



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 1, 2018**

## Collier Elementary School

Officer Emmitt from Avondale PD came out to Collier to discuss Bullying and Cyber Safety with our upper grade students. Collier hopes to continue this relationship with Avondale PD as they make more positive, planned visits throughout the year.



Ms. Aracely Vazquez, District STEM TOSA, with the help of Ms. Anissa Ottens and other Collier staff members, created a 1:1 laptop presentation for parents. We offered four sessions for parents to attend to learn about internet safety, digital citizenship, and proper laptop care. We had over 300 parents attend



Peter Piper Pizza hosted a Collier family night on Thursday, August 2. This was a great way to kick off the year with our community as well as free dinner for the school staff.

## Country Place Leadership Academy

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Mustang Certified Staff participated in Professional Learning with 7 Habits Guru, Mike Suto. Mike focused the staff on how to live and learn the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People at a deep level so we could help our students do the same. He also refocused the staff on 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.

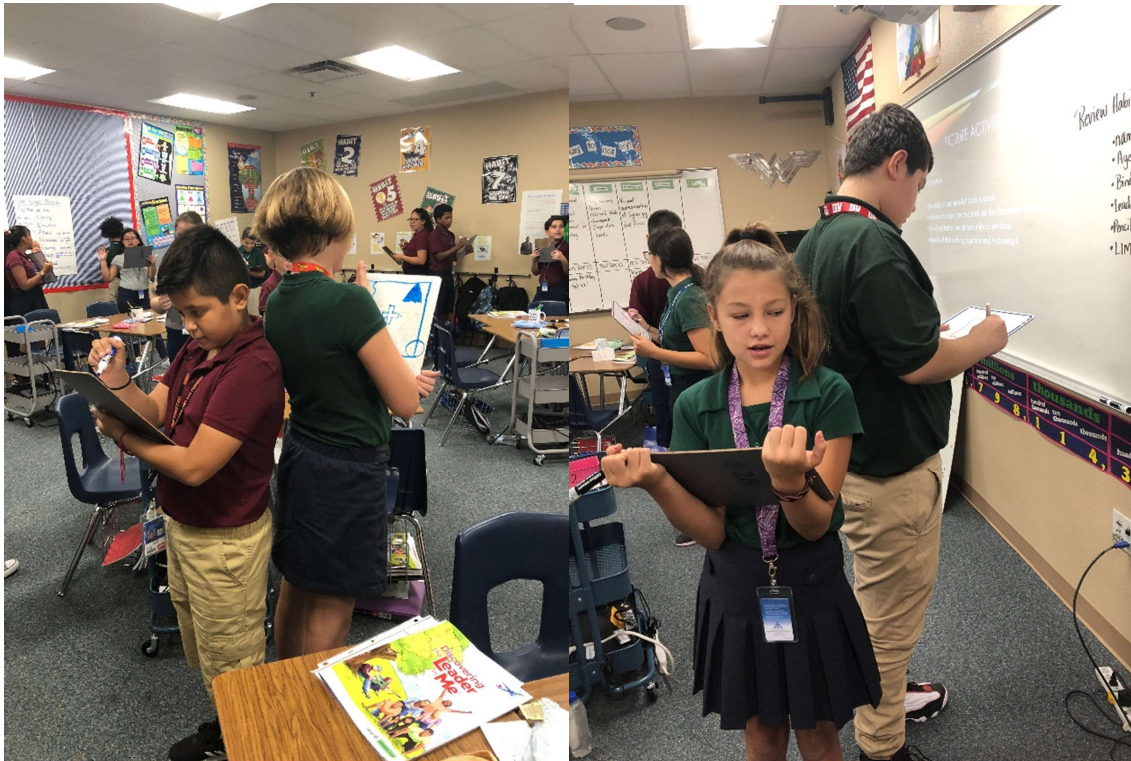


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

**August 1, 2018**

On August 1<sup>st</sup> a group of students and staff met after school to set our WIG for the Year. Our WIG will be to increase the number of students who say that they have a great future ahead of me.

Our staff and students began the year with a school wide focus on leadership! Students learned all 7 Habits plus the 8<sup>th</sup> Habit, Find Your Voice at a deeper level. They created class and personal mission statements. They also began creating their leadership notebooks for the year. The energy and excitement on campus has been tremendous!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 8, 2018**

## Littleton STEM Academy

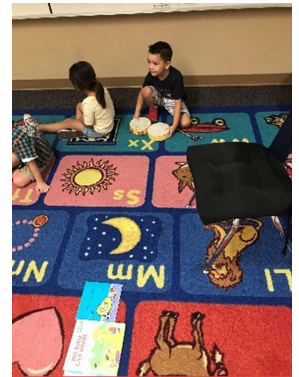


On behalf of the entire Firebird community, we would like to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! We are so excited to open our doors, for the first time, as the Littleton STEM Academy. With our focus in place, our staff and our learners are eager to embark on all that the world of computer sciences has to offer. As we have settled in to the start of the new year, there is already amazing learning and growing happening in each of our classrooms. In preschool, students have been learning routines and expectations. They have enjoyed meeting new friends and building relationships with teachers. They will continue to work on their Beginning of the Year study in Creative Curriculum.

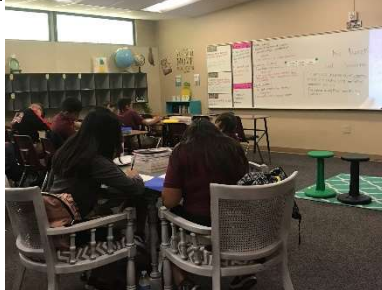
Our kindergarten classes have begun their ABC Bootcamp, on a mission to learn 26 letters in 26 days! *Ms. Kacey Haucks's* 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class had to use some ingenuity as they worked to



build the tallest tower they could with noodles and marshmallows. Students' learning needs were at the forefront of the flexible seating plan in *Mrs. Stephanie Rudzki's* 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA class. Early results have shown an increase in student engagement levels and peer cooperation. These are just a few examples of the wonderful things happening inside of our classrooms! The new school year has brought a renewed energy



to campus. It has been evident from the onset that our Firebirds have come back ready to succeed, NO EXCEPTIONS! We look forward to celebrating and sharing all the terrific accomplishments our community of learners will enjoy throughout the course of the next ten months. It's going to be a wonderful journey...and it's just getting started! Let's have an amazing 2018-2019 school year!!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 8, 2018**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Annual Community Walk**

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 810 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! The team was able to make contact with 235 students and leave 575 door hangers!



### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Sponsoring a Third Grade Student**

*Ms. Alyssa Nelson*, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, understands the importance of our students having supportive adults in their lives. This year *Ms. Nelson* is asking friends and family to sponsor a student in her class. She is asking that the adult send encouraging cards or provide a book for the student that they are sponsoring. Friends and family select a number and are assigned a student. The students will be so excited to receive encouragement from their sponsor throughout the year.

We are *INSPIRED* at the initiative *Ms. Nelson* has taken and look forward to see how this unfolds this year.



### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Celebrating New Voices to the EVES**

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. Megan Crawford* - 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher from Missouri; *Mrs. Jessica Torres* - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher from Arizona; *Mr. Jason Mierczynski* - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher from California; *Ms. Heather Began* - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher from Illinois; *Ms. Jesse Reyes* - 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Arizona; *Ms. Paula Hernandez* - 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Arizona; *Ms. Anna Sagan* - 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from the Ukraine; *Mr. Ramon Nieto Calderon* - 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Arizona; *Mr. Emil Pluhar* - 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from Arizona; *Mr. Mukarram Hans* - STEM teacher from Pakistan; *Mr. Cameron Hallford* - Technology para from Arizona; *Mrs. Michelle Tury* - School Psychologist from Arizona; *Mr. Antonio Bryant* - Dean of Students back from California.





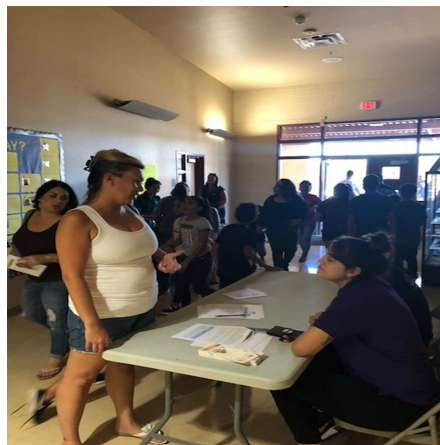
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 8, 2018



### Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Outstanding Participation from Families on Meet the Teacher Night

We would like to celebrate that Estrella Vista had over 900 parents and students attend Meet the Teacher and Annual Title 1 Night on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 15, 2018**

## Fine Arts Academy

### We tried something new....and it worked!



We learned at this summer's Family Engagement Conference that the typical "Meet the Teacher Night" could be alienating to some families. So, we turned things around, called it a "Back to School Celebration", and had amazing attendance. To make it fun, we turned the evening into a "BINGO" game and encouraged families to work together to accomplish a wide variety of tasks including things like 1.) Meet your teacher, 2.) Pick up your new License 2 Learn badge, 3.) Take a family

photo, 4.) Introduce yourself to the new assistant principal, 5.) Like us on Facebook, and 19 other tasks that earned families BINGOS on their cards.

Family members were randomly challenged to answer 3 selected questions about our staff. During this event, we all learned some interesting facts about our teachers and support staff!



Teachers sat/stood together as teams and greeted families in the hallway. Parents who wanted to fill out paperwork sat in the classrooms and took care of business!



Our friends at McDonald's on 99<sup>th</sup> Ave. and McDowell Rd. donated a cool bike that we raffled off using families' completed BINGO cards.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 15, 2018**

## **District Office**

### **Technology**

The Technology team has been busy getting brand new Chromebooks ready to distribute to students and staff. This is the year that Quentin STEM Academy is scheduled to receive a computer refresh and all students in grades 3-8 will be issued a new Chromebook as part of the 1:1 program. Also about to receive new Chromebooks are the students in grades 7-8 at Tres Rios Service Academy. Special thanks to [Alex Moreno](#) and [Maricela Martinez](#) for helping get the laptops moved into the Technology office as well as [Kyle Olson](#), [Alex Celestino](#), [Uriel Contreras](#), [Tim Turner](#), [Frank Gutierrez](#), [Veronica Malone](#), [Leslie Sanchez](#), [Carlos Gomez](#) and [Jim Poquette](#) for helping unbox and getting them ready to head out to the schools.



### **Teaching & 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 pre-service days and were successful because of our Champions! 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, Business Resources, Exceptional Student Services, Transportation, Food Services and IT. We would also like to recognize the Professional Development Committee members still with us that assisted in developing the pre-service schedule: [Terri Fisher](#), [Mike Fisher](#), [Catherine Jimenez](#), [Tina Kauffmann](#), [Eric Nelson](#), [Jazmin Pacheco](#), [Jim Poquette](#), and [Sideqa Padawer](#).



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 22, 2018**

## **Quentin STEM Academy**

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Greetings! We had a smooth start to the school year. Meet the Teacher Night launched our year positively with students and families' eager to meet their teachers.

We have a beautiful new banner in our cafeteria that communicates Shark pride to our community whenever they visit our campus that was donated by Senator Lupe Contreras.

We have had our first community event that was facilitated by our PTA. They put on our annual bingo night for our families. They had hotdogs, snacks, drinks and prizes for all in attendance. It was a great way to begin to build our community relationships. A big thank you to our PTA and all the volunteers that made this event a success.

## **Tres Rios Service Academy**

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### **Welcome Back & Happy New Year!**

On behalf of the Tres Rios community, we would like to wish you all Happy New (School) Year! We are off to a great start and are excited for the possibilities of *Linking Learning to Life* as a school community this year!



### **Welcome to the Family!**

We started the year off by welcoming new staff to our Puma family. Please welcome **Melissa Rice** ~ 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher; **Gwen Walt-Eastwood** ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade; **Becky West** ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade; **Kari Burd** ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; **Marvin Villa** ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Maxwell Horowitz** ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Marilynda Milum** ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Amber Garcia** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Clarissa Flores** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Phillip Mashek** ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Terese Wilson** ~ 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELD; **Vanessa Sanchez** ~ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade; **Rowan Romero** ~ Paraprofessional; **Ana Moran** ~ Paraprofessional; **Marieka Michaud** ~ Assistant Principal; **Ricardo Cordova** ~ Principal. We look forward to an awesome year supporting our students, families, and our community as a whole.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 22, 2018



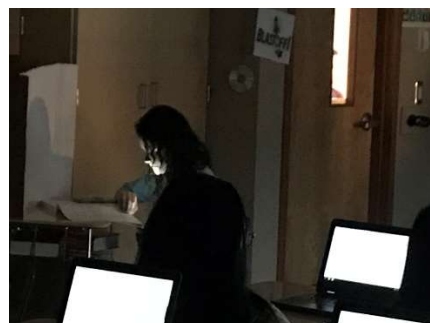
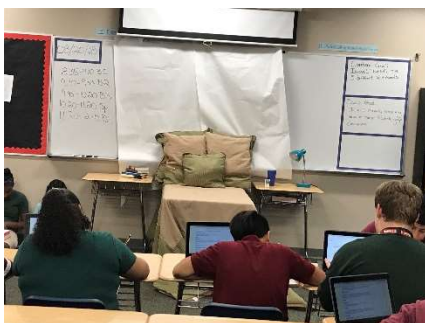
### Linking Learning to Life!

This first month of school, our teachers and students have already engaged in many meaningful learning opportunities. There is a sense of urgency on our campus to ensure that all students are meeting their potential. Students have seen teachers modeling a love of reading, been challenged to think critically about how to “Save Sam,” and they have been working in small groups to ensure they have the opportunities they need to be successful! The best part is that we are just getting started and we know that there are bigger and better things to come!



### Lights, Camera, Action!

This week, the 8th grade class at Tres Rios is bringing Studysync to life in *Mr. Chad Schafer's* classroom. Students are acting out a scene from the play, “Sorry, Wrong Number” by playwright, Lucille Fletcher. Seeing the scene acted out enables the students to properly visualize the action, stage directions, and get a respect for the performing arts. It also allows the movers and shakers in the class to be active and engaged. Maybe we will see some on the big stage one day!





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 22, 2018

### What's happening in Service Learning!

This year we have the privilege of having a Service Learning Related Arts class. *Ms. Erika Avelar* has already begun working with our students by starting this year off with explaining what Service Learning is and discussing their yearlong goal. All of the grade levels have begun the learning portion of their service learning projects. In the pictures you see 2nd grade drawing their hero. We have begun learning about what local heroes are and how we can help them. They will be collecting donations and writing letters to the local policemen, firefighters and military this year. We have some big plans for this year.

Kindergarten - Care packages for our local group homes

1st - Gardening for the school

2nd - Letters and care packages for local heroes

3rd - Electricity conservation PSA

4th - Fidget blankets For high needs students

5th grade - Bonding with senior citizens

6th grade - Bullying PSA

7th grade - Water conservation for river clean up

8th grade - Mentoring younger students and gardening for the community







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**September 5, 2018**

## Collier Elementary School

Our fifth grade students participated in the Roving Chef program. They had an opportunity to tour the kitchen and created yummy quesadillas to share with the office staff.

Several Collier families attended the Arizona Diamondbacks game thanks to a generous donation. Many students took advantage of the indoor batting cages, homerun derby field, and other fun activities around the stadium.



Before school began, most of the Collier staff attended the Kagan Cooperative Learning Day 1 training. The staff have been implementing these structures in their classrooms daily to increase student engagement and to enhance Productive Group Work, (PGW).







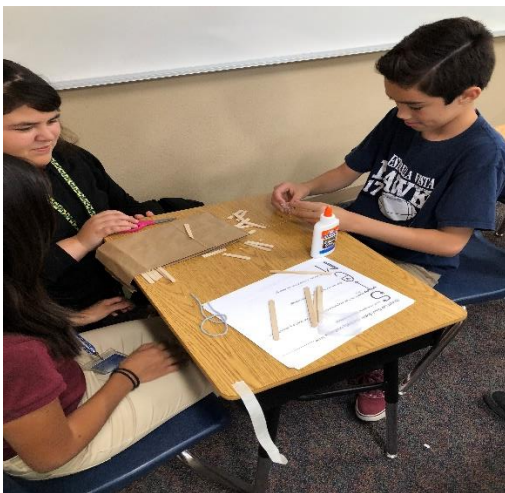
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2018

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - STEM in the Social Studies Classroom

*Ms. Penny Nguyen* has been teaching her 7<sup>th</sup> grade students about the *Tea Act*. To help gain an understanding of the *Tea Act* students participated in a STEM activity where they created an object to carry the tea in that would float on the water. Students had success that ranged from 3 minutes all the way to over 30 minutes! It's exciting to see the creativity the students had creating and working together as a team.



Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - PTSA Peter Piper Night

Thank you to our *Hawk PTSA* who has started the year with a BANG! The parent group raised around \$600 at the Peter Piper Back to School Event night on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, the group welcomed the most parents they've seen at their first *PTSA* meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2018

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

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continued



Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - EVES Hawk Pride in Athletics  
 Thank you to our boys' basketball coaches, *Mr. Stephen Batchelder* and *Ms. Scott Schulte*, girls' basketball coaches, *Ms. Megan Crawford* and *Mrs. Jackie Robinson*, and our cheer coaches, *Ms. Jessica Gensel* and *Ms. Alexis Hullaby*. We appreciate all the time and effort spent toward their players to not only help them with their skills in their sport, but also help with their grades and the development of their character. We are proud of all of our athlete's hard work and dedication toward improvement. Go Hawks!



Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - August Citizenship Award Winners At the August PTSA meeting, we recognized 18 students for their citizenship for the month of August. A big thank you to all the parents and students who were able to attend the meeting to receive their award. The award winners were: Kindergarten- Nayelie Mariscal and Justin Cavazos, 1<sup>st</sup> grade- Andy Gomez Ramirez and Isaac Trevino, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Jade Caldwell and David Molina, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Naiyah Mascarenas and Julian Espinoza, 4<sup>th</sup> grade- Joey Juhl and Samantha Ochoa, 5<sup>th</sup> grade- Andrea Hernandez and Rolando Pierce, 6<sup>th</sup> grade-





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2018

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy ... continued

Karen Alvarez-Soto and Genesis Soto, 7<sup>th</sup> grade- Timothy Zahm and Zianne Mascarenas, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Leslie Bracamonte and Daniel Ramirez.

Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Parent Information Nights

First grade held a parent night that covered daily folders and classroom routines, remind app, expectations for uniforms, school curriculums for ELA and Math and goals for first grade, volunteer forms, and exciting things to happen this school year. It was great to have time to discuss and give a summary of what to expect over the course of the school year. After the presentation, they also had the opportunity to gather resources and were given sheets with strategies to take home that promoted growth in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Something exciting third grade has been working to incorporate is *Open House* night for our students. This opportunity is extremely beneficial for both the students and their families as they get to work alongside each other, dig deeper into their work, and clarify any challenges that may arise. During this opportunity, families are able to work with their child on a variety of subjects and focus on the critical skills that their child is working on throughout the year. Our first open house fell in August and we had about 75 families in attendance so that is a huge celebration! Classrooms went over procedures, expectations, online testing, classroom resources, and ended with a family/student work session.

5<sup>th</sup> grade had their first parent night for the 2018-2019 school year on Thursday, August 2. Our main topic for the night focused on our overnight trip to Tonto Creek camp in March. We presented a power point that outlined the purpose and STEM modules that will be completed at camp. We also reviewed the cost and the fundraising possibilities that exist for all students. At the end of the meeting, we also touched on the responsibilities of the students for completing work on time and digital citizenship of using the 1:1 lap tops.

Special thanks to the 7th grade team at Estrella Vista for hosting a Parent Night. Approximately 15 parents were able to make our first meeting, and we hope to build on this partnership with our middle school parents by holding a meeting the 2nd Tuesday of every month. At the meeting, *Mr. Emil Pluhar* gave a demonstration on how teachers and students are using Google Classroom to meet the 21st century requirements in learning. *Ms. Penny Nguyen* gave a demonstration of ParentVue and the new Remind app.

### Littleton STEM Academy

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a fantastic start at Littleton. 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 are already showing a passion for learning and an excitement to come to school every day. Preschool is wrapping up our Beginning of the Year study. Students are getting to know each other and their classroom rules and routines. Kindergarten has started our Project Based Learning of building robots using our writing journals to design and name our robots.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2018

### Littleton STEM Academy

... continued

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.

Outside of the classroom our students, families, and staff enjoyed our first Peter Piper Pizza night. Participants were treated to a night of food and fun, all for a good cause. We also celebrated the Kick-off of our cookie dough fundraiser. Students gathered to watch the presenter show the amazing prizes the students could earn by raising money to support student experiences.

As we head into September, Attendance Awareness Month, we look forward to welcoming our Firebirds every day and engaging them in relevant and meaningful learning experiences.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2018

### Country Place Leadership Academy

AWEsome Learning Focus- Jackie Davis 2018 Arizona Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalist *Jackie Davis*, one of Country Place’s amazing kindergarten teachers is a Semi-Finalist for the 2018 Arizona EL (English Language) Teacher of the Year. She was nominated for her dedication to our students and families, her steadfast professionalism and her skill as an EL Teacher. *Mrs. Davis* gets amazing results with her students’ year after year. Last year she helped over 70% of her EL students become proficient. We are so proud of *Mrs. Davis*!



#### Leadership Focus- WIG Setting Session

During August a group of staff, students, parents and a community member came together to identify the Wildly Important Goal areas for Country Place Leadership Academy for the school year. The group included members from the Staff Lighthouse Team, the Student Lighthouse Team, Grade Level Leads and other interested parties. The team looked at a variety of data sources including our AZ Merit scores, our DIBELS scores, our Student Gallup Poll and our survey data. After a spirited discussion about our strengths from last year and our areas of opportunity, the group decided to focus our Leadership efforts on increasing the Hope of our students. We want our students to believe they have a bright future. Our lead measures to help students be inspired to reach this goal will be to help students answer the questions of “What do I want to be?” and “What does success mean?” We will accomplish this by helping students time travel to their futures and connect them with careers of interest, leadership roles of interested and community leaders of interest. We also will establish a more robust goal setting process for students through the expanded use of their Leadership Notebooks. The team, particularly the students, were very excited about the results of the collaboration!



AWEsome Learning Focus- Building 100,00  
A simple question, “Why?” from our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers set our students off on a quest. Teachers and students knew the answer to a question that our new Math Curriculum Go Math posed for them, but they wondered why. The place value question was, “If 1 is a cube, 10 is a long, 100 is a flat, 1000 is a cube, what is 10,000?” The teachers and student knew the answer...a long, but they wondered why. So they built it. Then they wondered, “What about 100,000? Can we build that?” What resulted was an exploration of what makes a cube, a long and flat and some deep thinking about numbers, magnitude and place value. Great job Mustangs! Keep asking Why?







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 12, 2018

### Fine Arts Academy

Great teachers go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure their students have everything they need. *Ms. Susan Knighton*, our band instructor, did exactly this when she wrote grants and received new instruments, some much-needed percussion equipment and the sheet music to the *Pink Panther* theme as well as the theme from *Ghostbusters*. We are looking forward to a great year for our bands. 65 students strong!



We'd love to give a great big shout out to our school nurse *Ms. Daisy Diaz* – the “Compliance Queen”! In addition to all the day-to-day tasks a nurse does, there’s hearing and vision screenings that must be conducted on hundreds of students. Ms. Daisy made it happen! Then there’s the 6<sup>th</sup> graders who must have their immunizations up to date or they cannot attend school Ms. Daisy made that happen as well.

Thanks to our own in-house superhero, we are 100% in compliance with everything.

“TRASH BAND” has officially begun! Earlier this year, our music teacher, *Mr. Travis White*, requested random “trash” to use for his new “Trash Band”. Though he received some strange, yet totally usable items, he is starting all students off by teaching them to read music and play it on percussion “instruments”. The next step will be to transition to wood, metal, and glass instruments to compare the *timbre that each one makes*.



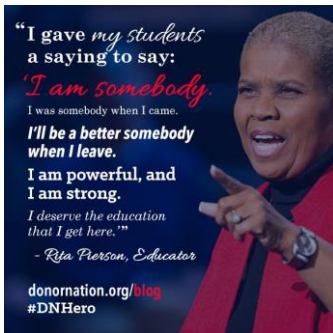


**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**September 19, 2018**

## Tres Rios Service Academy

Yeah! This year is the year of the Champion and many of us have watched Rita Pierson’s Ted Talk “Every Child Needs a Champion.” In that video, Ms. Pierson talks about a mantra she did with her students every day that helped her students know they are somebody. This year, *Mr. Maxwell Horowitz’s* 4<sup>th</sup> grade students recite this same saying every morning after the Kids at Hope and Treasure Hunter Pledge. It’s so much fun walking down the 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway hearing the students claim their success each and every day!



Puma Family Opportunities! This past month we hosted our very first Parent Information Nights of the year. On these nights, parents have an opportunity to learn more about our school through presentations and as “Ask the Administration” section. For our first night, we reviewed curriculum, Service Learning, and introduced our Parent English classes. We had a great turn out for both our English and Spanish sessions and are truly excited to meet with our families again at the end of this month! Since then, we have also had our first Parent English classes of the year. *Mrs. Lora Fernandez* is meeting with interested family members twice a week to teach them English, help them prepare for Parent Teacher Conferences, and much more. A huge shout out and thank you to *Mrs. Fernandez* for bringing this program to our school!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 19, 2018

### Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

**Linking Learning to Life!** This month students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade had an opportunity to learn about what it means to be a hero on September 11. Our awesome 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, arranged for three guest speakers to come to our campus (2 deputy sheriffs and a dispatch employee). In the days that followed the students created a manuscript with posters, acted out scenes, and much more in order to create a video presentation on safety for our school. The point of doing this project is to share and spread awareness to our kids and how they can be heroes for our community based off of what they learned. We are looking forward to seeing the outcomes of this project that helped our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students “Link Learning to Life!”



What’s happening in Service Learning! This year, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have taken on mentoring as their service learning project. This month they focused on communication and problem solving. The activity that they were asked to complete included building the tallest tower only using straws and tape. The catch was that they also had to assist their kinder buddies, who were assigned to build a cube using marshmallows, toothpicks and pretzels. The 8th graders were not allowed to touch the kindergartners materials, but were able to talk them through what they needed to do. The problem solving came in the form of building a strong enough tower that would hold the weight of the cubes. This activity helped 8th graders learn to work through different obstacles while maintaining a positive attitude for the kindergartners. They have taken on this mentoring role for their younger peers and have been very successful this year.





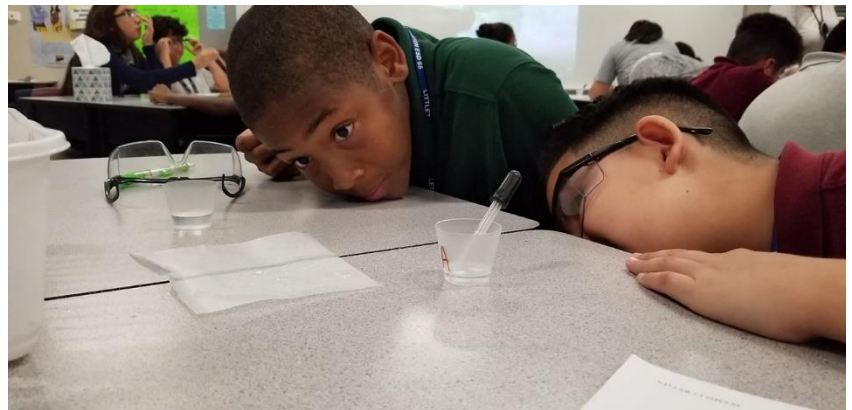
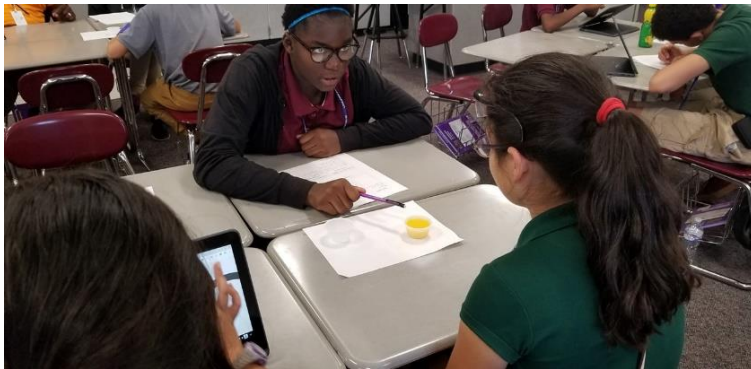


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 19, 2018

### Quentin STEM Academy

Greetings! Our Sharks have been busy this month. We began the month celebrating our student Sharks of the Month. Students had a great time honoring their peers and playing some fun games. We also celebrated Grandparents day. We had a great turn out, grandparents came to sit, visit, and have lunch with their grandchildren. Our PTA did an amazing job supporting this event with table decorations and a photo wall! Throughout the month students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade participated in science experiments. Our Sharks are off to a great start!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**September 26, 2018**

## Collier Elementary School

Collier would like to thank the Tolleson ROTC and *Ms. Dawnette Turner* for presenting the colors on September 11 for our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students.



We were excited at the number of grandparents that came to campus on September 10, 2018 to eat lunch with their grandkids. Thank you to the food service department for accommodating our families



Congratulations to *Mr. George Gonzales* for earning the Gold Key Award from the district for the 2017-2018 school year. His tireless work ethic and positive attitude keeps Collier running effectively.



Thank you to *Mr. Mike Fisher* and his maintenance team for installing a new sidewalk for our students and staff. This makes it easier to get to and from recess as well as keeping the campus looking great.



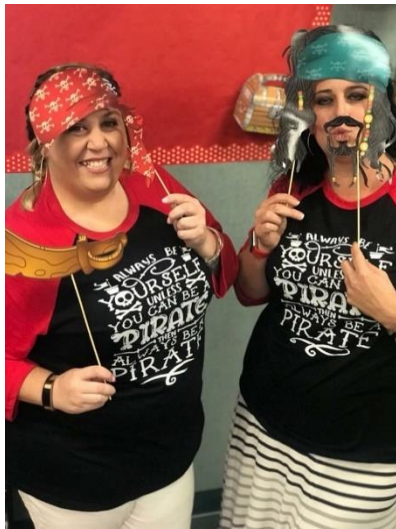
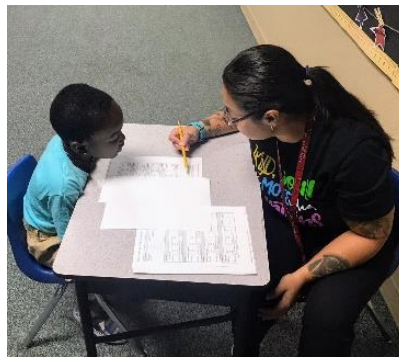
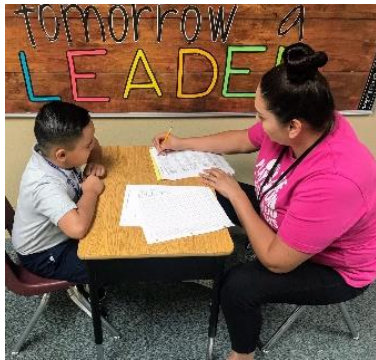


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 26, 2018

### Collier Elementary School continued

The para professionals at Collier are amazing. Their willingness to help wherever is needed is so important to the success of our students and staff. Thank you *Ms. Ana Frias*, *Ms. Lisa Chavez*, and *Ms. Gerry Flower*.



On Wednesday, September 19, was talk like a pirate day. Our kindergarten teachers and students took this opportunity to incorporate this day into their learning. The Collier staff including *Ms. Ashleigh Done* and *Ms. Brittany Ramirez* are willing to do whatever it takes to support learning.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**September 26, 2018**

## **Country Place Leadership Academy**

**AWESOME Learning Focus- Phoenix Children's Festival Winners!**

The Phoenix Children's Festival took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cityscape in Downtown Phoenix. In the lead up to the festival, the University of Phoenix sponsored a creative writing contest called, "What is Fun?" In 100 words or less, students had to describe what fun is. *Ms. Roberta Garcia's* class took on the challenge and submitted entries. Her class efforts earned Country Place Leadership Academy 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the number of entries from a school and a class. Each student in Ms. Garcia's class got a free all day ride pass to the festival. Our school won 100 books for our library. Giovanni from Ms. Garcia's class won the 4<sup>th</sup> grade entry contest! Congratulations to Giovanni and Ms. Garcia's class! Go Mustangs!

**Leadership Focus-Teaching the 7 Habits**

The fifth grade classes of *Mr. Cody Cherland*, *Ms. Serena Garcia*, *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez* and *Ms. Alejandra Valdez* synergized with the kindergarten classes of *Mrs. Jackie Davis*, *Mrs. Anastasia Hanns*, and *Ms. Sheila McCalpine* and *Mrs. Serena Hernandez*. The kindergarteners displayed their leadership and genius by teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> graders about their favorite habit. They also explained why it was their favorite habit. Then the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their kindergarten teachers drew a picture together that represented their favorite habit.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**October 3, 2018**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Champion of the Month**

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate *Ms. Paige Lamb*, grades 4-5 Special Education teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Champion of the Month for the month for September. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about Ms. Lamb included: “*Ms. Lamb* is always someone that you can TRUST and count on.”; “*Paige* gives the upmost RESPECT to colleagues and all students.”; “*Paige* always shows INTEGRITY by doing the right thing.”; “*Ms. Lamb* COLLABORATES with all staff and is a team player who holds herself to high standards.”; and “*Ms. Lamb* is extremely DEDICATED to her students and is always working hard with a smile.” *Ms. Lamb* goes above and beyond and dedicates herself to all students and community. Thank you *Ms. Lamb* and congratulations on this achievement!



### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences Excel - Kids at Hope Hobbies & Recreation Initiatives**

*Estrella Vista* STEM Academy had a successful Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Club Night on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Students and families came to check out all of the clubs EV is offering this year for our before and after school programs. Students had the opportunity to choose to sign up for 14 club experiences. The students were excited to be returning to some of their after school activities, along with joining some new opportunities across the campus. Students and families were also able to participate in a variety of Kids at Hope activities across each grade level. It was exciting to see families and students joining in the club opportunities as well as participating in all of the exciting games. Thank you to all of the staff members who helped make this night successful by either facilitating a club or hosting an activity. Thank you to Kids at Hope Representatives, *Ms. Alyssa Nelson*, *Mr. Antonio Bryant*, and *Ms. Rebekah Smith* for hosting this night.





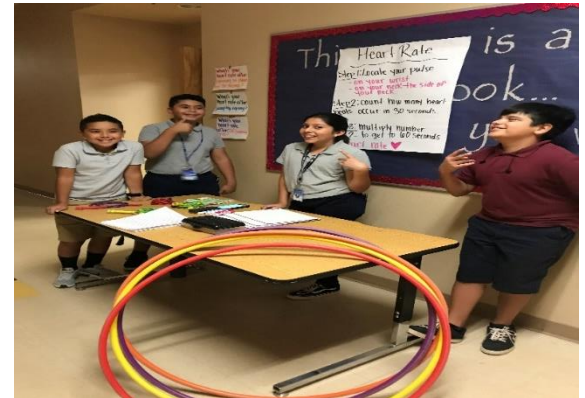
**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**October 3, 2018**

## Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Grade	Club	Sponsor(s)
K-3	Girl's Scout Club	outside facilitator is present
2-5th	Jr Pom Squad	<i>Sandoval, Smith, Nelson</i>
3-4th	Lego Club	<i>Amavisca</i>
3-5th	Fitness Club	<i>Capello/Hernandez</i>
3-5th	Math Games	<i>Reyes</i>
3-8th	Girls Running Club	<i>Began, Sagan, Pitters, Smith, Hernandez, Dixon</i>
3-8th	Rollerblading Club	<i>Pakes, Lamb, Sandoval, Nelson, Smith</i>
3-8th	EVSA Garden Club	<i>Reyes, Dixon</i>
4-8th	Girl's Scout Club	outside facilitator is present
5-8th	Pep Band	<i>Pigza</i>
6-8th	Anime Club	<i>Hullaby</i>
6-8th	Creative Writing	<i>Gensel</i>
6-8th	MESA Club	<i>Vliek</i>
4-8th	Ukulele Club	<i>Pigza</i>
4-8	IT & Lego	<i>Hans</i>
K-2	Mindful Meditation	<i>Chapman</i>
K-2	Drawing Club	<i>Encinas</i>
K-2	Cooking Club	<i>Torres</i>



### Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences Excel - Penny Drive sponsored by Kids at Hope and PTSA

During the month of September, Estrella Vista participated in a penny drive to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House. We are excited to announce that we raised \$1,856.00. *Ms. Cynthia Landis* class raised the most money with \$90.50, followed by *Ms. Rebekah Smith's* class with \$63.37. We would like to thank all the staff and students that helped create such a successful event. A big thank you to *Ms. Alyssa Nelson* and *Mr. Antonio Bryant* who coordinated the successful coin drive.



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**October 3, 2018**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

**continued**

### Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences Excel - EVES Stomping Out Bullying

*Estrella Vista STEM Academy* started off the school year spreading unity to STOMP Out Bullying. We had the opportunity to have Officer Ray Emmett present to our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes to have real life conversations about what bullying is and the impact it has on an individual's life. Thank you Officer Ray for taking time to come build a positive culture in our middle school. To continue working on our goal of educating all students and staff about bullying, we are participating in a few of the National Bully Prevention awareness activities. #BlueUp was first up for the month of October which is the world day of bullying prevention. We encouraged all of our students, staff, and families to wear blue on October 1<sup>st</sup> to help send our message of Stomping out bullying! Throughout the month, we will be participating in weekly awareness activities to spread unity between their peers and staff. A special thank you to *Ms. Rebekah Smith* for coordinating these efforts to help stomp out bullying at *Estrella Vista*.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

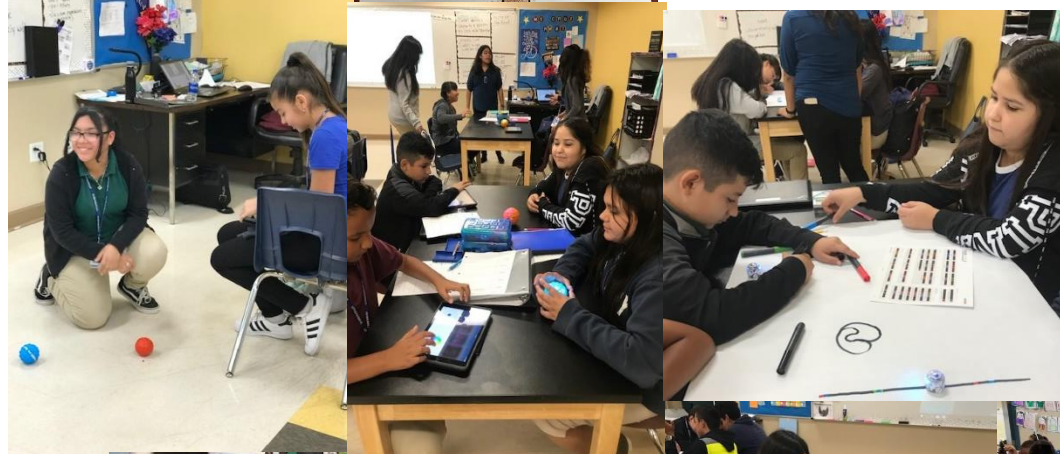
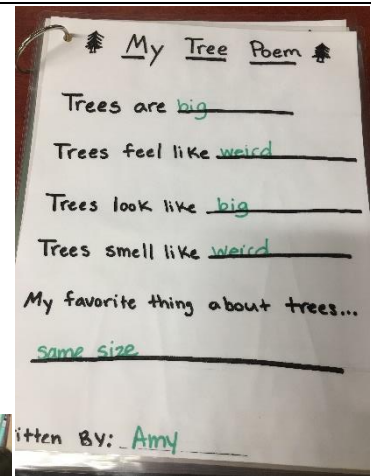
**October 3, 2018**

## Littleton STEM Academy

It is amazing how quickly the first quarter of the school year has gone by! Our Firebirds have experienced an amazing start to the new year; both in and out of the classroom.



Our preschool is continuing their exciting study on trees. They are learning about different types of trees, animals that live in trees and what grows on trees.



In our middle school, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students used Ozobots and Sphero's and used the computational thinking strategy of tinkering to gain some experience controlling the different robots.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**October 3, 2018**

## **Littleton STEM Academy**

**continued**

Our entire Firebird community had a wonderful time at our Kids at Hope: Home and Family Dance and Activities Night. Students of all ages brought their families in for an evening of dancing, games, and food. It proved to be a very enjoyable, engaging, and well-attended event.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 28, 2018

### Quentin STEM Academy

Running club has begun at QUES. Students run on Monday and Wednesday mornings at the La Joya track with Mr. Crowe our PE teacher to start their day off right! Congratulations to our boys' basketball team for going undefeated to capture the championship in the district. Congratulations to Coach *Brayden Crowe* and *Ryan Taylor* for a job well done! We want to celebrate the QUES flag football team for getting to the championship game. We fell on the last play of the game. Thank you to Coach *Brayden Crowe* and *Cameron Stevens* for a great season. Our



Thanksgiving Day Luncheon was a major success with many families joining us to celebrate the day. This year at QUES we did something different and decided to do a Turkey run in the morning. Students ran a course and each lap they completed they received a raffle ticket. We were able to raffle off 77 turkeys to our



community thanks to the QUES staff, PTA and Farmers Insurance for donating 10 turkeys to this event. We additionally had our Annual Turkey Trot during the day for our top boy and girl winners by grade level. Congratulations to all of our winners

### Tres Rios Service Academy

Family Fun! On your mark. Get set. Go! On November 15, Tres Rios Pumas participated in our annual Turkey Trot and Thanksgiving Lunch. We had 300+ family members come to enjoy food, fun, and family. 1<sup>st</sup> place winners for the Turkey Trot were each given a turkey, 2<sup>nd</sup> place a pie, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place a bag of potatoes! Everyone had a wonderful time! We are looking forward to enjoying time with our Puma families in the month of December as well. We can't wait for Holiday's Around the World, our KAH Family Game Night and our Pie





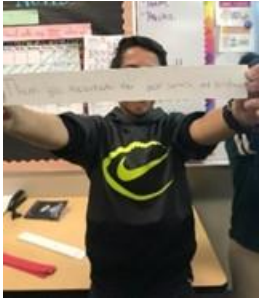
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 28, 2018

### Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

**Linking Learning to Life!** We have had an awesome past few weeks of learning. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we had first responders come in talk to them about safety, and their jobs. With the information they learned they put together a little informative flyer and some of their presentations were compiled into a short 45 second video. For Veteran's Day, 6<sup>th</sup> grade created a chain link American flag between all four classes. Each link had a thank you to a late or current veteran and it currently hangs in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hallway. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade also had some visitors this past month. They had speakers come in to talk with them about what it is like being a veteran. Lastly, our Kindergarten students had an awesome time bringing literature to life. Students had an opportunity to listen to the story Stone Soup and had a blast making some of their very own stone soup in class. Thank you to our volunteers for supporting our campus in Linking Learning to Life.



**Got Drive(s)?!!** This past month Pumas have been working hard to collect items to support our community. Students collected items for boxes that were then given to 14 boxes to give to families here at Tres Rios before the break. In addition, our students have been collecting socks, mitten, and pajamas for children at the Children's hospital. We are bringing our holiday drives to a close this week with a CANstruction competition. All cans that have been collected will be donated to St. Mary's food bank after judging on Friday.





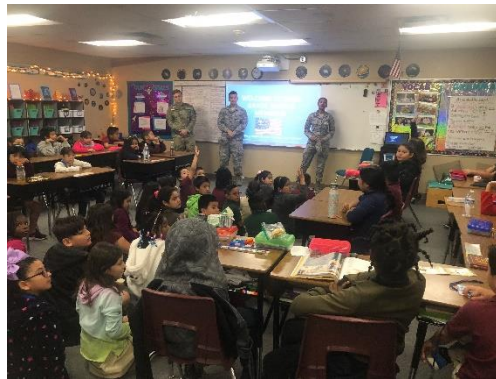
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 12, 2018

### Littleton STEM Academy

The last month of 2018 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. In recognition of Computer Sciences Week, our students have continued their coding work with an hour of code. The hour of code is global movement reaching tens of millions of students. Littleton students are loving learning about code and are motivated to work on coding projects outside of technology class.

Our CASA program welcomed three active military men and women into our classrooms to talk with our students about their time in the military. Our guest had the chance to walk into multiple classrooms across campus to talk with the students and answer any questions about what military life is like and what they do for fun outside of their work. The students had the chance to take pictures with our guest and write thank you cards as well. Our guest, Cody, Andre and Isabella were so thankful for this opportunity and were taken aback by the amazing amount of respect the students had for them. We thank them for their service and I know our students greatly appreciated them coming in and spending the day with us.







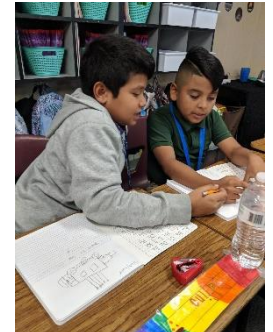
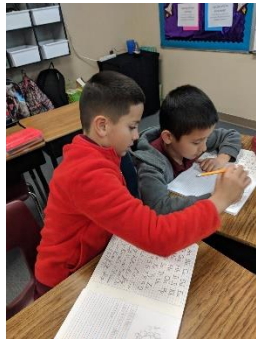
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 12, 2018

### Littleton STEM Academy continued

Full day preschool classes had a successful field trip to the Wildlife World Zoo. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered and attended the field trip! Half-day classes had the second Family Day of the year. Students enjoyed spending time with families while engaged in extended learning activities.

In third grade, Littleton students are exploring our wonderful maker space by creating chariots they can race through a course! Third graders are using Spheros robots, recycled material, the engineering design process, and their peers to create their own unique designs. Students first learned about how both chariots and the robots operated. Then, they created their own solo design, following that, students collaborated with their peers to revise and combine their designs! The final step is for students to race their chariots and see whose chariot is the sturdiest and the fastest.



On Friday evening, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit before our PTA movie night. Students and their families enjoyed talking with Santa and taking their pictures with him, then everyone settled in to watch "The Santa Clause."

As the end of 2018 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!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**December 12, 2018**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

**Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences - Inspirer of the Month.**

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate *Mrs. Suyen Kimme*, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month of November. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about *Mrs. Kimme* included: “*Mrs. Kimme* establishes TRUST by always doing what she says he will”; “*Mrs. Kimme* RESPECTS all students and staff and works to build strong relationships with students.”; “*Mrs. Kimme* demonstrates INTEGRITY by always helping others and is always fair.” “*Mrs. Kimme* COLLABORATES with staff and students to accomplish anything that needs to be done for our school and for the students, and “*Mrs. Kimme* is DEDICATED to her students”. *Mrs. Kimme* goes above and beyond and always has a smile on her face. Thank you *Mrs. Kimme* and congratulations on this achievement!

**Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences -**

Estrella Vista’s “Little Hawks” pom-pom squad had the opportunity to perform in the Glow on Monroe parade on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in Buckeye, Arizona. They performed some of their school cheers and brought our hawks spirit to the neighborhood. This opportunity gave them the experience to perform in front of their community and gained confidence in showing their talents. A special thank you to *Mrs. Imelda Gomez* for making the beautiful tutu’s, and to *Ms. Rebekah Smith*, *Ms. Daisy Sandoval* and *Ms. Alyssa Nelson* for coaching our young ladies.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 12, 2018

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

On December 11<sup>th</sup> Estrella Vista was represented at the Annual Time Traveler Kids at Hope Summit. *Mr. Antonio Bryant* and *Ms. Alyssa Nelson* were able to take 7 lucky students to experience the time travel through all the destinations. The students played healthy activities that coincided with the 4 destinations. Each student was able to participate and collaborate with other students from different schools throughout the west valley. Most of the students said that teamwork is the dream work and it will help them in the near future when it comes to playing games and being fair with their classmates. In addition, by the end of the year the students will create a project that will help them influence others throughout the campus to become leaders and be involved in their time traveling. The students had a great time and can't wait to share their experience with their peers.



At Estrella Vista, students participated in the sixth 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 120 turkeys were donated as give aways. We are happy to have fed 120 families this Thanksgiving!



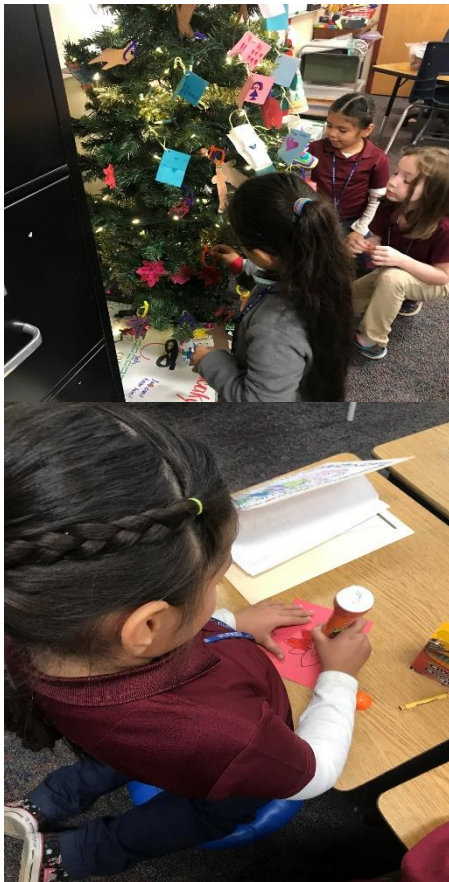




## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 12, 2018

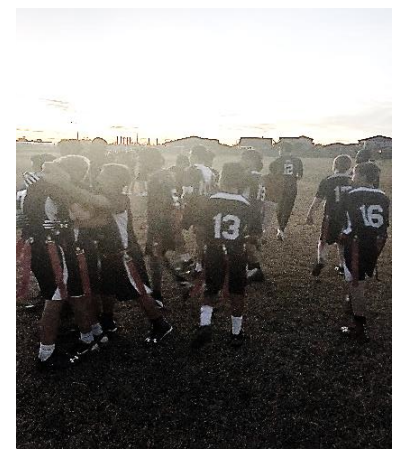
### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued



In *Ms. Megan Crawford's* 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classroom, during the month of December, students have the opportunity to learn about different holiday cultural traditions from around the world. Students read a short book regarding the holidays and then complete an ornament based on that holiday for the classroom tree. By the end of the unit, students will have had the opportunity to learn about 10 different holiday traditions! Thank you *Ms. Megan Crawford* for enriching our students on different cultural traditions.



Flag Football Wins the Championship Congratulations to the flag football team and coaches *Mr. Rigoberto Gamez*, *Ms. Rebekah Smith* and *Mr. Ron Christy* on beating Quentin in the championship game to become league champions. It was great to watch the hard work and dedication from our athletes be rewarded. Also a special thank you to our fabulous cheerleaders and their coach *Mr. Antonio Bryant*.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

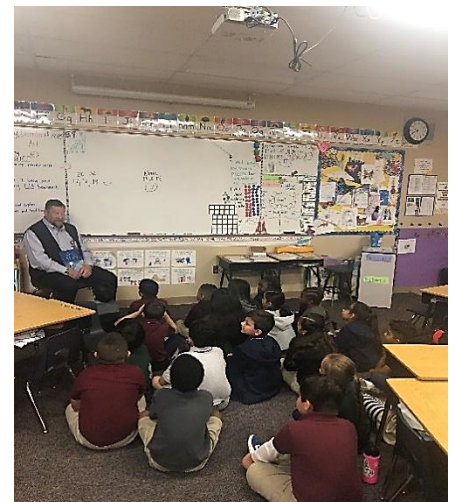
December 12, 2018

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

A very special to all the families who came out to have thanksgiving lunch with their students. Our outstanding cafeteria staff prepared meals for all our students, staff and 221 families who joined us for the delicious meal. Thank you to the cafeteria staff for all of your hard work at making it a meal to remember



Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students were excited to have a special guest, *Dr. Freeman*, come to visit their classrooms. *Dr. Freeman* was able to read to each of the four classes of students. They really enjoyed having him come in and read to them. Thank you *Dr. Freeman* for coming in and reading to our students.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**December 19, 2018**

## Fine Arts Academy

Students from the Fine Arts Academy and La Joya High School collaborated on this year's concert titled "Winter Suite". They performed Wednesday evening in La Joya's auditorium and again Thursday evening at the Fine Arts Academy. During the concert, families sat together and enjoyed snacks and hot chocolate provided by SFE and served by members of the National Junior Honor Society. It took a lot of hard work and organization to pull off such a large event. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the staff, family members and district personnel as well as our Executive team for all the support they provided. A very special thanks to [Travis White](#), music teacher, and [Susan Knighton](#), band director for all you did to elevate the arts here at FAA!





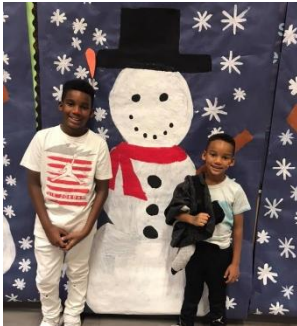


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2018

### Fine Arts Academy continued

Six of our Fine Arts students along with Ms. Michelle Walla attended the Fourth Annual Time Travelers' Youth Summit! They met high-school students who are in the Avondale Youth Advisory Commission, learned about some awesome activities taught by Mr. Spencer Gorin and also met Mr. Rick Miller, the founder of Kids at Hope.



Thank you to the 300+ students and family members for coming out to our event!

The Kids at Hope Student Leadership Team would like to thank our teachers for support, families & Student Council for their donations, and the many families and teachers who allowed us to borrow materials for our games and decorations.



*Read Better Be Better* wraps up its first round of peer tutoring...

We are very proud of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who accepted the challenge of tutoring 3<sup>rd</sup> grade readers after school. We had one of the highest attendance rates in the district and saw clear growth in students who participated in the after-school reading program. One of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders stated in a debrief meeting, "I learned to be more patient, and I saw growth in the students I was helping." We're excited to see this program continue once we return from our winter break!





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2018

### Office of School Support

Christmas came early to *Ms. Kyla Medina's* 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at Collier Elementary School. The students had been using Chromebooks that were not touchscreen. On Tuesday, December 18, the IT Staff exchanged their non-touchscreen Chromebooks for brand new touchscreen Chromebooks. The non-touchscreen Chromebooks were needed at other sites to keep inventories similar. The class was selected because of their outstanding growth on the latest benchmark tests as well as their willingness to change devices in the middle of the year. A big thank you to *Ms. Medina* and her class for allowing the IT Department to best use the District's resources throughout the entire District.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**December 19, 2018**

## **Teaching & Learning**

With the adoption of new, Science and History & Social Science standards by the State Board of Education the WestSide Impact Curriculum group had joined efforts to dive into the standards and identify the major shifts. Littleton ESD along with educators from Avondale, Buckeye, Litchfield, Liberty, Palo Verde, Pendergast, Saddle Mountain, and Tolleson El are unpacking the new standards in grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and developing units of study. Teaching and Learning Services would like to thank the following Littleton Champions for participating in this important work: *Aracely Vasquez, Jennifer Grbic, Sara Pearson, Margaret Peterson, Samantha Armstrong, and Leticia Mattei.*





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 9, 2019

### Quentin STEM Academy

We had our second quarterly staff versus students' competition. This quarter the competition was basketball. The staff defeated the students by double digits!!! It was a great chance to build school community and model our focus of physical activity.



We are proud of [Ms. Kim Buckner](#) for successfully renewing her National Board Certification! Congratulations [Ms. Buckner](#).

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to Shark Nation: [Ms. Nicole Conn](#) and [Ms. Anjelica Robles](#). They will be supporting second grade and kindergarten level students respectively.

We had our first Read Better Be Better graduation for our third graders. We are very proud and want to congratulate our first class of students through this program!!

We had our second PBL showcase on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Students had the opportunity to see projects that were created and explained by their peers that impact health and science!



Lastly our 8<sup>th</sup> graders traveled to West-Mec to learn about careers that support health and life-sciences. They were there for a half-day and had hands on activities as well as West-Mec student presentations from the different health and science related programs.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 9, 2019**

## **Tres Rios Service Academy**

In December, we had a number of awesome events for our families. Our Kids At Hope Cadre put on the annual game night. Families had a great time eating snacks, playing games, and having some fun competition. We also had our annual Holidays Around the World Event. Families were invited to attend as students and teachers discussed and did activities surrounding Holidays in various countries such as France, Germany, and many more.

The Kids At Hope committee at Tres attended the 2018 Youth summit! Students spent the day learning about the four destinations of hope. At the end of the day, students were given the task to take their new knowledge back to school and come up with a project that would help spread the Kids At Hope philosophy. The committee of students has decided to focus on setting goals toward the destination of education and career. Each week, the committee is meeting to create a project that will get students at all grade levels to start thinking about what they want for the future and what they can do here and now to meet their education and career goals.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

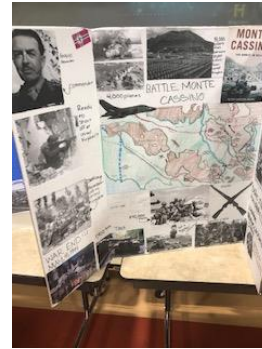
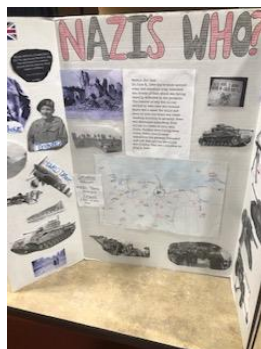
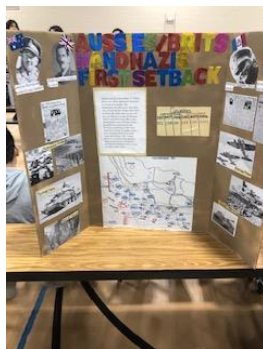
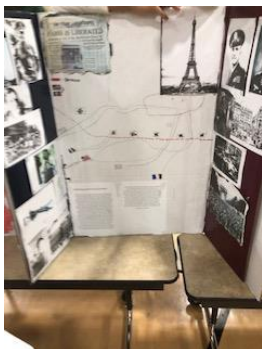
January 9, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy continued

Our Read Better, Be Better crew from semester 1 had a great time at their graduation ceremony. The teachers, parents, and students are all so proud of their accomplishments. When talking to one of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders she had the following to say about the RBBB crew and program. "I liked being able to help kids and make a difference in their life and their school work. The teaching method was helpful because they worked on one subject at a time so the kids weren't overwhelmed. I would say people should definitely sign up to be "bigs" so they can make an impact on someone else's life. I would do it again." Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders also really enjoyed the program. One of our students told his teacher, "I grew in my words. I love RBBB." after completing their progress monitoring story for the week. As you can imagine, we are excited about the next round of Read Better, Be Better at our school and have "Bigs" and "littles" eagerly awaiting the start.



In December, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were tasked with presenting a history of combat operations of WWII. The students had an opportunity to present their Social Studies Signature projects to each other as well as students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the first Tres Rios WWII Museum. Similar to a Science Fair, students prepared a Trifold display of significant battles in all the Theaters of Operations during World War II in chronological order. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade were given graphic organizers to organize what they learned viewing the projects and were able to provide feedback to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on the projects. All grade levels, teachers, and families that attended learned a lot.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 9, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

The past couple of weeks, students in our 1<sup>st</sup> grade have had an opportunity to learn about gardening first hand. In Service Learning class they discussed the difference between fruits in vegetables and learned how to do research using technology. They researched the types of plants that could grow during the winter months, planted those seeds and created a watering schedule to take care of them. They have also been documenting the changes over time in their Scientific Journals. This week, thanks to the weather, they have learned about frost and how to care for their gardens when the temperature drops. The students in first grade are so excited about this process that we are going to expand our garden program. We are looking forward to working with SFE, [Mr. Scott Popovich](#), and [Ms. Erika Avelar](#) to get an after school garden club up and running.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 16, 2019**

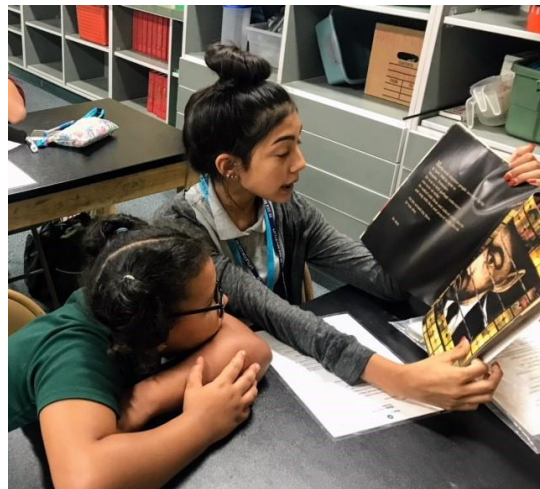
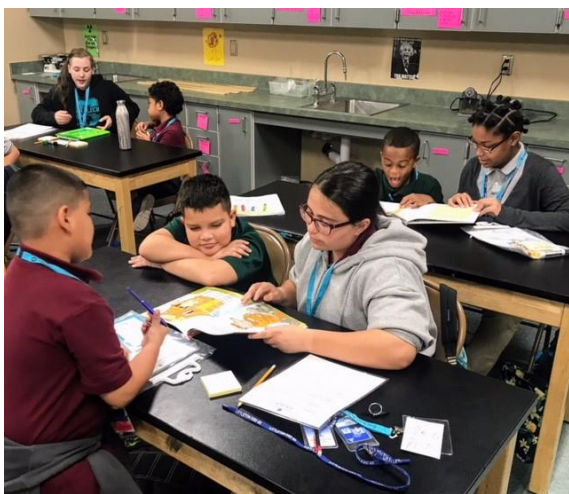
## **Collier Elementary School**

**Ms. Marissa Wilt** and her 5 – 8 grade students performed their Winter Concert in front of a full house of family and friends. The program continues to grow and improve under her leadership and expertise.



Thank you to **Dr. Roger Freeman** for volunteering to come and read to our first grade students.

The students from the Read Better Be Better (RBBB) program graduated in December. We saw great gains in our third grade students' ability to read as well as their motivation to want to read. Our eighth grade students (Bigs) were wonderful mentors for those students. We look forward to starting a new group of students very soon.







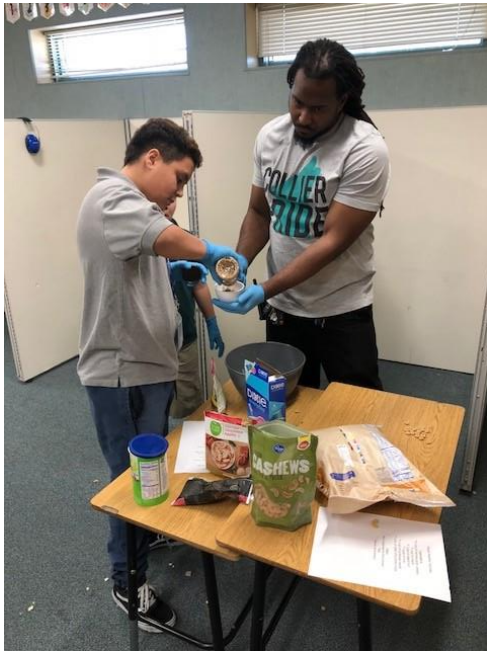
**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 16, 2019**

## **Collier Elementary School**

**continued**

The students and staff in our Behavior Support Program (BSP) work together to follow directions in recipes to create lunch time snacks.



## **Country Place Leadership Academy**

Leadership Notebooks were showcased at the January Littleton Elementary School District Board Meeting. Sixth grade students from [Mrs. Stephanie Budzban](#) and [Mrs. Laniray Pomeroy's](#) classes shared how Goal Setting has impacted their academic achievement. The students shared and discussed different pieces of their Leadership Notebooks including their Mission Academic Data, Leadership Roles to Nailah, Guadalupe, Anthony, their genius with the School Board,



and Celebrations. A special thanks Angely, Samuel and Sopia for sharing Executive Team and the audience.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 16, 2019

### Country Place Leadership Academy

continued



Students from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade were invited to attend the World Famous Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction in Scottsdale as guests of the SAE Foundation, Shell and Barrett-Jackson. The students shared their leadership in a variety of ways! Students presented their learning in Science and Engineering through their work with the A World in Motion Program. Students discussed the program with students, teachers, and guests from around the world. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade presented their learning and practiced public speaking to a larger audience up on stage describing how important it is to participate in learning. Students also



had an opportunity to tour the auto auction and meet a variety of leaders from Barrett-Jackson and from around the nation including the Director of the SAE Foundation, Lori Gateman and SAE Foundation Board Member, Tim Whited. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to tour the Auction block during the actual auction with the Manager of Corporate Sponsorships, Derek Stapinski. A special thanks to all of our staff who help students find their voice and discover their genius!

Fourth and fifth grade students have been studying visuals of the various ways that numbers can be composed and decomposed. They have been trying to solve visual puzzles and describe the patterns they see through the Notice and Wonder strategy. Students look at a puzzle, pattern or picture and describe what they notice and what they wonder about. They ask questions, pose conjectures and debate with each other. 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, Anthony in [Ms. Roberta Rodriguez's](#) class discovered the Twin Prime Conjecture. He noticed that 11 and 13 and 17 and 19 were both separated by 2. He wondered if there were more prime numbers that followed the same pattern. This wonder is an unsolved math problem that mathematicians around the world are working to discover! Great job Anthony, [Ms. Rodriguez's](#) class and all of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mustangs!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

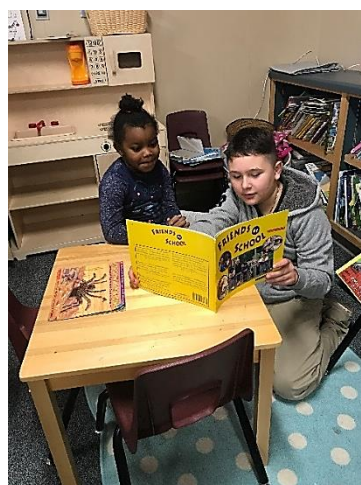
January 23, 2019

### Littleton STEM Academy

Here on the Littleton campus we have kicked back into high gear as we hit the ground running in 2019! There was no better way to end a great quarter than with some hot cocoa, cider, and happy smiles? On December 19th and 20th, **Ms. Savannah Meredith's** (resource) and **Ms. Kristin Hong's** (SLP) K-4 social language groups opened the doors to the Fan Food Restaurant! Over the quarter, these EXCEPTIONAL students gathered once a week to plan and practice their roles as greeters, waiters, and chefs to their teachers and staff. We are so proud of how our students showcased their progress improving their social behavior and communication!



Our preschool classrooms have been studying various topics such as clothing and insects through Creative Curriculum. Students continue to learn through play while focusing on social skills and early learning concepts. Preschool students in **Ms. Jennie Hartstein's** classroom began their reading/writing program with their 7th grade buddies in Ms. Scott's ELA class. They will be writing letters back and forth to each other and both the middle school students and the preschool students are already asking when they will get to see their buddies again!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 23, 2019**

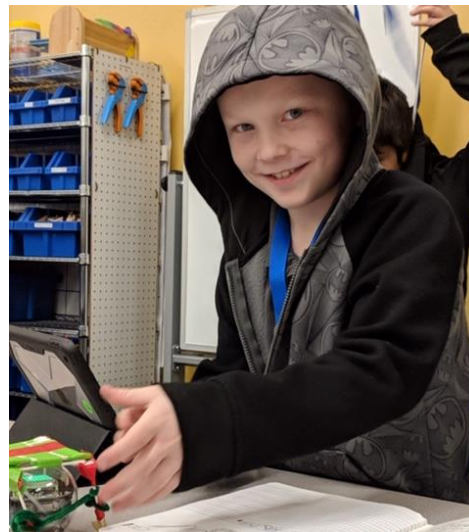
## Littleton STEM Academy

continued

2nd grade students in **Ms. Kasey Hauck's** class completed a stem activity using 10 pipe cleaners to create a tree that stands on its own.



Our third graders have been busy using Sphero robots to create chariots, as part of their PBLs. Their ingenuity will be tested as they enter their creations in the chariot races, taking place on January 25th.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

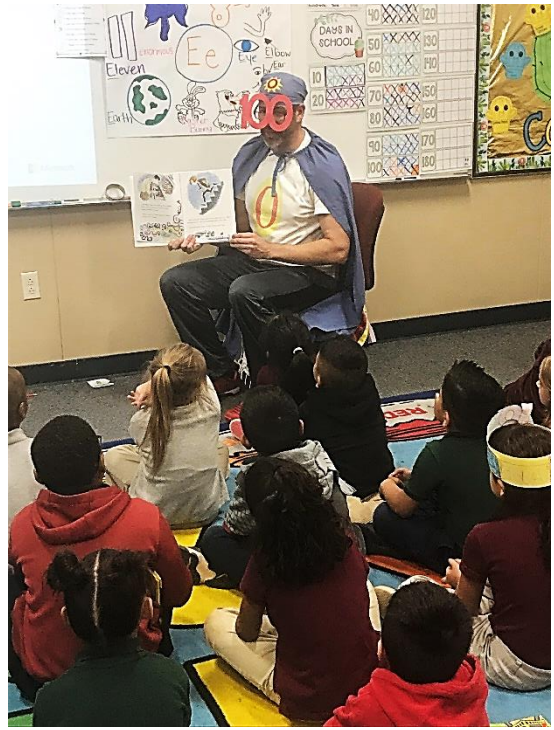
January 23, 2019

### Littleton STEM Academy

continued

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!

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







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 23, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate *Ms. Mary Rodriguez*, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for January. Currently, *Ms. Rodriguez* is a kindergarten paraprofessional. Some of the great nomination statements included: “*Ms. Rodriguez* establishes TRUST by always doing what she says she will”; “*Ms. Rodriguez* RESPECTS all students and staff and builds strong relationships with students.” “*Ms. Rodriguez* demonstrates INTEGRITY by stepping in and taking over the classroom when *Mrs. Robinson* is out.”; “*Ms. Mary* COLLABORATES with staff and students”; and *Ms. Rodriguez* is DEDICATED to putting the student’s needs above everything else.” *Ms. Mary* goes above and beyond with a smile on her face. Thank you *Ms. Rodriguez* and congratulations on this achievement!



During the second quarter, ten seventh and eighth grade students at Estrella Vista participated in a seminar based on *Mindsets: A New Psychology for Success* using the research by Carol Dweck. The program was initiated to support students with their academic progress while at school. All participants were invited to attend a seminar on Monday mornings starting at 7:30 AM. Teacher recommendations were considered when making selections for student participants. During the six-week program, students identified characteristics of fixed and growth mindsets to determine ways to develop their abilities. Student responses and data were collected over the course of the seminar to determine its effectiveness. Students responded positively to the mindset seminar. A seventh grade student reported, “This (seminar) helped me academically. I used to say I couldn’t do this because I was too dumb. I came to school with an attitude. I changed from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. I try harder with work and get a positive outcome.” An eighth grade student added, “I have a growth mindset. I was negative about work. My progress has gone up. I treat people better. People have accepted me for who I am. They accept me because I am positive now.” A seventh grader summarized his perspective about teachers’ mindsets in this way, “Teachers impact our thoughts on school by their attitude toward me. Strict teachers are the most effective. When I give up, they encourage me to do more. Their attitude toward teaching is everything.” As responses were generated, students indicated mindsets impact their academic progress.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Due to the success of this seminar, these activities will be replicated at the fifth and sixth grade levels during the third quarter. It was quite an extraordinary experience for all students involved.



Students from our district attended the Stand Up, Speak Up, Save a Life conference at Grand Canyon University. During this conference our students heard from many speakers on topics of bullying, cyberbullying, self-harm and suicide. They 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 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 stand up, speak up and save lives. Thank you to **Mr. Antonio Bryant**, Dean of Students and **Ms. Rebekah Smith**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, for chaperoning students at this event!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Our Hawk Bands made awesome progress so far this year. After doubling the number of students enrolled in band, the concert was the culmination of their progress. The concert featured winter favorites such as *Jingle Bells*, *All I Want for Christmas is You*, and *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*. You can see the Hawk Bands in action again on May 9, 2019. Thank you to [Ms. Sarah Pigza](#), Band Instructor, for her hard work and dedication to making our Hawk Band a success.



It has become tradition in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Estrella Vista to celebrate the rich cultures in classrooms through food – and lots of it! For the past 5 years, a cultural lunch is organized before winter break. Prior to the luncheon, students complete a PBL on planning a large family meal. Afterward, they take their learning home to help parents plan for the lunch. Each family is asked to contribute one homemade item for lunch which is important to their family heritage and culture. Teachers also contribute to the luncheon to add to the variety of foods. Parents are invited and classrooms turn into family gatherings with lots of food. Thank you to 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, [Mrs. Lori Bowden](#), [Mrs. Cynthia Landis](#), [Mr. Scott Schulte](#) and [Ms. Rachel Vlieg](#) for bringing our community together and celebrating cultures of the families we serve!

EVES' elite 8th grade took a tour of ASU's Tempe campus. The students had the opportunity to ask college student ambassadors questions about college life and academics. The ASU ambassadors took students on a campus tour, showing the historic roots of Tempe. The students were mesmerized by the beauty and hustle of the campus. They left with a better understanding of the requirements of college, life on campus, and steps to get to college. Our students' minds are hopeful with ideas for their future. Forks Up.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Thank you to Estrella Vista staff and students for working so hard to solve problems embedded within the curriculum and presenting them for feedback at our STEM Showcase on Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders analyzed their home and developed blueprint prototypes to help their homes be more energy efficient. 4<sup>th</sup> graders used Design Thinking to help a character in fiction adopt a Growth Mindset. 8<sup>th</sup> graders empathized the use of rhetorical devices in writing and speeches, then used Design Thinking to incorporate them into speeches about subjects they are passionate about. Finally, they recorded themselves in order to analyze themselves as well as receive feedback from their peers. Special Area teachers utilized the Design Thinking process in order for their students to gain a global perspective in the various areas. Every grade level and class presented their prototypes and received feedback on their use Design Thinking within a Problem Based Learning approach.







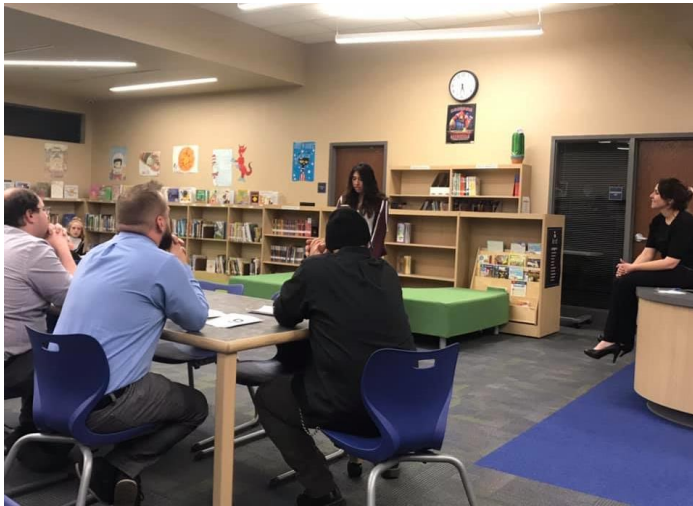
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 30, 2019

### FINE ARTS ACADEMY

We had our first poetry slam at Fine Arts this week featuring professional poets *Nocturnal The Poet* and *Tristan* champion poets. Tristan has competed and has earned a seat on the Arizona State team to compete national five times. Our competitors were 8th grade students *Kylee*, *Natalia*, *Kora*, *Jaynah* and *Anyssa*. Each one was amazing. Second place went to Kora and first to Kylee.

Way to go girls! Thank you to our guest poets, and our family & friends for supporting the poetry slam.



### DISTRICT OFFICE

#### Office of Student Support and Technology

Students in grades 3-5 were all smiles at Tres Rios Service Academy as the Technology team showed up on their campus last week to exchange their laptops for new Chromebooks. Students in grades 6-8 received their new Chromebooks back in October. This is a bit ahead of schedule as the school was to have their computers upgraded next school year.





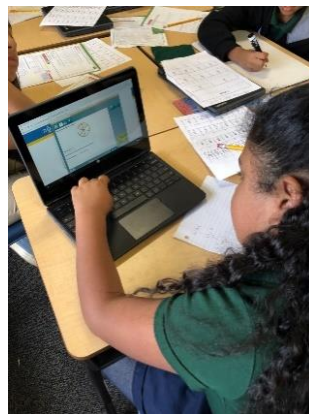


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 6, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy

This past month, our students in 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade have been given the opportunity to switch their computers for new Chromebooks. Thank you to the district IT staff for coming out and helping us with the collection and distribution. Another huge shout out goes to Aracely V. for coming to work with our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to share some of the awesome features of the Chromebooks. Our students and teachers alike are loving the incorporation of these new tools in their classrooms.



Yesterday our Boys' Soccer team played in the Championship. Although, it was close, our boys played hard and came out on top. Congratulations to our Pumas for a great season. Thank you to our coaches, Mr. Melcher and Mr. Horowitz, for pushing our students to be the best students and athletes they can be.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

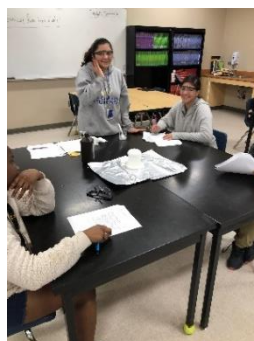
February 6, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy continued

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Tres Rios Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school. We counted 100 Fruit Loops to make a 100's day Necklace. Then we counted and glued 100 Cheerio's on to a cereal bowl. Some of these edible cereals made it to the works of art and of course into the bellies of some of our kinder darlings who could not resist eating the cereal. Our students have had 100 (plus) days of learning, grown a ton, and are loving every minute.



A science teacher's favorite time of the year is upon us...SCIENCE FAIR! This quarter, students will be working on their science fair projects by selecting a topic, conducting an experiment, and drawing conclusions through scientific observation. Parents will be shocked at the amazing ideas and questions developed by our students. Additionally, students will be study energy and principles of physics during regular class time. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science they have been focusing on chemical reactivity and how chemical property changes cause new substances to form. Recently they did an in-class lab where they combined hydrogen peroxide, activated dry yeast and dish soap together to produce a foaming reaction. Thanks, [Ms. Vanessa Sanchez](#), for bringing chemistry to life for our students in this way. We can't wait to see what our students come up with for their Science Fair Projects! We know it is going to be great





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 6, 2019**

## **Tres Rios Service Academy** continued

Our 8th grade has been learning about cooperative pairings with younger students. They have planned and are creating straw towers with kindergartens and first graders. They have completed showing and explaining what a cube and pyramid is to the younger students. Their next task is to build the tallest straw tower with their younger partners.



## **Quentin STEM Academy**

Lots of great things happening at QUES! The Avondale Police Department visited QUES 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders and spoke about internet safety and cyber bullying. We launched our second semester installment of the Read Better Be Better Program. This time around we have added 6<sup>th</sup> graders into our rotation. This allows us to create and build our leaders on campus. We had our NJHS students travel to the Stand Up Speak Up Save a Life conference at Grand Canyon University. The students and staff are eager to communicate their learning back to the greater student body. Lastly we celebrated five phenomenal educators for staff of the month for December and January: *Ms. Kim Buckner, Mr. Adam Johnson, Mr. Larry Lopes, Ms. Christine Russell* and *Mr. Thomas Simpson*. The Quentin Community appreciates their hard work and dedication to our school.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 13, 2019

### Collier Elementary School

What a great turnout of families during school choice night! We had received over 600 forms in just the first two days. We are excited that our families continue to choose Collier!

Congratulations to [Ms. McWhirter](#) and [Diego](#) for winning the Achieve 3000 awards for most participation. Their hard work paid off in Visa gift cards.



We made it through the first 100 days of school. Our K- teachers and students celebrated with numerous activities that involved counting, reading, and having fun. Thank you to the food service department for supplying the grill, food, and activities for the students to enjoy. We are looking forward to doing it again very soon.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 13, 2019**

## **Country Place Leadership Academy**

Leadership Focus- Leadership Action Teams. The Country Place Leadership Academy Leadership Action Teams are in full swing! The teams, comprised of students, staff and parents meet monthly to advance the Leadership work of Country Place. The students are members of the Student Lighthouse Team. The Student Lighthouse Team members are fully integrating into the Leadership Teams, sharing great ideas and being a liaison with their action teams at the student level. The students from the Student-led Achievement Team completed their first round of walkthroughs looking at staff posted Wildly Important Goals (WIGS). Students from other teams are planning to do walk-throughs soon as well. Great leadership and Synergy Mustangs!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 20, 2019**

## Littleton STEM Academy

February has been an exciting, and quick, month here on the Littleton campus. Here's a look at what's been going on.

Our preschool students continue to grow and learn. The preschool classrooms have been working on insect units. Students have observed and discovered traits that make insects both unique and interesting.



The entire third grade had an opportunity to take part in a Chariot race competition in our gymnasium in late January. Students worked together to create their chariots using Sphero robots. Each classroom held tournaments and the classroom champions competed to crown a grand champion from third grade. The two-person teams consisted of a driver and a pit crew operator. The competition was a culmination of the hard work put forth by our third grade students in the maker space and was great entertainment for all the students, faculty, and families in attendance!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 20, 2019

### Littleton STEM Academy

continued

*Mrs. Ashley Davis's* first grade class was treated to an awesome surprise when Maricopa County Superintendent, Mr. Steve Watson, presented them with new books and joined the classroom during their reading time. A big thank you to Mr. Watson and *Mrs. Davis* for making this experience possible for our first graders!



Firebird families came together for a night of dancing, great food, and some arts and crafts during our Family Dance Night, presented by the student council. It was a great opportunity for families to spend some quality time with each other, while interacting with our staff, and engaging with the school community.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 20, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences**

Inspirer of the Month- *Mr. Rigoberto Gamez*, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher. Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate *Mr. Rigoberto Gamez*, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month of February. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about *Mr. Gamez* included: “*Mr. Gamez* establishes TRUST by always doing what he says he will”; “*Mr. Gamez* RESPECTS all students and staff and works to build strong relationships with students.”; “*Mr. Gamez* demonstrates INTEGRITY through the example of genuine character for both his students and athletes. “; ” *Mr. Gamez* COLLABORATES with his team, fellow co-workers and families to ensure success in the classroom and on the field. “; “*Mr. Gamez* is DEDICATED to being an ace for numerous students at all grade levels”. “*Mr. Gamez* goes above and beyond and always has a smile on his face.” Thank you *Mr. Gamez* and congratulations on this achievement!



Kindergarteners Bring in a Full House for their Valentine’s Love Performance. Thank you to our Kindergarten Team, *Ms. Mallory Moore*, *Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson*, *Ms. Margaret Sauer*, *Ms. Danielle Stone* and Kindergarten Paraprofessionals, *Ms. Fabiola Avina*, *Mrs. Suyen Kimme* and *Mrs. Mary Rodriguez* for prepping our students for their annual Love Performance. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Love Performance was held on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The students learned and rehearsed poems and songs over the last month to put together a concert their families would enjoy. The performance was a huge success with over 100 families in attendance! We would like to send a special thank you to those families for donating treats that were shared with all the performers at the end of their concert. It was truly a celebration of shared love and we are all incredibly thankful.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 20, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued



Estrella Vista MESA Club Students shined at the MESA Regional Competition. The Regional MESA day competition on February 9<sup>th</sup> hosted by Grand Canyon University allowed students to compete against other students in the central Arizona region. Students enjoyed the opportunity to apply the design thinking process, the foundation of our STEM school! The students of Estrella Vista had a great time experiencing the college atmosphere and being a true engineer. Every year, regionals is an excellent opportunity for teams to show off our student's yearlong designs, test them and get feedback from the judges, Engineer experts and GCU students. Thank you to [\*Ms. Rachel Vliek\*](#) - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and [\*Mr. Scott Schulte\*](#) - 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for preparing our students for the event each week in MESA/STEM Club! Our final competition will be hosted by the University of Arizona on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Students' projects will be fully judged and ranked by professional engineers.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 20, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

First grade went on a field trip to Pangea Land of the Dinosaur at OdySea! Students took part in a tour of dinosaurs and were led by a STEM leader. There were hands-on activities like etching that allowed students to discover a dinosaur right before their eyes. It was fun, exciting, and the experience came with pre and post activities for the classroom. Each class had their own tour group and was given a dinosaur name along with a signal sound to call for attention! While exploring and learning about the dinosaurs we walked among, our guide let us know some trivia that could be on a game show real soon. For instance; Did you know that birds are related to dinosaurs?! How about the fact that a pterodactyl is NOT a dinosaur??



School of choice night was a great success thanks to our parent community. Our parents turned out in large numbers to register a whopping 677 students that will attend Estrella Vista. That is a remarkable celebration for our school community. We are thrilled to see how many families chose Estrella Vista for the 2019-20 school year. We have spent the last six years working on our school culture and their support demonstrated our efforts are working.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 20, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued



Estrella Vista soccer season was a success! Both the girls and boys extended their seasons into the playoffs. The head coaches of the girls' team are *Ms. Jordan Dixon* and *Ms. Jesse Reyes*. For the boys, they are led by head coaches, *Ms. Rebekah Smith* and *Mr. Rigoberto Gamez*. We are very proud of both teams for their hard work and dedication. Go Hawks!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 27, 2019**

## Fine Arts Academy



Last Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, many of our Fine Arts Falcons performed in the “Night at the Movies” talent show. Despite heavy rains, we still had a nice turn-out of supportive parents in attendance. Thank you [Mr. Travis White](#) for all the hard work you put into preparing students for this wonderful experience!



### LEADING BY EXAMPLE...

What does the principal of the Fine Arts Academy do on her weekends? She acts, sings and dances! Great job [Mrs. Susan Gibson](#) on bringing the role of Mae to life in the musical, *The Pajama Game*. If you haven't had the chance to visit the Startlight Theater in North Phoenix, now is the time to check it out. There's still plenty of time to catch our dancing diva live on stage!





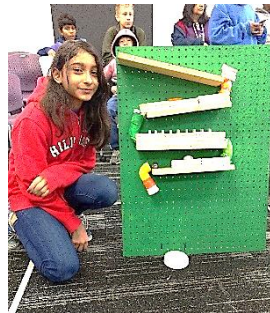


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

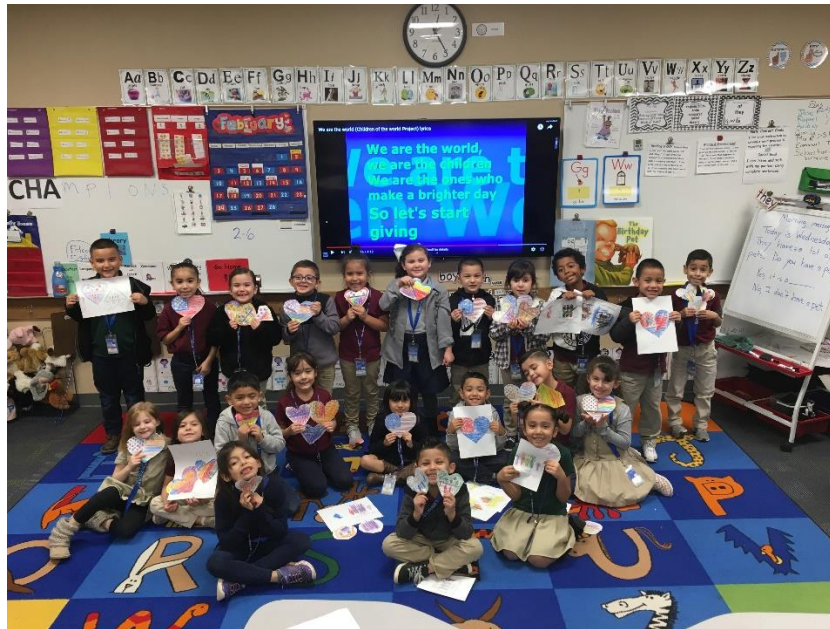
February 27, 2019

### Fine Arts Academy continued

*Ms. Vanessa Ríos'* STEAM students are gearing up for MESA Day in March at University of Arizona. Students have been building, testing, and improving their projects all year. Some of our projects include a cargo bottle rocket, a Rube Goldberg machine, and a model bridge made of PVC pipes. Our STEAM members have also been in charge of our Fine Arts Academy Science Fair, which is happening on the first of March. They have been rocking it!



### VALENTINES FOR VETS



All students in grades K-2 make Valentine's Day cards and sent them to Veterans. Pictured here are students in *Mrs. Beth Raymond's* kindergarten class.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 27, 2019

### Technology

The Technology Department would like to welcome *Mr. Daniel Collazo*. Daniel is an intern from Estrella Mountain Community College. *Daniel* is currently getting hands on experience by working with techs to repair broken laptops, imaging computers as well as learning how the ticket system works. Back in 2016, Littleton District formed a partnership with Estrella Mountain Community College to bring in students and provide real world experience.

At this time, we have heard from 86% of our students about where they want to attend for the 2019-20 school year. We are starting the process to get the students placed so we are on track to notify current students on their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report cards.



### Exceptional Student Services

On February 8, 2019 Littleton participated in the Basketball Special Olympics Tournament at Trevor Browne High School. Staff and students had a great time and came home with a third place win.



On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Littleton competed their first Cheer Competition with Special Olympics and brought home a gold! A big thank you to our Special Olympics Advisor *Ms. Beaney Payan* and the Littleton staff for their support.



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**February 27, 2019**

## **Teaching & Learning**

Another successful District Spelling Bee was held in January. A huge shout out to the seven Spelling Bee coordinators from each school and the District Office: *Mr. Delaine Nelson, Ms. Roberta Garcia, Ms. Jennifer Grbic, Mr. Dan Budzban, Ms. Kimberly Buckner, Ms. Taylor Scott, Ms. Erika Avelar,* and *Ms. Sideqa Padawer*. Each coordinator played a huge role in organizing a successful spelling bee. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. The District Spelling Bee was held at the District Office on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our pronouncer, *Mr. Jim Verrill* and our three judges, *Ms. Jazmin Pacheco, Ms. Kari Chicas,* and *Ms. Marieka Michaud*. We would also like to recognize the two District Spelling Bee winners. Sixth grade student Rian from Estrella Vista STEM Academy was the District Champion, and Aiyanna from Country Place Leadership Academy was the runner up. Both students represented Littleton at the Regional Spelling Bee







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 6, 2019

### Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great things happening at Quentin. 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Jaelynn Stewart took first in the 3-4 category at the Science fair and *Ms. Rhiannon McGowan's* classroom won an outstanding project award for the showcase in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We just completed jump rope for heart. This year our students raised nearly \$500 for the cause. We had police officers on campus at QUES reading to our k-3 students and delivering books to our kids. Our Quentin garden had the official unveiling and planting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Our NJHS students and SFE did a great job with the preparation work behind the event and we are looking forward to growing lots of great things there. We also had fun during Digital Learning day. We were able to showcase our music class, fourth graders and our technology club. More good news to come next month!!

### Tres Rios Service Academy

This past month, students at Tres Rios have been hard at work preparing for our Science Fair. Science Fair was an opportunity for students to showcase their exploration into science and their ability to follow the scientific process. We had an excellent turn out at our evening event and the projects were outstanding. Thank you to all our teachers, but specifically *Ms. Amber Garcia* and *Ms. Vanessa Sanchez* who spearheaded this for our campus this year.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 6, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

In honor of Read Across America Week, Student Council hosted a bulletin board contest to promote literacy! Many of the bulletin boards allowed students to share some of their favorite books or what they love about reading. Other bulletin boards shared some of the benefits of reading. Our hallways were filled with bulletin boards that made students, staff, and visitors stop to check them out. Additionally, Student Council had a spirit week to honor Dr. Seuss himself. Each day students got to show off their spirit and dressed up to go along with one of Dr. Seuss' books. This included Cat in the Hat, Oh the Places You'll Go, and a few others. Mrs. Collins, our wonderful librarian, has organized a "Got Caught Reading" program this week. Students are showing excitement about reading and we love it!



On February 27th, Tres Rios partnered with Phoenix PD to answer questions about Bullying and providing strategies for how they can work with their children at home for our Parent Meetings. Families in attendance learned a lot and truly appreciated the time together.





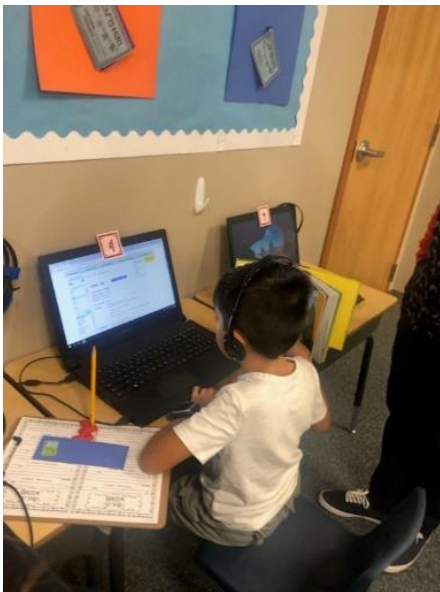
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 6, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

Our students and teachers had a great time showcasing their use of technology at Digital Learning Day. In one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms students, Ms. Burd and her students used the Zoom app to video chat with district. The students passed around the Qball (microphone ball) to share with their guests the technology, games, and programs that they use in the classroom. Thank you to all of the teachers and students who opened their classrooms to our guests.





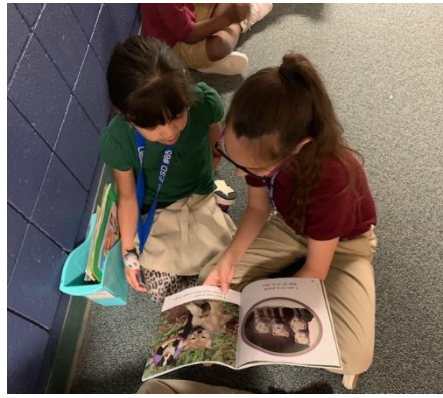


**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 20, 2019**

## Collier Elementary School

On Friday before break, we celebrated our quarterly Kids @ Hope Day with a focus on Community and Service. Students spent the morning cleaning the campus including the school garden. Students then took time to engage in team building activities and partner reading.



On February 28, the Collier staff participated in a Dr. Seuss night for students and families. There were several activities related to Dr. Seuss and reading.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 27, 2019**

## Littleton STEM Academy

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. It was a great way to celebrate literacy and inspiring a love for reading within our students.

Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade had the opportunity to take part in our STEM exploration day. A team of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students developed and led activities designed to stimulate computational thinking from our youngest students. Stations included elephant toothpaste, slime, bouncy balls, parachutes, sphero soccer, coding with Ozobots, and maze navigation.



Student Council sponsored a spirit week with fun themes, which included a dress as your favorite book character day, and a dress as an 80-year-old day.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 27, 2019**

## Littleton STEM Academy continued



Two 5th grade classes went on a bowling field trip to Tri City Bity in Avondale this week. For many of the students, this was their first time bowling. Students got the full experience including bowling shoes, picking a bowling ball, and scoring their own games. Students worked on perfecting their bowling approach, assisting peers with scoring, and cheering on their friends as they bowled. We are excited to have two more 5th grade classes experience this same opportunity next week.



Preschool students recently enjoyed an end of the unit celebration. We learned ALL ABOUT INSECTS and we ended the unit by making caterpillars, butterflies and dirt cups. Students were making connections to their read alouds, nature walks and hands-on experiences. It was great to hear them identify facts about insects as they showcased their learning to their family members







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2019

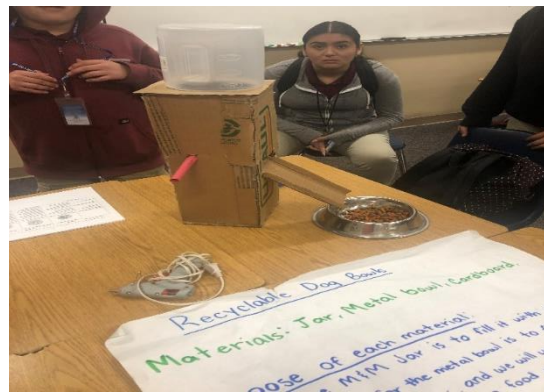
### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Inspirer of the Month- *Ms. Rachel Vliek*, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate *Ms. Rachel Vliek*, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month of March. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about *Ms. Vliek* included; “*Ms. Vliek* establishes TRUST by always doing what she says she will”; “*Ms. Vliek* RESPECTS all students and staff and works to build strong relationships with students.”; “*Ms. Vliek* demonstrates INTEGRITY through the example of genuine character for both her students and STEM club students.” “*Ms. Vliek* COLLABORATES with her team, fellow co-workers and families to ensure success in the classroom. “*Ms. Vliek* is DEDICATED to her work and works hard to make all her students successful. *Ms. Vliek* goes above and beyond and always has a smile on her face. Thank you *Ms. Vliek* and congratulations on this achievement!



STEM Showcase-8<sup>th</sup> graders at Estrella Vista created household items solely from recyclable materials. Students first read and annotated an article that defined the problem: there is too much trash in this world and they can be a part of the change. Students worked in groups to empathize regarding the problem. They were encouraged to bring in any recyclable material to use to create their prototypes. Their final products were amazing. The students were actively engaged and created: water bottle chairs, cardboard chairs, a doll house, foosball table, self-watering planter, bird house and so many more! At the end of the showcase, students had an opportunity to observe others’ work and reflect on the process. Job well done EV 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Thank you to *Ms. Michelle Pitters, Mr. Rigoberto Gamez, Mr. David Cooper and Mr. Bronson Goodsell* for making this project a success.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

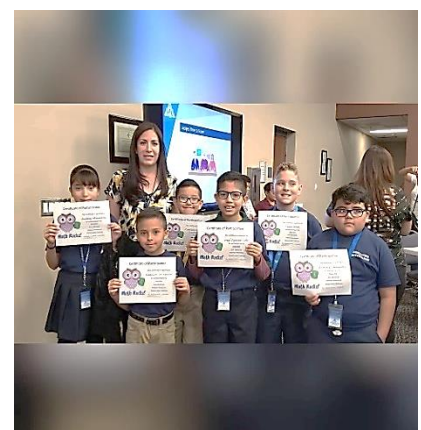
**March 27, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued**

**Food Truck Friday-** On March 1<sup>st</sup> Estrella Vista had their first Food Truck Friday and it was a huge success! Local food truck vendors from the area came out and participated in the night. We had a shaved ice truck, hot dog and Americano truck, and a quesadilla and burrito truck! EV even had a live band to fill the air with quality, family friendly music. NJHS and Student Council members created the invitation flyers for families, set-up the area, and even cleaned up. A special thank you to those individual students, *Ms. Michelle Pitters and Ms. Rosie Fleeman* who made that night a success with all of their hard work and dedication!



**Math Challenge-** On Friday March 22, 18 students competed on the District Math Challenge. The teams consisted of six students from grades 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. Teams competed against other schools in two different rounds of math problems. Students had the opportunity to build and strengthen their math ability as well as critical thinking and social skills. They worked hard preparing for competition for the last three months. As a result, the teams from 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> placed in third and 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> placed second. Congratulations to our students and *Ms. Karla Encinas* for all their hard work and effort.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Career Day- On Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> the Kids at Hope Committee showcased many individuals from across multiple career pathways. Students had the opportunity to listen to presentations, ask questions, walk through a gallery of interactive booths, and most importantly time travel to possible career paths for their future. They heard stories of the colleges people attended, the hardships they had to face, and the growth mindset they needed to grow in order to be successful today. Students and staff were also encouraged on this day to show not only their EV Hawk school spirit but had the opportunity to wear college shirts to represent their past accomplishments as teachers and future destinations as a community. Thank you to *Ms. Alyssa Nelson, Mr. Antonio Bryant* and our Kids at Hope committee for all their work to make this event a success.



Kinder Jungle- On Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Kindergarten hosted their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jungle Adventure. We had just under 60 kindergarteners attend the morning event where they participated in crafts, games, drama, and face paint! Thank you to the kindergarten team along with *Ms. Rebekah Smith, Ms. Megan Crawford*, and 13 NJHS volunteers also hosted a play for the parents at the conclusion of the morning. The play was called *The Wide Mouthed Frog* and was a huge hit. It was a fun morning for our youngest learners to socialize with each other as well as student leaders of our school.







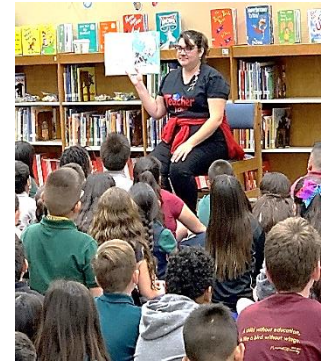
**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 27, 2019**

## Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued



Read Across America- We held our Annual Read Across America Celebration on Friday March 1, 2019. We had several guest readers visit our library and read to our students, they were very excited and enjoyed this special day. As each grade level exited the library they received a nice little Dr. Seuss memento, ranging from book marks to erasers and a sticker. It was a great celebration and to make it fun *Mrs. Michelle Gonzales* dresses up as Mrs. Cat in the hat each year! Thank you to our guest readers, *Mrs. Purchase, Mrs. Gregor, Ms. Laura Montano, Ms. Amanda Hicks and Ms. Rachel Vlieg!* And a



special thank you to *Mrs. Michelle Gonzales* for all her work in coordinating this exciting event!

**Project Wet Festival** – Our fantastic fourth graders had a blast at the Project Wet Festival. Students took a journey as a water molecule, transported water, and managed their own water shed! The students had so much fun in the sun while learning through hands on experiences about the water cycle and water conservation, thanks City of Avondale!





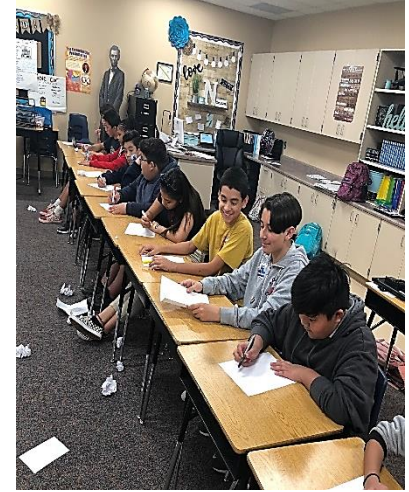
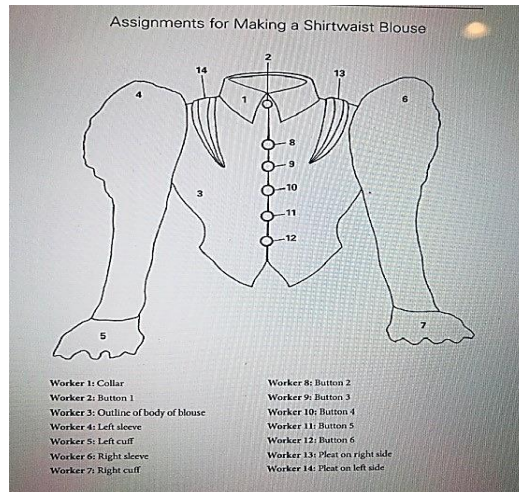
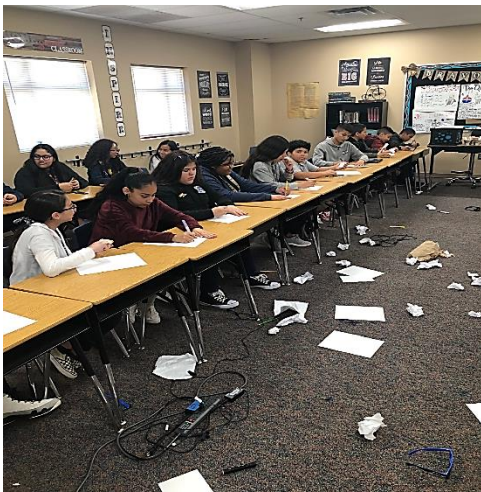


**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 27, 2019**

## Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

History Comes Alive-In *Ms. Penny Nguyen's* social studies classroom at Estrella Vista, history comes alive! On this day, students sit in 2 rows of 12, and 1 row of 5, in order to experience what it was like to work in a shirtwaist factory at the turn of the last century. One side, or assembly line, is named the Tri Factory, and the other side is named the Angle Factory. Eventually, the 2 companies merge to become the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Students would later learn that the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory of New York was a real place, and how 146 workers died in a tragic fire there on March 25, 1911, leading to new safety regulations for things like sprinklers and easy exits. In order to make the simulation feel as real as possible, *Ms. Penny Nguyen* turns up the classroom air conditioning so workers begin to feel a little sweaty. She plays loud factory noises as students are “producing” their shirtwaist products one step at a time, and then passing it down the line. And, as a typical factory boss or foreman would do, she becomes a little rough on them. She scolds some employees for being too slow, or fires those who don't produce quality work. Many “shirts” not meeting quality standards are rejected and thrown on the floor creating fire hazards. And of course, students are quite aware of the other immigrants (row of 5), standing by, eager to take their place, and work for less pay. At the end of their “shift”, students discuss their feelings about their experiences as a factory worker in this time period under these working conditions. Needless to say, most of them weren't too happy working under these conditions for little pay. Students also discuss whether they think the benefits of industrialization outweigh the costs. Through this experiential exercise, many students come to realize the importance of education in the 21st century by experiencing life in the 20th century.





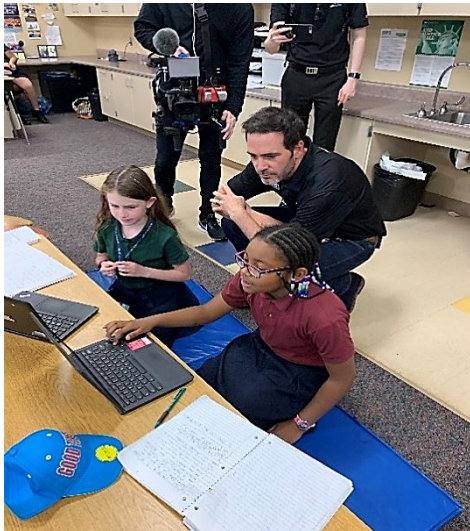


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Jimmie Johnson Comes to Estrella Vista- NASCAR champion *Mr. Jimmie Johnson* came to Estrella Vista about the importance of Technology in the classroom. He spoke about how technology is used in his profession and with his team. Sarai Sanabia, Nathaniel Pazos and Raeden Hart, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, were able to ask *Mr. Jimmie Johnson* questions during the assembly. After the assembly, *Mr. Johnson* went into a couple classrooms where students were able to present him their STEM projects. All students also received tickets to the upcoming NASCAR race. It was a day our students will never forget!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 3, 2019

### Technology

In our last Good News Update, the Technology team introduced Estrella Mountain Community College intern [Daniel Collazo](#). Since then, we have welcomed three more interns: [Felix Cabrera](#) (seen working on a Chromebook alongside Computer Tech [Uriel Contreras](#)), [Victoria Gilkey](#) and [Jeremiah Hernandez](#). All four students are rotating and working with each of the techs, as well as learning the network side.



### Teaching & Learning

Littleton ESD's District Math Challenge was held on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the District Office. The event was very successfully as students across all grades worked collaboratively to answer problem solving tasks and math trivia questions. Some attributes of collaborative work, positive interactions and math processing skills identified as students work together were:

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





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 3, 2019

### Teaching & Learning continued

Thank you to all Littleton ESD staff members that worked to make this event a success: *Samantha Armstrong, Ginny Biddle, Charlie Blanton, Susan Candelaria, Mia De La Rosa, Karla Encinas, Martin Fitch, Gina Forney, Lucy Ito, Brittany Jimenez, Kathy Larm, Nancy Morgan, Eric Nelson, Sara Pearson, Daniel Skunza, and Lynn Tran.*

### Fine Arts Academy

We are proud of all our students who participated in this year's District Math Challenge. Rising to the top were our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students showed great teamwork as they collaboratively solved a series of challenging math problems and took first place in their age group. We're also just as proud of our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teams who worked hard and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship. Congratulations! Thank you, *Ms. Lynn Tran*, for organizing our school's teams!



We would like to thank *Michelle Walla* and all the members of our Kids at Hope Committee for organizing yet another great event to engage families in a variety of fun activities during our *Kids at Hope Community and Service* celebration.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 3, 2019**

## **Fine Arts Academy** continued

The Fine Arts Steam Club teamed up with kindergartners to integrate the Arts to help students learn about habitats. Thank you *Ms. Vanessa Rios* and *Ms. Beth Raymond* for building bridges and empowering students to share their talents!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 10, 2019**

## Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great news at QUES! We had our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students finish in first place at the district math challenge. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders finished second in the district competition. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are moving on!!! Thank you to *Ms. Samantha Armstrong* and our teachers for getting our students ready to compete.



Maricopa County Superintendent Steve Watson visited QUES to check out our focus and walked the campus to see some of the exciting things we have going on. His team was impressed with the climate and culture of the school.



We had 8<sup>th</sup> graders attend the opera. The show they saw was “The Marriage of Figaro”. The students enjoyed the experience and we look forward to continuing to provide this opportunity for our students in the years to come.

Congratulations to our staff members of the month *Ms. Monique Hines*, *Ms. Kaitlin Vasil* and *Ms. Ana Arce*. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to our students and community.

The book fair that our school held during parent teacher conferences made over \$4000. This money will go back to our students. We want to thank our Librarian *Ms. Elizabeth Garcia* and parent volunteers Darrell Covert and Kimora Steward for their support.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 10, 2019

### Quentin STEM Academy continued

Our Kids @ Hope Cadre joined the staff at our community building meeting and taught staff members about how to incorporate fun into everyday class. They facilitated games like rock/paper/scissors and spelling, geography and math tag. After the games the students facilitated a question and answer session to garner feedback from staff.



4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the Water Conservation Activity in the city of Avondale.

We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter PBL presentations and displays during our parent teacher conferences.

Our NJHS students went to the Capitol to tour the House floor, they took pictures with Rep. Sierra and Rep. Espinoza, met museum staff and were escorted by Senator Contreras.

3<sup>rd</sup> grader Jaelyn Stewart took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 3-4 category at the West-side Science Fair and [\*Ms. Rhiannon McGowan's\*](#) 1<sup>st</sup> grade class took an outstanding project award from the West-side Science fair.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 10, 2019**

## **Tres Rios Service Academy**

During the spring break 7 students from Tres Rios had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. as part of a Travel Education program. *Mr. Milton Melcher* and our students visited and witnessed the three branches of government at the White House, Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court. They were privileged to visit numerous memorials for founding fathers, presidents, and the Military, including Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Lincoln, Martin Luther King, WWII, Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and the tomb of the unknown soldier. Visits to various Smithsonian museums exposed them to the history of Aviation, the tragedies of the holocaust, cultures of the Native Peoples, and the Natural History of the World. A trip to Ford's theater and reliving the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, was fascinating to students, who learned of this in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The trip was capped off by an amazing morning at Mount Vernon, where students were immersed in the life of George Washington and not only visited his tomb, but learned through an interactive museum about his whole life and his wife Martha. For some students this was their first time travelling by plane making the entire journey an adventure to remember for a lifetime. Thank you, *Mr. Milton Melcher*, for ensuring our students were safe, had a great time, and learned a lot while on this trip.



AzMERIT is here and we are so appreciative of the leadership provided during this time by our awesome Dean, *Ms. Lindsay Kent*. She is organized, calm, and goes above and beyond to ensure both teachers and students are able to have success during this testing season. We are also grateful for the support of our DLL, *Ms. Susan Candelaria*, in helping ensure our technology is in good shape for testing and that we were able to start testing on the right foot. Lastly, *Ms. Gina Forney Lee*, has been a huge help already with testing whenever she is available. With these ladies on campus, we know this testing season will be smooth sailing!





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

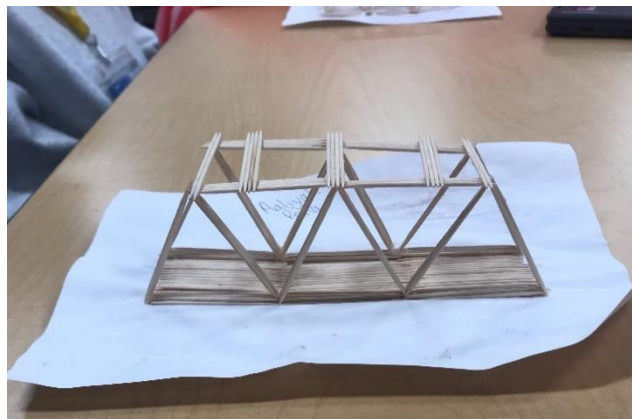
April 10, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy continued

Over the past few weeks, students at Tres Rios have had an opportunity to engage in music in many ways. Students in music are currently learning how to play guitar and piano. Kindergarten is working especially hard to develop a steady beat in their classes. Students are engaging with lots of fun games and movement activities to help them “feel” the rhythm. In all the grades, the students are working on creating and performing melodies on our instruments. Students are having tons of fun learning about music from around the world and growing as musicians! When asked, one of our students, shared that “**Mr. K** is awesome because he teaches us so much about music. We got to learn songs on the piano, the guitar, and sing. Music class is so much fun!” Thanks, **Mr. Noah Karvelis**, for everything you are doing with and for our kids!



Seventh grade has continued to learn about water pollution and the steps we can take to improve our freshwater. They were tasked with building toothpick bridges that held various weight. They were successful in their building and our top bridge was able to hold 200 lbs.! Thank you, **Ms. Erica Avelar**, for creating these learning opportunities for our students.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2019

### Collier Elementary School

The students in *Ms. Ilene Rosas*' music classes get to experience music from around the world thanks to the Westside Impact Grant.

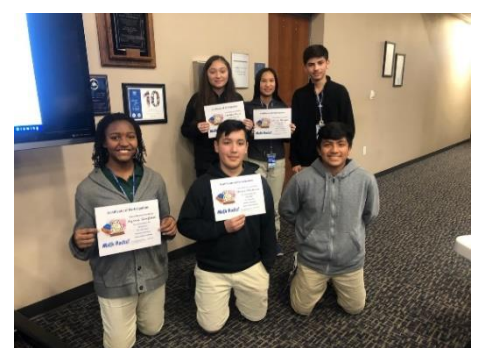
*Ms. Michelle Younghans*, *Ms. Brandy McWhirter*, and the MESA club participated in a competition down in Tucson. Even though they did not place, the experience and feedback was truly appreciated.



Thank you again to our Food Service Department for providing roving chef for our students to experience how the kitchen works and provides food to over 900 students and staff each and every day.



Thank you to *Ms. Brittany Jimenez* and our teachers for getting our students ready for the district Math Challenge.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 17, 2019**

## **Collier Elementary School**

continued



Congratulations to Collier's Volunteer and Kid @ Hope of the Year! We are honored to have these great people as part of our school family.

Amnon Weinstein, the founder of Violins of Hope, presented to Collier's 6, 7, and 8 grade students. This program features historic violins that were preserved from various concentration camps during the Holocaust. The violins were part of the prisoner orchestras that existed in many of the camps. For more information, please follow these links.

<https://violinsofhopephoenix.com/>

<http://www.violinsofhopecle.org/about/the-founder/>





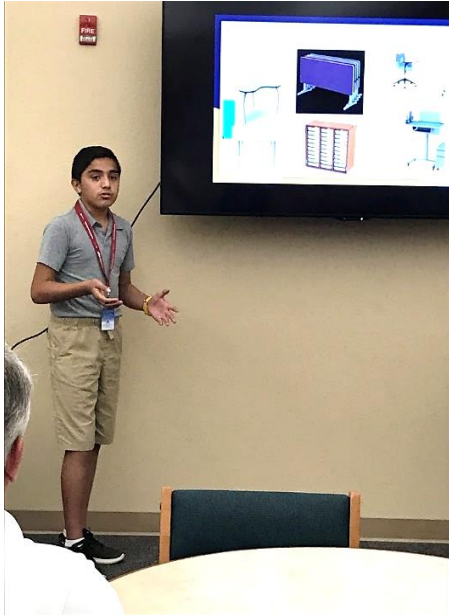


**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 17, 2019**

## Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Sixth Graders Build Partnership with Hickman Family Farms



Leaders in *Mrs. Stephanie Budzban's* sixth grade class have been working on a leadership project to redesign the learning space in their classroom. They worked extensively, researching different options and collaborating with Mr. Matt Forbes of Arizona Furnishings. They created a new design that they believe will enhance the learning of all of their classmates. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, student leaders presented their proposal to two local leaders from Hickman Family Farms, Vice President of Operations, Billy Hickman and Vice President of Sales, Clint Hickman. The student leaders were amazing and Hickman Family



Farms decided to fund their proposal on the spot. We are so thankful to Mr. Billy Hickman and Mr. Clint Hickman and all of Hickman Family Farms for their support!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 17, 2019**

## **Country Place Leadership Academy**

### **Leadership Focus- Country Place Alumni and Teacher Awarded Prestigious Fellowship!**

Country Place alumni and current teacher, *Ms. Pamela Sanchez*, was awarded a fellowship with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). She received the CHCI-Walton Family Foundation Education Graduate Fellowship. She is one of nineteen finalists that will be traveling to Washington, DC in August to participate in a fellowship placement and receive leadership training from CHCI. She was selected from nearly 100 applicants that were submitted nationwide for the program because of her commitment to leadership, interest in civic engagement, and desire to give back to her community. From August '19 to May '20 she will embark on an exciting, challenging experience in the nation's capital. She will explore public policy regarding education through direct work experience on Capitol Hill and in D.C.-based organizations who work daily to advance public policy issues. We are so proud of *Ms. Pamela Sanchez!*



### **Leadership Focus- Congressman Grijalva to visit Middle School Students**

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, United States Congressman Raul Grijalva will be visiting Country Place Leadership Academy's middle school students. He will be discussing middle level education issues with the students and staff. He will also be meeting with a focus group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will discuss and give feedback on national policy issues that they have been researching.

### **Leadership Focus-Country Place Staff present at the Making Ties Conference**

On Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> *Ms. Serena Garcia* and *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez* were presenters at the Making Ties Conference at Grand Canyon University. They presented how Country Place is implementing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) to an audience from around the State of Arizona. Country Place is part of a collaborative group of schools that works together to share research and best practices in PBIS. They did a great job!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 24, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

### **Inspire Notable Student Performance In Relevant Experiences**

**Inspirer of the Month-** Congratulations to *Ms. Susan Cox*, 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education teacher, for excelling as the April Inspirer of the Month. *Ms. Cox* is well deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis through her collaboration with the junior high teachers, dedication to providing the highest expectations for all of her students and respect in all interactions and communication she has with students, staff, supervisors and families. She demonstrates integrity in holding herself to high expectations through wanting the best for all her students and trust through her openness to ideas and open communication and transparency with the individuals she works with at Estrella Vista. In addition, *Ms. Cox* is dedicated to Estrella Vista and has been a pillar of this family since the opening of the school. *Ms. Cox* not only does a phenomenal job teaching 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade special education students, but also works to build relationships with students, staff and parents outside of school through participating and attending district and school events. Congratulations to *Ms. Susan Cox* for receiving the April Inspirer of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



**Fifth Grade Provides a STEM Experience In Their Yearly Signature Field Trip to Camp Tonto-** Outdoor overnight STEM camp – 4 little words that illicit excitement, apprehension and a bit of fear from all 5<sup>th</sup> graders (and their parents) at Estrella Vista. This was the third year that Estrella Vista ventured to Payson to attend camp at Tonto Creek Camp for 3 days and 2 night of camp fun. While at camp, the students participated in 6 STEM focused modules: Low Ropes, STEM Archery, Ecology Hike, Nighttime Astronomy, Orienteering, and Amazing Race. There's nothing quite like sitting outside at night in a dark field gazing at the stars. The weather was perfect for star gazing and the constellations certainly put on a show for us. The campers learned about nature on the Ecology hike, how to use a compass and find their way during Orienteering, how to shoot a bow and arrow, learning teamwork on the Low Ropes course and during the Amazing Race. We also had extra time that allowed us to hike into the Tonto National forest to a beautiful waterfall and see lean-tos. As always, we had 6 delicious meals while at camp and the campers commented during school breakfast how much they missed the bacon at camp. Many of our kids have never been on a sleepover or been camping so everyone had a great time at camp. We





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 24, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

came home exhausted and ready to do it again next year! A big thank you to 3 of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, *Ms. Rachel Vliek*, *Mr. Scott Schulte* and *Mrs. Cynthia Landis* for all their work in planning this amazing opportunity for our students!



**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Color Run-** Estrella Vista's Third Annual 5K Color Run was a huge success! Our annual color run began with the passion for healthy living on our campus and bringing community members together to celebrate. The staff of Estrella Vista worked together to not only set up this event but color up families and friends as they enjoyed a day outside. This year we partnered with *A Determined Mind* which brought entertainment, food, and games to our colorful event. We appreciate their dedication and support in helping sponsor this day. A special shout out to all of the staff of Estrella Vista who helped sponsor this day and the community members who make this event better each year. We are excited for the bright future ahead! A big thank you to *Ms. Rebekah Smith*, *Ms. Michelle Pitters* and the rest of the staff and students who helped to make this event a huge success!





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 24, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy** continued



Estrella Vista STEM/MESA Team Competes in the Annual Regional Competition-It was another productive MESA Day at the University of Arizona. Estrella Vista students had a great time scoping out the other designs as well as enjoying the college atmosphere. They also did well in our four challenges. All in all, there were 57 middle and high schools from all around the state, with over 1000 students participating. Although we did not place, we gathered several ideas on how we can improve our designs for next year. We are so proud of our students for all their hard work throughout the year. Thank you to [\*Ms. Rachel Vliek\*](#), 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and [\*Mr. Scott Schulte\*](#), 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for supporting the STEM/MESA Program of the 2018/2019 school year! Lastly, thank you to all the students for all their hard work throughout the year!





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 24, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy**

**continued**



STEM Club Student of the Year- Congratulations to seventh grade student, Jacob Hitt, on being awarded Estrella Vista STEM Club Student of the Year. Jacob has worked hard this year to make the EV team successful. Coaches [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#) and [Mr. Scott Schulte](#) are extremely proud of Jacob's growth and development throughout this year.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 24, 2019**

## **Estrella Vista STEM Academy** continued

**First Grade Culture Fest-** First graders work hard to perform for their families. Each class has chosen countries to study and produce 3D models, traditional clothing, and learn a song or dance that is special to the country being studied. Over a month in the making, the cultural fest is a culminating festivity of productive work as well as a celebration for students and parents. As a first grade community we work to keep our high spirits throughout the full school year and it is nice to be able to perform for our families. Some of the countries highlighted during this past year's performance and art exhibits were Ireland, Jamaica, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, India, Germany, Italy, and of course the United States.

Bringing in the community has only added to this event. Parents and grandparents bring homemade dishes that their families enjoy at home. They share this delicious food with our classes. One thing about culture that can be said is how its foundation is on food, family, and good time. Having activities that include home traditions not only impact a student's growth and comfort at school, however also allows for teachers and staff to preview a student's home life and interests.

It is a great pleasure to take part in a child's life and even more so every year as we learn more and more about the many families here at Estrella Vista. Some of the classes have also had students whose siblings get to take part in the culture fest celebration and it is always nice to hear that those students that have promoted still think about the great time they had on culture fest day.

On behalf of the first grade teachers and staff at Estrella Vista STEM Academy, we are all thankful for the opportunity and are look forward to our next adventure. Thank you to all of the first grade teachers *Ms. Laura Montano, Mrs. Sandra Gallegos, Ms. Karla Encinas* and *Ms. Megan Crawford* for all their hard work and dedication to make this event a huge success!





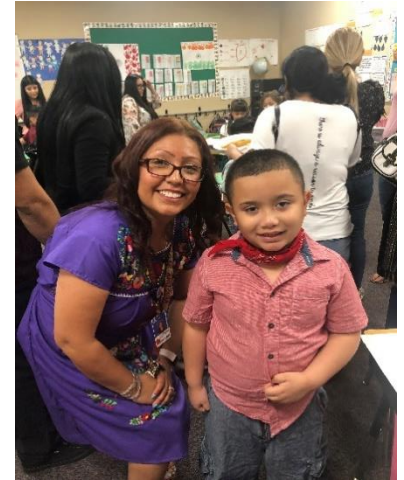
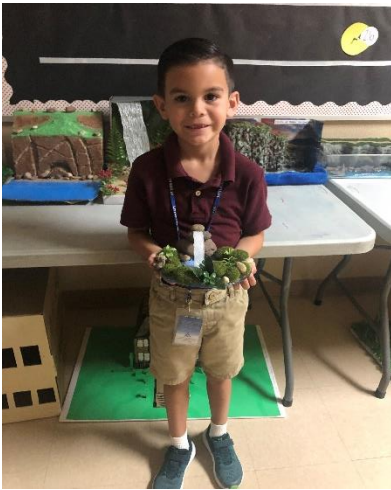


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

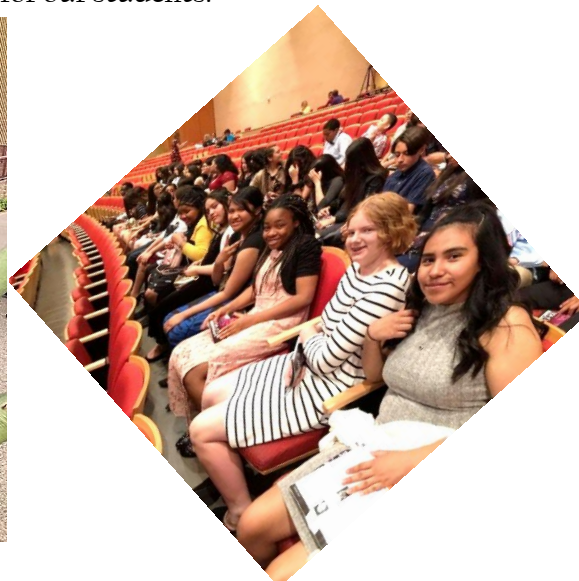
April 24, 2019

## Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued



Night at the Opera- On Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, more than 50 Estrella Vista 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended the Phoenix Opera Company's performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Additionally, there were several Teachers and chaperones in attendance. The performance was staged at the Phoenix Symphony Hall downtown. EV had the most attendees of any of the LESD schools present. The student's appearance and behavior was excellent. We are proud of the way our students represented our school. Hopefully, we can continue to expose our students to cultural activities such as opera, ballet, and live theatre. Overhearing some of the conversations the next morning was very uplifting. While they may not have gotten all the nuances of opera, they were impressed by what they saw and were enthusiastic about the entire experience. Thank you to all the teachers and chaperones who helped to make this event happen for our students.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

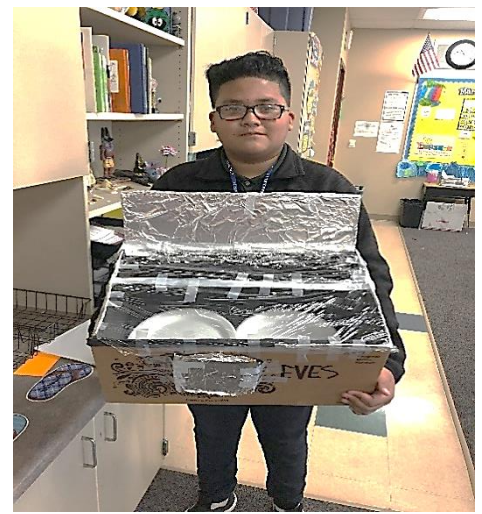
April 24, 2019

### Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

**Bodies Revealed Fieldtrip-** On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April EVES 6<sup>th</sup> grade students went on a field trip to the Bodies Revealed Limited Edition Exhibit. This exhibit allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the human body. Bodies Revealed uses an innovative preservation process to allow viewers to inspect how our life decisions ultimately affect our bodies, while also showing appreciation to the inner bodies beauty



**5<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Camp-** EV STEM day Camp was a blast! Students who were unable to attend Tonto Creek STEM Camp got to “TEAM-it-Up” on campus. Students built solar S’more cookers, bows and arrows from straws and popsicle sticks, designed and tested various styles of parachutes., and, of course, made rainbow slime. Students truly enjoyed the experience and felt that they too had attended a special camp, learning a lot, but creating great memories along the way as well. Thank you to [Ms. Lori Bowden](#), 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for all her work creating STEM learning for our students!







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 24, 2019

### Littleton STEM Academy

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.

Preschoolers had fun visiting the Kindergarten classrooms. Students had the opportunity to experience circle time, centers, an art activity and recess!





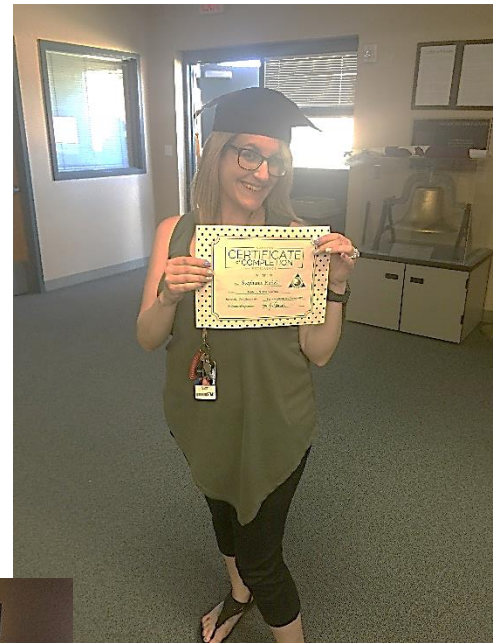


**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**April 24, 2019**

## **Littleton STEM Academy** continued

In a surprise ceremony during a recent meeting, we had the privilege of honoring staff members who have recently completed their college programs. We congratulate *Ms. Stephanie Rudzki*, *Ms. Rosa Cruz-Cova*, and *Ms. Nohemi Franco* for all of their hard work. Well done!



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 1, 2019

### Fine Arts Academy

We are proud of all our students who participated in this year's District Math Challenge. Rising to the top were our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students showed great teamwork as they collaboratively solved a series of challenging math problems and took first place in their age group. We're also just as proud of our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teams who worked hard and showed great teamwork and sportsmanship. Congratulations! Thank you, *Ms. Lynn Tran*, for organizing our school's teams!



We would like to thank *Ms. Michelle Walla* and all the members of our Kids at Hope Committee for organizing yet another great event to engage families in a variety of fun activities during our Kids at Hope Community and Service celebration.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 1, 2019

### Fine Arts Academy continued

The Fine Arts Steam Club teamed up with kindergartners to integrate the Arts to help students learn about habitats. Thank you *Ms. Vanessa Rios* and *Ms. Beth Raymond* for building bridges and empowering students to share their talents!



### Exceptional Student Services

Littleton Elementary School District's Exploring Potential Teachers held fourth quarter Parent Night on April 3, 2019. *Mrs. Kristina Crowson* hosted this event with the help and support of *Ms. Saudat Balogun*, *Ms. Michelle Younghans*, *Ms. Ginny Biddle*, *Ms. Adriana Amavisca*, *Ms. Susan Candelaria*, *Ms. Tina Kauffmann* and *Ms. Nonubari Nsagane*. The night focused on Grit, Perseverance, and Growth Mindset. Students, parents and families were challenged to complete various activities tied to each of the ideas while collaborating with their table. The activities included analogies, squiggles, and mystery bags. Students, parents, and families were asked to utilize their creative, critical, logical and analytical thinking skills while focusing on the social aspect of collaboration.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**May 1, 2019**

## **Teaching & Learning**

The District's thirteenth annual Art Show Reception was held at the Avondale Civic Center Library Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>. Student art work from all seven schools was on display. The amount of art work displayed as well as the quality is more impressive each year. The event was well attended by parents, students, Littleton School Board Members, staff members, as well as community members. The judges made selections of pieces to be honored as grade level and school level winners. The District will also be purchasing several pieces of the winning art. The art will be framed and displayed at the District Office.

Thank you to the art teachers, *Ms. Patti Shannon, Mr. Anthony Davis, Ms. Julie Whelihan, Ms. Michelle Walla, Ms. Delaney Bemish-Rogers, Ms. Gabriela Angulo*, and *Ms. Judith Michelle Smith* for all of the hard work and preparation. Thank you to *Mr. Budzman* for his assistance with the flyers, certificates and other promotional items, your art work was amazing! Thank you to *Ms. Knighton* from the Fine Arts Academy for coordinating the event, and to *Ms. Nancy Morgan* for all her assistance with arrangements.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**May 8, 2019**

## Tres Rios Service Academy

On Friday, May 3, Tres Rios had our annual Spring Carnival! A huge thank you to our PTA and all the staff that planned different events for our students to engage in. A huge shout out goes to *Ms. Luciana Vargas* and *Mrs. Gina Forney-Lee* for all the behind the scenes planning and organization. Lastly, thank you to *Mrs. Kathy Reyes*, our Governing Board Member, for both attending and supporting this event! We appreciate all of you!



As Kids at Hope, it is important that students think about and are able to articulate their dreams for the future. The students in *Ms. Erin Van Dusen's* 5<sup>th</sup> grade class recently focused on time traveling to the destinations of home and family, hobbies and recreation, education and career, and community and service to create this awesome bulletin board.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

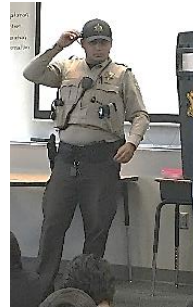
May 8, 2019

### Tres Rios Service Academy continued

Last week, our students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade had the awesome opportunity to learn about the importance of water conservation with a representative from the City of Avondale. Thank you to our awesome 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team (*Ms. Kari Burd, Ms. Crystal Carrera, Ms. Jami Petersen, and Ms. Shelley Storaska*) for setting this up for our students. They had a great time and learned a ton!



On April 25, 2019, the students at Tres Rios had a great time learning about different careers at our annual Career Day. Career day was a success! Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed hearing about careers from a sheriff, basketball coach/teacher, stage director, and author. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students learned about acupuncture and *Ms. Susan Candelaria* shared with them the joys of being a gifted teacher. 1<sup>st</sup> grade students had fun learning about being a police officer, a real estate, and a software engineer. All students learned a lot that day! A special shout out to all the teachers who helped ensure we had speakers for this day.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

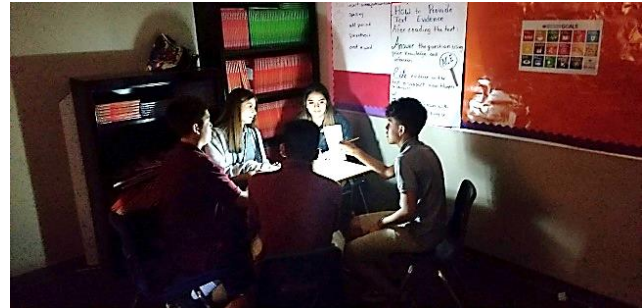
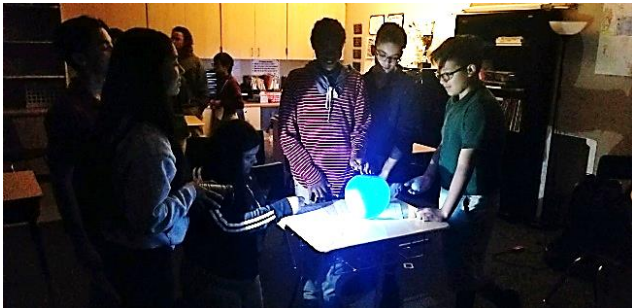
May 8, 2019

## Tres Rios Service Academy

continued



On Friday, May 3, the students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade had a chance to demonstrate the different phases of the moon in class. Students had a great time learning about this concept through this hands-on learning opportunity. Thank you [Mrs. Amber Garcia](#) for purposefully planning learning tasks like these to engage our students in Science!







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**May 8, 2019**

## Quentin STEM Academy



To start off, our Student Council was awarded the Master Council award for the second year in a row! Congratulations to our students and our sponsors *Mr. Marcos Quintana* and *Mr. Jaime Mercado*.

We had our NJHS induction ceremony on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to our new inductees and thank you to our sponsors *Mr. Larry Lopes* and *Ms. Marilyn Gutierrez* for their leadership with our students.

Thank you to *Ms. Sarah Pigza* and *Ms. Brittany Lott* for having our choir/band concert for our families. The concert was a very nice community building event.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 8, 2019

### Quentin STEM Academy continued

Field Day activities went off with a bang with PTA supporting our students with a snack and refreshment.



Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders went on their final field trip to West-Mec the Glendale campus. West-Mec students facilitated the tour of the programs that are available to our students when they get to high school.



Lastly, we want to congratulate our teacher of the year *Ms. Christine Russell* for her hard work and dedication to the Quentin community.







## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

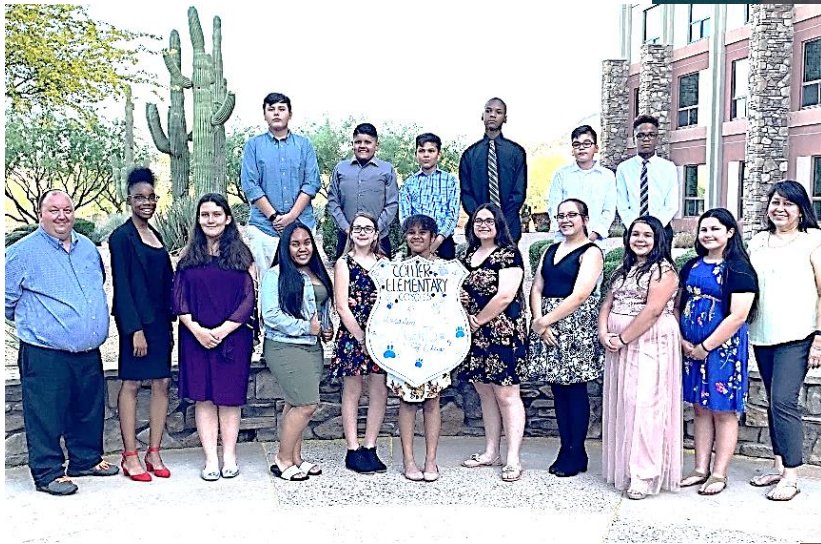
May 15, 2019

### Collier Elementary School

Congratulations to our new inductees into National Junior Honor Society. Thank you to *Ms. Leslie Casillas* for supporting this excellent group of students.



Our Student Council earned blue ribbons for all of their entries for Master Council. Thank you to *Mr. Delaine Nelson* and *Ms. Leticia Mattei* for making this possible for our students.



Collier participated in the Girls on the Run final 5k event on Saturday, May 4. Thank you to *Ms. Lorialle Haynes* and *Ms. Nina Martinez* for organizing this club and event for our students. I would also like to thank all of the staff members who came out to run with the girls and or cheer them on.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**May 15, 2019**

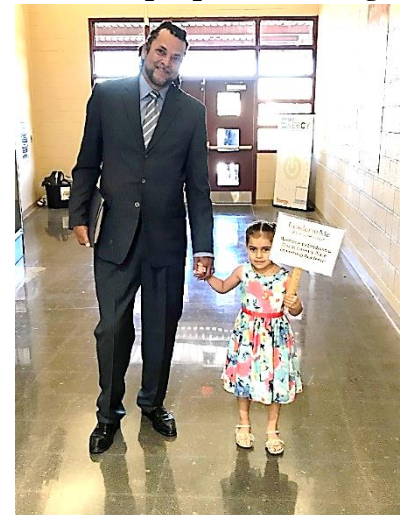
**Collier Elementary School**

continued



## Country Place Leadership Academy

The Student Lighthouse Team and the Staff Lighthouse Team, led by *Mrs. Karina Hernandez* hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Country Place Leadership Day. The student selected the theme, “we are Incredible.” Community, Governmental and Business Leaders from across the Valley were treated to leadership speeches, songs, demonstrations and a tour. Student MCs Gigi and Angely were incredible hosts. Avondale City Council Members, *Ms. Veronica Malone* and *Mr. Curtis Nielsen* were so impressed with *Mr. Cody Cherland’s* class proposals to solve the issues in the community they invited them to attend a future Avondale City Council Meeting. A special thanks to *Mrs. Anitra Morin*, *Mrs. Stephanie Budzban*, *Mrs. Maria Serrano* and *Mrs. Rocio Ruiz* for all of their support.







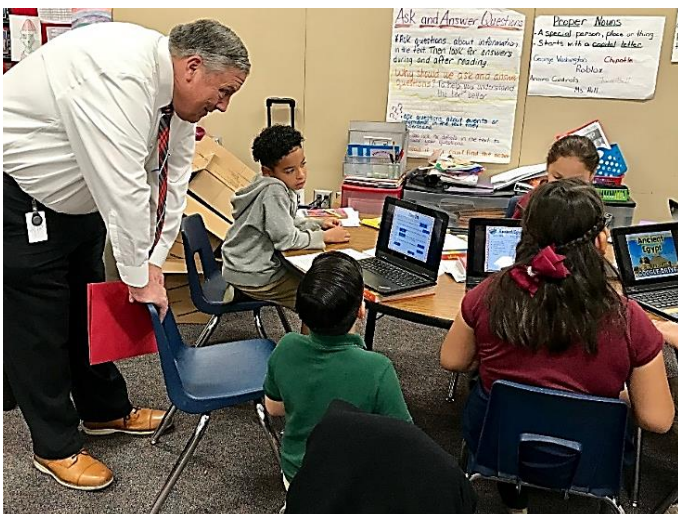
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 15, 2019

## Country Place Leadership Academy continued



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, six student members of the Family Leadership Learning Team participated in the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families* Training at the Dysart Unified School District Office. A national presenter from Franklin Covey facilitated the training. The attendees included administrators, teachers, community members and parents from schools in the West Valley. Our students, Zuri, Hailey, Angie, Kailey, Sophia, and Aliyah were amazing representatives of Country Place Leadership Academy! Hailey helped the presenter teach the concept of being reactive. She explained how a reactive person is like a shaken up soda bottle. Zuri did an amazing job explaining how withdrawals from our emotional bank account affect us. The student leaders are going to continue to facilitate the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families* next year to the Country Place families.







**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**May 15, 2019**

## **Country Place Leadership Academy continued**



The Country Place Leadership Academy Teacher of the Year is *Ms. Rajwant Cheema*! *Ms. Cheema* stands out for many reasons. She is an incredible teacher. She plans meticulously and thinks through what she predicts her students will do within the lesson. She makes amazing connections with her students and inspires them to improve! *Raj* also serves as an ACE for staff members supporting the in instruction, special education and the National Board Certification process. *Raj* is also an amazing cook! “We are very lucky to have *Raj* on our team! She is an incredible leader and teacher!”



The Country Place Leadership Academy Staff Member of the Year is *Mrs. Linda Rubalcaba*! *Mrs. Rubalcaba* is a paraprofessional in *Mrs. Donna Maple’s* classroom. She is an incredible support to our students and staff! She was nominated for her exceptional support of her students in our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms! Thank you so much for your service, dedication and love of Country Place!