

WINTER 2025

ISSUE NO.02



# LITTLETON

*Est 65*





# A MESSAGE FROM THE

## SUPERINTENDENT

As we close the first semester of the school year, I find myself deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside and immerse myself in the Littleton community. These past months have been filled with meaningful conversations, shared experiences, and moments that have reinforced the pride and commitment that define our district. From my earliest days, I have been welcomed with openness and partnership, allowing me to better understand both the strengths we celebrate and the aspirations we hold for the future.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the semester has been visiting our campuses and spending time with students, staff, and families. Seeing learning come to life in classrooms, engaging with student leaders, and witnessing the dedication of our educators has been both inspiring and affirming. Each campus visit has offered valuable insight into the unique culture of our schools and the collective work taking place every day to support student success.

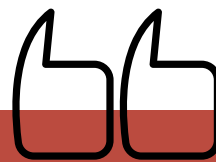
Beyond our schools, I have had the privilege of meeting with community partners and attending events that highlight the strong connections between Littleton schools and the broader community. These partnerships play a critical role in shaping opportunities for our students and reinforcing the shared responsibility we have in preparing them for the future. Together, we are building momentum around a common vision, one rooted in collaboration, trust, and a commitment to “building tomorrow, together.”

Looking ahead to the second semester, there is much to be excited about. From continued progress in our classrooms to upcoming celebrations such as our Spring Arts Festival, the months ahead will showcase the creativity, talent, and promise of our students. I look forward to deepening relationships, continuing this important work, and moving forward with purpose as we shape a bright future for the Littleton community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Louis Laffitte Jr.  
Superintendent of the Littleton ESD



**Together,  
we are  
shaping a  
bright  
future.**



# Our Board Members



**AMY SOUCINEK**  
PRESIDENT



**MARKUS CENICERROS**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**CURTIS NIELSON**  
MEMBER



**LINDA STALLARD**  
MEMBER



**RACHEL BARNETT**  
MEMBER

## **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

- January 13, 2026
- January 27, 2026 – Special Meeting
- February 10, 2026
- February 24, 2026 – Special Meeting (if needed)

All regular meetings take place at **6pm** at the **Underdown Learning Center.**

Viewing is also available online on the **LESD65** youtube channel.

## WHAT DOES THE LEF DO?

RECOGNIZE



APPRECIATE



SUPPORT



SUPPORTING THE SUCCESS OF STUDENTS AND STAFF  
WITHIN THE LITTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# DONATE TO THE LEF

EVERY DOLLAR DONATED GOES  
BACK TO SUPPORT STUDENTS  
AND STAFF IN LITTLETON ESD.

SCAN TO DONATE





# Littleton Safety and Security Measures

## Safety Starts in the Parking Lot!

Our school parking lots and drop-off zones are busy places, especially during arrival and dismissal times. A little patience and attention go a long way toward keeping students, staff, and families safe. Here are some important reminders:

### 1. Slow Down!

Please drive at safe speeds in all school zones and parking lots. Children may be walking or crossing unexpectedly—every second counts.

### 2. Follow Directions from Staff in Orange/Bright Colored Safety Vests

These team members are here to keep traffic flowing and students safe. Their instructions help prevent accidents and ensure everyone gets where they need to go quickly and safely.

### 3. Obey All Traffic Signs

Stop signs, crosswalks, and directional arrows are there for a reason. Following them helps avoid confusion and keeps everyone moving smoothly.

### 4. Do Not Block Bus Lanes

Our buses need clear access to pick up and drop off students. Blocking these lanes is against the law and can cause delays and create unsafe conditions.

### 5. Be Patient and Courteous

We're all in this together! A few extra minutes of patience can make a big difference in safety and stress levels for everyone.

*Thank you for doing your part to keep our school community safe. Together, we can make arrival and dismissal times smooth and secure for all.*





# DISTRICT OFFICE

WHERE SUPPORT MEETS SUCCESS

## Department Highlight

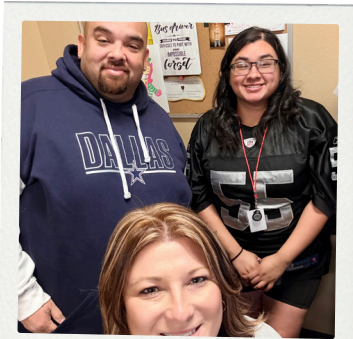
## *Transportation*

The Transportation Department plays a vital role in keeping our schools running smoothly each day. From the early morning routes to the final drop-off in the afternoon, this dedicated team works behind the scenes to ensure students arrive safely, on time, and ready to learn.

Our bus drivers and bus monitors are often the first and last school representatives students see each day. They create a welcoming, safe environment on every ride while building positive relationships with students and families. Their patience, care, and attention help set the tone for a successful school day.

Behind the scenes, our bus mechanic works tirelessly to keep our fleet in top condition, ensuring buses are safe, reliable, and ready for the road. Meanwhile, our transportation secretary keeps everything running smoothly by managing calls, coordinating routes, and supporting families with questions and scheduling needs.

Together, the Transportation Department is more than a team, it's a lifeline that connects our community. Their commitment, professionalism, and care help move our students forward every single day.

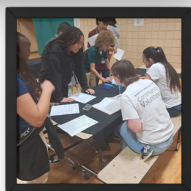






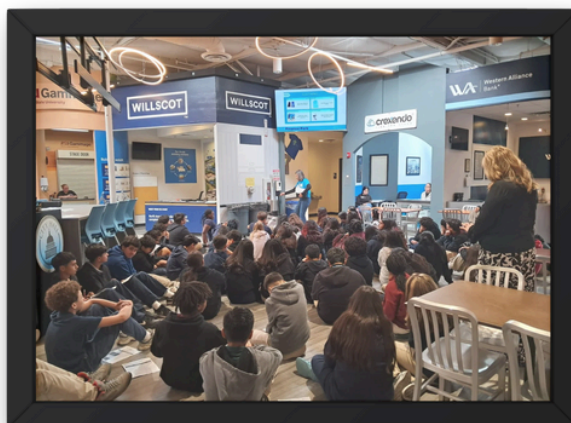
## Financial Fitness in Action

We partnered with the Arizona Council on Economic Education to host an exciting Financial Fitness in Action event. Students dove into real-world budgeting, career choices, and everyday financial decisions through a fast-paced, hands-on simulation that made financial literacy come alive. Thank you to our school team and all of our wonderful volunteers from ACEE for helping create such a smooth and engaging experience.



## JA Finance Park

Our 7th and 8th graders are participating in Junior Achievement's Finance Park, a personal financial planning and career exploration program designed to help students build lifelong money-management skills.



## Student Spotlight

A huge congratulations to Jade, who earned a perfect 100% on both the ELA and Math Spring AASA Assessments! We are incredibly proud of her hard work and dedication.

## A Thank You to Our PTSA

We are so grateful to our PTSA for everything they do, from Penguin Patch, Gobble Grams, fall fundraisers, Trunk or Treat, and Financial Bingo to staff meals, Penny Wars, and more! They've also supported art supplies, NJHS, a coffee machine, and are helping us save for upcoming promotions.

They continue to find new ways to support both teacher and student needs. Their support makes a huge difference. We couldn't do it without them.

Thank you, PTSA!



623-478-5900

350 S 118<sup>th</sup> Ave Avondale, AZ 85323

<https://coes.littletonaz.org/>



# COUNTRY PLACE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

At CPLA students have a unique opportunity to participate in Teen Court, a program that offers an alternative to suspension through a peer-led, restorative justice approach. Run by 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, Teen Court allows students to take on important roles such as Judges, Jurors, Court Clerks, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Bailiffs. By participating, students not only help their peers learn from mistakes but also develop critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills.

The program encourages accountability and fairness while building a supportive school community, showing that students can be part of positive change in their school.



## Where Students Lead and Community Grows

Our student Lighthouse team is stepping up to take leadership roles, helping make our school a place where everyone feels connected and valued. By leading projects, organizing activities, and supporting their peers, students are shaping a school community that truly feels like theirs!



10207 Country Place Blvd.  
Tolleson, AZ 85353  
623-478-6100

<https://cpes.littletonaz.org/>



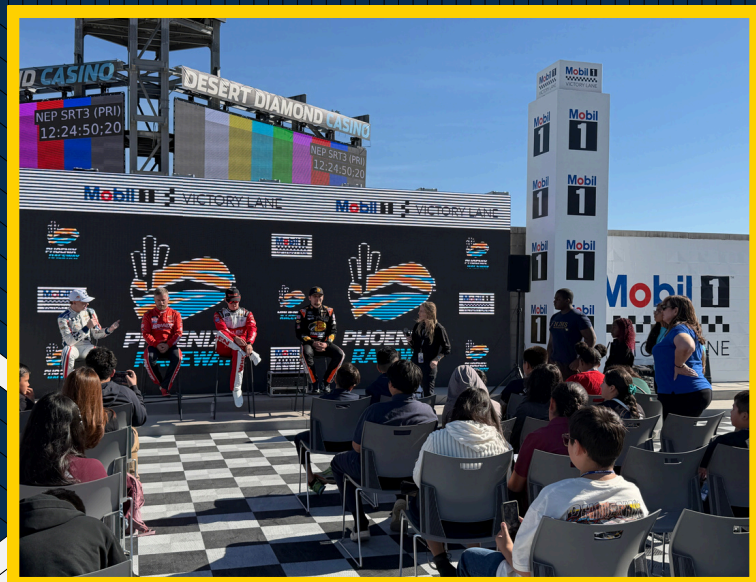
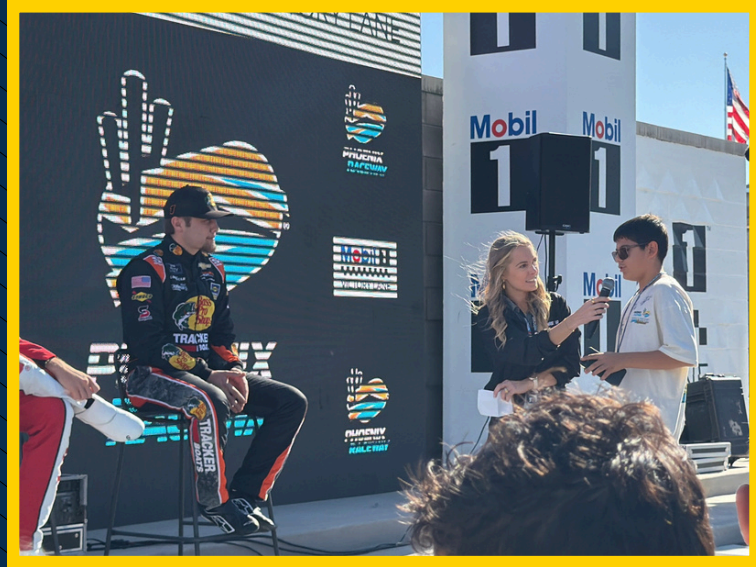


# ESTRELLA VISTA

Estrella Vista STEM Academy has made history by rising from a C rating in 2023 to an A in 2025—the first in our school's history—thanks to the power of collaboration, dedication, and a relentless pursuit of excellence; from K-2 WIN time boosting phonics growth and reducing absenteeism to supporting student groups and achieving more than 10 points growth in our special education subgroup, surpassing the state average and exiting federal and state monitoring, this success reflects the commitment of our staff, partners like WestMEC, Phoenix Raceway, LEF, PTSA, and our guiding coalition, all working together to create a thriving campus culture where Hawks continue to SOAR higher each year, proving that teamwork, perseverance, and shared vision can transform challenges into achievements worth celebrating.



Estrella Vista STEM Academy's 5th-8th grade students had a championship experience during NASCAR Championship Race Week at Phoenix Raceway, where they engaged in a Q&A session with eight NASCAR drivers and connected the event to their engineering studies in a real-world setting; highlights included meeting the 2025 Craftsman Truck Series Championship 4—Corey Heim, Tyler Ankrum, Ty Majeski, and Kaden Honeycutt—and the 2025 Xfinity Series Championship 4—Connor Zilisch, Justin Allgaier, Carson Kvapil, and Jesse Love, with some students even competing in an RC car challenge that added extra excitement to an unforgettable day, made possible thanks to the generosity of NASCAR and Phoenix Raceway.



<https://eves.littletonaz.org/>



623-478-6200



11905 W. Cocopah Cir N.  
Avondale, Az 85323



# FREEMAN FINE ARTS ACADEMY



Hispanic Heritage Month culminated with a spirit day where students embraced the rich Hispanic culture and history by dressing up in beautiful, traditional dresses and festive attire. That same day, we held our 2nd Annual Hispanic Heritage Showcase! It was an unforgettable assembly filled with vibrant colors, amazing performances, and a true celebration of culture. Our students performed stunning dances, recited heartfelt poetry, and showcased their talents through music. It was a day full of pride, unity, and celebration of the rich heritage that shapes our community. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported.

The Freeman Fine Arts Academy Bands kicked off the holiday season with their Winter Concert on December 3 featuring students in grades 5-8. The Bands had been preparing music for the last 9 weeks and were proud to share their progress, talent and holiday music with parents, teachers, students, friends and all who attended. It was the perfect start to the holiday season and we look forward to more great performances by the Freeman Fine Arts Band.



The weather may have transitioned our annual Turkey Trot into a Thankful and Fit Day, but that didn't dampen the Falcon spirit! Our students took their talents indoors as they participated in several activities that showcased their athleticism. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our PTSA, Walmart, Albertson's, WinCo, Fry's, and the many staff and family donors, we were able to recognize our students' efforts by giving away 33 turkeys and 150 pies. We are truly grateful for all those who support our Falcon community.



<https://faa.littletonaz.org>



623-478-6400



1700 S. 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Tolleson, AZ 85353





# LAKIN PREP ACADEMY

Empowering global citizens through rigorous academics and bilingual mastery, we are proud to be a Dual Language School and an IB World Candidate School.

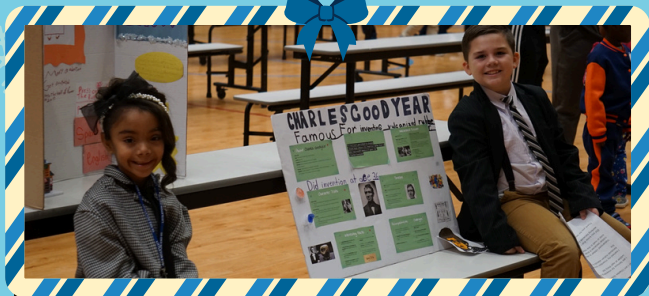
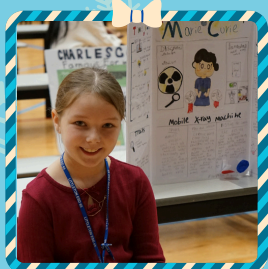
## A WEEK OF SERVICE

November featured a highly successful IB Day of Service week, with all fundraising and donation-collecting initiatives expertly organized by our thoughtful Middle School students. Their hard work resulted in an impressive total of over \$850 raised for the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), directly supporting families with sick children. We extend a huge thank you to all our contributing families and the entire school for their tremendous effort and commitment to our community.



## INNOVATION COMES TO LIFE

Third Grade finished their IB Unit, How the World Works, with a Living Wax Museum. Students researched key inventors, focusing on how they solved problems of their time through specific inventions. They presented as their chosen innovator, explaining the invention's journey and its lasting impact on our world today, delivering their reports in both English and Spanish to our school body and community. This project showcased student research skills and their grasp of how past innovation shapes present life.



## LOOK AHEAD

Mark your calendars for some festive fun! Our dedicated PTA is hosting the annual Gingerbread Night on Tuesday, December 12th, from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, featuring a special performance from our very own Lions Chorus. Finally, please keep an eye out for information regarding our annual World Fair!





# LITTLETON STEM ACADEMY

## Turkey Lurkey Time

The annual Turkey Trot was a huge success, gathering students from all grades for a morning of enthusiastic activity. Participants navigated the course with great energy in the crisp autumn air, demonstrating good sportsmanship and effort. It was a positive community event focused on fitness and fun, leaving everyone with a well-earned sense of accomplishment as they finished the route.



## CELEBRATION!



## Hour of Code

This year, our students will be getting hands-on coding instruction from West-MEC student mentors, making it a truly peer-powered learning experience! Parents, this is your chance! Students will be ready to show off their new coding skills and projects to you. Come see the amazing work they've accomplished! It's a fantastic opportunity for our community to celebrate technology and see the future coders in action.





# ★ Quentin STEM Academy ★

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Our campus is buzzing with hands-on, highly engaging learning experiences. In math centers, students are diving into themed-based manipulatives that make abstract concepts come alive. While outside, Fraction City has transformed our outdoor space into an interactive world where students can explore fractions in real time. Across the hall, art is on fire with creativity—students are producing beautiful masterpieces that showcase both skill and imagination. It's inspiring to see such intentional, joyful learning happening all around our school.

### QUARTER 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Turkey Trot and  
Thanksgiving  
Luncheon

Walk to School Day

Pastries with  
Parents

Holidays Around  
the World



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am incredibly proud of our students who are exiting Walk to Read intervention; we have had a total of 40 students since the beginning of the year. Their hard work, determination, and growth are truly inspiring. This achievement reflects not only their effort, but also the dedication of our teachers and support staff who have provided consistent, targeted instruction every day. Watching our students reach this milestone reminds me why our work matters—every minute of intentional teaching is changing lives and opening doors for their future.

-Mrs. Kari Chicas





# TRES RIOS SERVICE ACADEMY



## ***PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE***

The school also recognized *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*, with FLAG members respectfully lowering the flags to half-staff in honor of those who served and sacrificed. Throughout December, Tres Rios embraced moments of reflection, community, and celebration, creating meaningful experiences as students wrapped up the year and prepared for the season ahead.



## ***HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD***

Tres Rios Service Learning Academy celebrated the holiday season with warm community messages and festive activities leading into Winter Break. Families enjoyed early-release reminders and joyful campus events. Students participated in a Holidays Around the World event, exploring cultural traditions, foods, and celebrations from many countries to deepen their understanding of global customs.



5025 S 103rd Ave.  
Tolleson, AZ 85353

<https://tres.littletonaz.org/>

(623)478-6300





# LITTLETON PRESCHOOL

In preschool, every day is an adventure! Through hands-on play, exploration, and imagination, our young learners build the foundational skills they need to grow, discover, and thrive.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

As students wrapped up their Lights, Camera, Action unit, they transformed their own photographs into creative collages. Families were invited to join in, helping their children assemble these works of art using a variety of vibrant materials, turning the classroom into a lively studio of collaboration and imagination.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

12/16 Holidays Around the World/Architecture Unit End

12/17-12/18 Celebration of the Holiday



<https://www.littletonaz.org/preschools>



623-478-5719

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# Littleton District Sports

## "Champions in Action"

Quarter 2 marked an exciting chapter for our district's athletic program, featuring a diverse lineup of sports and a season full of competition, teamwork, and school spirit. This quarter included boys basketball, girls soccer, cheer, and esports, bringing together student-athletes from across the district in both traditional and emerging sports.

This season was especially historic, as it was the first time the entire district participated in esports. The addition of esports expanded athletic opportunities for students and showcased a new level of strategy, collaboration, and competitive energy. The enthusiasm surrounding this new program made it a standout highlight of the quarter.

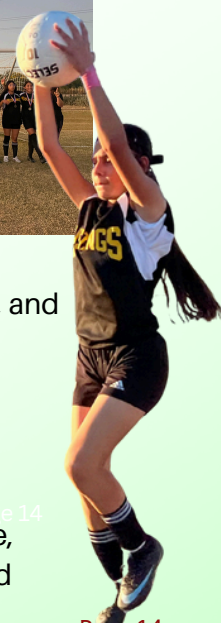


The season concluded with exciting championship victories across multiple sports. In boys basketball, the Collier Coyotes powered their way to the title, showcasing intensity, resilience, and strong teamwork throughout the season. On the soccer field, the Country Place Mustangs captured the girls' soccer championship after an impressive and competitive run. In eSports, teams competed in Mario Kart, with the Freeman Fine Arts Falcons earning the championship title.

Overall, Quarter 2 was a memorable and successful season that celebrated athletic excellence, school pride, and the exciting expansion of our sports programs. With strong participation and competitive spirit across all activities, this quarter set a high standard for the rest of the year.

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**ENROLL ONLINE OR AT THE FAMILY WELCOME CENTER**  
**WWW.LITTLETONAZ.ORG**



1642 S. 107TH AVE,  
AVONDALE, AZ 85323



(623) 478-5800

