



**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.





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*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

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Robotics Teams Compete from Country Place, Collier and Quentin, Country Place Earns 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher *Mrs. Maria Serrano’s* and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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!



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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. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers, *Ms. Lynette Hill* and *Mrs. Maria Serrano* and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!