



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

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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

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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.

