



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 24, 2017

Littleton Elementary



On April 22nd, 2017, Littleton Elementary School's National Junior Honor Society Firebird chapter in partnership with the City of Avondale volunteered their time for the Global Youth Service Day. Our NJHS volunteers cleaned up the Tres Rios Wetlands by picking up trash and painting over graffiti to create a more sustainable environment for the local wild-life, tourists and residents.

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Congratulations to **Mr. Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher as the recipient of the 2016-2017 Westside Impact Teacher of the Year for Estrella Vista STEM Academy!

Congratulations to **Ms. Jamie Peltier** ~ 1st grade teacher and **Ms. Twana Beal** ~ Reading Interventionists for achieving Teacher of the Month for the month of April.

Building Community One Kinder at a Time: Kinder Orientation. Our Kindergarten Orientation was on April 27th and it was a huge success! We are proud to say that we met just over 40 students and their families. Our school was packed with incoming kindergarteners that are already so excited for the coming school year.

Design Thinking in Action: STEM Showcase. Thank you to Estrella Vista students and staff for your excellent work in utilizing Design Thinking for our culminating STEM Showcase event held on Wednesday, May 17th. Many visitors including families, community members and partnering businesses visited Estrella Vista for the showcase including: ASU Engineers, ASU Biotech Staff, MCESA, District Leadership. Every grade level and class had great displays of Design Thinking which included student presentation along with feedback and evaluation from their peers and visitors.



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STEMing a New Branch of Art in the District Art Showcase. Estrella Vista Stem Academy Art students have much to be proud of this month, as our students took 4 of 9 grade level first prizes at the Annual District Art Exhibition held at the Avondale Civic Center Library! We also took Best of Show!

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today: Before and After School Programs. Thank you to the staff members who sponsored our before and after school clubs this school year and offered our students opportunities to succeed in other ways outside of the regular school day. Clubs provided students with experiences of extra-curricular interest. We had at least 291 students enrolled outside of the SOAR program as well as before and after school tutoring.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 19, 2017

Collier Elementary

Congratulations to **Ms. Brittany Ramirez** for being selected as the Westside Impact Teacher of the year by her peers.



ASU is pleased to announce that **Ms. Alycia Thompson** earned the very prestigious first annual outstanding lesson award.

6th, 7th and 8th Grade students from Collier Elementary participated at the MESA Day Competition hosted by the University of Arizona in Tucson. The following events are what the Collier MESA Club entered in:



- Golf Ball Delivery
- Duct-Tape Water Bottle
- Designer of the Day
- Solar Car
- On-Site Build Challenge
- PVC Pipe Bridge

Congratulations to the fifth and sixth grade students who qualified for the Regional Math Challenge.



Mr. Anthony Miller, Physical Education teacher, and the eighth grade students were surprised by the Arizona Coyotes as they arrived to teach students some hockey skills during physical education class.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

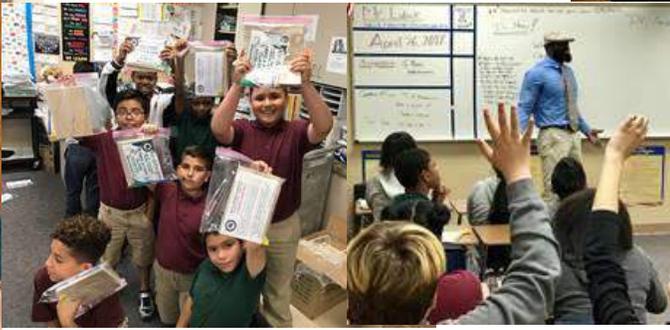
May 19, 2017

Country Place Leadership Academy



Country Place Leadership Academy celebrates the Inaugural Leadership Day on May 12 . Students held a variety of leadership positions including registration, greeters, tour guides, entertainment, MCs, and speakers. The community came out in force with 43 community leaders attending. The community leaders included the **Phoenix Police Precinct Captain Ed De Castro, Avondale City Council Members Lorenzo Sierra and Veronica Malone.**

Career Day was a huge success at Country Place 34 guests attended and presented in classrooms K-8. Students heard presentations from police officers, a chef, a therapist, a helicopter mechanic, a local radio station DJ, a hula dancer, a state senator and many more guests.



Arizona Project WET, The Nature Conservancy, & PepsiCo Recycling, want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to the 4th grade classes around the district who participated in the Littleton School District Recycling Drive! Together, the 4th grade classes in the Littleton School District recycled over 24,000 bottles and cans in three weeks!!

NJHS Members Volunteer at the Tres Rio Nature Festival! National Junior Honor Society students volunteered at the Tres Rios Nature Festival on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Base & Meridian Wildlife Area in Avondale. This free outdoor festival showcased the rich diversity of wildlife habitat, history and culture of the Gila River drainage, which is made up of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 19, 2017

STEM and MESA Club. Congratulations to the Country Place STEM Club. 16 students competed at the University of Arizona in 5 different challenges. Congratulations to the Country Place Solar car team who placed 3rd in the state and the duct tape survival team who placed 4th statewide.



Country Place 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls in the Mini Mermaid Running Club completed their spring program by finishing the 11th annual Laura's Run in Tempe on April 8th! The race was a culmination of 6 weeks of after-school training and self-development, with more than 60 girls finishing the 5k, supported by their families, peers, and coaches!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 10, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy

Thanks to all of the staff that came out to support our Spring Carnival. All grade levels hosted an event and the PTSA served up loads of yummy treats.



Quentin Elementary

Quentin celebrated teacher appreciation week in style with events throughout the week for our staff members. **Ms. Karen Riffenburg**, our kindergarten teacher was celebrated by Suntec Concrete for being an outstanding teacher. Suntec came to Quentin and delivered a wish list of items to her in front of her class.

Our NJHS ceremony was in April and we were able to affirm 30 students. Our NJHS students will be completing their final project which is kindness week next week. They will be working with different grade levels to facilitate activities of kindness each day throughout the week.



Fine Arts Academy

Fine Arts Academy has had a very busy month so far and it will end with even more celebrations of the arts. We had a technology Museum in second grade. We had our *Dear Edwina* show that was an absolute hit. Fine Arts Academy also had our last assembly from West Valley Arts Council.



LITTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #65

Leaders.. in Learning, Caring, and Growing



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 10, 2017





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 3, 2017

Technology



This week, the Technology Department expanded the use of student ID cards. These helpful 3rd graders will be using their id cards to scan in the library and cafeteria in addition to the bus riders who already use it to get on and off the bus. IT will be checking in with the class throughout the month of May.

Teaching and Learning

Littleton Elementary School District's 11th Annual Art Show. The District's annual Art Show Reception was held at the Avondale Civic Center library on Wednesday, April 26th. Student art work from all seven schools was on display. The amount of art work displayed as well as the quality is more impressive each year. The event was well attended by parents, students, Littleton School Board Members, staff members, as well as community members. The judges made selections of pieces to be honored as grade level and school level winners. The District will also be purchasing several pieces of the winning art. The art will be framed and displayed at the District Office.

Exceptional Student Services



The Exceptional Student Services Department hosted a workshop by **Nathan Levy**, the author of *Stories With Holes*. We had a turnout of 20 staff members at the workshop for staff, with Collier representing half of the participants. For the last gifted parent night, Nathan Levy shared some strategies with parents to support the gifted learner at home.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 3, 2017

Administrative Assistants



In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, ATeam (Administrative Assistants to the Executive Team) planned and sponsored a luncheon for all assistants in the District. The event is one more example of our staff commitment at all levels of the organization to be leaders in caring and to support our guiding principles by recognizing people and programs for their excellence.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 26, 2017

Littleton Elementary

The mission of Girls on the Run is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. This year, 26 girls from Littleton Elementary participated in Girls on the Run by training for and completing the 5K Bubble Run at the Goodyear Ballpark on Saturday, April 22nd.



Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Developing Engineering Teacher Leaders: Teachers Selected to Participate in Engineering Study at ASU. As an engineering school, we developed a partnership with ASU's Center for Bio-mediated and Bio-inspired Geotechnics. As partners, four teachers were invited to participate in a summer engineering study on inspired solutions to hazard mitigation, environmental protection and restoration, infrastructure construction, and resource development. Only nine teachers were selected to participate in this program and Estrella Vista is lucky to send four teacher researcher recipients!

Estrella Vista 5th Grade Goes to STEM Camp! On March 13-15, 48 5th graders and 5 chaperones were led to Tonto Creek Camp by EVES 5th grade teachers. This was a 3-day, 2-night trip to Tonto Creek Camp, an outdoor based STEM-focused camp located in Payson, Arizona. While at camp, the students stayed in large cabins, ate meals in a dining hall and participated in 6 STEM modules. The 6 STEM modules included Lego Racers, Ecology Hike, Daytime Astronomy, Orienteering and a Low Ropes course.



LITTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #65

Leaders.. in Learning, Caring, and Growing



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 26, 2017



Collier Elementary



The Collier Student Council earned over \$600 from our Peter Piper Pizza night on April 6th . We have an excellent turnout and every staff member received a free personal pan pizza for attending.



The Collier Choir performed beautifully before the Arizona Diamondbacks game on Friday, April 7. Thank you to *Ms. Ilene Rosas* and staff for organizing and supporting this fantastic opportunity for Collier students.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Congratulations to Country Place Leadership Academy’s Teacher of the Year! Country Place Leadership Academy is proud to announce our Teacher of the Year, *Mr. Cody Cherland*. **Mr. Cherland** teaches 5th grade, coaches baseball, facilitates the Leader in Me Lighthouse Team and supports our students and school in many ways!

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 19, 2017

Congratulations to Country Place Leadership Academy's Staff Member of the Year! Country Place Leadership Academy is also proud to announce our Staff Member of the Year, **Mrs. Yeceli Heras**. Mrs. Heras serves as the Administrative Secretary to the Principal and is an integral part of Country Place.



6th

Success! Sixth grade students supported by **Mrs. Aileen Mancillas**, **Mrs. Stephanie Budzban**, and 13 community leaders successfully created Gravity Cruisers. The Gravity Cruisers are a car powered by gravity and the force created with 50 pennies.

Student Led Field Day. This year's annual Field Day was organized and coordinated by the Field Day Leadership Team. The students did a great job setting up fun, engaging athletic activities like Tug-a-War and three legged races.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 12, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy



Tres Rios Pumas are always looking for new ideas and ways to impact the community in a positive way. This month teachers came together to create service projects in celebration of Earth Day. No idea was too big or too small as teams cross collaborated across grade levels to design projects and lessons which will be conducted on April 24th. It is awesome to see teachers finding ways to “link learning to life” and impact our community.



Our Exceptional Learners team “teamed up” to increase awareness and support for autism. The team ordered T-shirts and focused their bulletin board for the month on the subject as well.

Our kindergarten and 4th grade teams planned a service project to benefit the Humane Society and they created “kitty warmers”, little bed warmers for kittens as they await adoption using socks and rice.



Fine Arts Academy



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 12, 2017



Our fourth through seventh grade received another amazing assembly provided by the West Valley Arts Council. The kids have enjoyed the performances all year that were provided because of Littleton's partnership with WVAC. We are very grateful.



On Friday, April 7, 2017, *Travis White* led the Da Capo Choir during the National Anthem at the Arizona Diamondbacks game.

Quentin Elementary

Quentin celebrated our Kids @ Hope Career and Education week from 3/13 to 3/17. We had many careers represented including a Pilot, EMT, Police/Detective, Senator, Attorney and Journalist. We also had West-Mec High school come to Quentin with counselors and students to present the opportunities they have with health careers during their high school years.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 5, 2017

Teaching and Learning

The 2017 Littleton Elementary School District Math Challenge took place on March 13th, 3rd-8th grade students from every school across the district participated in the event. For nearly one hour, grade span groups of 3-4, 5-6, and then 7-8 competed against one another in two different math challenge rounds, problem solving and trivia. Collaboration under the pressure of time is not an easy thing to do, but all of our students demonstrated great listening, communicating, and critical thinking skills as they worked with their school mates to solve challenging logic and grade level problems. Our district winners this year are from Littleton (grades 3-4), Collier (grades 5-6), and Estrella Vista (grades 7 & 8). All of these teams are invited to attend the Regional Math Challenge taking place on May 4 in the Fowler Elementary School District.

Technology

This AzMERIT testing period, Deans, Administrators and the Technology Department are using Microsoft Teams to communicate. Microsoft Teams works like a chat room/social media. Country Place Leadership Academy and the Technology Department worked together to have 3rd grade students participate in a virtual field trip to SeaWorld Orlando on March 30. Skype accounts were created and techs were onsite during the virtual field trip to ensure a smooth connection. Students got the chance to interact with trainers and even give two commands to the whales.

Exceptional Student Services

On Thursday, March 30th, students from Littleton Elementary School District participated in the Special Olympics Track and Field events hosted at La Joya High School.

Operations

Construction is finally finished and the Family Welcome Center opened for business in its new location at the District Office on Monday, March 27th.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 29, 2017

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Mr. David Cooper**, 7th grade teacher, for being nominated and selected by his peers as the February Teacher of the Month. **Mr. Cooper** (affectionately known as "Coop"), is one of the most genuine and caring teachers on our staff. He truly believes in the ability of each and every one of his students and takes the time to find the strengths in his students and build on them. **Coop** is also more than willing to help at any school function that benefits our students. From dances to Peter Piper Night, **Coop** is always there for our students and staff spending time and building relationships outside of the regular school day. In addition, **Coop** is willing to help every member of our staff with ANYTHING they need. From being a part of LEA, to stepping out of his comfort zone and presenting in PD's, to donating pots and pans to new teachers to cook for themselves at home, to inviting teachers over for dinner with his family, **Mr. Cooper** helps every staff member feel welcomed and a part of the EVES community! Way to go **Mr. David Cooper** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. The parent group hosted another Peter Piper Night on Friday, March 10th where students and their families enjoyed a night out together for pizza, games and a lot of fun. During Parent Teacher Conferences, **PTSA** invited in **La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant** to serve our teachers a full meal on their late Thursday night at school. We look forward to our next **PTSA** events coming up in the month of April including funding the Spring Picnic and Color Run being held on Saturday, April 1st, Muffins with Moms on May 5th and Mother/Son Dance on May 12th. We look forward to what's to come with this amazing group. Thank you for all you do!

Building Futures: Parent Celebration. Our parent workshop, Building Futures, was a huge success! We culminated this parent and student workshop on March 15th with a celebration honoring 15 families for consistently attending. Over a six-week period, these families participated in weekly two-hour seminars to learn about STEM, financial well-being, and community resources. We are grateful for all of community partners including Bank of America, Avondale Center, Native American Health, Avondale Public Library, Financial Education, and the Arizona Humane Society. In addition, thank you to the school and district staff members including **Laura Montano, Anthony Haduch, Michael Laureano, Emil Pluhar, Ceyda Murillo, and Dr. Roger Freeman**. It was their contribution that made the first annual Building Futures seminar successful.

Building Futures: Kids Experience. During the months of January through February our students and parents had the opportunity to partner with Estrella Vista in an evening program every Wednesday night. While parents were in a variety of workshops, their children were provided the opportunity for some extended learning as well. Building Futures Workshop for Kids was able to have varied activities weekly where students were able to learn and apply skills that they may not always have the exposure to in the regular school day. We had visitors from ACEE and Humane Society, as well as the Avondale Library. Lessons that were taught included money management with opportunity cost and the impact of wants versus needs. Humane Society brought out animals for students to observe and to hold. We learned about characteristics of the animal kingdoms and how to care for an animal. When it came to projects and exploration, we created body charts of what makes us who we are, coded a map for cupid to retrieve and deliver gifts, and experimented with real cow eyeballs to attempt to see the layers



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and parts of the eye we studied. It was a great time to build closer relationships with students and take a moment to try out new things and push the limits of learning and adventure. We would like to thank **Ms. Laura Montano**, 1st grade teacher, and **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher, for facilitating this portion of our Building Futures Program. These two phenomenal teachers also taught lessons for our students and communicated with community members to come in and support the program.

Kindergarten Jungle Adventure. We would like to thank our Kindergarten team for planning and hosting their 3rd annual Kinder Jungle Adventure on Saturday, March 4th! The event was a success and the kids had a great time completing crafts, playing games, learning a musical play, and getting their face painted. The team looks forward to hosting this event in future years. We would like to thank our **National Junior Honor Society members** for volunteering their time on a Saturday morning to build some relationships with our youngest learners. The kindergartners truly loved getting to bond with the older kids. We would also like to thank our other teacher volunteers: **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher; **Mrs. Jennifer Brees**, SAC; **Ms. Danielle Stone**, **Ms. Jay Robinson**, **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez**, and **Ms. Margaret Sauer**, Kindergarten teachers. The event couldn't have happened without the support and dedication of these individuals.

Dr. Seuss Read Across America Library Event. Thank you to our amazing Library Clerk, **Mrs. Michelle Gonzales**, for hosting activities and readers throughout the day on Thursday, March 2nd to celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Week. **Mrs. Gonzales** believes Read Across America is for motivating children to read. Reading is an important factor in student achievement and creates lifelong successful readers. She believes reading motivates children to spend more time doing so and in turn they do better in school. **Mrs. Gonzales** began reading to her own children when they were toddlers, and in her heart she believes their success in school was because of reading every night. There is something about sitting down and reading to a child, it grasps their attention, it brings out in them imagination and motivation to look forward to the next reading. For this reason, **Mrs. Gonzales** arranged for a multitude of staff and community members to come in and join our students in the library to read and share with them the importance of becoming readers. The students were extremely excited to have visitors and learn how reading has impacted their lives in the real world and their careers. Thank you **Mrs. Michelle Gonzalez** for your dedication to helping our students succeed by bringing in models for them to guide them in their futures!

Math Challenge Celebrations. Thank you to our Math Challenge coach, **Ms. Nicole Clark**, 8th grade teacher, for all of the time and dedication put in to preparing our math geniuses for the 2016-2017 District Math Challenge. Congratulations to all of our participants. We would like to highlight our students in 3rd and 4th grade who placed 4th in the district, 5th and 6th grade who placed 3rd in the district and 7th and 8th grades who won the district math challenge and are moving on to the Westside Impact Regional Challenge. Way to go **Ms. Clark** and teams!

Washington D.C. Trip a Success! Our 8th Grade Washington D.C trip was a success. Thank you to **Mr. Bronson Goodsell**, 7th grade teacher, for chaperoning 17 students from Estrella Vista to attend the trip. The group spent 3 nights and 4 days bringing our history alive. They were able to see our roots as a country as they visited Mount Vernon and the many monuments that honored the people who helped shaped our country. As a whole group, they also toured the Capitol building where our Representatives and Senators meet. Some representatives were getting



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interviewed right in front of them! The students were exposed to the D.C culture and food and were informed by our World Strides guide, the history behind the city. This opportunity allowed our students develop a sense of appreciation for what was sacrificed our nation and everyone enjoyed the trip in its entirety! Thank you again **Mr. Goodsell** for chaperoning our students to allow them this experience and all of the work you did planning, organizing and fundraising with our 8th graders to support them in this endeavor!

EVES Clubs & Committee Updates

Kids at Hope Committee: Thank you to our Kids at Hope Committee for planning and organizing another incredible opportunity for our students to travel into their futures! On March 13th, Estrella Vista students explored the third destination point for the year; College and Career Day! The committee work closely with teachers to ensure students were exposed to a wide variety of future college and career possibilities. Some of the visitors from our community included police officers, representatives from the Diamond Backs and Phoenix Suns! We had a visitor from Lockheed Martin, Wells Fargo Bank, Project Awareness. Some of the universities our students were introduced to were Wabash College, Butler University, and American School which is all the way in Trujillo, Peru! Our third grade students took a field trip to La Jolla to learn about high school education and to take a peek into their very near future. Our 8th grade team got to experience a unique opportunity by coming together and having several professionals Skype in around the country to talk about their professions. Some of the virtual visitors were from Wabash College, UC Davis Primate Center, Cigna Health Services, and the American School in Trujillo, Peru! Thank you to all the staff who reached out to the local communities and beyond to expose our students to future possibilities for their own college and career paths. Committee members we would like to thank who organize all Kids at Hope activities and events include: **Ms. Brittany Levandoski**, 2nd grade teacher; **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, **Mr. Robert Loots** and **Mr. David Wadding**, 4th grade teachers; **Ms. Rosie Fleeman**, Resource teacher; and **Ms. Rebecca Lopez**, Dean of Students. Thank you all for your work in embracing Kids at Hope and supporting student success at Estrella Vista!

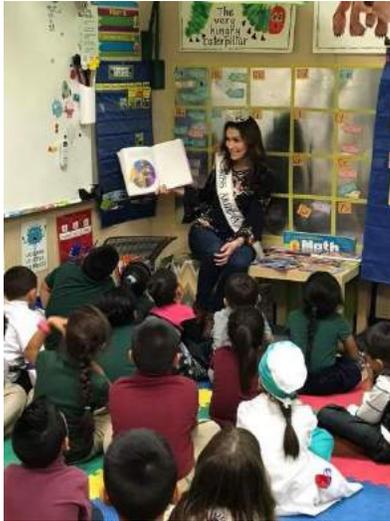
Make Your Day Cadre: We would like to thank our Make Your Day Cadre members **Mr. Sean Cappello**, 3rd grade teacher; **Mr. Antony Brophy**, P.E. teacher; **Ms. Julie Whelihan**, Art teacher; **Mr. Michael Spielman**, Music teacher; **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade teacher and **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra**, Assistant Principal, for their hard work on this cadre this school year. The cadre has worked to analyze data to plan and prepare for monthly Make Your Day Moments at our staff meetings as well as support first and second year teachers as mentors in Make Your Day implementation. These members not only attend monthly meetings where they discuss Make Your Day, proper implementation and planning for Make Your Day Moments, but also go out into classrooms and complete walk-thrus and/or host weekly support meetings with our teachers weekly. We would like to especially show appreciation for **Mr. Antony Brophy** and **Mr. Sean Cappello** for taking over presentation of Make Your Day Moments in staff meetings from the lead Ms. Hoornstra and having staff participate in an engaging activity related to cueing. We look forward to our moments that will be shared in the last two months of school by **Mr. Spielman**, **Ms. Whelihan**, **Mr. Laureano** and **Mrs. Leslie Johnson** (who just returned to our team).



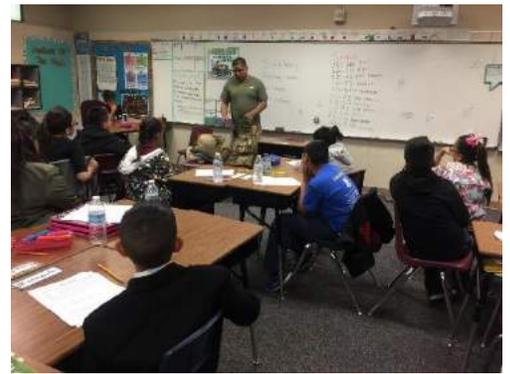
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Littleton Elementary



Career and Education Day. On Friday, March 3rd, students, parents, and staff celebrating their Kids at Hope Career and Education Day. Students came to school dressed in the attire of their future career. Each classroom welcomed guest speakers who shared information about their careers with the students. Parents were invited to join their children for a school BBQ during lunch, followed by a career and education parade for the 4th-8th graders. The day was a huge success, and students enjoyed the opportunity to time travel and envision their goals and dreams.



3rd & 4th Graders Take Home First Place at District Math Challenge. Littleton's 3rd and 4th grade participants in this year's district math challenge took home the first place trophy! Our amazing students had the opportunity to show off all of the hard work that they have been doing in math throughout the year. We are so proud of them and are looking forward to cheering them on at the regional math challenge on Wednesday, May 4, at Fowler Elementary School. Great job and good luck!!!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 15, 2017

Collier Elementary



Collier held its annual eighth grade promotion parent meeting on Tuesday, March 7. We had a majority of our students and parents attend this important meeting. Thank you to the following staff for your help making this a successful event. *Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Linda Stallard, Mr. Biju Padmanabhan, Ms. Leticia Mattei, Mr. Adam Haller, Mr. Laniray Pomeroy.*



On Thursday, March 2, Collier celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a literacy night for students and parents. Each grade level created a table and activity for students to participate in reading types of activities



The Collier book fair is back and is better than ever. Kudos to *Ms. Ruth Ann Lamberd* and the numerous student and adult volunteers who decorated the library with a campsite theme.





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DJ Cheetah and *Mr. Jeremy Mondragon* came to exercise with our K – 3 students while they lined up after recess. The move of the day was high

Congratulations to the fifth and sixth grade team from Collier who won first place in the district Math Challenge!



Country Place Leadership Academy



Read Across America Day. Dr. Seuss was on the loose at Country Place Leadership Academy! On March 2nd, Read Across America Day, Country Place Leadership Academy celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday. During the morning, over a dozen Guest Readers came to Country Place to read to our students. We had district personnel, community leaders, our board president, military personnel, police detectives, members of the fire department, and other amazing leaders volunteer their time to come read, and encourage reading, to our students. Sixth-grade student ambassadors were there to greet our visitors, show them to their classrooms, and answer any questions they had. That afternoon after school, Country Place hosted a Family Fun Night. Every child who came received a free



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book of their choice thanks to our PTA and families who donated books for the event. Teachers planned fun, engaging activities at every grade level. Snacks in each classroom were provided by Fry's Food. We also had drawings for grand prizes and lots of coupons from local vendors such as Sonic, Texas Roadhouse, and Peter Piper. Again, our sixth-grade student leaders were there to help our staff run the event and greet all of the families who came. Everyone synergized to make this event a great success!



Project WET Water Festival. On March 14, The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Cooperative Extension and the City of Avondale hosted the entire 4th grade in the Littleton School District at the Project WET Water Festival. Project WET is a partnership with the University of Arizona that teaches 4th graders about Water Conservation, the Water Cycle, Ground Water, Watersheds and other water related topics. Teachers participate in six hours of professional development put on by the University of Arizona. In addition to the Water Festival, students participate in lessons before and after the event. The Water Festival was sponsored by the City of Avondale Water Department. Thirty-seven

volunteers from around the Valley, including The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners, the City of Avondale Water Department, the city of Peoria, the City of Scottsdale, Angel's Diner, the Church at Litchfield and other community members helped make it a great day for all of our 4th graders! A special thanks to **Pam Justice** of the University of Arizona and **Esme Avila** of the City of Avondale for their coordination and support! Another special thanks to the 4th grade teachers at County Place, **Robert Garcia**, **Astrid Garcia**, **Manuel Torres** and **Rocio Suarez-Ruiz** for making Project WET such a great learning experience for our Mustangs!





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Mustangs Sharpening the Saw and Synergize with Fuel Up to Play 60 and SFE! The Country Place Fuel Up to Play 60 Student Leadership Team partnered with our food service company SFE for a Gardening Adventure! Our student leaders led by 2nd grade teacher *Kristina Palacios* work with *Almarie Rivera*. The gardens are designed to illustrate the process of Farm to Table. The students participated in planting seeds, thinning, and pruning. While Ms. Rivera was setting up a group of 2nd grade students came over to help her during their recess and will be the next group to have a Garden Adventure!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 8, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy

It is always a treat to visit classrooms but it is even better when students and teachers plan a fabulous parent event. **Ms. Amber Garcia's** 5th grade dazzled staff and families with their wonderful recital. Students chose songs and performed them for their families. **Ms. Garcia** went above and beyond creating this wonderful experience for her families. Way to go **Ms. Garcia** and your Fab Fifth Graders.



Mr. Noah Karevelis or **Mr. K** as he is known around Tres Rios is always looking for ways to enhance the Music program. Thanks to **Mr. K** and some of his wonderful 2nd graders for their performance at the February Governing Board Meeting. The students sang the Kids At Hope Song and brightened up the Board Meeting with their joyful voices.



Ms. Judy Collins is an AMAZING Librarian and thanks to her relationships with local businesses, Tres Rios was able to score a HUGE donation of books for the library from Lowes. Thanks **Ms. Collins** for reaching out and making the Tres Rios Library awesome. Thanks to our friends at Lowe's for making a difference at Tres Rios.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 8, 2017



Fine Arts Academy

Last week Fine Arts Academy engaged in Read Across America. It was very successful. Congratulations to **Ms. Clarissa Alvarez's** class for winning first prize in the door decorating contest. **Ms. Alvarez's** door was based on the book "The Crayon Box that Talked" and each student created their own crayon based on themselves and on the door was large box that opened to discover each of the kids crayons.



Mr. Robert Crouse's 6th grade class read to **Mrs. Beth Raymond's** kindergarten class. Both classes really enjoyed it.



Fine Arts Academy MESA and STEAM club members visited Grand Canyon University last month.



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March 8, 2017

Quentin Elementary

Shark Nation celebrated literacy in style with our students participating in several Read Across America activities. Students dressed up each day in a special fashion. There were *Cats in the Hat*, *Fox in Socks*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, and characters from favorite books seen throughout the week. The week also included a special evening of literacy where our parents and students experienced literacy coming to life, especially with our 6th grade participating in *The Lemonade War*. In addition to inspiring our students to read, we also focused on the contributions of African-Americans in celebration of Black History Month through morning announcements. Shark Nation is ramping up implementation of our PlayWorks games, ensuring all students have the opportunity to participate each day in structured play during their time outside. We know engaging in healthy play makes our bodies much more prepared for learning and focusing our attention on our studies.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 1, 2017

Teaching and Learning

Digital Learning Day. On February 23rd Littleton Elementary School District celebrated Digital Learning Day. All seven schools participated by showcasing their educational technology in the classroom. At multiple campuses students were technology ambassadors guiding guests around the campus. Visitors were able to observe students using technology in multiple ways to increase digital awareness and academic success. Thank you to the teachers who assisted in ensuring this day was successful: Collier Elementary School- *Lynda Espino, Benjamin Sullens, Christine Camou, and Hai Dang*; Country Place Leadership Academy- *Ruth Miller, Karen Hook, Jacqueline Davis, Cody Cherland, Cecilia Finn, Serena Garcia, Caroline Nicholson, Lynette Hill, Maria Meza, Maria Serrano, Roberta Garcia, Rocio Suarez-Ruiz, Manuel Torres, Anitra Morin, and Julia Fach*; Estrella Vista STEM Academy- *Laura Montano, Alyssa Nelson, Anthony Haduch, Michael Laureano, and David Cooper*; Fine Arts Academy- *Sara Hall, Robert Dowdy, Susan Knighton, and Travis White*; Littleton Elementary School- *Cassandra Lockard, Daniel Mainord, Cari Koehn, Brittany Zamora, and Stephanie Kelsey*; Quentin Elementary School- *Karen Riffenburg, Christine Behler, Brenda Alamillo, Mary Mesich, Nicole Kline, Adam Johnson, Sarah Williams, Brandon Bivens, Jeremiah Gallegos, Suzanne Hudson, and Rosa Garcia*; Tres Rios Service Academy- *Lizbeth Ruiz Sandoval, Stephen Davis, Diana Sandoval, Scott Fusi, Kelly Diaz, Itzer Garcia, Scott Kelbick, and Erika Avelar*. Thank you to *Emil Pluhar, Vickie McKeeman, Rita Sanchez, and Nancy Morgan* for their hard work in coordinating the event.

Technology Department

The Technology Department has developed a partnership with the Estrella Mountain Community College. Student **Uriel Contreras** recently started interning with the team to get hands on experience imaging computers, replacing hard drives and assisting techs at school sites with student computers. As the semester progresses, Mr. Contreras will also learn about the network and help desk.

Since July 1st, the Technology Department has closed more than 3,700 IT tickets. Way to go team!

Operations Department

The Operations Department would like to congratulate *Abraham Cuellar* on his promotion from Groundskeeper to General Maintenance. Mr. Cuellar will begin his new job duties on Monday, March 6th.

The department would also like to welcome *Erik Arias* who recently started as a Groundskeeper.

Exceptional Student Services Department

The Exceptional Student Services Department had their 3rd gifted parent night meeting on February 27 in which we had families from Tres Rios, Fine Arts, Collier, and Tres Rios attend and learn about summer opportunities for gifted and learn 4 new games.

Dr. Jason McIntosh, our Gifted Instructional Specialist had his poem An Ode To Critical Thinking chosen to be



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published this summer in NAGC's Teaching for High Potential.

Kathryn Londrigan, a Special Education Teacher at Collier has been chosen to have a SMART Board installed for use with instruction for her students.



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Littleton Elementary



First Grade Students Participate in Roving Chef Program. This month, a few of our lucky first graders were chosen to participate in the Roving Chef Program. The lucky participants had the opportunity to spend quality time in the kitchen with our food service staff. The students received a chef's hat and apron, and had the opportunity to tour the kitchen and learn about the process of providing a healthy, great tasting lunch to the students of Littleton. The experience concluded with the opportunity for the students to prepare and cook their own meal, which they were able to enjoy during their lunch. We are so thankful to our Food Service staff for providing nutritious lunches for our students, and for sparking a passion for health and nutrition in our students.

DJ Cheetah Attends Littleton's Kids at Hope Assembly. The students at Littleton were thrilled to receive a visit from DJ Cheetah. DJ Cheetah was brought to Littleton through our amazing Food Service Department. During his visit, he spoke to our students about making healthy food choices and getting regular exercise. All of the students were on their feet and participating in a multiple sets of rigorous jump squats. We appreciate our Food Service Department for taking the time out of their busy schedules to help ensure that our students are on the right path toward a happy and healthy lifestyle.



Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Mrs. Rebekah Smith**, 3rd grade teacher, for being nominated and selected by her peers as the January Teacher of the Month. **Mrs. Smith** has been a dedicated teacher at Estrella Vista for the past 2 years. **Mrs. Smith** brings a new and refreshing perspective to 21st century teaching and learning with the innovative and rigorous lessons she prepares and implements in her classroom on a daily basis. This year **Mrs. Smith** has also implemented a flexible seating



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classroom for her students to increase engagement, academic achievement and lifelong problem solving skills. Students in her class are able to select their seating based on their needs for each lesson throughout any given day. **Mrs. Smith** works diligently to embrace the STEM focus at Estrella Vista and ensures she is planning lessons that include critical thinking, problem solving and consistent integration of contents. In addition to her regular responsibilities as a teacher, **Mrs. Smith** grabs on to any opportunity she can to work with students outside of the classroom including her work this year in coaching our new Junior Pom Squad, Girls Running Club sponsor, boys football coach and much more. Way to go **Mrs. Rebecca Smith** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. The parent group hosted another Peter Piper Night on Friday, January 20th and raised \$445 as well as their monthly dress down day fundraiser that raised \$610 in order to support teachers and students in the classroom. On Friday, January 27th the **PTSA** hosted our Dads with "Donuts for Dads" where dads, grandfathers, uncles or other father figures came in the morning to have donuts, coffee and juice with their child(ren). Our cafeteria staff served students their regular breakfast meals while our dads were served donuts, coffee and juice. The event filled the cafeteria and was a great turnout! On February 10th the **PTSA** continued to celebrate our fathers and/or father figures with a "Father Daughter Dance". The dance had a prom theme and it was a very special night for our girls and their father figures. Many families joined us and the PTSA was able to raise \$715 to use towards initiatives happening across the campus. Coming up in the future, **PTSA** will be sponsoring our first ever girls running club color run and family spring picnic event. We look forward to what's to come with this amazing group. Thank you for all you do!

Students Awarded in Westside Impact Science & Engineering Fair. We would like to thank our **6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers** for collaborating and supporting nine teams of students to present their STEM projects at the 2016-2017 Westside Impact Fair. **Three student groups from 6th, 7th and 8th grade** were able to participate. Our students spent a lot of time utilizing our Design Thinking Process to develop a prototype in order to address a real world problem. One group of 6th grade boys achieved 2nd place for their "Homemade Filter" design to address the issue of dirty water in our city, state and global level while another team of 6th grade girls was awarded 1st place with their "H2O Bike" design. We would like to congratulate all the students who participated and all of our **6th-8th grade teachers** who supported them!

Westside Impact Award Winners Spring 2017. Congratulations to the following teams for being awarded the Westside Innovation Project Grant:

- **Ms. Stacy Batiste** and the first grade team for PROJECT Aqua
- **Mrs. Rebekah Smith** and the third grade team – AZ Science Center Field Trip
- **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** and the eighth grade team – EVES Argumentative Writing Project

There were only 5 awards in the Littleton District and EVES received 3 of them. We are so proud of our STEM TASTIC teachers and staff!



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EVES Clubs & Committee Updates

Mentoring Committee: The mentoring committee is continuing to work to support our students with having the ACES they need to be successful in school and their future. Last year and the beginning of this year, the committee focused on pairing students with adult mentors who could meet with students on a weekly basis and support them as an ACE. Recently, the team met and collaborated about changing up their work and focus. The committee's goal this semester is to identify students in middle school that have been selected to become phenomenal role models and mentors for our younger students and create a leadership group for them to build those skills. Teaming up with middle school students will help create a stronger influence in the classroom and hopefully create a positive impact. Our goal this year is to EMPOWER and leadership can then spread throughout the school with involving our student leaders.

STEM/MESA Club: Regionals at Grand Canyon University were held Saturday, February 18th. Despite all of the rain and the need for the team to stay dry, the MESA regionals went well. Estrella Vista club members really enjoyed the experience of competing against other students throughout the valley. This year, the MESA league committee focused on testing and revising prototypes in the competition. This format opened up more opportunities for our students to ask questions and get feedback on their designs from professional Engineers and MESA judges. As a STEM school, we are striving to focus on teaching our students about the importance of evaluation and feedback which was definitely supported at this competition. Our STEM/MESA club students were able to meet other students from around the county and collaborated with them to gather feedback to improve their designs for the state competition in April. Our student group which developed a prosthetic arm received a huge compliment on their design from judges for that challenge. The team looks forward to the competition in April.



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Collier Elementary

Collier will be celebrating Dr. Seuss night on Thursday, March 2 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. This is a great night for parents and students to interact with staff to share their love of reading. We would like to welcome everyone to come and enjoy the fun!

Congratulations to the following staff members who had perfect attendance during the first semester.

Breana Boone-3rd Grade Teacher

Susan Candelaria-Student Achievement Coach

Jessica Cummins-6th Grade Teacher

Hai Dang-Technology Teacher

Guadalupe Espino-4th Grade Teacher

Samantha Foster-Reading Specialist

Emily Mooney-3rd Grade Teacher

Brittany Ramirez-Kindergarten Teacher

Patti Shannon-Art Teacher

Becky West-2nd Grade Teacher

Cynthia Whoolery-Special Education Teacher

Michelle Younghans-Gifted Teacher

Country Place Leadership Academy

Country Place Wins Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant! Inspired by First Grade, *Mrs. Kristina Palacios* and *Mrs. Julie Fach* have connected Country Place Leadership Academy with Fuel Up to Play 60 and won a grant for \$3640. This grant will be used to build a student interactive garden and supply some much needed recess equipment. Our Fuel Up to Play 60 student leadership team is working hard to "Sharpen the Saw" by accepting challenges that help spread the word about healthy eating habits and the importance of physical activity. In doing so these students are gaining opportunities to make a difference in their communities and at their school. This program focuses on students being leaders of their body, mind, heart, soul and helping them spread their passion to others.



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7th Grade Bridge Building Leaders! **Ms. Kristine Perria**, 7th Grade science teacher, held an engineering design competition. The challenge was to design and build a bridge out of 100 popsicle sticks and glue. The winning bridge built by Natalie and Nicolas held 106.6 pounds! Way to go 7th grade!



3rd Grade Virtual Field Trip to Sea World. Student Achievement Coach, **Brittany Jimenez** and third grade teachers **Ms. Lynette Hill**, **Mrs. Maria Serrano**, **Ms. Mary Newman** and **Ms. Maria Meza** are taking our third grade students to Sea World, virtually. Students will Skype with **Krissi Hardy**, an instructor in the Education and Conservation Department, Orca Trainers and the Orcas live from Shamu Stadium. This will be our school's first experience with a virtual field trip and we are very excited to learn from experts in the field of marine biology!



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Quentin Elementary

Great things are happening at QUES! We just had our Playwork introductory assemblies for our student body held by Playworks. The students were introduced to what is play, why play is powerful and how play will impact our student culture. Students got to have fun and play games and were able to preview what Playworks is all about. Teachers will be trained over the next two Saturdays on Playworks and how to implement this program. We are excited to get this going campus wide by mid-February.



We also had the NED show come to Quentin. They performed for our 3-5 grade students. The NED show teaches students to have high self-confidence and to not bully one another. The Ned Show is also a fundraiser for our school as well.

Lastly we are starting our Jump Rope for Heart initiative. Our kids had the assemblies this week. This is a fundraising program that allows kids to be physically active based around skipping. It teaches kids how to keep fit and healthy, all the while having fun and raising vital funds for research and education.

Tres Rios Service Academy

We've got spirit yes we do, we've got spirit how about you? School Spirit was alive and well at Tres Rios on our annual field day. While the weather was a bit windy, spirits were high and competition was fierce. Parents and families came to partake in the good old fashioned fun from Tug of War to the 100 Yard Dash. A great time was had by all. Hats off to **Mr. Eric Nelson** for spearheading the fun and games.

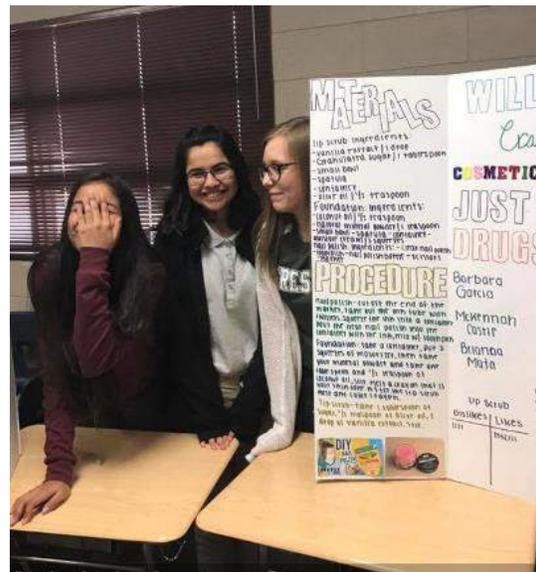
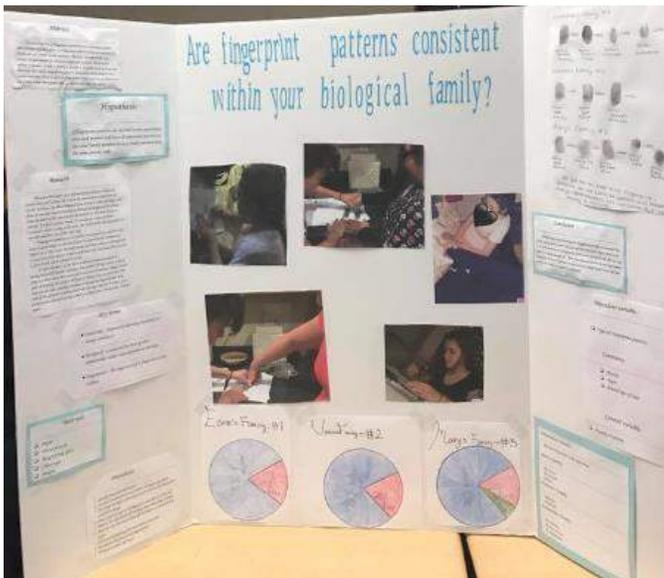


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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Our Science Fair Students and teachers really outdid themselves this year. Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers fostered our student's creation of projects that asked and answered some questions that were new and quite unusual. It was wonderful to see the kids embrace the Scientific Method and learn about some unconventional topics. Way to go Pumas!



Fine Arts Academy

The Fine Arts Falcons received a performing treat this Wednesday morning during our Falcon Assembly. Local artist **Nish Duffey** and his music director visited our school to share their new song and video with our students. This was a huge premier for them as artists and an amazing opportunity for our school to be a part of. The event was presented LIVE on social media and was also simultaneous with the YouTube premier. In addition, they held



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a Question and Answer session for our students to ask away and were able to learn information about all aspects of recording a song and video.





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Teaching and Learning

The Benchmark Review Committee has met three times this year to review and vet the ELA and Math benchmarks. The committee members engage in a review process to ensure the benchmark assessments are aligned to the BT Calendar and expectations of the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. Thank you to the following committee members for their time and dedication to this valuable process: *Morgan Fulks, Kathryn Londrigan, Teresita Esquibel, Roberta Garcia, Rebecca Lopez, Lori Bowden, Bailey Wilson, Stefanie Bender, Stephanie Kelsey, Kristine Marheine, Samantha Armstrong, Mia De La Rosa, Lindsay Westberg, Johanna Spalding, Sandy Miller*, and *Cassandra Garner*. Thank you also to *Marlene Capristo* for her facilitation of this committee.

Exceptional Student Services

Dr. Jason McIntosh, the Gifted TOSA is the co-chair for the 42nd Annual AAGT Conference on February 2 & 3, 2017. In addition, Dr. McIntosh's poem is printed in the brochure for the conference. To top it all off a student from Littleton Elementary School District had her illustration selected for the cover of the brochure.

Transportation

The Transportation Department is moving ahead with the new *Littleton License to Learn* bus pass program. The department is in the process of issuing one hundred forty-two (142) passes that include new and reissued cards. The majority of the students have been enthusiastic about the process and have been practicing swiping on and off the buses in a timely and orderly fashion.

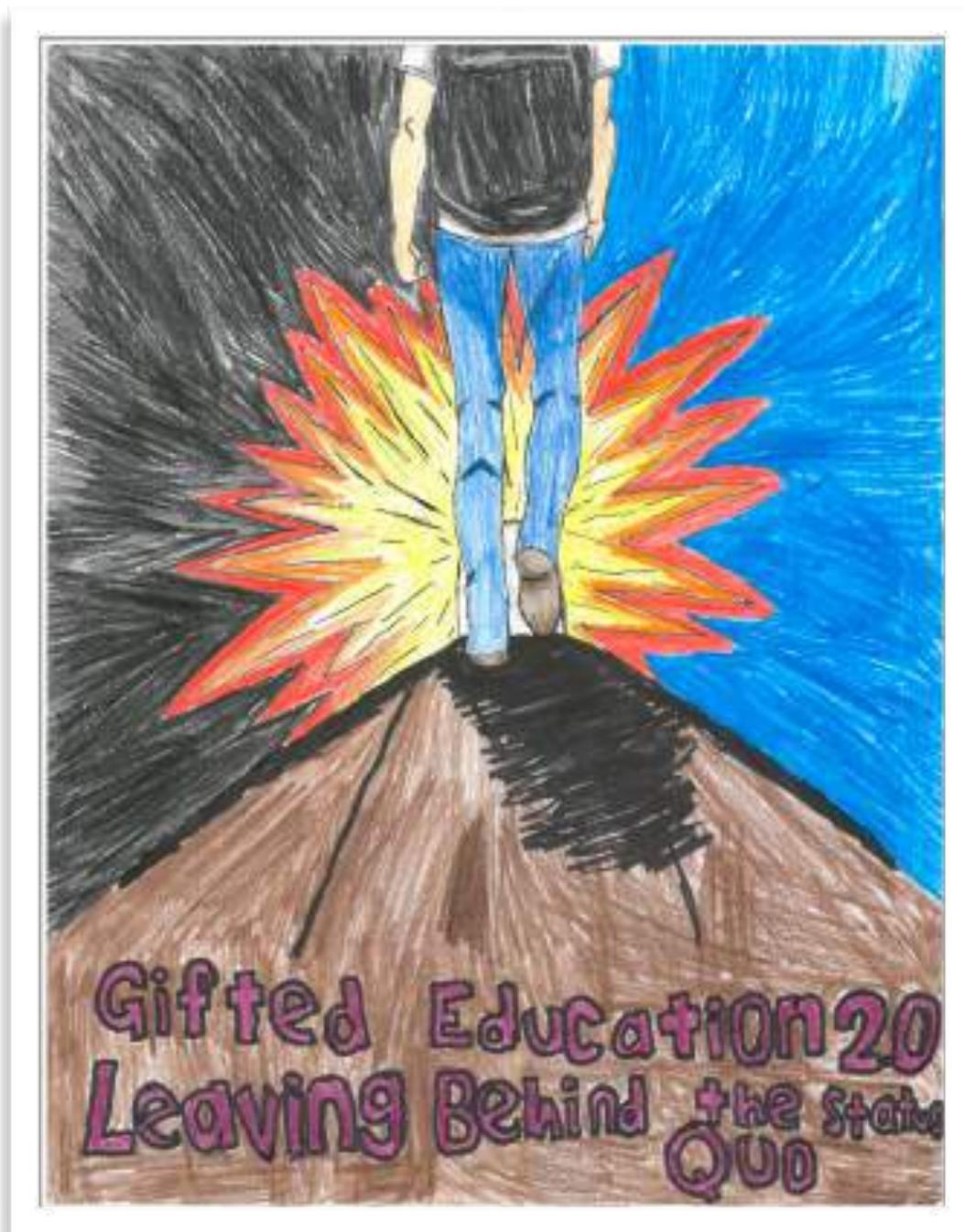
Transportation would like to welcome a new employee to the department, *Jenni Lucas*, bus monitor, who will be a great asset for our special needs students.

Transportation would like to give a shout out to our administrators who have been working diligently to produce quick turn-a-rounds for our Make Your Day program "Responsibility Slips" and "Referrals".

42nd Annual AAGT Conference

Black Canyon Conference Center

February 2 & 3, 2017



AAGT

Creating a Bright Future
for Arizona's Gifted Children

Gifted Education 2.0

By Jason McIntosh, Ph.D.

Gifted Education 2.0

Leaving Behind the Status Quo

That is the theme hand-picked for this gathering.

To not know what it means would be simply unflattering.

Status quo in latin means "the state in which",

To proceed as always without a hitch.

The dictionary online says "the way things stand".

A shift in the course brings a swift reprimand.

2.0 in the title means a new iteration,

Letting go of old precepts, hello to innovation.

'Leaving behind' means the turning of your back

On beliefs of the past and the things that you lack.

Does this mean incorporating the latest technology?

Rewriting our mission or changing ideology?

Should we throw out the old, start from scratch?

Or fix what is wrong with the proverbial patch?

The answers to these questions are as personal as can be.

We each have our priorities, modifications we'd like to see.

Just do something different and try something new.

Imagine the possibilities, now what will you choose?

Is it fighting for equity for an underserved population?

Or, acceleration for those ready- the deception of a nation?

Or, twice exceptional learners who need a supporter?

Someone to cater to those with attention deficit disorder?

Is it curriculum development that gets you excited?

Or the funding for programs that seems so short sighted?

Maybe it's the affective needs of the gifted.

Or research on identification that you are committed.

Whatever it is, we can do it together.

The burden, in unison, can be moved like a feather.

So look to your left and now look to your right.

Take courage today and rejoin the fight.

I hope that our theme now is perfectly clear.

And the poem I've written seems truly sincere.

What will you do in this salient hour?

You are the future and you hold the power.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 25, 2017

Littleton Elementary



District Spelling Bee. Toby B, a 7th grade student at Littleton, represented Littleton in this year's district spelling bee. Toby did an amazing job, and made us all proud by finishing first in the whole district! He will go on to represent the Littleton Elementary School District in the regional spelling bee on February 11th in Buckeye. Littleton Elementary School wishes him the best of luck in the regional spelling bee, and we know he will represent our district well! Congratulations Toby!

Second Quarter Awards. Littleton recently held their second quarter awards assembly. Each grade level recognized students for their hard work during the second quarter. Students received awards for perfect attendance, A/B honor roll, and principal's honor roll. Many parents were in attendance to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students.



Littleton Welcomes New Staff Members. Littleton is excited to welcome three new staff members to our community:

Ms. Bethany Erwin is joining us as our new 6th grade science and math teacher.

Ms. Leslie Damon is joining us as our new 3-5 cross cat. teacher.

Mr. Jim Verrill is joining Littleton as our new principal! Students and staff member are thrilled to get to know Mr. Verrill throughout the remainder of the school year.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 25, 2017

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade Science teacher, for being nominated and selected by his peers as the December Teacher of the Month. **Mr. Batchelder** has been a dedicated teacher at Estrella Vista for the past two years. **Mr. Batchelder** brings a new and refreshing perspective to 21st century teaching and learning with the innovative and rigorous lessons he prepares and implements in his Science classroom on a daily basis. As a Teach For America Teacher, **Mr. Batchelder** exemplifies what it means to be a STEM teacher. He is dedicated to engaging his students in real life situations and problem solving while at the same time covering the 8th grade Science standards and content. In addition, **Mr. Batchelder** is an exemplar in what it means to collaborate to support student achievement. This school year he has dedicated himself to collaboratively planning with his colleagues at his grade level in order to integrate multiple contents into his lesson on a daily basis as well as receive support in other classrooms at his grade level to integrate the content. Way to go **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. The parent group hosted another Peter Piper Night on Friday, January 20th. Although it was wet and cold, the fundraiser was a success with many families being able to come out and support the school and have a night of fun as a community. Coming up Friday, January 27th the PTSA will be celebrating our Dads with "Donuts for Dads" where dads, grandfathers, uncles or other father figures will come in the morning to have donuts, coffee and juice with their child. On February 10th the PTSA will continue to celebrate fathers and/or father figures with a "Father Daughter Dance". We are looking forward to both events where we get to celebrate the "Dad's" in our kids' lives. Estrella Vista is so fortunate to have such an amazing parent group! Thank you for all you do!

Kids at Hope Restock the Shelves Event. We would like to celebrate our Kids at Hope Committee members **Ms. Brittany Levandoski**, 2nd grade teacher; **Mr. Robert Loots**, **Mr. David Wadding** and **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teachers; and **Ms. Rebecca Lopez**, Dean of Students and our new Kids at Hope student leaders for planning our Kids at Hope Destination event for the month of January with a Restock the Shelves CANstruction Community Service School-Wide Project. During the last two weeks of January, parents and students will be bringing in supplies to donate to various community organizations including: St. Mary's Food Bank, Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank, Tammy's Totes and Hope's Closet. Each hallway will collect all of the donations and use their STEM knowledge to design and construct a sculpture out of the materials prior to sending them off to the organizations. The sculptures will be judged by student leaders using a rubric created by **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher. We look forward to sharing pictures of our final outcome of this service project on our FaceBook page.

LOWES Garden Grant Recipient Celebration. Way to go **Ms. Stacy Batiste**, 1st grade teacher and Garden Club Coordinator, for receiving the LOWES Garden Grant this year to support the progress of our school garden that was started last school year. Earlier this Fall, **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra**, Assistant Principal, and **Ms. Stacy Batiste** met to collaboratively write the grant together which involved sending a specific plan of how we would



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utilize the money, a project timeline and the upkeep of the Garden if we were to receive the funding. After returning from Winter Break, **Ms. Batiste** was excited to receive an email from LOWES informing her that Estrella Vista was granted with \$2000.00 for the Garden. We look forward to seeing the continuous growth of our Community Garden! Thank you **Ms. Batiste!**

Parent Involvement – Building Futures Parent Opportunity. We would like to give a shout out to **Mr. Emil Pluhar**, District STEM Instructional Specialist; **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade teacher and EV STEM coordinator and **Mr. Richard Ramos**, Principal for collaborating to bring an amazing opportunity to the Estrella Vista Campus! Building Futures is an adult community outreach educational program offered by Estrella Vista STEM Academy. This program is an adult education program for the parents of Estrella STEM Academy in the Littleton Elementary School District. The program will enroll 60 parents that will be divided into three different classes of approximately 40 minutes. The parents will rotate through all three classes each evening. The three classes will consist of Technology Education, Banking Principals and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) principles. Child care will be provided for the participants. The children will be involved in academic instruction and physical fitness education. The classes will be on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 in the evening and will be every Wednesday starting February 8th through March 15th. We look forward to sharing more good news about the progress of this initiative in the future.

EVES Clubs Updates & Celebrations

EVES Junior Stem Club has been going great this year! Students are learning about the engineering process and how it connects to their real life situations. The processes include building and evaluating their projects, testing their projects, and discussing what would they would do next time after seeing how their project tested. Some of these projects include building towers about of various materials, building a boat that could hold the most amount of weight and exploring microscopes. Thank you to **Ms. Rachel Vliek**, 5th grade teacher, and **Ms. Alyssa Pakes**, 4th grade teacher, for providing this opportunity for our 4th-5th grade students and preparing them for their upcoming involvement in STEM/MESA club in their near future!

EV STEM Club: The members of this afterschool club are all working hard to get their design build and ready for their first MESA competition on February 18th at Grand Canyon University. Their designs include a prosthetic arm, solar cars, PVC pipe bridge and a water bottle made from duct tape and golf ball launcher. This team of students has dedicated themselves to meet after school every Tuesday and Thursday since the beginning of the year to work creatively and collaboratively to prepare their projects. Thank you to **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade Math and Science teacher, for supporting our students as their advisor in this club!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 18, 2017

Collier Elementary

Ms. Patti Shannon had seventh grade students create a mural to serve as a backdrop to the school garden. The liaison from West Valley Arts Council, **Dr. Melanie Ohm** was also in attendance.



The Collier student council organized a school wide food drive. Collier won third place in the City of Avondale's School Spirit Holiday Food Drive! The school brought in a whopping **1,618 pounds** of food to those less fortunate in our city!!!! As a city, Collier and seven other elementary schools gathered together to donate **9,564 total pounds of food!** (WOW)

LIMBS INTERNATIONAL was happy to report that they were able to combine Collier's efforts with other schools to provide a prosthetic leg for a person in need. Attached is the picture and story of a life that has been changed because of Collier's participation in Socktober.

Country Place Leadership Academy

CPES Library Wins Fiesta Bowl Grant for Leadership Library. Congratulations to *Mrs. Monique Dunlap* for winning \$5000 from the Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers Program to purchase books highlighting leadership for the Country Place library. The books will support students learning about leadership, the impact of leadership throughout history and the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Thanks for bringing great resources to our students!

CPES Teacher Wins Award for Sharing Lessons on BT. Congratulations to *Ms. Kristine Perria* for winning a monetary award and recognition for sharing lessons with other teachers on the Beyond Textbooks website. Thanks for sharing your passion for teaching and learning!



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January 18, 2017

6th Grade Partnership with Estrella Community College. Our 6th grade students, led by *Ms. Aileen Mancillas*, *Mrs. Julie Fach*, *Mrs. Stephanie Budzban* and *Mrs. Ashley Pomeroy*, will begin a partnership with Estrella Mountain Community College and their Future Teachers Club. The Future Teachers Club will guide our students through an experience they call- The Vision of College. Our students will visit EMCC to inspire the vision that they are college material, and EMCC is the place for them. Activities will include a tour of the campus (in groups of 10), a play with the theme focus as presented by several EDU classes, a panel of local professionals (who were EMCC graduates) representing professions (as requested by the students ahead of time), a Q&A session with our FTC officers about the many facets of attending college, lunch, and a summarizing Jeopardy game.

Additionally, students from **Dr. Pete Turner's** EDU236 Classroom Management class will be visiting *Mrs. Stephanie Budzban's* class to see a model classroom in action!

Collier Elementary Students are Changing Lives Around the World!

You are all LIMBS' Heroes!

We are so grateful for your continued support! LIMBS salutes you for partnering with us to provide the gift of mobility and hope to amputees who thought their lives were over. We are now pleased to introduce to you Elijah, a life you have helped transform

Liberia



1 Leg



Elijah (Liberia)

A few months ago a doctor in rural Liberia contacted LIMBS and told us about a patient who was in need of a prosthetic limb. Elijah is a 17-year-old boy from a remote region in Liberia who had an accident that caused a severe injury to his leg. The doctor did everything she could but an injection set in and in order to save Elijah's life and stop the infection she told the family that they needed to amputate his leg above the knee.

Elijah's father was very concerned about what kind of life his son would have with only one leg and refused the lifesaving

surgery. After many conversations between the doctor and the father, the doctor asked Elijah what he would like to do if his leg was healed. He said play soccer and go to school. The doctor told him that neither one of these things has to be completely closed off to him with an amputation and explained that people even play soccer with prosthetics. She showed him pictures of the Liberian amputee soccer team. He agreed to stay and have the surgery. He had the amputation and his leg healed well.

The problem was that the only prosthetic legs available in the country were old and very heavy. Fortunately, because of the efforts of your school LIMBS was able to provide a leg to Elijah at no cost! Elijah was fitted with his new LIMBS' leg and is now walking again and looking forward to returning to school and the soccer pitch. Thank you so much for partnering with LIMBS to give Elijah as second chance at life!

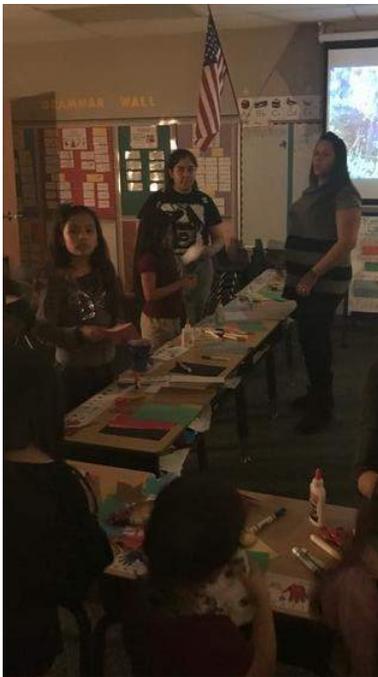


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 11, 2017

Tres Rios Service Academy

Good News and Good Tidings from Tres Rios. A huge shout out to **Ms. Crystal Carerra** for her amazing organizational skills for the Holidays around the World event. Our school welcomed community members on December 15th to host the Annual Holidays around the World. This year there was a different spin. While there were the usual celebrations of holidays, the service theme resonated loud and proud. Parents and families donated pajamas for our pajama drive so that kids in need could get a new pair of jammies and a new book. What a wonderful way to ring in the holidays.



Congratulations to **Mr. Itzer Garcia** and **Dr. Jason Macintosh**, they are both presenting at the February Arizona Gifted and Talented Conference. It is always exciting when our staff gets to share with others all the things they are doing at Tres Rios. They are representing Littleton Elementary School District with pride and passion.





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Quentin Elementary



Good times at Quentin Elementary! 25 students had the opportunity to go to the culminating event for the NFL Play 60 competition. QUES students had fun and represented the school well. The big message was to practice strong character and be active 60 minutes a day, every day.

Our recycling club continues to support the community with another 200+ gallons of product collected! Way to go!



At Quentin we are excited to be partnering with La Hoya Community High School to be starting our first running club. Junior high students will be using the track at the high school three days a week to start the day off with some activity. We are excited to see how this impacts our students.



Lastly we had an opportunity to adopt a senior citizen, Mr. Jose Gallardo. Quentin staff collected resources such as slippers, toiletries, jogging outfits and sleep wear. Mr. Gallardo, age 90, was very grateful and thanked the Quentin team for his items!

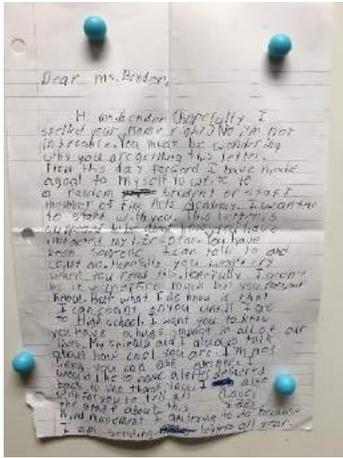


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 11, 2017

Fine Arts Academy

The Fine Arts Academy would like to celebrate all of our teachers for coming back after break fired up and on top of their game. Our students are excited to be back and wonderful things are happening.



Before the break, seventh grader Izzy was inspired by the Kids at Hope initiative to send letters home with students. Izzy came back to school after the holidays and is hand delivering letters every day to someone new, students or staff.

Ms. Clarissa Alvarez, a third grade teacher, did some research and shopping after school and has changed her classroom to alternative seating which has completely revamped her culture in the most positive way. She has beanbags and high tops with stools, a station for standing and event soft seating.



The Bee Kind Crew was on campus the last week before break as students and staff work together to make the Fine Arts Academy “the best place of them all”. That is one of the lines from our school song.



Teaching and Learning

Littleton Elementary School District will hold the District Spelling Bee on Thursday, January 12th, 2017. Each school will send two representatives to the bee. Thank you to the school sponsors and district representative who worked with teachers and students to ensure each school bee was a success: *Tammy Ngeno, Roberta Garcia, Rebecca Boltjes, Dan Budzman, Saudat Balogun, Kimberly Buckner, Erika Avelar, and Sideqa Padawer*. Watch for the winner of the District Spelling be to be announced in a future edition of the Good News.

Transportation

Quentin Elementary and Estrella Vista STEM Academy bus riders will receive their Littleton License to Learn Student ID next week. This is part of the Zonar rollout, which is the student tracking and bus monitoring system. Parents are being notified this week about the program and being asked to remind their students to carry their IDs with them at times for added safety. Fine Arts Academy bus riders received their Littleton License to Learn IDs at the beginning of December. The program will be rolled out to the rest of the schools throughout this month.

Operations

Renovations of the Technology Department and the new Welcome Center space at District Office began during Winter Break. The new space for the Welcome Center should be completed by the last week of February.

Technology

There were no major technical issues returning from Winter Break. The majority of the calls received by Help Desk were for password resets.

The bandwidth for the internet pipeline for schools was increased to 600 megs in December to help ensure Benchmark testing ran smoothly without any internet slowing.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 14, 2016

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Ms. Danielle Stone**, Kindergarten teacher, for being nominated and selected by her peers as the November Teacher of the Month. **Ms. Stone** has been a dedicated teacher at Estrella Vista for the past 3 years. She is extremely involved in the school and leadership through her roles as a basketball and volleyball coach, co-leading EVES mentoring committee, a member of the school Leadership Team and the Kindergarten team lead. In addition, **Ms. Stone** is always willing to lend books to other classrooms from her personal collection, offer and provide supplies to colleagues when needed and is willing to help others in any way she can to support the success of all students. She truly and deeply cares for all of her students from past years and those who are currently enrolled in her classroom and demonstrates this care on a daily basis through the relationships she forms with her students. She also makes learning fun and engaging so that every child in her classroom is excited to come to school every day. Furthermore, **Ms. Stone** is dedicated to consistently reflecting on her practices as a teacher in order to become a better teacher every day and support and accommodate all learners in her classroom. Way to go **Ms. Danielle Stone** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. Peter Piper Night in November was a successful event and the greatest number of participants ever on a Holiday Weekend (Veteran's Day). **PTSA members** also hosted another family movie night on Friday, December 9th where students, teachers and family members came to school in their pajamas and watched "The Polar Express" then had a surprise visit from Santa. Students turned in their movie ticket for a Polar Express jingle bell and a family photo with Santa. Lastly, PTSA continues to excel in their collection of Box Tops and are at a total of 8,259 collected (the most ever collected in the History of Estrella Vista). Estrella Vista is so fortunate to have such an amazing parent group! Thank you for all you do!

Parents as Partners Annual Turkey Trot Event. On Friday, November 18th, parents and students school wide joined Estrella Vista for our annual turkey trot. Students bundled up to get some exercise before school by walking or running laps around the school field to put their name in to win a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. We would like to give a shout out to **all of the teachers and staff as well as our PTSA** who were able to donate 92 turkeys for this year's winners. It is so exciting to celebrate that Estrella Vista provided the main course for 92 families in our community. A very special shout out goes to our Principal, **Richard Ramos**, for raising money to purchase 20 of the turkeys and also receive a donation from a grocery store in Tucson for 20 more turkeys that he drove down to get prior to the trot. Go Hawks!

Second Annual Letters to Troops for the Holidays. Thank you to **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra**, Assistant Principal, for communicating with staff at Estrella Vista about the annual Letters to Troops initiative put on by KMLE radio. This year Estrella Vista was able to send over 230 letters to our troops who serve and protect us and are away from their families over the holidays. A special shout out to the teachers and their students who wrote the letters. Thank you **Ms. Danielle Stone** and **Ms. Margaret Sauer**, Kindergarten teachers; **Ms. Stacy Batiste**, 1st grade teacher; **Ms. Jocelyne Bonilla** and **Ms. Ashley Chapman**, 2nd grade teachers; **Ms. Daisy Sandoval** and **Mrs. Rebekah Smith**, 3rd grade teachers; **Ms. Alyssa Pakes**, 4th grade teacher; and **Ms. Julia Greenwald**, 6th



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 14, 2016

grade Social Studies and ELA teacher for having your students write letters to our troops!

Students & Teacher Leader Get Innovative with Morning Announcements. We are pleased to announce that our morning announcements went from boring intercom to extraordinary video! Special thanks to **Ms. Penny Nguyen's homeroom students** in 6th through 8th grade who work after school to make our video announcements viewable to every classroom, every morning. Students are becoming proficient at using a green screen (funded by our TNT Committee), and a free green screen app called TouchCast. TouchCast allows us to add photos of our daily menu, the pledges, quotes of the day, and birthdays. The students really enjoy filming the announcements, and our student body enjoys watching them. In the future, we hope to add journalists, interviews, sports coverage, talented kids, and more! Stay tuned!

Kids at Hope Lunch, Leaders and Initiatives. Friday, November 18th, Estrella Vista hosted our annual Kids at Hope ACES Lunch. There was a huge turnout of parents throughout the day where families came and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal together. All grade levels had ACES show up and even had an opportunity to write notes of appreciation for their students that were placed in grade level bags and later distributed to be read. Several of our EV students received kind words of support and appreciation and were thrilled to see what their families had to say. In addition, we have six student leaders who have been invited to join our school Kids at Hope Committee. These leaders were nominated by their teachers in grades 6 through 8. The student's participation on this committee will include attending a meeting once a month before school starts for an hour and they will be sharing their ideas and providing their support in planning activities to help grow our philosophy that all kids are capable of success.... No Exceptions! These leaders will also be attending a Kids at Hope Youth Summit that will be taking place in January where they will learn about mental time travel. These student leaders will be developing a plan of action to bring back to our campus to help promote the idea of time travel to the four major destination points: Home and Family, Community and Service, College and Career, and Hobbies and Recreation. Thank you to the Kids at Hope Committee members **Ms. Brittany Levandoski**, 2nd grade teacher; **Mr. Robert Loots**, **Mr. David Wadding** and **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teachers; and **Ms. Rebecca Lopez**, Dean of Students, for planning activities and family involvement opportunities for our students and families!

MCESA Visits Estrella Vista. Recently, Estrella Vista STEM Academy was featured in the December 2016 news of the Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA). EV has been a partner of MCESA over the last year. Taking on our new STEM focus, **Mr. Ramos** explained the progress made over the 2016-17 school year. Here is some of the information featured on the MCESA website. Starting with science, Estrella Vistas carves out time during the day to ensure science is taught daily. We implement an inquiry-based model of hands-on learning to develop a richer understanding of the world we live in. Our second focus is to maximize the capacity of technology. We are getting data and information at an ever-increasing rate. With a laptop for each child, we use technology as a learning tool. We plan to implement digital citizenship through modeling, exploring, and applying knowledge to real world experiences. Finally, engineering is critical to the success of our 21st century learners. We focus on design-thinking which involves a lot of collaboration. Through this process, our students develop empathy as they establish cooperative relationships with other students. Together, they define problems and develop ideas for possible solutions. In addition, the students test their ideas to ensure they maximize their learning capacity. For more information, please see the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbknfTT4yIw>.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 14, 2016

EVES Clubs Updates & Celebrations

Boys Running Club: Our boys are improving as runners every week! On Tuesday's and Friday's boys grades 3-6 stretch, focus on improving their stamina and time during our outdoor circuit and then blow of some steam and continue to run while playing fun games like capture the flag. It is great fun to watch the boys improve, enjoy themselves and create a love of fitness and exercise. Thank you **Ms. Julia Greenwald**, 6th grade teacher, for all of your time and commitment to our boy's health and well-being!

Middle School Choir: In Middle School, our choir students presented their Holiday Concert on December 8th. They worked hard to give the community a little holiday cheer, and then spent some time Christmas caroling for our lower grade classes. Way to go **Mr. Michael Spielman**, Music teacher, for another amazing holiday show and the entertainment your students provide for the rest of the school and community!

Flag Football: The boys have had an incredible season this year. They have played great and are sitting in the number one spot with an undefeated record. They have won all six of their games. We are excited to see them continue their streak and end with a perfect 8-0 record. Thank you **Mr. Rigoberto Gamez**, 7th grade teacher, and **Mrs. Rebekah Smith**, 3rd grade teacher, for leading our boys to all of their victories through teamwork, dedication and collaboration!

Garden Club: Garden Club is growing by heaps and bounds! Our crate gardens already have growth and we have exciting ideas in the works for the rest of our garden. Thank you to **Ms. Stacy Batiste**, 1st grade teacher, and **Mrs. Susan Cox**, Resource teacher, for the time you put in weekly to work with our students in the garden!

First Semester Mini STEM Showcase a Success! Estrella Vista hosted our first STEM Showcase of the school year on Friday, December 9th. We would like to celebrate and congratulate all of our teachers who utilized the Design Thinking Process with their students in order to design protocols and address a real world problem. Additionally, we would like to celebrate the creative and innovative ideas that came from all of our **students Kindergarten through 8th grade**. Projects for over 965 students were displayed for students, parents, community partners (including La Joya and MCESA) to see. So many great ideas and critical thinking came out of our students with the use of Design Thinking. We would like to also give a special shout out to **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade Science and Math teacher/STEM site coordinator, for organizing and planning the event; **Mr. Alfonso Almanza** and **Mr. Joey Sanchez**, Lead Custodian and Nighttime custodian, for supporting with set up and the student STEM club members for set up and tear down. We look forward to see our products and growth in the Spring when we host our 2nd STEM Showcase of the year!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 14, 2016

Littleton Elementary School

Littleton Elementary hosted the annual Turkey Trot on Friday, November 18th. Students from every grade level participated by running approximately one mile during their specials time. Students received tickets for each completed lap, and used the tickets to enter a drawing for turkeys and prizes. A total of 16 turkeys, donated by the PTA, were awarded to the lucky winners.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 7, 2016

Collier Elementary School

Ms. Jessica Cummins and *Mr. James Dean* as well as students from the MESA Club spent a night at the Phoenix Zoo. The group experienced the Zoo in a unique way at Night Camp. They were able to see animals up-close, take a tour by flashlight, and wake up as the animals do.



Ms. Leticia Mattei and Student Council students attended the Student Leadership Convention. Our Student Council is working towards earning honor or master council recognition with the state association.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 7, 2016

Ms. Lorialle Haynes was recognized for her willingness to focus on respect and caring in the classroom, especially during the negativity surrounding the election. Here is the link to see the story that aired on Channel 5 <http://www.cbs5az.com//story/33683706/valley-2nd-grade-teacher-does-damage-control-following-divisive-presidential-election#.WCUmRdgP1dQ.mailto>

Country Place Leadership Academy

Robotics Teams Compete from Country Place, Collier and Quentin, Country Place Earns 1st Place in the Tournament! Three teams from Country Place, Collier, and Quentin competed along with 25 teams at the FIRST LEGO League West Phoenix tournament on Saturday, December 3. The Country Place robotics team, The Gifters, scored the most points on the robot missions during the tournament, earning the robot performance award. Also, by having a balanced performance in robot design, project presentation, and demonstration of core values, they were awarded the tournament championship and will be competing at the state championship at ASU on January 14-15. *Ms. Ginny Biddle* and Ms. Younghans would like to congratulate all the teams for their hard work in participating in this event. Great job all!

Country Place Leadership Academy Staff Supporting Teachers of the Future. Three staff members, 6th grade teacher *Ms. Stephanie Budzban*, Special Education Teacher, *Mr. Enrique Cardon* and *Principal Dr. Michael Cagle* were invited to speak to aspiring teachers at Estrella Mountain Community College. *Mrs. Budzban* and *Dr. Cagle* participated in a panel forum with members of the Future Teachers Club at EMCC. The Future Teachers prepared questions and also asked questions of the panel. The questions included, “Why should we become a teacher?” and “What are the biggest challenges and rewards for teachers today?” *Mr. Cardon* was invited to speak at a Future Teachers Club meeting and discuss “The day in the life of a special education teacher.” The aspiring teachers appreciated *Mr. Cardon’s* clear passion for his students and emphasis on building relationships of respect and care.

Mustangs Learn about Energy with SRP. The CP Energy Club brought the SRP Energy Bike out to visit 3rd grade teacher *Mrs. Maria Serrano’s* and 4th grade teacher *Mrs. Rocio Ruiz’s* classrooms. The students learned how energy can be generated, its uses, its dangers and conservation. Students also received a gift, a solar flashlight from SRP. We are very excited to see the impact our energy club has on energy conservation at our school and in our neighborhood!

Partnership with A World in Motion, The Society of Automotive Engineers and the GM Foundation Grows. 6th grade teachers *Mrs. Aileen Mancillas* and *Mrs. Stephanie Budzban* hosted 13 community volunteers at the initial training for A World in Motion. The volunteers, which include parents, retired GM employees, 2 retired principals, a retired SRP employee and a retired police officer, worked with the teachers to build a Gravity Cruiser. The Gravity Cruiser is a car powered by gravity and the force created with 50 pennies. The volunteers will help facilitate the 6th graders creation of Gravity Cruisers and some incredible science, engineering and math learning. As the group was working, many CP staff walked by and were trying to figure out why all the adults were building cars. During the discussion, *Dr. Cagle* asked the coordinator of A World in Motion **Bill Klein** about the cost of adding other grade levels. Due to the partnership with retired GM employee, **Ken Weshselberger** and the GM Foundation, CP only needs to recruit more volunteers and all of the materials will be donated by the GM Foundation!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 7, 2016

Leadership Day is Coming! The Country Place Lighthouse Team is in the initial planning stages of hosting its First Annual Leadership Day. Leadership Day is an event where students have the opportunity to display the leadership skills they are learning through public speaking, giving tours, sharing their work and teaching leadership lessons to members of the community. Look for more information in the Future! Leadership Day will be in May!

Learning the 7 Habits! Students in every grade level are learning the 7 Habits! The kindergarten crew led by *Mrs. Jaqueline Davis*, *Mrs. Karen Hook*, *Mrs. Anastasia Hans* and *Ms. Karina Serrano* received the first ever student workbooks for kindergarten students. 3rd grade teachers, *Ms. Lynette Hill* and *Mrs. Maria Serrano* and 4th grade teacher *Ms. Astrid Garcia* and their classes piloted a new version of the Leader in ME Workbooks and shared their feedback with Franklin Covey. Students throughout the school are finding ways to demonstrate the 7 Habits. The PBIS Team led by Dean *Mr. Tony Balsama* and 5th grade teacher *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez* have added a place to mark positives for showing one of the 7 Habits. Keep up the great Leadership work!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 30, 2016

Quentin Elementary School

Great times at QUES! We had the best Thanksgiving and Turkey Trot events ever! Student Council lined the halls and the cafeteria as families came to join us for our annual event. SFE, staff and students supported a phenomenal event.

The Quentin recycling club is up and running. They did their first collection and were able to round up over 200 gallons of recyclable items at our school! The students are excited about helping our community!

Oskar Knoblauch came to speak with junior high students at QUES about his experiences with regards to the Holocaust. Students were captivated by the stories shared. Truly impactful and eye opening experiences shared with staff and students!!

We had our first annual Arizona Cardinals Camp at Quentin. 100 kids participated in drills and games with two members of the Arizona Cardinals along with Big Red! Lots of pictures and smiling Quentin students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 30, 2016

Tres Rios Service Academy



Good news and good deeds go hand in hand at Tres Rios Service Academy. **Ms. Erika Avelar** (not pictured here) and her NJHS kids made a HUGE difference on Super Saturday at Safeway. They spent the day serving the community and helping with the Food Drive and the Turkey drop off. The students also helped pack up and distribute canned foods. Adding to the spirit of service were **Mr. Thomas Webb** and **Ms. Colleen Allen** who dropped off turkeys in support of their local community.



Assistant Principal **Mr. Charles Blanton** and **Ms. Erin Van Dusen's** 5th grade dropped off a little surprise for the Tres Rios Wetlands. Hand painted waste barrels to help keep this amazing facility free from debris. The kids were able to tour the wetlands and **Mr. Blanton** and **Ms. Van Dusen** were happy to share in the giving spirit. Next project will be to find a picnic table, refinish and hopefully make another visit in the spring with the new picnic table.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 30, 2016

Fine Arts Academy

The Fine Arts Academy had 120 parents sign in to join their students for Thanksgiving lunch! The cafeteria was full of excitement and fun! The cafeteria staff did an amazing job serving so many above the normal lunch numbers. The food was wonderful and many teachers joined students for lunch that day.

We had our 1st annual Turkey Trot on Friday. The Fine Arts Academy had donations of 38 pies and 16 turkeys. All students participated in a 20-minute run/walk and earned tickets for every time they went around the field. We had many parents show up for this event as well. They supported and cheered on their students as well as volunteered with set up, handing out tickets and clean up. At the end of the day, all students, staff and parents gathered in the auditorium for the drawings for the turkeys and pies. We had 90 parents sign in for the event.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 16, 2016

Exceptional Students Services

On November 8, 2016, 23 student athletes from special education classes had the opportunity to partner with Special Olympics to go bowling. This was a was a fun event that promoted social awareness and supported the development of the whole child. This event was held for students with different abilities and was adapted and supervised so as to ensure a wonderful worthwhile experience for each individual athlete. ALL students received an award and even some bowled their first strike!

On Monday night, November 14, 2016, Exceptional Student Services hosted their second parent night for the 2016-17 school year. Parents and students from five of our seven schools gathered at the district office to learn about gifted education in Littleton Elementary School District and have some fun! Topics covered during the formal meeting portion of the evening included the characteristics of gifted children, resources available through the National Association for Gifted Children, and the recommendations of toys and games for advanced learners. The last half of the evening consisted of parents and children learning 5 strategy games and playing as a family.

Human Resources

Dawn Scheidemandel was recently recognized by our substitute staffing company as their substitute teacher of the month. ESI featured Dawn as a Littleton Elementary School District sub in their monthly newsletter. Dawn is currently filling a long term position at the Fine Arts Academy. Here is an excerpt of what she had to say:

Why do you choose to work as a substitute teacher?

I was a para-pro and became a sub because I saw the need for consistency in the students' lives.

What are some of your funniest moments as a substitute teacher?

A kindergarten student who packed her own lunch: a bottle of honey, yogurt, and several coffee creamers; and a 6th grade student insisted on giving me a dollar coin (I did decline) because he "had thousands of them."

Have you taken any lessons from your personal life that have helped with your role as a substitute teacher?

Yes, showing up and being prepared is the most important thing.

Transportation

Transportation would like to welcome two new bus drivers to the team: *Jennifer Walters* and *Sherry Neviles*. Ms. Walters received her school bus certification on November 15th. Ms. Neviles is working on completing her 20 hours behind the wheel and 14 hours in a classroom and then she will be ready to start transporting Littleton students. Transportation is currently hiring for one more bus driver and one monitor.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 16, 2016

Teaching and Learning

LESD Benchmark Review Committee. The Littleton Elementary School District Benchmark Review Committee is hard at work this year ensuring the benchmark assessments administered to our students are of the highest caliber in terms of measuring what our students are learning. The mission of this team is to vet benchmark assessment items so that teachers can use the data to gain an understanding of how students are progressing in their rigorous grade-level standards as well as provide an opportunity to for teachers to use this data to inform instruction. The team is comprised of teachers and deans representing each school site, Exceptional Student Services, and Teaching and Learning. The time and expertise these committee members bring to this team are invaluable in continuing the exceptional quality of education that LESD is committed to bringing our students. Thank you: *Morgan Fulks, Teresita Esquibel, Rebecca Lopez, Bailey Wilson, Stephanie Kelsey, Samantha Armstrong, Lindsay Westberg, Marlene Capristo, Cassandra Garner, Kathryn Londrigan, Roberta Garcia, Lori Bowden, Stefanie Bender, Kristine Marheine, Mia De La Rosa, Johanna Spalding* and *Sandy Miller*.

Deans. This year Littleton Elementary School District has put into practice a new assessment platform, Illuminate. As part of this process, teachers and administrators need to be trained on how to use the platform so they can access assessment data to support learning on their campus. The Deans on each of the campuses have become an integral part in ensuring that their staff has the professional development that they need in order to be successful. They not only present professional development on Illuminate on their site, but they also take time out of their busy days to create the training. Without the insight they hold regarding their staff and their understanding of the assessment process our district would not have had such a successful implementation. Thank you: *Morgan Fulks, Tony Balsama, Rebecca Lopez, Stefani Bender, Marieka Michaud, and Eric Nelson*.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 9, 2016

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Mrs. Cynthia Landis**, 5th grade teacher, for being nominated and selected by her peers as the October Teacher of the Month. **Mrs. Landis** has been a dedicated teacher at Estrella Vista for the past 4 years. She consistently goes above and beyond for her grade level team, her students, the school and her involvement in District Committees such as LEAP. She's always willing to lend a helping hand and collaborate with her peers in regards to student safety, well-being, academics and grade level achievement. In addition, **Mrs. Landis** has put a lot of time and effort in before and after school as well as during these past summer building relationships with our students outside of the classroom in her work with our Middle School Pom Squad. The hard work and dedication she has put in with the girls she has worked with is definitely recognized in their performances for Estrella Vista to rally up our Spirit during First Friday Assemblies as well as at various sporting events. Way to go **Mrs. Cynthia Landis** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. During the month of October, **PTSA members** voted on their winner for their annual T-shirt contest and recognized Jazmyne Mejia, an 8th grade student for her T-Shirt design. Jazmyne's T-Shirt Quote encompassed her thoughts about what it's like to be at Estrella Vista with her quote "In this place, I Build My Future!" What a representation of how Kids at Hope has influenced our student's success and mindset. In addition, **PTSA** held their 2nd annual Fall Festival, which had an awesome turn out. They estimated that there were about 1,200 students, parents and community members in attendance at the event and raised just under \$3,000.00 to use towards teacher and student needs throughout the school year. Lastly, the Box Tops contest has continued to be a success for this parent group and for October they collected 1,001 Box Tops for Education. This brings their total for this calendar year so far to 7,500 and they still have two more months to go.

Outstanding Results From Estrella Vista's American Dream Academy Parent Participants. **More than 50 parents graduated from the American Dream Academy** on Tuesday, November 1st. For eight weeks, our parents participated in weekly workshops learning about the path of education. At Estrella Vista STEM Academy, we partnered with **Arizona State University** to bring this all important curriculum to our campus. Parents actively engaged in learning about commitment, roles of school leaders, ways to read with their children, motivating students, and developing a plan of action. Parents were honored with certificates and enjoyed a banquet for their dedication to the **American Dream Academy** and Estrella Vista STEM Academy. Together, we have cleared the path for our children to find success in high school and enroll at **Arizona State University** in the very near future.

Estrella Vista Support's Our Community with the Socktober Community & Service Project. Thank you to **Mrs. Jennifer Brees**, Student Achievement Coach, for organizing EV's first Socktober Event! With the support of our students and staff, Estrella Vista collected over 690 pairs of socks in just two short weeks during the month of October! After collection, Mrs. Bree was able to deliver all of the socks to the Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank on November 1st. We would like to specifically highlight the top classes at EV that collected the most socks during the Community and Service event. Thank you **Ms. Laura Montano** and her 1st grade class, **Ms. Rebekah Smith**



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 9, 2016

and her 3rd grade class and **Mr. Bronson Goodsell** and his 7th grade class. We are so proud of everyone involved in this initiative and the huge difference you have made.

EVES Clubs Updates & Celebrations. We'd like to give a big shout out to the awesome kick off for **Lady Hawks on the Run!** The girls have formed their support groups, tie dyed team shirts and have had several opportunities for some intense exercising. The girls have been pushing themselves to reach small goals in a short amount of time and bring such positivity to the club each week. Lady Hawks will be planning an "**Ugly Sweater Run**" for all students, staff, families and community members before we part for winter break. Be on the look-out for that information coming soon and we hope that everyone can come out to support and participate. Thank you Lady Hawks coaches **Ms. Michelle Pitters, Ms. Rebekah Smith, Ms. Ashley Chapman, Ms. Rachel Vlieg, Ms. Margaret Sauer, Ms. Jordan Dixon,** and **Ms. Elizabeth Ricario** for all the support and volunteer time to help kick off our Lady Hawks running club!

Parents As Partners: EV Teachers Blew it Out of the Park with Parent/Teacher Contacts During Fall Conferences! Way to go **Estrella Vista staff** for our phenomenal results in our Fall P/T Conferences! Your dedication to building partnerships with our parents and ensuring parent involvement in each child's education is commendable!

Grade	# of Students	Face to Face	%	Telephone	%	Student Led	%	Total Students	Total %
K	95	90	94.7%	4	4.2%	90	94.7%	94	98.9%
1st	96	88	91.7%	5	5.2%	88	91.7%	93	96.9%
2nd	117	109	93.2%	3	2.6%	109	93.2%	112	95.7%
3rd	104	98	94.2%	0	0.0%	98	94.2%	98	94.2%
4th	119	102	85.7%	16	13.4%	102	85.7%	118	99.2%
5th	107	98	91.6%	0	0.0%	98	91.6%	98	91.6%
6th	110	92	83.6%	4	3.6%	92	83.6%	96	87.3%
7th	111	104	93.7%	7	6.3%	104	93.7%	111	100.0%
8th	112	79	70.5%	7	6.3%	79	70.5%	86	76.8%
Totals	971	860	88.6%	46	4.7%	860	88.6%	906	93.3%



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 9, 2016

Saluting Our Veteran's in November's Frist Friday Assembly. Estrella Vista would like to thank two parents, **Mr. Jon Wilson** and **Mr. Fernando Monarrez**, for joining us for our November First Friday Assembly. These gentlemen are currently serving in our military and were recognized for their service to our country. They also presented student and teacher awards at the assembly this month. In addition, we would like to thank our student, **Sara Robles ~ 4th grader**, for showing her musical talent on the guitar and playing the National Anthem to start off our assembly! We are so proud of our student and community members and thank them for their participation in our celebration this month.

Littleton Elementary School

Girls Basketball Plays in Second Straight Championship Game. The Littleton Elementary Girls' basketball team had another amazing season, winning their way through the playoffs and into the championship game. Littleton is proud of the effort and hard work that the students displayed throughout the course of the season. They worked together, played as a team, and demonstrated great sportsmanship during every contest. We are lucky to have such amazing role models for the rest of the students on our campus, and they should be very proud of their achievements. Unfortunately, the Firebirds were defeated in the championship game, but they are confident that they will be back next year, ready to improve on their amazing season. Go Firebirds!

Fun for All at Trunk or Treat! Littleton held its Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 18th from 4:00-7:30. The evening began in the parking lot and school courtyard with Trunk or Treating, sack races, and other fun games and activities. The night wrapped up with a movie in the cafeteria. Parents, students, and teachers enjoyed another wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate this amazing time of year.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 2, 2016

Collier Elementary

The Collier school garden continues to grow as our students learn about and care for the plants. Thank you to 3rd grade teacher **Jackie Older** for her hard work in making this community project a successful one. We would also like to thank the Center for the Future of Arizona and SpeakOut AZ for their contributions and support. To read more about the garden, please visit the links below.

<http://www.arizonafuture.org/>

<http://www.arizonafuture.org/news/taww/seeds-of-learning-collier-elementary-school-garden.html>



Country Place Leadership Academy

7 Habits of Highly Effective People Regional Training. Country Place Leadership Academy hosted the 1st Annual Regional 7 Habits of Highly Effective People training. New staff to Leader in Me Schools around the Valley came to Country Place to learn the 7 habits from Franklin Covey Coach Kelli Johnson.

PTA Fall Festival. The Country Place Leadership Academy PTA hosted a great Fall Festival on October 27th! There was trick or treating with treats supplied by the PTA and the staff. There were a variety of arts and crafts activities provided by the PTA and different grade level teams. The 4th grade team created a Haunted Hallway and the 8th graders designed and created their own Haunted Classroom! There were over 500 people in attendance and everyone had a great time. A special thanks to the PTA officers, Liz Acosta, Lourdes Lopez and Ana Cruz. An additional special thanks to the 4th grade team, the 8th grade team, the mad scientist **Ruth Miller** and all the staff that made this a great event for our students and the community!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 2, 2016

Coyotes Visit. Four staff members from the Phoenix Coyotes spent the day at Country Place teaching students the basics of hockey and celebrating leadership. Thanks to PE teacher *Vanessa Lovro* for arranging the visit!

Girls Basketball Champions. Congratulations to the Country Place Girls Basketball Team for winning the District Championship this year. A special thanks to all of the basketball coaches *Erika Poblete*, *Mariza Lopez*, *Tatum Green*, *Carrie Rodriguez* and *Serena Garcia*.

Energy Club. The Energy Club, sponsored by teachers *Maria Serrano* and *Rocio Suarez-Ruiz* is working to make an impact in our community by educating students, staff and families in energy conservation. On November 1st they placed stickers by light switches to remind us to turn off the lights to save power! Keep up the great leading and learning!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 26, 2016

Tres Rios Service Academy



Congratulations to Resource teacher *Kelly Diekemper* and fourth grade teacher *Scott Fusi*. They have completed the first step in an amazing journey. Both teachers have completed their Pre-Candidacy class for National Board Certification. This is the gold standard of the teaching profession. Pre-candidacy is offered through the Arizona K12 Center. The class provides the resources necessary for a meaningful experience as a teacher challenges the rigorous standards of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Both of these amazing Tres teachers went thru a six week course which was a hybrid of face to face and online learning. Kelly and Scott are now joining their Tres colleagues, *Markeita Momon* and *Scott Kelbick* in the pursuit of National Board Certification. We are proud of all four of these amazing Pumas and look forward to learning all about the great things they are doing for kids every day as they embark on the candidacy trail.

Fine Arts Academy

“Creativity is Intelligence having fun”- Einstein. Before Fall Break we had our first awards assembly, Principal’s list, Honor roll, perfect attendance, Art student of the quarter and our Kid at Hope award. The assembly was a huge success we had 173 students make honor roll and 62 students on Principal’s list. Falcon’s scored well on benchmarks, we were very proud to see that we were part of the district’s top averages.

Anti-Bullying Week. This week, every class participated in an anti-bullying activity. Each morning was started with a quote about bullying and followed up with conversation. The quotes included:

- “What if the kid you bullied at school, grew up, and turned out to be the only surgeon who could save your life?” – **Lynette Mather**
- “Often the right path is the one that may be hardest for you to follow. But the hard path is also the one that will make you grow as a human being.” – **Karen Mueller Coombs**
- “The common mistake that bullies make is assuming that because someone is nice that he or she is weak. Those traits have nothing to do with each other. In fact, it takes considerable strength and character to be a good person.” – **Mary Elizabeth Williams**
- “Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.” – **George Bernard Shaw**
- “Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one’s definition of your life, but define yourself.” – **Tim Fields**

Quentin Elementary School

Quentin Elementary is proud to share that we have been accepted into the NFL Play 60 Challenge. This program will support the students in grades 4 through 8 to increase their activity by recording minutes active in and out of school as well as helping teachers incorporate activity in their classrooms through brain breaks.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 26, 2016

We celebrated Red Ribbon week. QUES students made a commitment to say “NO” to drugs. There was a theme each day of the week culminating in a half day committed to lifestyle choices. On this day students and faculty were able to participate in a bean bag toss, review of recipe cards, intramural sports (soccer/football), karate booth, bike safety (with Police Officer Tocash from the Avondale Police Department) and yoga.

Lastly we had our Family History Fair/Character museum night for our students and families. Some of the things our families and students encountered were: geography and history dioramas, 3D artifacts, civics and American Colonies-skits by students and display boards of the roaring ‘20s. We had a great family turn out for the event with many happy and supportive families.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 19, 2016

Teaching & Learning

On September 15th, the District's Student Chief Science Officers attended the 6th Annual SciTech Festival Kickoff Conference. As student ambassadors for STEM education they attended sessions alongside educators and community leaders to learn about opportunities related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Thank you to the CSO sponsors for attending this event with the students as well as providing them with the encouragement and mentoring needed to be an ambassador for STEM education in Arizona: *Jessica Cummins*, *Katherine Hoornstra*, *Hayley Robinson*, and *Colleen Allen*.

On Saturday October 1st we hosted a KP Mathematics training in the ULC North, provided by Dr. Kimberly Rimbey. Teachers from Littleton ESD as well as surrounding neighboring school districts had the opportunity to "play" with mathematics. The training was a huge success! The teachers who attend the event will be receiving a KP Mathematics Manipulatives Kit so they can take their learning back into the classroom! Thank you to Dr. Kimberly Rimbey for providing selecting Littleton ESD as the host for this opportunity.

Saturday, October 22nd will kick off our Math 20/20 professional development series! We are excited to engage teachers in professional development that will provide an intensive look at the standards for content and math practices at their grade level. The sessions will be facilitated by Littleton ESD instructional coaches which will allow teachers to have ongoing support with implementation. Thank you to our facilitators: *Mia De La Rosa*, *Gina Forney*, *Sandra Miller*, *Brittany Jimenez*, and *Kathy Larm*.

Transportation

The mechanics, school bus drivers and Transportation office staff received training for our Zonar equipment, the student tracking and bus monitoring system.

Transportation of field trips and sports teams has been going well. The drivers are excited for the upcoming championship competitions between the district teams.

The Transportation Department received an employee led safety training prior to mandatory bus evacuations. All schools participated and met expectations for safely exiting a school bus in emergency situations.

Our department will be celebrating breast cancer awareness month with a pot luck dinner on October 26, 2016.

Operations Department

The Operations Department is welcoming in two new custodians who will continue to keep our schools looking their best. The new custodians include:

Quentin Elementary: *Kamilah Soriano* – Night Custodian. Ms. Soriano started this week at Quentin.

Collier Elementary: *Manuel Ramirez* – Night Custodian. Mr. Ramirez will start at Collier next week.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 19, 2016

Exceptional Student Services Department

The Exceptional Student Services department has been working with contractors to staff hard to fill special education positions.

The Exceptional Student Services department is covering transportation costs for students and staff from Littleton and Quentin's self-contained programs, to attend the annual Kids' Day at the Fair, sponsored by Oak Craft Cabinetry.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 5, 2016

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity within Everyone's Reach. Estrella Vista STEM Academy would like to congratulate **Sean Cappello**, 3rd grade teacher, for being nominated and selected by his peers as the September Teacher of the Month. Mr. Cappello is dedicated to promoting the highest success academically, socially and emotionally for all students he serves. He does this by being involved in extra-curricular clubs such as the Girls Running Club, volunteering as a teacher leader and mentor on the Make Your Day School Cadre. Mr. Cappello also spending endless hours before and after school tutoring students in academics, volunteering to support after school supervision until the last student gets on the bus, supporting teachers on his team with research and best practices for instruction and mentoring numerous students throughout the campus. These are just a few of the ways he demonstrates his leadership and commitment to every child and staff member on the Estrella Vista campus. Mr. Cappello is a true exemplar in living the Littleton Elementary School District values of trust, respect, integrity, collaboration and dedication and shows it day in and day out. Way to go Mr. Cappello for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** collaborated with our Before and After School Club Coordinator, **Anthony Haduch**, and provided free health snacks for parents and students who came to Estrella Vista's Fall Club Night. As Estrella Vista staff strive to support health and well-being of our students, PTSA jumped right in to model this with their donation of snacks. In addition, the PTSA will be providing a much needed and healthy dinner for the Hawk Staff on Thursday, October 6th for a late night of Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you **Estrella Vista PTSA** for your consistent dedication.

School Leadership Team Facilitates an Engaging IGP Professional Development! On Wednesday, October 5th the **Estrella Vista Leadership Team** members will facilitate professional development on IGPs to small groups of teachers. The professional development will start off by evaluating practices currently happening as a STEM school by viewing and analyzing a snapshot of something occurring in their classrooms over the past week. This snapshot will provide insight for each teacher on what they see and where they want to go in supporting high academic achievement through their practice goals and reflection. The team was led first by Principal, **Richard Ramos**, in two previous leadership team meetings to guide members of the team to facilitate using the trainer of trainers' model. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to setting our teachers up for success and small wins with their IGPs this school year **Danielle Stone** ~ Kindergarten teacher, **Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher, **Michelle Gerrick** ~ 6th grade teacher, **Michael Laureano** ~ 6th grade teacher and Principal Intern, **Rebecca Boltjes** ~ 8th grade ELA teacher, **Antony Brophy** ~ P.E. teacher, **Jennifer Brees** ~ SAC, **Susan Rumann** ~ SAC, **Rebecca Lopez** ~ Dean of Students, **Katherine Hoornstra** ~ Assistant Principal and **Richard Ramos** ~ Principal! We look forward to what teacher and leadership goals will bring for high student achievement!

EVES Clubs Begin After an Amazing Turnout at September's Kids at Hope Hobbies & Recreation Club Night! Thank you to **Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher and Before and After School Site Coordinator and all teachers for your hard work and dedication to supporting our students in the destination of Hobbies & Recreation at our Fall Club Night! There was a great deal of celebration at this event and it is because of Mr. Haduch and our Club



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 5, 2016

Sponsors and the momentum everyone has generated for after school programming within our community that made this event successful! As a result of the event, Estrella Vista STEM Academy will be providing after school opportunities to approximately 150 students within our school! This is something to truly celebrate. Thank you to the following teachers who planned a booth to recruit for their Fall Semester Club:

Stacy Batiste & Susan Cox: Garden Club

Michael Laureano: MESA/STEM Club

Rachel Vliek & Alyssa Pakes: Junior STEM Club

Alyssa Nelson, Daisy Sandoval & Rebekah Smith: Junior Pom Squad

Susan Rumann: Math Competitive Team

Nicole Clark: Math Challenge Club

Julia Greenwald: Yearbook

John Frilando & Rachel Vliek: STEM Community & Service Club

Susan Rumann, Ashley Chapman, Brittany Levandoski, Lori Bowden & Ms. Jessica Gensel: Tutoring

Michelle Pitters, Ashley Chapman & Rebekah Smith: Girls Running Club

Michelle Pitters: Student Council

Stephan Batchelder & Jamie Peltier: Mentoring Club

We would also like to thank *Laura Montano* for creating all of the signs for the event and *Rosie Fleeman* for hosting an arts and crafts station during the event!

EVES Junior Pom Squad Clinic a Success! Way to go *Alyssa Nelson* ~ 2nd grade teacher and Junior Pom coach, *Daisy Sandoval* and *Rebekah Smith* ~ 3rd grade teachers and Junior Pom coaches for hosting Estrella Vista's first event with our Kindergarten through 3rd grade Junior Pom girls! Thank you to Ms. Nelson who was able to collaborate and partner up with Tolleson Union High School Cheer coach to host a clinic on Saturday, October 1st at Estrella Vista. Two cheerleaders from TUHS came in to work with our students and the clinic focused on teaching our girls basic cheers, group stunts, music and dance. We look forward to our Junior Pom Squad performing at the Tolleson Union High School Homecoming Football game on Friday, October 7th at the Halftime Show!

Littleton Elementary School

Kids at Hope Night a Huge Success! Littleton held the first Kids at Hope night of the 2016/2017 school year on Friday, September 23rd. The turnout was amazing, with a large number of parents and students in attendance. Students enjoyed music, arts and crafts, a photo booth, face painting, music, and snacks. Middle school students faced off against staff members in multiple basketball games as well. These nights are a great opportunity for all of Littleton's aces to come together and celebrate our students' success. These nights also provide treasure hunters with the opportunity to observe talents and skills of our students that we might not typically see. Everyone in attendance is looking forward to future opportunities to come together and celebrate.

7th and 8th Grade Students Well on Their Way to Washington D.C. Students have begun the fundraising process for their trip to Washington D.C. with the help of the *Littleton PTA*. Students and teachers held a car wash in the



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 5, 2016

Littleton Elementary School parking lot on Saturday, September 24th from 11:00 to 2:00, and raised over \$350! The PTA is planning similar fundraising events in the future and are excited to help send our students on an unforgettable trip.

Amazing Turnout for Peter Piper Night. Littleton PTA organized and held the first Peter Piper Pizza night on Thursday, September 29th. It was a great night for all. Teachers and students enjoyed food, games, and great company, and even managed to raise some money for the PTA in the process. There was an amazing teacher turnout at the event, and the students loved the opportunity to spend quality time with their teachers outside of the classroom setting. This was another great night that strengthened the community of Littleton Elementary School. Our students are lucky to have such dedicated and involved teachers and parents. They are the aces that make a difference in the lives of our students!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 28, 2016

Collier Elementary School

Collier had over 350 families as well as the Mayor of Avondale attend our annual math night on Tuesday, September 20.

Country Place Leadership Academy

PTA Membership Dinner and Kids at Hope Destination Night-Home and Family. This month our PTA and PBIS Team put on a fantastic event, our PTA Membership Dinner and the Kids at Hope Home and Family Destination Night. Our amazing PTA in partnership with our Food Service Company put on a free family dinner for any member of the PTA (and anyone who became a member that night!) in conjunction with our regular PTA meeting. We added 44 new memberships. The students and families were also invited to create a project depicting what the Kids at Hope Destination of Home and Family meant to them. Various students, families and classes participated showing off their creativity and celebrating Family. The projects were great including paintings, drawings, collages and stepping stones to name a few. A special thanks to the PTA officers, Dean **Tony Balsama**, Kindergarten teacher **Jacqueline Davis** and all of the staff who assisted or attended! Great job Mustangs!

Leader in Me Lighthouse Team Update Leadership Action Team-**Cody Churlund**, 5th grade teacher, created a pacing calendar for the year for teaching the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to our students. The calendar includes the Habit or Leadership Concept of the week and also key ideas that can be learned by students and staff.

Environment Action Team-Our Environment Action Team led by Kindergarten teacher **Jacqueline Davis** will be giving our school a Leadership Makeover! They are going to work with students, staff and the community to infuse leadership into our physical environment. The staff is starting with resetting our bulletin boards in preparation for conferences. The team will then begin working on redecorating our office and the entry hallways. **Caroline Nicholson**, 2nd grade teacher, is going to spearhead an effort to get leadership language throughout our school by having grade levels select their favorite leadership quote and displaying it in the hallways.

Drama Club. The drama club is taking the leadership show on the road! The drama club had a successful performance at the 7th and 8th grade Leadership Assembly. They are going to take the show on the road and be guest Leadership Facilitators for the lower grades. They will bring their work by helping **Stephanie Budzban's** 6th grade class learn about being more proactive! A special thanks to sponsor, 7th grade teacher **Kristine Perria**.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 21, 2016

Quentin Elementary School

Quentin held Math Night for our families with a positive turn out. All grade levels were represented and teachers taught and played math games with our students' and families. We also held our APTT (Academic Parent Teacher Teams) nights for kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade families. We had a strong turn out with participating families up from last year. We had snacks and childcare for our families. We had teachers working with families on strategies that they can work on at home with our students. Our families were extremely supportive and we were happy with the outcomes of the night. Lastly we had a PTA Peter Piper Night that was a great community builder. We saw strong parent, student and staff support in this event.

Tres Rios Service Academy



Congratulations to the AMAZING Dr. *Jason McIntosh* our Exploring Potential teacher /Gifted TOSA. He is being recognized as a Teacher of the Year at the Gifted Conference in November. He is always doing amazing things to spark interest in our students. He wrote a wonderful article called Seagulls, Treasure Maps and Seasickness: Sailing as a Metaphor for Differentiation. The article is a wonderful way to talk about how we can best differentiate for ALL learners. It is indeed worth a read. <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/nagc-publications/teaching-high-potential>

Congratulations to *Selene Luna* our 7-8 Resource teacher. She has been selected for the Privilege Project for TFA. This project is focused on providing meaningful experiences to deepen corps members' understanding of their own identity as well as how they are positioned to work actively against racism and systems of oppression.



Fine Arts Academy

The Fine Arts Academy is off to a great start establishing culture and routine. Our theme this year and possibly an ongoing theme is "Creativity is Intelligence having fun" –Einstein. Our students are starting to feel at home and proud to be a Falcon. We have a school song that starts off our morning announcements, students from every grade are in line waiting for their turn to shine with pride and sing on the announcements.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 21, 2016

Falcon Festival. Every other Wednesday, Fine Arts Academy has a school wide assembly. Together we sing the school song, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Kids at Hope Pledge and The Treasure Hunters Pledge; after we have a special event. So far we have had the pleasure of a string quartet, a solo singing performance by one of our students, an awards assembly and this week our 5th grade choir will be performing. Falcon Festival is honoring our focus for the arts and helping us create our mission.

MIM. Falcons have started taking flight, spreading their wings and seeing the world of music. We have a partnership with the Musical Instrument Museum and our first visit was last week with our 6th and 7th graders. They had a wonderful time and were complimented by the museum on their behavior. We received a special phone call specifically recognizing our student's behavior. WAY TO GO FALCONS! This week, our 5th grade takes flight to the MIM. These field trips will continue all year for each of our grades and we are so grateful to be able to provide these opportunities to our students.

Assemblies. On Tuesday, September 20th we had author Dow Kump host an assembly for our 2nd through 5th grades. The assembly was a huge success, students were engaged and participated on stage with Mr. Kump. We look forward to an inaugural year full of creativity at play.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 14, 2016

Operations Department

The Operations Department welcomed new custodians who will continue to keep our schools looking their best. The new custodians include:

Country Place Leadership Academy: *Javier Aguilera* – Night Custodian

Country Place Leadership Academy: *Martha Estrada* – Day Custodian

Littleton Elementary: *Alfredo Gutierrez* – Day Custodian

Littleton Elementary: *Irma Barajas* – Night Custodian

Littleton Elementary: *Jose Hernandez* – Night Custodian

Teaching and Learning Department

Littleton's All Staff Professional Development Day was a huge success. All staff members were able to attend professional development related to their job. Some of the highlights include: Gradual Release of Responsibility Focused training, Make Your Day Training for Bus Drivers, Leader In Me Training, and Drug Awareness training. Much of the professional learning was delivered by Littleton leaders who developed engaging and purposeful sessions. Thank you to those Littleton Leaders who presented during this day: Dr. *Roger Freeman*, Dr. *Allison Garland*, *Leslie Sanchez*, *Mike Linehan*, *Troy Strand*, *Damon Lorenz*, *Gina Forney*, *Lindsay Westberg*, *Samantha Armstrong*, *Mia De La Rosa*, *Juleah Ferreira*, *Dawn Robinson*, *Misti Obregon*, *Sandy Miller*, *Susan Candelaria*, *Melissa Strand*, *Jennifer Brees*, and *Susan Rumann*.

Exceptional Student Services Department

Dr. *Jason McIntosh* won the National Association of Gifted and Talent (NAGT) curriculum award and will be recognized at the national convention.

The ESS department held their first gifted parent night on September 12th and had 22 families in attendance.

Transportation Department

Littleton Elementary School District drivers have continued working closely together to safely and efficiently deliver students to their schools of choice.

The Transportation Department is presently updating the bus routes by eliminating bus stops that have not produced students since the start of the new school year.

Beginning September 19, 2016, our Transportation Department will be receiving the first installations of the new



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 14, 2016

ZONAR equipment that will become part of student tracking. Each child will swipe their ID to load on or off the buses. This will increase safety for ridership of students and the driver.

A big thank you to Dr. *Roger Freeman*, our District Superintendent and Dr. *Allison Garland*, our Executive Director of School Leadership, for participating in our in-service program. We reviewed and had an open discussion on the Make Your Day Program and how to use it more efficiently. Also, a big thank you to *Leslie Sanchez* from Technology for training and answering questions on the new 2010 computer program.

Our bus riders have awarded some of our drivers' handmade pictorials and many a thank you for a safe ride to and from home.

A big thank you to our mechanics for continued efforts in keeping our fleet running and also assisting another school district with maintenance on their fleet. At the present time one of our buses is going through repairs for rings and bearings on the engine.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 7, 2016

Littleton Elementary School

Pretesting Success! All of our students in grades K-8 have completed their pretests for the 2016/2017 school year. Our 1st-8th grade students recently completed the Math and ELA pretests. 1st and 2nd grade students completed the assessments using pencil and paper, while our 3rd-8th grade students completed their assessments via laptop computers. This data will be invaluable to our teaching staff, and help them plan to better meet the needs of their students. We will be looking at this data continuously throughout the year to individualize classroom instruction, and to monitor the growth of our students from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. This process will help ensure that all of our students are successful and demonstrate growth from August to May.

Basketball Season Is Upon Us! The Firebirds are ready for another great season on the court. Both our girls' and boys' teams are busy developing their fundamentals, and perfecting their offensive and defensive strategies. They are ready to build on the improvements that were made last year, and are lucky to have a large number of athletes returning. The Firebirds are led by their amazing coaches:

Girls: *Daniel Mainord & Michelle Walla*

Boys: *Karyn Genrich & Taylor Ovens*

We can't wait to see the progress that our athletes will make by the end of the season!

New Paraprofessional Joining the Littleton Family! Littleton is thrilled to announce the addition of the following team members to the Littleton Family:

Thomas Graca- Preschool Para

Gabriella Rodriguez: K-2 Social Communications Para

They will be providing invaluable support to our staff and students, and we are looking forward to getting to know them and the talents and skills that they are bringing to our community.

First Friday Assemblies Begin! This month marks the beginning of the First Friday Assemblies for the 2016/2017 school year. Teachers will be celebrating their students by selecting a Kid at Hope for the previous month. The selected students will receive school-wide recognition, along with a certificate of achievement. We will also be celebrating a teacher of the month during our First Friday Assembly. We will recognize one teacher that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to positively impact our students and staff. We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate the amazing people on our campus.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 7, 2016

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. The Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA continues to plan activities that support parent involvement in activities that make Estrella Vista a Community Based center. On Wednesday, August 31st they had their first Dress Down Fundraiser to raise money for events and student activities throughout the school year. This event raised over \$700 and was the most ever raised on a Dress Down Day! In the next few months we look forward to our PTSA planning and hosting a Family Movie Night on Friday, September 16th which will have the theme of being a superhero and their infamous Fall Festival on Friday, October 28th. We look forward to the amazing things our PTSA will be doing this year to support community involvement and promote the *Kids at Hope Home & Family, Community & Service and Hobbies & Recreation and Education & Career Destinations.*

School Leadership Team Facilitates an Engaging STEM Professional Development! On Wednesday, August 31st **Estrella Vista Leadership Team** members facilitated a STEM learning opportunity for all STEM teachers. The professional development opportunity involved a focus on cross-curricular integration in STEM lessons where teachers learned how to integrate Science, Writing, ELA and Mathematics into a unit based lesson. The team was led first by Principal, **Richard Ramos**, in two previous leadership team meetings to guide members of the team to facilitate using the trainer of trainers' model. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our STEM initiative **Danielle Stone** ~ Kindergarten teacher, **Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher, **Michelle Gerrick** ~ 6th grade teacher, **Michael Laureano** ~ 6th grade teacher and Principal Intern, **Rebecca Boltjes** ~ 8th grade ELA teacher, **Antony Brophy** ~ P.E. teacher, **Jennifer Brees** ~ SAC, **Susan Rumann** ~ SAC, **Katherine Hoornstra** ~ Assistant Principal and **Richard Ramos** ~ Principal! We look forward to more opportunities to EMPOWER our teacher leaders in our STEM initiative!

Estrella Vista Girls and Boys Basketball off to a Great Start! We would like to give a shout out to our boys and girls basketball teams for a great start to the season. Our girls, coached by **Danielle Stone** ~ Kindergarten teacher and **Michelle Gerrick** ~ 6th grade teacher and their assistant **Suyen Kimme** ~ Kindergarten paraprofessional, have a 1 and 1 record so far. Our boy's coaches, **Bronson Goodsell** ~ 7th grade Social Studies teacher and **Scott Schulte** ~ 5th grade teacher as well as team supports **Rigoberto Gamez** ~ 7th grade Math teacher and **Stephen Batchelder** ~ 8th grade Science teacher, have coached the boys team to a 1 and 1 record thus far. Thank you coaches and supporting staff members for your dedication and collaboration in supporting extra-curricular activities at EVES and teaching our middle school students teamwork, dedication, perseverance and sportsmanship!

American Dream Academy Parent Orientation Session a Success! Estrella Vista STEM Academy has been working on partnering with our community and getting our parents more involved. This year, we have added a new program called The American Dream Academy. On Tuesday, September 6th, Mr. Rogelio Ruiz and Mrs. Margaret Gonzales~ ASU Dream Academy Instructors, held their initial orientation and informational session for our parents and community members. The Arizona State University's American Dream Academy (ADA) benefits schools, students and parents. Through the 8-week ADA program, families gain the tools and confidence to join forces with



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 7, 2016

schools and communities to make sure their children have successful academic careers and prepare for a university experience. We are so proud to be hosting this program. Thank you **Richard Ramos** ~ Principal, for organizing this opportunity for our parents!

EVES Clubs Ready to Start! Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who are working to support the Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Destination through your leadership in sponsoring our Fall Clubs. The teachers and clubs that EVES will host this semester include:

Club Sponsor	Fall Club
Rachel Vliek ~ 5 th grade teacher and Alyssa Pakes ~ 4 th grade teacher	Junior STEM/MESA Club
Michael Laureano ~ 6 th grade Science and Math teacher	STEM/MESA Club
Jacqueline Robinson ~ Kindergarten teacher, Rebekah Smith ~3 rd grade teacher and Michelle Pitters ~7 th grade ELA teacher	Lady Hawks Running Club 5 th -8 th grades
Stacy Batiste ~ 1 st grade teacher	Garden Club K-3 rd grade
Rachel Vliek ~ 5 th grade teacher and Michelle Pitters ~ 7 th grade ELA teacher	Student Council
Rachel Vliek ~ 5 th grade teacher, Julia Greenwald ~6 th grade ELA & S.S. teacher and Michelle Pitters ~ 7 th grade ELA teacher	Yearbook Club
Rachel Vliek ~ 5 th grade teacher and John Frilando ~ 8 th grade Social Studies teacher	Community Service Club
Katherine Hoornstra ~ Assistant Principal	Student Ambassador Program
Rebecca Lopez ~ Dean of Students and Katherine Hoornstra ~ Assistant Principal	Student Leadership Team
Brittany Levandoski ~ 2 nd grade teacher, Stacy Batiste ~ 1 st grade teacher, Alyssa Pakes ~ 4 th grade teacher, Stephen Batchelder ~ 8 th grade Science teacher and Nicole Clark ~ 8 th grade math teacher	SOAR Hour

We would like to give a shout out to **Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher as well for being our School Site Clubs Coordinator. He is collaborating with each of the club leaders to prepare for our Fall Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Club Night where students will come with their parents to sign up for the clubs they would like to participate in.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 7, 2016

Way to go *Michael Spielman* ~ Music teacher, *Penny Nguyen* ~ Technology teacher, *Antony Brophy* ~ P.E. teacher, *Michelle Smith* ~ P.E. teacher and *Julie Whelihan* for your dedication to student achievement by offering to support a 1.25-hour rotation for our teachers and staff to meet in PLCs. This support in taking our kiddos into your classes each Wednesday has provided our teachers the time they need to collaborate regarding student achievement and receive STEM professional development. Thank you for all you do!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 31, 2016

Collier Elementary School

Many of the 5th through 8th grade students in *Ms. Rosas* music classes have had the opportunity to play the ukulele. Each student has an ukulele and gets to experience the process from tuning the instrument to playing a song from a sheet of music.

Country Place Elementary School

The Leader in Me Lighthouse Team is up and running at Country Place Leadership Academy! The purpose of the Lighthouse Team is to coordinate and facilitate the leadership work throughout the school and the community. The team will focus on building our Leadership Culture, teaching Leadership Principles and Aligning our Academics. Building Leadership Culture includes improving our school environment, creating opportunities for shared student and staff leadership and putting on Leadership Events like Leadership Day. Teaching Leadership Principles centers around the learning of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* for staff, students and families. Aligning Academic Systems includes aligning school goals, shifting towards student-led academics and empowering our instruction. The Lighthouse Team includes *Jackie Davis, Kathy Bigar, Carrie Nicholson, Maria Meza, Rocio Suarez-Ruiz, Cody Cherlund, Julie Fach, Tatum Green, Ginny Biddle, Rachel Volpe, Tony Davis, Tony Balsama, Kathy Larm* and *Mike Cagle*. A core group of the team is participating in a dynamic professional learning experience on August 31st facilitated by Franklin Covey's Eric Stenlake.

The entire Country Place staff will be engaging in an incredible learning experience on September 1st, Creating Culture. The full day workshop, led by Franklin Covey's Eric Stenlake, will focus on a key aspect of the Leader in Me Framework, Creating a Leadership Culture. In reference to the importance of organizational culture, leadership expert Peter Drukker said, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast." The entire staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, custodians, food service staff and our administrative team will spend the day learning about and planning for our Leadership Culture of the future!

The Music Club, sponsored by *Derek Bates* and proposed and led by 7th grade students *Sydney Stephanie* and *Arianna*, will begin after the holiday weekend. The club will be open to 4th-8th grade students and will meet to celebrate and enhance students' love of music. Each student leader will facilitate a group that includes instrumentation and a variety of song. Students will be encouraged to bring their own instruments and jam! Great job ladies!

7th Grade Drama Club, sponsored by *Kristine Perria* and multiple 7th grade students have begun meeting weekly at lunch in *Ms. Perria's* room. They are taking over the planning of the skits for the 7th and 8th grade awards assemblies. They have completed their first script and will have their first performance next week. They may be interested in tackling a full production soon!

The cheer squad, coached by *Ashley Farrell* and encouraged by *Anthony Davis*, organized and performed a



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August 31, 2016

cheer for long-time day custodian *Ray Sandoval*. The team also presented a poster that we created and signed by students to say Thanks! We are excited and sad at the same to be giving him a great send off to his new opportunity to be a lead custodian in Fowler. Thanks for showing gratitude ladies!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 24, 2016

Tres Rios Service Academy

Linking Learning to Life begins at home. Tres Rios Service Academy is very excited to begin a partnership with the Tres Rios Wetlands Project. This is such a great opportunity for Tres Rios to take on the Service Learning Challenge with a neighbor right in our own backyard. Thanks to Assistant Principal *Charles Blanton* and 5th Grade teacher *Erin Van Dusen* for embarking on this project.



Congratulations to Principal *Karen Grose* as she is now Dr. Grose or “Dr. Kgro” to her friends. She completed her dissertation in August. The Tres Rios SPED team presented her with “Superstar Spud” to recognize the occasion.





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August 24, 2016

Quentin Elementary School

Quentin had our first two community events in the month of August. The first was a PTA Peter Piper fundraiser. Parents, teachers and students gathered for food, fun and games as we worked on building relationships to begin the new school year. The second event was our family bingo night also sponsored by PTA. We had a great turn out with families, students and staff joining together and having fun playing bingo and sharing a meal with one another. The year has started off well and we will continue to hold events that support students, family and staff members developing trust!

Fine Arts Academy

The Fine Arts Academy has had a great couple of weeks. The staff and students are very excited to come to school every day! A couple of weeks ago, our school had the privilege of having the String Quartet Perform on our new stage. This event was part of our Falcon Festival time. Every other Wednesday, we meet together as a school to build community. The String Quartet was really great and they finished their concert playing the theme from Ghostbusters.

Our 3rd grade has been working with Music teacher *Travis White* on integrating Music, Technology and Geography. They learned about Mozart's music, looked up information on the computer and presented about various locations that he performed. Way to go 3rd grade!

Our school has also elected its very first PTSA executive team! The group of parents are excited to get started with planning and preparing for the school year.



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August 17, 2016

Teaching and Learning

Littleton Elementary School District is off to a great start with implementation of the Gradual Release of Responsibility Instructional Model. Our Student Achievement Coaches, *Melissa Strand, Susan Candelaria, Katherine Larm, Brittany Jimenez, Jennifer Brees, Gina Lee-Forney, Lindsay Westberg, Misti Obregon, Samantha Armstrong, Iliana De La Rosa* and District TOSAs *Sandy Miller* and *Sideqa Padawer* have been providing professional development on the model and will continue with the first deep dive into Focus Instruction. Thank you to the SACS and TOSAs for ensuring Littleton ESD staff have the training and support they need to implement the model.

Littleton ESD has transitioned to the Illuminate Assessment platform. This change brought a new pre-assessment experience for our students and staff. Administration of the online pre-assessment in grades third through eighth provided students a first look at the format of the assessment as well as the technology tools they need to master. By continuing to administer multiple online assessments students will have multiple opportunities to engage with the technology. Thank you to the Deans on each campus, *Morgan Fulks, Tony Balsama, Rebecca Lopez, Eric Nelson, Stefani Bender* and *Marieka Michaud* for embracing this change and helping students and teachers have a successful testing session!

Exceptional Student Services

The Exceptional Student Services TOSAs *Juleah Ferreira, Dawn Robinson and Jason McIntosh* have spent about 45 hours in classrooms modeling for teachers and supporting instruction.

The Exceptional Student Services department is supporting classified and certified staff by offering to pay for staff to attend a Saturday professional development on working with students with social-cognitive deficits.

Transportation

The bus drivers would like to thank all administrators for their patience and help these first weeks of school dealing with the pickup and drop off times at all school sites. Drop off and pickup times have become quicker, and the routes are running more smoothly and efficient. Several of the older students on the routes have stepped up and assisted drivers with seating. Many of our parents and guardians have been understanding and worked with Transportation Supervisor *Thelma Whitbeck*, Transportation Office Support Specialist Sr. *Vickie McKeeman* and drivers regarding bus stop locations, pickup and drop off times for their students.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 10, 2016

Littleton Elementary School

Littleton Elementary School was proud to begin the school year with a successful Meet the Teacher Night. Littleton kicked off the year by welcoming many of our parents into our school to meet their child's teacher. The night began in the cafeteria, where Principal **Lorie Eastep** provided parents with information on Title 1, Make Your Day, the school's goals and initiatives, and an emphasis on the power of teamwork. We know that if we can successfully work together with the students and parents of Littleton Elementary School, every child will experience success this year, No Exceptions!

Littleton welcomed amazing new staff members! This year, Littleton is lucky to have many amazing additions to the Littleton Elementary School staff. We are off to a great start this year, and much of that is due to our positive and energetic new staff members. Littleton's new members include:

Preschool: ***Margaret Henke***

Kindergarten: ***Jennifer Pitts***

1st Grade: ***Elisabeth Coco, Kristen Marheine***

3rd Grade: ***Cassandra Lockard, Rosanne Wingate***

4th Grade: ***Irene Hvidhyld***

6th Grade: ***Camaron Halford***

7th/8th Grades: ***Raby Gueye, Taylor Ovens, Hayley Robinson***

C.C.: ***Cassandra Garner, Cassandra Monroe, Matthew Demattei***

Soc. Comm.: ***Danielle Sanders, Anthony Seguibo***

Leadership: Assistant Principal: ***Tim Dickey***, Student Achievement Coach: ***Richard McCormick***

Starting Strong with Make Your Day! Littleton staff have had a great start on their year-long initiative to increase consistency and fidelity to Make Your Day. New staff attended two different trainings prior to the year's kickoff, and the whole staff participated in half-day training. The focus at Littleton is to use Make Your Day to ensure all of our students have the skills necessary to ensure their success, No Exceptions! Staff will continue to check-in on the effectiveness of their implementation, as well as receive consistent feedback from the leadership team.



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August 10, 2016

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Community walk a success! Estrella Vista staff went out for the fourth consecutive year on their annual community walk to invite students back to school. This year we had 47 participants in the walk, visited 545 homes and were able to have face to face contact with 234 students and their families for a total of 42.9%! We would like to thank the transportation department, **Vicki McKeeman** ~ Administrative Secretary, and **Thelma Whitbeck** ~ Transportation Director, for their collaboration with the school and providing us with house lists that were organized. Thank you to **Rebecca Lopez** ~ Dean of Students, for your dedication in organizing this event!

Phenomenal community participation for Meet the Teacher Night at Estrella Vista STEM Academy! The welcoming Meet the Teacher Night was a huge success this year. 846 parents and community members attended our Title I Presentation as well as met their teachers for the 2016-2017 school year. This means that 88% of our families visited us that night! Thank you to **Richard Ramos** ~ Principal, for hosting all parents and families in the café. Mr. Ramos informed them of our school goals and initiatives through the Title I Presentation and introduced all the staff. Thank you also goes out to the **Estrella Vista staff** for their commitment to greeting parents and getting off to a phenomenal start in helping parents to be our partners.

Student Ownership of Academic Responsibility off to a great start! The S.O.A.R Program is an initiative for our little Hawk Geniuses that assists them with taking ownership in their attendance and academics. The program allows students the opportunity to have an environment that is conducive to completing missed homework and also make up any missed work when the students are late to school. Student receive support from staff members who supervise the session. We would like to give a shout out to, **Anthony Haduch** ~ 4th grade teacher and After School Clubs Site Coordinator, for his dedication to developing and refining this program based on staff input and collaborating with various staff members to plan for the 2016-2017 launch of the S.O.A.R. Program. Thank you all for your time and commitment in providing our students with Opportunities for Success at school!

Developing partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. The Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA continues to plan activities that support parent involvement in activities that make Estrella Vista a Community Based center. Last week, the PTSA held their first fundraiser of the school year at Peter Piper Pizza. Staff, students and parents enjoyed a night of fun with food, games and friendly competition with various contests run by the Peter Piper staff. The event was a success with over \$550 earned in their first fundraiser of the school year. We look forward to the amazing things our PTSA will be doing this year to support community involvement and promote the *Kids at Hope Home & Family, Community & Service and Hobbies & Recreation and Education & Career Destinations.*

Promoting high student attendance rates with CUTs Talks 4th-8th Grade. This week, our District CUTs Officer, Michelette Younker, was invited in to conduct student assemblies regarding the laws on student attendance as well as the importance of students being at school on time in order to promote academic success. Students will take the information they learned in the assemblies and set goals for themselves in order to maintain consistent attendance throughout the school year. Thank you, **Katherine Hoornstra** ~ Assistant Principal, for offering this opportunity to our school and students.



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Kids at Hope “Tunnel of Hope”. Estrella Vista is so excited to share that we had our first Tunnel of Hope as kids entered onto campus last Friday. Groups of staff members lined up at the various entrances with their college shirts and pompoms that morning to form a tunnel and cheer our students on as they entered the building. Students then funneled into the cafeteria where they viewed a five-minute inspirational video prior to our very first “First Friday Assembly.” Thank you [Rebecca Lopez](#) ~ Dean of Students, for organizing this Kids at Hope event and communicating to our staff to celebrate our students and the bright futures they have in front of them!

Estrella Vista Cheer Squad Shout Out. We would like to give a shout out to [Cynthia Landis](#) and [Lori Bowden](#) ~ 5th grade teachers and cheer coaches, for the hard work and dedication they have put in to our EVSA Cheer Squad. Prior to returning from the summer, Mrs. Landis and Mrs. Bowden put on a week-long cheer camp to get the girls amped for the new school year and begin to practice their routines. The squad showed their “stuff” on last week at our First Friday Assembly by performing a school cheer as well as a dance routine. Thank you Mrs. Landis, Mrs. Bowden and our Cheer Squad for pumping us up and adding some spirit to Estrella Vista Stem Academy!



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August 5, 2016

Collier Elementary School



Beyond Textbooks has developed a video series called the "Spirit of Sharing", where they highlight two teachers from two different organizations who both have success with their students using the same resource. Please visit <https://vimeo.com/176946437> to watch our first Spirit of Sharing video featuring *Jessica Cummins*, a 6th grade teacher in the Littleton School District, and Matt Emory, a 5th grade teacher in the Vail School District.

Resource teachers, *Kathryn Londrigan* and *Lindsay Punke*, took students outside for Math Olympics. These team building activities used points to help students practice their math skills.

Country Place Leadership Academy

Leadership Focus-& Habits of Highly Effective People and Launching Leadership. The Country Place Staff had the opportunity to participate in three days of World Class Professional Learning this summer! Teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria staff, custodial staff, office staff and administration spent two full days learning about *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and one full day learning about Launching Leadership. The May session was facilitated by the dynamic Eric Stenlake from Franklin Covey. The July session was facilitated by Principal *Dr. Mike Cagle* and *Kathy Larm*, our new Student Achievement Coach. The staff learned the 7 Habits: Be Proactive, Beginning with the End in Mind, Put First Things First, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand and Then Be Understood, Synergy, and Sharpen the Saw. The Launching Leadership workshop helped staff learn to implement the 7 Habits and Leadership with students. We are very excited about upcoming learning opportunities for our staff including an all-day Creating Culture workshop in September!

Leadership Materials Are Here! The I am A Leader Foundation's donated student and staff materials have arrived! The I am A Leader Foundation and its primary sponsor, Panda Express generously donated a student workbook for every Country Place student in 1st-8th grade. They also donated the Teacher Guides, 7 Habits posters for every classroom, all of the training materials for our Leadership training and 7 Habits books for our staff and classrooms. A huge thank you to Panda Express and The I am A Leader Foundation for kicking off our Leadership Focus with a bang!

Leadership Role Highlight. One of our first school wide leadership roles made a big splash! Our school had a need to assist our kindergarten students at lunch time. 7th grade students eat lunch at the same time as our kindergartners. We created the 7th grade Kinder Buddy leadership role. 7th grade students help the kinder students by being a friendly face, opening milks, getting straws, lining up and walking them to recess. We have had 33 students fill out an application for the role in 2 days and more students are interested. The first day was a great success with



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the student leaders already coming up with ways to improve the job description!



Community Partnership Highlight- The Phoenix Police Department Comes to 2nd Grade! *Kristina Palacios*' 2nd grade classroom had the amazing opportunity to meet some Phoenix Police Officers. The class learned all about community helpers and why they are important. On the day of the visit they focused on police officers, read books about things our officers wear and then in walked 3 officers from Phoenix PD! The students had prepared a KWL chart with a variety of questions before the officers arrived and they had all of their questions answered by actual police officers. Students also toured a patrol vehicle and learned about all the tools police officers use to keep us safe. Thanks Phoenix PD!

