

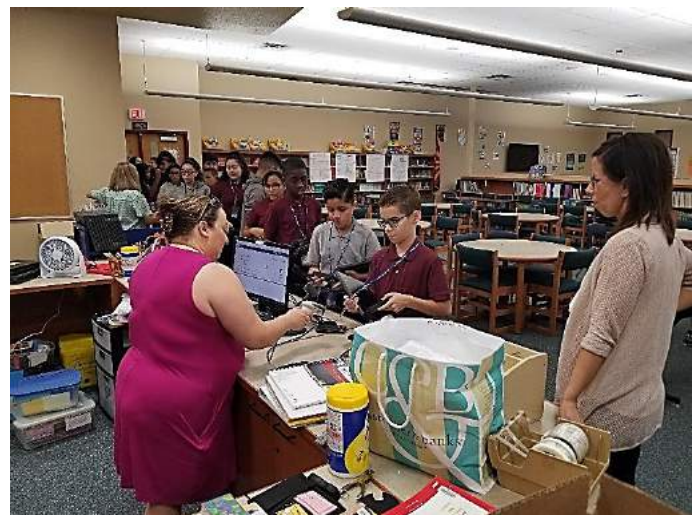


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 7, 2019

Office of School Support

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At this time, we currently have 4,082 students in the district with 1:1 devices! A wireless update is currently in the works at all school sites with the exception of Fine Arts Academy to modernize the connectivity throughout each site. Meanwhile, work continues on a fiber network to increase bandwidth between all school sites and the District office. There is zero cost to the district as the fiber project is being completed using federal and state funds.

Introduction of New Staff:

We recently welcomed new staff members to the department:

[Mr. Brian Carey](#) – Network Technician Jr.

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Curriculum & Assessment

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Back to school night was great success! We had many families come to meet their teachers and learn about the amazing opportunities her at Fine Arts! Teachers sat/stood together as teams and greeted families in the hallways. Parents who wanted to fill out paperwork took care of business in the classrooms!



A few of our amazing Sounds Academy Students posing with their new front office canvas.

We're off to a great start! Staff and students have been making vital connections and building awesome relationships the first few weeks. Teams are coming together and you can feel the excitement as a year filled with limitless potential begins?





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 14, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

It has been a real smooth start to the New Year. We had Playworks join us at the beginning of the school year to support with our re-boot of the program. Rhett from Playworks taught Quentin staff new brain-breaks, teambuilding activities and shared resources that can all be used in and out of the class to support our students.



PLAYWORKS



We added to our focus this year a new partnership. We are proud to be collaborating with the Be Fit Be Healthy movement. They came to Quentin to perform for our students. The assembly shared healthy habits such as eating the rainbow, adequate rest, being aware of nutrition labels and getting the appropriate amount of daily activity. Be Fit Be Healthy will be back on August 14th to do staff professional development. Their focus will

be to share resources, games and tools for teachers to best support students in living a healthy life through healthy habits.

Tres Rios Service Academy

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Let's have an amazing 2019-2020 school year!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 21, 2019

Collier Elementary School

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Before preservice began, most of the Collier certified staff attended a Saturday training from Kagan. This was the Day 2 training to help teachers improve student collaboration and active engagement



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On July 23rd the Mustang Certified Staff participated in Professional Learning with 7 Habits Guru, Mike Suto. Mr. Suto 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 focused on supporting staff and students to Empower Instruction to enhance student learning. It was a great experience!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 21, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued

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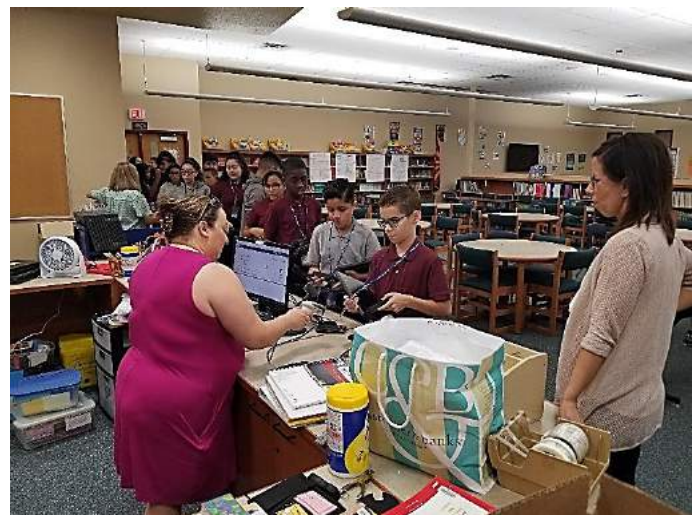


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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Office of School Support

Up until now all 8 of our sites have been connected by a 1 gig microwave connection. All 8 sites are now connected by a 10gig fiber connection. The last connections were completed Tuesday, November 12, 2019 morning. This project was completed at no cost to the District using Federal and State funds. We hope that this will future proof the District for connections between sites as the 10gig fiber connection can be increased with very little effort.



On November 12, the Office of School Support hosted an informational meeting addressing Adult ESL classes. We had an enormous turnout and were thrilled to see so much interest in this subject from our community members. A big shout out to [Ms. Lucy Ito](#) and [Mr. Carlos Gomez](#) for heading up this project. We appreciate the work they have done to make this goal a reality. The classes will begin January 14, 2020, and continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the entire second semester. Classes are in the Operations Conference Room. Best of all: the classes are tuition free! We look forward to serving our community with this adult education opportunity





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

WE ARE SO PROUD of our 11 Arizona State Honor Choir singers selected to represent Fine Arts Academy and the Littleton Elementary School district so well! These 11 musicians from 5th-8th grade sang with the best singers from around the state of Arizona! Wonderful job coaching these students, [Mr. Travis White](#)!



The fall play, *My Fair Redneck*, a parody of the musical *My Fair Lady*, was a comedic success! We are so proud of our Fine Arts Thespians and their director [Mrs. Meg Peterson](#)!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

We had a fun week celebrating how we are ALL Kids at Hope every single day! Each day had a different theme from time traveling to careers to spirit day and our students and staff went all out!



Mrs. Beth Raymond's kindergarten class had a Cultural Sharing Day! They learned about families from Mexico and Cuba. One student from Ethiopia that was too shy to share his dance and one student from China just wanted to share her headphones 😊 The class also tasted some authentic food!





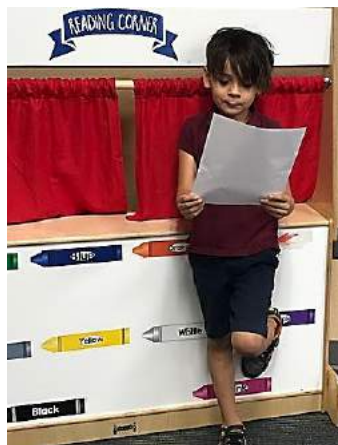
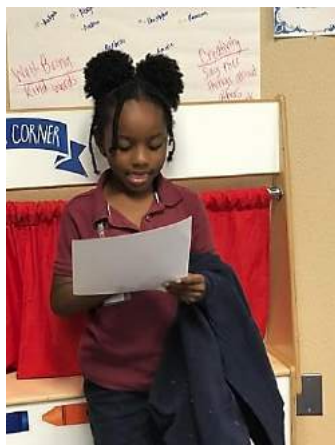
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Students in *Ms. Kayla Price's* kindergarten class were proud to share with *Mr. Charles Blanton* why they love the Fine Arts Academy. In November we celebrated AEA American Education Week by writing the thing we like most about our school.



Big shout-out to the teachers, staff, and parents who helped to support our PTSA fundraiser! These fabulous volunteers served and assisted during our Culver's night





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Ms. Michelle Walla and six of her Kids at Hope Student Leaders has the awesome opportunity to join schools around the West Valley at the annual Kids at Hope Summit. Our students had the opportunity to meet students from other schools and were inspired by the Hope2 Talks presented by high school students





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Fine Arts had an amazing turnout for our Turkey Trot and Thanksgiving dinner! We had over 300 family members join us for these festivities!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Mr. Travis White and the DaCapo choir students have been hard at work preparing for the Winter Suite! The students took a field trip to La Joya to rehearse with their choirs in order to prepare for this joint concert. Here are some sneak preview photos to hold us over until the concert!





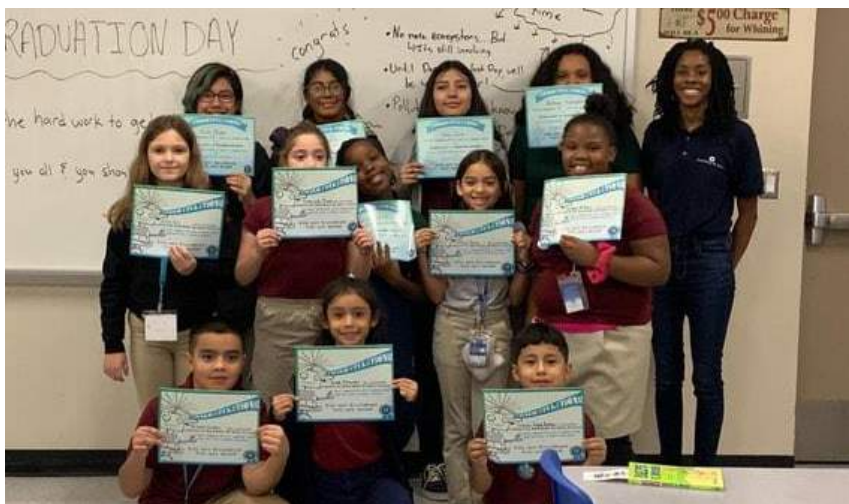
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great things happening at QUES. We had Officer Emmet come onto campus to speak with our 6th-8th grade students about bullying and cyber bullying.

We celebrated our first attendance field day. All students that had perfect attendance for second quarter had the opportunity to engage in sporting events, board games, educational computer games, drawing and dance time. The one and a half hour period was a hit amongst our student and staff body.



We graduated our first set of students from Read Better be Better. We celebrated with the facilitators of the program and our families joined in for the fun.

We had our first annual k-3 holiday concert performance. [Ms. Brittany Truax](#) did a phenomenal job directing our students in this performance. We had parents and the student body cheering our young sharks along!

Lastly we won the flag football championship! Our boys were in a hard fought battle with EV and came out on top. Go Sharks!!!



Quentin STEM Academy

Cordially invites you to join us for our

K-3 Winter Concert

Monday, December 9, 2019

2-3pm in the Cafeteria





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The last month of 2019 has been a busy one for Tres Rios.



On the evening of December 5th, Tres Rios students and parents came together to support the Arizona Children's Association by bringing a toy donation and watching the Grinch at our family movie night. Students brought their favorite blanket and dressed in comfy pajamas as they enjoyed concessions and a night fun.



Second grade classes had a successful field trip on December 6th to the Crayola Experience. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered and attended the field trip! Students enjoyed spending time with families while engaged in extended learning activities.

December 10th was the Tres Rios spelling bee. Congratulations to Adriana Cantu and Daniel Schultz and good luck representing Tres at the district competition!



This year's winter dance will be held on December 19th. Student will continue to support the Arizona Children's Association by allowing access to the dance with a toy donation.

As the end of 2019 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 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

Ms. Karen Witt and the NJHS students volunteered at a local mission to fill food boxes for families to get them through the holidays.



Ms. Michelle Younghans and the Robotics team competed for state and placed 9th out of 20th, missing qualifying by one place.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

The Collier Band, under the leadership and guidance of [Ms. Marissa Wilt](#), contuse to grow and improve. Last week we had another wonderful Band Concert.



Thank you to [Ms. Marissa Rodriguez](#), [Ms. Linda Stallard](#), the PTA and Collier staff for providing a Santa Holiday Shop for families. Besides shopping for gifts, there were also opportunities to create crafts, eat popcorn, drink hot chocolate, and watch a holiday movie.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Congratulations to our students that had perfect attendance during the first half of quarter 2.



Country Place Leadership Academy

The National Junior Honor Society held their annual Food Drive with St. Vincent De Paul. Our school community donated 1,684 non-perishable food items. There was a friendly competition amongst homerooms to see who could collect the most items. The top classes were *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez's* 5th grade class with 673 items, *Ms. Lynette Hill's* 2nd grade class with 153 items, and *Ms. Rocio Ruiz's* 4th grade class with 134 items. A special thanks to NJHS sponsors *Ms. Roberta Garcia* and *Ms. Julie Fach*. Great job Country Place Leaders!

This year Country Place has teamed up, upper and lower grade classes to make "buddy classrooms." The buddy classrooms meet regularly to support each other in leadership and learning. This month many of the buddy classrooms met and used Habit 7 to Sharpen the Saw! A special thanks to 7th grade teacher, *Ms. Tatum Green* for setting up the buddy classroom system!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued



We began the year with 44 students who were Well Below Benchmark in reading in Kindergarten. Through the hard work of our students, staff and kinder families 31 of those students have significantly improved their reading! Eleven of those students are Above Benchmark and fourteen of those students are Benchmark. Reading at grade level is a strong predictor of later success in school and life. We are very proud of the work going on in Country Place's amazing kindergarten. A special thanks to kindergarten teachers, [*Ms. Jackie Davis*](#), [*Ms. Anastacia Hanns*](#), [*Ms. Karina Hernandez*](#) and [*Ms. Jazmin Guadaramma*](#) and to everyone else that supports our kindergarteners!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be! Inspirer of the Month

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [Ms. Chantelle Ottens](#), 6th grade teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month of January. Ms. Ottens has been with our fabulous school for at least 2 years and we're sure many more to come. Ms. Ottens started as a long-term sub and eventually decided that she wanted to be an EV Hawk. Ms. Ottens goes above and beyond her call of duty to get the job done and is always willing to assist in any way that she can. Students enjoy her class and you can often see her here late at night or early in the morning getting ready for her students. Three words or phrases to describe this person would be brave, eager to learn and most of all dedicated to becoming the best person she can be. If someone were to ask me about her, we would say she is competitive and hates to lose. What we admire the most is her strength, positivity and her passion. Thank you for all you do for EV Ms. Ottens and congratulations on your accomplishment!!



Estrella Vista Junior Poms Participate in the Fiesta Bowl Parade

Elementary students ranging in grades 1st-8th, collaborated as a Pom Pom and Cheer Squad and decided to try out new experiences this school year. Their events coordinator, [Ms. Laura Montañño](#), gathered resources and applied to be a part of the Fiesta Bowl Parade early September. Later in the Fall, the hawks received great news that they had been accepted to participate. This would be the first occasion that would be televised and would be the longest distance the girls had traveled.

Living in Arizona has its many blessings. One is the great weather it has to offer. That crisp cold morning of the parade showed the squads discipline and a lesson on patience. The squads experienced that sometimes waiting may cause great sacrifice; however, the performances they had practiced over their winter break and throughout the school year was worth all of that.

It was a record setting year as the parade broadcast was the most watched local TV program in the parade's market for December 28th and had the highest number of viewers to date. The parade sponsors shared their gratitude and



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

genuine appreciation for the high spirits brought forth that day.

These individuals always bring great spirit to every school-wide assembly and have showcased their efforts in

parades across the West Valley over the past three years. The squad is community have played a big role in the positive energy and love they have shown for these cheerleaders. The squads are thankful for family and friends who have helped and contributed to their successes. currently under the guidance and instruction of [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#), and [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#).



Spelling Bee

We are so proud to announce that Parker Nguyen, 7th grader at Estrella Vista STEM Academy placed 2nd in the Littleton Elementary School District Spelling Bee on Thursday January 16th. Due to his hard work and dedication, he will now move on to the Regional Spelling Bee taking place later on this semester. Good luck Parker!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

School Choice Night

School Choice Night was a huge success thanks to our community. With nearly 500 forms turned in, we had the highest number of people in the District choose EV. We have had approximately 300 more forms turned in since Monday night's event. EV is the place to be. This is who we are!



STEM Showcase

Growth Represents Our Will Through Hard-work. Thank you to Estrella Vista staff and students for working so hard and showing your GROWTH to solve problems embedded within the curriculum and presenting them for feedback at our STEM Showcase on Wednesday December 18th, 2019. Some of the projects that students presented for were problem solving within a narrative text, ways to improve personal nutrition & health, increasing recycling on campus & the world, and how to reduce greenhouse gasses. Every grade level and class presented their prototypes and received feedback on their use of Design Thinking within a Problem Based Learning approach.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Stand up, Speak up Help Save a Life Conference

Stand up, Speak up, Help Save a Life conference is always remarkable as it gives students a chance to hear from students and speakers who may have had challenges in their life whether it was being bullied, felt alone, or unheard. This conference gives our students a chance to hear from speakers, then break away into groups and talk about their own personal experiences or thoughts. This allows students of all ages to be heard and build relationships with others. This experience this year allowed both 7th and 8th graders the chance to take a field trip to Grand Canyon University in order to spend a day learning about bullying and how to help save a life. When returning, students were able to collaborate on opportunities to help stand up on our campus. This opportunity is always a valuable experience as an educator and learner! Thank you to [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Smith](#) making it possible for our students to attend this great event!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

Maker Space Happenings at Littleton STEM Academy...

Littleton STEM Academy 1st graders created Scribblebots! [Mrs. Ashley Davis](#), 1st grade teacher, and [Mr. Jim Verrill](#), principal, facilitated these innovative, young students in using the engineering design process to answer the question, "Can robots make art?" The kiddos say, "YES!" robots can make art! The excitement and engagement while learning through discovery was AWESOME!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

Littleton STEM Student Council Update...

Student Council Teacher Leaders, [Ms. Jordan Thompson](#) (Kindergarten) and [Ms. Ashley Perman](#) (CASA Program) spent an action packed weekend at Friendly Pines in Prescott, AZ. They collaboratively planned with peers from other schools from across our state. Along with their peers, they planned a Student Council Retreat and the end of year Convention. [Jordan](#) and [Ashley](#) shared their collaborative planning was a success and they made some "amazing new friends." They are grateful for the wonderful weekend in Prescott and the opportunity for professional growth.



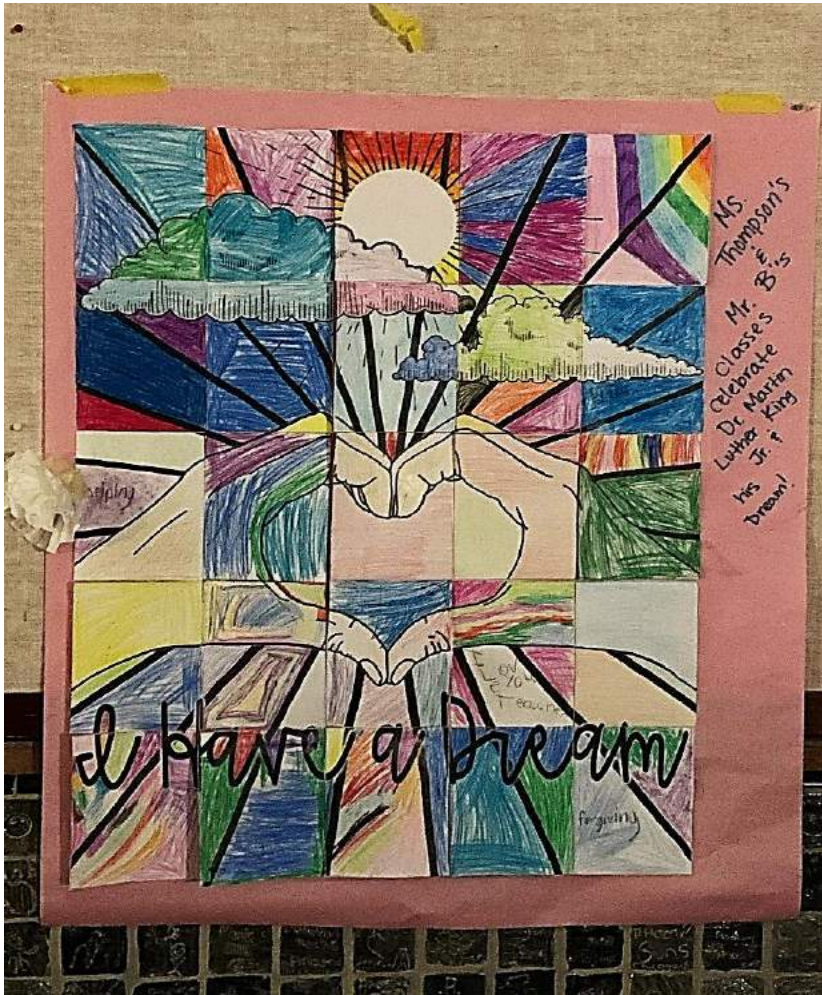


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued



MLK JR. DAY

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, Littleton STEM Academy Kindergarten and Fifth grade buddies read a picture about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our 5th grade students then summarized the story talking to their Kindergarten buddies about fairness, respect, diversity and unity. Together, the students created a poster and requested it be posted for OUR school community to see. Their hope and dream is that we all learn to respect and appreciate each other for our differences.

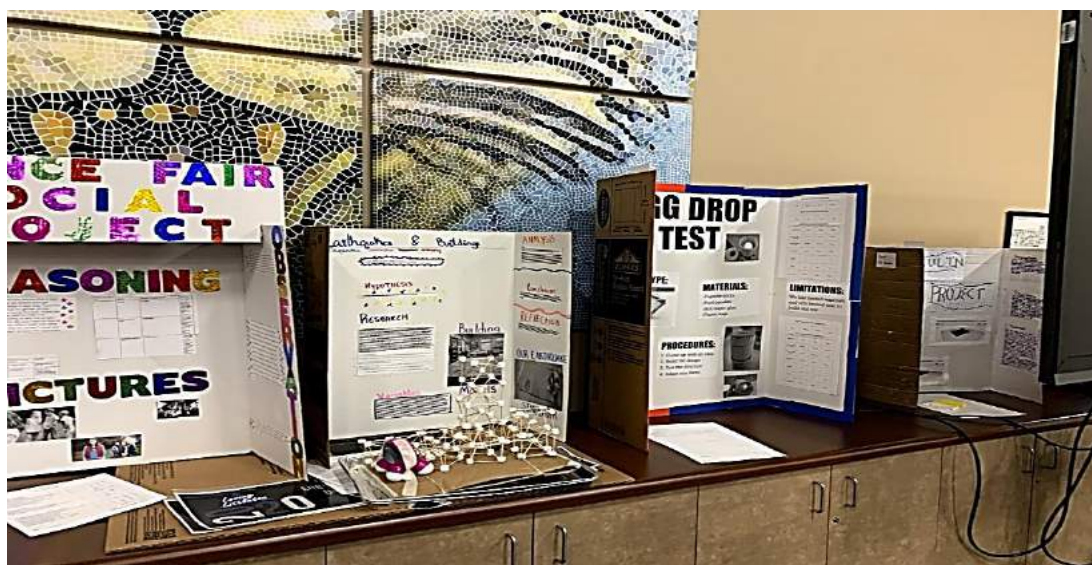


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Technology

The Littleton District Science and Engineering Fair was on Thursday, February 6th from 4:30-6:30pm. We received over 40 science and engineering projects from K-8th grade with representation of all 7 schools. We had over 20 parents and students attend to support the District Fair. We had 14 volunteered judges that included teachers, NJHS students, SACS, TOSA, assistance principals, and principal. The Westside Impact Finalists will compete on February 28th amongst the other school districts. We are proud to announce 6 Finalists will compete in the Westside Impact Fair and 10 showcase projects to represent Littleton School District.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

Our Falcons got to see a Childsplay production called Eric and Elliot. This play deals with the very serious topic of depression and suicide in a way that students could understand. Amazing tory, amazing acting, and of course, amazing students!



Our friends at Ballet Folklórico Esperanza will soon be offering FREE lessons in traditional Mexican dance as a before-school enrichment activity. Stay tuned for mor information!



What a wonderful show our young Falcons put on this week. Under the direction of [Mr. Travis White](#), music teacher extraordinaire, students sang, danced, and delivered passionate monologues in this musical adaptation of the famous children's book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Thank you to the 300+ parents who attended the performance and helped make this night special.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 19, 2020

Quentin STEM Academy

4th grade students traveled to Desert Edge High School to watch an African Rhythms performance.



We had our first smoothie day attendance celebration on February 7th. We selected *Ms. Brenda Alamillo's* recipe to make for our students in the classes that had the best attendance in their grade band.



Model Schools Conference 2020

June 28-July 1, Orlando

Join us at this year's Model Schools Conference where you will learn from a community of educators who've connected with courage to drive innovation and change.

Quentin STEM Academy received notification of their selection to present at the Model Schools conference in Orlando Florida! Only 25 schools and districts are given the opportunity to present at this prestigious conference from across the nation. Schools that evidence growth through best practice are selected and Quentin STEM Academy is one of the 25 model schools that will be presenting to school leaders from across the nation! Congratulations to the hard working staff at Quentin STEM! GO SHARKS!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 19, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy

February has been speeding by as we have many exciting things happening across Tres Rios.

Mr. David Isham and *Mr. Nick Ferrando's* Project Citizen Club has been meeting this month to analyze and research policies that affect their lives. The students are excited to continue creating their plan on their proposed policies.

Dads and daughters danced the night away at our Father Daughter Dance on February 11th. Thanks to NJHS there was a huge turnout and memories were made that will last a lifetime.



On Arizona's birthday, *Ms. Erika Avelar* and *Mr. Eric Nelson* presented at ADE's 7th annual Civic Learning Conference. The day was a great success as *Ms. Avelar* presented her testimonial of what it is to be a service learning school and what it took to get to where we are now. Making great connections with other service minded schools and presenting after our ASU Community Engagement partner delivered a powerful vision of what service learning is.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School

On Sunday, February 23, Collier had four eighth grade students who completed in the Regional History Bee, Nicholas, December, Jayden, and Milayna. Congratulations to Jayden who qualified for the National History Bee in Chicago this summer! Thank you to [Ms. Amanda Steele](#) for making this possible.



Collier's sixth grade student, Sara, represented Littleton District at the Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 22. Sara earned fifth place overall.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School continued

The MESA students attended Regionals along with [Ms. Michelle Younghans](#) and [Ms. Brandy McWhirter](#). Students tested out their project designs and received feedback from judges on how to improve for the final competition in May.



School Choice Night was another big hit with students and families. Thank you to [Ms. Grace Garcia](#), [Ms. Chelsea Clipperton](#), [Ms. Brittany Jimenez](#), [Ms. Linda Stallard](#), [Ms. Amy Chapman](#), and [Mr. Michael Laureano](#) for attending.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School

continued

We had an amazing turn out for our Kids @ Hope Cultural Night! Thank you to [Ms. Ashleigh Done](#), the K@H Committee, and all of the staff that participated in the fun activities. Families experienced different types of games, foods, dances, and music from around the world. Families also added pins to our world map so we can visualize how many countries are represented at Collier.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Country Place Rocks the Leader in Me Symposium

Student and staff leaders from Country Place attended the Leader in Me Symposium in downtown Phoenix on February 26th. Student leaders from the Student Lighthouse Team had leadership roles during the event. Analeena, Ciara, Destiny and Sophia were greeters and welcomed guests as they entered the venue. Madysun and Angie helped attendees register. Aliyah spoke on a student panel and took questions from over one hundred leaders from throughout Arizona. Zuri introduced the MC for the day William Blackwell IV. [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#) and [Dr. Mike Cagle](#) attended as well. The Country Place leaders were treated to a visit to Lighthouse Leader in Me School, San Tan Elementary, heard inspiration words from thought leaders and got to meet Mr. Sean Covey, the author of the 7 Habits of Happy Kids! It was a great event and Country Place leaders were in the house!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued

Leadership Focus- Leaderizing Country Place

The student and staff Physical Environment Action Team has been working diligently to Leaderize Country Place Leadership Academy. They have worked with students and staff to design murals that represent the Five Leadership Paradigms of Country Place. 1. Everyone can be a leader. 2. Everyone has Genius. 3. Change begins with me. 4. Empower students to lead their own learning. 5. Educate the whole child. On Saturday February 22nd the physical environment team invited students and staff to continue their work in the hallways.



AWEsome Learning- Black History Month

Under the leadership of 2nd grade teacher, [*Ms. Sheilah McCalpine*](#), Country Place formed its first Black History Month Leadership Committee. The committee consisted of students, staff and parents. They hosted a Black History bulletin board contest! They invited an African inspired storyteller to share stories with 1st through 3rd graders. The Country Place PTA sponsored bringing the Kawambeomowale African Drummers to Country Place on February 28th.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be!

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





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Estrella Vista Junior Poms Participate in the Glow on Monroe Parade- Estrella Vista's pom-pom cheer squad had the opportunity to perform in the Glow on Monroe parade on Saturday, December 14th 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 show casing their talents. There was stunts, lots of walking and applauding from the crowd who was watching. A special thank you to [Mrs. Imelda Gomez](#) for making the beautiful tutu's, [Ms. Laura Montano](#) for providing the lights, and to the coaches [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Vlieg](#) for all the dedication and hard-work you put into making these vicarious experiences happen for the young ladies.



Softball Wins the Championship and Flag Football Takes Second- Congratulations to the softball team on becoming league champions and their coaches [Ms. Megan Crawford](#) and [Ms. Rosie Fleeman](#). And congratulations to our flag football team for taking second, along with their coaches [Mr. Rigoberto Gamez](#) and [Mr. Bronson Goodsell](#). 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](#) and [Ms. Rachel Vlieg](#).





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Winter Band Concert - On December 5th, the beginner band and 6th-8th grade bands performed their first concert of the school year. Both bands performed at an extremely high musical level. The beginning band played songs that used up to 4 notes, which is incredibly impressive for students that just began learning their instrument at the beginning of the year. The 6th-8th grade band performed works by famous composer Beethoven and other holiday favorites! We are looking forward to our next concert on May 7th! A special thank you to [Mr. Joseph Mansfield](#) for all his hard work to make the band concert a huge success!!



Talent Show - December 12th was a special day for Estrella Vista. We were able to time travel into individuals' futures and show case their talents. EV had their annual talent show which included singing and dancing and was run by student ambassadors from the Kids at Hope Committee. There were two shows throughout the day, during the day time show students will able to perform for their classmates and friends and in the evening we invited families to watch the magic happen. We appreciate all the support we received from our ACES and friends and without them it would not have been possible. As the Kids at Hope Committee we were happy with the success of the performance and can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Lego League Tournament - On Saturday, December 7th, 2019, our EVSA Robotics team had the opportunity to participate in the Arizona FIRST LEGO League. FIRST LEGO League is an exciting and fun global robotics program, designed to ignite an enthusiasm for discovery of the basic principles of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in children, ages 9 to 14. This program creates a call to action for children in the state of Arizona to take risks and think big in order to create innovative solutions for everyday problems in our communities. Together with the partnership of Arizona State University, they create an inclusive program and life changing experience for our students and their futures.

EVSA team consists of 7th and 8th graders, Exploring Potential Students. Rain, Emmanuel, Diego, Garry, Juan, Jasmine, Jason, Jaden, Alexia, Danielle, and Scott, have been working really hard since 1st quarter to be able to participate in this event. The two coaches are [Mrs. Adriana Amavisca](#), k-8 Exploring Potential teacher, and [Ms. Karla Encinas](#), 1st grade teacher. Parents were very supportive and they joined us the day of the competition, as well as our Principal, [Dr. Nicole Durazo](#) and [Ms. Victoria Camarillo](#). The tournament took place at Carl Hayden Community High School from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The tournament has 3 components: An innovation project, in which the team has to identify a problem in their community and present an innovative solution to it. A robot game, where the team has to design, build, and program a LEGO robot to complete missions. Finally a team presentation where the team shows how they applied the 6 Core Values of this event during the process: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun. During all these 3 participations, the teams are evaluated and interviewed by judges. No other adults are allowed to be present.

The Robot game matches were scheduled after lunch. During the first round, our team did a great job making 15th place out of 32 teams. During the second round, we experienced some technical difficulties and went down to place 17th. During the third round, things didn't go very well, which placed us 20th out of 32.

Overall, our experience was fantastic and all the hard work, challenges, and dedication were worth it. Our students had the opportunity to learn about the Engineering Design Process, find solutions to real world problems, design, build, code and program a robot to perform specific tasks, but most of all the experience gained during the learning process, the hard work, trial and error, perseverance, team work, and the core values, are invaluable lessons that will stay forever in our students' lives and will help build the foundation for their future.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

EVSA Robotics Team



Spelling Bee - Arduous, A-R-D-U-O-U-S, an adjective coming from the Latin word Arduus, meaning requiring great exertion; laborious; difficult. That is what each of the participants in the 2019 Estrella Vista STEM Academy that took place on Tuesday December 17th for our Bee went through. They exerted themselves and worked really hard to get to the School Bee. Spelling in front of your class and then a large audience can be difficult, but because of their laborious hard work, we had the longest Spelling Bee yet, consisting of over 30 rounds. Our second place winner is Roy Salazar from [Ms. Rosie Fleeman's](#) 6th grade class. Our Champion is Parker Nguyen, who is a 7th grader. He will go on to compete and represent EV at the District Level Spelling Bee on January 16th.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy



Is there a better way to end a great quarter than with some hot cocoa and cider? 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 2nd annual Holiday Restaurant. The social groups consisted of students in the general education, resource, and cross-categorical self-contained program. This collaborative group has worked to help students address a variety of their pragmatic language, social emotional, and behavior goals. 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. They also had the opportunity to serve a celebrity patron – [Dr. Roger Freeman](#)! We are so proud of how our students showcased their progress improving their social behavior and communication!



Our Littleton STEM Academy first semester Read Better Be Better Leaders and Readers graduated on December 2nd. Parents, LNES staff and students celebrated with stories and refreshments. Each of the Leaders and Readers earned certificates and were awarded books. Our next group of Leaders and Readers begin their reading journey on Wednesday, January 15th.



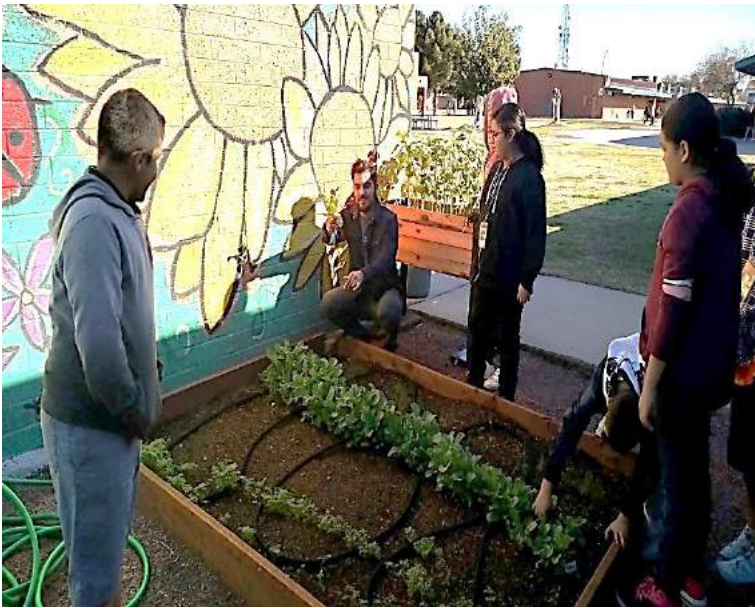
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

Our Littleton STEM Academy Gardening Club celebrated their first harvest in December. The community garden is flourishing and the students are growing several vegetables including radishes, carrots, beans, squash, and lettuce! All vegetables harvested go home with our Firebirds to share with their families 😊



La Joya Community High School and West Point High School visited LNES on Monday, December 2nd. The La Joya Student Council panel answered questions and shared experiences/advice with our 8th grade students. Guidance Counselors and Teachers presented information on required and elective classes. On Tuesday, December 3rd, staff from both La Joya and West Point hosted a Parent Information and Registration event on the Littleton STEM Academy campus – it was a full house!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

Last week, Kindergarten students studied living and non-living things. They did a scavenger hunt around the playground for a hands-on approach to mastering this concept. Awesome lesson, [Ms. Kayla Price](#)



Our students loved Spirit Week- Especially Twin Day! Looking good, [Ms. Joanne Vianos](#)! Mr. Blanton even had an amazing twin- they even got 1500+ likes on social media!



5th grade learned about budgeting and focused on planning a holiday meal. This real-life experience was an amazing opportunity! To quote a student, "This is so hard! Food is so expensive!" Oh honey, we understand...





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued



The 5th grade classes took a field trip to the Musical Instrument Museum where they “traveled” to a variety of countries around the world, and were able to experience the musical instruments from each area. The children watched short videos about each region and were even allowed time to play instruments themselves. They finished their trip with an educational presentation by a professional DJ, RAP singer and Hip Hop dancers. They learned about how the style of music began, and how to write their own songs.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy continued

Mrs. Susan Knighton did a wonderful job preparing our student for their holiday concert! La Joya's High School band performed and our students joined them for several selections! Well done, Fine Arts musicians!



Our Fine Arts choirs, in collaboration with La Joya's High School Choirs, presented the "Winter Suite." Congratulations, *Mr. Travis White*, on this amazing partnership and performance. There were even goodies from SFE! Thank you to the hundreds of dedicated students, parents, and staff that made this event a success!



Fine Arts Academy had a great turn out for our annual Kids at Home, Holiday Home and Family. We had 398 family members attend the event! *Ms. Michelle Walla's* Kids at Hope Student Leaders worked on creating, planning and running all the activities. Student Council with the help of *Ms. Selma Berlanga* and *Ms. Rebeca Portillo* sold candy grams, cookies, and hot chocolate. *Mr. Dan Budzban* used his amazing creative skills to create the flyer for the event. NJHS with the help of *Ms. Mia DeLaRosa* created the balloon arch. *Ms. Walla's* Art Club created and painted all the signs and decorations. *Mr. Travis White's* DaCapo Choir caroled at the beginning and the end of the event. Kids at Hope is all about coming together as a community and that definitely happens here at our Kids at Hope Night!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Office of School Support

School Choice Transfers

The window for Second Semester School Choice Transfers is now closed. After working from our wait list and making phone calls to parents, there was a total of 9 students that were transferred to their school of choice. A BIG shout-out to the school offices support staff and the Welcome Center staff for make these transitions go smoothly.

There were 8 students who requested transfers that fell in love with their current school programs and classes during the waiting period, so parents decided to keep the students where they were. That speaks highly of all our school programs! There were other requests that were not granted due to the grade level capacities at the requested school being full. During School Choice Night on January 27, all parents in our district will have the opportunity to choose the school they want for their children for the 2020-2021 school year. This year it is more important than ever that our families continue to be satisfied with what we deliver and that they do not have reason to look at incoming competition. We must do all we can do to remind them that they *Love Littleton*.

How does School Choice impact class size? This model allows us to maintain amazing class sizes. It does not allow for overcrowded classrooms because students are placed in a program based on seat availability. If there is not an open seat at the desired campus, students are placed on a wait list. Both parents and teachers are reporting satisfaction with this model that increases opportunities for individual attention. School Choice continues to grow in a positive way for our community!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Office of School Support

continued

VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

VITA is offering the service of tax preparation assistance to families and employees in Littleton Elementary School District. Anyone making less than \$50k a year can get his or her taxes done using this FREE service. If you make a little over that guideline, it is ok to come and ask for the assistance. They may be able to do it for you!

This service is available at the Welcome Center on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting January 30th and continues through April 9th of 2020. No appointment needed – just drop in.

All volunteers in the organization are trained and certified by the IRS.

What to Bring to Your Local VITA Site

- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if received
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Proof of bank account routing and account numbers for direct deposit such as a blank check
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security number or business Employer Identification Number
- Forms 1095-A, B and C, Health Coverage Statements
- Copies of income transcripts from IRS and state, if applicable





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy

Happy New Year! As the 2019 train left the Tres Rios station, we had so much to be thankful for when reflecting on the first semester. Coming back from break, we welcomed in the New Year with a focus on achievement and our sights set on excellence.

Wrapping up the 2019 year, first grade celebrated with Polar Express as they reflected on all they have done and where they are going when they returned in January.



Adrianna Cantu was Tres' first place school spelling bee winner and competed strongly in the district competition.



Adrianna Cantu 6th grade posing with contestant (above) and [Dr. Roger Freeman](#) (right).





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy continued

On Thursday January 16th, the students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up as 100 year olds and celebrating their accomplishments.



Looking forward in January, Tres Rios will be participating in its school wide Field Day to show we not only have brains, but the brawn to match. Middle school students will also be participating in the Speak Up Stand Up assembly. Stay tuned for more pictures of these events in the upcoming Good News.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Quentin STEM Academy

Students visited the Stand Up Speak Up Save a Life conference. The kids had a great experience engaging in the presentations and activities associated with the conference. We had our kick-off fundraiser with Step it Up Kids. Our kids sat through an engaging assembly, won prizes and became energized to raise money for our school. Some of the goals for the fundraiser is to purchase shade structures for the front of the school, equipment for a gaga ball pit and resources for our student population. So far, we have been able to raise over \$7000!



Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings will take place at Quentin over the month of January for grades kindergarten thru 3rd grade. This is our opportunity as grade-level teams to work with our families in communicating and supporting student learning at home. Our families will come into the school and grade level teams will facilitate workshops filled with resources and strategies that will best help our students in reading and math skill development. The workshops are driven by the data teachers gather from common formative assessments, interims and Acadience progress monitoring.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Collier Elementary School

We enjoyed another Peter Piper Pizza night fundraiser. Free personal pizzas for staff and the students had a blast dancing the night away.



Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball season is up and running. Good Luck to our teams.

Congratulations to Sara in 6th grade for winning the District Spelling Bee. She will now move on to Regionals! Regional Bee is Saturday, February 22, in the Youngker High School Auditorium—3000 South Apache Road (off Watson Road and Lower Buckeye). The Bee will start at 9:00 a.m.



Student attendance matters. Thank you to our students who had perfect attendance for the second half of Quarter 2.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Collier Elementary School continued



Congratulations to fifth grade teacher [Oscar Hernandez Ortiz](#), who was recently selected by the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee at Arizona State University as this year's MLK Student Servant Leadership Award recipient for his work in the community and his passion to serve others.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Country Place Student Leading at the Leader in Me Symposium

Country Place Leadership Academy 7th grade student Zuri and 8th grade student Aliyah were selected to significant leadership roles in the upcoming Leader in Me Symposium being held in downtown Phoenix. Both students are team leads on the Student Lighthouse Team. Zuri will be introducing the MC for the day, internationally recognized leadership guru and author, Mr. Gary McGuey. Aliyah will be an expert member on a student panel fielding questions about leadership from the 200 plus participants. A special thanks to the staff Lighthouse Coordinators, [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#), [Mr. Cody Cherland](#) and [Mrs. Karina Hernandez](#) for supporting their leadership! We are very proud of their leadership and they are incredible representatives of Country Place Leadership Academy!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy continued

AWEsome Learning and Leadership Focus- Kindergarteners Show what they know!

On January 24th the amazing Country Place Leadership Academy kindergarteners participated in the annual Alphabet Parade. Each student was the master of a letter and marched around the campus being celebrated by the entire student body, their friends and their family. Each student decorated their shirt with examples of their letter. The celebration culminated in an ice cream party in the cafenadium. Student leaders helped serve the students and their families. A special thanks to kindergarten teachers, *Mrs. Jackie Davis*, *Mrs. Anastasia Hanns*, *Mrs. Karina Hernandez* and *Mrs. Jazmin Guadarrama*.



AWEsome Learning-Students are Math Geniuses!

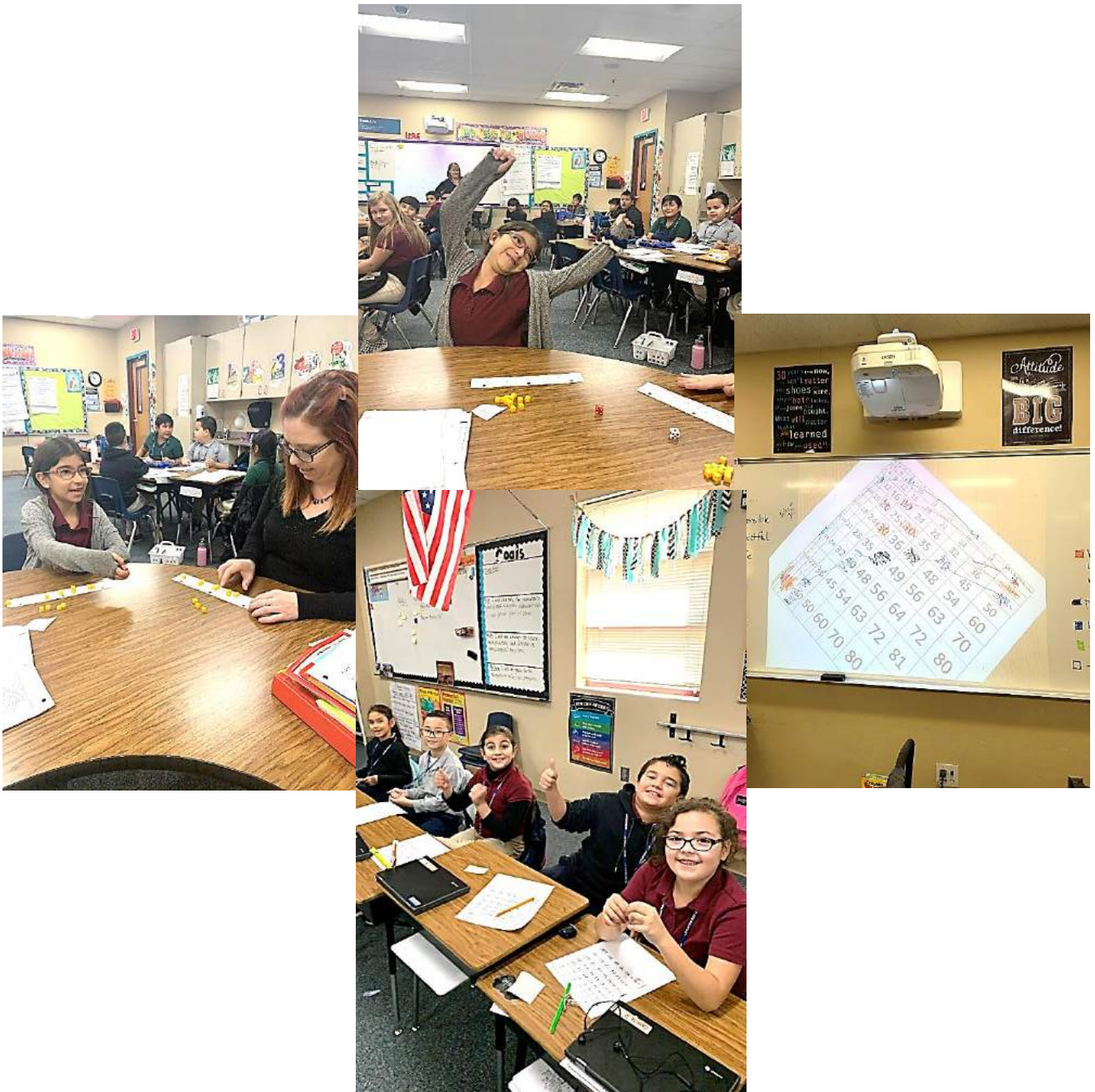
Students throughout Country Place Leadership Academy are working as genius mathematicians! Teachers are hard at work transforming the learning experience for students in order to inspire and engage students in high level learning. Students are using games to strengthen their fluency, reasoning and strategic thinking skills. Students are also having a great time learning! Zariyah in *Ms. Lynette Hill's* class taught District Math Leader, *Mrs. Sara Pearson* how to play a game and won in the process. Students in 3rd grade *Ms. Valerie Cowan's* classroom were looking at the multiplication chart in new ways and seeing patterns that mathematicians are sharing on social media! Great job Country Place staff and students!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be!

Inspirer of the Month- Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#), 5th grade 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 [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!



McTeacher Night- Estrella Vista hosted its first ever McTeacher Night on February 6th at McDonald's. During this time, students were able to see their favorite teacher work the McDonald's counters as well as bring them their dinner! Thank you to our Estrella Vista PTSA for this amazing opportunity for our students to come together!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista MESA Regionals - It has been a great year for the Estrella Vista MESA/STEM club! We are competing in several events this year. Challenges included designing and constructing a rocket launcher with an egg that will safely land, a portable disaster relief shelter, a bridge constructed from only PVC pipes, a working boat created from only tape and paper, 3D printing challenge to solve a real world problem and the onsite challenge! Our group of just under 20 students have been working hard all year long, applying the design thinking process to empathize, define, ideate, and build a prototype for their challenges. Lastly, testing that prototype followed by reflecting to make it better! We had our first competition this month hosted by Grand Canyon University. We only have 6 weeks left to prepare for the final "MESA Day " competition, and our kids couldn't be more excited to showcase all of their hard work.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Volleyball and Boys Soccer Make it to the Semi-finals- We are very proud of both our volleyball and boys soccer for making it all the way to the semi-finals. Congratulations to the volleyball team and their coaches [*Ms. Alyssa Nelson*](#) and [*Ms. Rebekah Smith*](#) on a great season. And congratulations to our soccer team, along with their coaches [*Mr. Rigoberto Gamez*](#) and [*Mr. David Cooper*](#) on a great season. It was great to watch the hard work and dedication from our athletes.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Kinder Love Performance- Kindergarteners Bring in a Full House for their Valentine's Love Performance. Thank you to our Kindergarten Team, *Mrs. Nicole Harned, Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson, Ms. Margaret Sauer, Ms. Laura Montano* and Kindergarten Paraprofessionals, *Ms. Fabiola Avina, Mrs. Blanca Silva and Mrs. Mary Rodriguez* for prepping our students for their annual Love Performance. The 7th annual Love Performance was held on Thursday, February 13th. 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.



3rd Annual Color Run- The Color Run was on Saturday, February 29th and we had a great turn out. Over 200 family and friends came out to run in color. We had many teacher and students volunteer all day to help with the event. Thank you for all the support. We made a sizable donation, to the Heather Began Scholarship. A special thank you to

Ms. Jesse Reyes, Ms. Jessica Gensel and all the other staff and students who helped to make this event a huge success!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

Littleton STEM Academy celebrated Read Across America week by inviting United Way guest readers from the City of Avondale as well as a guest reader from the Goodyear community. Our supportive community partners brought stories to life while modeling their life-long love of reading. On February 27th, we held our first ever *Read to Me Literacy Event* and had Author Patrick Carman visit us, – EVERY student who attended went home with a book!



We also held a Read Across America door-decorating contest – there were so many great works of art that we had to hold a drawing to choose the winner!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

As a community of readers, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a Literacy Spirit Week. Teachers and students displayed their love for the Cat in the Hat (Hat Day), Green Eggs and Ham (Green Day), Fox in Socks (Crazy Sock Day) – *Mrs. Stephanie Rudzki* and *Mr. Martin Fitch* are pictured below, Sleep Book (Pajama Day). We ended our weeklong celebration with a Book Character Parade! Yes! It's our leader Principal *Mr. Jim Verrill* as The Cat in the Hat! And there he is again with Cindy Lou Who from the Grinch Who Stole Christmas and Little Red Riding Hood (*Mrs. Celeste Kolinchak*)!



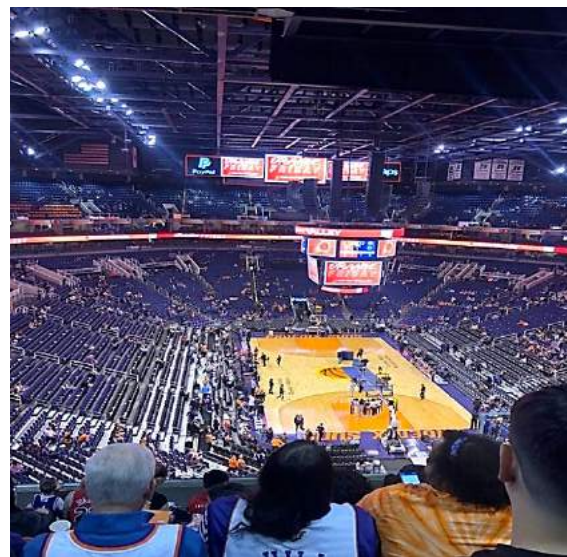


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy continued

Firebird Student Council members attended the AAJHS Student Retreat on Friday, February 28th, 2020. At the retreat, students from across the state of Arizona meet, played games, and participated in team building activities. Our Firebirds made new friends during the day and had a blast at the Suns game in the evening! The student council members were accompanied by [Mrs. Amanda Herrera](#) and [Ms. Ashley Perman](#) who facilitated activities to earn points towards Master Council. Go Firebirds!



Donuts with the Principial. Littleton STEM Academy's way to acknowledge students who had perfect attendance in the month of January!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy continued

On February 6th, Officer R. Dodge (Badge #1213) of the Avondale Police Department visited the Littleton STEM Academy campus. Officer Dodge joined our Kindergarten and 1st grade students for lunch. As you can see the students very much enjoyed meeting and spending time with him. They are already asking when he is coming back!



Littleton STEM Academy
Photo of the Month

Mr. Verrill & Legend

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

~Maya Angelo



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

We celebrated our certified employees of the month (*Ms. Erin McAlear* and *Ms. Jaqueline Lim*) of the month and our classified employee of the month (*Mr. Felipe Romero*). We had our first annual trunk or treat event in our parking lot. We were surprised to see all the families join us for this event. Cars were decorated and families came in droves to celebrate the event with us. We look forward to refining the event to incorporate some fun activities along with trick or treating! We celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Student council led the way in our fight against drugs and our pledge to be drug free. Lastly, we celebrated our “B” label with class!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The weather is finally starting to cool, but the opportunities for exciting family engagement on our campus are starting to heat up.



On October 19th, we celebrated Love our School Day with our local community partners. Puma families had the opportunity to check out a NASCAR pace car, explore a Sheriff's truck, take part in some physical challenges hosted by the NJROTC, paint rocks, and enjoy some delicious food. It was a great afternoon of family fun on our campus.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

On October 28th, our Student Council hosted a Trunk or Treat event. Hundreds of people filled the Tres Rios parking lot to take part in the trunk or treating, food, and an awesome haunted house sponsored by NJHS. We are so thankful for the efforts of everyone who helped make this an amazing community event.



Then on Wednesday, November 6th, we had the honor of hosting local heroes for our Veteran's Day Variety Show. This student led event was highlighted with readings, poems, songs, presentation of colors, the USO Dance Team, a POW/MIA tribute, and a touching video. A special thank you to [Mr. David Isham](#) for bringing the event to our campus and to our guest speaker, the Honorable Maurice Portley.



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



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Synergizing and Stomping out Bullying

To promote bullying awareness, CPLA had two student leaders present on the topic of bullying to each K-8th grade class. Students watched a video on bullying and had a class discussion on what bullying looks like, sounds like, feels like. The last week of the month, CPLA had a “blitz” to teach the topic of Empathy. The teachers read portions of some of these books:

- Wonder by R. J. Palacios
- Have you Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud
- Hey Little Ant by Phillip & Hannah Hoose
- The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss

Some teachers even decorated their bulletin boards to promote bullying awareness. Lastly, students and staff wore a blue shirt the first and last month of October to symbolize bullying awareness and pledge to stop, walk, and talk when it comes to bullying!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

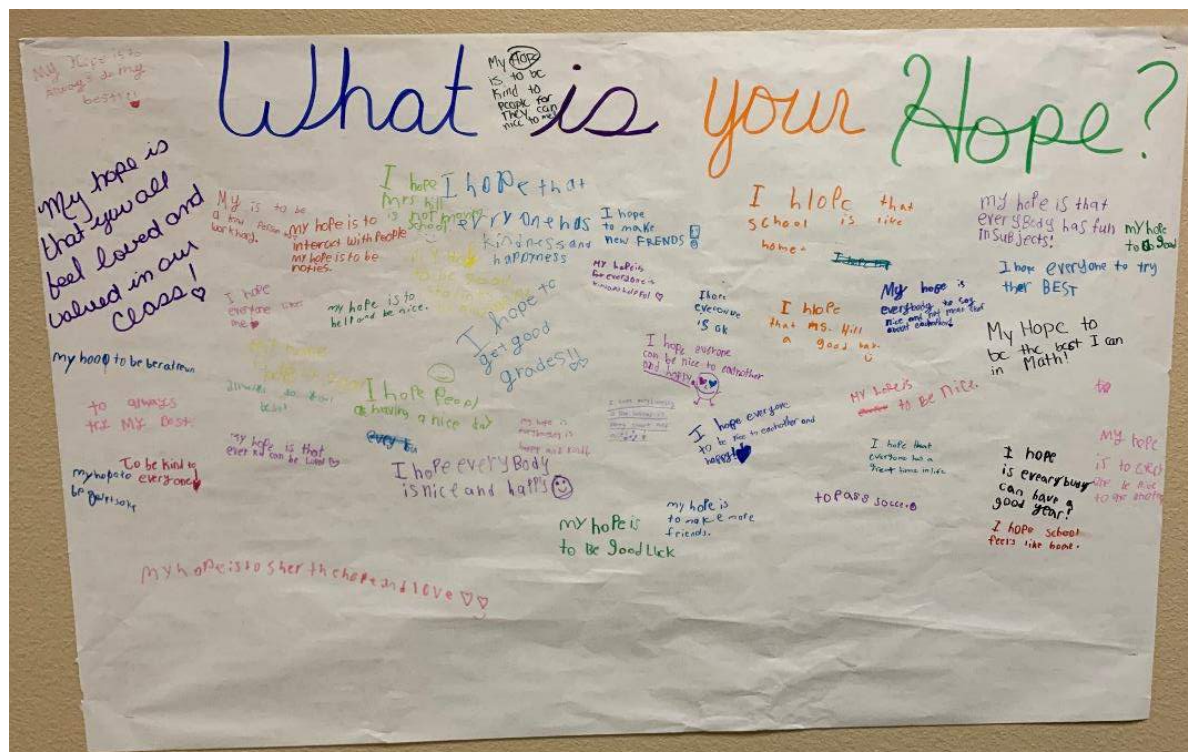
November 20, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued

Congratulations **Ms. Roberta Garcia**. State Senator Martin Quezada has nominated her for the Hispanic Leadership Institute-West (10 weeks total). Hispanic Leadership-West was created and facilitated by Valle del Sol, the Hispanic Leadership Forum and Estrella Mountain Community College. The organization aims to develop leaders in order to increase their participation in leadership roles throughout the Valley.

Kindergarten English Language Development Teacher, **Mrs. Jackie Davis** facilitated an incredible leadership and Kids at Hope activity with our staff. She asked staff members to put their hopes for our students on a big chart. It was a powerful experience that connected to habit 2, Beginning with the End in Mind and believing in our students' dreams. Many of our teachers were inspired by the activity and created Hope boards in the hallways for their students. Country Place Leaders are very proud of their hopes and dreams! Keep dreaming Mustangs! We can change the world!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

Collier ended Kids @ Hope week with having all students on the field to spell out hope. Thank you to [Ms. Ashleigh Done](#), [Ms. Kathryn Londrigan](#) and our Kids @ Hope Committee members.



Thank you to the women of SFE for providing a taco bar lunch for all of the staff on Taco Tuesday!

Student council members, with the help of [Ms. Leticia Mattei](#), [Ms. Samantha Gurley](#), as well as many other staff members, put on another successful Halloween Dance for grades 6-8.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Congratulations to Jayden for winning a scholarship to attend Washington DC in March. His winning video submission was excellent.



The annual Collier Trunk or Treat was another huge success. The parking lot was full of families in costumes and staff handing out candy.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Student Council attended the State Leadership Conference in Mesa. Students attended diversity presentations by the officer; class representatives attended a fundraising session, and listened to the Keynote address student councils from around the state.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Inspirer of the Month - Congratulations to [Ms. Megan Crawford](#), 2nd grade teacher, for excelling as the November Inspirer of the Month. [Ms. Crawford](#) is well deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis. [Ms. Crawford](#) not only teaches our 2nd grade students whom perform at high levels in achievement, but also works as a teacher leader in multiple capacities at Estrella Vista. Some of the leadership roles she has taken on over the past two years include; CST coordinator, Softball Coach, Sunshine committee leader and serves on our PTSA just to name a few. [Ms. Crawford](#) also works to support teachers who need assistance planning for interventions. Congratulations to [Ms. Megan Crawford](#) for receiving the November Teacher of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



Estrella Vista Excels During Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences- Way to go Hawks for your ability to get a total of 84% of our parents to face to face student led conferences during our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences! We are so proud of the Dedication and Collaboration our teachers and staff have to promote high student achievement

A special shout out to [Dr. Nicole Durazo](#) and [Ms. Amanda Hicks](#) for being duct taped to the wall. The school and community was buzzing with excitement the entire night! It was amazing to see the parent and community involvement and the amount of teacher and staff support. The event was such a success that it raised almost \$3,000 that will generate back into the learning here at Estrella Vista! A sincere thank you to all of the staff and students who worked diligently to make this event possible!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Fiesta Bowl Grant- Congratulations to [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), who was awarded the Fiesta Bowl Charities Grant of



\$5,000 for her classroom. She hopes to use this money to transform her classroom with more flexible seating options and an environment that provides more materials for STEM projects and online resources. She hopes this money will benefit the success of her students in order to give them a space they feel confident about their academic success. [Ms. Nelson](#) hopes to also use this money to give back to the Kids At Hope Committee and the Junior Pom Pom Squad. The Kids at Hope committee can use this money to carry out events for families throughout the school year and the Junior Pom Pom Squad can receive more materials to improve their performances such as mats and tumbling

equipment. This money is an opportunity to give students an opportunity to utilize a variety of materials in order to be successful in all areas of their career.

Kids at Hope Week- Kids at Hope week went off with flying colors. Thanks to [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#) and [Mr. Jason Mierczynski](#) for coordinating the events for the week. As the doors opened Tuesday morning, all their amazing teachers, who were cheering them on to a successful week of school, greeted students with a Tunnel of Hope. On Tuesday, we also wore our camo, wrote letters to soldiers, and reflected on the many ways to give back to our community for Community and Service Day. Wednesday we celebrated Hobbies and Recreation Day by participating in different games and activities with our color teams throughout the school. There were many different activities inside and outside of the school. The students and staff showed their support by wearing their class colors! It was a bright and joyous day for all. On Thursday, the school dressed up to represent their alma mater or future college choices for College and Career Day. ASU was a big hit that day, but everyone was proud to represent their colleges and carry on conversations of the importance of education in the future. Last, but not least, Friday we celebrated our school, Estrella Vista, and everyone was welcome to deck out in their blue and gold best. While all this was happening, [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#) had the opportunity to take 6 middle school students to the Time Travelers Summit where they got to time travel, learn new activities to take back to their home school and meet some friends from other schools that they shared their interests with as well. The Time Travelers Summit was a big hit and the students who attended are excited to bring back new material into the classrooms for Kids at Hope. Estrella Vista had a successful Kids At Hope week and we can't wait to continue watching our Time Travelers continue to soar!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Explore Learning Grant - Congratulations to [Mrs. Cynthia Landis](#) on being awarded a \$1500 one time, year-long grant through Explore Learning for a math program called Reflex. Reflex is an adaptive and individualized program. Reflex is the most effective system for mastering basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division for grades 2+. [Mrs. Landis](#)' class will be using Reflex to help them master their multiplication facts.

Girls Soccer Team Recognized at Governing Board Meeting - The Estrella Vista girls' soccer team was honored at the Governing Board meeting for winning the league championship. Ms. Delisa Perez was recognized as the Athlete of the Season. [Ms. Jesse Reyes](#) had the opportunity to speak about the season and to honor [Coach Heather Began](#). Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We are so proud of all of you!



Kids at Hope Canned Food Drive - This month the Kids at Hope committee held a food drive from November 4th – 15th. The teachers had a competition amongst their hallways to see who can bring in the most non-perishable items. It was the battle of the can food drive with all the proceeds going to St. Mary's Food Bank.

[Ms. Chantelle Ottens](#) competitive nature gave her the edge, with her class donating a total of 440 items. Her class won a class pizza party. [Mrs. Jacquelyn Robinson](#) came in second with 219 items donated and [Ms. Ashley Chapman](#) with 205 items donated. The classes with over 150 items donated were [Ms. Michelle Pitters](#), [Mrs. Sandra Gallegos](#), [Mrs. Irma Ochoa](#), and [Mrs. Lori Bowden](#). We would like to congratulate all students and staff who participated. With their contribution as a school, we donated 3,162 items to the St. Mary's food bank to help families in need for the holidays. Thank you to the Kids at Hope committee for all their hard work to make the food drive a huge success.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

At Littleton STEM Academy, we KNOW the significance of celebrating along our learning journey as well as supporting students' social-emotional learning (SEL). On September 19, our Kindergarten students and teachers shared their celebration of emergent literacy through an Alphabet Parade. In turn, we embraced their celebration and the opportunity to support our youngest learners' social-emotional learning. We, as a collective learning community, are committed to creating an active, engaging learning environment that promotes a life-long love of learning AND reading!



The Littleton STEM Academy Makerspace is growing and we continue to discover more positive outcomes from this project! As we strive for optimal growth and development in each of our students, [*Ms. Maria Gutierrez*](#) (our Librarian), embraces the opportunity to partner with classroom teachers to support students' social-emotional ability to learn. According to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (2012), this is especially important for children of trauma or adverse childhood experiences, as well as children navigating new experiences such as new siblings or family members. We KNOW social-emotional learning (SEL) is critical - not only for academic success but also life-long success!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

The September 14th Littleton Stem Academy PTA's Peter Piper Pizza Family Night was a success! Our school community participation was outstanding. Besides raising funds for our school, we were given an awesome opportunity to build and foster trusting relationships that support the optimal success of our students and families. Our students, parents, and staff cheered, laughed and of course, took pictures as our [*Principal, Mr. Jim Verrill*](#), participated in the ice cream eating contest not once, but twice! He was a fierce competitor for the students and they loved it!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

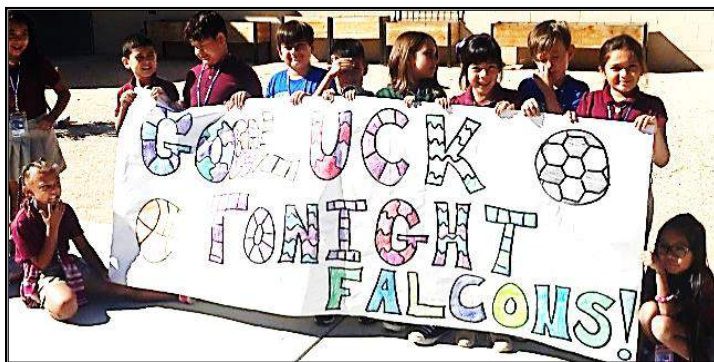
October 2, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

On Monday September 30, the Falcons Boys Basketball team took home their first Championship! The boys took on EVES and won the trophy in a close game of 59-53. Congratulations [Coach Brian Tuttle](#) and team- we are so proud of your accomplishments this season!



We held our pep rally the day of the championship games to hype up our Girls Soccer and Boys Basketball teams. The teachers and student body went all out with banners and chants in support of our teams. Awesome season [Coach Mía De La Rosa](#), [Coach Michelle Walla](#), and [Coach Brian Tuttle](#)! Let's Go Flacons, Let's Go!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 2, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

The first annual Littleton Café was a wonderful opportunity for our schools and district to build relationships and partnerships with local businesses. It was also another opportunity for Off-Beat to shine. Their performance included the song “The Greatest Show” tying into our theme: We Are Who We Are Meant to Be!



This year our Falcon PTSA meetings will feature performances from different grade levels. At the September meeting, 4th grade helped PTSA kick off the year and displayed their Arts Integration skills through song, dance, and shadow puppetry!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 2, 2019

Office of School Support

The Technology Department is getting ready to welcome another intern from Estrella Mountain Community College. [*Ms. Lynette Duran*](#) will be starting on Tuesday, October 8. She will learn how to diagnose and fix laptop issues as well as the ticketing system.

Special thank you to [*Ms. Maribel Barroso*](#), [*Ms. Karla LaMunyon*](#), [*Mr. Anthony Musil*](#), [*Mr. Mark Morgan*](#), [*Mr. Tim Turner*](#) and [*Mr. Jaime Reyna*](#) for their help putting together gift bags, setting up and taking pictures during the Littleton Café. Also, thank you to [*Mr. Uriel Contreras*](#) for having a school choice video ready to play for the attendees and as well at the This is Me kickoff.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 16, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy



We had our first Be Fit Be Healthy night for our community. The Be Fit Crew came out and got our families' active through dance and movement to educate the Quentin community how easy it is to get healthy and have fun doing so. The same evening we held Curriculum night. We had kindergarten through 8th grade families come in to the school to talk with staff members about what their students are learning and how they can support their children at home. Quentin STEM participated in the first annual School Connect event. At this event, we worked to continue to build our community partnerships with our existing partners. We were able to celebrate our staff members of the month, [Ms. Jacqueline Lim](#), [Ms. Chanel Phillips](#) and [Mr. Felipe Romero](#). They all have been exceptional on our campus this year! Parent conferences were the first week

of October. We had many parents on campus participating in student led conferences. During this time, our sunshine committee had dinner for our staff and they delivered goodies to all staff members the following day to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we had our first quarterstaff vs. student competition this year. The staff played the students in kick ball. Staff battled the students to a 9-2 defeat keeping their perfect record against the Quentin student body!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 16, 2019

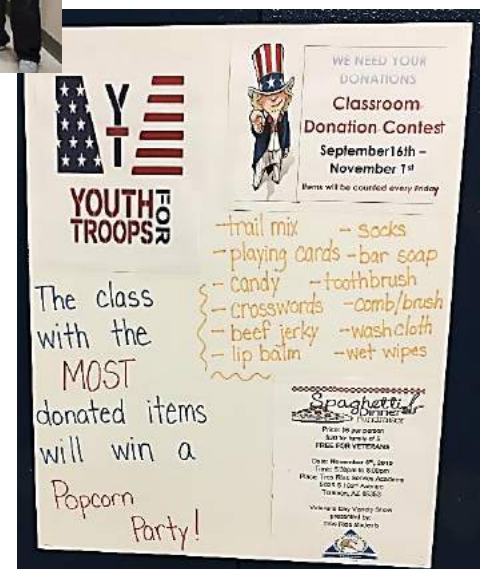
Tres Rios Leadership Academy

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

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, our Student Council and National Junior Honor Society teamed up to help our Pumas feel welcomed and loved as they came through our doors on 10/1. Kindness chains hung from the ceilings and students lined the hallways with signs, high fives, and cheers as students entered.



As we prepare to honor our Veterans in November, our students have partnered with Youth For Troops to collect donations for our troops overseas. Each classroom is participating in this opportunity to give to those who give so much for us.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Collier Elementary School

On Saturday, October 19, we celebrated Love Our School Day by improving the playgrounds. Parents, students and staff painted lines on the basketball courts and installed new basketball nets and tetherball equipment





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Collier Elementary School continued

Congratulations to our students who earned perfect attendance for the first and second half of the quarter!






GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019


Collier Elementary School


continued

Student Counsel is conducting their fourth annual Food Drive during the weeks of October 14 and 21. All food items collected will go to help St. Mary's Food Bank.



Student Council's 4th Annual Collier Food Drive
Helping support the St. Mary's Food Bank.





October 14-25, 2019

Please bring in non-perishable canned & boxed food items to your homerooms.
The homeroom (from K-2, 3-5, 6-8) who brings in the most items will win an ice cream party!

Thank you for helping support our community!



Collier conducted a Kids @ Hope assembly for all students and staff to review our school attendance and interim data as well as select our collaboration teams for the year.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

On Saturday, October 19 two months of planning by students, staff and community members paid off in horseshoes and leadership quotes! Student Lighthouse Team members Ciarra, Ashely and Makayla with the support of [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#) designed and coordinated a painting project on the front walkway of Country Place. The student leaders designed the project. They coordinated with PPG Paints of Goodyear's store manager, Mr. Bill Demartino and Sales Representative Mr. Chip Nassoiy to donate over \$1000 in paint and supplies. They also coordinated with Catitude Arts Director, Ms. Bonnie Smith and her incredible student artists on the design and implementation of the project. On October 19, more than 50 students, staff, parents and community volunteers came together to Leaderize Country Place Leadership Academy. Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy continued

Country Place Leadership Academy hosted our Principal for the Day, Mrs. Eileana Felix Gudino. Mrs. Gudino is the Director of Education and Youth at Valley of the Sun United Way. She had the opportunity to shadow [Dr. Michael Cagle](#) as he went about his day on Friday October 18. She went on a tour facilitated by the Country Place Student Ambassadors. She visited classrooms and interacted with students and staff. She had an opportunity to play the math game, Shut the Box, with [Mrs. Sheila McCalpine's class](#) and see how engaging and fun math can be!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [*Ms. Rosie Fleeman*](#), 6th grade teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month for September. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) included: “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) is always someone that you can TRUST and count on.”; “[*Rosie*](#) gives RESPECT to colleagues and students.”; “[*Rosie*](#) always shows INTEGRITY by doing what she says she will do.”; “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) COLLABORATES with all staff and is a team player who holds herself to high standards.”; and “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) is extremely DEDICATED to her students and is always working hard to better our school.” [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) goes above and beyond and dedicates herself to all students and community. Thank you [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) and congratulations on this achievement!



Estrella Vista STEM Academy started off the school year spreading unity to STOMP Out Bullying. We kicked off National Bully Prevention Month by participating in our #BlueUp day. Students and staff wore blue in support of standing up against bullying. We continued bully prevention month with posting bullying messages around our campus to remind students to stand up against bullying! We are currently participating in “mix it up” lunch week where students are encouraged to eat with someone new and make sure no one eats alone. As a school, we are continuing to stomp out bullying on our campus and our “be kind” club is reflecting while collaborating on ways to stop bullying! A special thank you to [*Ms. Rebekah Smith*](#) and [*Ms. Jessica Gensel*](#) for coordinating these efforts to help stomp out bullying at *Estrella Vista*.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista's Junior Pom and Middle School Cheerleaders cheered their way through the Billy Moore Days Parade on Saturday, October 19th. From cheering to stunting and getting the community involved the teams worked hard together to make it an enjoyable day. Shout out to the coaches, parents, and Kids at Hope Ambassadors who took time out of their day to help make this a successful day. The team took 3rd place overall in the parade and will be receiving a trophy as well as prize money to celebrate their success. These girls work hard to earn their spot in the community recognition. Thank you to our fantastic coaches, [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#), [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#), [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), and [Ms. Laura Montano](#), for their dedication to helping our girls be the best that they can be.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Love our schools day at Estrella Vista was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help us paint. The obstacle courses look amazing. A special thank you to the NHS students from Millennium High School for volunteering their time to help us. Thank you to all of those that helped out. We could not have done it without you! The students LOVE the obstacle course!!! Also, thank you to the Phoenix Tool Bank, Home Depot and Fry's for their generous donations and use of tools to make our day successful!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

The staff at Estrella Vista would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Quentin Sunshine Committee, who wanted to support us during this difficult time. They provided subs and chips for lunch on Friday. In addition, they are also donating a tree with solar lights in remembrance of [Ms. Heather Began](#). We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and support!



Three of our EV classes recently visited the Musical Instrument Museum. [Ms. Daisy Sandoval's](#) 3rd graders, [Ms. Victoria Camarillo's](#) 4th graders, and [Ms. Paula Hernandez's](#) 5th graders learned about how STEM and music work together to make the sounds we all love to hear. They were able to see instruments from different countries, visit exhibits featuring popular musicians of today, and even play many of the instruments they learned about! It was a fun learning experience for everyone. Thank you to [Mr. Michael Spielman](#) for all your work organizing and planning the trip to help expand our student's knowledge about STEM and music.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista STEM Academy is excited to celebrate one of our very own, [Mrs. Suyen Kimme](#). [Mrs. Kimme](#) is completing her student teacher hours with the third grade family. [Mrs. Kimme](#) a recent graduate of Grand Canyon University, and will be transitioning into her very own classroom. As a school, we are thrilled to be keeping [Mrs. Kimme](#) here on campus and supporting her as she takes on first grade! She has grown within the walls of EVSA from supporting our students in kinder, lunch, third grade and so much more. Congratulations [Mrs. Suyen Kimme](#) on your accomplishment!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

We are excited to launch “Lunch Time in the Maker’s Space”. Students earn the opportunity to have lunch in the Maker’s Space with peers from other classes. The goal is to promote creativity, innovation, and collaborative problem solving all while having A LOT of fun!



Littleton STEM Academy’s Annual Fall Festival was a HUGE success! Our community joined our students and families for Community and Family Night for Kids At Hope (KAH). The event included a “Trunk or Treat” best decorations contest and treats for children! The two first place winners of “Best Trunk” are pictured below – Toy Story 4 hosted by [Ms. Napua Alvarez](#) and family and a Spooky- Scary community entry. Attendees also enjoyed a costume contest (see above with [Ms. Cassandra Lockard](#)), games, concessions and a monster movie. Thanks to [Ms. Amanda Herrera](#) and her team, the annual Haunted House was a SPOOKY, SCARY success with 324 visitors!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy continued



Littleton STEM Academy 3rd grade students attended Ballet Arizona's performance of Napoli! How exciting! From our 3rd Grade Lead, [*Ms. Cassandra Lockard*](#). On October 24th, our third grade Firebirds attended Ballet Arizona courtesy of ActOne Field Trips. Students had the opportunity to observe a ballet class as well as sneak a peek behind the scenes of Ballet Arizona. They enjoyed seeing all the hard work of stagehands, who built the magical set of Napoli. Students also learned a few basic ballet movements from trained dancers and watched as the dancers told the romantic story of Gennero and Teresina in the magical blue grotto. After the performance, students were able to ask questions and meet the principal dancers from Ballet Arizona.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

Our morning Art Club is getting ready for the Grandparents Day Luncheon on September 6th. Shout out to [Ms. Michelle Walla](#) for helping them prepare this beautiful banner!



We know you were all there... but we can't help but brag about all of our incredible musicians and their performance at the Littleton District Kickoff! [Mr. Travis White](#) did amazing job preparing our students to perform for the District Kick-Off!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

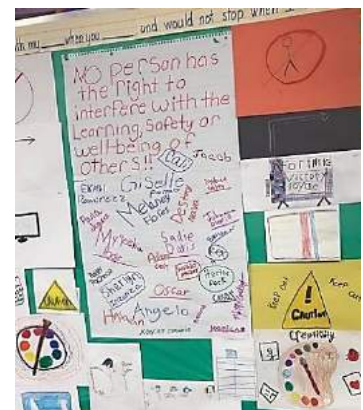
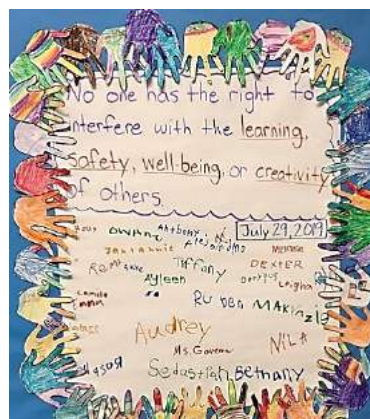
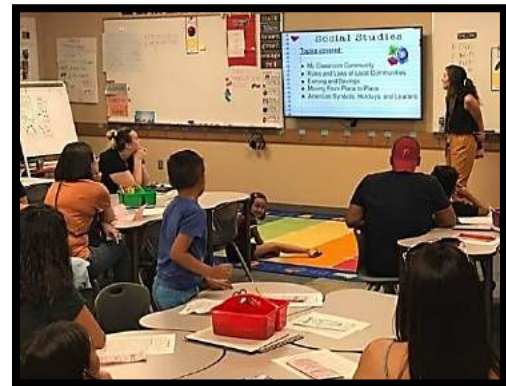
Fine Arts Academy

continued

Curriculum night was a success! It is always nice to see parents, students, and teachers working as a team to ensure all students succeed!



There is only one rule on our campus and we love that our teachers and students have embraced their creativity in displaying the rule! Here are a few of the awesome displays:





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

Littleton Elementary STEM Academy is committed to forging trusting relationships with our students and families. Our goal is to build partnerships with parents and families that support the optimal development and learning of each and every student who walks through our doors. Friday, August 23rd was PTA Movie Night. As a caring community of learners, we enjoyed a movie, snacks, and many laughs! We are thankful to our growing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for bringing us together and our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members (lead by Ms. Balogun) for volunteering to set-up and clean up.



On Wednesday, August 21st, Littleton Elementary STEM Academy 2nd grade teachers attended Content PD in Science provided by our district office. Led by Student Achievement Coach [Kathy Larm](#), they embraced the opportunity to immerse themselves in an active learning experience framed around the new 2018 AZ Science Standards. The team now feels prepared and excited to plan engaging new experiences in science for their students!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Office of School Support

The Technology Department is pleased to welcome [*Joshua Pederson*](#). [*Mr. Pederson*](#) is our intern from Estrella Mountain Community College; he will be working with the department this semester. He will obtain hands on experience regarding fixing damaged laptops, learning the ticket system, help desk and the network systems.

Thank you to the Technology Team for supporting the Professional Development Day on August 29th. The team showed up early at Palm Valley Church to ensure a smooth set up. [*Uriel Contreras*](#) stayed in the booth to make sure videos and slide shows played on schedule. [*Tim Turner*](#), [*Alex Celestino*](#), [*Brian Carey*](#), [*Jaime Reyna*](#), [*Anthony Musil*](#) and [*Mark Morgan*](#) took pictures and provided support as needed during the event. From there, the team went out to the different sites to make sure all set ups were complete and running without issues, before returning to the office to participate in their own professional development.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

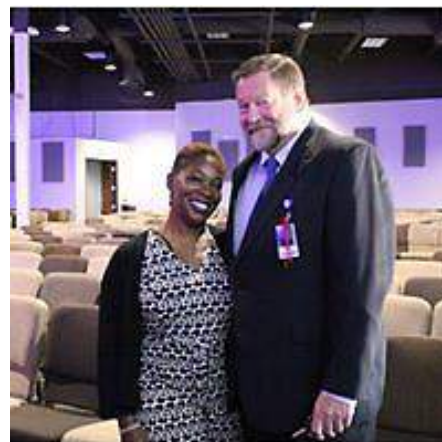
September 4, 2019

Instructional Quality & Staff Development Office

The Instructional Quality and Staff Development office was very busy in the month of August. We had our first Content PD day, where there was differentiated instruction going on throughout the district. Our Physical Education teachers had a real treat, with the Phoenix Coyotes organization coming out to not only deliver professional development, but also supplies for the teachers to use! It looked like a lot of fun and great learning in this PD!

The other big day, was August 29th! We had a super speaker in the morning and differentiated professional development in the afternoon. Our speaker, Erika Battle, kept us focused! She even did a session in the afternoon for about 90 employees.

Thank you to all the facilitators and staff that made these two events meaningful and successful!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 11, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a fantastic start at Tres Rios. Students and staff have shown their Puma pride through their efforts to rise up and meet expectations both in and out of the classroom.

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 Curriculum Night/Kids At Hope Night on August 26th. Families learned how to partner with the school to ensure their student's success while also collaborating with their student to set achievement goals for the upcoming year.

On Friday, September 6th, we recognized our Kids At Hope students of the month at our all-school assembly. Students shared in the celebration of their classmates by excitedly cheering them on as they were called on to the stage. Student Council assisted with the organization of the assembly and took pictures of our recipients to commemorate their accomplishments.

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





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 11, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

We had our first family event of the year, which was our 3rd Annual PTA Family Bingo Night. Families came to play bingo and eat hotdogs and hamburgers.

This year we started monthly staff snack days. August was our first month to do this and we had raspados (shaved ice) in the teachers' lounge for our staff members. Staff members shared that it came at a great time and was a pleasant surprise!

Lastly, we celebrated our certified and classified staff members of the month. We want to thank 3rd grade teacher [*Ms. Mary Mesich*](#), 5th grade teacher [*Ms. Melissa Saucier*](#) and Librarian [*Ms. Elizabeth Garcia*](#) for all their hard work in the opening weeks of the school year to support staff, students and families for a strong start to the school year.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School



Congratulations to [*Ms. Amanda Catterall*](#) for her nomination and winning an award from Chik-Fil-A! The contest was about how a teacher had a positive impact on a child's life and education. One of her former parents completed a nomination that explained the impact [*Ms. Amanda Catterall*](#) had on her child last year.

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

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September 18, 2019

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

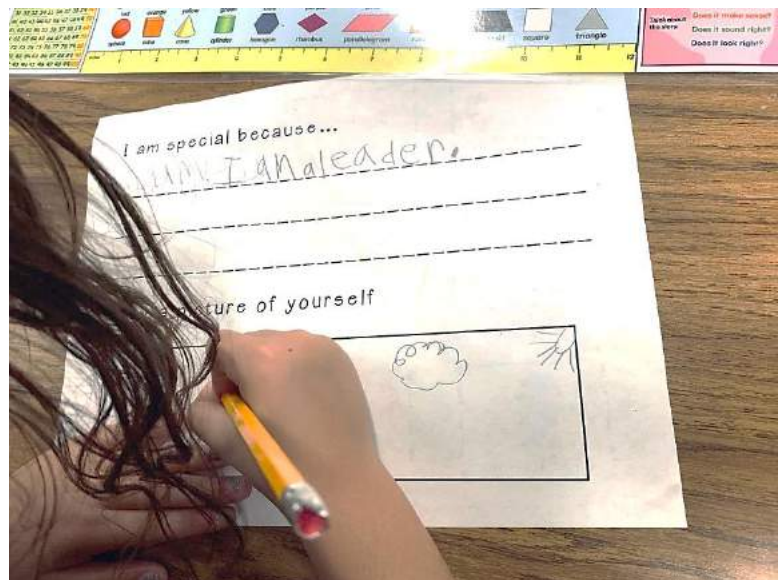
September 18, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy continued



Country Place Leadership Academy staff had a great kickoff to the school year with many of our governmental partners! At the Littleton District Kickoff Event, Principal [*Dr. Michael Cagle*](#) and 6th grade teacher [*Ms. Ashley Farrell*](#) took a great picture with State Senator Mr. Lupe Contreras, State Representative Mr. Diego Espinoza, State Representative Mr. Lorenzo Sierra and Avondale City Councilwoman [*Ms. Veronica Malone*](#). Country Place is looking forward to building on the partnerships with our local, state and national leaders to make a positive impact in our community.

This picture of a student's answer to "I am special because..." is what we are all about at Country Place Leadership Academy!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 25, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

At Littleton STEM Academy, we KNOW the significance of celebrating along our learning journey as well as supporting students' social-emotional learning (SEL). On September 19, our Kindergarten students and teachers shared their celebration of emergent literacy through an Alphabet Parade. In turn, we embraced their celebration and the opportunity to support our youngest learners' social-emotional learning. We, as a collective learning community, are committed to creating an active, engaging learning environment that promotes a life-long love of learning AND reading!



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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 25, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 25, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be!

Inspirer of the Month- [Ms. Evangelina McCue](#), Kindergarten Paraprofessional

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 25, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 25, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued



EVES Hawk Pride in Athletics- Thank you to our boys basketball coaches, [*Mr. Stephen Batchelder*](#) and [*Mr. Bronson Goodsell*](#), girls' soccer coaches, [*Ms. Jesse Reyes*](#) and [*Ms. Heather Began*](#), and our cheer coaches, [*Mr. Antonio Bryant*](#) and [*Ms. Rachel Vlieg*](#). 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!





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September 25, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

Our morning Art Club is getting ready for the Grandparents Day Luncheon on September 6th. Shout out to [Ms. Michelle Walla](#) for helping them prepare this beautiful banner!



We know you were all there... but we can't help but brag about all of our incredible musicians and their performance at the Littleton District Kickoff! [Mr. Travis White](#) did amazing job preparing our students to perform for the District Kick-Off!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

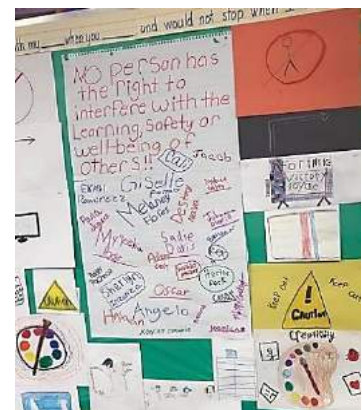
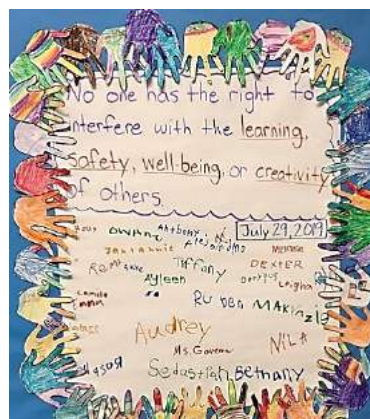
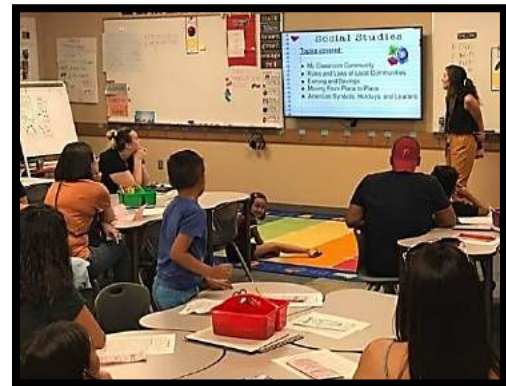
Fine Arts Academy

continued

Curriculum night was a success! It is always nice to see parents, students, and teachers working as a team to ensure all students succeed!



There is only one rule on our campus and we love that our teachers and students have embraced their creativity in displaying the rule! Here are a few of the awesome displays:





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

Littleton Elementary STEM Academy is committed to forging trusting relationships with our students and families. Our goal is to build partnerships with parents and families that support the optimal development and learning of each and every student who walks through our doors. Friday, August 23rd was PTA Movie Night. As a caring community of learners, we enjoyed a movie, snacks, and many laughs! We are thankful to our growing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for bringing us together and our National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members (lead by Ms. Balogun) for volunteering to set-up and clean up.



On Wednesday, August 21st, Littleton Elementary STEM Academy 2nd grade teachers attended Content PD in Science provided by our district office. Led by Student Achievement Coach [Kathy Larm](#), they embraced the opportunity to immerse themselves in an active learning experience framed around the new 2018 AZ Science Standards. The team now feels prepared and excited to plan engaging new experiences in science for their students!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 4, 2019

Office of School Support

The Technology Department is pleased to welcome [*Joshua Pederson*](#). [*Mr. Pederson*](#) is our intern from Estrella Mountain Community College; he will be working with the department this semester. He will obtain hands on experience regarding fixing damaged laptops, learning the ticket system, help desk and the network systems.

Thank you to the Technology Team for supporting the Professional Development Day on August 29th. The team showed up early at Palm Valley Church to ensure a smooth set up. [*Uriel Contreras*](#) stayed in the booth to make sure videos and slide shows played on schedule. [*Tim Turner*](#), [*Alex Celestino*](#), [*Brian Carey*](#), [*Jaime Reyna*](#), [*Anthony Musil*](#) and [*Mark Morgan*](#) took pictures and provided support as needed during the event. From there, the team went out to the different sites to make sure all set ups were complete and running without issues, before returning to the office to participate in their own professional development.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

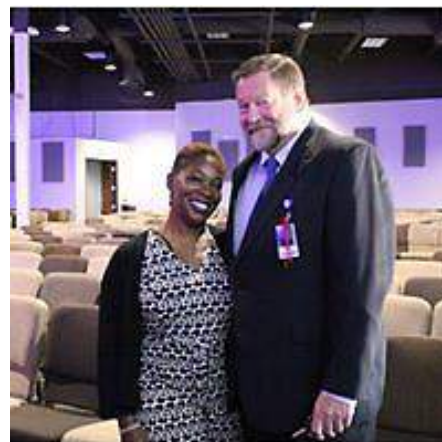
September 4, 2019

Instructional Quality & Staff Development Office

The Instructional Quality and Staff Development office was very busy in the month of August. We had our first Content PD day, where there was differentiated instruction going on throughout the district. Our Physical Education teachers had a real treat, with the Phoenix Coyotes organization coming out to not only deliver professional development, but also supplies for the teachers to use! It looked like a lot of fun and great learning in this PD!

The other big day, was August 29th! We had a super speaker in the morning and differentiated professional development in the afternoon. Our speaker, Erika Battle, kept us focused! She even did a session in the afternoon for about 90 employees.

Thank you to all the facilitators and staff that made these two events meaningful and successful!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 11, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a fantastic start at Tres Rios. Students and staff have shown their Puma pride through their efforts to rise up and meet expectations both in and out of the classroom.

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 Curriculum Night/Kids At Hope Night on August 26th. Families learned how to partner with the school to ensure their student's success while also collaborating with their student to set achievement goals for the upcoming year.

On Friday, September 6th, we recognized our Kids At Hope students of the month at our all-school assembly. Students shared in the celebration of their classmates by excitedly cheering them on as they were called on to the stage. Student Council assisted with the organization of the assembly and took pictures of our recipients to commemorate their accomplishments.

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





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 11, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

We had our first family event of the year, which was our 3rd Annual PTA Family Bingo Night. Families came to play bingo and eat hotdogs and hamburgers.

This year we started monthly staff snack days. August was our first month to do this and we had raspados (shaved ice) in the teachers' lounge for our staff members. Staff members shared that it came at a great time and was a pleasant surprise!

Lastly, we celebrated our certified and classified staff members of the month. We want to thank 3rd grade teacher [*Ms. Mary Mesich*](#), 5th grade teacher [*Ms. Melissa Saucier*](#) and Librarian [*Ms. Elizabeth Garcia*](#) for all their hard work in the opening weeks of the school year to support staff, students and families for a strong start to the school year.





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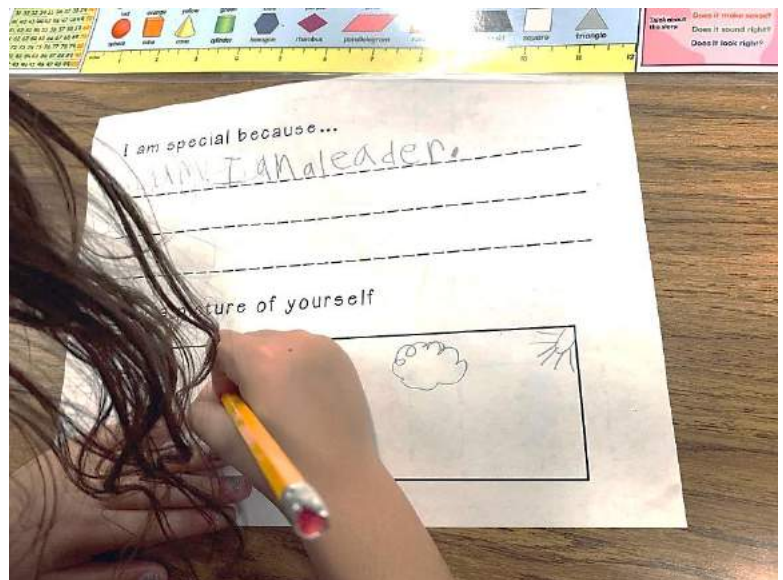
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GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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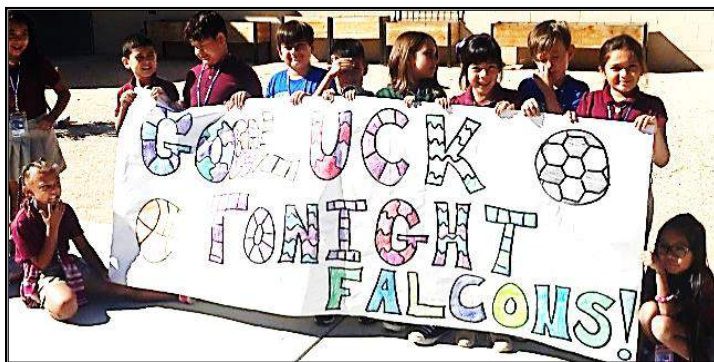
October 2, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

On Monday September 30, the Falcons Boys Basketball team took home their first Championship! The boys took on EVES and won the trophy in a close game of 59-53. Congratulations [Coach Brian Tuttle](#) and team- we are so proud of your accomplishments this season!



We held our pep rally the day of the championship games to hype up our Girls Soccer and Boys Basketball teams. The teachers and student body went all out with banners and chants in support of our teams. Awesome season [Coach Mía De La Rosa](#), [Coach Michelle Walla](#), and [Coach Brian Tuttle](#)! Let's Go Flacons, Let's Go!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 2, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

The first annual Littleton Café was a wonderful opportunity for our schools and district to build relationships and partnerships with local businesses. It was also another opportunity for Off-Beat to shine. Their performance included the song “The Greatest Show” tying into our theme: We Are Who We Are Meant to Be!



This year our Falcon PTSA meetings will feature performances from different grade levels. At the September meeting, 4th grade helped PTSA kick off the year and displayed their Arts Integration skills through song, dance, and shadow puppetry!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 2, 2019

Office of School Support

The Technology Department is getting ready to welcome another intern from Estrella Mountain Community College. [*Ms. Lynette Duran*](#) will be starting on Tuesday, October 8. She will learn how to diagnose and fix laptop issues as well as the ticketing system.

Special thank you to [*Ms. Maribel Barroso*](#), [*Ms. Karla LaMunyon*](#), [*Mr. Anthony Musil*](#), [*Mr. Mark Morgan*](#), [*Mr. Tim Turner*](#) and [*Mr. Jaime Reyna*](#) for their help putting together gift bags, setting up and taking pictures during the Littleton Café. Also, thank you to [*Mr. Uriel Contreras*](#) for having a school choice video ready to play for the attendees and as well at the This is Me kickoff.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 16, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy



We had our first Be Fit Be Healthy night for our community. The Be Fit Crew came out and got our families' active through dance and movement to educate the Quentin community how easy it is to get healthy and have fun doing so. The same evening we held Curriculum night. We had kindergarten through 8th grade families come in to the school to talk with staff members about what their students are learning and how they can support their children at home. Quentin STEM participated in the first annual School Connect event. At this event, we worked to continue to build our community partnerships with our existing partners. We were able to celebrate our staff members of the month, [*Ms. Jacqueline Lim*](#), [*Ms. Chanel Phillips*](#) and [*Mr. Felipe Romero*](#). They all have been exceptional on our campus this year! Parent conferences were the first week

of October. We had many parents on campus participating in student led conferences. During this time, our sunshine committee had dinner for our staff and they delivered goodies to all staff members the following day to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Lastly, we had our first quarterstaff vs. student competition this year. The staff played the students in kick ball. Staff battled the students to a 9-2 defeat keeping their perfect record against the Quentin student body!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 16, 2019

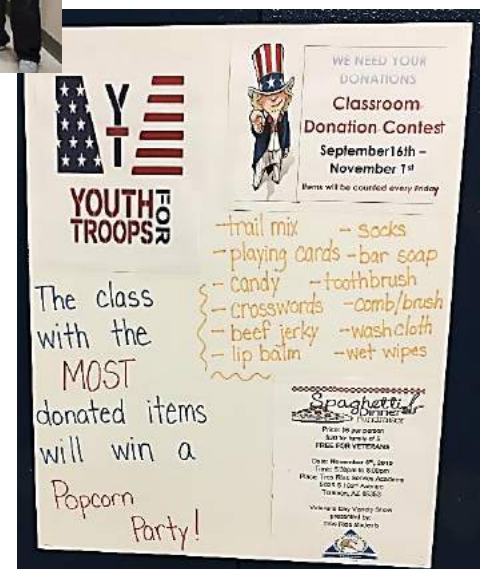
Tres Rios Leadership Academy

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

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, our Student Council and National Junior Honor Society teamed up to help our Pumas feel welcomed and loved as they came through our doors on 10/1. Kindness chains hung from the ceilings and students lined the hallways with signs, high fives, and cheers as students entered.



As we prepare to honor our Veterans in November, our students have partnered with Youth For Troops to collect donations for our troops overseas. Each classroom is participating in this opportunity to give to those who give so much for us.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Collier Elementary School

On Saturday, October 19, we celebrated Love Our School Day by improving the playgrounds. Parents, students and staff painted lines on the basketball courts and installed new basketball nets and tetherball equipment





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Collier Elementary School continued

Congratulations to our students who earned perfect attendance for the first and second half of the quarter!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Student Counsel is conducting their fourth annual Food Drive during the weeks of October 14 and 21. All food items collected will go to help St. Mary's Food Bank.



Student Council's 4th Annual Collier Food Drive

Helping support the St. Mary's Food Bank.



October 14-25, 2019

Please bring in non-perishable canned & boxed food items to your homerooms.

The homeroom (from K-2, 3-5, 6-8) who brings in the most items will

win an ice cream party!

Thank you for helping support our community!



Collier conducted a Kids @ Hope assembly for all students and staff to review our school attendance and interim data as well as select our collaboration teams for the year.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

On Saturday, October 19 two months of planning by students, staff and community members paid off in horseshoes and leadership quotes! Student Lighthouse Team members Ciarra, Ashely and Makayla with the support of [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#) designed and coordinated a painting project on the front walkway of Country Place. The student leaders designed the project. They coordinated with PPG Paints of Goodyear's store manager, Mr. Bill Demartino and Sales Representative Mr. Chip Nassoiy to donate over \$1000 in paint and supplies. They also coordinated with Catitude Arts Director, Ms. Bonnie Smith and her incredible student artists on the design and implementation of the project. On October 19, more than 50 students, staff, parents and community volunteers came together to Leaderize Country Place Leadership Academy. Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy continued

Country Place Leadership Academy hosted our Principal for the Day, Mrs. Eileana Felix Gudino. Mrs. Gudino is the Director of Education and Youth at Valley of the Sun United Way. She had the opportunity to shadow [Dr. Michael Cagle](#) as he went about his day on Friday October 18. She went on a tour facilitated by the Country Place Student Ambassadors. She visited classrooms and interacted with students and staff. She had an opportunity to play the math game, Shut the Box, with [Mrs. Sheila McCalpine's class](#) and see how engaging and fun math can be!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [*Ms. Rosie Fleeman*](#), 6th grade teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month for September. Some of the great nomination statements made from students and staff about [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) included: “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) is always someone that you can TRUST and count on.”; “[*Rosie*](#) gives RESPECT to colleagues and students.”; “[*Rosie*](#) always shows INTEGRITY by doing what she says she will do.”; “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) COLLABORATES with all staff and is a team player who holds herself to high standards.”; and “[*Ms. Fleeman*](#) is extremely DEDICATED to her students and is always working hard to better our school.” [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) goes above and beyond and dedicates herself to all students and community. Thank you [*Ms. Fleeman*](#) and congratulations on this achievement!



Estrella Vista STEM Academy started off the school year spreading unity to STOMP Out Bullying. We kicked off National Bully Prevention Month by participating in our #BlueUp day. Students and staff wore blue in support of standing up against bullying. We continued bully prevention month with posting bullying messages around our campus to remind students to stand up against bullying! We are currently participating in “mix it up” lunch week where students are encouraged to eat with someone new and make sure no one eats alone. As a school, we are continuing to stomp out bullying on our campus and our “be kind” club is reflecting while collaborating on ways to stop bullying! A special thank you to [*Ms. Rebekah Smith*](#) and [*Ms. Jessica Gensel*](#) for coordinating these efforts to help stomp out bullying at *Estrella Vista*.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista's Junior Pom and Middle School Cheerleaders cheered their way through the Billy Moore Days Parade on Saturday, October 19th. From cheering to stunting and getting the community involved the teams worked hard together to make it an enjoyable day. Shout out to the coaches, parents, and Kids at Hope Ambassadors who took time out of their day to help make this a successful day. The team took 3rd place overall in the parade and will be receiving a trophy as well as prize money to celebrate their success. These girls work hard to earn their spot in the community recognition. Thank you to our fantastic coaches, [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#), [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#), [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), and [Ms. Laura Montano](#), for their dedication to helping our girls be the best that they can be.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Love our schools day at Estrella Vista was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help us paint. The obstacle courses look amazing. A special thank you to the NHS students from Millennium High School for volunteering their time to help us. Thank you to all of those that helped out. We could not have done it without you! The students LOVE the obstacle course!!! Also, thank you to the Phoenix Tool Bank, Home Depot and Fry's for their generous donations and use of tools to make our day successful!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

The staff at Estrella Vista would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Quentin Sunshine Committee, who wanted to support us during this difficult time. They provided subs and chips for lunch on Friday. In addition, they are also donating a tree with solar lights in remembrance of [Ms. Heather Began](#). We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and support!



Three of our EV classes recently visited the Musical Instrument Museum. [Ms. Daisy Sandoval's](#) 3rd graders, [Ms. Victoria Camarillo's](#) 4th graders, and [Ms. Paula Hernandez's](#) 5th graders learned about how STEM and music work together to make the sounds we all love to hear. They were able to see instruments from different countries, visit exhibits featuring popular musicians of today, and even play many of the instruments they learned about! It was a fun learning experience for everyone. Thank you to [Mr. Michael Spielman](#) for all your work organizing and planning the trip to help expand our student's knowledge about STEM and music.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista STEM Academy is excited to celebrate one of our very own, [Mrs. Suyen Kimme](#). [Mrs. Kimme](#) is completing her student teacher hours with the third grade family. [Mrs. Kimme](#) a recent graduate of Grand Canyon University, and will be transitioning into her very own classroom. As a school, we are thrilled to be keeping [Mrs. Kimme](#) here on campus and supporting her as she takes on first grade! She has grown within the walls of EVSA from supporting our students in kinder, lunch, third grade and so much more. Congratulations [Mrs. Suyen Kimme](#) on your accomplishment!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

We are excited to launch “Lunch Time in the Maker’s Space”. Students earn the opportunity to have lunch in the Maker’s Space with peers from other classes. The goal is to promote creativity, innovation, and collaborative problem solving all while having A LOT of fun!



Littleton STEM Academy’s Annual Fall Festival was a HUGE success! Our community joined our students and families for Community and Family Night for Kids At Hope (KAH). The event included a “Trunk or Treat” best decorations contest and treats for children! The two first place winners of “Best Trunk” are pictured below – Toy Story 4 hosted by [Ms. Napua Alvarez](#) and family and a Spooky- Scary community entry. Attendees also enjoyed a costume contest (see above with [Ms. Cassandra Lockard](#)), games, concessions and a monster movie. Thanks to [Ms. Amanda Herrera](#) and her team, the annual Haunted House was a SPOOKY, SCARY success with 324 visitors!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy continued



Littleton STEM Academy 3rd grade students attended Ballet Arizona's performance of Napoli! How exciting! From our 3rd Grade Lead, [Ms. Cassandra Lockard](#). On October 24th, our third grade Firebirds attended Ballet Arizona courtesy of ActOne Field Trips. Students had the opportunity to observe a ballet class as well as sneak a peek behind the scenes of Ballet Arizona. They enjoyed seeing all the hard work of stagehands, who built the magical set of Napoli. Students also learned a few basic ballet movements from trained dancers and watched as the dancers told the romantic story of Gennero and Teresina in the magical blue grotto. After the performance, students were able to ask questions and meet the principal dancers from Ballet Arizona.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

We celebrated our certified employees of the month (*Ms. Erin McAlear* and *Ms. Jaqueline Lim*) of the month and our classified employee of the month (*Mr. Felipe Romero*). We had our first annual trunk or treat event in our parking lot. We were surprised to see all the families join us for this event. Cars were decorated and families came in droves to celebrate the event with us. We look forward to refining the event to incorporate some fun activities along with trick or treating! We celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Student council led the way in our fight against drugs and our pledge to be drug free. Lastly, we celebrated our “B” label with class!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The weather is finally starting to cool, but the opportunities for exciting family engagement on our campus are starting to heat up.



On October 19th, we celebrated Love our School Day with our local community partners. Puma families had the opportunity to check out a NASCAR pace car, explore a Sheriff's truck, take part in some physical challenges hosted by the NJROTC, paint rocks, and enjoy some delicious food. It was a great afternoon of family fun on our campus.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

continued

On October 28th, our Student Council hosted a Trunk or Treat event. Hundreds of people filled the Tres Rios parking lot to take part in the trunk or treating, food, and an awesome haunted house sponsored by NJHS. We are so thankful for the efforts of everyone who helped make this an amazing community event.



Then on Wednesday, November 6th, we had the honor of hosting local heroes for our Veteran's Day Variety Show. This student led event was highlighted with readings, poems, songs, presentation of colors, the USO Dance Team, a POW/MIA tribute, and a touching video. A special thank you to [Mr. David Isham](#) for bringing the event to our campus and to our guest speaker, the Honorable Maurice Portley.



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



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Synergizing and Stomping out Bullying

To promote bullying awareness, CPLA had two student leaders present on the topic of bullying to each K-8th grade class. Students watched a video on bullying and had a class discussion on what bullying looks like, sounds like, feels like. The last week of the month, CPLA had a “blitz” to teach the topic of Empathy. The teachers read portions of some of these books:

- Wonder by R. J. Palacios
- Have you Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud
- Hey Little Ant by Phillip & Hannah Hoose
- The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss

Some teachers even decorated their bulletin boards to promote bullying awareness. Lastly, students and staff wore a blue shirt the first and last month of October to symbolize bullying awareness and pledge to stop, walk, and talk when it comes to bullying!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

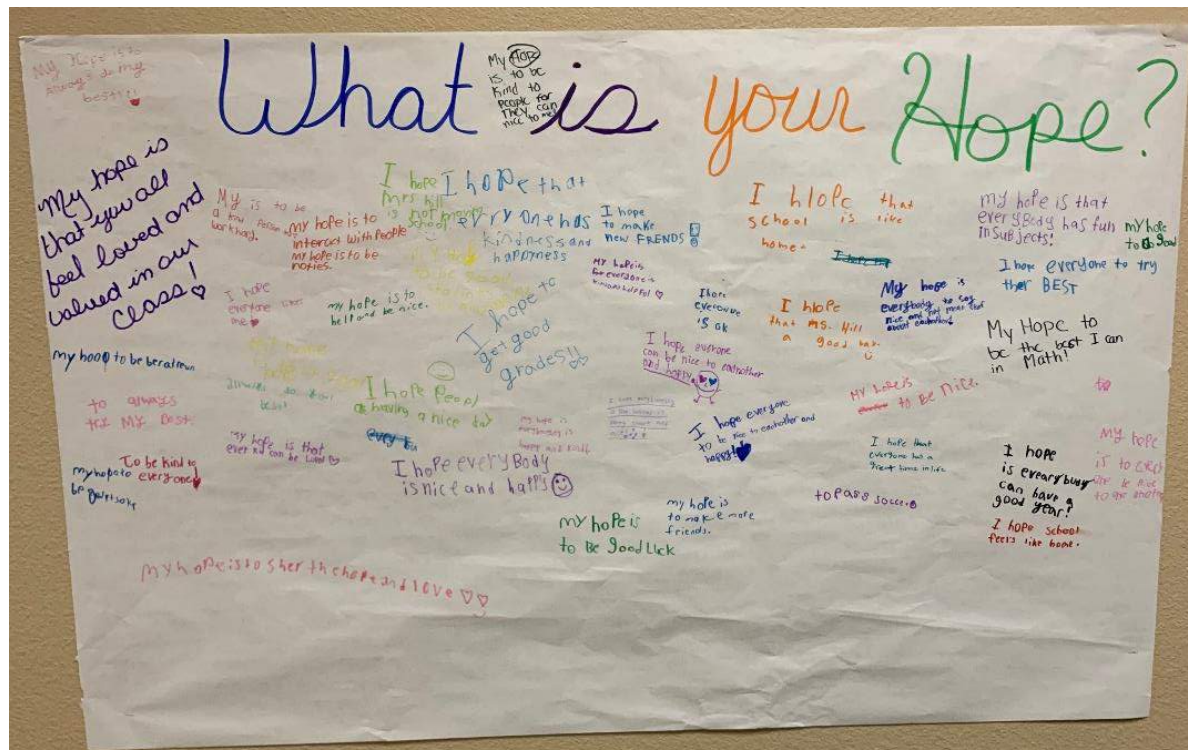
November 20, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued

Congratulations **Ms. Roberta Garcia**. State Senator Martin Quezada has nominated her for the Hispanic Leadership Institute-West (10 weeks total). Hispanic Leadership-West was created and facilitated by Valle del Sol, the Hispanic Leadership Forum and Estrella Mountain Community College. The organization aims to develop leaders in order to increase their participation in leadership roles throughout the Valley.

Kindergarten English Language Development Teacher, **Mrs. Jackie Davis** facilitated an incredible leadership and Kids at Hope activity with our staff. She asked staff members to put their hopes for our students on a big chart. It was a powerful experience that connected to habit 2, Beginning with the End in Mind and believing in our students' dreams. Many of our teachers were inspired by the activity and created Hope boards in the hallways for their students. Country Place Leaders are very proud of their hopes and dreams! Keep dreaming Mustangs! We can change the world!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

Collier ended Kids @ Hope week with having all students on the field to spell out hope. Thank you to [Ms. Ashleigh Done](#), [Ms. Kathryn Londrigan](#) and our Kids @ Hope Committee members.



Thank you to the women of SFE for providing a taco bar lunch for all of the staff on Taco Tuesday!

Student council members, with the help of [Ms. Leticia Mattei](#), [Ms. Samantha Gurley](#), as well as many other staff members, put on another successful Halloween Dance for grades 6-8.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Congratulations to Jayden for winning a scholarship to attend Washington DC in March. His winning video submission was excellent.



The annual Collier Trunk or Treat was another huge success. The parking lot was full of families in costumes and staff handing out candy.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Student Council attended the State Leadership Conference in Mesa. Students attended diversity presentations by the officer; class representatives attended a fundraising session, and listened to the Keynote address student councils from around the state.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Inspirer of the Month - Congratulations to [Ms. Megan Crawford](#), 2nd grade teacher, for excelling as the November Inspirer of the Month. [Ms. Crawford](#) is well deserving of this award in demonstrating our values on a consistent basis. [Ms. Crawford](#) not only teaches our 2nd grade students whom perform at high levels in achievement, but also works as a teacher leader in multiple capacities at Estrella Vista. Some of the leadership roles she has taken on over the past two years include; CST coordinator, Softball Coach, Sunshine committee leader and serves on our PTSA just to name a few. [Ms. Crawford](#) also works to support teachers who need assistance planning for interventions. Congratulations to [Ms. Megan Crawford](#) for receiving the November Teacher of the Month Award! We are so fortunate to have you as a part of the Estrella Vista family!



Estrella Vista Excels During Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences- Way to go Hawks for your ability to get a total of 84% of our parents to face to face student led conferences during our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences! We are so proud of the Dedication and Collaboration our teachers and staff have to promote high student achievement

A special shout out to [Dr. Nicole Durazo](#) and [Ms. Amanda Hicks](#) for being duct taped to the wall. The school and community was buzzing with excitement the entire night! It was amazing to see the parent and community involvement and the amount of teacher and staff support. The event was such a success that it raised almost \$3,000 that will generate back into the learning here at Estrella Vista! A sincere thank you to all of the staff and students who worked diligently to make this event possible!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Fiesta Bowl Grant- Congratulations to [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), who was awarded the Fiesta Bowl Charities Grant of



\$5,000 for her classroom. She hopes to use this money to transform her classroom with more flexible seating options and an environment that provides more materials for STEM projects and online resources. She hopes this money will benefit the success of her students in order to give them a space they feel confident about their academic success. [Ms. Nelson](#) hopes to also use this money to give back to the Kids At Hope Committee and the Junior Pom Pom Squad. The Kids at Hope committee can use this money to carry out events for families throughout the school year and the Junior Pom Pom Squad can receive more materials to improve their performances such as mats and tumbling

equipment. This money is an opportunity to give students an opportunity to utilize a variety of materials in order to be successful in all areas of their career.

Kids at Hope Week- Kids at Hope week went off with flying colors. Thanks to [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#) and [Mr. Jason Mierczynski](#) for coordinating the events for the week. As the doors opened Tuesday morning, all their amazing teachers, who were cheering them on to a successful week of school, greeted students with a Tunnel of Hope. On Tuesday, we also wore our camo, wrote letters to soldiers, and reflected on the many ways to give back to our community for Community and Service Day. Wednesday we celebrated Hobbies and Recreation Day by participating in different games and activities with our color teams throughout the school. There were many different activities inside and outside of the school. The students and staff showed their support by wearing their class colors! It was a bright and joyous day for all. On Thursday, the school dressed up to represent their alma mater or future college choices for College and Career Day. ASU was a big hit that day, but everyone was proud to represent their colleges and carry on conversations of the importance of education in the future. Last, but not least, Friday we celebrated our school, Estrella Vista, and everyone was welcome to deck out in their blue and gold best. While all this was happening, [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#) had the opportunity to take 6 middle school students to the Time Travelers Summit where they got to time travel, learn new activities to take back to their home school and meet some friends from other schools that they shared their interests with as well. The Time Travelers Summit was a big hit and the students who attended are excited to bring back new material into the classrooms for Kids at Hope. Estrella Vista had a successful Kids At Hope week and we can't wait to continue watching our Time Travelers continue to soar!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Explore Learning Grant - Congratulations to [Mrs. Cynthia Landis](#) on being awarded a \$1500 one time, year-long grant through Explore Learning for a math program called Reflex. Reflex is an adaptive and individualized program. Reflex is the most effective system for mastering basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division for grades 2+. [Mrs. Landis](#)' class will be using Reflex to help them master their multiplication facts.

Girls Soccer Team Recognized at Governing Board Meeting - The Estrella Vista girls' soccer team was honored at the Governing Board meeting for winning the league championship. Ms. Delisa Perez was recognized as the Athlete of the Season. [Ms. Jesse Reyes](#) had the opportunity to speak about the season and to honor [Coach Heather Began](#). Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We are so proud of all of you!



Kids at Hope Canned Food Drive - This month the Kids at Hope committee held a food drive from November 4th – 15th. The teachers had a competition amongst their hallways to see who can bring in the most non-perishable items. It was the battle of the can food drive with all the proceeds going to St. Mary's Food Bank.

[Ms. Chantelle Ottens](#) competitive nature gave her the edge, with her class donating a total of 440 items. Her class won a class pizza party. [Mrs. Jacquelyn Robinson](#) came in second with 219 items donated and [Ms. Ashley Chapman](#) with 205 items donated. The classes with over 150 items donated were [Ms. Michelle Pitters](#), [Mrs. Sandra Gallegos](#), [Mrs. Irma Ochoa](#), and [Mrs. Lori Bowden](#). We would like to congratulate all students and staff who participated. With their contribution as a school, we donated 3,162 items to the St. Mary's food bank to help families in need for the holidays. Thank you to the Kids at Hope committee for all their hard work to make the food drive a huge success.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

At Littleton STEM Academy, we KNOW the significance of celebrating along our learning journey as well as supporting students' social-emotional learning (SEL). On September 19, our Kindergarten students and teachers shared their celebration of emergent literacy through an Alphabet Parade. In turn, we embraced their celebration and the opportunity to support our youngest learners' social-emotional learning. We, as a collective learning community, are committed to creating an active, engaging learning environment that promotes a life-long love of learning AND reading!



The Littleton STEM Academy Makerspace is growing and we continue to discover more positive outcomes from this project! As we strive for optimal growth and development in each of our students, [*Ms. Maria Gutierrez*](#) (our Librarian), embraces the opportunity to partner with classroom teachers to support students' social-emotional ability to learn. According to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (2012), this is especially important for children of trauma or adverse childhood experiences, as well as children navigating new experiences such as new siblings or family members. We KNOW social-emotional learning (SEL) is critical - not only for academic success but also life-long success!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 27, 2019

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

The September 14th Littleton Stem Academy PTA's Peter Piper Pizza Family Night was a success! Our school community participation was outstanding. Besides raising funds for our school, we were given an awesome opportunity to build and foster trusting relationships that support the optimal success of our students and families. Our students, parents, and staff cheered, laughed and of course, took pictures as our *Principal, Mr. Jim Verrill*, participated in the ice cream eating contest not once, but twice! He was a fierce competitor for the students and they loved it!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Office of School Support

Up until now all 8 of our sites have been connected by a 1 gig microwave connection. All 8 sites are now connected by a 10gig fiber connection. The last connections were completed Tuesday, November 12, 2019 morning. This project was completed at no cost to the District using Federal and State funds. We hope that this will future proof the District for connections between sites as the 10gig fiber connection can be increased with very little effort.



On November 12, the Office of School Support hosted an informational meeting addressing Adult ESL classes. We had an enormous turnout and were thrilled to see so much interest in this subject from our community members. A big shout out to [Ms. Lucy Ito](#) and [Mr. Carlos Gomez](#) for heading up this project. We appreciate the work they have done to make this goal a reality. The classes will begin January 14, 2020, and continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. for the entire second semester. Classes are in the Operations Conference Room. Best of all: the classes are tuition free! We look forward to serving our community with this adult education opportunity





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

WE ARE SO PROUD of our 11 Arizona State Honor Choir singers selected to represent Fine Arts Academy and the Littleton Elementary School district so well! These 11 musicians from 5th-8th grade sang with the best singers from around the state of Arizona! Wonderful job coaching these students, [Mr. Travis White](#)!



The fall play, *My Fair Redneck*, a parody of the musical *My Fair Lady*, was a comedic success! We are so proud of our Fine Arts Thespians and their director [Mrs. Meg Peterson](#)!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

We had a fun week celebrating how we are ALL Kids at Hope every single day! Each day had a different theme from time traveling to careers to spirit day and our students and staff went all out!



Mrs. Beth Raymond's kindergarten class had a Cultural Sharing Day! They learned about families from Mexico and Cuba. One student from Ethiopia that was too shy to share his dance and one student from China just wanted to share her headphones 😊 The class also tasted some authentic food!





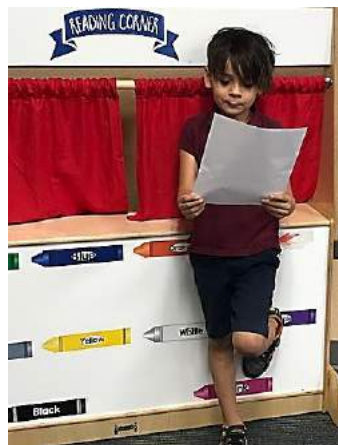
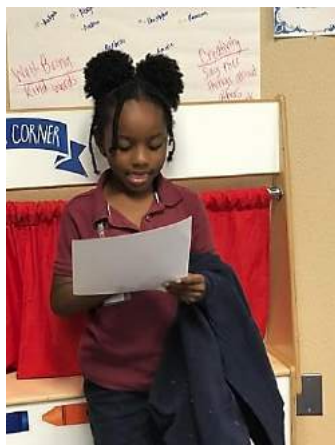
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Students in *Ms. Kayla Price's* kindergarten class were proud to share with *Mr. Charles Blanton* why they love the Fine Arts Academy. In November we celebrated AEA American Education Week by writing the thing we like most about our school.



Big shout-out to the teachers, staff, and parents who helped to support our PTSA fundraiser! These fabulous volunteers served and assisted during our Culver's night





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Ms. Michelle Walla and six of her Kids at Hope Student Leaders has the awesome opportunity to join schools around the West Valley at the annual Kids at Hope Summit. Our students had the opportunity to meet students from other schools and were inspired by the Hope2 Talks presented by high school students





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Fine Arts had an amazing turnout for our Turkey Trot and Thanksgiving dinner! We had over 300 family members join us for these festivities!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 4, 2019

Fine Arts Academy

continued

Mr. Travis White and the DaCapo choir students have been hard at work preparing for the Winter Suite! The students took a field trip to La Joya to rehearse with their choirs in order to prepare for this joint concert. Here are some sneak preview photos to hold us over until the concert!





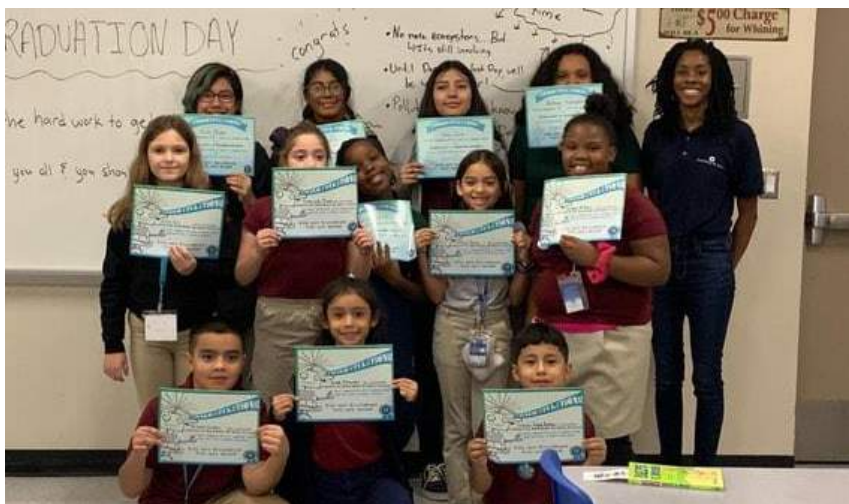
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2019

Quentin STEM Academy

Lots of great things happening at QUES. We had Officer Emmet come onto campus to speak with our 6th-8th grade students about bullying and cyber bullying.

We celebrated our first attendance field day. All students that had perfect attendance for second quarter had the opportunity to engage in sporting events, board games, educational computer games, drawing and dance time. The one and a half hour period was a hit amongst our student and staff body.



We graduated our first set of students from Read Better be Better. We celebrated with the facilitators of the program and our families joined in for the fun.

We had our first annual k-3 holiday concert performance. [Ms. Brittany Truax](#) did a phenomenal job directing our students in this performance. We had parents and the student body cheering our young sharks along!

Lastly we won the flag football championship! Our boys were in a hard fought battle with EV and came out on top. Go Sharks!!!



Quentin STEM Academy

Cordially invites you to join us for our

K-3 Winter Concert

Monday, December 9, 2019

2-3pm in the Cafeteria





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2019

Tres Rios Service Academy

The last month of 2019 has been a busy one for Tres Rios.



On the evening of December 5th, Tres Rios students and parents came together to support the Arizona Children's Association by bringing a toy donation and watching the Grinch at our family movie night. Students brought their favorite blanket and dressed in comfy pajamas as they enjoyed concessions and a night fun.



Second grade classes had a successful field trip on December 6th to the Crayola Experience. Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered and attended the field trip! Students enjoyed spending time with families while engaged in extended learning activities.

December 10th was the Tres Rios spelling bee. Congratulations to Adriana Cantu and Daniel Schultz and good luck representing Tres at the district competition!



This year's winter dance will be held on December 19th. Student will continue to support the Arizona Children's Association by allowing access to the dance with a toy donation.

As the end of 2019 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 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

Ms. Karen Witt and the NJHS students volunteered at a local mission to fill food boxes for families to get them through the holidays.



Ms. Michelle Younghans and the Robotics team competed for state and placed 9th out of 20th, missing qualifying by one place.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School continued

The Collier Band, under the leadership and guidance of [Ms. Marissa Wilt](#), contuse to grow and improve. Last week we had another wonderful Band Concert.



Thank you to [Ms. Marissa Rodriguez](#), [Ms. Linda Stallard](#), the PTA and Collier staff for providing a Santa Holiday Shop for families. Besides shopping for gifts, there were also opportunities to create crafts, eat popcorn, drink hot chocolate, and watch a holiday movie.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Collier Elementary School

continued

Congratulations to our students that had perfect attendance during the first half of quarter 2.



Country Place Leadership Academy

The National Junior Honor Society held their annual Food Drive with St. Vincent De Paul. Our school community donated 1,684 non-perishable food items. There was a friendly competition amongst homerooms to see who could collect the most items. The top classes were *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez's* 5th grade class with 673 items, *Ms. Lynette Hill's* 2nd grade class with 153 items, and *Ms. Rocio Ruiz's* 4th grade class with 134 items. A special thanks to NJHS sponsors *Ms. Roberta Garcia* and *Ms. Julie Fach*. Great job Country Place Leaders!

This year Country Place has teamed up, upper and lower grade classes to make "buddy classrooms." The buddy classrooms meet regularly to support each other in leadership and learning. This month many of the buddy classrooms met and used Habit 7 to Sharpen the Saw! A special thanks to 7th grade teacher, *Ms. Tatum Green* for setting up the buddy classroom system!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2019

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued



We began the year with 44 students who were Well Below Benchmark in reading in Kindergarten. Through the hard work of our students, staff and kinder families 31 of those students have significantly improved their reading! Eleven of those students are Above Benchmark and fourteen of those students are Benchmark. Reading at grade level is a strong predictor of later success in school and life. We are very proud of the work going on in Country Place's amazing kindergarten. A special thanks to kindergarten teachers, [*Ms. Jackie Davis*](#), [*Ms. Anastacia Hanns*](#), [*Ms. Karina Hernandez*](#) and [*Ms. Jazmin Guadaramma*](#) and to everyone else that supports our kindergarteners!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be!

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





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Estrella Vista Junior Poms Participate in the Glow on Monroe Parade- Estrella Vista's pom-pom cheer squad had the opportunity to perform in the Glow on Monroe parade on Saturday, December 14th 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 show casing their talents. There was stunts, lots of walking and applauding from the crowd who was watching. A special thank you to [Mrs. Imelda Gomez](#) for making the beautiful tutu's, [Ms. Laura Montano](#) for providing the lights, and to the coaches [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Vlieg](#) for all the dedication and hard-work you put into making these vicarious experiences happen for the young ladies.



Softball Wins the Championship and Flag Football Takes Second- Congratulations to the softball team on becoming league champions and their coaches [Ms. Megan Crawford](#) and [Ms. Rosie Fleeman](#). And congratulations to our flag football team for taking second, along with their coaches [Mr. Rigoberto Gamez](#) and [Mr. Bronson Goodsell](#). 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](#) and [Ms. Rachel Vlieg](#).





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Winter Band Concert - On December 5th, the beginner band and 6th-8th grade bands performed their first concert of the school year. Both bands performed at an extremely high musical level. The beginning band played songs that used up to 4 notes, which is incredibly impressive for students that just began learning their instrument at the beginning of the year. The 6th-8th grade band performed works by famous composer Beethoven and other holiday favorites! We are looking forward to our next concert on May 7th! A special thank you to [Mr. Joseph Mansfield](#) for all his hard work to make the band concert a huge success!!



Talent Show - December 12th was a special day for Estrella Vista. We were able to time travel into individuals' futures and show case their talents. EV had their annual talent show which included singing and dancing and was run by student ambassadors from the Kids at Hope Committee. There were two shows throughout the day, during the day time show students will able to perform for their classmates and friends and in the evening we invited families to watch the magic happen. We appreciate all the support we received from our ACES and friends and without them it would not have been possible. As the Kids at Hope Committee we were happy with the success of the performance and can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

Lego League Tournament - On Saturday, December 7th, 2019, our EVSA Robotics team had the opportunity to participate in the Arizona FIRST LEGO League. FIRST LEGO League is an exciting and fun global robotics program, designed to ignite an enthusiasm for discovery of the basic principles of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) in children, ages 9 to 14. This program creates a call to action for children in the state of Arizona to take risks and think big in order to create innovative solutions for everyday problems in our communities. Together with the partnership of Arizona State University, they create an inclusive program and life changing experience for our students and their futures.

EVSA team consists of 7th and 8th graders, Exploring Potential Students. Rain, Emmanuel, Diego, Garry, Juan, Jasmine, Jason, Jaden, Alexia, Danielle, and Scott, have been working really hard since 1st quarter to be able to participate in this event. The two coaches are [Mrs. Adriana Amavisca](#), k-8 Exploring Potential teacher, and [Ms. Karla Encinas](#), 1st grade teacher. Parents were very supportive and they joined us the day of the competition, as well as our Principal, [Dr. Nicole Durazo](#) and [Ms. Victoria Camarillo](#). The tournament took place at Carl Hayden Community High School from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The tournament has 3 components: An innovation project, in which the team has to identify a problem in their community and present an innovative solution to it. A robot game, where the team has to design, build, and program a LEGO robot to complete missions. Finally a team presentation where the team shows how they applied the 6 Core Values of this event during the process: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun. During all these 3 participations, the teams are evaluated and interviewed by judges. No other adults are allowed to be present.

The Robot game matches were scheduled after lunch. During the first round, our team did a great job making 15th place out of 32 teams. During the second round, we experienced some technical difficulties and went down to place 17th. During the third round, things didn't go very well, which placed us 20th out of 32.

Overall, our experience was fantastic and all the hard work, challenges, and dedication were worth it. Our students had the opportunity to learn about the Engineering Design Process, find solutions to real world problems, design, build, code and program a robot to perform specific tasks, but most of all the experience gained during the learning process, the hard work, trial and error, perseverance, team work, and the core values, are invaluable lessons that will stay forever in our students' lives and will help build the foundation for their future.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

EVSA Robotics Team



Spelling Bee - Arduous, A-R-D-U-O-U-S, an adjective coming from the Latin word Arduus, meaning requiring great exertion; laborious; difficult. That is what each of the participants in the 2019 Estrella Vista STEM Academy that took place on Tuesday December 17th for our Bee went through. They exerted themselves and worked really hard to get to the School Bee. Spelling in front of your class and then a large audience can be difficult, but because of their laborious hard work, we had the longest Spelling Bee yet, consisting of over 30 rounds. Our second place winner is Roy Salazar from [Ms. Rosie Fleeman's](#) 6th grade class. Our Champion is Parker Nguyen, who is a 7th grader. He will go on to compete and represent EV at the District Level Spelling Bee on January 16th.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy



Is there a better way to end a great quarter than with some hot cocoa and cider? 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 2nd annual Holiday Restaurant. The social groups consisted of students in the general education, resource, and cross-categorical self-contained program. This collaborative group has worked to help students address a variety of their pragmatic language, social emotional, and behavior goals. 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. They also had the opportunity to serve a celebrity patron – [Dr. Roger Freeman](#)! We are so proud of how our students showcased their progress improving their social behavior and communication!



Our Littleton STEM Academy first semester Read Better Be Better Leaders and Readers graduated on December 2nd. Parents, LNES staff and students celebrated with stories and refreshments. Each of the Leaders and Readers earned certificates and were awarded books. Our next group of Leaders and Readers begin their reading journey on Wednesday, January 15th.



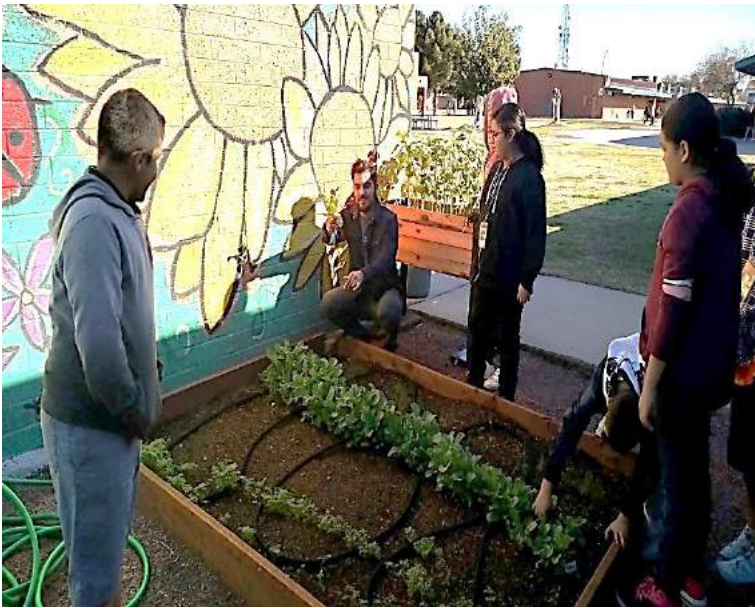
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

Our Littleton STEM Academy Gardening Club celebrated their first harvest in December. The community garden is flourishing and the students are growing several vegetables including radishes, carrots, beans, squash, and lettuce! All vegetables harvested go home with our Firebirds to share with their families 😊



La Joya Community High School and West Point High School visited LNES on Monday, December 2nd. The La Joya Student Council panel answered questions and shared experiences/advice with our 8th grade students. Guidance Counselors and Teachers presented information on required and elective classes. On Tuesday, December 3rd, staff from both La Joya and West Point hosted a Parent Information and Registration event on the Littleton STEM Academy campus – it was a full house!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

Last week, Kindergarten students studied living and non-living things. They did a scavenger hunt around the playground for a hands-on approach to mastering this concept. Awesome lesson, [Ms. Kayla Price](#)



Our students loved Spirit Week- Especially Twin Day! Looking good, [Ms. Joanne Vianos](#)! Mr. Blanton even had an amazing twin- they even got 1500+ likes on social media!



5th grade learned about budgeting and focused on planning a holiday meal. This real-life experience was an amazing opportunity! To quote a student, "This is so hard! Food is so expensive!" Oh honey, we understand...





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued



The 5th grade classes took a field trip to the Musical Instrument Museum where they “traveled” to a variety of countries around the world, and were able to experience the musical instruments from each area. The children watched short videos about each region and were even allowed time to play instruments themselves. They finished their trip with an educational presentation by a professional DJ, RAP singer and Hip Hop dancers. They learned about how the style of music began, and how to write their own songs.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy continued

Mrs. Susan Knighton did a wonderful job preparing our student for their holiday concert! La Joya's High School band performed and our students joined them for several selections! Well done, Fine Arts musicians!



Our Fine Arts choirs, in collaboration with La Joya's High School Choirs, presented the "Winter Suite." Congratulations, *Mr. Travis White*, on this amazing partnership and performance. There were even goodies from SFE! Thank you to the hundreds of dedicated students, parents, and staff that made this event a success!



Fine Arts Academy had a great turn out for our annual Kids at Home, Holiday Home and Family. We had 398 family members attend the event! *Ms. Michelle Walla's* Kids at Hope Student Leaders worked on creating, planning and running all the activities. Student Council with the help of *Ms. Selma Berlanga* and *Ms. Rebeca Portillo* sold candy grams, cookies, and hot chocolate. *Mr. Dan Budzban* used his amazing creative skills to create the flyer for the event. NJHS with the help of *Ms. Mia DeLaRosa* created the balloon arch. *Ms. Walla's* Art Club created and painted all the signs and decorations. *Mr. Travis White's* DaCapo Choir caroled at the beginning and the end of the event. Kids at Hope is all about coming together as a community and that definitely happens here at our Kids at Hope Night!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Office of School Support

School Choice Transfers

The window for Second Semester School Choice Transfers is now closed. After working from our wait list and making phone calls to parents, there was a total of 9 students that were transferred to their school of choice. A BIG shout-out to the school offices support staff and the Welcome Center staff for make these transitions go smoothly.

There were 8 students who requested transfers that fell in love with their current school programs and classes during the waiting period, so parents decided to keep the students where they were. That speaks highly of all our school programs! There were other requests that were not granted due to the grade level capacities at the requested school being full. During School Choice Night on January 27, all parents in our district will have the opportunity to choose the school they want for their children for the 2020-2021 school year. This year it is more important than ever that our families continue to be satisfied with what we deliver and that they do not have reason to look at incoming competition. We must do all we can do to remind them that they *Love Littleton*.

How does School Choice impact class size? This model allows us to maintain amazing class sizes. It does not allow for overcrowded classrooms because students are placed in a program based on seat availability. If there is not an open seat at the desired campus, students are placed on a wait list. Both parents and teachers are reporting satisfaction with this model that increases opportunities for individual attention. School Choice continues to grow in a positive way for our community!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 15, 2020

Office of School Support

continued

VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

VITA is offering the service of tax preparation assistance to families and employees in Littleton Elementary School District. Anyone making less than \$50k a year can get his or her taxes done using this FREE service. If you make a little over that guideline, it is ok to come and ask for the assistance. They may be able to do it for you!

This service is available at the Welcome Center on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. starting January 30th and continues through April 9th of 2020. No appointment needed – just drop in.

All volunteers in the organization are trained and certified by the IRS.

What to Bring to Your Local VITA Site

- Proof of identification (photo ID)
- Social Security cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) assignment letter may be substituted for you, your spouse and your dependents if you do not have a Social Security number
- Proof of foreign status, if applying for an ITIN
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statements (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-Misc) from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Health Insurance Exemption Certificate, if received
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Proof of bank account routing and account numbers for direct deposit such as a blank check
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number such as their Social Security number or business Employer Identification Number
- Forms 1095-A, B and C, Health Coverage Statements
- Copies of income transcripts from IRS and state, if applicable





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy

Happy New Year! As the 2019 train left the Tres Rios station, we had so much to be thankful for when reflecting on the first semester. Coming back from break, we welcomed in the New Year with a focus on achievement and our sights set on excellence.

Wrapping up the 2019 year, first grade celebrated with Polar Express as they reflected on all they have done and where they are going when they returned in January.



Adrianna Cantu was Tres' first place school spelling bee winner and competed strongly in the district competition.



Adrianna Cantu 6th grade posing with contestant (above) and [*Dr. Roger Freeman*](#) (right).





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy continued

On Thursday January 16th, the students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up as 100 year olds and celebrating their accomplishments.



Looking forward in January, Tres Rios will be participating in its school wide Field Day to show we not only have brains, but the brawn to match. Middle school students will also be participating in the Speak Up Stand Up assembly. Stay tuned for more pictures of these events in the upcoming Good News.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2020

Quentin STEM Academy

Students visited the Stand Up Speak Up Save a Life conference. The kids had a great experience engaging in the presentations and activities associated with the conference. We had our kick-off fundraiser with Step it Up Kids. Our kids sat through an engaging assembly, won prizes and became energized to raise money for our school. Some of the goals for the fundraiser is to purchase shade structures for the front of the school, equipment for a gaga ball pit and resources for our student population. So far, we have been able to raise over \$7000!



Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings will take place at Quentin over the month of January for grades kindergarten thru 3rd grade. This is our opportunity as grade-level teams to work with our families in communicating and supporting student learning at home. Our families will come into the school and grade level teams will facilitate workshops filled with resources and strategies that will best help our students in reading and math skill development. The workshops are driven by the data teachers gather from common formative assessments, interims and Acadience progress monitoring.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Collier Elementary School

We enjoyed another Peter Piper Pizza night fundraiser. Free personal pizzas for staff and the students had a blast dancing the night away.



Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball season is up and running. Good Luck to our teams.

Congratulations to Sara in 6th grade for winning the District Spelling Bee. She will now move on to Regionals! Regional Bee is Saturday, February 22, in the Youngker High School Auditorium—3000 South Apache Road (off Watson Road and Lower Buckeye). The Bee will start at 9:00 a.m.



Student attendance matters. Thank you to our students who had perfect attendance for the second half of Quarter 2.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Collier Elementary School continued



Congratulations to fifth grade teacher [Oscar Hernandez Ortiz](#), who was recently selected by the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee at Arizona State University as this year's MLK Student Servant Leadership Award recipient for his work in the community and his passion to serve others.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Country Place Student Leading at the Leader in Me Symposium

Country Place Leadership Academy 7th grade student Zuri and 8th grade student Aliyah were selected to significant leadership roles in the upcoming Leader in Me Symposium being held in downtown Phoenix. Both students are team leads on the Student Lighthouse Team. Zuri will be introducing the MC for the day, internationally recognized leadership guru and author, Mr. Gary McGuey. Aliyah will be an expert member on a student panel fielding questions about leadership from the 200 plus participants. A special thanks to the staff Lighthouse Coordinators, [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#), [Mr. Cody Cherland](#) and [Mrs. Karina Hernandez](#) for supporting their leadership! We are very proud of their leadership and they are incredible representatives of Country Place Leadership Academy!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy continued

AWEsome Learning and Leadership Focus- Kindergarteners Show what they know!

On January 24th the amazing Country Place Leadership Academy kindergarteners participated in the annual Alphabet Parade. Each student was the master of a letter and marched around the campus being celebrated by the entire student body, their friends and their family. Each student decorated their shirt with examples of their letter. The celebration culminated in an ice cream party in the cafenadium. Student leaders helped serve the students and their families. A special thanks to kindergarten teachers, *Mrs. Jackie Davis*, *Mrs. Anastasia Hanns*, *Mrs. Karina Hernandez* and *Mrs. Jazmin Guadarrama*.



AWEsome Learning-Students are Math Geniuses!

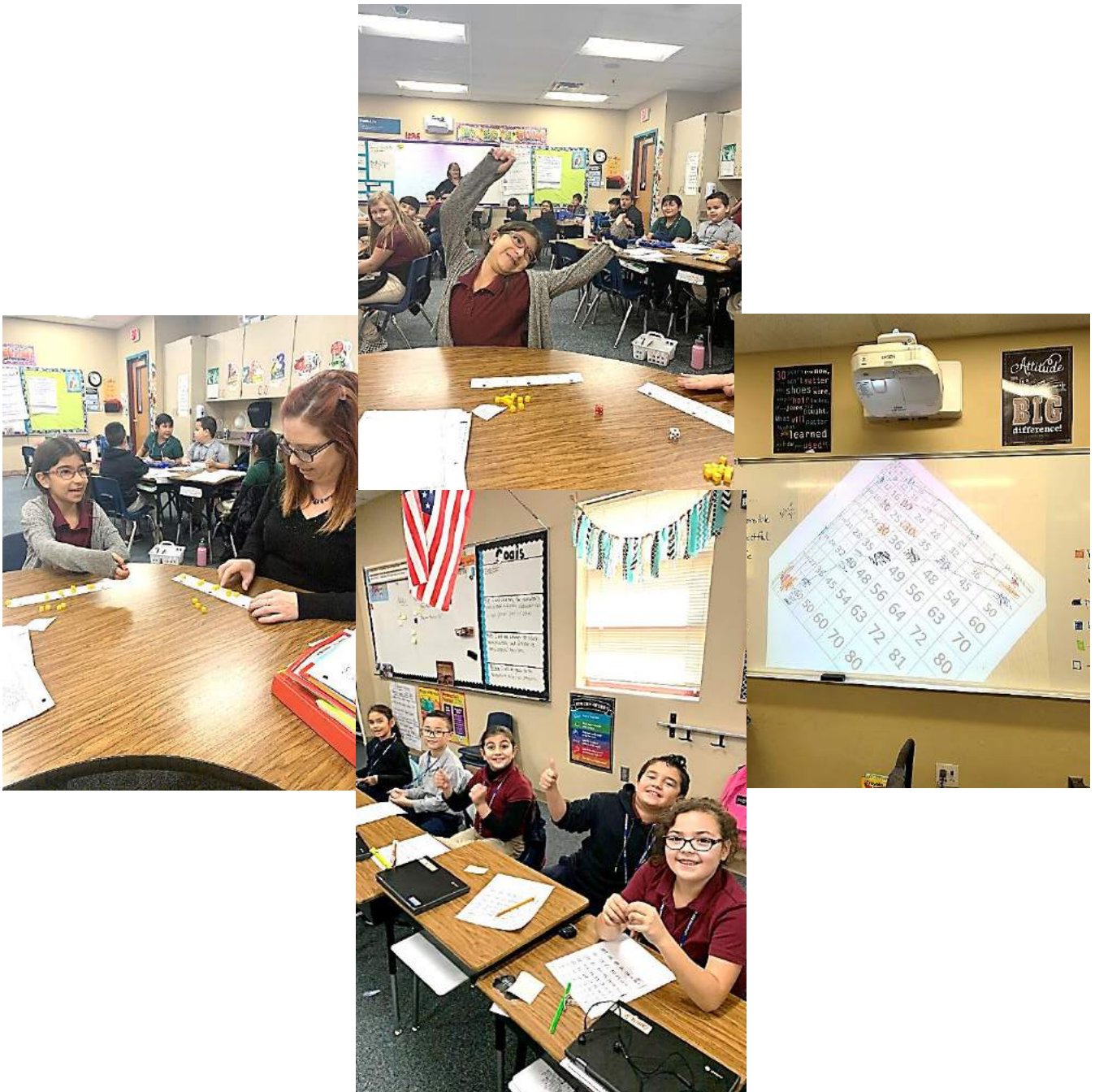
Students throughout Country Place Leadership Academy are working as genius mathematicians! Teachers are hard at work transforming the learning experience for students in order to inspire and engage students in high level learning. Students are using games to strengthen their fluency, reasoning and strategic thinking skills. Students are also having a great time learning! Zariyah in *Ms. Lynette Hill's* class taught District Math Leader, *Mrs. Sara Pearson* how to play a game and won in the process. Students in 3rd grade *Ms. Valerie Cowan's* classroom were looking at the multiplication chart in new ways and seeing patterns that mathematicians are sharing on social media! Great job Country Place staff and students!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 29, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be! Inspirer of the Month

Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [Ms. Chantelle Ottens](#), 6th grade teacher, for being recognized as Estrella Vista Inspirer of the Month for the month of January. Ms. Ottens has been with our fabulous school for at least 2 years and we're sure many more to come. Ms. Ottens started as a long-term sub and eventually decided that she wanted to be an EV Hawk. Ms. Ottens goes above and beyond her call of duty to get the job done and is always willing to assist in any way that she can. Students enjoy her class and you can often see her here late at night or early in the morning getting ready for her students. Three words or phrases to describe this person would be brave, eager to learn and most of all dedicated to becoming the best person she can be. If someone were to ask me about her, we would say she is competitive and hates to lose. What we admire the most is her strength, positivity and her passion. Thank you for all you do for EV Ms. Ottens and congratulations on your accomplishment!!



Estrella Vista Junior Poms Participate in the Fiesta Bowl Parade

Elementary students ranging in grades 1st-8th, collaborated as a Pom Pom and Cheer Squad and decided to try out new experiences this school year. Their events coordinator, [Ms. Laura Montano](#), gathered resources and applied to be a part of the Fiesta Bowl Parade early September. Later in the Fall, the hawks received great news that they had been accepted to participate. This would be the first occasion that would be televised and would be the longest distance the girls had traveled.

Living in Arizona has its many blessings. One is the great weather it has to offer. That crisp cold morning of the parade showed the squads discipline and a lesson on patience. The squads experienced that sometimes waiting may cause great sacrifice; however, the performances they had practiced over their winter break and throughout the school year was worth all of that.

It was a record setting year as the parade broadcast was the most watched local TV program in the parade's market for December 28th and had the highest number of viewers to date. The parade sponsors shared their gratitude and



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

genuine appreciation for the high spirits brought forth that day.

These individuals always bring great spirit to every school-wide assembly and have showcased their efforts in

parades across the West Valley over the past three years. The squad is community have played a big role in the positive energy and love they have shown for these cheerleaders. The squads are thankful for family and friends who have helped and contributed to their successes. currently under the guidance and instruction of [Ms. Alyssa Nelson](#), [Ms. Rebekah Smith](#), [Ms. Daisy Sandoval](#), [Mr. Antonio Bryant](#), and [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#).



Spelling Bee

We are so proud to announce that Parker Nguyen, 7th grader at Estrella Vista STEM Academy placed 2nd in the Littleton Elementary School District Spelling Bee on Thursday January 16th. Due to his hard work and dedication, he will now move on to the Regional Spelling Bee taking place later on this semester. Good luck Parker!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

continued

School Choice Night

School Choice Night was a huge success thanks to our community. With nearly 500 forms turned in, we had the highest number of people in the District choose EV. We have had approximately 300 more forms turned in since Monday night's event. EV is the place to be. This is who we are!



STEM Showcase

Growth Represents Our Will Through Hard-work. Thank you to Estrella Vista staff and students for working so hard and showing your GROWTH to solve problems embedded within the curriculum and presenting them for feedback at our STEM Showcase on Wednesday December 18th, 2019. Some of the projects that students presented for were problem solving within a narrative text, ways to improve personal nutrition & health, increasing recycling on campus & the world, and how to reduce greenhouse gasses. Every grade level and class presented their prototypes and received feedback on their use of Design Thinking within a Problem Based Learning approach.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Stand up, Speak up Help Save a Life Conference

Stand up, Speak up, Help Save a Life conference is always remarkable as it gives students a chance to hear from students and speakers who may have had challenges in their life whether it was being bullied, felt alone, or unheard. This conference gives our students a chance to hear from speakers, then break away into groups and talk about their own personal experiences or thoughts. This allows students of all ages to be heard and build relationships with others. This experience this year allowed both 7th and 8th graders the chance to take a field trip to Grand Canyon University in order to spend a day learning about bullying and how to help save a life. When returning, students were able to collaborate on opportunities to help stand up on our campus. This opportunity is always a valuable experience as an educator and learner! Thank you to [Mr. Bryant](#) and [Ms. Smith](#) making it possible for our students to attend this great event!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

Maker Space Happenings at Littleton STEM Academy...

Littleton STEM Academy 1st graders created Scribblebots! [Mrs. Ashley Davis](#), 1st grade teacher, and [Mr. Jim Verrill](#), principal, facilitated these innovative, young students in using the engineering design process to answer the question, "Can robots make art?" The kiddos say, "YES!" robots can make art! The excitement and engagement while learning through discovery was AWESOME!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

Littleton STEM Student Council Update...

Student Council Teacher Leaders, [Ms. Jordan Thompson](#) (Kindergarten) and [Ms. Ashley Perman](#) (CASA Program) spent an action packed weekend at Friendly Pines in Prescott, AZ. They collaboratively planned with peers from other schools from across our state. Along with their peers, they planned a Student Council Retreat and the end of year Convention. [Jordan](#) and [Ashley](#) shared their collaborative planning was a success and they made some "amazing new friends." They are grateful for the wonderful weekend in Prescott and the opportunity for professional growth.



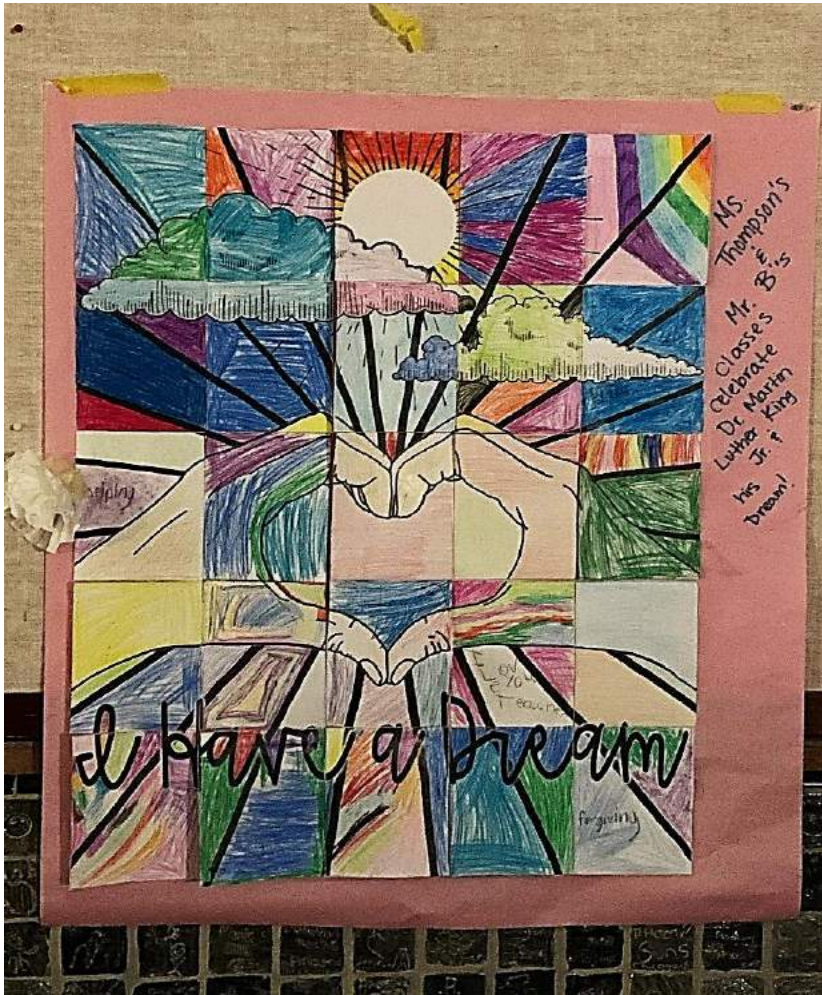


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued



MLK JR. DAY

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, Littleton STEM Academy Kindergarten and Fifth grade buddies read a picture about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Our 5th grade students then summarized the story talking to their Kindergarten buddies about fairness, respect, diversity and unity. Together, the students created a poster and requested it be posted for OUR school community to see. Their hope and dream is that we all learn to respect and appreciate each other for our differences.

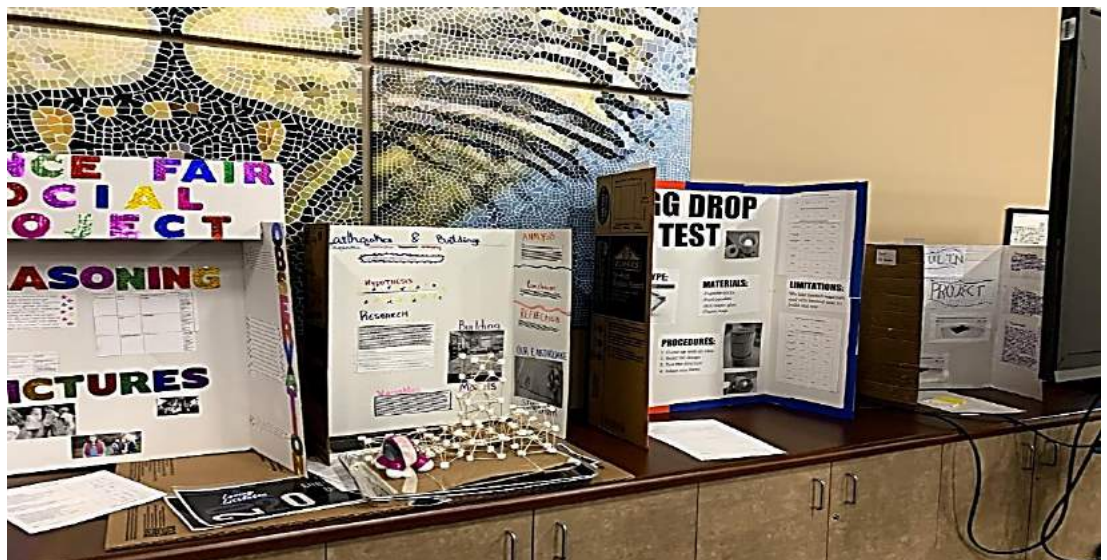


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Technology

The Littleton District Science and Engineering Fair was on Thursday, February 6th from 4:30-6:30pm. We received over 40 science and engineering projects from K-8th grade with representation of all 7 schools. We had over 20 parents and students attend to support the District Fair. We had 14 volunteered judges that included teachers, NJHS students, SACS, TOSA, assistance principals, and principal. The Westside Impact Finalists will compete on February 28th amongst the other school districts. We are proud to announce 6 Finalists will compete in the Westside Impact Fair and 10 showcase projects to represent Littleton School District.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

Our Falcons got to see a Childsplay production called Eric and Elliot. This play deals with the very serious topic of depression and suicide in a way that students could understand. Amazing tory, amazing acting, and of course, amazing students!



Our friends at Ballet Folklórico Esperanza will soon be offering FREE lessons in traditional Mexican dance as a before-school enrichment activity. Stay tuned for mor information!



What a wonderful show our young Falcons put on this week. Under the direction of [Mr. Travis White](#), music teacher extraordinaire, students sang, danced, and delivered passionate monologues in this musical adaptation of the famous children's book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Thank you to the 300+ parents who attended the performance and helped make this night special.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 12, 2020

Fine Arts Academy

continued





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 19, 2020

Quentin STEM Academy

4th grade students traveled to Desert Edge High School to watch an African Rhythms performance.



We had our first smoothie day attendance celebration on February 7th. We selected *Ms. Brenda Alamillo's* recipe to make for our students in the classes that had the best attendance in their grade band.



Model Schools Conference 2020

June 28-July 1, Orlando

Join us at this year's Model Schools Conference where you will learn from a community of educators who've connected with courage to drive innovation and change.

Quentin STEM Academy received notification of their selection to present at the Model Schools conference in Orlando Florida! Only 25 schools and districts are given the opportunity to present at this prestigious conference from across the nation. Schools that evidence growth through best practice are selected and Quentin STEM Academy is one of the 25 model schools that will be presenting to school leaders from across the nation! Congratulations to the hard working staff at Quentin STEM! GO SHARKS!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 19, 2020

Tres Rios Service Academy

February has been speeding by as we have many exciting things happening across Tres Rios.

Mr. David Isham and *Mr. Nick Ferrando's* Project Citizen Club has been meeting this month to analyze and research policies that affect their lives. The students are excited to continue creating their plan on their proposed policies.

Dads and daughters danced the night away at our Father Daughter Dance on February 11th. Thanks to NJHS there was a huge turnout and memories were made that will last a lifetime.



On Arizona's birthday, *Ms. Erika Avelar* and *Mr. Eric Nelson* presented at ADE's 7th annual Civic Learning Conference. The day was a great success as *Ms. Avelar* presented her testimonial of what it is to be a service learning school and what it took to get to where we are now. Making great connections with other service minded schools and presenting after our ASU Community Engagement partner delivered a powerful vision of what service learning is.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School

On Sunday, February 23, Collier had four eighth grade students who completed in the Regional History Bee, Nicholas, December, Jayden, and Milayna. Congratulations to Jayden who qualified for the National History Bee in Chicago this summer! Thank you to [Ms. Amanda Steele](#) for making this possible.



Collier's sixth grade student, Sara, represented Littleton District at the Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 22. Sara earned fifth place overall.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School continued

The MESA students attended Regionals along with [Ms. Michelle Younghans](#) and [Ms. Brandy McWhirter](#). Students tested out their project designs and received feedback from judges on how to improve for the final competition in May.



School Choice Night was another big hit with students and families. Thank you to [Ms. Grace Garcia](#), [Ms. Chelsea Clipperton](#), [Ms. Brittany Jimenez](#), [Ms. Linda Stallard](#), [Ms. Amy Chapman](#), and [Mr. Michael Laureano](#) for attending.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Collier Elementary School

continued

We had an amazing turn out for our Kids @ Hope Cultural Night! Thank you to [Ms. Ashleigh Done](#), the K@H Committee, and all of the staff that participated in the fun activities. Families experienced different types of games, foods, dances, and music from around the world. Families also added pins to our world map so we can visualize how many countries are represented at Collier.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-Country Place Rocks the Leader in Me Symposium

Student and staff leaders from Country Place attended the Leader in Me Symposium in downtown Phoenix on February 26th. Student leaders from the Student Lighthouse Team had leadership roles during the event. Analeena, Ciara, Destiny and Sophia were greeters and welcomed guests as they entered the venue. Madysun and Angie helped attendees register. Aliyah spoke on a student panel and took questions from over one hundred leaders from throughout Arizona. Zuri introduced the MC for the day William Blackwell IV. [Mrs. Anitra Morin](#) and [Dr. Mike Cagle](#) attended as well. The Country Place leaders were treated to a visit to Lighthouse Leader in Me School, San Tan Elementary, heard inspiration words from thought leaders and got to meet Mr. Sean Covey, the author of the 7 Habits of Happy Kids! It was a great event and Country Place leaders were in the house!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 26, 2020

Country Place Leadership Academy

continued

Leadership Focus- Leaderizing Country Place

The student and staff Physical Environment Action Team has been working diligently to Leaderize Country Place Leadership Academy. They have worked with students and staff to design murals that represent the Five Leadership Paradigms of Country Place. 1. Everyone can be a leader. 2. Everyone has Genius. 3. Change begins with me. 4. Empower students to lead their own learning. 5. Educate the whole child. On Saturday February 22nd the physical environment team invited students and staff to continue their work in the hallways.



AWEsome Learning- Black History Month

Under the leadership of 2nd grade teacher, [*Ms. Sheilah McCalpine*](#), Country Place formed its first Black History Month Leadership Committee. The committee consisted of students, staff and parents. They hosted a Black History bulletin board contest! They invited an African inspired storyteller to share stories with 1st through 3rd graders. The Country Place PTA sponsored bringing the Kawambeomowale African Drummers to Country Place on February 28th.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Growing Into Who We Are Meant To Be!

Inspirer of the Month- Estrella Vista staff and students would like to celebrate [Ms. Rachel Vliek](#), 5th grade 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 [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!



McTeacher Night- Estrella Vista hosted its first ever McTeacher Night on February 6th at McDonald's. During this time, students were able to see their favorite teacher work the McDonald's counters as well as bring them their dinner! Thank you to our Estrella Vista PTSA for this amazing opportunity for our students to come together!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Estrella Vista MESA Regionals - It has been a great year for the Estrella Vista MESA/STEM club! We are competing in several events this year. Challenges included designing and constructing a rocket launcher with an egg that will safely land, a portable disaster relief shelter, a bridge constructed from only PVC pipes, a working boat created from only tape and paper, 3D printing challenge to solve a real world problem and the onsite challenge! Our group of just under 20 students have been working hard all year long, applying the design thinking process to empathize, define, ideate, and build a prototype for their challenges. Lastly, testing that prototype followed by reflecting to make it better! We had our first competition this month hosted by Grand Canyon University. We only have 6 weeks left to prepare for the final "MESA Day" competition, and our kids couldn't be more excited to showcase all of their hard work.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Volleyball and Boys Soccer Make it to the Semi-finals- We are very proud of both our volleyball and boys soccer for making it all the way to the semi-finals. Congratulations to the volleyball team and their coaches *Ms. Alyssa Nelson* and *Ms. Rebekah Smith* on a great season. And congratulations to our soccer team, along with their coaches *Mr. Rigoberto Gamez* and *Mr. David Cooper* on a great season. It was great to watch the hard work and dedication from our athletes.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Estrella Vista STEM Academy continued

Kinder Love Performance- Kindergarteners Bring in a Full House for their Valentine's Love Performance. Thank you to our Kindergarten Team, *Mrs. Nicole Harned, Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson, Ms. Margaret Sauer, Ms. Laura Montano* and Kindergarten Paraprofessionals, *Ms. Fabiola Avina, Mrs. Blanca Silva and Mrs. Mary Rodriguez* for prepping our students for their annual Love Performance. The 7th annual Love Performance was held on Thursday, February 13th. 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.



3rd Annual Color Run- The Color Run was on Saturday, February 29th and we had a great turn out. Over 200 family and friends came out to run in color. We had many teacher and students volunteer all day to help with the event. Thank you for all the support. We made a sizable donation, to the Heather Began Scholarship. A special thank you to

Ms. Jesse Reyes, Ms. Jessica Gensel and all the other staff and students who helped to make this event a huge success!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

Littleton STEM Academy celebrated Read Across America week by inviting United Way guest readers from the City of Avondale as well as a guest reader from the Goodyear community. Our supportive community partners brought stories to life while modeling their life-long love of reading. On February 27th, we held our first ever *Read to Me Literacy Event* and had Author Patrick Carman visit us, – EVERY student who attended went home with a book!



We also held a Read Across America door-decorating contest – there were so many great works of art that we had to hold a drawing to choose the winner!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy

continued

As a community of readers, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday with a Literacy Spirit Week. Teachers and students displayed their love for the Cat in the Hat (Hat Day), Green Eggs and Ham (Green Day), Fox in Socks (Crazy Sock Day) – *Mrs. Stephanie Rudzki* and *Mr. Martin Fitch* are pictured below, Sleep Book (Pajama Day). We ended our weeklong celebration with a Book Character Parade! Yes! It's our leader Principal *Mr. Jim Verrill* as The Cat in the Hat! And there he is again with Cindy Lou Who from the Grinch Who Stole Christmas and Little Red Riding Hood (*Mrs. Celeste Kolinchak*)!



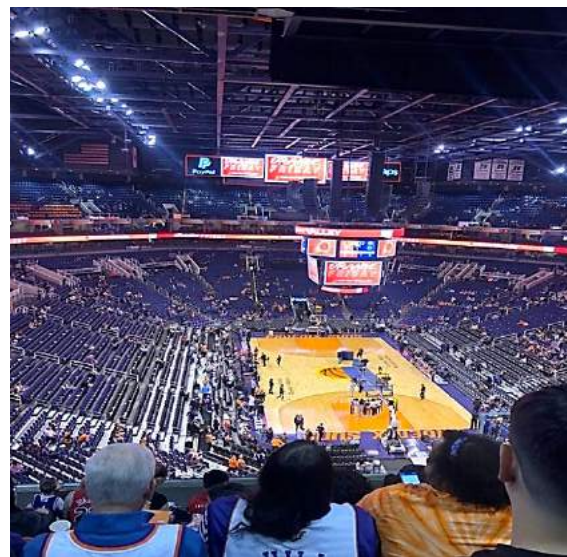


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy continued

Firebird Student Council members attended the AAJHS Student Retreat on Friday, February 28th, 2020. At the retreat, students from across the state of Arizona meet, played games, and participated in team building activities. Our Firebirds made new friends during the day and had a blast at the Suns game in the evening! The student council members were accompanied by [Mrs. Amanda Herrera](#) and [Ms. Ashley Perman](#) who facilitated activities to earn points towards Master Council. Go Firebirds!



Donuts with the Principial. Littleton STEM Academy's way to acknowledge students who had perfect attendance in the month of January!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2020

Littleton STEM Academy continued

On February 6th, Officer R. Dodge (Badge #1213) of the Avondale Police Department visited the Littleton STEM Academy campus. Officer Dodge joined our Kindergarten and 1st grade students for lunch. As you can see the students very much enjoyed meeting and spending time with him. They are already asking when he is coming back!



Littleton STEM Academy
Photo of the Month

Mr. Verrill & Legend

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

~Maya Angelo