



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 22, 2017

## 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***, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 22, 2017

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their "Homemade Filter" design to address the issue of dirty water in our city, state and global level while another team of 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place with their "H2O Bike" design. We would like to congratulate all the students who participated and all of our **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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!





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 22, 2017

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.