca** ~ Gifted teacher from Arizona; **Mrs. Nonu Nsagane** ~ STEM teacher from Arizona; and Ms. Amanda Hicks ~ Dean of Students back from Indiana.



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Outstanding Participation from Families on Meet the Teacher Night. We would like to celebrate that Estrella Vista had over 750 students and their families attend Meet the Teacher Night on July 24th. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing community and families that understand the importance of their partnership with us.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 16, 2017

Fine Arts Academy

Welcome back to all our staff and students! We spent the first couple of days learning about Make Your Day and new procedures! The Falcon staff was super excited to get started with over 100 more students filling our classrooms this year.

We had our very first Falcon Festival of the year last week! We were excited to teach all our new Falcons the school song and do our annual uniform fashion show. Various students had a lot of fun showing off their uniforms and their new lanyards.

Fine Arts Academy is very excited about our different music programs this year. Currently we have over 70 students signed up for band. Our choir is also bursting at the seams with over 100 participants. The very fun thing is that all 3rd grade students will get to experience choir this year during their Fine Arts time. The 6th grade classes are getting to experience how to play keyboards during their Fine Arts time. On top of all this, Violins and Guitar begins this week with over 50 students ready to work with Sounds Academy.

One more exciting detail, is that our 3rd building is going up. This will open next school year and house 6th through 8th grade, as well as a Science lab and a Dance area! Falcons are looking forward to a fabulous year!



Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning Services would like to recognize all of the employees and departments that assisted in making pre-service a success. Several professional development sessions occurred over the course of the seven pre-service days and were successful because of *Littleton Heroes!* Several departments and employees demonstrated Littleton's values of collaboration, dedication and integrity to ensure these sessions were successful.

Teaching and Learning Services would like to recognize the following departments: Operations, Human Resources,



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August 16, 2017

Business Resources, Exceptional Student Services, Transportation, Food Services and IT.

We would also like to recognize the presenters that facilitated during this time: *Terri Fisher, Jim Poquette, Juanita Morin, Leslie Sanchez, Charlie Blanton, Katherine Hoornstra, Tony Balsama, Carrie Rodriguez, Susan Gibson, Dr. Karen Grose, Richard Ramos, Dr. Mike Cagle, Bryan D'Alessio, Eric Nelson, Jazmin Pacheco, Morgan Fulks, Susan Knighton, Katie Carnicelli, Aracely Vasquez, Yusra Millenbaugh, Brittany Jimenez, Katherine Larm, Jennifer Grbic, Susan Rumann, Amanda Herrera, Samantha Armstrong, Liliana De La Rosa, Gina Forney, Luciana Ito, Sideqa Padawer, Sandy Miller, Dawn Robinson, Juleah Ferreria, and Susan Candelaria.*

Transportation

Transportation would like to welcome two new heroes who have joined the district. Bus Drivers *Taliese Brogdon* drives the Lavender Bus and *Terrance Nuness* will be driving the Turtle Bus.

We are also very excited to report that a parent called Collier Elementary to give a shout out to the purple bus driver. The parent went on to say that her son was scared to ride the bus but Mr. Jerry was so nice and pulled him aside and talked to him. Now he's excited to come to school and see Mr. Jerry. Way to make a difference *Jerry Nevels.*

Operations

The Operations department is pleased to welcome a new groundskeeper. *Kyle Whitbeck* who recently started with the District.

Exceptional Student Services

Littleton Elementary School District's Exploring Potential Program hosted their 1st quarter parent meeting on Monday, August 15, 2017. Of the seven schools, four schools were represented. Parents from Fine Arts, Collier, Country Place, and Estrella Vista were in attendance. This initial, informative meeting was followed by an opportunity to explore new board games. The feedback provided will be used when planning upcoming meetings.\

Technology

The Technology Department recently held training for Front Office Seniors on the new License to Learn Badges. Special thank you to *Jim Poquette*, Technology Coordinator and *Alex Celestino*, Network Technician for heading up the project. Office Seniors spent two days learning the badge system and printing permanent ID cards for their schools. Thank you to *Elizabeth DeLeon* from Collier, *Ruby España* from Country Place, *Stephanie Bojorquez* from Estrella Vista, *Teresa Lugo* from Fine Arts, *Alfredo Ramirez* from Littleton, *Ana Arce* from Quentin and *Grace Gutierrez* from Tres Rios. They will now be able to train the rest of the school front office staff on this new procedure.

The Technology team supported benchmark testing the second week of August with all students in grades 3-8 using a 1:1 laptop. We are excited to report that almost 2 million dollars' work of technology has been placed with kids!



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This school year, the District has over 1,800 Chromebooks in use at Estrella Vista STEM Academy, Collier Elementary and Littleton Elementary. The other school sites have a laptop and this year we are proud to say we have standardized on the model at each site.

Littleton volunteers are heroes! School front offices received Superhero postcards to use to recruit volunteers. The applications are pouring in. The Parent Liaison is currently working on processing over 700 applications!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 23, 2017

Quentin STEM Academy

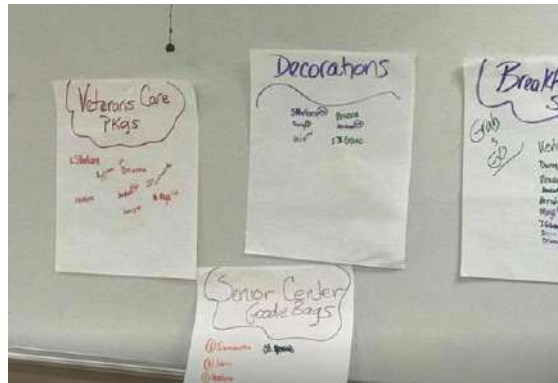
It has been a smooth start to the school year at Quentin. We want to affirm our classified and certified staff member of the month **Mr. Adam Johnson** and **Mr. Jaime Reyna** respectively. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to the Quentin community.

The Littleton Education Foundation supported the Quentin community with 400 pedometers. We will use them to support our health initiative on campus. We will be doing the NFL Play60 Challenge with 5th and 6th graders, so this will help with the tracking of student activity and 7th and 8th graders will be participating in the Fitness Gram (formerly known as the President’s Fitness Challenge).

We had our first parent event at Quentin. Bingo Night took place in the cafeteria and we had food, fun and bingo for all.

Tres Rios Service Academy

Congratulations to Tres Rios! They were selected to be a Youth Service of America School of Service and were awarded a grant to sponsor a 9/11 National Day of Service. This is super exciting and Tres students have just begun to plan for the big day!



One of our favorite new projects at Tres Rios is **SENDING SMILES**. This is a wonderful group that sends postcards to sick kids across the country. **Mr. Scott Kelbick** and his band of altruistic 6th graders shared smiles to over 100 patients last week. What a great way to take a note and Make a Difference.

Cheers to **Ms. Luci Vargas** our wonderful Admin Asst. for sharing her birthday with us at Tres. When Ms. Luci celebrates we all celebrate. She does so much for Tres it is fun to get to celebrate her on her special day!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 30, 2017

Collier Elementary



Collier had our first run through of Roving Chef with a few of our lucky fifth grade students. The pizza was excellent and the student smiles were even better! Our students are lucky to have this opportunity each month.

On September 26, Collier will be hosting their annual Math Night for parents and students to attend. Each grade level will have tables set up with manipulatives, games, and online resources to share with parents so they can help support their children with the new Engage NY Math curriculum.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus- SHINE (Students Helping to Inspire, Nurture, and Empower). This year our Leadership Teacher, **Mrs. Anitra Morin** has brought SHINE (Students Helping to Inspire, Nurture, and Empower) to Country Place. Fifty-three students have volunteered to work with 35 teachers and staff members. The student leaders help staff with a variety of leadership projects. These projects include tutoring younger students, reading with students, organizing classroom spaces and improving our school. The students participated in training with their staff member, are graded weekly and are expected to model exceptional leadership.

Leadership Focus and AWESome Learning- Country Place Geek Squad and 1:1 Devices 3rd-8th grade. Our third through eighth grade students are extremely excited to be able to have 1:1 wireless touchscreen tablets (more than 600 devices!) this year to facilitate their AWESome Learning! As the year was getting started we discovered that many of the devices needed an update that required them to be plugged into the data port in the wall. Our amazing district technology team, our Digital Learning Leader, **Ms. Brittany Jimenez** and the CP Geek Squad came to the rescue. **Nick, Hennessy, Melanie and Savannah** traveled from class to class to assist students and staff in getting the 1:1s up and going. Thanks to everyone for their teamwork and the Geek Squad for their Leadership!





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August 30, 2017

Leadership Focus- Wildly Important Goal. As part of our Leadership and Learning work, our staff is participating in the 4 Disciplines of Execution Process. The first part in the process is to focus on the Wildly Important. Research into effectiveness has shown that people can only focus on one to three goals at one time if they want to execute them with excellence. There are two types of goals, Wildly Important (WIG) and Pretty Important (PIG). There is also the Whirlwind, which is all of the things that people need to do in their jobs or lives on a daily basis to make it through their day. What makes a WIG stand out is that without it none of the other goals would matter. For the 1st Quarter, our Lighthouse Team has selected to focus on our school culture and student engagement. On a survey given to our student body, 73% of students strongly agreed or agreed that adults at me school care about me. Our WIG is to increase this percentage to 94% by the end of Quarter 1.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 6, 2017

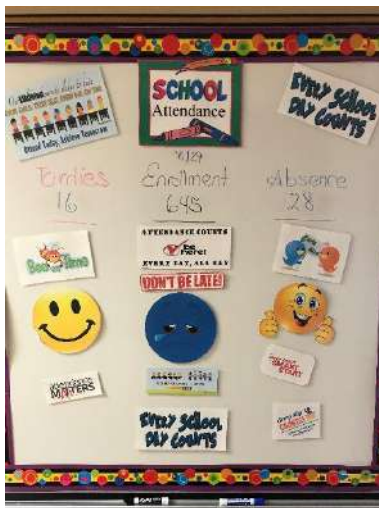
Littleton Elementary

The 2017-2018 school year is off to a fantastic start at Littleton Elementary School. Students and staff have shown their Firebird pride through their efforts to rise up and meet expectations both in and out of the classroom.



Our youngest learners, our pre-school students, are finishing their beginning of the year unit. This unit introduced our preschoolers to the routines, procedures and expectations of our school and their classrooms. Later this month, they will begin their fall unit that focuses on trees. This unit will expose our students to literacy, math, science and social studies through the exploration of nature in our communities and world.

Our students in grades 3-8 are enjoying the tremendous learning benefits of 1:1 devices. Teachers are working hard to integrate technology into their lessons to create relevant, challenging, and engaging learning experiences.



September is Absence Awareness Month nationally, but it is a focus area here every day. We know that every day a student is absent from school is a missed opportunity to learn and we strive to have our students at school every single day. To promote this, our front office keeps a daily tracker, visible for everyone to see, to serve as a motivational tool and a record of our success. We are excited to announce that we have celebrated record low days in the number of students tardy and absent already this year. We look forward to more of the same as the school year continues.

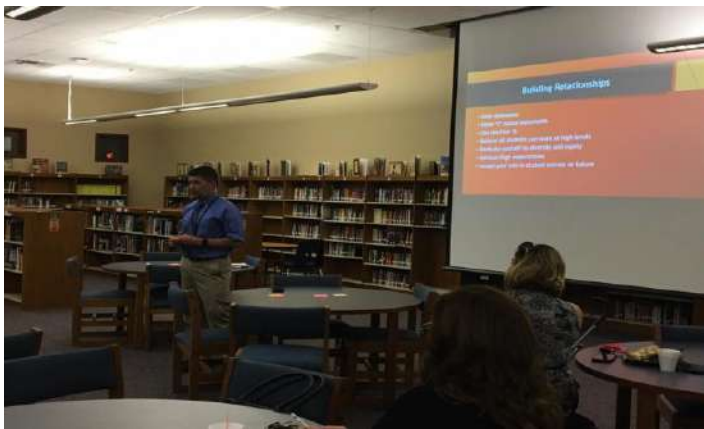


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 6, 2017

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Building Partnerships with Parents through monthly Coffee Talk with the Principal. We would like to thank our parents for their participation in our first Coffee Talk with the *Principal*. It was inspiring to hear the VOICES of our families and the ownership they have in Estrella Vista's success! Thank you *SFE* and *PTSA* for providing the coffee and breakfast goodies for our families. Your support is much appreciated.



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ PTSA Off to a Great Start in Community Involvement. Thank you to our *Hawk PTSA* who has started the year with a BANG! The parent group raised over \$600 at the Peter Piper Back to School Event night on August 4th. In addition, the group welcomed the most parents they've seen at their first *PTSA* meeting on August 22nd and kicked off their yearly One of a Kind Fundraiser in the month of August. The group of parents is excited to host many more parent involvement events for our families this year as well as support student achievement through donations of funds to classrooms and before and after school clubs.

Estrella Vista had a successful Hobbies and Recreation destination night on Monday, August 28th. Students brought their families in to check out what Estrella Vista has to offer in before and after school programs for the Fall Semester and have the opportunity to sign up for 20 club experiences. It was exciting to see all the students signing up for activities that they are interested in. Thank you so much to the staff members below who are facilitating clubs and offering Social, Emotional, Academic and Physical growth for Estrella Vista learners Kindergarten through 8th grade. We are all excited to see how these clubs can help inspire our students to learn about hobbies and recreation that they are interested in! Thank you to *Mr. Anthony Haduch* ~ 4th grade teacher and Clubs Coordinator ~ for coordinating this event!

Club	Sponsor (s)
Broadcasting (4 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Ms. Penny Nguyen</i>
Junior Poms (2 nd – 4 th grade)	<i>Ms. Alyssa Nelson, Ms. Daisy Sandoval, Mrs. Rebekah Smith</i>



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MESA Club (6 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Mr. Michael Laureano, Mrs. Rachel Vliek</i>
CSO STEM Ambassadors Club (6 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Mr. Stephen Batchelder</i>
Roller Blading (3 rd – 8 th grade)	<i>Ms. Paige Lamb, Ms. Alyssa Nelson, Ms. Alyssa Pakes, Ms. Daisy Sandoval, Mrs. Rebekah Smith</i>
Garden Club ((K-3 rd grade)	<i>Susan Rumann</i>
Literacy Club (K – 2 nd grade)	<i>Ms. Mallory Moore</i>
Math Games (K-2 nd grade)	<i>Ms. Karla Encinas</i>
Math Games (3 rd – 5 th grade)	<i>Mr. Anthony Haduch, Ms. Jesse Reyes</i>
Dance/Step Team (6 th -8th grade)	<i>Ms. Alexis Hullaby</i>
Cooking/Crafting (K-2 nd grade)	<i>Mrs. Sandra Gallegos</i>
Creative Writing (6 th - 8 th)	<i>Ms. Jessica Gensel</i>
Chess Club (8 th grade)	<i>Mr. Stephen Batchelder</i>
Hawk Student Council (6 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Ms. Rosie Fleeman, Ms. Michelle Pitters</i>
Rubik’s Cube Club (6 th – 8 th)	<i>Mr. Rigoberto Gamez</i>
Lego Robotics Club (5 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Ms. Adriana Amivisca, Mrs. Nonu Nsagane</i>
NJHS (6 th – 8 th grade)	<i>Mr. Bronson Goodsell, Ms. Michelle Gerrick</i>
Lego Club (2 nd – 4 th grade)	<i>Ms. Adriana Amivisca, Mrs. Nonu Nsagane</i>
Fitness Club (3 rd – 5 th grade)	<i>Mr. Sean Cappello</i>
Girls Running Club (3 rd – 8 th grade)	<i>Ms. Michelle Pitters, Mrs. Rebekah Smith</i>



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ A+ Teacher: Mr. Ramos Works to Unite the EV Community. Below is a story that was posted on the 12 news website highlighting Estrella Vista’s Principal Mr. Ramos:

AVONDALE, Ariz. - One day, Principal **Richard Ramos** went into a classroom for a series of questions with some of his students, one student asked if he was like the "other principals who left after one year on the job." It was that day that **Ramos** realized he was at that school to stay.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 6, 2017

It is said that leadership starts from the top. Estrella Vista Stem Academy's principal, **Mr. Ramos**, takes that phrase to heart. "So the most important thing for me is building relationships. I really feel that people need to be happy in their workspace or you know, in the school environment. It's a community here," said Ramos. "But building relationships is really critical for me." His community has come to realize that. Every morning, **Ramos** becomes a crossing guard. It is there where he shows his leadership by greeting every teacher, parent and student he comes across.

"Believe it or not, that is my favorite part of the day," **Ramos** said.

"He is just an incredible individual, he's very passionate about what he does," said Krystine Tressler, a parent of one of the students that attends the school. Tressler nominated Ramos as an A+ Teacher because "he comes to school with a smile on his face every day, he greets all the kids all the parents and my son he just loves him, he adores him."



Ramos is from Globe, Arizona. His Latino parents, who were miners there, taught him the value of hard work and leadership.

"**Mr. Ramos** is a fantastic leader on our campus," said Anthony Haduch, who **Ramos** hired as a teacher. "His entire form of leadership is really building others in a shared leadership so he works to empower everyone on our campus and our community."

Ramos is an inspiration, a community leader, and an educator who deserves the title of A+ Teacher.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

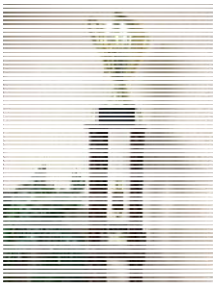
September 13, 2017

Fine Arts Academy



Fine Arts Academy is having a great first quarter. We had our second Falcon Festival of the year. We sang our school song and gave out some awards as well as honored our athletes. Next Falcon Festival we will be showing off our teacher talent.

We are proud to have our choir, band, theater and art programs beyond full including during, before, and after school. We had a capacity for each and have exceeded with a waiting list. Our students are eager and enthusiastic to be part of our programs. Each of our students will have a chance to be part of our programs with the integrated projects we will be working on later this year.



Our attendance awareness month is off to a great start; we consistently have five to six classes (remember that's only out of 23 classes) with perfect attendance every day. They look forward to winning the trophy at the end of the month.

Technology

Some exciting changes are happening at Country Place Leadership Academy. This past Monday, students were in the library using a computer lab that was set up over the weekend. The lab that is now sitting in the library was originally housed in a classroom.

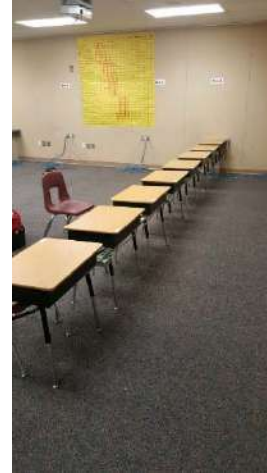
Starting on Friday, September 8th, *Alex Moreno* from the Warehouse transported desks from the District Office to replace the desks that were moving to the library. The Operations Department is now working on assembling rows of connected student desks. Within the next couple of weeks, the computers currently housed in the main computer lab will be moved, freeing that classroom for other purposes.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 13, 2017

Special thanks to the following staff members for coming in on Saturday to have the lab ready for kids on Monday: **Jim Poquette**, Technology Coordinator, **Alex Celestino**, Network Technician, **Frank Gutierrez**, Computer Tech, **Tim Turner**, Computer Tech, **Uriel Contreras**, Computer Tech, **Leslie Sanchez**, Computer Technician, **Randy Simonson**, Special Systems Technician and **Heber Castro**, Electrician.



Estrella Vista staff is getting new laptops! Laptops have been delivered to the Estrella Vista library to be checked out to personnel. All the laptops that staff will be turning in will be reimaged and put in a mobile cart for the primary grades to use. A win win for all!

The Technology Department would like to welcome **Uriel Contreras** as our new Computer Tech. Uriel started with the team on September 5th. Uriel originally spent time with us last year as a student intern from Estrella Mountain Community College and is now employed with us full time!

Teaching and Learning

On Thursday, August 31st Littleton ESD hosted the first of two all staff professional development days for the 2017-2018 school year. This day provided the opportunity for staff members to engage in a full day of professional development. Littleton partnered with a few outside agencies to offer specific sessions for employee groups. These organizations included The Trust, Avondale Police Department, Community Bridges, and the Alesi Group. Littleton was excited and honored to welcome former Littleton ESD student Dr. Isela Garcia, with the Alesi Group, to facilitate a professional development session for kindergarten teachers and paraprofessionals on the importance of supporting Social and Emotional Development in Kindergarten classrooms. Thank you to all staff members that presented: **Juleah Ferreira**, **Mike Linehan**, **Gina Forney**, **Amanda Herrera**, **Yusra Millenbaugh**, **Susan Candelaria**, **Mia De La Rosa**, **Sideqa Padawer**, **Jennifer Grbic**, **Aracely Vazquez**, **Samantha Armstrong**, **Brittany Jimenez**, **Sandy Miller**, **Susan Knighton**, **Natasha Pazoggi**, **Chelsey Walworth**, **Damon Lorenz**, **Kaya Hudak**, **Michelle Bowns**, and **Terri Fisher**.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 20, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy

Ms. Erika Avelar's Ergonomic Wonderland Benefits Students in Many Ways! Let's face it, one size does not fit all! While some students like to sit up high, others like to sit down low. Some like to bounce, and others prefer to rock. Thanks to the hard work and dedication to her students, **Ms. Avelar** has provided sixth graders with a plethora of just-right seating options to help them get comfy while they learn. Does it ever get distracting? Never! Students are more on task with all these options than in other traditional settings. Happy bottoms, happy students!



Heroes Don't Always Wear Capes. **Mr. Noah Karvelis**, Tres Rios' illustrious music teacher, never fails to engage students in a wide variety of fun, kid-friendly activities that inspire students of all different interests and background to express themselves through vocal and instrumental music. In his class, students get to play the drums, ukuleles, electric and acoustic guitars, keyboards, recorders, you name it!

His morning *School of Rock* music club is all the rage with students in grades 4-8. On Thursdays, it's guitar players, and on Fridays it's all about the drums, piano and singing.



JOIN THE TRES RIOS **School of Rock**

Come join us as we form bands with our friends, learn about music, sing and play guitar, drums, bass, and piano! We will be performing our own songs as well as songs from our favorite bands throughout the year!



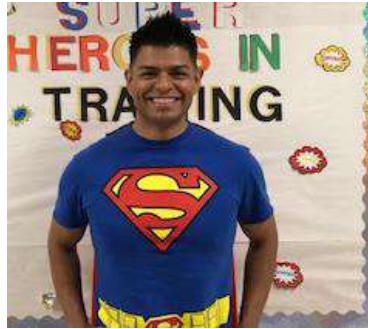
Meet Tres Rios' Very Own Legion of Super-Heroes





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September 20, 2017



Student teachers, **Ms. Daite** and **Mr. Kenny**, work alongside **Mr. Itzer Garcia** in Tres Rios' 6th/7th grade combination ELD classroom to help students increase their English proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, oral conversation and vocabulary. So far, the program seems to be a huge success. Students are working harder than ever and are certainly benefitting from the talents of three adults who all share the same common goal—to help students achieve to best of their ability.

Spirit Week with a Purpose. This week, students at Tres Rios are having fun while working to support the victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Each day of the week, students will bring items to donate to hurricane victims in turn for getting to dress down, dress up and dress crazy. As long as we're helping others, we're pretty okay with that here at Tres Rios Service Academy!



Quentin STEM Academy

Exciting news! Quentin boys' basketball team finished in a tie for first place and they are ready for the play-offs!

The American Dream Academy held their informational meetings with our families for 30 parents confirming they will commit to the program.

We had our Academic Parent Teacher Team Night for kindergarten to third grade. We had a third of our parents come in to the school to work with our elementary teachers on language arts strategies that were decided upon by the results from data from our tests. Teachers had our parents in a classroom and they taught our families strategies that they could work on with their children at home to best support student achievement at school.



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We completed class game time with Coach Daniel. Coach Daniel from Playworks focused on resiliency this week with our students. Games like tag, 5-line basketball and tether ball were a few of the games taught and played to support our students with our healthy play and character building initiative.



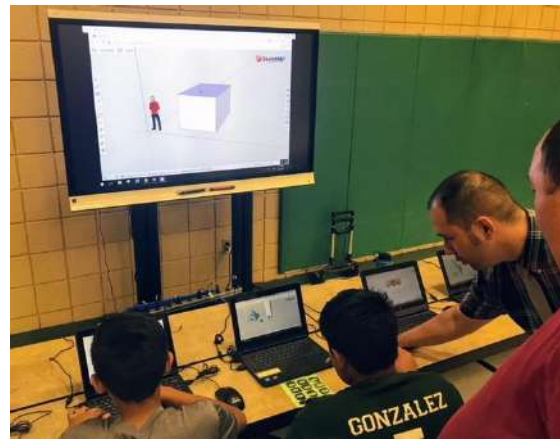


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 26, 2017

Collier Elementary

On September 26, Collier invited parents and students to our annual Math Night. Participants had opportunities to interact with the teachers as well as completing math challenges from pumpkin measuring, football scoring, money counting, and telling time. Our daily technology opportunities were also on display for parents to practice. There were also activities to help students identify their areas of Hobbies and Recreation in regards to Kids @ Hope.



Thank you to **Ms. Jackie Older** for organizing a quick materials drive for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Teachers and students donated cleaning materials and school supplies that were taken directly to Houston.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 26, 2017

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus- Sharpen the Saw and Hobbies and Recreation Night sponsored by the NFL Fuel Up to Play 60 Student Leadership Team and PTA. Fuel Up to Play 60 is off to a great start. In conjunction with PTA we hosted “Sharpen Your Saw” night where kids sharpened their bodies, minds, hearts and souls by enjoying games with family and friends. We had obstacle courses, a football throw, soccer kick, basketball and other games promoting the students to be “active”. PTA hosted games inside like “pop the balloon” and skittles race. Fuel Up to Play 60 Student Leaders coordinated the event with help from the National Junior Honor Society running games. “Studies show that engaging with kids in things like board games and physical activity has a positive impact on their mental health” (Washington Post, 2015).



Leadership Focus- Student Led Announcements. Our sixth-eight grade Leadership classes are now writing, producing and creating morning announcements, complete with a green screen! The student talent varies daily! They share segments that include the Kids at Hope Pledge, the Pledge of Allegiance, Birthdays, announcements and daily leadership lessons. They are posted on our Facebook and Twitter page so tune in daily!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 4, 2017

Littleton Elementary

September was a busy month at Littleton Elementary School. With so much going on both in and out of the classroom, this is a great opportunity to reflect on all that we accomplished!



Our first Kids at Hope assembly was held early in the month and it was a huge success. Students were recognized for their outstanding contributions to our school as we all celebrated their achievements. We also used this time to kick off our cookie dough fundraiser, which resulted in record sales.

Our preschool classrooms are continuing working on our Tree theme. Students have the opportunity to explore the campus looking at various trees and collecting tree parts for various activities in the classroom. Three of our classrooms have tree themes, *Ms. Dawn Scheideman* has a large tree house available for her students to explore. *Ms. Becky Burns* is creating a camping theme in one of her interest areas, including a play tent for students to use. *Ms. Margaret Henke* has her room decorated for fall with leaves, pumpkins and a large tree for students to explore. *Ms. Danielle Lowrie's* room had a visit from a therapy dog and is working with the center to extend the visits to all classrooms. Finally, the preschool team is working on our Fall Family Day, where families can interact with their children in fall/tree themed activities. The Fall Family Day is scheduled for November 1st.



Our 2nd graders worked hard to create amazing animal dioramas. Once they were completed, other classrooms and staff members were invited to come in and view the finished projects, as well as talk to the students about what they learned. It was evident that our 2nd graders took great pride in their work, as well they should. Great job!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 4, 2017

Our Littleton Firebird basketball seasons have come to a close. Our girls' team showed continual improvement throughout the year and qualified for a spot in the playoffs. Our boys' team finished the regular season in a three way tie for the best record and then went on to win the school's first ever championship. Our school gathered on Friday afternoon for a pep rally to cheer our boys on to victory and it worked!! Our theme for the year continues to ring true, "We can't hide our Firebird pride!"



Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Teacher of the Month. Estrella Vista staff would like to celebrate **Mr. Bronson Goodsell**, 7th grade Social Studies teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Teacher of the Month for the month of August. **Mr. Goodsell** works diligently to plan engaging lessons that are relevant to student's. **Mr. Goodsell** plans lessons that also integrate multiple content areas to support his students in making connections between Social Studies and other disciplines. In addition to his work in providing effective instruction, **Mr. Goodsell** works to support the Instructional Leadership Team with valuable input in school improvement and other initiatives happening at Estrella Vista. His voice is always present in looking for ways to increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement. He also looks for opportunities for students to be leaders and works collaboratively with colleagues to develop student mentors, support all school initiatives with his leadership and empowering our NJHS students. **Mr. Goodsell** goes above and beyond and dedicates himself to all students and community. Thank you **Mr. Goodsell** and congratulations on this achievement!





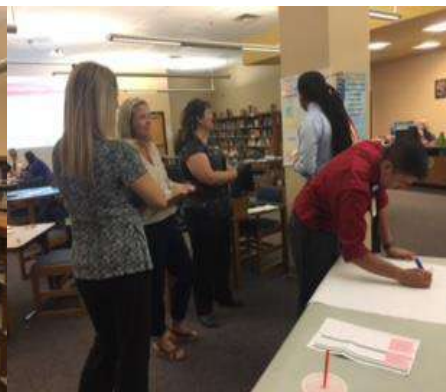
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 4, 2017

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ PTSA Off to a Great Start in Community Involvement. Thank you to the *Estrella Vista PTSA* for their dedication to supporting community involvement and fundraising for instruction and supporting activities in various grade levels throughout the school. This month *PTSA* held another Peter Piper Pizza Family night, a grandparent's breakfast and a Family Movie night. We appreciate all you do to engage our families in the school! A special thank you also goes out to six of our *NJHS* students who supported the *PTSA* by working the family movie night event. We look forward to continuing collaboration between the student and parent group to host more successful events this year.



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ MCESA Visits Estrella Vista with Twenty-Five Principal Supervisors. On Friday, September 29th, twenty-five mentor principals visited Estrella Vista. They made classroom observations in an effort to train to support principals in improving teacher practices around Maricopa County. The efforts were organized by our partners out of Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA). During their visit, the mentor principals were impressed with our teachers' abilities to communicate with children, promote student engagement, and use of questions to foster collaboration. In addition, students at Estrella Vista were recognized for articulating their learning, participating actively in collaboration, and providing feedback during project-based learning. The visit was a huge success and put the spotlight on Estrella Vista STEM Academy.





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Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Kids at Hope Hobbies & Recreation Initiatives. At Estrella Vista, our 22 clubs are in full swing allowing students to learn about hobbies they enjoy. Our 400 plus students are experiencing activities like gardening, Lego's, running, roller blading, student council, fitness and so much more. We look forward to continuing to give our students access to the hobbies and recreation that they enjoy. Thank you to **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher and after school programs coordinator, for coordinating all clubs at Estrella Vista and **Mrs. Nonu Nsagane**, STEM teachers and **Mrs. Adriana Amavisca**, Gifted teacher, for leading the way with the Lego club; **Dr. Susan Rumann**, Student Achievement Coach, for leading the way with the garden club; and **Mr. Sean Cappello**, 3rd grade teacher, for your work in keeping our student fit in fitness club.



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Time Traveling to La Joya with a Fine Arts Experience. Middle school students had the opportunity on Friday, September 29th to attend a field trip to La Joya High School. The trip for our students was spectacular! So many of the kids made comments about how they never knew La Joya had such cool stuff and got them excited to go to high school! Our students got a chance to see La Joya's choir, marching band, percussion group, a fantastic dance troupe choreographed by students, and Improv Drama as opportunities in their fine arts program. In addition, Estrella Vista students got a glimpse of the ceramics done with a wheel and kiln dried. The weather was perfect, students behaved perfectly and the trip was a huge success. Thank you to **Mrs. Julie Whelihan**, Estrella Vista Art teacher, and our **Special Area** team for organizing this opportunity for our middle school students. We look forward to being invited back in the spring to see La Joya's preview performance of Beauty and the Beast!

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Partnership Continues with ASU Center for Bio-Mediated and Bio-Inspired Geotechnics. Students in **Ms. Michelle Gerrick's** science class, as well as other Science classrooms at Estrella Vista STEM Academy, have been exploring geotechnical engineering with the assistance of the members of the CBBG at ASU. The CBBG, Center for Bio-Mediated and Bio-Inspired Geotechnics, offered a Research Experience for Teachers program this summer and 5 teachers at EVES attended. **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade Science teacher's particular project focused on supporting Kimberly Martin, a doctoral student at ASU, with her research on liquefaction mitigation techniques. Outside of the lab teachers collaborated with scientists at ASU to



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 4, 2017

develop K-12 science curriculum to pilot in our classroom this year before being introduced to a developing national engineering education effort. With the collaboration of *Dr. Susan Rumann*, *Mr. Batchelder* has developed an 8th grade science unit in which students used a scientific process to test and evaluate liquefaction mitigation strategies in the classroom. Students are excited to continue to sieve soil samples, calculate permeability of samples, and engineer a soil column for a client. Thank you to the CBBG for all your teaching this summer! Estrella Vista looks forward to having a guest speaker from the center on campus on October 12. Below are some pictures taken of both the experience at ASU as well as the CBBG implementation of learning in *Mr. Batchelder's* 8th grade Science class.



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Partnering with the Greater Community to Promote Digital Leadership. On Wednesday September 20th, **Jaime Casap**, Chief Educational Evangelist at Google visited Estrella Vista STEM Academy. He spoke to the 5th-8th grade students about the importance of education, STEM learning for the future, as well as sharing his amazing inspirational story. What a great opportunity for our students to learn from a STEM leader. Thank you to *Mrs. Jennifer Grbic*, Student Achievement Coach, for coordinating this phenomenal guest speaker and experience for our students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 11, 2017

Fine Arts Academy

Fine Arts Academy had their first **Kids at Hope** night this past month, hobbies and recreation. We had over 300 students show up, more than 50% of the school and close to 750 people overall. We had students from other schools in and out of the district come enjoy the night with us. *Ms. Michelle Walla* with the help of all of our teachers on campus put together nine different stations that the kids traveled to collecting stickers for their passport. The lines were so long we will have to double the number of stations for next year. The night was a huge success, students, parents and community members had lot of



positive feedback for us.

Fine Arts PTA held a **Penny War** this past month as a fundraiser for Hurricane Harvey. We partnered with Scholastic who donated one book for every dollar raised. The Fine Arts community raised approximately 1,965 books and

for scholastic to donate to students teachers affected by Hurricane Harvey.



Fine Arts has many talented kids who participate in theater, theater tech, violin, band, keyboards, art club and



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 11, 2017

choir. We knew our kids were amazing and when **Mr. Travis White** had asked kids to try out for the **Arizona State Choir** he had high hopes that we may have two kids from our school make the choir. **Mr. White** spent hours helping them prepare and video tape their audition and when the state responded with the results we were all amazed. We not only had two of our students make the state choir we had 8! We would like to recognize:

“Congratulations to 5th-8th graders Cindy L, Alexis F, Sarai E, Ciara C, Serin C, Nevaeh B, Jahaira A and Yamile A from the Fine Arts Academy for being selected to participate in the Arizona ACDA State Honor Choir! Students from districts across the state auditioned for this honor and these students were selected for their amazing talents, musicianship and leadership! We know they will represent Fine Arts Academy, Littleton Elementary School District and the city of Tolleson well as they prepare to sing in the Cantaremos Honor Choir Concert held at Central High School in central Phoenix on November 11th!”- Travis White

Topping off the quarter we had **Big Red and an Arizona Cardinal** come read to the students. **Ms. Diane Hedges** set up the event in partnership with Safeway who provided milk and cookies to the kids. The hour long event promotes literacy and brought Arizona Cardinals Player #65 **Mr. Pasoni Tasini** & Big Red the mascot, to the school. The two autographed posters to be given away at the Book Fair. The program kicked off with Big Red firing up the crowd by leading them in the chicken dance. **Mr. Pasoni** read two books to the students “The Boss Baby” by Marla Frazee and “Green Eggs and Ham” by Dr. Seuss. He sat with them and ate milk and cookies while answering several questions and even accepted the cookie challenge (put a cookie on your forehead and wiggle it into your mouth without dropping it) which he won. The event ended with each student receiving an



autographed backpack & lanyard

from **Mr. Pasoni**.

Teaching and Learning

The Math Curriculum Adoption process is underway in Teaching and Learning Services. Members of the Curriculum Action Team (CAT) have started to review the programs submitted by publishers. Review teams are



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using rubrics focused on the Arizona Mathematics Standards adopted in December of 2016, which will be fully implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. The publishers supporting the following pilot programs: enVisions, Investigations, Go Math, and My Math will be providing short presentations on their programs to CAT in October and November. Once the CAT makes recommendations on programs, expected in late November early December voting will occur. Littleton employees, parents and community members will have the opportunity to review materials and vote for the program they would recommend for purchase. Thank you to the members of CAT who are part of this adoption process: *Aileen Mancillas, Amanda Herrera, Bailey Wilson, Cassandra Lockard, Christine Russell, Eric Atuahene, Eric Nelson, Katie Carnicelli, Lorialle Haynes, Luciana Ito, Maria Serrano, Rebecca Portillo, Rosie Fleeman, Sandra Miller, Sara Hall, Shelley Storaska, Sideqa Padawer, Susan Rumann, and Yusra Millenbaugh.*

Technology

This school year, the Technology Department has really been pushing to automate as many systems as possible. We are happy to report that Synergy; the student information system is now pushing data into VersaTrans which cuts down data entry for transportation. On the flip side, VersaTrans is sending data back in to Synergy. This means that front office staff can log into Synergy and see student information that includes bus number, color and pick up and drop off times. These fields are being automatically populated by VersaTrans each night. Thanks to all who worked on this project as it has created efficiencies across the District and helps us deliver better customer service to these types of inquiries.

Currently, we have 4 volunteers from Estrella Mountain Community College putting in a few hours a week trying to get us out from under the 300+ tickets in the system and also helping with needed repairs of the hundreds of computers that need to be assessed and repaired or retired. We also recently had an intern from Estrella Mountain Community College also start with the department. During his time with us, *Mr. Dalton Herring* will spend time working with computer techs, help desk and the network techs to get experience in all areas.

Students in the 1:1 program are now able to get into StudentVue with ease and check their grades and attendance. We can also see that some of our parents are going in often. We are working on a handout for conferences so all can promote these features for our families during conferences. Parents and students now have an easy way to monitor progress which promotes partnerships. Teachers are using the communication area in the gradebook to reach out to families.

Transportation

Emergency bus evacuations were performed at Littleton, Quentin and Fine Arts this week. The rest of the schools are scheduled for the end of this week. Emergency bus evacuations are performed twice a year. We thank the schools for being organized and our students are awesome and eager to learn how to be safe. Our drivers are





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 11, 2017

heroes of safety.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 25, 2017

Quentin STEM Academy

We held our first Playworks night for our families at the end of September. We had nine stations where students and families participated in Playworks games. Students earned a stamp on their Kids @ Hope passport for each game. Students who received all stamps received a prize the next day at school as well as their name on the announcements.

We had our first pep assembly! We collaborated with La Joya High School pep squad. Our cheerleaders and their squad were here to perform for our students and celebrated our athletes and coaches for a season well done.

Our sixth grade team received funding for their Westside Impact grant. It is on the digestive system and how it works. We are excited to see the results of their project with our students.

We celebrated *Ms. Rhiannon McGowan* and *Ms. Carmen Gomez* as our staff members of the month for September.

Lastly, a huge celebration is in store for our student council. They have officially taken over our student assemblies. They successfully completed their first one for the month of September and they were extremely popular amongst our student population.

Tres Rios Service Academy



Ms. Lindsay Westberg, our dean of students, kicked off her yearlong anti-bullying campaign by teaching students to recognize normal conflict vs. bullying and strategies to handle themselves in both situations. In the meantime, several classes were motivated to display their thoughts on the topic.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 25, 2017



Red Ribbon Week led to many creative displays across all grades. Despite the grueling pace of the curriculum, our staff always finds a way to make time for things that matter to children.



Mr. Scott Kelbick led the way with a family science night hosted by the Arizona Science Center.



Ms. Judy Collins poured her heart and soul into making this year's Wild West book fair a success. When unsuspecting visitors attempted to pass by the library she lassoed them in and encouraged them to buy books for their children.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 1, 2017

Collier Elementary

The video below and the policy brief describe how NIET’s work with ASU and Texas Tech is helping to support new teachers to enter the classroom better prepared for success. They highlight how these partnerships are supporting programs that graduate new teachers at twice the rate of preparation programs nationwide, and produce new teachers with proficient or above proficient skills as they enter their first year of teaching – leading principals to conclude that many have the skills of a second or third year teacher. Thank you to **Ms. Lorialle Haynes** for helping them to describe this work. <http://www.niet.org/newsroom/videos/event/29/79>

Here is the link for the Socktober charitable fundraiser. Please support this great cause. <https://my.wehelptwo.com/campaign?id=584>



The students and teachers in kindergarten wore 50’s clothing to celebrate the 50th day of school.

Collier students and teachers have been creating and fostering relationships between the younger and older students. Our older students have been supporting the younger students by being mentors of behavior and academics, reading buddies, partner shoppers at the book fair, and motivators before testing.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Sharpen the Saw-First Annual Staff versus Student Basketball Game. On October 27, the Country Place Leadership Academy Student Council hosted our First Annual Staff versus Students Basketball Game. Everyone had a great time and there was spirited competition! Great sportsmanship and leadership was showed by all! A special thanks to **Mrs. Tatum Green**, **Mrs. Erika Alvarez** and **Mrs. Mariza Lopez** for helping our student leaders organize the event. A thanks to all of the staff and students who played, attended and ran the event!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 1, 2017



to continue to define iLEAD, we are seeing amazing things from our students! We had our first ever interviews for our Student Lighthouse Team. The Student Lighthouse Team will help inform and guide our leadership work as a school. Students from Kinder to 8th grade interviewed with members of the community and district staff members. They were amazing! We wish that they all could be on the Lighthouse Team. They were that good! We are going to work with students who are not selected for the Lighthouse Team to head up other leadership campus Beatification Crew! Great job Mustangs!

AWESome Learning Focus- A World in Motion, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the GM Foundation is expanding our AWESome science and engineering learning to more grade levels this year! Students will work with community volunteers, parent volunteers, staff and student leaders to create a variety of science based toys. Students will design, test, and redesign a variety of projects. They also will learn the science behind their creations! Our helicopters inspired by nature in November are being made by our parent, student and community volunteers!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 8, 2017

Littleton Elementary

Fall has been a busy and exciting time around the Littleton Elementary campus. With so many activities going on both in and out of the classroom, all of our students and their families have had the opportunity to be involved and invested in our Firebird community!

Our preschool classrooms are continuing working on our Tree theme. Students have the opportunity to explore the campus looking at various trees and collecting tree parts for various activities in the classroom. Students in several classes are exploring measurement by cooking apple sauce and then enjoying it for snack. The preschool team is working very hard on our Family Fun day on November 1st, families have the opportunity to spend some quality time together playing games, making family trees and making apple pies. The preschool team has invited First Teeth First to attend and provide dental services for families who elect to participate.



On October 27th our PTA hosted a Trunk or Treat event followed by a family movie night. Hundreds of people filled the Littleton campus to take part in the trunk or treating, as well as various games, an awesome haunted house, and a staff vs. students' basketball game. There really was something for everyone. We are so thankful for the efforts of everyone who helped make this an amazing community event.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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Our PTA followed their Trunk or Treat night up the next week with a Peter Piper Pizza fundraising night. Once again, staff, students, and families showed up in full force for some fun while raising funds for our school.



As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we have so many wonderful things to be grateful for here at Littleton. We have had many incredible experiences already in the first few months of the school year and we look forward to all the opportunities that lie ahead for us to show off our Firebird pride!

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Teacher of the Month. Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate **Ms. Michelle Pitters**, 7th grade ELA teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Teacher of the Month for the month of October. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about **Ms. Pitters** included: “**Ms. Pitters** establishes TRUST with students in the leadership opportunities she empowers students to have in student council and school clubs”; “**Michelle** RESPECTS all students and colleagues in her daily interactions.”; “**Ms. Pitters** demonstrates INTEGRITY by always following through with what she says she’s going to do.”; “**Michelle** COLLABORATES with teachers and students across grade levels to create a meaningful learning experience for all.”; and “**Michelle** is DEDICATED in the way she works diligently to provide meaningful learning and activities before, during and after school through her involvement in effective instruction aligned to the core curriculum, Student Council, Girls Running Club and work to support PTSA”. **Ms. Pitters** goes above and beyond and dedicates herself to all students and community. Thank you **Ms. Pitters** and congratulations on this achievement!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 8, 2017

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ PTSA Off to a Great Start in Community Involvement. We would like to welcome **Mrs. Nicole Galvan**, 1st grade parent, as the new Estrella Vista PTSA treasurer! **Mrs. Galvan** is off to a great start in volunteering to support PTSA before, during and after school with their current events including T-Shirt sales, our Box Top Fundraiser, Fall Festival, and Peter Piper Pizza night. It is great to see **Mrs. Galvan** on our campus more to support our student and community involvement!

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Westside Impact Grant Recipients. Congratulations to the 3rd Grade Teacher, **Ms. Daisy Sandoval**, for receiving the Fall Westside Impact Grant for her team! The third grade received the Westside Impact Grant Award to help fund their upcoming field trips to support STEM Education. The team will be traveling to the LEGOLAND Discovery Center on Thursday, November 16th and the students are very excited for the hands-on STEM activities that will be available throughout the day.

Congratulations to **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade Science teacher, for applying for a Westside impact grant and receiving the award! **Mr. Batchelder** wrote the grant to support the implementation of a scientific problem solving unit that he designed in collaboration with National Science Foundation's Center for Bio-inspired and Bio-mediated Geotechnics. In the unit students will work to design experiments to test a strategy for liquefaction mitigation. The grant monies awarded will help ensure that our Estrella Vista students in the 2018-2019 school year will have the opportunity to participate in this problem based learning unit.

Estrella Vista Clubs Updates ~ K-2 Book Club.

Thank you to **Ms. Mallory Moore**, Kindergarten teacher, for offering more after school opportunities to K-2 students by sponsoring a K-2 Book Club. **Ms. Moore** offers the club on Tuesdays to 15 of our K-2nd grade students. Each week, she reads a book and the students complete a STEM activity based on the story.

To kick off the club this year, **Ms. Moore** introduced the students in the club to the idea of problem solving and idea building. She did this by reading books, "What Do You Do With a Problem?" and "What Do You Do With an Idea?" by Kobi Yamada. After reading and discussing problem solving she followed the next week by reading the book "The Best Nest" by P.D. Eastman. Students then used materials like cups, strings, and straws to build their own "best nest." After the nests were built **Ms. Moore** had students create an egg drop experiment outside. This experiment was a great way to introduce early science concepts like force of gravity. Some students added parachutes to their nests and others did not. After the experiment **Ms. Moore** led students in a conversation about the benefits of using a parachute for a softer landing compared to using extra paper to soften the landing.

Our K – 2 students are enjoying solving real life problems related to literature and making ideas come to life. Another example of STEM learning was a gate building activity.

The main focus of the K-2 Book Club is to get students excited about reading and realize that books have endless possibilities! So far this club has been a great experience for the students of Estrella Vista and **Ms. Moore** to find ways to connect STEM learning and reading. Thank you **Ms. Mallory Moore** for offering the Book Club with STEM Connections to our students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 8, 2017

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Kids at Hope Bully Prevention During Red Ribbon Week. Our Community of Hope joined forces with our amazing **Hawk Student Council** to stomp out bullying during our Red Ribbon Spirit Week! All students had the opportunity to reflect and celebrate those who choose to do the right thing each day. To demonstrate our spirit Estrella Vista gathered for a celebratory photo of unity! We look forward to more time-travel opportunities with our kids at hope this school year! Thank you to **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher, and **Ms. Amanda Hicks**, Dean of Students, for organizing Red Ribbon Spirit Week and to **Ms. Alyssa Pakes**, 4th grade teacher, for bringing in her drone to capture the aerial shot of the Hawks united to stomp out bullying! GO HAWKS!



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Estrella Vista Junior Poms Participate in the Avondale Billy Moore Days Parade. Rah! Rah! Rah! Estrella Vista Junior Pom Pom Squad walked in their first ever parade! Pom Pom Squad has been working extremely hard all year! The girls have been performing at our First Friday assemblies, basketball games and now an annual Avondale community parade. The Bill Moore Days Parade is something people never forget in our Avondale community. Our girls really made an INCREDIBLE statement with their bright yellow shirts, brand new pom poms, super star shiny talent and moves that couldn't be missed. They did a phenomenal job representing Estrella Vista and showing off all their school spirit! A special thanks to **Ms. Laura Montano**, 1st grade teacher, for arranging the Junior Pom girl's debut in the parade as well as coaches **Ms. Rebekah Smith**, **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** and **Ms. Daisy Sandoval**, 3rd grade teachers, for communicating with our parents and



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 8, 2017

getting the girls ready for the show!



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Estrella Vista Excels During Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences. Way to go Hawks for your ability to get a total of 92% of our parents to face to face student led or telephone conferences during our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences! We are so proud of the Dedication and Collaboration our teachers and staff have to promote high student achievement!

FALL Parent Teacher Conference Data

School: **EVES**

Grade	# of Students	Face to Face	%	Telephone	%	Student Led	%	Total Students	Total %
K	103	100	97.1%	0	0.0%	100	97.1%	100	97.1%
1st	98	91	92.9%	3	3.1%	91	92.9%	94	95.9%
2nd	104	99	95.2%	0	0.0%	99	95.2%	99	95.2%
3rd	133	123	92.5%	2	1.5%	123	92.5%	125	94.0%
4th	108	100	92.6%	2	1.9%	100	92.6%	102	94.4%
5th	128	110	85.9%	1	0.8%	110	85.9%	111	86.7%
6th	110	97	88.2%	1	0.9%	97	88.2%	98	89.1%
7th	112	120	107.1%	1	0.9%	120	107.1%	121	108.0%
8th	113	78	69.0%	2	1.8%	78	69.0%	80	70.8%
Totals	1009	918	91.0%	12	1.2%	918	91.0%	930	92.2%



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 15, 2017

Fine Arts Academy



Fine Arts Academy has had a busy and exciting Month. As was mentioned in a previous Good News Update, we had eight students selected for the *Cantaremos State Honor Choir*. That is a huge deal. This past Veteran's Day weekend the students performed.

Last week the school celebrate Kids at Hope week. *Ms. Michelle Walla* worked hard to put together an amazing *Hope Hope Hooray* themed week. Check out our happy students doing community service, sharing their hobbies and plans for the future.





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November 15, 2017



Mrs. Diane Hedges and *Ms. Michelle Walla* teamed up to put together a fun and exciting *book fair* that teachers and students enjoyed.



We also had our *talented staff* perform for our Falcons this past month. Who knew we had so much talent here? There were around eleven teachers that performed.

Congratulations to *Ms. Rebeca Portillo's* 5th grade class for winning *perfect attendance* this month. As you can see, the trophy is almost as big as Ms. Portillo!



Last but certainly not least we had amazing things happening in our classrooms for bully prevention week. Each morning our teachers gave students a topic to write about or discuss. Some of them started with a kindness quote or poem and student were asked to reflect. *Ms. Caitlyn Adams*, one of our kinder teachers had the great idea of sharing the students' thoughts on a *Compassion Wall*. We look forward to having this wall grow.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 15, 2017

Technology

We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Mr. Carlos Gomez**. **Mr. Gomez** joined the team at the end of October as our new parent liaison. He is housed at our Family Welcome Center. He has been making the rounds introducing himself and because he comes with experience, he has already assisted in several ways.

Mr. Alex Celestino and **Mr. Kyle Olson** have been collaborating with members of the Buckeye Elementary School District and lending support as they update and grow their technology. They have been assisting with a variety of technology issues and sharing lessons learned with our neighbors. Most recently, they helped them to update to Widows 10 and prep work for Chromebooks. Thanks to these IT leaders for sharing their expertise and fostering partnerships.

Teaching and Learning

School Spelling Bees are underway in the District. The first round of competitions are classroom spelling bees. Winners of these bees will then advance to the school and the top two from each school will advance to the district Spelling Bee held in January. Thank you to all of the site coordinators: **Lisa Nahrgang** from Collier, **Roberta Garcia** from Country Place, **Michelle Pitters** from Estrella Vista, **Dan Budzban** from Fine Arts, **Daniel Mainord** from Littleton, **Kim Buckner** from Quentin, **Erika Avelar** from Tres Rios and **Sideqa Padawer**, Reading Instructional Specialist who oversees the Spelling Bee for their hard work and providing this opportunity for our students.

Title I and Title III tutoring is under way at all schools. This is a great opportunity for our students to receive targeted instruction. Thank you to all of the teachers that have taken the time to work with our students.

Thank you to the Professional Development Committee members for their hard work and dedication in planning January 12th all district professional development day. Your representation and input is a vital part of the planning process.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 29, 2017

Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great things are happening at Quentin. We completed our Science Night that was facilitated by the Arizona Science Center. There were games, food and fun as students built a love for the sciences.

We celebrated our annual Turkey trot and Thanksgiving Luncheon. It was a huge success with families and students enjoying a nice meal from Southwest Food Excellence and then getting some exercise!!

We graduated our first class of parents from the American Dream Academy with a wonderful ceremony and new family partnerships.

Quentin received the Gold Award from Beat the Odds. We were 1 of 7 schools to receive it this year. *Dr. Roger Freeman* and *Dr. Allison Garland* came to celebrate the school's achievement.



We want to congratulate **Javier T.** and **Darryl C.** for receiving our Kids at Hope and volunteer of the month awards respectively at the November board meeting.

We celebrated grilling with the principal. *Mr. Eric Atuahene* for the second year dawned a chef's hat and grilled for the students.

Lastly we want to congratulate *Ms. Christine Leppla* our certified staff member of the month and *Ms. Syrina Zuniga* our classified staff member of the month.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 29, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy



Ms. Erika Avelar and the National Junior Honor Society raised \$1,300.00 with the pie-in-the-face fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to sponsor the Father-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance and then the Mother-Son Mother's Day dance. We look forward to a great turnout with music, decorations and food worthy of these events.



During a recent trip to the 64th Annual NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) Convention, Exploring Potential teacher and district TOSA, **Ms. Susan Candelaria** was awarded a three-month scholarship for one of her students. Developed by Stanford University, GiftedandTalented.com's online program was awarded to 7th grader Allen R. With this scholarship, Allen will experience a personalized online learning opportunity which will help him develop math and grammar skills. It will also provide him with access to educational games, and opportunities to learn from videos and apply concepts to real-world projects.



Ms. Michelle Smith, Tres Rios Art Teacher, has established our first ever, National Junior Art Honor Society. On November 16th, students were inducted into the society, created by the National Art Education Association, for the purpose of acknowledging outstanding artistic scholarship, strong moral character, and community service. 6th Grade Inductee, Emma Ruby, performed an original composition entitled, *You Stay in My Mind*. We're very excited to see what these NJAHS students accomplish this year.

Ms. Andrea Luna, our 6th grade ELA teacher and break dancer extraordinaire, has formed a hip-hop dance club. So far, students are catching on quickly and are looking pretty sharp. We're excited to see them perform later this year.



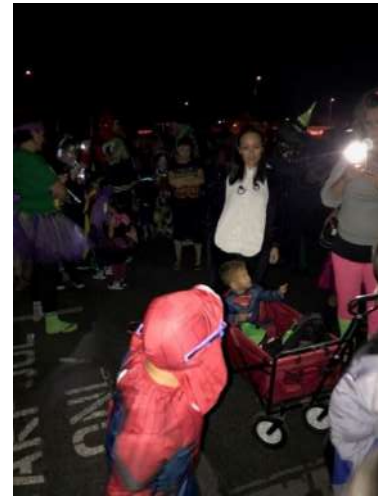


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 6, 2017

Collier Elementary

On October 31, Collier hosted their Truck or Treat for all families to attend. We had a tremendous turnout of students, parents, staff, and former students all dressed up to impress.



November 1 was a celebration for all students as we celebrated Kids @ Hope Day. Homerooms paired with one another to begin to make connections between the older and younger students. Students and staff participated in team building activities that will support buddy students as the year continues. Thank you to *Ms. Amanda Steele*, *Ms. Kathryn Londrigan*, and the Kids @ Hope committee for organizing this event.

The students from MESA club, under the supervision of *Ms. Jessica Cummins*, spent the night at the Phoenix Zoo. Students were able to meet several of the residents as well as participate in several fun and challenging activities.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 6, 2017

The Student Council Members were led to the Mesa Convention Center by *Ms. Leticia Mattei* and *Ms. Lindsay Punke* to participate in leadership training. This included preparing a presentation and support to become a master council.



Congratulations to the fourth grade robotics team and *Ms. Michelle Younghans* for their eighth place finish out of 29 teams in the First Lego League State Qualifier and are advancing to the State Tournament!



Country Place Leadership Academy



Leadership Focus- Students Leading the Way! Country Place Leadership Academy 8th Grader Hunter presented his idea for a Minecraft Club to the District Technology Committee. Hunter did a great job and the Committee approved his idea and will be providing the monetary support to get the club started!

Leadership Focus-Sharpen the Saw- Country Place Leadership Academy Robotics Team Win Regionals for the Second Year in a Row! Congratulations to The Gifters, the Country Place Leadership Academy Robotics Team for winning the First Lego League Regional Tournament for the 2nd year in a row! They had the high score with 145 points and for the first time had their robot completed all of its missions in one round. This is quite an accomplishment! Their contagious energy was noticed and recognized as well! Congrats to Sponsor, *Ginny Biddle*, who won the Mentor of the tournament Award. Congrats to *Hunter, Anaiz, Emily, Reyna, Nick, Savannah, Dayna*, and *VJ*!

Leadership Focus-Sharpen the Saw- Turkey Trot 2017. We had a great turn out of for our Turkey Trot. We had all students from Kindergarten to 8th Grade Sharpen their Saws by participating in our annual walk/run. The staff did



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 6, 2017

a great job supporting and participating with our students! The Turkey Trot Student Leadership Team planned, setup, facilitated and broke down the event. Thanks you to those teachers who were flexible in allowing our students to continue to grow as leaders.



Leadership Focus-Sharpen the Saw-Volleyball Champions! Congratulations to the Country Place Leadership Academy Volleyball Team for winning the district championship in exciting fashion over the Quentin Sharks! Congrats to coaches *Erika Alvarez*, *Serena Garcia* and *Anitra Morin* and all of our amazing volleyballers!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017

Littleton Elementary

The last month of 2017 has been an incredibly busy one for our Firebirds. The opportunities for students and families to engage with school and community were numerous. I would like to share a few of our highlights.



On Saturday, December 2nd, Littleton Elementary School PTA and National Junior Honors Society sponsored a car wash to raise funds for our 8th grade students that will be going on a field trip to Washington D.C. We are thankful to Taco Bell for allowing us use their parking lot and water for free. Our school PTA donated bottled water for students and all car wash necessities. Our PTA representative **Ms. Gina** was there to support us. O'Reily Auto parts also donated sponges and soap concentrate. One of our fabulous teachers, **Mrs. Kristen Montgomery Marheine** was there to assist us plus she bought doughnuts and fruits for the students. She also assisted us with our poster. **Mrs. Stephanie Rudzki** and **Mrs. Martha Riemen**, thanks for your support as well. Our amazing parents brought pizza and drinks. People in the Avondale community stopped by to get their cars washed and donated money. There were people who could not wait to get their cars washed but donated to our fundraiser. What a great community! On behalf of our school PTA, NJHS and the 8th grade students, I thank you all. Thanks to everyone who donated to the fundraiser. We appreciate your support!



This is an exciting month for our preschoolers. Some classes are investigating different holiday traditions and festivals in their winter holiday theme. Students are learning about the different holidays such as Hanukah, Kwanza and Christmas through books, art projects and center activities. Other preschoolers are investigating the world of insects and bugs. Students are investigating characteristics of insects, where insects live, how they help us keep our planet healthy and other interesting facts. Students are creating their own insects using a variety of materials



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017

such as clay, foam and paper. Our focus in the new year will include a unit on clothes and buildings.



In an effort to celebrate our Firebird spirit, we are having themed dress up days during the week of December 11-15. The themes are as follows:

- Mathlete vs. Athlete Monday
- Twin Tuesday
- The Wonderful World of Disney Wednesday
- Formal Thursday
- Festive Friday

As the end of 2017 draws near, we truly have so much to take pride in, so many good things to celebrate, and so many aspirations to achieve in the new year!

Estrella Vista STEM Academy



Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Celebrating November Teacher of the Month. Congratulations to **Ms. Laura Montano**, 1st grade teacher, for excelling as the November Teacher of the Month. **Ms. Montano** is well



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017

deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis. **Ms. Montano** not only teaches our 1st grade students whom perform at high levels in achievement, but also works as a teacher leader in multiple capacities at Estrella Vista. Some of the leadership roles she has taken on over the past couple of years include: school leadership team member, STEM cadre leadership member, Building Futures lead teacher for students and HawkLINKS student ambassador advisor just to name a few. **Ms. Montano** also works to support in the front office, with our PTSA or other school staff in any way she can. Congratulations to **Ms. Laura Montano** for receiving the November Teacher of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



Storm Chaser Visits Estrella Vista 5th Graders for Culminating STEM Event. As part of the 5th grade Natural Disasters unit, we had a storm chaser visit Estrella Vista. **Mr. Ansel** spent over an hour showing pictures and videos to the kids, teaching them about clouds and the different types of funnel clouds. He talked about the different tornadoes he has chased in the Midwest and the damage he has witnessed. He also talked about how his perspective of chasing has changed over the past 10 years - from just chasing storms to the human side too. He not only chases but helps with any search and rescue operations as needed. He has met many people over the years- from scientists to other chasers – and spends most of his summers in the Mid-West. The kids were also able to look at his chase vehicle. He drives a specialized truck that is covered in a hard plastic material and the windows are covered in the metal grates to protect from flying debris. He also has guards on the front and sides of his truck to protect it from debris. In his truck he carries a laptop with current weather radar and maps, an anemometer to measure wind speed, plus other supplies to help people. The students had a great time and really enjoyed the presentation. They liked the real life experiences **Mr. Ansel** was able to share with them to make their learning more meaningful. Thank you to **Mrs. Cynthia Landis**, 5th grade teacher, for coordinating the amazing experience for our students!

Estrella Vista Students and Staff Celebrate U.S. Service Member with Letters to Troops. “The National Junior Honor Society partnered with the new KMLE radio station to send letters to our troops. This was a part of the radio stations’ Big Thank You! Members had parents, staff, and students all participate in the thank you. On Friday November 17, four hundred and seventy-six letters were dropped off from Estrella Vista STEM Academy!” Thank you to **Ms. Michelle Gerrick**, 6th grade teacher, and **Mr. Bronson Goodsell**, 7th grade teacher, for sponsoring this event alongside of our NJHS students!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017



Estrella Vista Kids at Hope Attend the Annual Kids at Hope Summit at EMCC. The students from Estrella Vista attended the Kids at Hope summit where they were able to listen to an inspirational story of perseverance and determination. They also were able to enjoy healthy play. One student commented that she is taking away from the field trip that if you work hard you can do whatever you want and it is ok to have a back-up plan. Another student mentioned that team work is needed to achieve and when you work together in things, you can accomplish more. One take away from the day according to one student is that no matter how bad your life is you can change it. The students at Estrella Vista would like to bring reading buddies to our campus as their project for the year.



Families Join at Estrella Vista for the Annual Turkey Trot. At Estrella Vista, students participated in the fifth annual Turkey Trot. Students walked or jogged around the field for a chance to win a turkey. Names were drawn throughout the course of the day for turkey winners. More than 137 turkeys were donated as give always. We are happy to have fed 137 families this Thanksgiving!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017



BEFORE



CURRENT

Celebrating Growth in STEM with the HAWK Garden of Hope. HAWK Garden of Hope is growing! Note the before and current photos. Students of all ages are involved in growing, conducting experiments, and monitoring soil moisture. The K-3 Garden Club will have a holiday harvest celebration with salad from their garden. In collaboration with Home Depot, they will also be making garden boxes with poinsettias to take home for the holidays. Thanks to all for a great semester of gardening and especially to *Dr. Susan Rumann*, Student Achievement Coach, for supporting this opportunity to grow school wide at Estrella Vista.



Fitness Club Promotes Health and Well-Being with Estrella Vista Students. The Fitness Club has been off and running for nearly two amazing months now! We boast a roster of almost forty enthusiastic members from many different grade levels across our school. Each meeting begins with a warmup showcasing a variety of quick, effective exercises such as jumping jacks, squats, pushups and tuck jumps. After we're warmed up, we play many different fitness inspired games, including Tunnel Tag, Double Tunnel Tag, Scarecrow Tag, Everybody's It, and Sharks and Minnows. Our goal each and every meeting is to have fun, build unity, and promote the importance of daily physical activity. We will be meeting for the rest of the school year in the hopes of doing these three things. Thank you to *Mr. Sean Cappello*, 3rd grade teacher, for hosting over 40 students after school in the opportunity to become physically fit!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 13, 2017

Culminating Event for 8th Grade with a Visit from the Child of a Holocaust Survivor. Estrella Vista 8th grade would like to thank **Commander Joel Lassman**, a child of two Holocaust survivors for coming in and speaking to our 8th grade classes on December 6, 2017. Commander Lassman shared history of World War Two and his parent's experiences of the Holocaust. Our students were receptive and grateful for the experience that they could relate to the content we have been studying in both our Social Studies and our English Language Arts class. A big shout out goes to **Ms. Nicole Clark**, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, for organizing the opportunity for our students!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 20, 2017

Fine Arts Academy



December is a busy month. Fine Arts really shows off all our signature programs. First let's start with the many opportunities our students get to perform for the community. Our band performed at Winterfest in Avondale and the De Capo choir sang at a Coyotes game.



We are very proud of our student Falcons as well as Mr. Travis White and Mrs. Susan Knighton. We kept Mr. White and Mrs. Knighton extra busy in December and had a wonderful Winter concert for band, choir and our strings students who receive additional lessons during the school day on the violins with Sounds Academy a total of over 150 students.

Along with the other schools in the district we had our Spelling Bee. I would like to thank Mr. Dan Budzban for an exciting competition. I'm pretty sure it's the only spelling bee ever that got me emotional.



Our most prestigious award for best attendance goes to Mr. Rio Stinger's 4th grade class for December. Coincidentally (or is it) that is also the class our spelling bee winner is from. Congratulations all of Mr. Stingers class and especially Gabrielle! Keep up the good work.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 20, 2017

We had an amazing Kids at Hope night. *Ms. Michelle Walla* goes above and beyond making sure our school is decorated and that the proper communication goes out so that all of our students come out. For Home and Family we had to add stations because we had much more than we could accommodate first quarter. With this adjustment the night was flawless. We partnered with our PTA who did a Santa Shop on the same night.

Transportation

Transportation is proud to welcome a new bus driver. *Ms. Brandie Hoover* will be starting with the department in January.

In the spirit of the season, the Transportation/Operations departments will be getting together on Wednesday, December 20th to hold their brunch potluck.

Everyone was excited about participating in the Gifts for the Seniors, you can feel the excitement in the air.

Exceptional Student Services



The Functional Academics and MD programs at Quentin attended a field trip to Tomachoff Farms on December 5th. All of the students had a fantastic time as they learned about the many uses of corn, the different types of vegetables and even got to pick their own radishes, cucumbers and swiss chard. The students loved looking at the farm animals that were there as well including goats, fluffy chickens, pigs and ponies. Everyone had a very memorable day that really helped them to connect to our driving question of “Where does healthy food come from?”





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 20, 2017

The Exploring Potential Quarter Two Parent Meeting was a huge success! Parents from across the district were in attendance to represent each of the seven schools. The Exploring Potential Teachers used this time to equip parents with information and resources to assist in school as well as at home. Parents were also provided insight on their child’s thoughts about being a child with gifted abilities. The night concluded with interactive, competitive games.



On Saturday, Dec. 2, Country Place’s and Collier’s robotics teams competed at the FIRST LEGO League regional tournament held at Carl Hayden High School. Collier’s team, #allLEGO, qualified for the state tournament and Country Place’s team, The Gifters, won both the robot performance award for the highest score on the robot missions and the overall champion award for the second year. Both teams will compete at the state tournament at ASU in January. **Ginny Biddle** also received the Coach/Mentor award as the coach of The Gifters. Way to go Littleton district robotics teams!



Technology Department

On Wednesday, December 6th, the Communications Committee met. The goal of this committee is to have informed ambassadors who share information about things happening in our schools and community. Teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and community members work together to discuss Littleton initiatives and points of pride to develop marketing materials to help promote good things happening. Typically, we have some discussion and then get to work. Throughout the year, the Communications Committee develops or critiques mailers and banners which are then printed and used. At this meeting, we had new members, so topics such as the purpose of this group, communication strategies and Littleton initiatives were discussed. **Dr. Roger Freeman** and **Mrs. Sue Garrison** were present to answer questions and facilitate discussions on things like new curriculum, elections, the foundation and the 1:1 program. At this meeting, members worked on ideas to help promote School



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 20, 2017

Choice week launching in January.

The department recently said goodbye to Estrella Mountain Community College intern Dalton Herring as he completed his required hours with us and welcomed new intern **Mr. Zarohn Myers**. Mr. Myers will spend time working with computer techs, help desk and the network techs to get experience in all areas.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 10, 2018

Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great things happening at Quentin. We had our first of two career events with West-Mec on December 6th. Administration, staff, students and counselors came to QUES to introduce students to three health career programs (Pharmacy technician, Medical Assistant and Physical Therapy technician). Students received an overview of all the programs at West-Mec and then had the opportunity to sit in 20 minute hands-on presentations from current students in the programs. We captured feedback from our students and the part they enjoyed the most was the student presenters and hands-on activities.



Release the Fear came to Quentin and worked with our students to empower and inspire students to lead others through their hidden talents and we had our PBL day where students partnered with their shark buddies and navigated the building to view the different projects Quentin students created.

We were able to celebrate Holidays around the World paired with our K-3 music concert.



The Arizona Cardinals visited and we had cookies and milk with a Cardinal football player in the cafeteria. We had a packed house and were able to showcase the great work our students produced.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 10, 2018

Tres Rios Service Academy

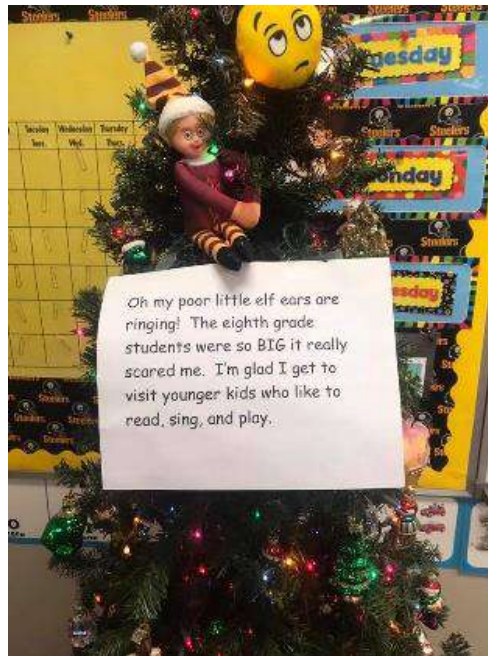


Service Learning. Thanks to all of our Pumas along with *Ms. Erika Avelar* and NJHS who donated food and other necessities to Sunshine Angels Group Home.

Celebrations. This year we decided to celebrate *Holidays Around the World* during the school day. We are so happy that 100% of our students were able to participate and that many parents came to celebrate with us!!!!



Our little visitor, this lovely Elf on a Shelf, kept students and teachers entertained with his daily visits to many unsuspecting classrooms. Thank you, *Ms. Shelley Storaska* for all the holiday fun you provided with your creative exploits!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 10, 2018

Tres Rios would like to welcome our ASU Teacher Candidates!!!



Mr. Eugene Kenney
Mr. Itzer Garcia's 6-8 ELD class



Ms. Erin Shepherd
Ms. Erika Avelar's 6th grade class



Mr. Steven Camacho
Ms. Crystal Carrera's 3rd grade class



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 17, 2018

Collier Elementary

Collier has some exciting news. Congratulations to **Ms. Jackie Older** who is now officially a National Board Certified Teacher! Also, congratulations to **Ms. Stephany Nasr** for earning her Masters in Literacy!

Thank you to **Mr. Adam Haller** for once again inviting and organizing our guest speaker, **Oskar Knoblauch**, who spoke to students about the Holocaust and his experiences. This also correlates to what students are learning in eighth grade.



The students and staff participated in an ugly sweater contest on Wednesday, December 20. Student winners were selected from each grade level and the staff vote took place after school during the staff potluck.

On Saturday, January 14, the Collier Fourth Grade FLL Robotics team under the supervision of **Ms. Michelle Younghans**, competed at the State Tournament on the campus of ASU. They learned valuable lessons that will help them improve in the future.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 17, 2018

Collier would like to officially thank the District Technology and Maintenance Departments for their help and support in installing 54 TVs and speaker systems in our classrooms over winter break. Our teachers and students immediately began integrating the new technology into their already effective instruction.



Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Sharpen the Saw-Country Place Robotics Team Goes to the State Tournament. The Country Place Robotics Team, The Gifters, represented the Mustangs well! They did a great job showing Mustang Pride and presenting their renewable Earth project to the judges. A special thanks to team sponsor [Ginny Biddle](#) for all of her support!

Leadership Focus-Being a Transition Person- Mustangs Spark Curiosity at World Famous Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction. In 2018, the World-Famous Auto Auction added a STEAM City area to increase outreach and increase awareness of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math education. Students from Country Place Leadership Academy were invited by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) to showcase their engineering projects to the public. Eighth grade students showed off their glider projects and second grade students shared their seed dispersal helicopters and parachutes. Six eighth graders were highlighted on a panel with students from ASU sharing the benefits of STEAM education. They also wowed the crowd with ideas about how to increase Awe inspiring learning opportunities. A special thanks for teachers [Ruth Miller](#), [Derek Bates](#), [Tami Hopper](#), [Kelly Guess](#) and [Tony Davis](#) for attending with our student leaders!

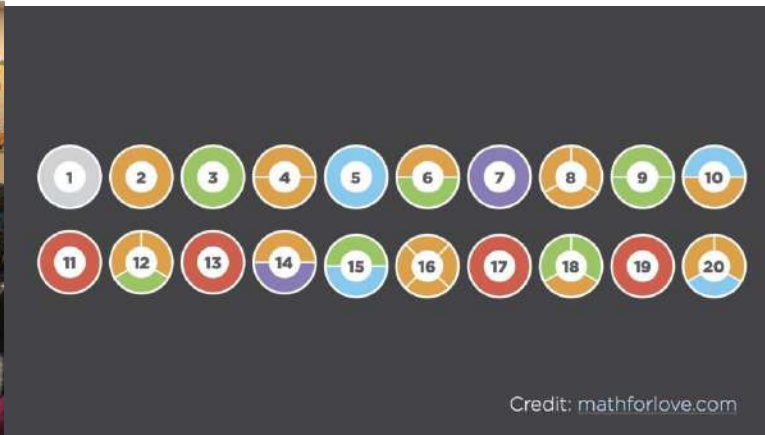


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 17, 2018



AWesome Learning Focus-Mustangs Shifting Paradigms in Mathematics Learning. Students and staff at Country Place are working to be inspired and excited by approaching Mathematics from new paradigms! The staff watched Dan Finkel's TED Talk, Five Principles of Extraordinary Math Teaching and has begun transforming math learning. One of the shifts is to begin instruction with an interesting (and challenging) problem. Here is the first part of one of those problems! What do you think is going on in the picture?





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 24, 2018

Littleton Elementary School

Here on the Littleton campus we kicked right back into high gear as we welcome in 2018. What follows are some highlights of the first month in the new year.

As we return from our winter break, preschool is beginning two new learning units. Some classes are studying clothing and others are studying exercise. *Ms. Becky Burns* has invited a parent who has an infant to visit her classroom. This visit allows her students to see an infant first hand and ask questions.



On Tuesday, January 16th, students from Littleton Elementary joined their peers from across the district and state to attend the annual Speak Up Stand Up convention. The attendees had the opportunity to work with other students to promote safe, supportive, and caring environments in their schools.

Our youngest Firebirds were treated with a special visit from “Zero the Hero” on our 100th day of school. Our superhero leader offered words of encouragement to our students and even took the time for a few photo ops. The students were left in awe!



On Monday, January 22nd, we took the opportunity to highlight our school’s new focus at the School Choice Showcase on the capitol lawn. Representative Diego Espinoza stopped by our booth to check out what all of the excitement is about!

The new year is off to a fantastic start and we’re just beginning!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 24, 2018

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

STEM Ambassadors VOICE and Work Promotes Implementation Success of STEM. Our STEM Ambassadors have been working very diligently to ensure that our campus has access to the supplies necessary to implement a rigorous and engaging STEM Curriculum. For much of the first semester, this outstanding group of students has worked to organize our STEM closet so that teachers can access a wide variety of materials for STEM implementation. In the remainder of the year students hope to begin to document the ways in which leaders across our campus have used these materials in order to foster a culture of collaboration between students and staff as well as develop a directory for teachers to utilize for partners of STEM to support Estrella Vista. Thank you to **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade science teacher and ambassador advisor, and our STEM Ambassadors, Vanessa Fajardo, 8th grader and Berlin Bautista, 7th grader, for the work you do to support STEM at Estrella Vista!



Celebrating Martin Luther King Junior. **Mrs. Laura Montañó's** Celebratory Lesson in 1st Grade. The school day started as any other and after breakfast, students gathered on the front carpet to go over the goals for the day and sing our good morning song. To their surprise, students began to choose step based on the color of their shirt. Everyone was on task and yet, classmates were on step 1, 2, and 3 as if they were in the twilight zone. All maroon shirts were eventually on step while the gray and green shirts sat criss-cross on the carpet. The students on the carpet were silent, sitting up tall and awaiting instruction. I let the green and gray shirts know that they would be the only ones learning and making their brains stronger today. Although a bit hesitant they said okay. Maroon shirts on step were silent and looked as if they weren't breathing. One student began to quietly cry. We all had a pause and I asked the full group to join me on the carpet. After we discussed how everyone was feeling I took a poll of what each side was thinking at the time.

Marron shirt responses:

- I was sad and was confused
- I was nervous and did not want you to get mad
- I felt weird because I didn't do anything wrong



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 24, 2018

- I was doing nothing and was sad that I didn't get to learn
- I felt disappointed and angry for missing work
- I would not want that to happen again

Gray and Green shirt responses:

- I thought it was awesome, I wasn't on step this time
- I didn't think it was fair
- I felt sorry for them
- I felt very sad because my friends were going to miss class
- I was scared to tell my teacher that I didn't like it
- It was sad when people chose step and I didn't know what was happening
- I was worried because I didn't know why there were on step

Once we had a group discussion on how we felt, I explained to students how we had enjoyed an extra day off of school to remember people that stood together without violence for a chance at equality and to steer away from the injustices that had occurred. We viewed a short clip about MLK's life on BrainPOP Jr and in groups, students then sorted statements into the categories of just and unjust to further explore things that happen in our lives and maybe shouldn't. Here's the link: <https://jr.brainpop.com/socialstudies/biographies/martinlutherkingjr/>. We also read the story, *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport and took a quote from the book to share-out thoughts behind what it means to us and how it impacts our lives. as a closure, we sang *This Little Light of Mine* adapted by Rachel Lisberg.



Mr. Anthony Haduch's Celebratory Lesson in 4th Grade. In coordination with the Wonders curriculum 4th grade students at EV used the Design Thinking Process to examine our problem of the week, "How might words lead to change?" Our study included environmental and social justice activists like: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Abraham Lincoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our students worked hard to empathize with a variety of perspectives which truly allowed for us to connect with our greater theme of embracing our community spirit.

Students from our District attended the Stand Up, Speak Up, Save a Life Conference to STOMP Out Bullying at



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 24, 2018

Grand Canyon University. During this conference our students heard from many speakers on topics of bullying, cyber bullying, self-harm and suicide. We learned the importance of putting friend before friendship, meaning even if your friend tells you not to say anything it's important to say something because you value their life more. The students had the chance to work in groups where they identified the issues that are affecting students currently and ways they could help students on their campuses with these issues. Each group of students will be choosing a project to complete on their individual campuses to help make students aware of the issues. Overall, the conference had a large impact on our students in a positive way to want to stand up, speak up and save lives. Thank you to **Ms. Amanda Hicks**, Dean of Students and **Ms. Susan Rumann**, Student Achievement Coach, for chaperoning our students at this event!



3rd Grade Works to Increase Partnerships with Parents as a Part of Their PLC Goals. On December 12th, 2017, the third grade team hosted their very first Open House! The team only had a handful of families show up, but plan to continue workshops each month and are hopeful for increasing attendance. A huge shout-out to **Mr. Sean Cappello**, 3rd grade teacher, for taking the lead on the monthly third grade Open Houses. Our classroom Open Houses are a great way for our students' families to get involved! We will continue to host an open house monthly to discuss things we are learning in class so that parents may better support their children at home. We also discuss upcoming classroom and school events and allow time for general questions and concerns. Parents also have an opportunity to work one-on-one with their child!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 24, 2018

5th Grade Hosts Their Annual Family Cultural Event. It has become in tradition in 5th grade at Estrella Vista that the team celebrate the rich culture of students in their classrooms with food – and lots of it! Every year for the past 4 years, 5th grade has held a Cultural lunch the day before Winter break. Prior to the luncheon, students complete a PBL learning how to plan a large family meal, and then they take what they have learned home to help their parents plan for the lunch. Each family is asked to contribute one item for the lunch and the food item should not be store bought but something that is important to their family heritage and culture. Teachers also contribute the luncheon so we have a huge variety of different foods. Parents are also invited and the classrooms turn into a large family gathering complete the parents, siblings and lots of food. Thank you to our 5th grade teachers, ***Mrs. Lori Bowden***, ***Ms. Rosie Fleeman***, ***Mrs. Cynthia Landis***, ***Mr. Scott Schulte*** and ***Ms. Rachel Vliek*** for working to bring our community together and celebrating all cultures of the families we serve!

STEM Showcase Highlight of the Related Arts Team. During the 2nd quarter STEM Showcase, our Related Arts team supported Design Thinking and the school STEM initiative with their work with STEM in the Arts. For Music, 7th and 8th graders created projects incorporating Music and Christmas to present. They had to design, gather materials, and build their projects within the parameters of the content area. For Art, 7th and 8th grade students were assigned the task of creating a personal, heritage totem pole. This was a natural extension after having created traditional totem poles with their group. They were able to research their heritage and the faces that are associated with their heritage to create a personal heritage totem pole, which can be seen in the library. For Technology, students used Code.org to design and code their own Google Doodles. Students learned about the fascinating work of the real-life Google Design team. In PE, students created a binder filled with games they created. Students had to write instructions, and test out the games to make sure they worked. In STEM class, students used a meaningful, real-world problem as the catalyst to use design thinking to create working prototypes. All of the projects were then presented and shared with a buddy class. Thank you to ***Mr. Antony Brophy***, P.E. teacher; ***Mrs. Penny Nguyen***, Technology teacher; ***Mrs. Nonu Nsagane***, STEM teacher, ***Mr. Michael Spielman***, Music teacher; and ***Mrs. Julie Whelihan***, Art teacher for the work you are doing with students in Related Arts for STEM!

Clubs Update

Robotics/Lego Club

Thank you to ***Mrs. Nonu Nsagane***, STEM teacher, and ***Mrs. Adriana Amavisca***, Gifted teacher, for sponsoring the Estrella Vista Lego Robotics Club after school. Due to the dedication of building relationships and providing opportunities for STEM outside of the school day, the two teachers work with 3rd-5th grade students to build robots and utilize software downloaded onto their laptops to program their robots to complete specific tasks. What an amazing opportunity for our kids!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 31, 2018

Fine Arts Academy

We have lots of exciting things happening here. We accompanied the rest of the district on the Stand up Speak up conference and it was a great success. *Mr. Manuel Torres* one of our 7th grade teachers is working on adding to our compassion wall. Pictures in the next Good News Update for that. The other two seventh grade classes are currently working with Release the Fear. The exciting pictures for that will also be in our next addition.

Mrs. Susan Gibson took four students to the capital for school choice and the students were very excited about that.

We are very proud to announce *Mrs. Diane Hedges* has started a book club at the request of some of the students and it is growing in numbers every week.

Lastly we continue our field trips to the MIM. Our students LOVE these. Recently our fourth grade team went and they were so well behaved not only did the MIM compliment them but they gave them each a shaker to take home. Way to go FAES 4th grade.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 31, 2018

District Office

TEACHING & LEARNING

Littleton ESD Reading Interventionists collaborated together to incorporate technology into their lessons. Once students master a phonics skill, they then create a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate mastery of the skill. The presentations are then shown to other students working to master that same skill. Students take ownership and celebrate their achievement. In the end they hope to have a compilation of presentations to share with all future students. Thank you [Samantha Foster](#), [Margaret Hourihan](#), [Twana Beal](#), [Dawn Christensen](#), [Kim Buckner](#) and [Markeita Momon](#).

TECHNOLOGY

Over Winter Break we were able to install new technology in Collier classrooms. Collier was next on the rotation for a technology upgrade as outlined in the technology plan. This technology includes the replacement of projectors that were on carts, with 70-inch flat screen displays (TVs). The TVs are also equipped with a box that allows the teacher, and even students, to project their laptop screen, wirelessly, onto the TV. This technology supports mobility throughout the classroom leads to a number of additional applications to support collaboration and learning. Another major addition to each room is a voice enhancement system. Four speakers were added in the ceiling of each room. The teacher puts on a microphone so his/her voice is evenly distributed throughout the classroom. This is done so that students have a better chance to hear no matter where they are sitting and it is also great to help our teachers avoid vocal strain. A big thank you to the Operations Department as well as the IT Department for their cooperation in pulling off this major upgrade at a time that would not interrupt instruction. Also thanks to the Collier staff who started using the technology the first day back.



On Monday, January 22nd, all district schools participated in our School Choice Registration Night. Parents lined up early to get their requests in first. Every school had a table to showcase the exciting things happening on their campus. The event was positive and well attended with an estimated 1,468 forms received on choice night and by the end of the week, we heard from 78% of the students that we expected to turn in their registration forms.



LITTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #65

Leaders.. in Learning, Caring, and Growing



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 31, 2018





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 7, 2018

Tres Rios Service Academy



On January 16th, members of the *Tres Rios Builders Club*, hosted by **Mr. Scot Fusi**, and members of the *Tres Rios Hip Hop Club*, hosted by **Ms. Andrea Luna**, brightened the day of many senior adults when they participated in the “Senior Prom” at the Tolleson Senior Center. The day was filled with dancing, hands-on projects, refreshments, a photo booth, and fellowship between the generations. As you can see, “A good time was had by all!”





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

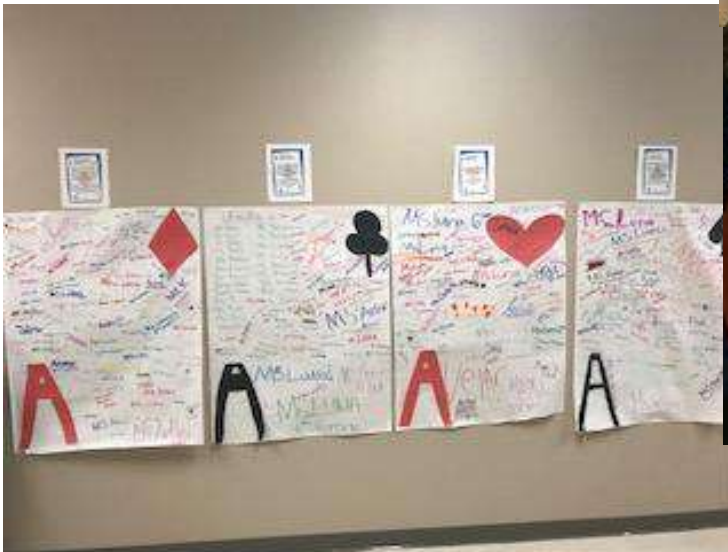
February 7, 2018

VALENTINE'S FOR VETERANS

Ms. Shelley Storaska's third graders proudly displaying the cards they made for U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva's "Valentines for Vets" program. We are so proud of our students to showing that they care for those who bravely served our country.

KIDS AT HOPE ACES TRACKING AT TRES

Our Pumas are learning about the importance of having "ACES" in their lives and are working to identify them and then write letters to thank their Aces for helping them be successful.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 7, 2018

Quentin Elementary School

Quentin staff and students have been really busy this month. Eight students and three staff members attended the Stand Up Speak Up conference at GCU on January 16th. There they learned about the importance of placing the friend before the friendship. Our students also attended the School Choice showcase event at the Arizona State Capital. Students shared many of the great things being accomplished at Quentin and met with State Representatives.

On January 9th our flag football team was recognized at the school board meeting for winning the 2017-2018 Championship! Two of our student athletes was also recognized as Athlete of the Season, congratulations to Aniyah and Alex! Our lady Sharks have done an amazing job on the soccer field. They finished the season 6-0 and are headed to the playoffs. The boys' soccer team is also headed to the playoffs! We wish them both the best of luck and are proud of their accomplishments. On January 26th we had a family movie night. Several of our families came out to watch the movie and enjoy some healthy snacks provided by our Student Council.

Throughout the month of January, our kindergarten through fourth grade parents and teachers have been working together to support students through our APTT nights. Parents came to the school and were able to visit with teachers about their student's progress. Teachers shared tips and strategies that parents can use to support their student's learning.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 7, 2018





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 14, 2018

Collier

Congratulations to Isaac Lozano for earning second place in the District Spelling Bee. He has qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 24 @ Youngker High School.



Collier's Kids @ Hope Day was a fun and positive relationship building event! Buddy classrooms continue to work together as our older and younger students build strong connections.



Administrators, teachers, and students attended the school choice kickoff event on Monday, January 22. The event was held on the Senate lawn with schools from around the state. Approximately one third of the schools participating were public schools. Diego Espinoza, a Democratic member of the Arizona House of Representatives, also came out to speak to and engage with our students.



Advisors and Student Council Members attended the Phoenix Suns Retreat and participated in unique team-building workshops at Talking Stick Resort Arena.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 14, 2018

Country Place Leadership Academy

AWESOME Learning 6th Graders Team with the Community for Shark Tank Competition

Students at Country Place Leadership Academy teamed with local leaders to host a Shark Tank Competition. Students with the most innovative ideas pitched their inventions to celebrity judges to see who would be the winner of the Country Place Shark Tank! Students learned the Business Model Canvas from Janenne Van Leeuwen of the Entrepreneurship Outreach Network from the Buckeye Public Library. They used the model to choose a problem to solve, research possible solutions and selected a solution to pitch. They created invention proposals and prototypes. The inventors made refinements to their prototypes based on feedback from their classmates. In each classroom, students went head to head with each other to determine who would represent their class in the Country Place Shark Tank. On January 25th, the classroom winners gave their pitches to the Sharks. Raul presented Sneaky Clean, a shoe cleaning system. Sonia shared her Seat Belt Comforter, a multi-use pillow for your seatbelt. Iram presented The Claw, a prosthetic toy hand. Eric shared the Zero Storm, a device that created snow. The Celebrity Judges Mr. Billy Hickman, Vice President of Hickman Family Farms, Jason Yocum, the CEO of the technology company STAX3D, Allison Garland, Executive Director of School Leadership of the Littleton Elementary School District, Janenne Van Leeuwen from the Entrepreneurship Outreach Network, John Pringle from the Buckeye Planning and Zoning Commission, Elliot Hobbs from the Arizona State School of Sustainability at Sky Song, John Rico from Buckeye Party Builders and Dan Davis the Economic Development Director for the City of Avondale had a difficult time selecting one winner. They pooled their resources and decided to fund a second winner. Raul was selected as the winner of the Future CEO award and Sonia was selected as the Innovation Award winner. Thank you to everyone, students, staff and community members that made this great event possible!



Sharpen the Saw-Fuel Up to Play 60 Crew Built a School Garden

On Saturday, February 10th the Fuel UP to Play 60 Team built the Country Place Leadership Academy Garden. A group of students, parents, staff and teachers pitched in construct three garden beds and tire planters in less than two hours. The Fuel Up Team is excited to synergize with our first graders to plant vegetables this Spring! Great job Mustangs!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 14, 2018

Sharpen the Saw-NJHS Mustangs Helping in the Community

NJHS members and candidates volunteered at the Culture Pop Event this past Saturday, Feb. 10 located near Estrella Mountain Community College from 10am to 1pm. Our crew worked efficiently to to set-up tents, chairs, tables, tablecloths, signs, posters, and sandbags for the event.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 28, 2018

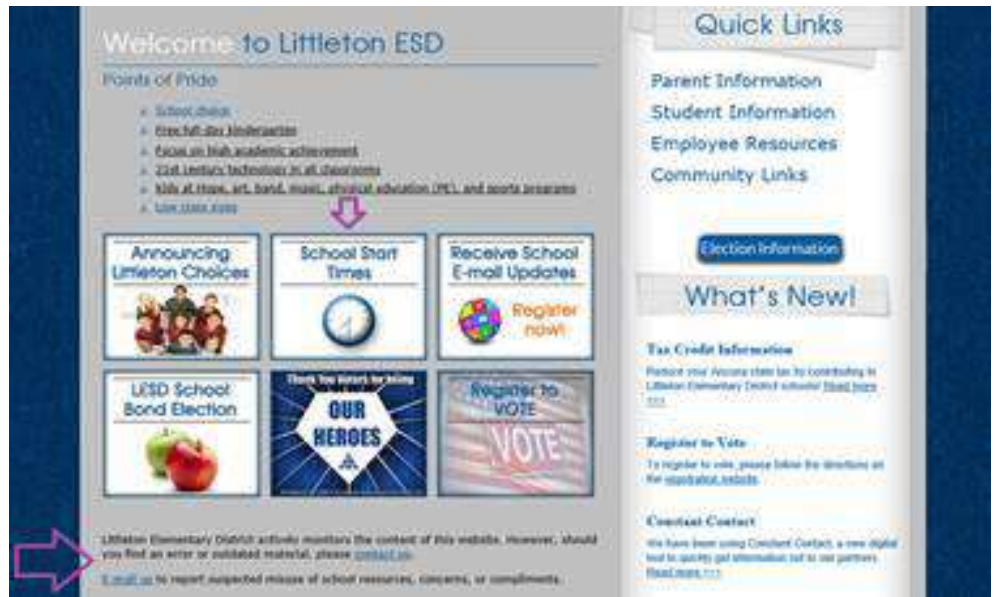
District Offices

TECHNOLOGY

Our latest Coffee Talk was held on Friday, February 2nd at our Family Welcome Center. Topics included free tax preparation questions and a free parenting class opportunity available for our parents. Our thanks to our partners from VITA and Touchstone who came to present and of course to the parents who attended.

The Communication Committee met on Wednesday, February 7th at the District Office. Members of this group did an excellent job generating marketing ideas for future press releases, drafting ideas for the 18-19 school start up campaign and design suggestions for our next round of school postcards. This committee also helps review our websites and make recommendations for revisions.

Check out our most recent updates below. School start times are now in a prominent position on the district website and the statements about asking for help monitoring the website or whistle blower type comments has been moved up on all of the home pages. Real estate on a homepage is a hot commodity and we will continue to rotate information to keep timely information front and center.



The Littleton Education Foundation has graciously agreed to sponsor one seventh grade student from each school to attend the November 2018 Catalina Island trip. Students will be invited to submit a 60 second video explaining why they should be chosen to receive the scholarship. In addition to making it possible for seven of our students to attend free of charge, the Foundation has decided to pay for the charter bus which will bring down the cost for all students that attend. We are grateful for this partnership and what it does for our students.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 28, 2018

District Offices

TEACHING & LEARNING

Another successful District Spelling Bee is in the books. A huge shout out to the seven Spelling Bee coordinators from each school: *Dan Budzban* (Fine Arts), *Delaine Nelson* (Collier), *Erika Avelar* (Tres Rios), *Jennifer Grbic* (Estrella Vista), *Daniel Mainord* (Littleton), *Kimberly Buckner* (Quentin), and *Roberta Garcia* (Country Place). Each coordinator played a huge role in organizing a successful school spelling bee. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

The District Spelling Bee was held at the District Office on January 16th. Thank you to our pronouncer, *Jim Verrill* and our three judges, *Jazmin Pacheco*, *Katie Carnicelli*, and *Marieka Michaud*. We would also like to recognize the two District Spelling Bee winners. Tobi Balogun from Littleton was the District Champion, and Issac Lozano from Collier was the runner up. Both students represented Littleton at the Regional Spelling Bee. Tobi finished 7th out of 30 participants. Way to go! Thank you to all who made these events successful.

Fine Arts Academy



Our second annual Night at the movies was a huge success. Our talented students did an amazing job. Special thank you to Mr. White and Ms. Walla for making the night magical. Please check out our Facebook page to see all of our talented students.

We also had our Daddy Daughter dance this month. We had another huge turnout and successful night. Photo Booth Yeah!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 28, 2018

Fine Arts had our first annual PE day. All other special area teachers join in the activities as well as classroom teachers. Parents are also invited to see what students learn during their PE time. We had tons of fun and a great turnout.

Our STEAM club started their competition season off at GCU this month. Our kids are anticipating going far this year. Great job Ms. Rios!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 7, 2018

Tres Rios Service Academy



Let's hear it for Puma Pride and civic mindedness! Our Pumas were recognized for being an *Arizona School of Merit* by ADE! Our Proud Civic Pumas were recognized at Desert Willow Conference center on March 2. [Ms. Erika Avelar](#), [Dr. Karen Grose](#) and [Mr. Itzer Garcia](#) led the teacher contingency, and Trevor Quintana and Allen Ruiz were the student representatives. [Dr. Roger Freeman](#) joined in on the day as well.

“Paws for Books” book fair under way! *Cuteness overload...!!!* That’s all we can say about the great work our librarian, [Ms. Judith Collins](#), does to entice students and parents to spend their money wisely on high quality literature.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 7, 2018

Tres Rios Alum proves what happens when a child has ACES and opportunities to grow! Xavier Juniel was a confident, bright eighth-grader at Tres Rios who didn't always follow the rules. He struggled with being bored in class, speaking his mind, and having dreams so big that he just didn't know where to begin. Although he had great talent and support from his ACES, Xavier was just not mentally ready to travel to his future.



This all changed when [Ms. Susan Candelaria](#) assigned Xavier an interest project in his **Exploring Potential** class. Xavier claimed he didn't have any other interests other than selecting his high school, and this is where it all began! He and his family were deciding which high school he would attend; St. Mary's or Brophy. Xavier took this assignment and decided to invite these two high schools in to speak about their schools. He thought this would provide him with the insight he needed to make his final decision. Over the next several weeks, Xavier researched and called both schools, working with the admissions office to schedule the visits. Unfortunately, St. Mary's did not respond, so Xavier dedicated his time to Brophy. His **Exploring Potential** teacher played the role of secretary, allowing Xavier full control of decision making and planning.

Xavier ended up receiving a scholarship from Brophy and has been recognized for his hard work, leadership skills, and internal motivation. He graduates Brophy this year with an amazing story to tell. Coming from an uncertain beginning to a world of opportunity, Xavier is an excellent example of a **Kid at Hope!**



Quentin Elementary School

February was an educationally fun filled month for students and staff. We began the month with a visit from OperaTunity. OperaTunity is a program organized by the Arizona Opera that travels to schools to share about the opera and complete a short performance. It was a great experience for our students and staff.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 7, 2018

This month we held a combined Science Fair and Literacy night. We had an amazing turn out! Students and parents were invited to view the science projects submitted by all students. It was a great opportunity for our students to showcase their knowledge. Afterwards parents and students

toured each grade level to learn about the various literacy projects.

Quentin also celebrated our student Sharks of the Month assemblies. Students participated in fun games and activities and cheered on their

peers who won the award for February. We ended the month with our Spirit Week to celebrate Read Across America. Students and teachers had the opportunity to participate in Grinch day, Thing One, Thing Two day, Pajama day, Wacky Wednesday, and Fandom day!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 21, 2018

Collier Elementary School

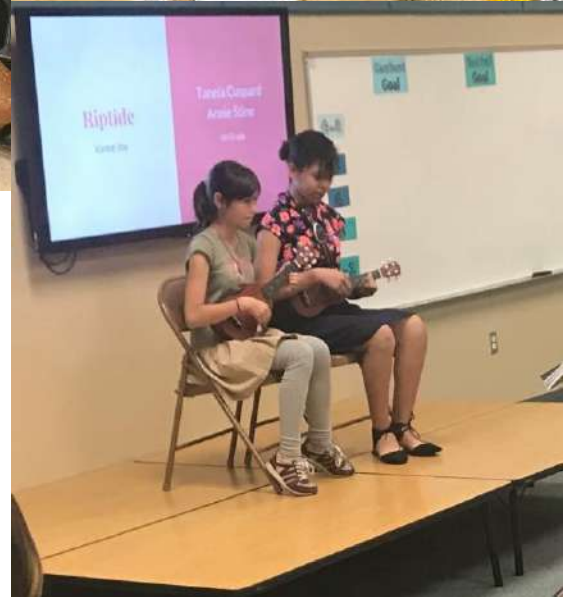
On Thursday, March 1, Collier held a Read Across Collier night for students and parents. There were several activities as well as a book exchange.

Each Friday of March, Collier will have a different activity to promote Dr. Seuss and reading.

- March 2 Thing 1/2 Day (Twin Day)
- March 9 Lounging with a Good Book Friday
- March 23 Favorite Book Character Parade



Ms. Rosas organized an Ukulele showcase during parent conferences. Students performed for staff during dinner and again for parents later in the evening.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 21, 2018

In an effort to increase student and staff attendance, Collier now has attendance flags outside each classroom to indicate which homerooms have perfect attendance each day. We will keep track and winners may earn amazing prizes!



With the help of students and staff, Collier assures that all bus riders have their ID badges as they board the buses after school.



Collier MESA student teams had an opportunity to test their designs under the guidance of volunteers from industry and university partners. This event provided students an opportunity to gather critical data about their design's performance and receive feedback from experts.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 21, 2018

Country Place Leadership Academy

The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Cooperative Extension and the City of Avondale hosted the entire 4th grade Project WET Water Festival. University of Arizona that teaches the Water Cycle, Ground Water, topics. Teachers participate in six on by the University of Arizona. In participate in lessons before and sponsored by the City of Avondale Pam Justice of the University of Avondale and all of our 4th grade teachers for their coordination and support!



in the Littleton School District at the Project WET is a partnership with the 4th graders about Water Conservation, Watersheds and other water related hours of professional development put addition to the Water Festival, students after the event. The Water Festival was Water Department. A special thanks to Arizona and Esme Avila of the City of





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 21, 2018

Eighth Grade students from the seven schools in the Littleton Elementary School District took their annual trip to Washington D.C. Most of the students had never before traveled to the East Coast or been on an airplane. While in Washington D.C. they visited numerous sites of historic significance including Mt. Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, Fords' Theatre and the National Archives. They also visited



sites where our national leaders govern the United States of America including the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the White House. The visit to the National Archives included viewing the Bill of Rights. Students were able to not only view the Bill of Rights, but see it in action. While visiting the White House and the Capitol on March 14th, students observed

other young citizens from around the Washington D.C. area gathering to voice their concerns about school safety. It was a powerful experience to observe other youth using their 1st Amendment Rights to peaceably assemble and use their right to freedom of speech.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Littleton Elementary School

March was a busy and exciting month here at Littleton Elementary School. Here are some of the highlights: We started the month by celebrating Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. Volunteers from our community came to campus and spent time reading and giving away books to our youngest students. The next day, our entire school participated in a Dr. Seuss parade while classrooms competed to see who could design the most creative, literacy-inspired, door cover. It was a great way to celebrate literacy and inspiring a love for reading within our students.



The Winter Olympics captured the attention of many around the world, including our own Littleton Firebirds. Under the direction of **Ms. Karyn Genrich**, we held a Littleton Olympics day. Each classroom chose one of the competing countries to learn about and "represent" during our competition. In addition to learning about

other countries, students had the opportunity to compete in events that simulated those in the Olympics. It was a great day of fun and educational opportunities for our students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

The Littleton Elementary Boys Basketball team traveled to Tucson, AZ to compete in the 2018 State Middle School Basketball Tournament on March 2nd-5th. Over 60 boys' and girls' teams attended the event. The



Firebirds played tough and finished with a record of 2-2, earning them 4th place in their division. The team would like to thank the many parents and teachers (*Ms. Bethany Erwin, Ms. Elizabeth Johnson, and Ms. Jordan Thompson*) that came down to support the team.

In addition to the tournament, the boys had the opportunity to visit the University of Arizona Campus. The team walked around exploring the various academic buildings and got access to the Recreation Center where they were able to watch more basketball teams competing in the tournament.

About forty-two eighth grade Littleton Elementary school district students went on a field trip to Washington DC on March 13th-16th, 2018. Four of these students are from Littleton Elementary School. American history was brought to life for the students. Students were able to explore and participate in hands-on activities. Students were also able to make connections with all that they have learned in social studies. It was a life-changing experience for all the students. The places visited include the following:

Day 1

- World War 2 Memorial
- Washington Monument
- Lincoln Memorial
- Korean Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial

Day 2

- White House
- Capitol Building





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Library of Congress
Supreme Court
Ford's Theatre
September 11th Pentagon Memorial
US Air Force Memorial

Day 3
Arlington National Cemetery
Iwo Jima Marine Memorial
Pentagon City Mall
National Archives Museum
Holocaust Museum
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial
Jefferson Memorial

Day 4
Mt. Vernon
Home of George Washington
Smithsonian Complex
American History Museum





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Preschool students are working towards a strong finish to our school year. Our last major theme for the year centers around Buildings in and around our communities. Many of the classroom are setting up construction zones in their classroom and extending this theme into literacy and math. *Ms. Sharon Hines and Ms. Dawn Scheidemandel* classes went on a field trip the Phoenix Children's Museum on March 23rd and had a great time exploring the exhibits and developing their early learning skills.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel ~ Celebrating November Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade Science teacher, for excelling as the February Teacher of the Month. **Mr. Batchelder** is well deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis. In addition, **Mr. Batchelder** is dedicated to using exploratory learning and the Gradual Release of Responsibility model with fidelity to support student achievement in all content areas through Science. He plans a variety of lessons that incorporate reading, writing and math as well as offers multiple opportunities for his students to access the Science curriculum through academic collaboration and productive group work. **Mr. Batchelder** not only does a phenomenal job teaching our 8th grade students, but also works as a teacher leader in multiple capacities at Estrella Vista. Some of the leadership roles he has taken on include: coaching boys' basketball, advising the EV Chief Science Officers, Instructional Leadership Team member and PLC facilitator, STEM Cadre member and Chess Club coordinator and District Science Professional Development facilitator for the January all day professional development. **Mr. Batchelder** also works for Teach for America to support new teachers. Congratulations to **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** for receiving the February Teacher of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



Kids at Hope Committee Hosts Community & Service STEM Canned Food Drive

The Estrella Vista STEM Academy has embraced our third Kids at Hope destination of community and service with our annual CAN-struction event! Our treasures have worked hard to restock the St. Mary's Food Bank shelves after the holiday season with our large scale community event. In order to showcase our engineering focus, our students worked hard to develop a structure out of their donated canned goods! With full community participation these structures were put on display during our student-led spring conferences. According to a St. Mary's Food Bank Specialist, our Kids at Hope successfully donated 2,238 pounds of canned food items! This will allow the food bank to provide 1,865 meals to those in need! We could not be any prouder to be an Estrella Vista





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Hawk, as we work to alleviate hunger in Arizona! Congratulations to our students, staff, and parents for cultivating change in our community. A special thank you goes out to **Ms. Kari Burd**, 3rd grade teacher; **Ms. Brandy Chaidez**, 8th grade Math teacher; and **Ms. Amanda Hicks**, Dean of Students, who are the committee members responsible for organizing the event.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018

Third Grade Teacher Continue to Work with Parents as Partner in 3rd Grade Monthly Parent Nights as a Part of their PLC Action Plan to Address Student Achievement Needs

The third grade team believes parental involvement is one of the greatest predictors of student success. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades, earn higher test scores, attend school regularly, behave better, and have better social skills. Therefore, we hold monthly open houses as a means to get parents more involved. During these events, we review some of the things we learned in class so that parents may better support their child at home. We also discuss upcoming classroom and school events and allow time for general questions and/or concerns. Most importantly, we allow our parents an opportunity to work one-on-one with their child so that they can identify both their child's strengths and their areas of improvement. The importance of parental involvement cannot be overstated. We believe that parents, not teachers, are the primary predictor of their child's success in both school and life. Thank you to the 3rd grade team, *Ms. Kari Burd, Mr. Sean Cappello, Ms. Alyssa Nelson, Ms. Daisy Sandoval and Ms. Rebekah Smith* for involving our parents as partners in their child's education!

Estrella Vista Student Chief Science Officer Recognized for Model Canvas Page

Congratulations to *Vanessa Fajardo, 8th grade student* and *Chief Science Officer*, who was recognized by the Chief Science Officer (CSO) organization leaders for her model Canvas Communication page. During the summer institute at Grand Canyon University CSOs learn to develop Canvas pages as a method to communicate with each other about what is happening at their schools in regards to STEM and gain support from other students on STEM initiatives and ideas. *Ms. Fajardo* was awarded with the top Canvas page out of all students in the Phoenix area and was invited in February to join the summer institute in July this year as a Freshman in High School to train students on developing Canvas pages. We are so proud that an Estrella Vista student was recognized for her work by the greater community and selected to be a role model and student trainer!



Second Annual Color Run a Success! Estrella Vista PTSA and Teacher Leaders Make It All Possible

Estrella Vista's second annual Color Run was a huge success! We would like to thank all the staff members and PTSA who have helped support this event. *Ms. Margaret Sauer*, Kindergarten teacher, graciously provided the Color Run shirts with the Kids @ Hope logo. *Ms. Alyssa Pakes*, 4th grade teacher, brought out her drone and took professional photos while the race went on. *Mr. Antony Haduch* and *Ms. Jordan Dixon*, 4th grade teachers, *Ms. Rosie Fleeman*, 5th grade teacher, *Ms. Rebekah Smith*, 3rd grade teacher and *Ms. Michelle Pitters*, 7th grade teacher, are the master minds behind this project and why it was so successful. It was truly amazing to see the outburst of community support and the hundreds of smiling faces. A special thanks to Principal, *Mr. Richard Ramos*, Assistant Principal, *Ms. Katherine Hoornstra*, and our Dean of Students, *Ms. Amanda Hicks* who made this all possible through their ongoing support. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better event next year!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 28, 2018





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

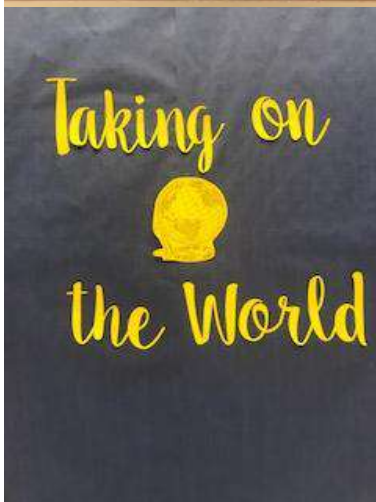
April 4, f2018

Fine Arts Elementary School



Fine Arts held their inaugural National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony.

Ms. Mia Del La Rosa did an amazing job organizing everything. It was a beautiful night.



First and second grade had a fantastic

time on their field trip today! From singing 🎵🎤 with the radio on the way to the MIM to seeing & playing instruments from all around the world 🎸🎷 at the MIM. We are very thankful for these wonderful opportunities at the Musical Instrument Museum! 🎸🎷🥁🎹🎺🎻🎵

🎸🎷🎵 Falcon Pride 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

Earlier this month the opera made a visit to the Fine Arts! We were lucky to see such a fantastic performance.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 4, 2018

Kids at Hope: Community & Service Day, was a big event at the Fine Arts Academy & the very first day event! The Kids at Hope Student Team with the help of [Ms. Michelle Walla](#) put on the event with 5 different stations, where a younger and older class were paired up to work together as a team. We saw great leadership, teamwork, and lots of happy faces!



District Office

Teaching & Learning

Exceptional Student Services and Teaching and Learning Services have been collaborating on building content knowledge in the area of mathematics. Instructional Coaches [Dawn Robinson](#) and [Sandra Miller](#) have worked collaboratively to provide professional development related to practicing multiple strategies, increasing conceptual understanding, and abstract computation. Kudos to the coaches as well as the teachers in the Exceptional Student Services Building Bridges Choice PD session for being leaders in growing and learning!

Littleton ESD's District Math Challenge was held on Friday March 23rd at the District Office. The event was very successful as students across all grades worked collaboratively to answer problem solving tasks and math trivia questions. Our judges were asked to describe what attributes of collaborative work, positive interactions, and math processing skills they noticed as they watched students work together, and this is what the judges reported seeing.

- Respect the opinions and ideas of all;
- Work together to keep each other on task;
- Dialogue about math concepts and ideas;
- Check each other's answers;
- Discuss and dialogue about mental processes used to solve problems;



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 4, f2018

- Make sense of tasks by reading and re-reading them together;
- Justify their reasoning;
- Compare different solution paths.

Thank you to all Littleton ESD staff members that worked to make this event a success: [Sandra Miller](#), [Eric Nelson](#), [Charlie Blanton](#), [Kim Buckner](#), [Susan Rumann](#), [Ginny Biddle](#), [Mia De La Rosa](#), [Lucy Ito](#), [Sideqa Padawer](#), [Brittany Jimenez](#), [Robert Crouse](#), [Bryan D'Alessio](#), [Cassandra Lockard](#), [Kristen Marheine](#), [Nicole Clark](#), [Samantha Armstrong](#), and [Gina Forney](#).



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 11, 2018

Quentin Elementary School

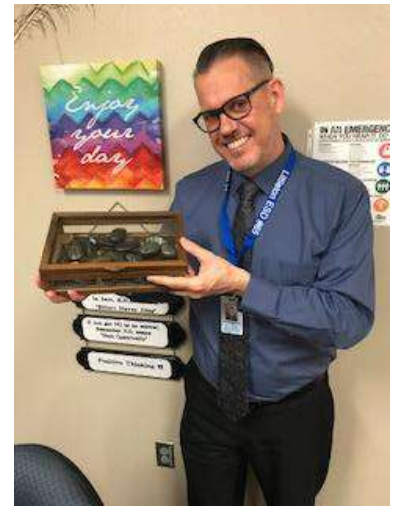
We are excited for our Kids at Hope cadre at Quentin who have been selected to present at this year's Kids at Hope Master's Institute. Congratulations to our students and our sponsors [Ms. Samantha Armstrong](#) and [Ms. Rosa Garcia](#). Good luck to our student council who will be going to the 52nd Annual State Convention for AAJHSC's. They will be competing to achieve the high award of Master Council. They have been working hard all year infusing spirit into the Quentin student body!!! We had our Spring music concert where our second and third graders performed for our families a medley of songs to our families' delight! Thank you to our second and third grade teams for supporting [Mr. Dennis Greenwood](#) our music teacher to make this event a huge success. We are excited that next week we will be celebrating our Kids at Hope community week! We will be writing letters to first responders, cleaning up parks and a community helper activity with our shark-buddies (older and younger students). Finally, we are pleased to celebrate our teacher of the year [Ms. Rosa Garcia](#)! She has done an amazing job supporting our students, staff members and families by being selfless, dedicated and supportive of our mission and vision.

Tres Rios Service Academy

So far, it's been *Smooth Sailing* with AzMerit. We'd like to give a shout out to our Dean of Students, [Lindsay Westberg](#), for the great work she is doing to keep things running smoothly, and to [Eric Nelson](#), whose training has made this possible, and to our fabulous friends in the I.T. department who have worked very hard to make sure our technology needs are being met! ☺



The National Association of Elementary School Principals, NASSP, and the American Federation of School Administrators, have declared April -13, 2018 as "National Assistant Principals Week!" Here in the Littleton District we are blessed to have a group of talented and capable deans who do so much to keep things running smoothly all year long. For that reason, our social committee decided it was "National AP/DEAN Week" and honored [Lindsay Westberg](#) and [Charlie Blanton](#) with some very thoughtful gifts as tokens of appreciation





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 18, 2018

Collier Elementary School

Thank you to the following staff for presenting their new learning from the Google Summit during PD last week. We received great feedback from the staff and saw it being used immediately and effectively in classrooms.

- Lance Sullivan - Using Google Sites and Drawings
- Delaine Nelson - Classroom Videos with Flipgrid
- Lynda Espino and Chelsea Clipperton - PearDeck - Presentations that Engage
- Yusra. Millenbaugh - Memes to Inspire and Extend Student Learning
- Aracely Vazquez Beautiful (and EASY) Student-Made Videos



Congrats Ms. Rosas our Teacher of the year!

Congratulations to all of our well deserving Teacher of the Year nominees!

- Ilene Rosas,
- Kathryn Londrigan,
- Cecelia Crawley,
- Leslie Casillas,
- Ashleigh Done,
- Leticia Mattei





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 18, 2018



The district bowling event was a treat. We didn't win, but the food was good and more importantly, we had fun supporting the Collier team.

The school garden, under the supervision of Jackie Older, continues to thrive. The vegetables that are being harvested are exceeding expectations!



Country Place Leadership Academy

The Country Place Leadership Academy National Junior Honor Society members have been doing a fantastic job serving our community! They volunteer at numerous events throughout the year. Our student leader's setup and helped run the Easter Egg Hunt at the City of Avondale's Kidsfest at Friendship Park on April 7th. On March 3rd they volunteered at the Tres Rios Nature Festival. Great job Mustangs and a special thanks to NJHS sponsor, [Roberta Garcia!](#)





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 18, 2018

Members of the Student Lighthouse and Students Ambassador Leadership Teams helped host the Annual Spring Up in Country Place Event put on by the Country Place HOA and Block Watch. The CP leaders greeted community members as they arrived, shared information about The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and took people on guided tours. They had a chance to meet some of great characters from Star Wars too! Great job Mustangs! A special thanks to Lighthouse Team sponsor [Anitra Moring](#) and staff members [Crystle Morris](#) and [Ashely Pomeroy](#).





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

Estrella Vista STEM Elementary School

Voices of Innovative Communities Excel - Celebrating November Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to *Ms. Sarah Pigza*, 5th- 8th grade Band teacher, for excelling as the March Teacher of the Month.

Ms. Pigza is well deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis through her collaboration with two different schools regarding the band program, dedication to providing the highest expectations for all of her musicians, respect in all interactions and communication she has with students, staff, supervisors and families, integrity in performing herself to high expectations in only wanting the best for all students and trust through her openness to ideas and open communication and transparency



with the individuals she works with at both Estrella Vista and Quentin. In addition, *Ms. Pigza* is dedicated to expanding the band program and has worked effortlessly to recruit new band students as well as retain the students currently in band through high levels of engagement and performances that student select themselves. Her ability to provide students choice in their learning makes them eager to come to her class every day. *Ms. Pigza* not only does a phenomenal job teaching 5th-8th grade students Band at two schools, but also works to build relationships with students, staff and parents outside of school through coaching sports, participating and attending district and school events and providing Band concerts for the greater community to attend and see the phenomenal work of our students. Ms. Pigza has even recruited teachers to play in the band during their planning periods. Congratulations to *Ms. Sarah Pigza* for receiving the March Teacher of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

Fifth Grade Provides a STEM Experience in Their Yearly Signature Field Trip to Camp Tonto

Outdoor overnight STEM Camp – those 3 little words illicit both apprehension and excitement from all 5th graders at Estrella Vista. This year, 71 fifth graders from EV returned to Tonto Creek Camp for 3 days and 2 nights of

While at camp, participated in modules: Archery, Ropes and Astronomy. like sitting out while gazing at an astronomer Observatory in was able to tell planets and



outdoor fun at camp. the students 6 outdoor STEM STEM Engineering, Ecology Hike, Low Daytime and Nighttime There’s nothing quite in an open field at night the stars. We also had from the Lowell camp with us, and he us stories about the constellations. Our final

task at camp was taking a hike into the Tonto Creek Forest to see an amazing waterfall. We had 6 delicious meals in the dining hall where students were tasked with “leaving it nicer than they found it” and the best part (according the kids!) it snowed on Tuesday morning! Many of our kids had never experienced snow before so that was a big part of our trip.



Estrella Vista Teacher and Chief Science Officers Open the Doors to a Partnership with the City of Avondale

Thank you to **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade teacher and Chief Science Officer Advisor, for seeking opportunities for partnerships through the various STEM experiences he has chaperoned Estrella Vista Chief Science Officers on. During one of the most recent CSO experiences, **Mr. Batchelder** connected with **Ms. Lane Klassen**, VISTA Community Engagement Specialist & Neighborhood & Family Services of Avondale whom he communicated with to come to the most recent STEM Cadre meeting at Estrella Vista for **Ms. Klassen** to share with the STEM leader group about the opportunity to partner with the Avondale AmeriCorps VISTA. This group has been looking for a STEM school to partner with to provide support for an engineering focus. This partnership will bring many volunteer students from Estrella Mountain Community College and the



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

Agricultural School in to work alongside staff to provide STEM opportunities to students, teachers and families. In addition, *Ms. Klassen* is able to support through writing grants for the school. We look forward to the partnership we have created with the City of Avondale. Thank you to *Mr. Stephen Batchelder* for developing the partnership and for *Ms. Katherine Hoornstra*, Assistant Principal, for setting up an opportunity for *Ms. Lane Klassen* to come to Estrella Vista and collaborate with the STEM Cadre on how the Avondale AmeriCorps VISTA can support the school's STEM focus.

Estrella Vista STEM/MESA Team Takes 3rd Place in the Annual Regional Competition



It was a nice day at Apollo high school. Estrella Vista students' had a great time. They also did well in three of the challenges. Keep in mind there was 27 middle schools from all around the state. Our "Duct Tape Boat" team finished 7th place. Our "On Site Challenge" Team medaled bronze and came in 3rd place. Then finally our "3D Phone Accessory Challenge" team earned a silver medal and came in second place. Ms. Vlieg and I are so proud of our students hard work all year. Thank you to *Mr. Michael Laureano*, 6th grade teacher, and *Ms. Rachel Vlieg*, 5th grade teacher, for supporting the STEM/MESA Program!

American Dream Academy Supports Estrella Vista in Partnering with Parents Education



During the spring, the ASU American Dream Academy provided workshops for EV families. Parents were engaged in learning school resources, strategies to support learning, and ways to prepare for college. Most importantly, parents made connections to personnel at Arizona State University to support the social and academic success of their children. Thank you *Dr. Richard Ramos*, Principal, for collaborating with the Academy Coordinators to come in and work with our parents as well as *Mrs. Adriana Amavisca*, Gifted teacher, and *Ms. Brandy Chaidez*, 8th grade Math teacher, for supporting with parent and student classes.





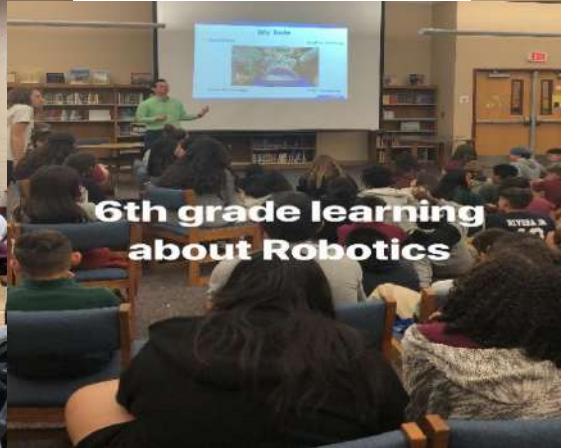
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

Kids at Hope Committee Hosts Career and Education Day

The Estrella Vista STEM Academy has embraced our fourth Kids at Hope destination of Education and Career with our annual College and Career fair event! Through this event, students of every grade level had the opportunity to successfully communicate and learn from local college representatives. Students were also given the opportunity to learn from 25+ community members and professionals who shared their expertise in their career path. Many of these were related to our STEM focus and STEM careers. Congratulations to our students, staff, and parent for inspiring growth within our future.

Thank you to all Estrella Vista STEM Academy staff members that worked to make this event a success: *Ms. Amanda Hicks*, Dean of Students; *Ms. Adriana Amavisca*, Gifted teacher; *Mr. Anthony Haduch*, 4th grade teacher; *Ms. Brittany Levandoski*, 2nd grade teacher; *Ms. Mallory Moore*, Kindergarten teacher; *Ms. Nonu Nsagane*, STEM teacher; *Ms. Brandy Chaidez*, 8th grade Math teacher; *Ms. Paige Lamb*, Resource teacher; *Dr. Richard Ramos*, Principal; *Ms. Rosie Fleeman*, 5th grade teacher; and *Ms. Kari Burd*, 4th grade teacher for organizing this amazing opportunity for our students and bringing the greater community in to share their expertise.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

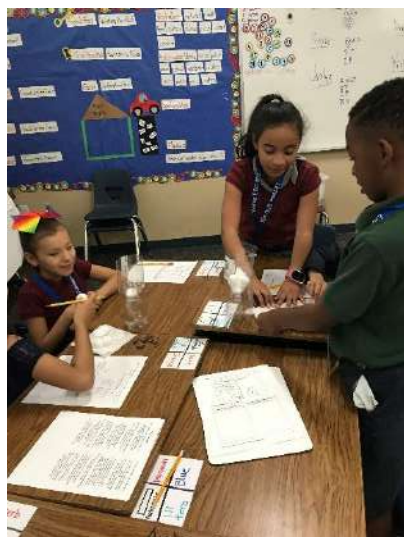
Littleton Elementary School



As the school year winds down, the opportunities to celebrate our students and all of their accomplishments are many. Here is a look at just a few of the great things that have happened on campus over the last month.

Earlier this month the PTA hosted our annual Spring Festival. Staff set up games throughout campus for students and families to enjoy. The well-attended event provided our families with an opportunity for quality entertainment while continuing to strengthen the critical bond between the school and the community it serves.

Recently the second grade students learned about water pollution. We brainstormed how it happens, as well as what we can do to prevent it. We also talked about how this is a real problem for many people in the world. To illustrate the point of how important it is to have drinkable water, we had the students create water filters. We gave them water that had been dirtied with soil, leaves, and oil. We then gave each group the same materials to make a filter: plastic water bottle, small rocks, cotton balls, cotton pads, and paper towels. The students then had to work



with their team to figure out what order to put the filtering materials, to create the cleanest water. The students who put the rocks closest to the top has the most success, as the rocks caught all of the larger debris.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 25, 2018

Our preschool team is working hard on completing our Kindergarten transition meetings to help our special needs students be successful in kindergarten. The team is also coordinating on the Kinder Camp night in mid-May. Our final event for the year will be to celebrate our students who will be attending kindergarten next year. We are scheduling our celebrations for the end of the school year.

Our Firebirds continue to work hard both in and out of the classroom as we strive to finish the school year strong!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 9, 2018

Quentin STEM Academy

Another great week at Quentin. We were able to celebrate our Teacher of the Year *Ms. Rosie Garcia*. We announced her at the staff meeting and presented her with roses and a gift-card. We will also celebrate her at the board meeting on May 8th at 6:00PM.

Teachers in junior high are preparing to perform the first dissections at Quentin. 6th and 7th graders will be dissecting owl pellets and 8th graders will be dissecting frogs as part of their PBL for quarter 4. The students and the teachers are excited about this opportunity.



Lastly, Quentin 5th and 6th graders placed 3rd at the Math

Challenge regional competition held at Fowler Elementary. It was Quentin's first ever appearance. Congratulations to *Ms. Samantha Armstrong* and the Math Challenge students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 9, 2018

Tres Rios Service Academy

Ms. Lindsay Westberg, our dean of students, kicked off her yearlong anti-bullying campaign by teaching students to recognize normal conflict vs. bullying and strategies to handle themselves in both situations. In the meantime, several classes were motivated to display their thoughts on the topic.



Red Ribbon Week led to many creative

displays across all grades. Despite the grueling pace of the curriculum, our staff always finds a way to make time for things that matter to children.



Mr. Scott Kelbick led the way with a family science night hosted by the Arizona Science Center.



Ms. Judith Collins poured her heart and soul into making this year's Wild West book fair a success. When unsuspecting visitors attempted to pass by the library she lassoed them in and encouraged them to buy books for their children.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 16,2018

Country Place Leadership Academy

6th-8th grade students from the National Junior Honor Society visited the State Capital. Senator Contreras invited the members during the Country Place Leadership Academy Fall NJHS Induction. Students were able to go inside the assembly room and the committee rooms. They had the opportunity to talk with staff members from the Capital and learned how laws are made. They also had a personal tour and got to ask questions with State Senator Martin Quezada.



The Country Place Leadership Academy Teacher of the Year is [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#)! Mrs. Anitra Morin teaches Leadership and the 7 Habits to our entire campus! She coordinates the Student Lighthouse Team, our junior high student service opportunity SHINE, video announcements and much more! Congratulations to [Mrs. Morin](#) and thank you for all that you do!

The Country Place Leadership Academy Staff Member of the Year is [Mrs. Yeceli Heras](#)! [Mrs. Heras](#) is our administrative assistant in the front office. She works with our student, staff and community to support student safety, learning and leadership. Her most difficult role is trying to reign in [Dr. Cagle](#)! Thank you so much for your service, dedication and love of Country Place!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 16,2018

The Country Place Leadership Academy Student Lighthouse Team met with our Leader in Me Coach, Kelli Johnson to discuss our next steps as a Leadership School. The Lighthouse Team decided they want to become a Lighthouse School and reviewed the Lighthouse criteria. They set a goal to have a totally student run Leadership Day next year!



On April 17th, student leaders from the Lighthouse Team facilitated deeper learning about the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People for our families. The students worked to help families learn more about Habit 1, Be Proactive. They gained a deeper understanding of some of the Highly Effective Principles from Habit 1: Circle of Control and Pause and Reflect Based on Principles. The student facilitators did a great job!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 16,2018

Collier Elementary School

Congratulations to Collier's newest members of NJHS. Thank you to [Ms. Leslie Casillas](#) for her hard work and commitment to the program and our students.

Collier's Student Council earned the Master's Council Award as well as 8 blue ribbons for their projects. This award is the highest honor and a great accomplishment for these young men and women. Thank you to our Student Council sponsors, Ms. Leticia Mattei and Ms. Lindsay Punke.



Our Grilling with the Principal lunch event was a hit! Students enjoyed the burgers and were surprised that [Mr. D'Alessio](#) knew his way around a grill. Thank you to everyone on the Food Services team for your help and support.



Girl Scouts started a modified after school program for our students to attend and to give parents an example of what the program can look like. We had over 40 students attend the program. We hope that this will encourage our students and parents to start their own Collier Charter.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 16,2018

To celebrate all of the students' hard work and terrific attendance during AzMERIT, students and staff we treated to a pie in the face raffle. Students with perfect attendance during testing earned tickets. Those tickets were drawn at random and winners got to select the staff member they wanted to pie. It was hard to tell who enjoyed it more, the students or the staff!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23,2018

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Congratulations to *Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson*, Kindergarten teacher, for achieving the Westside Impact Teacher of the Year! *Mrs. Robinson* has been teaching at Estrella Vista STEM Academy for three years. She was selected as teacher of the year by her peers for demonstrating expertise in building classroom community and promoting student ownership in learning. *Mrs. Robinson* also develops amazing relationships with parents at Estrella Vista. Please help us congratulate *Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson* for this huge accomplishment!



Mrs. Sandra Gallegos' class worked on a poetry unit of study for the Months of April and May. During the study, the students examined the rhythm and structure of poetry. They were given time to apply their understanding of the poetic devices by writing their own creative poem about their favorite color. After a month of working hard, students invited their family to come in to a poetry night where each student had the opportunity to read their poem to an audience. As a conclusion to their presentations, students thanked their families with a hand crafted painted flower painted in the color of their poem. Families and friends were very excited and proud of their child for showcasing their writing and presentation talents.

Presenting ...

The poets of Planet 207 in

Poetry Café





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23,2018

The Estrella Vista 2017-2018 baseball team finished their season as league champions and remaining undefeated on Friday, May 18th. The 8 boys that finished the season showed hard work and dedication all season long. We are very proud of their accomplishment and we wish our 8th graders the best of luck in the high school careers. Thank you to *Ms. Nicole Clark*, 8th grade Social Studies teacher, and *Ms. Amanda Hick*, Dean of Students for coaching the boys' baseball team to an undefeated season and another championship!



The week of May 11th, Estrella Vista students were very excited to participate in field day events. Activities were geared toward each grade level, and included games such as: Drip, Drip, Splash, Sharks and Minnows, Water Relays, Sand Volleyball, Hungry, Hungry Hippos, Musical Chairs, Obstacle Courses, Light Saber Tag, Pac-Man, Basketball Chairs, and Olly, Olly Octopus. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the competition, and especially getting wet! EV would like to celebrate our P.E. teacher, *Mr. Antony Brophy*, who did an awesome job at setting up fun, engaging events, and also the NJHS student leaders who helped make sure every event ran smoothly. Thank you for all of your hard work!



Congratulations to our amazing families that took part in the 6-week American Dream Academy Opportunity offered by Arizona State University. Two parents were honored to speak at the Graduation Ceremony and all parents were presented with a graduation certificate and future Arizona State University Student IDs for all children in their family. All Children Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS! Thank you to *Mrs. Adriana Amavisca*, Gifted teacher, *Ms. Brandy Chiadez*, 8th grade math teacher, Arizona State University staff and *Dr. Richard Ramos*, Principal, for offering this opportunity to our Aces of Hearts.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23, 2018



On Wednesday May 16, 2018 the National Junior Honor Society at Estrella Vista STEM Academy had the privileged to induct 12 new members. The new inductees were; ***Joana Bermudes, Arla Chavez, Melinda Goblirsch, Scott Kimme, Miguel Lazo Lozano, Bao Nguyen, Nathaniel Pazos, Delisa Perez, Summer Soto, Natalie Velazquez, Maxwell White, and Angie ZaZueta.*** All twelve students exemplify; leadership, citizenship, responsibility, character, and scholarship, the five pillars of the National Junior Honor Society. We look forward to their continued dedication to the chapter and the pillars and thank Mr. Bronson Goodsell, 7th grade Social Studies teacher, as well as Ms. Michelle Gerrick, 6th grade teacher, for leading the way with our amazing student leaders.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23,2018

On Thursday May 18th, Estrella Vista Kindergarten team hosted Kinder Camp to incoming Kindergarteners. We informed the parents about things to expect in kindergarten. The teachers then grouped the students and their families into groups and rotated to special areas. Thank you to *Mr. Antony Brophy*, P.E. teacher, who taught students real world Pac Man; *Ms. Amanda Hicks*, Dean of Students, who taught students about long and short sounds in Music; *Ms. Julie Whelihan*, Art teacher, who taught students color songs using sign language; and *Mrs. Penny Nguyen*, Technology teacher, who taught students the basic of using computers. *PTSA* was also there giving away t-shirts and snacks. The kindergarten team is excited to work with these families next year! We celebrate bringing in 39 families to the event and look forward to our new Kinders to start in July!



Littleton Elementary School

This final month of the school year has been one of transition and celebration on the Littleton Elementary campus. We have had the opportunity to honor the achievements of our students, welcome in a new group of Firebirds, and recognize our eighth graders who have been promoted to the next chapter of their lives.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23,2018

Our National Junior Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony earlier this month. New members were encouraged by the words of current society officers and inspired by Miss Arizona, Ms. Maddie Rose Heller.

The next evening, we had the opportunity to welcome our newest members of the Firebird community during our Kinder Camp. These incoming kindergartners, and their families, were provided with all the basics of the Kindergarten experience. Afterwards, the group took



a campus tour. Both the students and their families left excited for the start of the 2018-2019 school year!



We ended the busy week with our Field Day. Students had the opportunity to challenge themselves through rigorous activities, and had a lot of fun doing it!

The final week of the school year has brought opportunities for students to commence the next stage in their educational journey. For our pre-school students, families were invited to come to campus and celebrate all the accomplishments of the year. Many of these students will be returning to our campus next year as the next generation of Firebirds. We look forward to watching them achieve great things.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 23,2018

Our eighth graders, many of whom have been on our campus since Kindergarten, celebrated their promotion out of elementary school with an awards night/dance followed the next day with a ceremony in their honor. It was great to see all the families and friends that attended the event. It was evident that the students, and their aces, take great pride in all of that they have accomplished. The entire staff and all of the Firebird community wishes them nothing but the best. They are all capable of success, No Exceptions!!

