



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!!!

