



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

June 5, 2015

Exceptional Learners Services

The ELS department has been awarded 44 additional scholarships for 4 year old peer models for the 2015/16 school year.

Construction is set to begin on the new Preschool playground on the Littleton Campus on Friday, June 5, 2015. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for the beginning of the 2015/16 school year.

Teaching and Learning Department

On May 19th the District's annual Art Show Reception was held at the Avondale Public library. Student art work from all six schools was on display. The event was attended by parents, students, Littleton School Board Members, staff members, as well as community members. The show was a huge success and the art displayed was outstanding. The judges selected twelve pieces of student art that will be purchased by the District and displayed at the District Office. While at the show attendees had the pleasure of listening to live music provided by Littleton ESD music and band teachers. Thank you to the art teachers for all of the hard work and preparation in making the art show a success. A special thank you to *Ms. Jean Alver* at Collier for coordinating the event.

On May 30th the annual Superintendent's Concert was held at La Joya Community High School. Students from all six schools participated in choir and band performances. The event was attended by a large number of parents, staff and community members. The performances were outstanding and the talents of our students were highlighted. Thank you to the music and band teachers for all of the hard work and preparation in making the concert a success. A special thank you to *Ms. Charlotte Anderson* for coordinating the event.

Annual Employee Recognition Celebration

The Littleton ESD CHEER Committee provided a very upbeat atmosphere for the Annual Employee Celebration on Wednesday afternoon. *Mrs. Sandi Nielson*, governing board president, relayed greetings and appreciation on behalf of the Governing Board. *Mr. Richard Ramos* delivered inspiration to all staff as this year the master of ceremonies. *Ms. Yashica Turner*, an acquaintance of one of our bus drivers, brought us an outstanding interpretation of the National Anthem. There were **40** employees reaching their 5-year anniversary, **18** employees reaching their 10-year anniversary, **3** employees reaching their 15-year anniversary and **3** employees reaching their 20-year anniversary with the Littleton District. Two Quentin teachers, *Ms. Julia Fach* and *Ms. Mary Mesich* reached their **TWENTY-FIVE YEAR** milestone this year! The Annual Distinguished Leadership recognition went to *Ms. Gioia Pitts* (COES), the Treasure Hunter Award was presented to *Ms. Amanda Steele* (EVES) and the Gold Key Support Award was presented to *Ms. Donna Herrera* (LNES). Best maintained campus was awarded to TRES Rios Elementary and best customer service was also awarded to TRES Rios front office staff. *Mr. Barry Smith* (LNES), *Ms. Gerry Flower* and *Ms. Jean Alver* (COES) were also recognized as retirees.

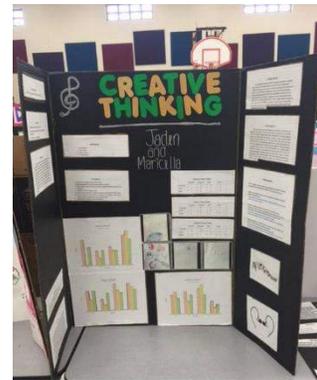
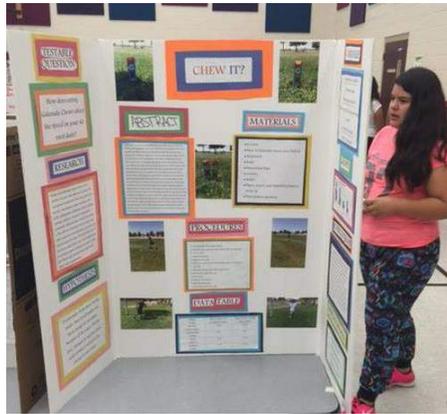


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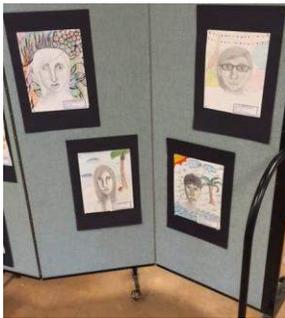
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Quentin Elementary School

So much learning was on display this month. Our 6-8th grade teachers *Ms. Smith, Ms. Corkins, Ms. Young* and *Ms. Sayegh* did an amazing job preparing our students for the Science Fair. We had A HUGE crowd visit and it was just amazing to see what our wonderful scientists were able to research and share. The students covered a range of topics from how color affects your heart rate to the best energy drinks to rehydrate. Congrats to our 7th Grade team *Miguel* and *Sam* for representing Littleton at the Westside Impact Science Fair!



Ms. Van de Bogart is always doing amazing things in Art Class and she got to share student work at the Annual District Arts Fair. This year over 150 Quentin Sharks were featured. *Ms. Van de Bogart* has students working in so many mediums water colors, sketches even creating ceramic bowls. She has taught the kids so many amazing things this year it is awesome to see it all in person!



Field Day 2015 was a HUGE success thanks to our Field Day Team, *Ms. Connelly, Ms. Pemberton, Ms. Van de Bogart, Mr. Ruthmansdorfer, Mr. Davis* and *Ms. Gaona*. All of their hard work and planning paid off. The weather was perfect and the kids got to enjoy 10 different events.

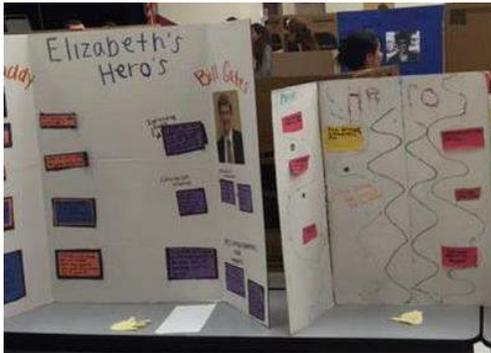


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Who is your Hero? Ask any of our 5th grade Sharks and they will be able to tell you and show you! Our 5th grade team had a Hero Night here at Quentin and students presented the bio of their hero to visitors. **Ms. Black, Mr. Dixon, Ms. Rosenbleeth** and **Ms. Welch** had a huge hit on their hands. Visitors were pleased with the hard work from the kids. It was awesome to see who our kids consider their heroes. There were lots of parents and family members mentioned



Tres Rios Elementary School

Congratulations **Ms. Lindsay Westberg** – 3rd grade teacher and TAP mentor teacher, for being honored with the **2015 Westside Impact Teacher of the Year**. Some of the things she was recognized for included:

- Dedication to helping any staff member and not just her grade level team
- Highly collaborative and cooperative
- Innovative with her lessons
- Patient and kind with her students



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- Despite it being a tough year, she's able to see how far her children have come
- Timely with all deadlines and due dates
- Meets all deadlines required from office and admin
- Always smiling
- Always looking to improve her instructional practices in her classroom
- Works hard to become a better teacher and leader
- Attends sporting events
- Attends student activities
- Has increased student scores in ELA and Math
- Willing to help in any way to make sure everyone is successful
- Without hesitation, accomplishes any and all tasks asked of her
- Highly intelligent
- Professional
- Great sense of humor
- True pleasure to work with
- Has grown into a phenomenal leader
- willing to lend a hand when needed, even during testing when she also has her own classroom to tend to
- Self-reflective on instruction
- Volunteers to chaperone middle school dances
- Flexible with her time
- Friendly to all
- Always has a smile to greet staff down the halls
- Researches different strategies to improve student achievement
- Positive, looks for the bright side of difficult situations
- Filling in whenever needed – classroom coverage in multiple grades and content
- 3rd -4th TAP mentor and is always willing to help others improve their instructional practices
- iTeach Mentor
- Amazing mentor who will go above and beyond
- Has become an incredible presenter over the year
- Supports all staff, not just in her cluster with instruction
- Groomed an excellent TC who will be a teacher at TRES next year

Congratulations to **Ms. Erin VanDusen, 5th grade teacher**, for achieving the Tres Rios Rookie Teacher of the Year Award. Some of the things she was recognized for included:

- A "natural" teacher
- Dedicated to creating quality lessons
- Very rigorous
- Listens, takes constructive criticism, and implements changes in her class
- Very reflective



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- Has amazing classroom management for a first year teacher
- Participates eagerly in cluster
- Used everything in cluster to help better her craft in the classroom
- Implemented Engage NY lessons and saw tremendous growth in her students at the start of the school year
- Took on the role of the Kids at Hope coordinator and has really kept up on it. She creates the monthly boards, and she always has the announcements put it
- She took on Girls on the Run when no one else would
- Team player
- Willing to help in any area
- Active member and asset to her committee
- Consistently looking for ways to better teach and support her students
- Trusted to keep kids safe whether it's in the classroom or crossing the crosswalk after school
- Has a constant smile and positive outlook
- Utilize feedback that is given to her promptly
- Chaperone middle school dances
- Volunteers at student activities
- Community building to support positive environment
- Use data to drive instruction
- High achievement scores through the year
- Self-reflective on instruction
- Offers a variety of learning experiences for students
- High levels of energy that keeps students engaged
- Eager to learn
- Kind begets kind type of person
- Volunteers at local community events

Congratulations to, ***Mrs. Margaret Cramer***, who received recognition as the support staff member of the month for May. Some of the wonderful things the Tres staff had to say about ***Ms. Cramer*** in their nominations included: "she is always flexible when she is needed for anything outside of her normal schedule"; "she is an invaluable resource in my general education classroom with the resource students, helping support them academically as well as behaviorally"; "always willing to come up with strategies to motivate our resource students and inspiring them to do better each day through goal setting"; "You're a rockstar!"; "Maggie is a constant source of support for staff and students"; "she is so wonderful for our students and is an amazing help in our classrooms for our students"; "she is a wonderful person to work with" and "Maggie does a great job jumping right in no matter what content is being taught and supporting our students." We are so proud of you ***Mrs. Margaret Cramer*** and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team. Thank you so much for all you do for all of our students at Tres Rios!

Way to go to the following certified staff member for the month of May, ***Mr. Michael Laureano***, 6th Grade Science teacher. S.T.E.M./M.E.S.A. Club Coordinator, S.T.E.M. Committee Member, District Technology



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Committee member and School Council leader. Some comments the Tres Rios Staff had to say about **Mr. Laureano** included: “Mr. Laureano works with other teachers and collaborates to make students’ learning experience a great one”; “he treats everyone around him with respect and consistency”; “he provides our students with fantastic extra-curricular opportunities and constantly seeks out new ways to engage his students”; “he is dedicated to creating engaging lessons for his students and is willing to share these ideas through collaboratively giving advice to other staff as well”; “Mr. Laureano collaborates across content areas and consistently shows dedication through seeking out new and interesting ways to engage children in science”; “I love seeing what is going on in his classroom each time I walk in”; “he is always friendly and working so diligently with the 6th grade academically and behaviorally”; “volunteering his time to students after school in STEM club”; “coming to FAC as a part of his Masters hours for administration” and “he has dedicated himself to working with the greater school community as one of the leads for the School Council.” We are so proud of all that you do for our students, staff and community, **Mr. Michael Laureano**, and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Congratulations to two Tres Rios students for their awards in the **2015 Westside Impact Science Fair** on Saturday, May 16th. Tres Rio’s **6th graders, K’Sia Orr and Anissa Lechuga** came in 1st place at the Westside Impact video/project competition. They got trophies, ribbons and an envelope with recognition from the University of Phoenix. In addition, our **7th grade students, Sharia Gingosa & Brianna Perez-Palacios** came in 3rd place in the competition. We are so proud of them! Thank you to **Mr. Michael Laureano – 6th grade Science teacher and S.T.E.M committee member**, for taking our top Science Projects to the competition and attending the event to represent Tres Rios as well as our Science teachers, **Ms. Colleen Allen – 7th Grade** and **Mr. Michael Laureano – 6th Grade**, for preparing our students.

Way to go S.T.E.M Committee members, **Ms. Madeline Goodman**– Kindergarten teacher, **Mr. Robert Dowdy**– 2nd grade teacher, **Ms. Lindsay Westberg** – 3rd grade teacher, **Ms. Krysten Bonacci**– 4th grade teacher, **Mr. Craig Kostelny** and **Mr. Jeremy Mager**– 5th grade teachers, **Mr. Michael Laureano** and **Ms. Monica Miller** – 6th grade science teacher, **Mr. Brittain Davis** – 7th grade science teacher, **Mr. Aaron Johnson** – 8th grade science teacher, **Mr. Travis Kent** – P.E. teacher and **Ms. Gina Forney Lee** – Master Teacher for planning and hosting such a successful and fun Science Fair Night for our students and parents! Each grade level, K-8, not only displayed their science fair projects, but also prepared a demonstration to present on the night to involve parents and students in the scientific inquiry process. This event brought in many families who enjoyed observing the student projects and grade level science demonstrations. Thank you team for your hard work and dedication to providing parent and student involvement in science.

Thank you **Ms. Erin VanDusen** and **Ms. Kimberly Clyde** – **5th grade teachers** for working diligently with our 3rd-5th grade girls coordinating Girls on the Run and educating and empowering our girls at an early age in order to prevent the display of at-risk activities in the future such as substance/alcohol use, eating disorders, early onset of sexual activity, sedentary lifestyle, depression, suicide attempts and confrontations with the juvenile justice system. The season ended on April 26th with the 5K run at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. Thank you to **Ms. Erika Avelar** – **4th grade teacher** and **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** – **Assistant Principal** for volunteering to buddy up with some of the girls to run alongside and coach them to the finish line.



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Thank you Parent Involvement Committee members, **Ms. Kelsee Wirtjes** and **Ms. Danielle Rios** – 1st grade teachers, **Ms. Bethany Shevich** – 2nd grade teacher, **Ms. Johanna Spalding** – 3rd grade teacher, **Ms. Marissa Schroeder** – 4th grade teacher, **Mrs. Amber Garcia** – 5th grade teacher, **Mr. Alexander Hertogs** – 7th grade teacher, **Ms. Brittany Begay** – Resource teacher 6-8, **Mr. Marius Mateescu** – Technology teacher and **Mrs. Sideqa Padawer** – Master teacher for planning and organizing our 2nd annual Spring Carnival. The event offered students, families and community members the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun games and enjoy some delicious food. Many students and families attended the event that took place on May 1st. We would also like to thank **Mr. Robert Dowdy** – 2nd grade teacher for offering to DJ the event; PTSA members, **Mrs. Kristi Amator** and **Mrs. Kelli Gentile** for selling nachos; Social Committee members, **Mrs. Luciana Vargas**, **Mrs. Jayne Dimas** and **Mrs. Vianey Fong** for selling hot dogs, chips and drinks; **Mrs. Judy Collins** for bringing in a cotton candy machine; and all of the Tres Rios teachers who planned and facilitated the games and activities for the event.

Way to go **Ms. Erin VanDusen** – 5th grade teacher and **Mr. Alexander Hertogs** – 7th grade Social Studies teacher and Kids at Hope Coordinators for working with **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra**, Assistant Principal, to plan our 2nd Annual Kids at Hope Future Day that will take place on Thursday, June 4th. Future Day will consist of a whole day of activities where students time travel into their future in Education and Careers. The morning will consist of grades K-8 participating in listening to presentations by various parents and community members based around the Kids at Hope philosophy. Students will learn how our presenter's Aces impacted their ability to succeed and the destinations that they worked through to get where they are today. Presenters include: pilots, firefighters, police officers, AT&T technicians, probation officers, correction officers, PIR directors, farmers and iron workers just to name a few. In the afternoon, students in grades K-7 will Spring Forward to visit their future teachers for next school year and participate in a variety of short activities based around each grade levels content standards. We are looking forward to this fun day of "time traveling". Thank you **Ms. Erin VanDusen**, **Mr. Alexander Hertogs** and **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** for spending time to organize this event again this school year.

Thank you S.T.E.M Committee members, **Ms. Madeline Goodman**– kindergarten teacher, **Mr. Robert Dowdy**– 2nd grade teacher, **Ms. Lindsay Westberg** – 3rd grade teacher, **Ms. Krysten Bonacci**– 4th grade teacher, **Mr. Craig Kostelny** and **Mr. Jeremy Mager**– 5th grade teachers, **Mr. Michael Laureano** and **Ms. Monica Miller** – 6th grade science teacher, **Mr. Brittain Davis** – 7th grade science teacher, **Mr. Aaron Johnson** – 8th grade science teacher, **Mr. Travis Kent** – P.E. teacher and **Ms. Gina Forney Lee** – Master Teacher for planning an end of the year Project Based Learning Showcase school wide. The team has prepared and presented information for all staff to work with students over the past couple of weeks to a month in preparing students to complete and present various projects. Projects will be displayed in every classroom K-8 and buddy classrooms have been assigned to visit each other's classes to observe projects. Parents at varying grade levels will be invited to come observe as well based on the type of projects that were completed. Thank you STEM Committee for providing this opportunity for all students and staff to remain engaged in high level learning and showcasing their learning until the end of the school year.

Thank you **Ms. Natasha Bridges** – Art teacher, for preparing and setting up to display Tres Rios student Art work at the District Art Exhibit at the Avondale Library May 14th through May 19th. The Art displayed for our



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students was phenomenal and some art was even selected as a District Purchase Selection. Also, way to go **Mr. Alexander Hertogs** – 7th grade Social Studies teacher and guitar player and **Ms. Charlotte Anderson** – Music Teacher and clarinet player, for sharing your musical talent with all of the visitors to the Art Exhibit.



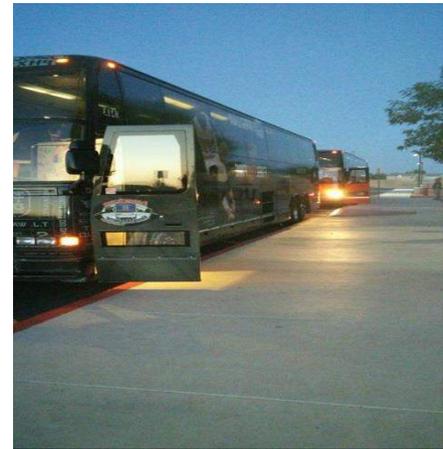
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 22, 2015

Estrella Vista Elementary School

May has been magnificent at Estrella Vista...

The 4th graders were able to time travel into their future and practice being Forest Rangers, Botanists, Geologists, Archeologists, and many others, when they traveled to the Grand Canyon. Thank you, *Ms. Nichols, Mr. Haduch, Ms. Wottreng, Ms. Schmidtke, Mr. Espinoza* and *Ms. Byrne* and *the many parent volunteers* who all helped to make this possible. It was an *SWAG-tastic* Adventure for all!!



And they are off... "The Hawks" are flying your way!



"Grand Canyon or Bust"!!

We celebrated the amazing teachers at Estrella Vista during Teacher Appreciate week. PTSA provided breakfast and wonderful keepsakes while the district surprised all the teachers with charging items for your phone and tablet. What a great week to celebrate all the amazing talents our use to support our students and their success!!



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Thank you to Ms. Rodriguez, 6th Grade teacher, as well as, *Ms. Cole, Ms. Rudd,* and *Ms. Byrne* who organized a fabulous opportunity for our 4th and 7th/8th grade ELD class. They “time traveled” to the University of Arizona. Our Hawks were greeted by the Hispanic Alumni Society, whose members spoke to our students concerning classes they should take in high school in preparation for college. They also discussed how to secure funding through scholarship and provided a tour of the campus.



Our future “time traveling” to the destination of Education and Career:

We celebrated student achievement with our annual National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony. Congratulation to all new inductees for this year. They are *7th Graders: Andrew Blankenship; Hazel Morales; Zephaniah Orellana;* *8th Graders: Xyon Pfeil; Christopher Green; Serina Viscarra; President, Teja Turner; Vice President, Erika Canizales; Secretary, Rebecca Murphy; Treasurer, Jacob Stange.* Thank you to *Mrs. Carrie Edwards* for organizing such a wonderful event, and *Ms. Clark* for facilitating the event. Our *Kids at Hope Community and Service day* was a HUGE SUCCESS!! We had donations of sunscreen, hand sanitizer, water bottles, and chickens. Our students and community came out in the morning to participate in EV 1st Annual “Spring Chicken Sprint”. Names went into a drawing for all the donated prizes. We had over 130 items donated that our students were able to win. Way to support our Estrella Vista community.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 22, 2015

Thank you to *Ms. Clark* for leading our 3rd and 4th Grade, 5th and 6th Grade, as well as the 7th and 8th Grade



Math Challenge Participants to 1st place finish in the District Math Challenge. Congratulations TEAMS... way to represent!



Littleton Elementary School

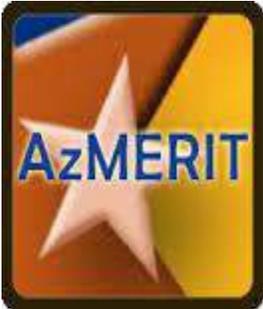
Thursday, April 2nd Littleton took part in World Autism Awareness Day. Everyone was encouraged to wear blue and show their spirit. The United Nations declared April 2 World Autism Awareness Day in 2007, and we've been celebrating it ever since. *Ms. Singh*, *Ms. Robinette*, and *Ms. Mager* were a just a few classes out of many who felt being a little blue never felt so good!



AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) is Arizona's new statewide achievement test. Arizona is partnering with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop tests which are unique to Arizona. For Littleton District - **April marked the beginning of our AZ Merit testing window and students were busy, but not the usual pencil to paper way, but through the utilization of computers. Kids worked diligently for three days through three sections of the test: reading, writing, and math. WAY TO GO LITTLETON STUDENTS!**

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Tuesday, April 28th Littleton's own - *Alexis Fuentes* sang her heart out for the Kids at Hope 10th Annual Youth Development Masters Institute. She received a well-earned standing ovation by the conference participants. She brought the house down! Kids at Hope inspires, empowers, and transforms families, youth serving organizations (schools, parks and recreation departments, police and fire departments etc.) and entire communities to create an environment where all children are capable of success. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MASTER'S INSTITUTE

April 26 - May 1, 2015
Scottsdale, AZ





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 15, 2015

Collier Elementary School

With the third quarter closing in April, parents, students and teachers met during the week of April 13th through 17th for Parent Teacher Conferences. Collier had an amazing turnout with 96% attendance! We want to thank all of the teachers and staff who made this week a big success.

On Thursday, May 7th the third quarter Awards Night was held in the cafeteria from 5:30 to 6:30. We want to thank the following staff members who came out to honor their students – *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. James Dean, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Amy Chapman, and Ms. Heather Zizis*. A very special thank you goes out to *Ms. Melissa Strand* and *Ms. Roxanne Zamora* for all the time and effort they provided by putting together the PowerPoint presentation used at the Awards Night. Without the time and support of – *Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Libby DeLeon, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, Mr. George Gonzales, and Mr. Louie Madrigal* this event would not have been so successful.

The following day Friday, May 8th the quarterly Kids at Hope afternoon celebration was held campus wide. All of the staff members supported the event – *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Tamra Fisher, Ms. Tayler Stewart, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Connie Boggs, Ms. Roxanne Zamora, Ms. Gioia Pitts, and Ms. Heather Zizis*. A special thank you goes out to *Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa* for organizing this school wide event that students look forward to all quarter. In addition, a very special thank you to the Special Area teachers who provided teachers with breaks throughout the morning and setup/assistant all afternoon – *Mr. Brandon Bourdeau, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Hai Dang, Mr. Rupert Alvarez, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, and Ms. Ilene Rosas*.

Fourth Grade Battle of the Books was held on Thursday, April 9th. The evening event was put on by *Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Lynda Espino, and Ms. Britney DeRose*. *Ms. Lisa Vaught* provided supervision of the teams in the hallway prior to their competition. The Battle of the Books is a tradition at Collier that both students and parents look forward to attending.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 15, 2015

Country Place Elementary School

First Grade would like to say thank you to PTA for funding their field trip to the Maricopa County Fair on April 10th. Students had a great time learning about farm life, agriculture, animals and farm equipment. PTA made this field trip possible not only for First Grade, but also funded field trips for Kinder through Eighth Grade! We appreciate our PTA Officers, *Ms. Karen Hook* and *Ms. Jackie Davis*, Presidents; *Ms. Ana Cruz*, Vice President and *Ms. Lourdes Lopez*, Treasurer.

The new state test, AZMERIT, was administered to students March 31 through April 17th. This is the test that replaced AIMS in grades 3-8. Students experienced taking the tests on computers for the first time. It was also a new experience for our teachers and staff. CPES staff worked very hard preparing for the test administration. The students responded very well for the most part. They were more engaged and seemed to like taking the tests on the computers. We held classes before testing to provide students with practice opportunities. They learned how to highlight text, use a notepad to take notes, and use other various computer tools to answer questions. Students were tested in Reading, Math and Writing. Our 4th and 8th graders were also tested in AIMS Science. We appreciate the effort of families to insure their children attended each scheduled testing date. We thank the staff for their patience, poise and preparation in administering the test. AND - we thank the students for giving their best and demonstrating MUSTANG PRIDE! A very special thanks to our Dean of Students, *Mr. Tony Balsama* for all his hard work during AZMERIT.

Congratulations to the following 7th Grade students that will be inducted to the National Junior Honor Society Mustang Chapter:

<i>Mr. Cameron Neveu</i>	<i>Ms. Kristine Perria</i>	<i>Ms. Katherine Whittaker</i>	<i>Mrs. Yvonne Boettcher</i>
Andrew Saucedo	Daira Pacheco Guerra	Laura Rubio	Brizia Chavez
Melina Le	Marilyn Rocha	Kathy Torres	
Dominique Cabrera	Milagros Zaragoza	Alexia Vargas	
	Lexy Espinoza		
	Serenity Chagolla		

Each student maintained a grade of 90% or better in each subject/special area, completed 8 hours of community service, and upheld to the pillars of Citizenship, Character, Service, Leadership, and Scholarship to be considered for membership. A big thank you to NJHS Lead, *Ms. Roberta Garcia*.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 8, 2015

Grants and Family Services Department

The Welcome Center continues to provide parent education classes related to computers, ESL, Duet for grandparents and Kids at Hope. Beginning this month, there will also be informational meetings on “Stand Up and Be Safe” with Childhelp.

We want to thank our parents for their participation in the Governing Board presentation on April 14th. The parents spoke about ESL classes and the growth they have made.

We have also partnered with the City of Avondale Fire Department for safety tips. The workshops will be held on May 12th from 10:00 to 11:00 am and on May 19th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Later this month, on May 29th we will have our last Parent Coffee talk for this school year. Please encourage parents to attend.

Operations Department

We would like to welcome *Mr. Noe Angulo* to the District. He is the Senior Mechanic in charge of keeping our busses running.

Construction is continuing on the new Littleton School #8 site.

All of the Operations and Custodial staff are preparing themselves for this summer, making sure that all of our sites get taken care of in preparation for the new school year.

Teaching and Learning Services Department

The Teaching and Learning Department hosted district-wide articulation on May, 6th. Many teachers across the district received training on the components of effective Project Based Learning and had time to collaborate with similar grade level teachers across the district to develop a project based learning unit for the end of the year. Arizona State University joined us to present Mathematical Tasks for our district 6-8th grade math teachers and the Arizona K-12 Center spoke in regard to the process of becoming a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. We would like to send out a big Thank You to all who presented and participated. It was a wonderful day of learning and collaboration!

The new state test, AzMERIT, for third through eighth grade students, ended last week. We are confident 95 percent of our students completed the online writing, math, and reading tests. Positive comments received from the sites included; “Students were engaged.”, “It was easy to facilitate make-up testing as students in multiple grades were able to test all at once.”, and “The support from the Technology department was greatly appreciated”. We look forward to reviewing our results this fall once the cut scores are established by the state. Kudos to the Deans for facilitating our first district-wide, state, online assessment: *Ms. Heather Zizis, Mr. Tony Balsama, Ms. Pam Duty, Ms. AJ Estrada, Mr. Kirk Guddendorf, and Mr. Eric Nelson*. Thank you to *Dr. Vicki French* for her guidance and leadership throughout this process. We would also like to thank *Ms. Sue Garrison* and the *IT Department* for all of their support during testing.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 1, 2015

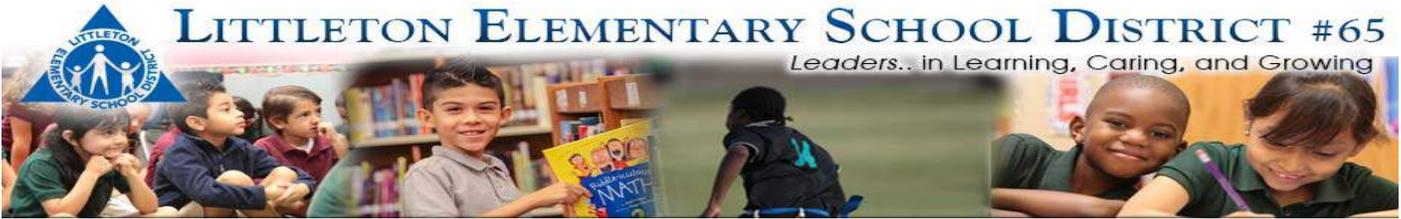
Quentin Elementary School

What do you get when you put *Ms. Lord's* kinder class together with the amazing Chef Victor ...why, the Roving Chef of course and some amazing pizza creations. We are so lucky to have a wonderful relationship with Food Services and their team. *Ms. Lord* and her whole class got a personal cooking lesson along with learning about nutrition.



What do you get when you have a high energy teacher and some athletic girls, a fabulous group called Girls on the Run. *Ms. Kline* and her band of runners competed in a 5K at Kiwanis Park on Sunday, April 26. The girls practiced hard and the results paid off. Way to go girls!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 1, 2015

April 9th Quentin inducted its largest NJHS group in school history. Our moderators planned a wonderful celebration for these students and their families. *Ms. Young, Ms. Mancillas, Mr. Bivens* and *Mr. Frank* all read short quotes about each student and how they upheld the pillars of NJHS. It was a very special night for some very special students.



Special Congrats to *Ms. Leis* the Quentin teacher of the year! She works hard every day is always first on campus and last to leave. She always has a smile on her face and is willing to do “whatever it takes” for kids and their families. Her class is proud of her and all she does every day for kids! She is a Super Shark!



Quentin staff and students celebrated Secretaries Day a little early. *Ms. Brenda, Ms. JoAnn* and *Ms. Amanda* were celebrated for all the great things they do. It takes lots of people to run a school and these three ladies make an impact every day!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 1, 2015

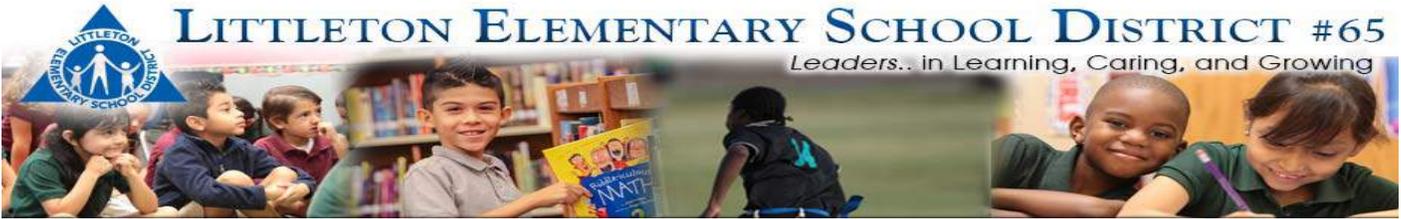
Tres Rios Elementary School

Congratulations to, **Ms. Crystal Porter** selected as the support staff member of the month for April. Some of the wonderful things the Tres staff had to say about **Ms. Porter** in their nominations included: "Crystal is always there for the students and does multiple tasks daily like testing, pulling small groups, assessing new students at Tres with DIBELs"; "Crystal is willing to come into any classroom and jump right in to assist students"; "she is so reliable and dependable that when she has to be pulled for other tasks to support students in other grades, she is greatly missed"; "Crystal is very respectful when working with students and staff and she is dedicated and always works hard on her job"; "**Ms. Porter** goes above and beyond as an instructional assistant on a daily basis"; "she is so helpful and always willing to be flexible with her assigned tasks and many work spaces throughout the school". We are so proud of you **Ms. Crystal Porter** and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team. Thank you so much for all you do for our students Kindergarten through 8th grade!

Way to go **Ms. Kari Burd**, 4th Grade teacher, selected as the certified staff member for the month of April. Along with being a 4th Grade Teacher, **Ms. Burd** is also an LEA School Representative, CST team member, Team Lead, FAC member, TAG member and L.E.A.P committee member. Some comments from the Tres Rios Staff about **Ms. Burd** included: "Kari is very organized and on top of everything"; "she makes sure her students are following expectations"; "she works extremely hard every day and her class is a dream to teach in Related Arts"; "Kari is always prepared and does an excellent job of keeping her class in check and is so thoughtful in saying kind words to staff members in passing. "Kari is dedicated to make sure her students succeed, she does everything she can to help them understand the material being covered in class"; "it is evident that Kari loves the work that she does and she is always willing to go above and beyond what is expected of her"; "works diligently to ensure that she collaborates with related services in the school to ensure she is reaching all students in the lessons she plans as well as the accommodations she provides for her students"; "she is a very helpful and supportive teammate"; "she is a great LEAP member and awesome at every other committee she is on"; "she is a rock star and great to be around!" We are so proud of all that you do for our students, staff and community, **Ms. Kari Burd**, and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

We would like to recognize **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th Grade Science teacher and STEM/MESA Club Coordinator, for taking our first team of STEM/MESA Club students to the State Competition in Tucson at the University of Arizona on Saturday, April 18th. The students had a blast and it was a fun and rewarding experience for them all. Tres Rios had good parent involvement as well to support our students in the various competitions they participated in and almost every student had a family member there to support them. The Tres Rios team participated in six of the nine challenges and in four out of the six events the students placed in the top eight. There was over 21 middle and elementary schools at the MESA competition, so being in the "top 8" was a huge accomplishment. The students received the following acknowledgements for their work: -1st place in solar car design, 3rd place in solar car design notebook, 8th place in solar car challenge, 5th place in "On-Site" challenge of creating a crane to carry copper, 8th place in "Duck-Tape" challenge and 8th place in Rollercoaster challenge.

The Tres Rios team is brand new this school year to MESA and in addition, they were able to design and build for their event within three months. Their coach, **Mr. Michael Laureano**, worked diligently to prepare the students for this competition and the Tres Rios Staff and students are so proud of him and his team for their accomplishment.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

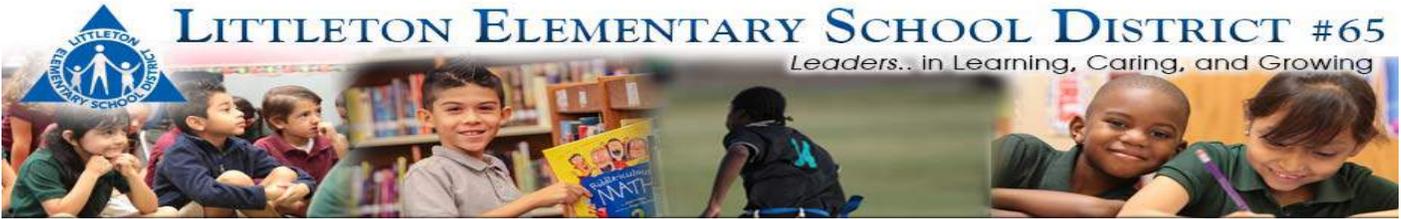
May 1, 2015

The Tres Rios Rubik's Cube Club, led by 5th Grade ELD Teacher, ***Mrs. Amber Garcia***, competed at the Regional Rubik's Cube Tournament, Saturday March 28th at ASU West Campus. The Tres Rios Division 1 team had a personal best time of 13 minutes, 30 seconds completing all 25 cubes. The Tres Rios Division 2 team also had a personal best time of 7 minutes 53 seconds. In addition, the Tres Rios Soloists, Sammy Kaiser, had a personal best time of 1 minute 6 seconds, and Annette Sanchez, a personal best time of 1 minute 23 seconds! Thank you ***Mrs. Amber Garcia*** for working with our students on a weekly basis early in the morning to prepare them for this competition and opportunity to "show their stuff" to other schools and students across the valley! We are extremely proud of you and your kiddos for their accomplishment at the Rubik's Cube Tournament.

Thank you - ***Mr. Eric Nelson*** for organizing, planning, preparing and facilitating testing grades 3-8 for our first year of AZMERIT Testing. The testing was a success with 100% of Tres Rios students being tested in all areas and with not one glitch! ***Mr. Nelson*** ensured that the staff and students were well-prepared for this unique testing experience and that the scheduling and actual assessment did not interfere with the regular operations of the rest of the school while various grade levels were testing. This was a grandiose task that you and the staff came together and completed with ease and success. Thank you for all you do!

Way to go ***Ms. Erika Avelar*** for all of your hard work in recruiting and involving our students in work outside of their classroom and promoting them to continue academic success as well. Tres Rios is proud to announce that the National Junior Honors Society will be inducting 20 new 6th and 7th grade students into the NJHS on May 18th. Thank you ***Ms. Avelar*** for supporting this organization as the club sponsor and for our students who are being initiated!

On June 9th, the Tres Rios 8th graders will be going to the Junior Achievement Finance Park in Tempe. Some things that they will learn is how to properly budget for a family with a set income, balance checkbooks, banking operations, and budgeting for bills, groceries, rent, etc. This will be an amazing opportunity for our students to learn, grow, and understand what their parents need to do on a regular basis and something they will be able to use for the rest of their lives. Thank you ***Mr. Aaron Johnson, Ms. Kathlyn Lee, Mr. Chad Schafer*** and ***Mr. Michael Vilona*** for organizing the field trip for our students to promote their success in the real world!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2015

Estrella Vista Elementary School

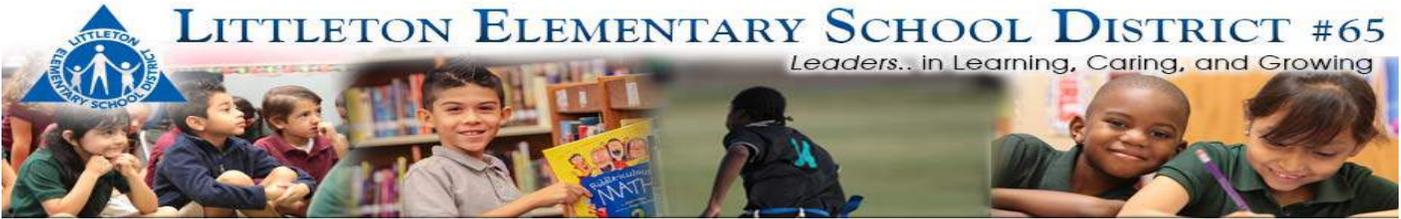
Our kindergarten teachers put on one of the many different hats they wear and became Camp Counselors for a day. **Kinder Camp** came alive because *Ms. Martinez* asked *Mr. Ramos*, “would it be okay if we held a camp for our Kindergarteners...”, and so **Kinder Camp** was born. *Mrs. Brees, Ms. Lehnig, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Sauer* and *Ms. Stone* welcomed 80 kindergarteners on a Saturday morning, where they participated in crafts, music, drama and games. Parents returned at the end of camp to see a special performance of “The Wide Mouthed Frog.” Special thanks to **PTSA** for helping with supplies, as well as *Mr. Ramos, Ms. Ganssle, Mr. Haduch, Mr. Padmanabhan,* and *Ms. Nelson* for volunteering their time to help in the fun-filled, action-packed day.



Estrella Vista held its second parent workshop of the year. We worked to facilitate learning with parents and the community regarding AzMERIT and the EVES Reading Strategy. A huge



goes out to *Ms. Krissy McLean, Ms. Erica Cuccinello, Mr. Wayne Davis, Mr. Anthony Haduch, Mr. Tony Bryant, Ms. Michelle Gerrick, Mr. David Cooper, and Ms. Katie Johnson*, who facilitated these discussions in their classrooms. This proved to be a great opportunity for our parents to get small group instruction on AzMERIT, Testing Preparation, and our very own EVES Reading Strategy.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2015

The entire **Estrella Vista staff** “hit the road, Jack” to remind parents, students, and the community of the upcoming AzMERIT testing. We visited our neighborhoods and left door hangers and flyers. During our visit throughout our community, we made 296 personal - face to face - contacts and 600 home visits. Way to get out and keep our community informed!!

Our continued partnership with the Phoenix Suns, allowed our 7th and 8th grade students to attend the “**JA Smart Money Challenge**” at the US Airways Center. This event was held by Mass Mutual and the Phoenix Suns. Our students heard from **actor/author Hill Harper** and **PJ Tucker** from the **Phoenix Suns** talk about the importance of saving money and spending “smart money.”



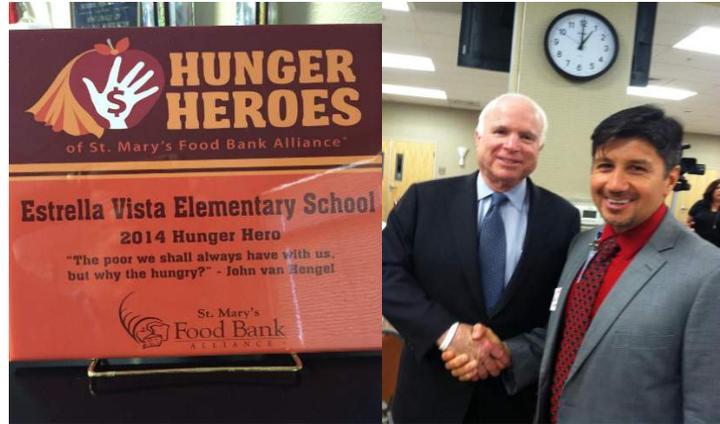
Our 7th / 8th grade ELD students held their first ever **Spoken Word** presentation. It was well attended by family, friends, staff, and students. A huge thank you goes out to **Ms. Jodi Rudd** and **Ms. Divine Valentin** for collaborating and making this opportunity possible for our students. It was an amazing night of students sharing of themselves and their lives. It was such a positive experience! Watching our students perform live and seeing the impact they made on others was amazing! Well Done, Hawks!!



We know children succeed when they can articulate their future in four destinations. Our students practice success in helping others through the destination of **COMMUNITY AND SERVICE**. Estrella Vista students give to others on a weekly basis through their donations to the St. Mary's Food Bank. Estrella Vista Elementary School was recognized for our efforts by **Senator McCain** and **St. Mary's Food Bank** at their annual Hunger Heroes luncheon. *“Happiness... consists in giving and serving others.” – Henry Drummond.*

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2015



Littleton Elementary School

Monday, March 2nd kicked off our “*Read Across America Week*” with a door decorating contest. All of the teachers competed and the competition was tough. The teachers picked a book to read with their students. Then, they selected a theme to decorate their doors. The doors were judged and the winner was **Ms. Kelsey’s** 7th grade class with an innovative 3D Red Box rental theme. Second place went to **Ms. Vasquez’s** 6/7 ELL Combo class with a Blogger theme and third place winner went to **Mr. Martinez’s** class with their Cat in the Hat theme. Everyone put in a lot of creative work into the door decorating – it was quite impressive.



Each classroom read, *Oh, The Places You Will Go* and the students highlighted the Kids at Hope four destinations (Home and Family, Education and Career, Community and Service, and Hobbies and Recreation). Students reflected and wrote about the places they are planning to go in their lives. In addition, Littleton Firebirds held a uniform drive – we collected loads of polo shirts and kaki’s for any of our own needy students. Also, we had classroom pair ups where teachers paired up their classrooms and planned activities where the students worked together. Some of the activities included: cleaning up the campus and helping our custodial manager, **Ms. Gloria Lira**, planting plants, writing to retirement homes and soldiers in Iraq. Most importantly, it was about fun and reminding our students how much we care and believe in them!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2015



On Wednesday, March 4th, guest readers were on our campus to read to our classrooms. *Ms. Williams* and *Ms. Tilly* took it one step further and dressed out for our special day. Together with our very own Principal, *Mr. Chance Whiteman* and our Assistant Principal *Ms. Catherine Wood* who spent the morning visiting and reading to our students. And..... let's not forget our first grade team – *Ms. Gazmen*, *Ms. Puebla*, and *Ms. Deppe* showing their team spirit as well.



Students brought their favorite story book for the parade, or they designed a book cover, or a poster that encouraged reading. The class chose which one of these they wanted to showcase while they strutted their stuff around our campus for all to see. Believe me – it was quite the sight. Too much cuteness for any one day.

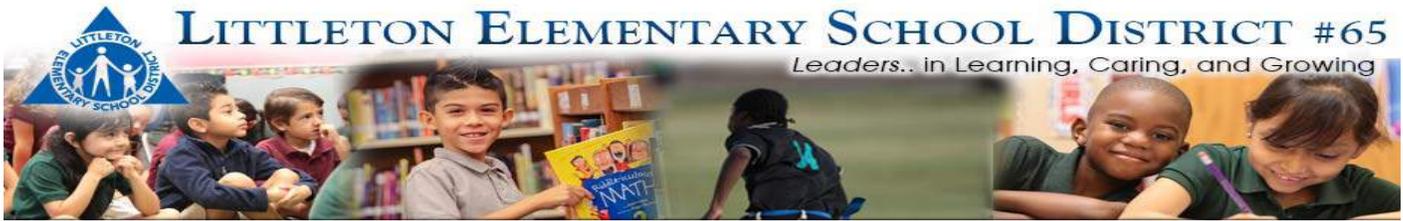




GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 17, 2015





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 10, 2015

Collier Elementary School

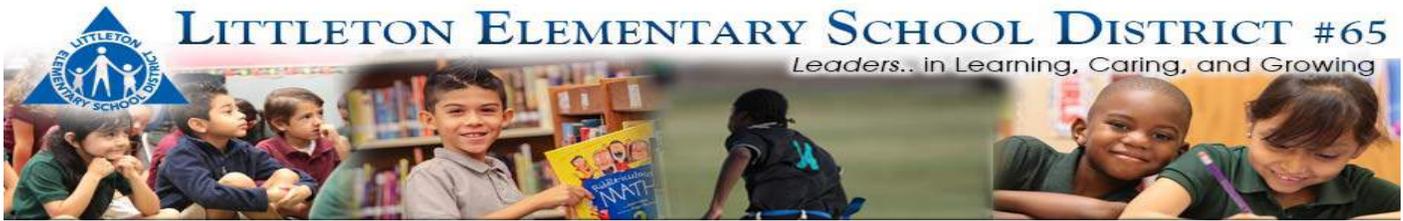
We began the month of March with several exciting activities! On Thursday, March 5th Collier held a school wide Most Amazing Seuss-tacular Event. The day began with teachers wearing costumes revealing their favorite Dr. Seuss character. Classrooms showed their love for this children's author by creating bulletin boards. A contest was held for the most creative board and prizes were awarded. The day was capped off by a Literacy Night held from 5:30 to 7:30 in the cafeteria and main hallway. Families came out to participate in a variety of activities to honor Dr. Seuss and to recognize the importance of reading. We want to thank the following staff members who came out to support this very special evening – *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanishia Thomas, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Diane Hedges, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, and Ms. Heather Zizis*. In addition, a BIG thank you goes out to *Ms. Amanda Steele* and *Ms. Linda Stallard* for all the time and effort they provided by putting together this terrific event.

The final season of sports has begun. The boys' baseball and girls' softball teams have been selected and the games are underway. We want recognize the following staff members who have "stepped up to the plate" to coach – *Mr. Brian Hopkinson* and *Mr. Adam Haller* for the boys baseball team and *Ms. Tamra Fisher* and *Ms. Anissa Ottens* for the girls softball team. Good Luck Collier Coyotes!

On Friday, March 13th the entire district hosted Digital Learning Day! A caravan of guests came to Collier and visited a variety of classrooms to see what unique ways teachers incorporated technology into student learning. The following staff members participated in this extraordinary day – *Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright* and *Mr. Brandon Boudreau*. In addition, the entire fifth grade participated in a Biztown election held via video conference which was supported by *Ms. Kanishia Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Mr. David Cedor* and *Ms. Jessica Cummins*. We also want to recognize *Ms. Anissa Ottens* for being the liaison between Collier and the District Office during this event.

Country Place Elementary School

Student Council helped with Read Across America Day on March 2nd. Student Council members served as guides to our guests from the District Office. They led district officials to Kinder through Third Grade



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 10, 2015

classrooms to read books in honor of Read Across America Day. A very special thanks to **Ms. Carrie Rodriguez** for coordinating her very polite student council members - they represented our school well!

PTA also sponsored our Reading Night on March 3rd. Parents and students enjoyed our Reading Night Celebration and Open House, with classrooms showcasing student work. We appreciate parents for participating in our celebration of reading and learning. All students that attended also received a free book! As always, a big thank you to our PTA Officers: **Ms. Karen Hook** and **Ms. Jackie Davis (Presidents)**, **Ms. Ana Cruz (Vice-President)** and **Ms. Lourdes Lopez (Treasurer)**, for all their hard work in our events.

CPES would like to thank everyone that visited our school for National Digital Learning Day on March 13th. Our students and teachers were proud and excited to showcase our classrooms and the hard work of our students. We appreciate the support from staff, parents and students. We had a fun day of digital learning!

On Saturday March 14th CPES hosted a Carnival. Staff and community gathered for a fun day with rides, games and food! We appreciate everyone that participated, especially our volunteers for their hard work and for making this a fun event for everyone.

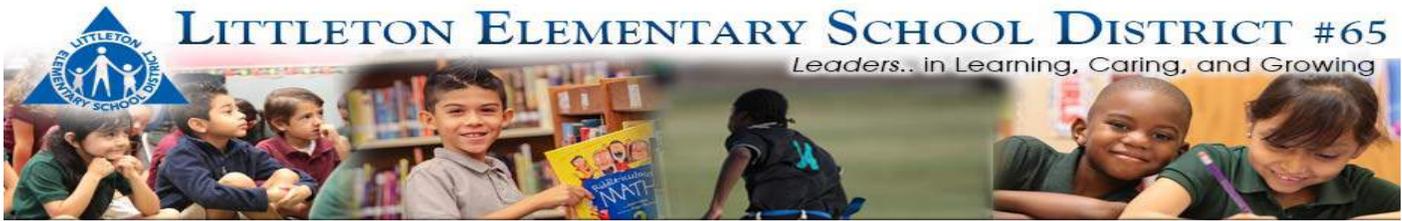
Our STEM Club visited and experienced the unique wonders of Challenger Space Center! Students used math, science and problem solving skills to complete the "Spaced Out" mission which is a simulation of the Apollo 13 crisis. A very special thanks to **Ms. Kristine Perria** for receiving an award that allowed her students to visit the Challenger Space Center on March 27th.

We have a reason to celebrate! CPES Third Grade is *Number 1* in the District in both ELA and Math for 3rd Quarter Benchmarks!!! Third grade tied for *FIRST* in the District in ELA scores on the 3rd Benchmark. Great job to our Third Grade students and their teachers, **Ms. Lynette Hill**, **Ms. Danielle Skunza**, **Ms. Hannah Moreland**, **Mrs. Maria Serrano** and **Ms. Maria Meza**.

Boys' soccer had a great season, coming together as a unit and learning valuable teamwork skills. The boys showed a lot of improvement on the field as well as developing their soccer skills. Over the season, the boys demonstrated incredible growth in maturity. The season ended after a tough semi-final loss, but the boys are already focused on putting a great team together again next year!

The boys' baseball team is off to a solid start! After losing some key players from last year, students are stepping up to fill new leadership roles. After a tough loss in the first game against Collier, the boys rebounded with an exhilarating win against Estrella Vista in a rematch of last year's championship game. There's still a long way to go, but it will be exciting to see how the rest of the season plays out!

A big thanks to their coaches, **Mr. David Bier** and **Ms. Katherine Whittaker**.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 3, 2015

Exceptional Learners Department

Preschool to Kinder transition meetings are taking place through May to assist with our students making a smooth transition from Preschool to Kindergarten.

8th grade to High School transition meetings are being scheduled by La Joya High School to assist with 8th graders making a smooth transition into High School.

Grants & Family Services Department

The Grants and Family Services Department is very excited about upcoming Kids at Hope Parent class at the end of April. We are also continuing to provide ESL classes and Duet workshops for grandparents throughout the month. Through Childhelp, we continue to have classes for strengthening families at Collier and Quentin.

We would like to thank **Ms. Ruby Arenivas** who plans our parent classes. She has also been instrumental in increasing our number of ESL classes!

Teaching & Learning Department

The Littleton Elementary School District's Math Challenge took place on Tuesday, March 17th. The event was hosted by the Teaching and Learning Department with assistance from **Ms. Misha Freeman** (pronouncer), **Mr. Charlie Blanton** (judge), **Ms. Ginny Biddle** (judge) and **Ms. Karen Grose** (judge). Third and fourth grade teams competed first, followed by fifth and sixth grade teams and finally seventh and eighth grade teams. Estrella Vista Elementary School swept the competition winning first place in all three categories. There was a tremendous turnout of parents and school administrators. In addition, we were excited to have **Mrs. Sandi Nielson**, Governing Board President, in attendance to assist us with the awards presentations. Each member of the winning team received an individual trophy as well as a first place team trophy for their school. Thank you to **Ms. Kim Buckner** in Teaching and Learning Services for ensuring the event would run smoothly for the participants.

This week students in several grade levels started taking the AzMERIT online test at all six school sites. Students were logging in to a secured browser, working with different technology tools, and "showing what they know". A big thank you to the IT team for supporting each campus this week and troubleshooting errors which allowed students to continue testing. Thank you to **Dr. Vicki French** for ensuring our schools would be successful in this new testing format. Testing ran smoothly due to the hard work of the teachers, support staff, Deans, and school administration. Thank you! Our students will be testing until April 17th and we expect great results.

Quentin Elementary School

The focus of the Good News this month is Digital Learning Day. Our Shark Spirit was on full display to welcome our community visitors. It took so many people to make the day the **BIG SUCCESS** that it was.

Hats off to our wonderful second grade team *Ms. Swigart, Ms. Alamillo, Ms. Harris, Ms. Delgado, and Ms. Behler*. They took the opportunity to showcase Project Based Learning in their classrooms. The students created inventions and then presented their inventions. Great young minds!



Ms. Emhardt's class used technology to support their reading with the creation of their Digital Storytelling project. The students created stories and then they were videotaped reading their stories.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2015

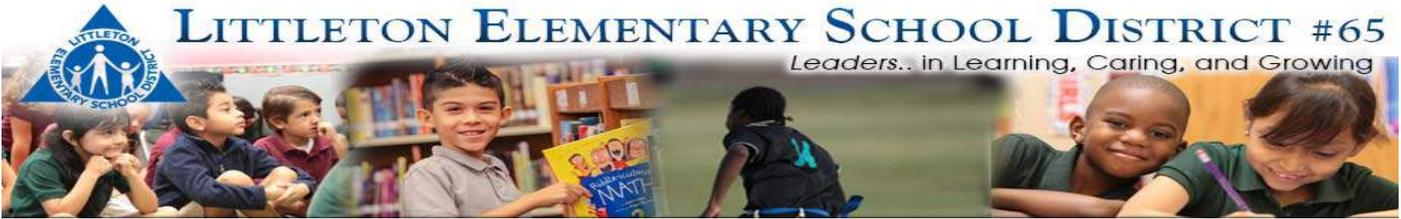
Digital Learning Day was the chance to show off some new technology, using PLICKERS. Plickers are a wonderful tool that helps teachers collect real time formative data. *Mr. Alfred, Mr. Bivens* and *Ms. Gaona* shared this tool with our visitors.



Got CODE??? *Ms. Smith's* 6th grade continued their exploration of CODE and they shared with our visitors, how they could program games and applications based on what they learned. The students shared the careers that could be open to them in the future using these skills.



Digital Learning Day was a true team event. Even our Art Teacher *Ms. Van DeBogart* got into the act. Our halls were beautifully decorated. Our para-professionals, *Ms. Lupita, Ms. Patti, Ms. Kamilah* and *Ms. Ana* helped to make sure bulletin boards were looking sharp.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2015



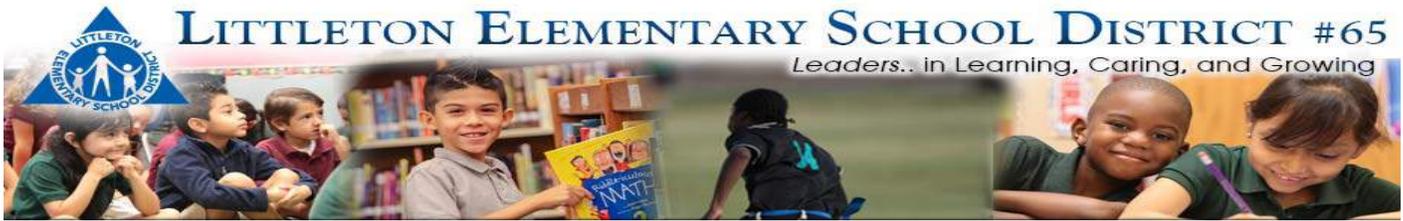
Quentin loved the chance to share all of the GOOD News with our guests.



Tres Rios Elementary School

Congratulations to, **Mr. Jon Hooper, Night Custodian** who received recognition as the support staff member of the month for March. Some of the wonderful things the Tres staff had to say about **Mr. Hooper** in their nominations included: “Jon keeps this place clean and always has a smile on his face while doing so”; “he is very kind and is always willing to help out”; “Jon works very hard and is very friendly with staff”; “he has a great attitude and is very optimistic while he keeps my classroom environment spotless”; “Jon does a great job keeping the school clean and looking brand new every day”; and “Jon is dedicated to his job and takes pride in how our school looks by doing a great job beautifying the school.” We are so proud of you **Mr. Jon Hooper** and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Way to go to the following certified staff member for the month of March, **Ms. Kelly Diekemper, 4th-5th Grade Resource Teacher**. Some comments the Tres Rios Staff had to say about **Ms. Diekemper** included: “Kelly is always going above and beyond what her job entails and is dedicated to her students”; “she is a first year teacher who has proven herself time and time again that she knows what she is doing as a professional and what she doesn’t know she is always striving to learn”; “always being dedicated to her resource students and helping them to grow while having their respect and trust in her”; “she is one of the most dedicated teachers at Tres Rios”; “always reaching out to further her learning of her students, collaborating with the general education teachers and inspiring others to be as dedicated as she is”; “she is willing to help other resource teachers in regards to lesson planning, modeling IEP meetings and learning about district and Tres routines” and “always being a support for our grade



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2015

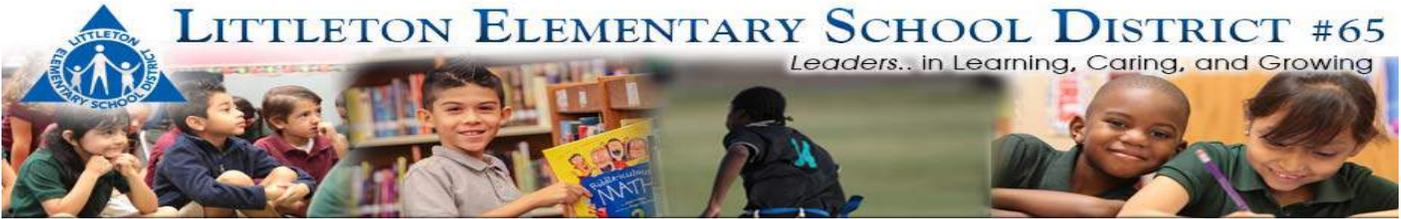
level team and for our kiddos, even as a first year teacher she has been a great resource in helping kids and inspiring her students.” We are so proud of all that you do for our students, staff and community, *Ms. Kelly Diekemper*, and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Congratulations to our Tres Rios Math Challenge student participants and the coaches who assisted each of the Tres Rios teams with being awarded 2nd place in the 2015 District Math Challenge. *Mr. Brittain Davis*, led the S.T.E.M committee in determining how the committee would help prepare the students for the challenge. Thank you *Ms. Madeline Goodman*, 3rd-4th grade coach; *Mr. Jeremy Mager*, 5th-6th grade coach and *Mr. Brittain Davis*, 7th-8th grade coach, for preparing our students for the competition!

We would like to recognize *Mr. Michael Laureano*, 6th Grade Science teacher and S.T.E.M. Club Coordinator, for taking our first team of S.T.E.M. Club students to the regional MESA competition last month at Peoria High School. *Mr. Laureano* worked with our 5th-8th grade students on a weekly basis and arranged this opportunity where the students were able to compete in engaging tasks related to problem solving and S.T.E.M related activities. We appreciate the dedication and time that you spend with our students to offer them opportunities out of the school setting.

Way to go Tres Rios Pumas following *grade levels and staff members* for assisting with our first successful Digital Learning Day held on March 13th:

- *Mr. Michael Laureano*, 6th Grade Teacher and S.T.E.M Committee member for taking the initiative to promote the day through communication to staff school-wide and ideas for staff to use on Digital Learning Day.
- *Mrs. Charlotte Anderson*, Music Teacher, for demonstrating the use of Maki-Maki’s with our 5th grade students. The students were able to demonstrate to visitors how they program the Maki-Maki software to be able to play music using bananas and their laptop keyboards.
- *Mrs. Samantha Armstrong*, Gifted Teacher, for having multiple demonstrations across the grade levels of students you service in your classroom. Visitors were able to observe 1st and 2nd graders and their designs for a robot hospital in the future; 4th graders creating electro magnets, electric circuits and online navigating through a web quest on electricity; 5th-8th graders demonstrating problem solving skills by building paper towers, cars and played the Set thinking game; 5th-7th graders using an online virtual field trips program from ASU and NASA that had them create hypotheses to test an upheaval dome is formed; 4th – 8th students who demonstrated their creation of a design that was specific for a client for a business in the future and 6th-8th graders that watched TED Talks and used their learning to demonstrate the connection between adolescent brain development and Make Your Day philosophy.
- 3rd Grade Team, *Ms. Johanna Spalding*, *Mrs. Heather Lawrence* *Mrs. Marta Evans* and *Ms. Lindsay Westberg*, for offering our visitors the opportunity to observe your students using CLOSE Reading strategies on your lap tops to highlight and annotate notes in passages.
- 4th Grade Team, *Ms. Krysten Bonacci*, *Ms. Kari Burd*, *Ms. Erika Avelar*, *Ms. Morgan Saffer* and *Ms. Marissa Schroeder*, for demonstrating to our visitors your student work on their laptops. Students participated in a variety of digital activities including creating PowerPoint presentations to support an opinion writing piece on frogs, typing responses to questions about line plots and submitting them through a



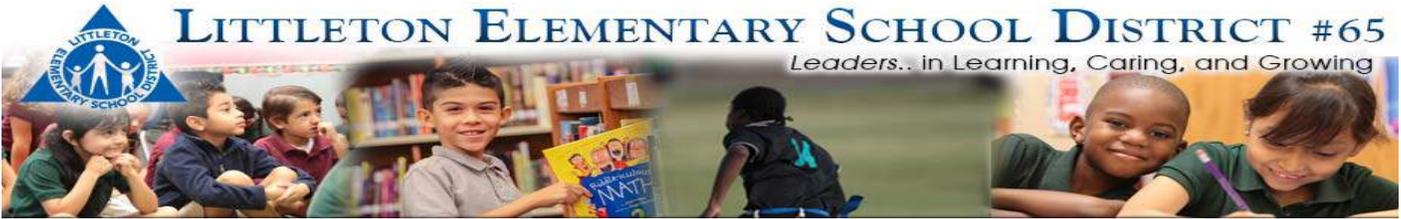
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 27, 2015

drop box, and recording themselves read aloud paragraphs they had previously written and providing feedback to other students about their readings.

Your willingness to invite the district tour visitors into your classrooms to see the amazing things you are doing with your students in regards to technology is appreciated!

Way to go 6th Grade Team, *Mr. Michael Laureano, Mr. Itzer Garcia, Mr. Jon Ollila and Mrs. Monica Miller*, for planning a field trip to ASU for our 6th grade students as a way to connect their purpose of current learning in school to the future plans in attending a college or university. This field trip connects directly with our Kids at Hope philosophy by visiting the Education and Career Destination and having our students travel into their future. Thank you for planning and offering this opportunity for our 6th grade students!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 20, 2015

Estrella Vista Elementary School

We  Estrella Vista!!!

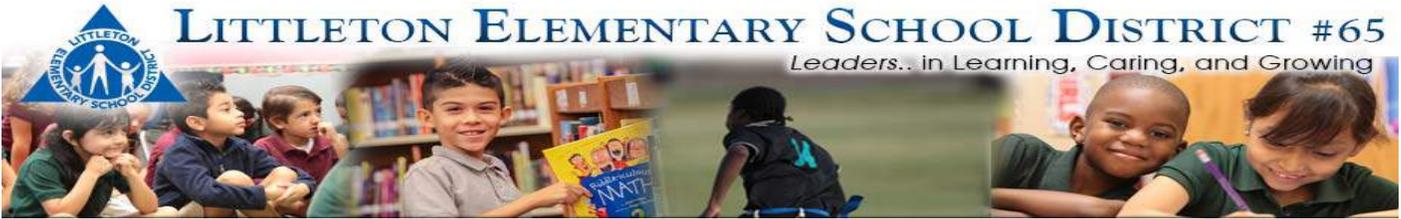
Realizing the importance of reading, students participated in a variety of activities related to celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. *Mrs. Gonzales*, our librarian created a "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" activity, where Kindergartner and 1st Grade Classrooms categorized shapes and colors. They also predicted how many "red fish, blue fish..." were in the bucket. The student closest to the prediction, won the bucket full of fish. Grade levels participated in buddy reading, as well as a door decorating challenge.



Estrella Vista's PTSA participated in Dr. Seuss week as well. They held a BOOK Bingo night. It was exciting to see families engaging in a fun-filled activity. Many books were placed into our children's hands that night, and the sense of community is strong thanks to our PTSA.

Congratulations to our boys and girls soccer team and to their coaches, *Mr. Padmanabhan, Mr. Espinoza, Ms. Cole, Ms. Byrne* and *Ms. Rodriguez*. Our talented young athletes brought home the trophy to Estrella Vista. We are very proud of you, WAY TO GO!!!

Mr. Ramos, Ms. Eastep, and *Ms. Duty* worked with teachers in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 to discuss the upcoming AzMerit assessment. The students actively engaged in recognizing what each of them can do before the assessment window to ensure each is prepared optimally to do his/her best on AzMerit.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 20, 2015

Littleton Elementary School

Littleton's very own *Ms. Hannah Robinette* got a very special surprise visit from KEZ's 99.9, Marty Manning. *Ms. Robinette*, a second year, Kindergarten teacher was awarded the Taylor Morrison KEZ Excellence in Education Award live on the air. One of her parents, Caroline Chavez wrote into KEZ and explained why *Ms. Robinette* was so deserving and KEZ agreed with her. *Ms. Robinette* also received a \$99.00 check in addition to her award plaque. *Ms. Wood* was also there to help present the award to *Ms. Robinette* – in fact her whole Kindergarten class got to cheer her at the end LIVE on the radio. WAY TO GO, *Ms. Robinette*.



No? Me, neither! Who knew? Well, I'll tell you who knew – *Ms. Irwin's* Fourth Grade Class ... that's who! On this day, children across the United States are able to chew bubble gum at school while helping a worthy cause. Kids who donate 50 cents or more are allowed to chew gum at school, and the money is collected and donated to a charity chosen by the class or school. *Ms. Irwin* and her students celebrated National Bubble Gum Day by bringing in donations and her class of 16 was able to raise close to \$20 for the charity they chose. They chose to donate to a local charity in Avondale, AZ called **Uplifting Kids**. **Uplifting Kids** is a non-profit organization that focuses on changing the life of kids and their families against things such as drugs, violence and problems at home. They create sports programs to help bring families back together and help keep Avondale crime free. What a creative and fun way to help out the local community. Nice job everyone!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 20, 2015



When it comes to graphing our third graders are the ones to beat. Lately, the third grade has had three enrich classrooms and only one reteach because the students are doing so well. Way to go: ***Ms. Davis, Ms. Ciadella, Mr. Davenport*** and ***Ms. Valenzuela*** and most importantly all our third grade students.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 6, 2015

Grants & Family Services Department

The Grants and Family Services Department had a very successful Family Resource fair on Friday, February 27th. There were over 35 vendors that came out and shared their resources with our families. Families were able to participate in raffles, face painting and games. All children attending received 2 free books that were donated by Barnes & Noble. Thank you to all the volunteers for working hard to create a successful event and to Estrella Vista Elementary for the use of their facilities.

Grants and Family Services will have some upcoming classes for parents starting in March. One will be the Strengthening Families classes at both Collier and Quentin in the evenings. We will also continue with the ESL classes and our Duet Workshop for grandparents.

Exceptional Learners Department

The ELS department had their annual Indicator 11 audit and was found to be in compliance. Plans are underway for Abilities Awareness Day to be held on April 1st at the Quentin Campus.

Operations Department

We would like to give a big thank you to the operations staff: *Mr. Abraham Cuellar, Mr. Alex Moreno, Mr. Alvaro Alvarez, Mr. Benjamin Martinez, Mr. Frank Beltran, Mr. Hector Lopez, Mr. Isaac Flores, Mr. Jose Mancillas, Ms. Maricela Martinez, Mr. Heber Castro, Mr. Randall Simonson, Mr. Rene Rodriguez, Mr. Ruben Pinon, Mr. Paul Lintz and Mr. Marlon Flamenco* and custodial staff at each site: *Mr. George Gonzalez, Mr. Max Herrera, Mr. Alfonso Almanza, Ms. Gloria Lira, Mr. Arnold Sanchez, Mr. Martin Aguilar and Ms. Inocencia Tolentino* for your help and support during our yearly inspection phase.

We also want to thank *Mr. Paul Lintz, Ms. Inocencia Tolentino, Mr. Benjamin Martinez* and *Mr. Marlon Flamenco* for keeping up with all the setups and scheduling of meetings for the district office.

Teaching and Learning Services Department

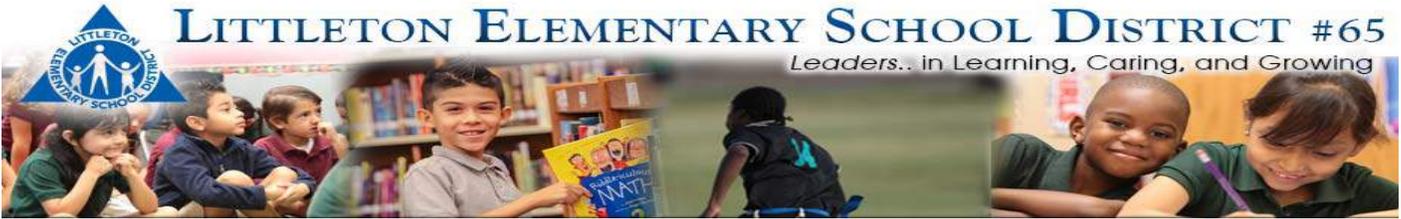
The District Math Challenge will be held on March 17th in the ULC. Students in grades third through eighth will compete in teams for an opportunity to represent Littleton in the Westside Impact Math Challenge. Thank you to everyone who has worked to make this day a reality for our students.

Students will start working with sample tests for AzMERIT on Monday March 9th. This will allow students the opportunity to experience the technology functions they will encounter on the upcoming assessment. Thank you to all the individuals who will assist students with this experience.

Transportation Department

Congratulations to Littleton Elementary and Tres Rios Elementary for their participation in the Trip Reduction annual survey with a 96% and 97% percent return of their surveys.

Littleton and Tres Rios sites received letters of commendation from Maricopa County Regional Trip Reduction Task Force for their efforts in reducing traffic and vehicle emission pollutants.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 27, 2015

Quentin Elementary School



Our 5-8th grade students and teachers got to enjoy a concert by the band *Reverse Order*. *Reverse the Trend* is an Anti-Bullying concert and assembly created by the young band *Reverse Order* to help combat the rise of bullying across America. The band started the program by performing a few songs to excite and engage the students using popular music that everyone enjoyed. *Reverse Order* continued the assembly by sharing their individual stories of how they were bullied, and how they overcame it in a safe and productive way. It was an assembly with great music and an even better message.



Ahoy, Sharks! Thanks to *Ms. Garcia* and *Ms. DiMartino* for getting our Student Council Students ready for their Leadership Conference. Our StuCo Sharks represented and enjoyed the day learning about leadership. A job well done for *Ms. Pemberton's* Music Class and *Ms. Niceigewski's* Advanced Band Students. The teachers did an amazing job getting the students ready to perform at the Quentin Board Showcase. It was wonderful to see our young musicians so excited about what they are learning in class.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 27, 2015

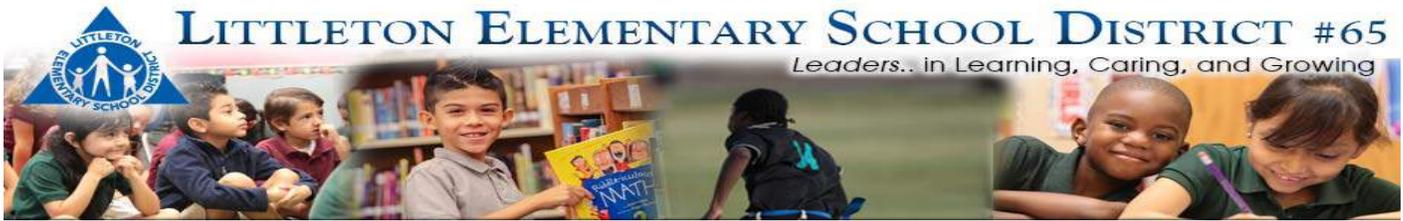


Ms. Van De Bogart (or Ms. V as we call her) has started an Art Club for our students. Some of their handiwork came for our Super Bowl Prediction and our Book Fair. Way to go *Ms. V* for helping our students get in touch with their creative side.



Tres Rios Elementary School

Congratulations to, *Mrs. Vianey Fong*, Administrative Secretary who received recognition as the support staff member of the month. Some of the wonderful things the Tres staff had to say about *Ms. Fong* in their nominations included: “she is always involved with fun activities for the staff in her role as the Social Committee chair”; “she is always available when needed and goes above and beyond to ensure that the school is running smoothly”; “her exceptional organizational skills and communication are a valuable asset as she works hard to ensure upcoming events are communicated and expectations are clear”; “she is joyful and positive and is always offering her assistance no matter how busy she is or when she is asked”; “doing so much for the school, your efficiency is admired so much”; and “Vianey is a hard worker, always willing to help out,



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 27, 2015

works diligently to get tasks done, is a great listener and takes care of everyone!" We are so proud of you **Mrs. Vianey Fong** and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

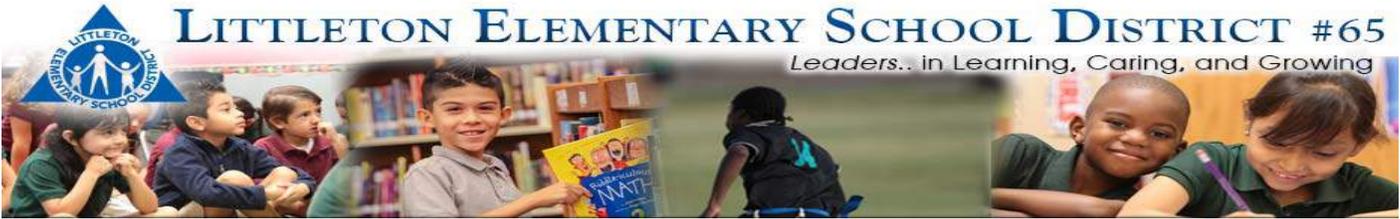
Way to go to the following certified staff member for the month. **Ms. Erika Avelar**, 4th Grade Teacher, NJHS Coordinator and Literacy Committee member. Some comments the Tres Rios Staff had to say about **Ms. Avelar** included: "Erika works well together with our team and does a great job making anyone feel better even on their worst day"; "doing a great job with NHJS and taking on the "One Book, One School" school-wide literacy activity, working to ensure staff and students get information regarding different school-wide or club initiatives, collaborating with the gifted teacher regarding grade level curriculum and plans"; "it is such a pleasure to work with Erika from a general education/special education collaborative standpoint as she does an incredible job welcoming new additions to her class and always going above and beyond for the kids"; and "coming each day dedicated to support her students and help them to succeed in the classroom in all subjects and always wanting the best for her students." We are so proud of all that you do for our students, staff and community, **Ms. Erika Avelar**, and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Congratulations to **Ms. Natalie Rorick**, 2nd Grade Teach for America Teacher, who wrote and received a grant from Donors Choose for money to support her math instruction with her 2nd graders. **Ms. Rorick** submitted an application for this grant as a way to support our school wide TAP goal in math and purchase resources to support math workstations in her classroom. **Ms. Rorick** received \$187.00 worth of funding for purchasing the math activities and resources for her work stations.

Congratulations to **Ms. Kristina Sessler**, 1st Grade Teacher, who received a grant from LOWES for \$2500.00 after submitting an application to the LOWES Toolbox Education Grant Program. **Ms. Sessler** wrote the grant in efforts to start a school/community garden that would promote the Kids at Hope Community and Service Destination as well as be utilized as a learning tool for teachers and students across the school. The gardens that are being created will also be used as a part of the school's "Green Day" activities.

Way to go **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th Grade Science Teacher, for taking initiative and reaching out to another colleague, **Ms. Ginny Biddle** – Country Place Gifted Teacher – to collaborate and learn how to integrate the MakerBot and all of its wonderful learning attributes. Your collaboration with **Ms. Biddle** promotes the use of technology with your students in a transformational way. What a rich job-embedded professional development experience. Tres Rios is so proud of your effort to support our value of collaboration, not only within our school, but extending to others on different campuses throughout the district!

Thank you **Dr. Seu Hee Ledet**, Tres Rios Principal, for ensuring we live our district mission in learning, caring and growing by accepting an invitation to the Annual Junior High Leadership Conference and chaperoning our 8th grade students on this field trip which occurred on February 20th for 8th grade students at Sierra Linda High School in the Tolleson Union High School district. Fifteen students from NJHS, PLC, and Student Council Representatives were invited to develop their leadership skills.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 13, 2015

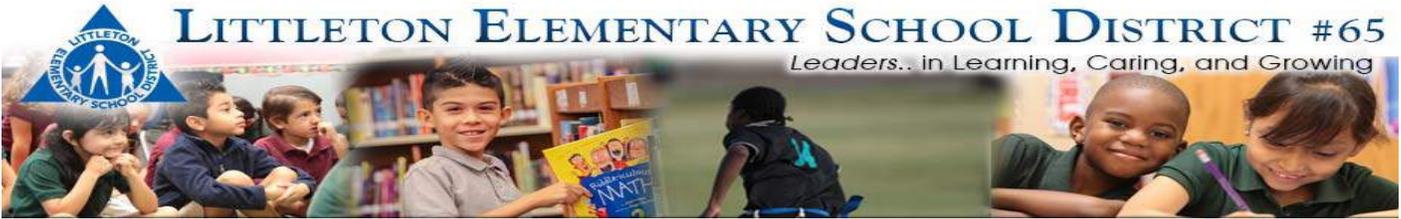
Collier Elementary School

We kicked off 2015 with several exciting activities! On Friday, January 9th Collier held a school wide Spelling Bee which was led by **Ms. Kanisha Thomas** and **Ms. Amy Leamon**. The Spelling Bee was held in the library and the students were excited to participate. Thank you to these two staff members for their time and effort. In addition, a BIG “thank you” must be extended to **Ms. Diane Hedges** for hosting the event in the library and her help in setting up the room.

On Thursday, January 29th the second quarter Awards Night was held in the cafeteria. We want to thank the following staff members who came out to honor their students – **Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Loralie Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Heather Zizis, and Ms. Tamra Fisher**. In addition, a BIG thank you goes out to the front office and custodial staff. A very special thank you goes out to **Ms. Melissa Strand** and **Ms. Roxanne Zamora** for all the time and effort they provided by putting together the PowerPoint presentation used at the Awards Night. Without the time and support of – **Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Libby DeLeon, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, Mr. George Gonzales, and Mr. Louie Madrigal** this event would not have been so successful.

The following day Friday, January 30th the quarterly Kids at Hope afternoon celebration was held campus wide. All of the staff members supported the event – **Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Loralie Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Tamra Fisher, Ms. Tayler Stewart, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Connie Boggs, Ms. Melissa Strand, Ms. Roxanne Zamora, Mr. Brandon Bourdeau, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Hai Dang, Mr. Rupert Alvarez, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Ms. Jean Alver, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Heather Zizis, and Ms. Ilene Rosas**. A special thank you goes out to **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa** for organizing this school wide event that students look forward to all quarter.

Fifth Grade Battle of the Books was held on Thursday, January 22nd. The evening event was put on by **Ms. Jackie Older** and **Ms. Britney DeRose**. **Ms. Lisa Vaught** provided supervision of the teams in the hallway prior to their competition and **Ms. Gioia Pitts** was a judge. The Battle of the Books is a tradition at Collier that both students and parents look forward to attending.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 13, 2015

One of the biggest events for the month was the Fire Marshal Inspection which took place at the end of the month. All staff members got on board to make sure Collier was the safest school. Collier passed the inspection with flying colors! **Mr. Mike Fisher** came over to Collier to do a campus inspection prior to the Marshal's visit. In addition, **Mr. George Gonzales** worked throughout the month by walking the campus making changes to ensure that the school was ready for inspection. We want to thank the entire staff for their hard work and extra effort.

Country Place Elementary School

Congratulations to all our honor students! CPES had their awards assembly to recognize our students for their hard work and citizenship, together with Quarter 2 awards with great parent participation. Assemblies during the day have been a great success as it encourages all students that are present to receive awards, while cheering for their classmates. As always, we would like to thank our parents for your support.

Our soccer teams are having a great season! Congratulations to our Mustangs for their wins! The Lady Mustangs are doing a great job communicating on the field and creating scoring opportunities. Many thanks to our soccer coaches, **Ms. Serena Garcia, Ms. Erika Poblete, Ms. Katherine Whittaker and Mr. David Bier**, as well as the teachers and students that came out to support the teams!

Country Place PTA started their "Jump Rope for Heart" fundraiser. Not only does this help our school, but it raises heart health awareness and physical education. CPES students made a commitment to "living heart healthy" while supporting our school. We appreciate all teachers, students and parents, as well as our PTA Leaders for putting this together: **Mrs. Karen Hook, Mrs. Valerie Davis, Ana Cruz and Lourdes Lopez**.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 6, 2015

Exceptional Learners Department

Our Gifted Teachers are attending the 41st Annual Gifted Conference this week. They will be bringing back what they learned to share with their campus.

Our Gifted Teachers have been tasked with exploring Gifted models in other districts to assist with refining our programming to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students.

Grants and Family Services Department

We recently held a 21 Keys class for parents. The class took place during the last 2 weekends of January. ESL classes continue at the Welcome Center, as well as an upcoming Duet class for grandparents.

During the month of February, we have some exciting events coming up. Our quarterly parent coffee talk will take place on Friday, February 20th at 9am at the Welcome Center. The coffee talk includes information on the upcoming state assessment AZ Merit.

We also are looking forward to the Family Resource Fair on Friday, February 27th from 3:30 to 6:30pm at Estrella Vista Elementary.

Operations Department

Annual inspections are underway across the district for the year.

Our professional development day was a great day of learning and collaborating with our peers, everyone was able to take something back to their sites and refresh all of our skills.

Teaching and Learning Services Department

Teaching and Learning Services hosted the All District Professional Development day on February 4th. The sessions included valuable information that staff could take back and use immediately. The day would not have been successful without the collaboration and hard work of the Littleton ESD staff. Thank you to all of the individuals who assisted with planning, room set up, and facilitation. We would also like to thank everyone for using My Learning Plan and registering for the professional development sessions.

Transportation Department

Wednesday's Professional Development Day was an opportunity for our Bus Drivers to have hands on NCI training. We want to thank **Ms. Juleah Ferreira** and **Ms. Tamra Fisher** for their excellent presentation. Drivers commented the training was awesome, hands on and really supported what goes on in buses.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 30, 2015

Quentin Elementary School

Quentin's 2015 has started off with a community service theme. Our December Food Drive was a huge success. We collected over 600 pounds of food. Way to go to Ms. Wilson's 4th Grade Class for bringing in the biggest number of canned goods.



Ms. Mancillas and her 6th grade class decided to take on a class clean-up project in honor of Civil Rights Day. They decided to have a class clean up on our field. The kids picked up trash and made the back field clean and trash free. Thanks for your community spirit!



Our 8th grade teachers **Mr. Bivens**, **Ms. Young**, **Mr. Alfred** and **Mr. Frank** hosted a Peter Piper Pizza Night. Our PTSA joined in for some fun as well. This was a big fundraiser to help with the end of the year promotion dance. Thanks team and students for the support! **Mr. Alfred** was one of the contestants in the hands behind your back ice cream eating contest. Way to show team spirit **Mr. Alfred**!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

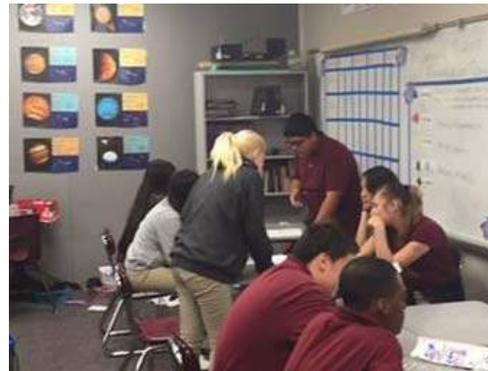
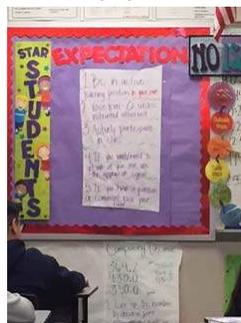
January 30, 2015



The month of January brought some fun along the way...the 100th day of school was celebrated in a BIG WAY!!! Our teachers decked out the doors in hundred day style. *Ms. Lord*, *Ms. Alamamillo* and *Ms. Martinez* got in on the fun with their students.



Big Shark props go out to *Ms. Corkins* and *Ms. Sayegh*! They had their 7th grade students engage in a real life Shark Tank. Students needed to pitch their ideas to their classmates and then students used their cash to invest in the ideas. What a great real life activity that got students engaged and excited about learning and becoming entrepreneurs.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 30, 2015

Tres Rios Elementary School

Congratulations to, **Mrs. Maria Vargas, Instructional Assistant/Fast ForWord Facilitator** who received recognition as the support staff member of the month for January. Some of the wonderful things the Tres staff had to say about **Mrs. Vargas** in their nominations included: “she is always willing to change job responsibilities for the benefit of all Tres Rios students and their learning”; “she has been dedicated with stepping up to the plate for any new challenge in working with our Kindergarten, resource and Fast ForWord students as well as being a tester for various school-wide assessments”; “**Maria** is always respectful towards all students and staff and works her ‘tooshie’ off to help our students learn”; “Great at pulling small groups of students to support student mastery” and “Overall she is a hard-working lady”. We are so proud of you **Mrs. Maria Vargas** and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Way to go to the following certified staff member for the month of January, **Mrs. Markeita Momon, 2nd Grade ELD teacher**. Some comments the Tres Rios Staff had to say about **Ms. Momon** included: “**Markeita** is always collaborating with and supporting her team as well as people outside of her team”; “she plans lessons that are fun and engaging for all of her various learners”; “she has a positive attitude and always comes to work with a smile on her face”; “**Markeita** is a great support or ‘Go To’ person for other ELD teachers at Tres Rios”; and “**Markeita** is knowledgeable, patient, enthusiastic and kind”. We are so proud of all that you do for our kids, **Ms. Markeita Momon**, and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Thank you to the following teachers who have offered their time after school to support the social, emotional and academic needs of our students while supporting the Kids at Hope philosophy by providing our students with opportunities for success in the areas of Hobbies & Recreation, Education & Career and Community & Service.

- **Mr. Brittain Davis**- 7th Grade Math Teacher, **Ms. Colleen Allen** – 7th Grade Science Teacher and **Ms. Kathlyn Lee** – 8th Grade Math Teacher for committing two days a week after school starting January 5th through March 3rd to support student achievement in Math by tutoring our 3rd – 8th grade students. Your extra dedication to our kids supports the **Kids at Hope Education & Career Destination**. Thank you to **Mr. Brett Kennedy** and **Ms. Kelly Diekemper** for offering your support to our after-school tutoring program as substitutes.
- **Mr. Alexander Hertogs** and **Mr. Jon Ollila** for coaching our middle school boys’ soccer team as well as **Mrs. Yolanda Jordan** and **Ms. Madeline Goodman** for coaching our middle school girls’ soccer team. Your dedication to working with our young ladies and gentlemen to not only teach them how to play the game, but also the importance of behavior and academic success as well as teamwork and collaboration is appreciated! Thank you for providing students with the opportunity to exhibit their talents, intelligence and skills through the **Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Destination**.

Congratulations to **Ms. Samantha Armstrong, Gifted Teacher**, who was selected by the ASU Astrobiology Partnership to field test two of their virtual field trip kits and experience boxes starting January 26, 2015. Due to her application for this program Tres Rios 5th-8th grade students will be working on doing the Upheaval Dome on the week of January 19th through February 6th followed by the virtual lab of Bizarre Animals from January 16th through March 6th. Thank you **Ms. Armstrong** for reaching out to bring in these extra academic opportunities for our students!

Congratulations to **Mr. Itzer Garcia, Mr. Jon Ollila, Mr. Michael Laureano** and **Ms. Monica Miller, 6th grade team**, for achieving the district attendance award for Quarter 2 with 96.04% attendance rate for students throughout the 2nd quarter.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2015

Estrella Vista Elementary School

Happy New Year and welcome to 2015! EVES hope everyone had a wonderful winter Break. We are looking forward to a *S.W.A.G-tastic* start to the second half of the school year.

Estrella Vista welcomed three new teachers this January. Starting with our *Reading Intervention Specialist, Mrs. Laurie McCracken*, who will be working with small groups from kindergarten through third grades. In kindergarten, we are excited *Ms. Marissa Lehnig* has joined our team. Finally, we are thrilled to announce the opening of a sixth grade classroom under *Ms. Michelle Gerrick's* leadership.

In an effort to ensure our students were refocused on taking responsibility for their learning and behavior, all students, faculty, and staff members discussed each of the components of the *Make Your Day* program. Students in *Mr. Bryant's Classroom* took the activity one step further. The students created and recorded commercials for each component of the *Make Your Day* Program. Kudos to *Mr. Bryant's* students for using technology as an innovative teaching tool.

Research says when we have high expectations for our students – they reach for them! We are proud to report during the middle of the month, students in grades 3-8 demonstrated their academic knowledge by completing the ELA and math comprehensive assessments. The results of these assessments will provide teachers, students, and parents alike with feedback on those areas which have been learned as well as those academic areas needing to be addressed further. Thank you to all of *EVES Treasure Hunters* for believing: All Children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Students achieving *perfect attendance*, earning *principal's list* (those earning all As), or earning *honor roll* (those earning all As and Bs) were provided the opportunity to stand proudly in front of their parents and peers to highlight their achievements for 2nd quarter on January 16th. It was an opportunity to not only highlight the children's academic achievements, but also to point out the direct correlation between strong attendance at school resulting in strong academic performance.

Congratulations to *Coylee Mitchell, 5th Grade* and *Xyon Pheil, 8th Grade* for placing 1st and 2nd in Estrella Vista's School Spelling Bee. *Coylee Mitchell* participated in the Littleton ESD 65 spelling bee on Tuesday,



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2015

January 20th and placed 2nd. He will represent not only our Hawks, but also the district at the regional spelling bee. *Coylee* will continue to practice, practice, and practice so he is prepared for this next challenge. Congratulations, *Coylee*!

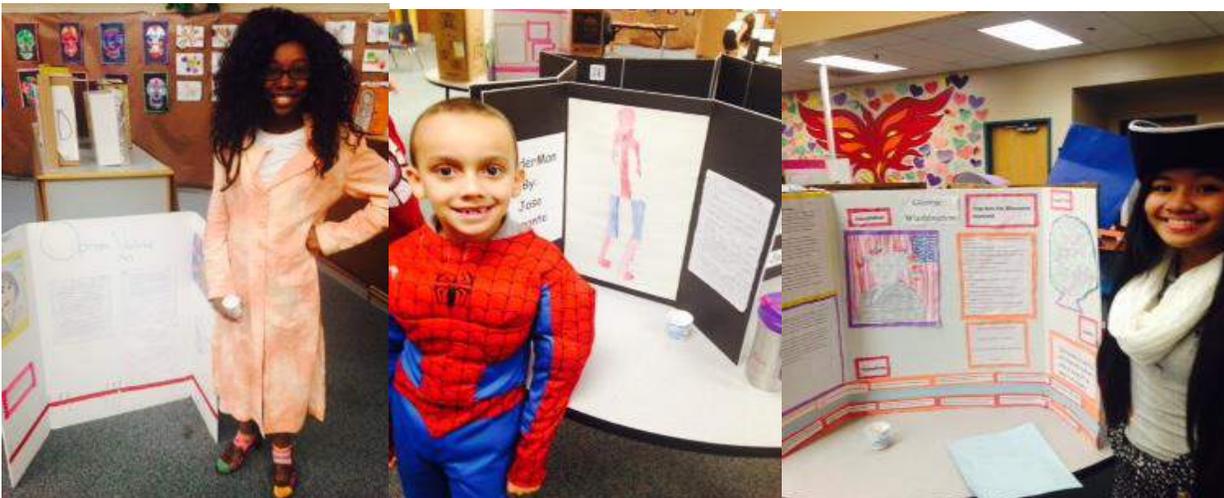
Our Hawks were flying high, as they participated in the *Arizona Junior High School Basketball Tournament!* *Mr. Kunz* and *Mr. Davis* led our boys' team to a **2nd Place finish** in the tournament. The "Arizona Jr. High School Tournament" is hosted by *Ms. Cindy Stein* at Madison Park School.

Littleton Elementary School

On December 4th, the sixth graders worked hard developing their research-based and creative based thinking and they wanted to show it off! The end result of all their hard work was displayed and presented at the Winter Festival on Dec. 5th to all the parents, however, the sixth graders are so proud (rightfully so) that they opened up the museum early on December 4th in the library during school hours and invited all to come and take a walk in their gallery. What you would have seen if you walked through was:

- Sixth graders dressed up and delivering speeches as someone who they believe was/is influential
- *Ms. Williams'* STARS students presenting as a character from Marvel comics with the help of the 6th graders
- Sarcophaguses created based on Ancient Egypt traditions
- Art work created in Ms. Walla's art classes

Ms. Tilly, Ms. Lozoya, Ms. Williams and Ms. Meskauskas and all their students did an amazing job and it was a huge success. Way to go Sixth Grade!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2015

Ms. Boon's self-contained class joined in some winter activities within the theme of the book, **The Polar Express**. The students rotated through small groups in which they completed activities that included making cocoa, counting marshmallows, colored winter drawings, made paper chef hats and they strung bells to wear because they ALL BELIEVE!



On December 5th from 5:30-8:00 PM Littleton Elementary School opened its doors to students, families and the community for the winter carnival. If you attended you would have found a wide array of activities to participate in such as staff versus student volleyball game. There was grade level sponsored booths with games and prizes to be won. Sixth grade transformed our library into a living wax museum. We had the student council selling pizza, popcorn, drinks and snacks. The preschool team sponsored our cake walks and there was also a "Frozen" themed photo booth for everyone to enjoy as created by our very own master teacher ***Mr. Brandon Padilla***. It was a beautiful night as the full moon helped to light up our campus along with the smiles and laughter from everyone who came to share in our fun night!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2015



Try saying that three times quick! On December 16th, Littleton's Elementary PTA sponsored a Peter Piper Pizza night. The students had special contests that were set up by the Peter Piper staff such as ice cream eating contest, dance off, straw blowing and not to mention all the cool games with the purchase of tokens. Everyone had a great time and YUMMY pizza was had by all.

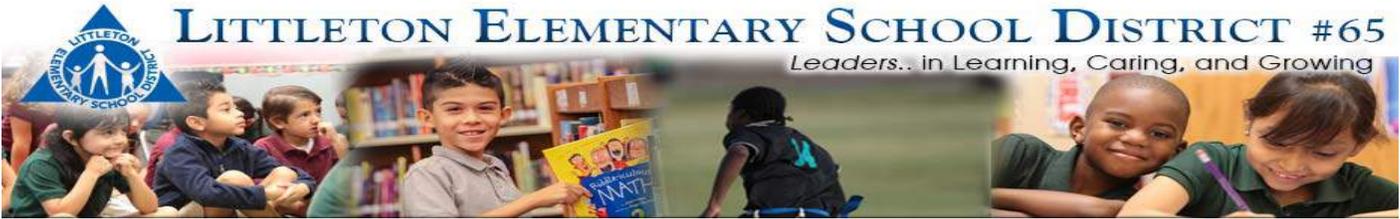




GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 23, 2015

Mr. Martinez' three students worked extremely hard on their behavior charts all month earning enough stickers to have a Tea Party where they learned proper etiquette and attire. The three students *Fatima Queen*, *Lilly Schultz*, and *Brianna Perez* all sporting hats and scarfs with pinkies up had a blast as special guests such as *Mr. Whiteman* and *Ms. Woods* stopped by to share in a cup of tea and a sweet.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 9, 2015

Maintenance and Operations Department

We want to thank all the site staff that helped in one way or another during the completion of the projects at their site. A special thank you to our Operations Crew: **Mr. Benjamin Martinez, Mr. Ruben Pinon, Mr. Rene Rodriguez, Mr. Abraham Cuellar, Mr. Hector Lopez, Mr. Alvaro Alvarez, Mr. Frank Beltran, Mr. Isaac Flores, Mr. Jose Mancillas, Mr. Randy Simonson, Mr. Heber Castro, Mr. Alex Moreno, Ms. Maricela Martinez, Mr. Paul Lintz, Mr. Marlon Flamenco** and **Mr. Mike Fisher** for helping each other, working on other projects, being vigilant at each site and always being prepared to join a project.

Country Place is looking brighter than ever with their new paint job; Littleton, Quentin and Estrella Vista are rolling on their new parking lot; Littleton is showing its new up do with a fresh trim on their trees. The ULC Bistro had some work done; the entire district is undergoing inspections, our backflows and Fire Sprinklers are up to par and more inspections have been scheduled. The new year is up and running as a mid-point for us, projects are being scheduled, completed and finalized.

Teaching and Learning Services Department

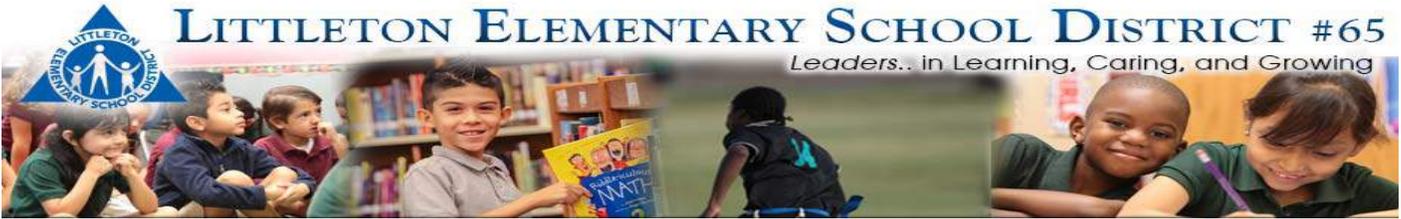
Wednesday January 14th Teaching and Learning is hosting District Articulation. Teachers will be participating in professional development on topics such as AzMERIT, Beyond Textbook Updates, and Integration of Pedometers. The Teaching and Learning Services Department would like to thank the facilitators for taking the time to assist in providing this opportunity to Littleton staff: **Ms. Katie Carnicelli, Dr. Vicki French, Ms. Kimberly Buckner, Ms. Rebecca Coda, Ms. Susan Gibson, Ms. Tina Kauffmann, Ms. Charlotte Anderson, Ms. Jean Alver, and Mr. Coy Languell.**

Teaching and Learning Services is excited that Littleton ESD has had the opportunity to offer the SEI 45 Hour Completion course for teachers needing to fulfill this requirement for certification. The course is listed in My Learning Plan for easy registration. If you are in need of this course this is an excellent opportunity!

Transportation Services Department

Transportation would like to give a shout out for **Ms. Maria Williams** and all her hard work, getting together the DOT Holiday party. We all had a blast! And, we would like to thank the Bus Drivers for their rendition of I wish you a Merry Christmas! It was awesome! We really have some talent in the Transportation Department.

We would like to introduce a new leader to our department **Mrs. Carolina Marquez** she joins us with a lot of enthusiasm and experience.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014

Estrella Vista Elementary School

Our students, faculty, parents and community came out to support the annual PTSA Turkey Trot. Thanks to all who generously donated turkeys. Estrella Vista was able to provide 82 families with turkeys for the Thanksgiving season.

It is the season to be thankful for all we have and to give to those in need. This Thanksgiving the entire Estrella Vista student body and faculty came together to gather non-perishable food items through Student Council. Over 2,800 items were collected for the St. Mary's Food Bank. What an amazing effort by all!! A huge thank you to **Ms. Lori Bowden** and the **Hawks Student Council** who made this event such a success!!

Estrella Vista Treasure Hunters are dedicated to making positive parent contact with all students in their classroom. Since the beginning of school, our Estrella Vista parents, grades K – 8 have received phone calls, emails, or personal positive communication about their child/children.

Estrella Vista continues to build relationships and partnered with La Jolla High School for 8th grade registration. The majority of our Hawks will attend La Jolla in the fall, and this continued collaboration fosters even greater vertical alignment for our 8th grade students and our Treasure Hunters.

Congratulations to our coaches, **Coach Languell** and **Coach Brophy** and **Coach Rudd** and **Coach Nelson**, all the Estrella Vista Hawks who participated in Flag Football and Volleyball. The teams showed great teamwork and sportsmanship during the football and volleyball season.

Estrella Vista Treasure Hunters participated in the International Kids at Hope Day. Treasure Hunters facilitated discussion about what an "Ace" is and how we identify those "Aces" in our lives. Students then were provided the opportunity to identify who their "Aces" were, by writing those names on the cards and placing it on the larger ACE display.



We continued with our Kids at Hope Celebration with Invite Your Aces to Lunch. On Thursday, many of the student's Aces came to lunch and enjoyed the day.



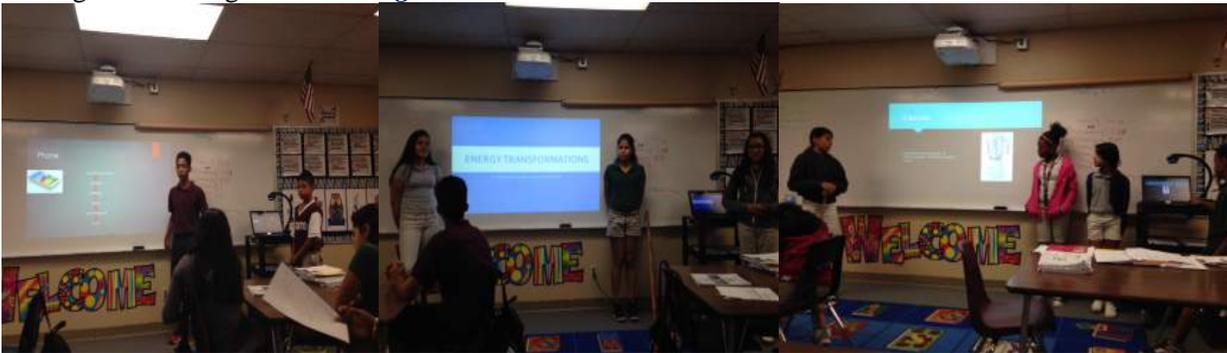


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014

Littleton Elementary School

Ms. Balogun's gifted class presented power points based on their research on energy transformations. Investigation was done on several types of energy that included: mechanical, electromagnetic, electrical, chemical, thermal and sound. The students were graded on eye contact, body language, poise, enthusiasm, and elocution. The students did an excellent job giving examples that included everything from a flat iron, to a microwave, to a car. They also explained in detail how the energy transformation took place and how it fit into the aforementioned categories. All in all it was a great day of sharing and learning for *Ms. Balogun's* class. WAY TO GO!



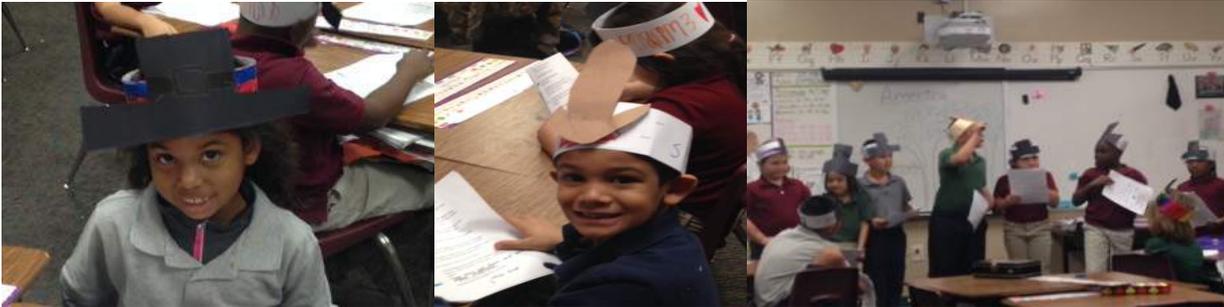
Ms. Oitker's fourth grade class experimented with cornstarch and what appeared to be gooey and runny took on a solid form called cornstarch suspension. Students had to record what they saw and what they did. Who knew science could be so fun? Nothing like a messy experiment to bring out the scientists in the students.



Ms. Martin's second grade class put on a Thanksgiving play that historically reenacted the events that led up and took place for the very first Thanksgiving between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. The students worked hard at learning their lines and creating their costumes. Parents and administration were invited to the play and *Ms. Martin* and her students had a great turnout. It was a perfect way to end the week and start our Thanksgiving Break.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014



If you found yourself in *Ms. Milanes'* Kindergarten room as they partook in their Thanksgiving Celebration you would have been privy to the dance moves and songs as the students performed for staff and parents alike. One could not help, but giggle as the student's karaoked to "Let It Go" the theme song from Disney's, *Frozen* with all the passion of a professional opera singer. Here at Littleton – WE HAVE TALENT!

Quentin Elementary School

November was full of fun and family. We held our annual Thanksgiving Lunch. Hats off to *Ms Jill* and the whole *Food Services Team* for serving up turkey and all the trimmings.

QUES PTA *Ms. Gomez, Ms, Mancillas,* and *Ms. Aguliar* are amazing and made the Quentin Café look like a five star restaurant. Our Student Council and their sponsor *Ms. DeMartino* made sure everything went smoothly and looked awesome. It was a true day to be thankful for family and friends.



Thanks to our 1st grade team our Little Sharks are ready to be little firefighters. *Ms. Martinez, Ms. Sowle* and *Ms. Emhardt* invited community partner Avondale Fire and Rescue's **Sue Pistoia** to our campus to talk about fire safety and home safety. The kids got to meet firefighters and tour a fire truck. Thanks 1st Grade Team for taking advantage of our great partners!

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014

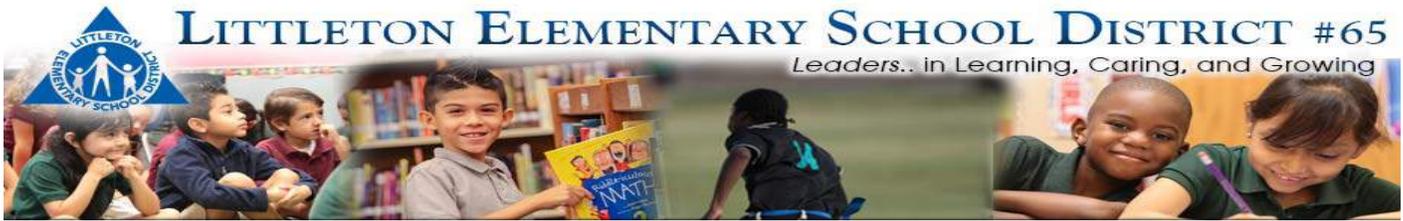


Thanks so much to the Sharks PTA, Life Skills team of *Ms. Harrington, Ms. Danahay, Ms. Stratton* and *Ms. Thompson* and their students. They hosted the Santa Shop at Quentin to raise money for Abilites Awareness Day. The students helped customers, wrapped presents and learned all about customer service. This was a great experience for the students as well as a fun fundraiser



Ms. Sayegh and her 5th grade gifted students just finished their unit on Pioneer life. They participated in a simulation that allowed them to make decisions and really experience what it was like during the Westward Migration. They kept a journal of their trip, all the successes and devastation. Special thanks to *Food Services* for preparing a meal especially for the kids for the culminating event. They feasted on “buffalo” burgers, Johnny Cake, dried apples, apple pie, and beef jerky.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014

Tres Rios Elementary School

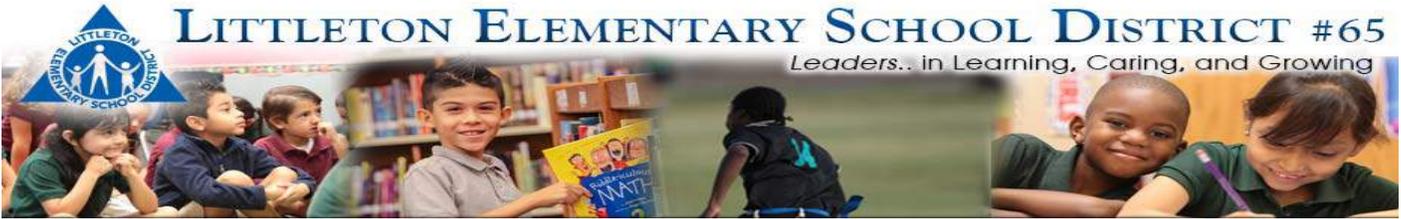
Congratulations to Tres Rios December staff members of the month: ***Mrs. Jayne Dimas***, Campus Assistant, and ***Ms. Kelsee Wirtjes***, 1st Grade ELD teacher. We are so proud of you and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Thank you to the following teachers who have offered their time after school to support the social, emotional and academic needs of our students while supporting the Kids at Hope philosophy by providing our students with opportunities for success in the areas of Hobbies & Recreation, Education & Career and Community & Service.

- ***Mrs. Natasha Bridges*** and ***Ms. Charlotte Anderson***, Drama Club Coordinators, for starting Tres Rios' first ever Drama Club. This club provides students the opportunity to show their acting skills as well as supports out students in the ***Kids at Hope Hobbies & Recreation Destination***.
- ***Mrs. Amber Garcia***, Rubik's Cube Coordinator, who is offering our students opportunities for problem solving, logic and other mathematical skills through strategic code breaking to solve the cube. ***Mrs. Garcia*** dedicate 3 of her mornings before school to work with two teams of students and is currently working on a 3rd team in grade three through eight. This after school opportunity benefits our students who thrive on higher level problem solving and teamwork opportunities as well as promotes the ***Kids at Hope Destination of Education & Career and Hobbies & Recreation***.
- ***Mr. Jon Olila*** and ***Ms. Danielle Stowers*** for committing two days a week after school for the past couple of months to support student achievement in ELA through tutoring our 2nd – 4th grade students. Your extra dedication to our kids supports the ***Kids at Hope Education & Career Destination***. Thank you to ***Mr. Brett Kennedy*** and ***Ms. Kelly Diekemper*** for offering your support to our after-school tutoring program as substitutes.
- ***Ms. Erin VanDusen*** and ***Ms. Kimberly Clyde***, Girls on the Run and Girls on Track Coordinators. This after-school program offers girls 3rd – 8th grade the opportunity participate in a transformational physical activity based positive youth development program. The program teaches our girls life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games. The program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness. Thank you ***Ms. VanDusen*** and ***Ms. Clyde*** for offering this opportunity as a support for our girls in the ***Kids at Hope Hobbies & Recreation Destination***.

Thank you to ***Ms. Charlotte Anderson***, Music & Choir Teacher and STOMP Coordinator and ***Mrs. Gloria Chadwick***, Band Teacher, for organizing and conducting a wonderful Winter Concert. The cafeteria was filled with students, staff, parents and community members for the event. Students in grades four through eight participated in an outstanding performance demonstrating their skills by both instrumental and vocal performances. Thank you also to ***Ms. Natasha Bridges*** – Art teacher, for assisting with the background music as well as ***Mr. Chad Schafer*** – 8th Grade ELA teacher, ***Ms. Kathlyn Lee*** – 8th Grade Math teacher, ***Mr. Brittain Davis*** – 7th Grade Math teacher, ***Ms. Shannon Gray*** – 7th Grade ELA teacher, ***Ms. Samantha Armstrong*** – Exploring Potential teacher, ***Ms. Erin VanDusen*** – 5th Grade teacher, ***Mr. Sean Fair*** – 2nd Grade teacher for coming out to support our students.

Congratulations to ***Mr. Brett Kennedy***, P.E. Teacher and Sports Coach, winner of the D-Backs School Challenge presented by University of Phoenix. To achieve this award, ***Mr. Kennedy*** applied for the grant by submitting an application which required him to outline how he would use the funds for the school's Physical Education program. He is receiving a \$5,000.00 check for P.E. as well as 1,000 tickets to a D-backs game in the spring which will be provided to students at the school as well as staff.

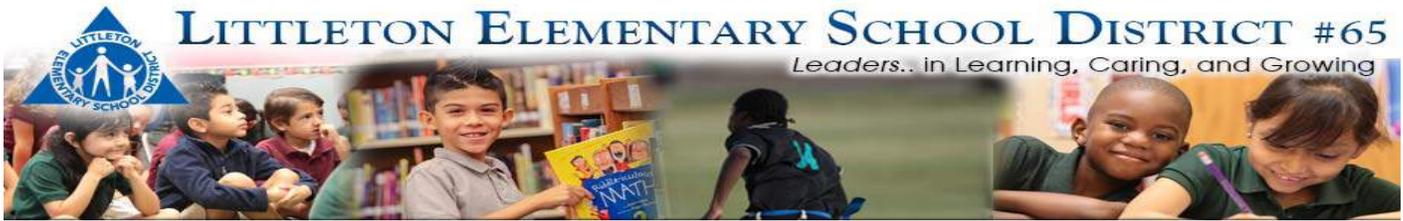


GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 19, 2014

Way to go 4th grade team, *Kari Burd*, *Morgan Saffer*, *Ericka Avelar* and *Krysten Bonacci* for inviting community members to share their knowledge and make real life connections to what our 4th grade students are learning in science! The 4th grade team had SRP visit last month. They were beginning to teach their students about electricity and resources. The students were able to learn information and observe real life examples of renewable and nonrenewable resources. They were also able to learn about the benefits of the new resources and see them in action. This was a great hands on learning experience for the 4th grade classes!

Congratulations *Mr. Alexander Hertogs* and *Mr. Michael Vilona* for coaching our middle school boys flag football team to a successful season and a championship victory. Your dedication to working with our young gentlemen to not only teach them how to play the game, but also the importance of behavior and academic success as well as teamwork and collaboration is appreciated!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 5, 2014

Collier Elementary School

As we are heading into the Winter Season, the Collier staff has been very busy. The Collier Student Council put together a community rummage sale. ***Brittney DeRose*** and ***Ashley Agney*** (sponsors of Student Council) supported student council members in setting up this Saturday morning event. Other staff came out to help – ***Linda Stallard, Amanda Steele, Kailey Wright,*** and ***Amy Chapman***. The sale was a big success!

Another terrific community event was Movie Night. Families came out on a Friday night to see Hotel Transylvania. The following staff members attended – ***Cecilia Crawley, Jessica Cummins, Ruth Rodriguez, Brittany Ramirez, Barbara Maddux, Linda Stallard*** and ***Gioia Pitts***.

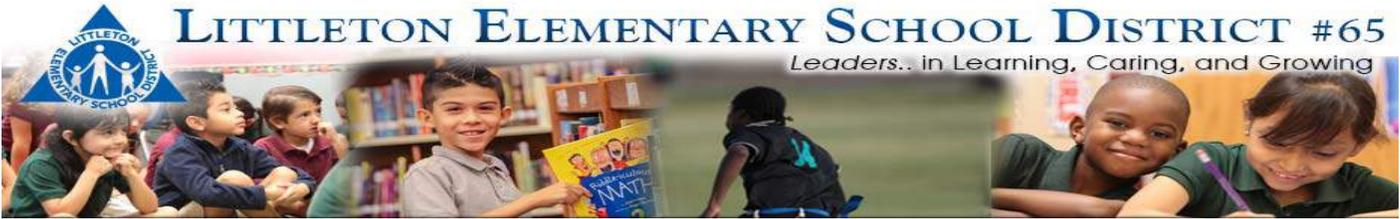
We want to congratulate ***Kathryn Kosmider*** for being selected to receive the Westside Impact Grant. She is very excited to get started on her project.

Kids At Hope is a philosophy that all staff and students embrace. Collier celebrated Kids At Hope Day by taking time out to share with students how special they are and how much they are appreciated. The entire staff dressed as pirates and hunted for the “treasures” within each child. In addition teachers filled out a paper jewel listing the qualities that are treasured from each student in the classroom. Kids At Hope Day was a real hit! Thank you to everyone - ***Tammy Ngeno, Barbara Maddux, Deidre Clizzie, Liv Martinez, Sheilah McCalpine, Cecilia Crawley, Alicia Glenn, Bertha Cervantes, Stephany Thimm, Lorialle Haynes, Leslie Casillas, Ashley Agney, Monta Glass, Kailey Wright, Jackie Older, Anna Lopez, Maria Moreno, Gerry Flower, Britney DeRose, Lynda Espino, Susan Candelaria, David Cedor, Jessica Cummins, Kanisha Thomas, Anissa Ottens, Amy Leamon, Iliana DeLaRosa, Josephina Cienfuegos, Deanna Leighton, Lindsay Harmon, Amanda Steele, James Dean, Lauren Turpin, Bryan Holliday, Samantha Wood, Adam Haller, Kathryn Kosmider, Tamra Fisher, Tayler Stewart, Cynthia Whoolery, Brandon Bourdeau, Michelle Youngans, Hai Dang, Rupert Alvarez, Brian Hopkinson, Jean Alver, Ilene Rosas, Sue Dallas, Libby DeLeon,*** and ***Ruth Rodriguez***.

As the sports season comes to a close a big thank you goes out to ***Rupert Alvarez*** and ***Adam Haller*** for coaching boys’ flag football and ***Lindsay Harmon*** and ***Josephina Cienfuegos*** for coaching girls’ volleyball. In addition two other staff members supported the coaches by attending games and practices, ***Lauren Turpin*** and ***Brian Hopkinson***. All of your efforts was greatly appreciated.

As the days inched closer to Thanksgiving the entire school banded together to gather non-perishable food items through Student Council. Over 4,000 items were collected for the St. Vincent DePaul’s Food Alliance. This amazing effort would not have been as successful without all staff members. A special thanks to ***Brittney DeRose*** and ***Ashley Agney*** for their time and effort.

The second grade team - ***Lorialle Haynes, Leslie Casillas, Ashley Agney,*** and ***Monta Glass*** hosted a Thanksgiving Feast. Students dressed in traditional Thanksgiving apparel and families attended the meal which was held in classrooms.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 5, 2014

Country Place Elementary School

Country Place hosted their Family Math Night on November 20th, in which we celebrated Math and provided parents with tools and advice on helping students with math. Teachers had math games and activities for students of all ages. A session was also hosted by our Principal, **Mrs. Bailey**, on how to use the Math Power Books that were given to parents. Thank you parents and students who attended our Math Night!

A big thank you to the parents that joined us for our annual Thanksgiving Lunch on November 20th. It was very nice seeing you and we are glad that you enjoyed our Thanksgiving meal!

Thank you to all the parents who attended our annual Turkey Trot on November 25th, as well as teachers and staff that participated in this event. Pictures of the winners are proudly displayed on our hall. We appreciate your support!

Country Place PTA just concluded yet another successful fundraiser from Yankee Candles/Fiesta Fundraising, raising over \$10,000! These funds will allow our students to go on field trips, as well as cover miscellaneous items needed for our school. As always, the support from families and teachers is what makes our school successful, and we appreciate your participation.

PTA is now working on our next fundraiser – our annual Holiday Gift Shop, which will run from December 8-12. We are looking forward to this fundraiser and helping our students shop for their friends and family. A big thank you to our PTA Officers, **Karen Hook** and **Jackie Davis**, Presidents; **Ana Cruz**, Vice President and **Lourdes Lopez**, Treasurer for all their hard work in making these fundraisers a success.

Student Council had a successful food drive this year! Our Mustangs beat last year's total in food items brought in by over 500 items. Our total this year was 4,918! The Tolleson Food Bank was extremely thankful for our help. We are very happy as many families will benefit from the items donated.

Country Place Round-Up Fall Dance was held on November 13th, in which seventh and eighth graders enjoyed dancing, snacking, and having a good time; all while supporting Student Council. Thanks to our Student Council Leads, **Carrie Rodriguez** and **Michelle Finn**, as well as the teachers who chaperoned in this event.

We are very proud of our Lady Mustangs for their excellent teamwork, communication on the court, and encouraging words towards their teammates in every game. A big thanks to their coaches, **Serena Garcia** and **Erica Poblete**.

Congratulations our Flag Football team for their victories and for working hard as a team! A big thanks to their coaches, **Vanessa Lovro** and **Antony Cantu**.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 21, 2014

Exceptional Learners Services Department

Ms. Megan Rogalski, the Quentin Speech Language Pathologist has been preparing the students in the life skills class room to “bake” a recipe in celebration of the upcoming holiday. The students have been working on following directions, making choices, reading and listening comprehension, and communicating choices through this activity. They have been reviewing a modified recipe for “No Bake Pumpkin Pie”.

The students were able to practice measuring with actual tools, practice pouring and mixing, and identifying the correct tools to use. The students also completed “mock” grocery lists through a comprehension activity by reading the recipe, identify ingredients, label ingredients, and then circled items on a sheet that they could recall from the recipe. They also communicated their choices for jobs by using sentence strips and 2-3 choices at a time. They concluded the project on November 19th with preparing the “No Bake Pumpkin Pie” and sharing it with classmates and staff members at Quentin.

Grants & Family Services Department

We are currently working with Childhelp to identify 70 families for their annual Winterfest which will be providing families with games, toys and food. In addition, Childhelp and Tolleson High School have adopted 12 families from our district in providing for them for the holidays.

Another amazing event is, “A Children’s Christmas Party” sponsored by Westside Recreation, on December 13th at Littleton Elementary School. This program will be giving away 25 bikes to Littleton Elementary School students.

Duet - Handling Holiday Stress workshop for grandparents. The focal point of this workshop is to guide the grandparents in overcoming the holiday stress.

Barnes & Noble will be holding a special event for our district. They will collect books from now till December 31st to be distributed to all our schools. The books will then be delivered in early January.

Operations Department

Midway through the year, we are happy to welcome new members to our team: *Mr. George Gonzalez* , Collier Lead Custodian, *Ms. Gloria Lira*, Littleton Lead Custodian, *Mr. Raymundo Sandoval*, Littleton Day Custodian and *Mr. Randy Simonson* as our new Low Voltage Technician.

We are preparing for the breaks that are coming up as Country Place will be getting an uplift and work on parking lots will be coming soon.

From the Operations Department we would like to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 21, 2014

Teaching & Learning Services Department

Teaching and Learning Services would like to recognize and thank the Littleton ESD staff who assisted in the Benchmark Review Process. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process: *Laura Montano, Bertha Cervantes, Shelia Kruger, Jackie Older, Danielle Skunza, Margie Hourihan, Markeita Momon, Brandon Padilla, Cynthia Landis, Roberta Garcia, Anthony Haduch, Jodi Rudd, Teresita Esquibel, Stefani Jenkins, Chad Schafer, Lauren Turpin, Shannon Gray, Charlie Blanton, Biju Padmanabhan, Brittain Davis, Mia De La Rosa, and Misha Freeman.*

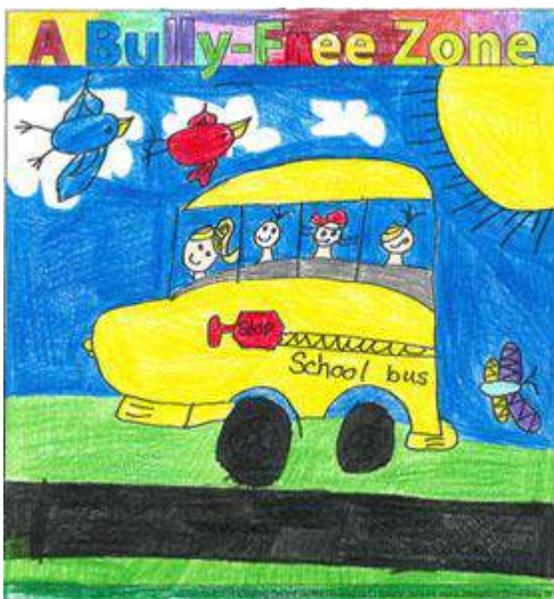
Thank you to *Mr. Chance Whiteman* for providing Kids at Hope training during New Teacher Support meetings. This training assists new staff in understanding what it means when we say Littleton ESD is a Kids at Hope District and why we believe all children are capable of success, no exceptions!

Transportation Department

Seon announced the winners of this year's anti-bullying "A Bully-Free Zone" coloring contest at the NAPT Conference & Trade Show, which concluded yesterday in St. Louis.

Held during National Bullying Prevention Month in October, the competition was a huge success, the company said, receiving more than 500 entries from school districts across the United States and Canada. "We first launched an anti-bullying coloring contest in 2013 under the topic 'Bullies Aren't Cool' to inspire educators, children, parents, and school bus transportation staff for a discussion and activities to prevent bullying," said Lori Jetha, Seon's marketing communications manager. "The contest was a success, and this year we organized it again to attract more attention to this important cause. Our team was impressed how creative the colorings were and how strongly both kids and adults cared about creating a safe community without bullying. We thank all the participants for their hard work!"

Based on creativity, coloring skill, and overall artistic abilities, Seon staff members chose winners in three age categories, as follows:

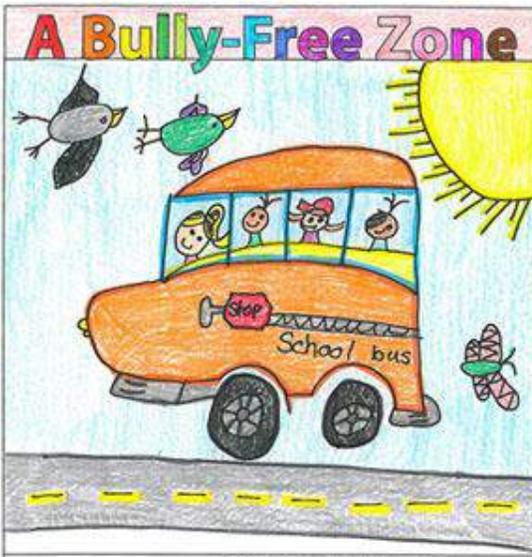


5-7 years old: Welden Wyse, 7 years old, Archibold School, Ohio



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 21, 2014

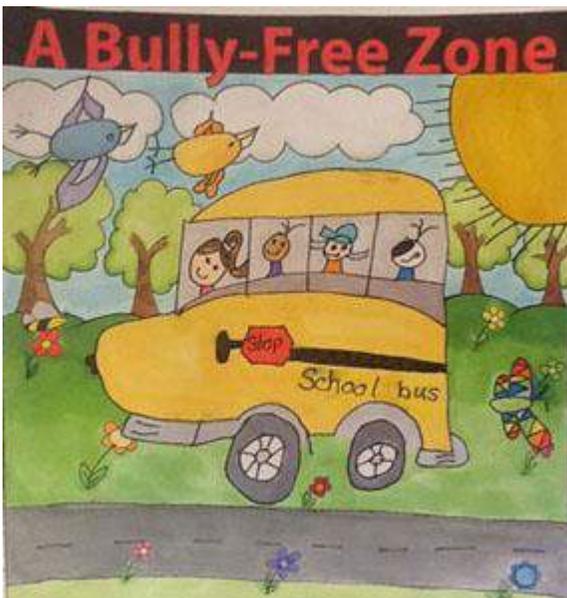


8–10 years old: Marianna Peralta, 10 years old, Collier Elementary, Arizona

Seon will be contacting Transportation to arrange delivery of presents for the winner.

Congratulations goes to **Mariana Peralta** a 5th grader from Collier Elementary who rides the Silver Bus! The Driver of this bus is **Mrs. Sheli Nelson**.

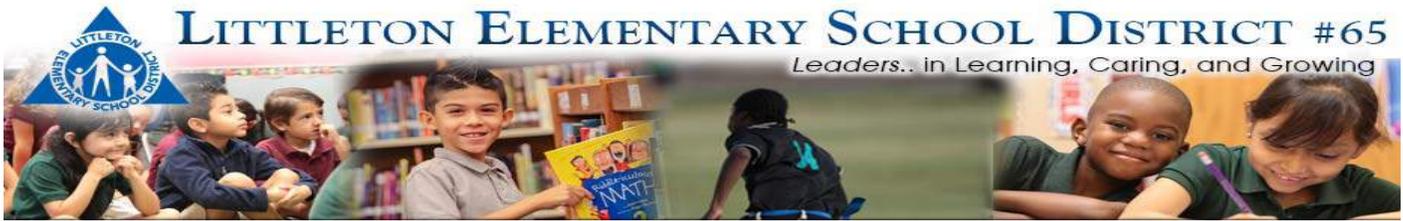
Littleton School District submitted over 202 entries in the anti-bullying coloring contest (A Bully-Free Zone)



11+ years: Cindy Tsou, 13 years old, Kapolei Middle School, Hawaii

Each winner will receive a Seon stuffed teddy bear and official anti-bullying supporter medal. Additionally, the company will award the school of each winner with a Bully Project DVD and Educator's kit and a \$500 donation to help support anti-bullying education.

“It’s important that school districts continue their great work on spreading awareness about bullying and teaching kids how to handle it,” added Jetha. “Seon will keep on supporting the cause and providing resources for educators to help create safe and respectful environment for our children.”



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 7, 2014

Estrella Vista Elementary School

October was a busy, busy month for our Estrella Vista community. **A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all our Treasure Hunters, who are always there to lend a helping hand and provide many opportunities for our student's success. We appreciate you!

Junior Achievement spent a very productive day on Wednesday, October 22nd working with our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. It was a great learning experience for all!! Thank you Junior Achievement for being S.W.A.G.mazing Treasure Hunters to our students!!

Our PTSA sponsored a very successful Fall Festival on Friday, October 24th. Our Estrella Vista families enjoyed food, games, and entertainment. We are grateful for all of the contributions made by the City of Avondale and the many volunteers from our Community. A huge thank you goes out to *Ms. Montano, Ms. McLean, Ms. Cuccinello, Ms. Batiste, Ms. Sandoval, Ms. Lunsford, Ms. Lee, Mr. Cappello, Ms. Wottreng, Mr. Haduch, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Spencer, Ms. Clark, Ms. Ganssle, Ms. Vliek, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Padmanabhan, Mr. Kunz, Mr. Spielman, Ms. Cox, Ms. Nichols*, and the **PTSA**. Without your assistance this would not have been possible. **THANK YOU!** The entertainment was flawless. The **Tenorio Brothers** - *Andy Tenorio, Angel Tenorio, Julian Tenorio, and Juan Tenorio* demonstrated their precision with the lasso. The **Tenorio Brothers** are members of "**Regionales de Arizona**", where they are one of the top ranked teams in the Southwest. The **Dansa Azteca Tonantzin Dance Group** featuring our own *Sara Robles* performed native Aztec dances, and many of our alumni from La Joya performed contemporary dance, all of the wonderful performance lit up the stage for our many spectators. It was a fun filled evening for all who participated.

Our 2nd Grade students participated in a nutritional class. *Ms. Cuccinello's, Mr. Roach's, Ms. Batiste's and Mr. Davis's* classrooms learned about the five food groups, played nutritional games, reviewed the importance of having salad bars available during lunch, health benefits of certain nutrients and participated in a question and answer session. A huge thank you to *Ms. Hanin Ghannam, Nutrition Coordinator from Southwest Foodservice Excellence*, who provided this informational and educational session for our students.

A new sports season is upon us. Congratulations to all of our athletic teams. We are off to an exciting Volleyball and Football season. Thank you to *Coach Jodi Rudd, and Coach Alyssa Nelson*, our girls' volleyball coaches, and *Coach Antony Brophy and Coach Cory Languell*, our boys' football coaches. Your guidance and leadership on the court and field provide our students with great successes in the classroom both academically and as role models to their fellow Hawks.

Estrella Vista and the Littleton District are so excited to help the community in preventing hunger. A huge thank you to *Ms. Duty* for organizing the opportunity for St. Mary's Food Bank in cooperation with Southwest Food Services picks up the left over breakfast items from our school. These leftovers are going to good use, they are helping people in need, and preventing hunger.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 7, 2014

Littleton Elementary School

Littleton students have the opportunity to receive dental care at no cost to ensure that their smiles will last a lifetime. This service is provided right here at our school. It is easy and convenient and it saves time for everyone. Professional Arizona licensed dentists will be checking teeth and teaching the students proper oral hygiene.

Wednesday, October 8th through Friday, October 10th parent teacher conferences were held at Littleton. These are the days when the students are able to showcase to their parents everything they have learned during the first quarter. The teachers take advantage of the opportunity to build those relationships with the parents so together they can ensure the child will have the most success this school year. The following teachers are the exemplars for the parent teacher conferences as they had 100% participation: *Ms. Reiger, Ms. Valenzuela, Ms. Ciadella, Ms. Irwin, Ms. Smith, Ms. Tilly, Ms. Meskauskas, Ms. Lozoya, Ms. Boon, Ms. Williams, Ms. Mager, Ms. Singh, and Ms. Presz.* "No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E. Luccock. We definitely have the beginning of an orchestra here at Littleton with these teachers as the Maestro's. Way to go!

Friday, October 10th *Ms. Singh* and her students held Pumpkin Day in their room. The students started off by guessing what would be inside the pumpkin and charted their responses. Some of the students guessed: Cookie Monster, toys, and pumpkin pie. The students sat and watched excitedly as *Ms. Singh* cut the pumpkin open and showed them what was inside. The pumpkin was passed around so that everyone could touch, feel, and smell the insides. The reactions of the students when they grabbed the insides of the seeds was priceless. *Ms. Singh* had a lot of "Ohh, that's gross," comments as they felt the slimy seeds with their hands.



Once the students were done exploring the innards of the pumpkin the seeds were extracted. They had a contest as to who could guess the amount of seeds found in the pumpkin. The grand prize winner would receive a giant cupcake from *Ms. Estrada*. The total amount of seeds were 217. The winner of the seed guessing contest was Santiago, he won by one seed. All in all, it was a great day of learning and fun for *Ms. Singh* and her students.

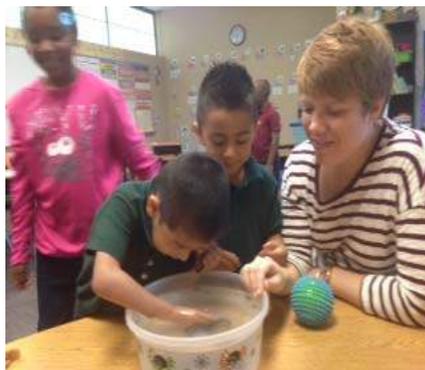
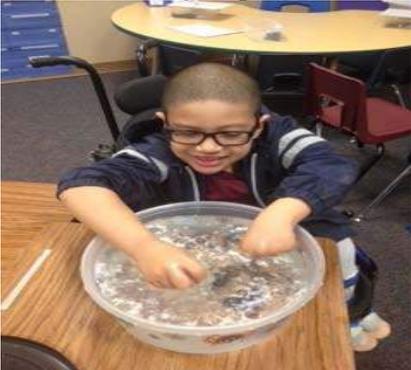


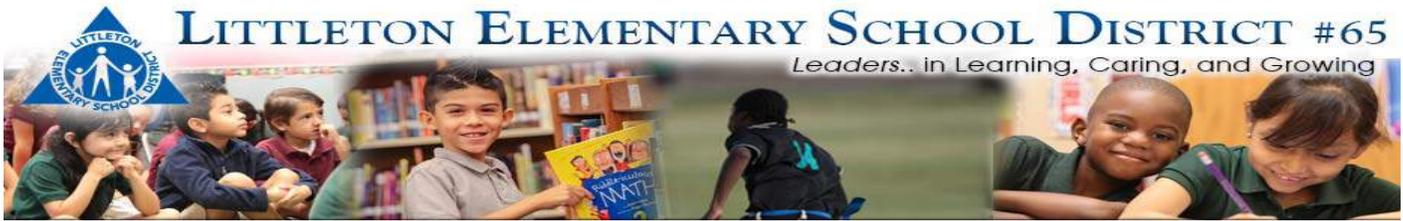
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 7, 2014



Friday, October 31st, Littleton's Dean, *Ms. Estrada* went around to the K-2 and the self-contained classrooms sharing her spooky eyes. The Tupperware container appeared to be filled with just water and a few plastic spiders and snakes at the bottom, but when the students reached in to touch they were surprised to find slimy, clear balls floating around in the water. The balls were actually Oribi balls that you place in water and overnight they swell to grape size or bigger. Many students had a great time trying to figure out how they just seemed to disappear in the water. The faces of the students when they first realized something else was in the container was just precious.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 31, 2014

Collier Elementary School

The Collier staff has been involved in many special events this fall from fundraisers to sports events. The staff steps up on a regular basis to show their support to students, parents and the community.

Scoopie Night was held at Culver's to raise money to support Collier PTA. The following staff members participated by serving patrons: *Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Shelia McCalpine, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Lindsay Harmon and Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos.* The following staff members came to Scoopie Night to show their support: *Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Susan Candelaria and Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon.*

A new tradition has started at Collier organized by *Ms. Jackie Older* who sets a day and time each month for staff members to volunteer at St. Vincente De Paul. The first volunteer evening had the following staff members in attendance: *Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Josephine Cienfuegos and Ms. Amy Leamon.* Thank you *Ms. Jackie Older* for taking the time to organize this monthly opportunity for the Collier staff to give back!

The boys' basketball team took the championship led by coaching direction from *Ms. Lynda Espino* and *Mr. Brian Hopkinson.* Congratulations on a wonderful season! Not to be forgotten the girls' basketball team put forth an outstanding effort. This team was led by the coaches: *Ms. Lindsay Harmon* and *Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos.* The teams were rooted on by the Collier Cheer Team which was led by *Ms. Lorialle Haynes* and Danielle Bailey. We want to thank all coaches for their time and effort.

During the Basketball All-Star Game held at LaJoya High School, *Ms. Ilene Rosas* took on the challenge of leading the Collier Choir in the National Anthem prior to the start of the girls' and boys' games. The choir performed well and Collier was proud to have them represent the school.

Prior to Fall Break, the entire Collier staff put forth a big push to communicate with as many families as possible during Parent Teacher Conferences. Every staff member set the goal to meet with every parent/guardian. Collier's percentage of parent attendance was 97%! This amazing percentage could not have occurred, if not for the dedicated Collier staff. We want to thank – *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Deidre Clizzie, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Mr. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Tamra Fisher, Ms. Tayler Stewart, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Mr. Brandon Bourdeau, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Mr. Hai Dang, Mr. Rupert Alvarez, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Ms. Jean Alver, and Ms. Ilene Rosas.* Collier was fortunate to have *Ms. Ruth Rodriguez* provide translation during conferences. In addition, a BIG thank you goes out to the front office staff at Collier. Without the time and support of – *Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Libby DeLeon and Ms. Ruth Rodriguez* the Collier staff could not have seen so many families.

Collier followed parent teacher conferences with a special evening to honor students by hosting the second annual Awards Assembly for grades Kindergarten through Eighth. Families came out to recognize students' academic achievements, including students who had perfect attendance for the first quarter. This night was well attended by the



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 31, 2014

Collier community, however it was the support of the staff that made it extra special for students. We want to thank the following staff members for taking time to honor their students: *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Tamra Fisher.*

Country Place Elementary School

This month at Country Place, there were opportunities for many educational activities: Apple Day (Kinder) on October 3rd and Pumpkin Day (1st grade) on October 7th. Our highlight of the month was "Cory Goes Back to School". Cory from FOX 10 News visited our school and presented the weather segment. Our Kinder and 1st grade teachers and students welcomed Cory and the Fox 10 crew and proudly showed our school spirit.

Parent/Teacher conferences were a success. We appreciate all parents and teachers for their participation and support.

Our 3rd graders are thrilled as they received their laptops on October 9th! They are very excited and ready to learn using their laptops.

PTA just started their Yankee Candles/Fiesta Fundraising. We had our kick off assembly on October 27th and fundraiser will run until November 12th. These funds will provide for field trips and other miscellaneous items for our school. As always, the support from families and teachers is what makes our school successful, and we appreciate their participation.

Our Peter Piper pizza night on October 22nd was a huge success. We made record sales and the families had an awesome time "Trunk-or-Treating" at the staffs' decorated trunks. Country Place appreciates all of our teachers that dressed up and passed out candy and all the parents who attended.

As always, we appreciate our PTA Officers: *Ms. Karen Hook* and *Ms. Jackie Davis*, Presidents; *Ms. Ana Cruz*, Vice President; *Ms. Lourdes Lopez*, Treasurer; *Ms. Gina Morales*, Secretary and *Ms. Mirna Gadea*, Membership Chair.

5th Grade is scheduled for a field trip on October 31st to Halle Heart Museum. Students will be learning about the relationship between science and technology and health/PE standards. A big thank you to *Ms. Carrie Rodriguez* for making this trip possible by receiving a grant from Halle Heart for transportation costs.

Student Council just started their Monster Grams fundraiser on October 29th. Thank you to all our members for all your hard work and dedication in all fundraising events.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 24, 2014

Grants and Family Services Department

The Littleton ESD Family Welcome Center is continuing to provide many learning opportunities for parents. We held our first quarterly coffee talk with parents with a guest speaker from Childhelp discussing workshops and opportunities within our district to help our parents. Childhelp is currently planning a Winter Celebration. If you would like any information, please contact **Ms. Ruby Arenivas**, Parent Liaison, at the Family Welcome Center (623) 478-5803 or Arenivas.Ruby@littletonaz.org

Also at the Family Welcome Center, we continue to provide ESL classes, DUET for grandparents, SNAP, nutrition classes, and much more. Another exciting upcoming event through SNAP, will be donating pumpkins to our families. SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through the US Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Services that helps low income families.

Teaching and Learning Services Department

Teaching and Learning Services would like to recognize and thank the Littleton ESD staff that facilitated district articulation on September 24th. Thank you for taking the time to go above and beyond for the staff of Littleton ESD: **Jean Alver, Charlotte Anderson, Kimberly Buckner, Katie Carnicelli, Rebecca Coda, Misha Freeman, Dr. Vicki French, Susan Gibson, Karen Grose, Margie Hourihan, Tina Kauffmann, Cory Languell, Carly Stoltenberg, and Lauren Turpin.**

Transportation Department



Transportation would like to introduce two new staff members to the Littleton ESD family **Mr. John Payne** comes to us via retirement. He has a master's degree in secondary education and health care management. We are excited to have him on our team as he brings lots of experience with students. **Mr. Daniel Gant** comes to our team via the east coast. They both bring kindness and excitement to the Transportation Department.

We would like to give a big transportation thank you to **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** for facilitating the bus assemblies at Tres Rios. Her dedication to the Make your Day program on the school buses helps our students and bus drivers to be very successful.

Our first around of emergency bus evacuations are completed. We would like to thank each school campus and our drivers for insuring all students are prepared in case of an emergency!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 10, 2014

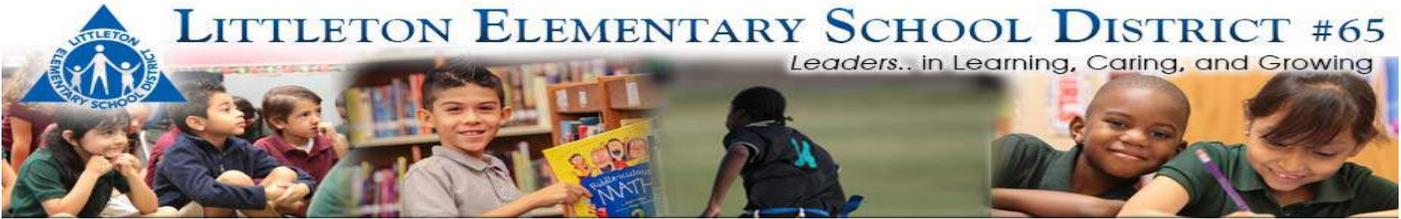
Quentin Elementary School

A HUGE Shark thank you to **Ms. Connely**! She hosted our very first Family Fitness Night! She talked to families about healthy choices and gave them a 30 day fitness challenge and led them in some cardio. A good healthy time was had by all! It was a great event and parents want her to host more throughout the year. Happy Sharks are Healthy Sharks!



The Book Fair is always a great event at QUES. This year, is no exception it is bigger and better than ever!!! **Ms. Chanza** our top notch librain is inviting book fair shoppers into the days of the Renaissance. As you walk into the book fair you'll cross the drawbridge and enter King Arthur's Court where a world of literature awaits. Classrooms got involved in the fun by creating Coats of Arms.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 10, 2014

Awesome job to **Ms. Rosenbleeth** and **Ms. Jacoboni**! They are coaching the new Sharks Cheer Squad. We had over 47 students tryout!!! Look for our cheering Sharks on a sideline near you!

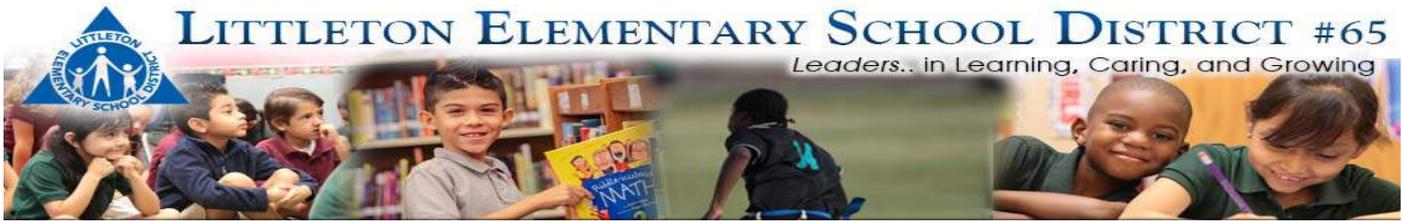


Thanks to our 3rd grade **Team Ms. Fach, Ms. Mesich, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Virgen** and **Ms. Garcia** all helped host our 3rd grade families for a laptop night. We had a member of the Avondale Public Library come as well to sign up families for library cards. **Ms. Coda** and some stellar members of the tech team welcomed over 89 families. **Ms. Cillis** helped translate as well. The event was HUGE success thanks to our staff rolling out the red carpet.



Thanks to our Fall Sport Coaches for a great job this fall. Our girls Basketball team was coached by **Ms. Garcia** and **Ms. Smith**, and the boys were coached by **Mr. Ruthmamsdorfer** and **Mr. Dixon**. Not only did students get to enjoy the competition, they were asked to maintain good grades and represent as student athletes. Well done coaches





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 10, 2014

Tres Rios Elementary School

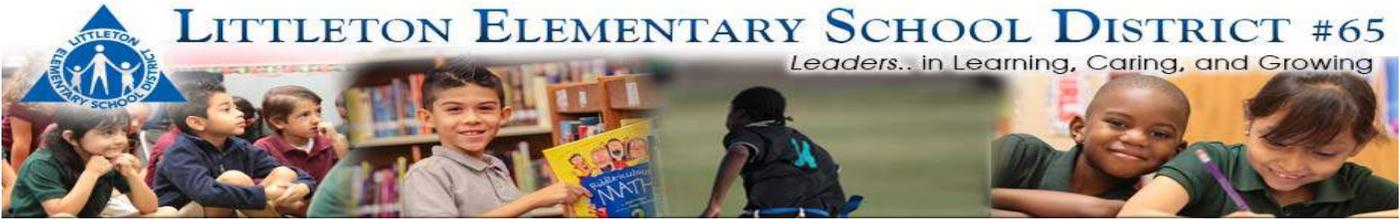
Congratulations to the following support staff members who received recognition in the months of September and October for support staff member of the month: ***Mrs. Judith Collins ~ Librarian, Mrs. Luciana Vargas ~ Office Support Specialist Junior and Mr. Martin Aguilar ~ Lead Custodian.*** Way to go to the following certified staff members who received recognition in the months of September and October for certified staff member of the month: ***Mrs. Amber Garcia ~ 5th Grade ELD Teacher, Mr. Itzer Garcia ~ 6th Grade ELA Teacher and Mentor and Mrs. Heather Lawrence ~ 3rd Grade ELD Teacher.*** We are so proud of all of you and are very appreciative to have you as a part of the Tres Rios Puma team!

Thank you to our ***S.T.E.M Committee*** who planned a successful Parents as Partners Math Night for our families and community members to come enjoy on Thursday, September 25th. The event brought in over 560 students, parents and family members to the school to enjoy a variety of math games and activities as well as food and drinks sold by the schools ***Social Committee*** and ***PTSA***. The special members that helped organize the event included: ***Ms. Madeline Goodman ~ Kinder teacher, Mr. Robert Dowdy ~ 2nd grade teacher, Ms. Lindsay Westberg ~ 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Krysten Bonacci ~ 4th grade teacher, Mr. Jeremy Mager ~ 5th grade math and science teacher, Mr. Michael Laureano ~ 6th grade science teacher, Mr. Brittain Davis ~ 7th grade math teacher, Mr. Craig Kostelny ~ 5th grade math and science teacher, Mr. Travis Kent ~ P.E. teacher and Ms. Kathlyn Lee ~ 8th grade math teacher.*** Also, thank you to all of the other ***certified staff members*** of Tres Rios that manned the various stations in the cafeteria for the night of fun with our families. The night was a great success!

Way to go Tres Rios boys and girls basketball teams for your hard work during the 2014 basketball season. The boys' team was led by ***Mr. Sean Fair*** and ***Mr. Travis Kent*** and made it through the season with a 9 and 3 record as well as earning their 2nd division title recognition. The girls' team was led by ***Mr. Brett Kennedy*** and ***Ms. Krysten Bonacci*** and made it through the season with a record of 4 and 7. We are so proud of all of our students who played on these teams and extremely appreciative of the hard work and dedication of our staff coaches who consistently not only taught our students how to play basketball, but also the importance of our core values of trust, respect, integrity, collaboration and dedication throughout the season.

We would like to recognize the following people for 80% or more of their students passing the Quarter 1 Benchmarks:

~Ms. Yolanda Jordan ~ Ms. Danielle Rios-Robles ~Ms. Kristina Sessler ~ Ms. Kelsee Wirtjes 1st Grade; Ms. Natalie Rorick ~Ms. Bethany Shevich ~ Mr. Robert Dowdy 2nd Grade; Ms. Kari Burd 4th Grade; Ms. Erin Van Dusen ~ Ms. Kimberly Clyde 5th Grade; Mr. Itzer Garcia ~ Mr. Jon Ollila 6th Grade; Mr. Brittain Davis ~ Ms. Shannon Gray 7th Grade; Ms. Kathlyn Lee ~ Mr. Chad Schafer 8th Grade.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 3, 2014

Estrella Vista Elementary School

September has been a most excellent adventure at Estrella Vista. From escaping the clutches of pirates, to meeting slithering friends, Releasing the Fear; Bridging Possibilities, and finally coming home and celebrating Home and Family.

Thanks to fourth grade teacher, **Ms. Emily Wottreng**, the fourth graders had an amazing opportunity to classify some creatures that came to visit in the library! **Ms. Dakota Langaker** volunteered her time and reptiles, everything from scorpions to gopher snakes. Our students discussed and determined which animals were invertebrates and which were vertebrates. They got a chance to look at different outer coverings (scales, exoskeleton, etc.) to try and decide what animal each creature was. All in all, it was a sssssspectacular day!

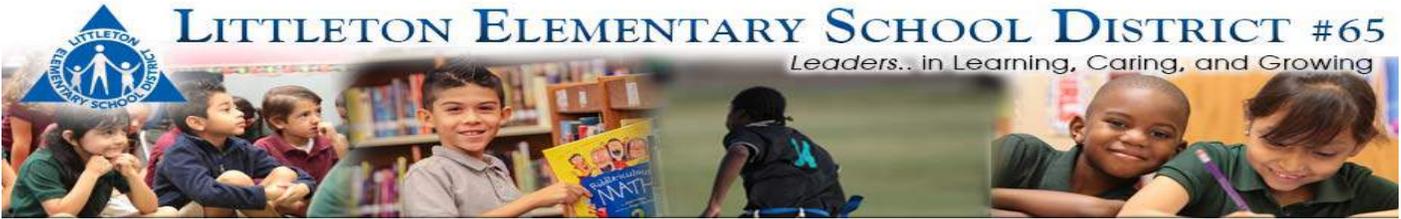


Mr. Robert Miley, CEO and Founder of *Release the Fear*, facilitated and presented a three day workshop entitled, "*Bridging Possibility.*" Our 6th – 8th students who participated in the workshop focused on learning the similarities and differences between all types of people. There was an emphasis on team, ensuring each student is not alone in his or her fears. The students participated in a variety of team building exercises in order to promote the need for leadership in the school and community at large. The students had the opportunity to sharpen up their public speaking skills as they presented the work of each activity. There was a culminating art painting that was displayed during the presentation.



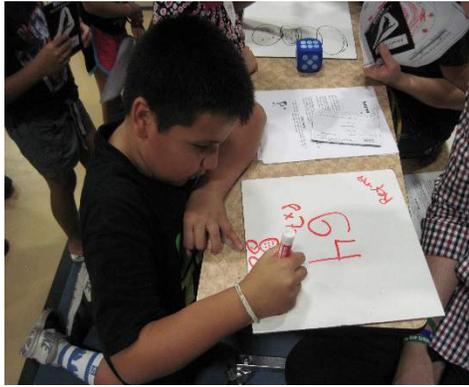
Arrggg - Ahoy, ye Matties... September 19th was *International Talk like a Pirate Day* and Estrella Vista unleashed their inner buccaneer and had pirattitude. *Capitan Montano*, the *Scorpion Queen* and her band of pirates, *Giuliana*, the *Lady Shadow*; *Zion*, the *Fierce*; *Kaylie*, the *Good Pirate*; and *Benicio*, the *King of the Pirates*, just to name a few, participated in plundering and pillaging the hallways of Estrella Vista hunting for treasure. The students used directional skills when reading a map. The map would allow them to travel to different classroom where they sang a song and received the "treasure" which was a puzzle piece, the student then predicted what the puzzle would reveal. We cobbled t'gether arrrselves, and Aye, I guarantee arg, we had a good day!!

It was a SWAG-tastic time for Kids at Hope Home and Family night at Estrella Vista. A HUGE thank you to **Ms. Allison Gannsl**; **Ms. Andrea Cole**; **Ms. Jennifer Brees**; **Ms. Annalisa Martinez**; **Ms. Emme Sauer**; **Ms. Danielle Stone**; **Ms. Laura Montano**; **Ms. Kristine McLean**; **Ms. Laura Villicana**; **Ms. Erica Cuccinello**; **Mr. Jason Roach**; **Ms. Stacy Batiste**; **Mr. Sean Cappello**; **Ms. Lesley Gammon**; **Ms. Andi Lee**; **Ms. Daisy Sandoval**; **Ms. Rebekah Lunsford**; **Mr. Anthony Haduch**; **Ms. Emily Wottreng**; **Ms. Christine Byrne**; **Ms. Logan Schmidtke**; **Ms. Lori Bowden**; **Ms. Corrie Hornsby**; **Ms. Itzel Rodriguez**; **Ms. Donna Reed**; **Mr. Dennis Burns**; **Ms. Jodi Rudd**; **Ms. Kaitlin Johnson**; **Mr. Biji Padmanabhan**; **Ms. Rachel Vliek**; **Mr. Alan Kunz**; **Ms. Susan Cox**; **Dr. Katrin Awad**, PTSA, **Ms. Pam Duty**, **Ms. Lorie Eastep** and **Mr. Richard Ramos**. Students and families participated in different reading and math activities that can bridge and support schoolwork and homework. Students earned Kids at Hope bracelets and a dress down day for participating in a fun filled night.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 3, 2014



Littleton Elementary School

Friday, September 19, 2014, Littleton celebrated our third annual Kids @ Hope Home and Family Day. We started the morning with a Kids at Hope Assembly where all the Treasure Hunters got to show their spirit alongside with the students. Then our Firebird community celebrated with an outdoor barbeque that included music and a chance for all our families to break bread with one another. Each classroom structured their activities so that everyone had a chance to celebrate their culture and ethnicity. *Ms. Kelsey's* 7th grade all drew caricatures of their favorite family members. The students presented their drawings and shared the unique traits of those family members and what makes them special. We continued our day as families returned to the classroom and continued the celebrations by: displaying pictures of their families, creating family trees, playing board games, creating crafts and most important having fun!!



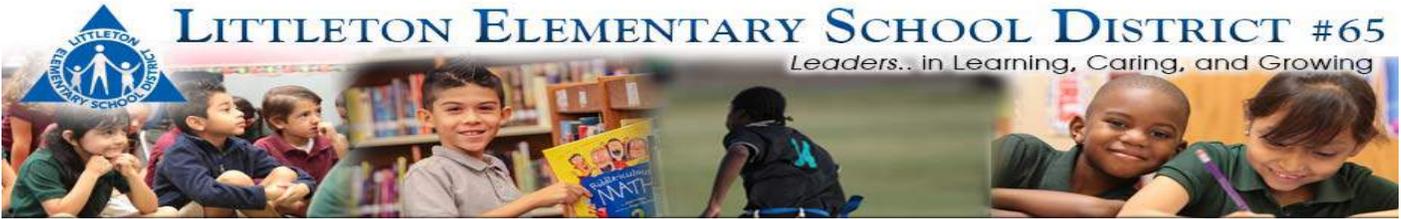
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 3, 2014



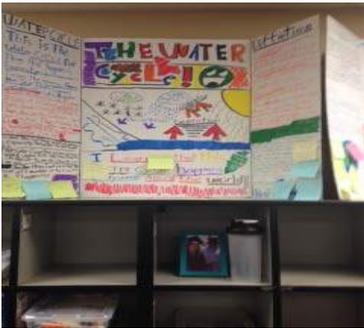
The special education teachers meet on Thursdays to give new and old teachers professional development on how concepts can be modified and adapted for our classrooms and to help teacher's problem solve and collaborate. **Ms. Erin Price** and **Ms. Stefani Jenkins** lead these meetings twice a month in order to assist teachers with what they most struggle with in their classrooms. The main topics this year will focus on: Classroom/Behavior Management, Resources for Classroom and Instruction, Curriculum, breaking down Common Core Standards to our students' ability level and Inquiry Based Methods. We also have professional developments on school wide interventions in order to show what that looks like for our special education teachers. Each month they will also try to focus our meetings on current needs, but align our meetings to support our cluster cycles in order to help teachers brainstorm on what our cluster objectives look like in our specific classrooms. For example, IGP goals and how those are adapted with our students. It takes a village to teach our students and here at Littleton we all believe in working together as a team to support everyone so we all have success in raising student achievement. "All kids can learn – no exceptions!"

If you happened to come around the corner to room 81, **Ms. Lozoya's** science room, on Friday, September 5th, you would have definitely encountered the students learning about the water cycle through projects and presentation based learning.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 3, 2014



Once the students displayed their projects they were asked to complete a gallery walk. Awards were given out to the students based on their peer feedback. The awards were: Next Engineer Award, Albert Einstein Award, Artist Award, and Student Choice Award (based on positive peer feedback). Everyone had a great experience learning, sharing, and giving feedback having fun. Way to go *Ms. Lozoya's* 6th grade!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 26, 2014

Collier Elementary School

September has been a very busy month at Collier. The support from our staff has been tremendous and we know our future success is due to this ongoing support.

Collier was the first school in the district to be showcased at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 9th for the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Pitts highlighted one of Collier's Curriculum Nights – Social Studies Night. Many of Collier's staff members came to the Board Meeting to show their school pride. We would like to thank the following members who attended: *Ms. Deidre Clizzie, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Cecelia Crawley, Ms. Sheilah McCalpine, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Gerry Flower, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Kanishia Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Samantha Wood, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Ms. Jean Alver, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez, Mr. Brandon Boudreau, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Heather Zizis and Ms. Amy Chapman.*

Math Night was held Thursday, September 11th in the Collier cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. This year Math Night began later in the evening to allow students participating in after school sports an opportunity to participate. The evening offered families a wide range of math games and activities. Many staff members turned out for this exciting night. We want to thank the following staff members for their support – *Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Deidre Clizzie, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Jessica Cummins Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Kanishia Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Iliana De La Rosa, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Roxanne Zamora, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Heather Zizis and Ms. Gioia Pitts.* Most importantly we want to recognize *Ms. Amanda Steele* for all the work she put into coordinating this annual Collier family event.

Teachers new to the Littleton School District are provided monthly training at the district office to help support them in their first year. The following teachers are attending from Collier – *Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Mr. Adam Haller, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Liv Martinez, Mr. Brian Hopkinson and Ms. Ilene Rosas.* We know that this additional support will go a long way in providing these teachers with strategies and ideas which will make their first year the best ever!

Country Place Elementary School

Country Place welcomes our new Principal, *Mrs. Deborah Bailey.* *Mrs. Bailey* comes to us with over 40 years of educational experience. *Mrs. Bailey* has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 26, 2014

administration, both from NAU. She taught in the classroom for 18 years, served as a building administrator for 14 and has held a variety of district office positions. She has most recently served as a TAP Coach and Mentor to building principals for ASU and the AzLEADS program at ADE. We are very fortunate to have ***Mrs. Bailey*** and her successful experience lead our school.

Country Place PTA just concluded their first fundraiser with **BRAX** and **The Dairy Council**, raising over \$2,000! These funds will provide field trips and other miscellaneous items for our school. As always, the support from families and teachers is what makes our school successful. We appreciate all parent participation on our **BRAX** fundraiser.

PTA will also be having our Chick-Fil-A Night on September 25th, which has always been a great turnout in parent and staff participation. Country Place appreciates our PTA Officers, ***Ms. Karen Hook*** and ***Ms. Jackie Davis***, Presidents; ***Ms. Ana Cruz***, Vice President; ***Ms. Lourdes Lopez*** and ***Ms. Ginny Biddle***, Treasurers; ***Ms. Gina Morales***, Secretary and ***Ms. Mirna Gadea***, Membership Chair.

Congratulations to our Boys' Basketball team, as they finished with a 4-6 record! The boys came together as a team and have worked very hard to improve each and every day. We are fired up and ready to get playoffs started next week. A big thanks to their coaches, ***Mr. David Bier*** and ***Mr. Travis White***.

Great job to our Girls' Basketball team for their improvement. Our lady Mustangs were very supporting of each other, and involved good sportsmanship towards other teams, coaches and the District as a whole.

Student Council is off to a great start at Country Place! We have welcomed 42 new members, including our new Student Council Officers. Plans have been made for Spooky Pops and our Country Place Roundup Dance. Congratulations to the students who are now a part of Student Council! We are looking forward to seeing our leaders grow throughout the year. A big thanks to our Student Council Leads, ***Ms. Carrie Rodriguez***, ***Ms. Michelle Finn*** and ***Ms. Serena Garcia***.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 19, 2014

Grants & Family Services

Duet- This month our Duet program focused on “Character Building” to educate grandparents about the importance of their grandchildren developing positive character traits. Once again, Duet did an incredible job in reaching out to our grandparents. Through the workshop, grandparents learned various techniques in developing character traits to help expand their knowledge. In November, Duet will be hosting “Handling Holiday Stress” to help overcome stressful barriers.

Childhelp- Childhelp has joined Littleton Elementary School District in offering programs for our families. The Strengthening Families Program is currently being held in the evening at Quentin Elementary School. This 14-week course offers parents skills to help build strengths in parenting, children’s life skill and family life skills training.

Teaching & Learning Services

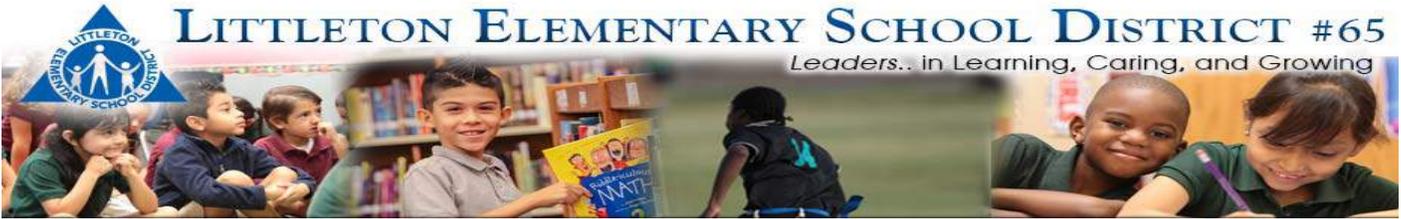
Thank you to *Ms. Aimee Humphrey* and *Ms. Katie Carnicelli* for providing DIBELS Next training for Littleton Staff on September 5th & 6th. Participants completed a full DIBELS Next training to ensure consistent administration and scoring of the DIBELS Next measures! Thank you Ladies!

Thank you to the teachers in grades kindergarten through eighth grade that provided feedback during the ELA and Math benchmark review process. Your feedback was valuable and was used to make final decisions on the format and content of the benchmark assessments.

Operations Department

The Operations Crew would like to congratulate *Mr. Michael L. Fisher*, Director of Operations on his presidency for **Arizona Association of School Business Officials**. With that in mind we would like to thank the Operations Crew, Lead Custodians and Transportation Staff for their hard work and attention to safety towards our students and staff on our rainy shutdown day. Although a very challenging day for many, our staff continued to be out in the rain finding water damage and preventing more damage from happening.

We also want to welcome a few new staff members that have joined our family: *Ms. Esther Mosso*, Night Custodian @ Estrella Vista Elementary; *Mr. Samuel Lucero*, Night Custodian at Quentin Elementary; *Mr. Salome Alvarado*, Night Custodian at Collier Elementary. We are proud of the new features and upgrades in our department. After a rocky start and with the help of many staff members we have been able to incorporate a central location for use of facilities requests and an online process for all applications. Our security system and fob implementation is up and running, and with the help of the IT department we continue to monitor usage. We are looking forward to Fall Break as plans get generated for our sites.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 12, 2014

Quentin Elementary School

A HUGE Congratulations to **Ms. Janice Pemberton** on being selected as a 2014 Grant Recipient through **Donate to Educate** presented by University of Phoenix! She is getting five thousand dollars that she will be using to build the Quentin Music program! We are proud of you **Ms. Pemberton**, way to go!!!!

A BIG Shout out to our 8th Grade Science teacher **Ms. Young**. She was able to get a donation from **Harkins** so that our 8th graders are able to go see “When the Game Stands Tall” for free.

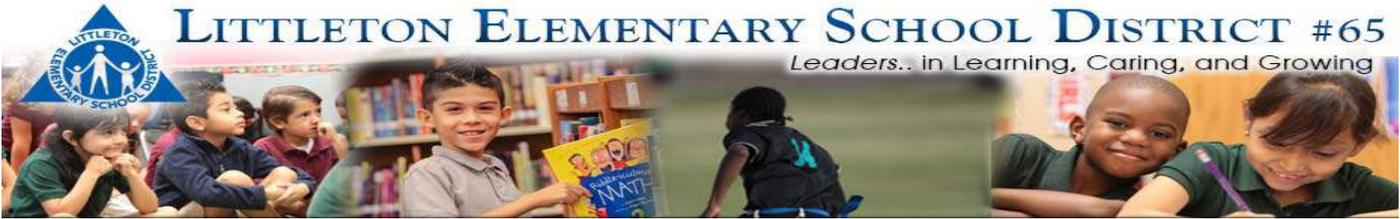


Ms. De Martino showed us that democracy is alive and well here at Quentin. Student Council elections took place and **Ms. De Martino** and **Ms. Sotelo** did a wonderful job organizing the election and getting the kids ready to deliver their speeches. The whole election process was awesome!



The very first Shark of the Month Assembly was held on August 29th. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our students and all the great things they are doing. Assemblies take a lot of work to happen. Special thanks to **Ms. Brenda Castaneda** and **Ms. JoAnn Vega** for getting decorations up and the certificates made. Special thanks to **Mr. G** our Dean of Students he was an amazing emcee!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 12, 2014

Tres Rios Elementary School

Thank you to the Tres Rios Executive team, *Dr. Seu Hee Ledet – Principal*, *Ms. Katherine Hoornstra – Assistant Principal*, *Mr. Eric Nelson – Dean of Students*, *Mrs. Gina Forney Lee – Master Teacher* and *Mrs. Sideqa Padawer – Master Teacher*, for planning and hosting Tres Rios' first Parents as Partners Data Date Night. Parents of students in Kindergarten were led by *Mrs. Gina Forney Lee* and *Mr. Eric Nelson* through analyzing data collected from a Kindergarten diagnostic assessment. Parents of students in 1st and 2nd grade were led by *Ms. Katherine Hoornstra* in reviewing the results of the IE-Pre Test. *Dr. Seu Hee Ledet* led the parents of our 3rd grade students through reviewing and understanding the SAT10 reports as well as informed parents of the Move on when Reading Law. *Ms. Katherine Hoornstra* and *Mrs. Sideqa Padawer* led the parents of 4th – 8th grade students in reviewing and understanding their student's results on the AIMS assessment. This event brought in over 500 students and family members.

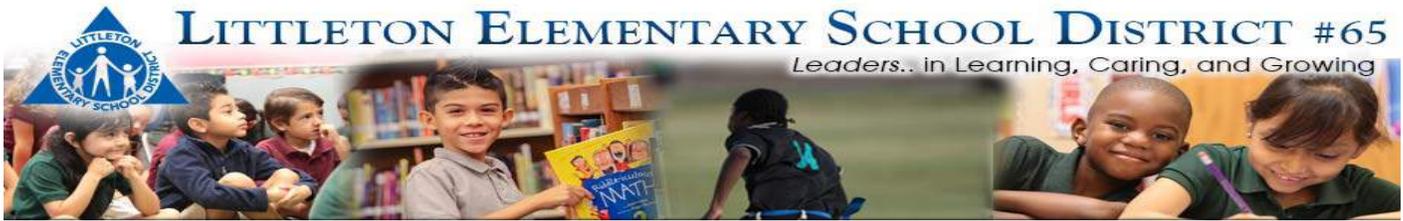
Way to go *Mrs. Sheila Kruger – Kindergarten Teacher*, for organizing our first literacy activity through the Class Treasurers Company. This effort will provide our students the opportunity to write and illustrate their own book. In addition, classrooms can create class books that will also be published for free.

Thank you to *Mrs. Yolanda Jordan – 1st Grade Teacher*, who organized and will be training and supporting staff members at Tres Rios with piloting the Daily 5 & Café small group ELA structure. The school had 29 teachers sign up for this training to increase their knowledge in effective instruction in ELA through informal observations and collaboration with individual teachers and grade level teams.

Congratulations *Ms. Charlotte Anderson - Music Teacher*, for your work as the district Webmaster. Thank you for spreading the wealth of your knowledge that Tres Rios knows you possess. Also, thank you *Ms. Anderson*, for offering your time as one of the district Co-Fine Arts Coordinators for all of the events that will occur this school year, highlighting the Fine Arts programs in our district.

Way to go *Mr. Brittain Davis – 7th Grade Math Teacher* and *Ms. Charlotte Anderson – Music Teacher*, for sending in exemplar Math and Music Lesson Plans that were accepted by Beyond Textbooks and shared documents for all BT viewers to utilize in their classrooms.

Thank you to our team leads, *Ms. Danielle Stowers – Kindergarten*, *Ms. Yolanda Jordan – 1st Grade*, *Ms. Markeita Momon- 2nd Grade*, *Mrs. Heather Lawrence – 3rd Grade*, *Ms. Kari Burd – 4th Grade*, *Ms. Kimberly Clyde – 5th Grade*, *Mr. Jon Ollila – 6th Grade*, *Ms. Shannon Gray – 7th Grade*, *Mr. Chad Schafer – 8th Grade*, *Mr. Brett Kennedy – Related Arts* and *Ms. Irene Vasquez – Special Education*, for supporting the school as the CST (Child Study) Team. We appreciate your dedication to working with your grade level teams to train them on the process in order to create interventions for students who are struggling behaviorally and/or academically.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2014

Estrella Vista Elementary School

Congratulations to Hawks Basketball teams. We are off to an exciting and nail-biting season. Thank you to **Coach Andrea Cole** and **Coach Jorge Espinoza**, our girls' basketball coaches, and **Coach Wayne Davis** and **Coach Alan Kunz**, our boys' basketball coaches. Your mentoring of our young athletes, shows they can be winners both on and off the courts.

Our Student Ownership with Academic Responsibility (SOAR) Hour is off and flying high. SOAR Hour is dedicated to helping students assume academic responsibility where they can complete their homework with the aide of some additional help. A huge thank you to **Mr. Biji Padmanabhan**, **Mr. Anthony Hadauch**, **Ms. Katie Johnson**, **Ms. Jodi Rudd**, **Ms. Alyssa Nelson**, and **Mr. Richard Ramos**. Your guidance and leadership with our students will provide them with SWAG-tastic success.

Where does EV's SWAG and the ARTs meet, you ask? Well, at the Phoenix Art Museum of course. A thunderous applause for **Ms. Julie Whelihan**, EVES Art teacher. She has planned outstanding field trips for our 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students to the Phoenix Art Museum. The program is called **Art and History Connect**. Our students are paired up with the Docents, who guide our students on a tour, through the exhibits and learn about the different artists and their pieces. After touring with the Docents, students and their chaperones are able to go anywhere in the museum based on the students' interests. Lunch is served (from home and EVES) in the lovely courtyard before returning to EVES.

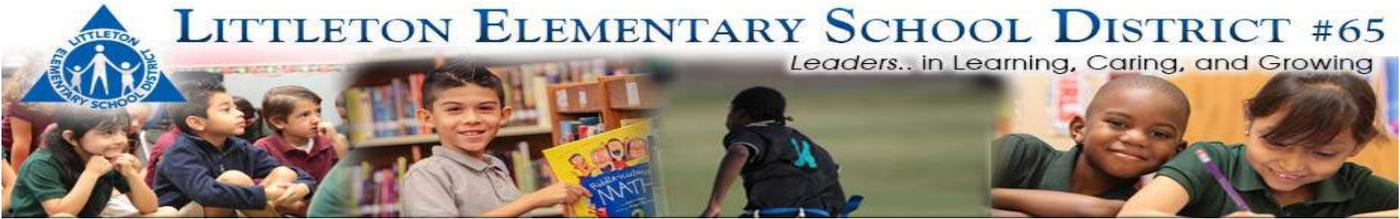
The EV Administration team is always ready to support a good cause, so like so many of us, we took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. We were challenged by 3rd Grade teacher **Ms. Rebekah Lunsford**, and on Wednesday, August 27th we met the challenge and in the process, challenged all the school site administration (principals, assistant principals, and deans) to accept the challenge as well. P.S., don't forget a towel.

EVES PTSA had their first meeting of the year, and it is going to be an exciting year. **Ms. Beth Blankenship**, **President**, and **the Executive Team** have some exciting events planned, just to name a few: Fall Festival, Grandparents Day, Peter Piper pizza nights, Donuts for Dads, Muffins for Mom, and many, many more.

Our campus assistants – **Ms. Suyen Kimme**; **Ms. Estella Heredia**; **Ms. Brenda Velazquez**, **Ms. Lizbeth Rodriquez**, **Ms. Imelda Gomez**, **Ms. Mary Rodriguez**, **Ms. Betty Clinton**, **Ms. Fabiola Avina**, **Ms. Agueda Llerenas**, **Ms. Jessica Iracheta** and **Ms. Eva McCue** - ensure the safety of our students by over-seeing recess and lunch each day. They build relationships with our students in this less structured environment, and their positive interaction with the students is evident not only in their conduct but also in the manner which our students speak of their "teachers outside."

Littleton Elementary School

The month of August brought a lot of firsts to Littleton Elementary and this included our first PTA monthly meeting. We meet the second Tuesday of every month from 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Our officers are: **Vice President: Rebecca Welker** and **Treasurer: Jennifer Lopez**. According to the National Parent Teacher Association "As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, Parent Teacher Association



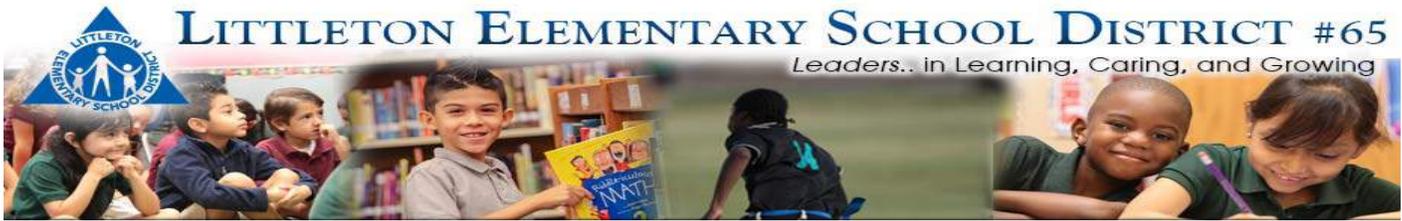
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 5, 2014

(PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child. Their mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.” So please come and join us and take part in securing the future for all our students. Our next Firebird PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9th. We hope to see you there.

Good things are happening in 5th grade! *Ms. Valerie Smith, Ms. Megan Melna* and *Ms. Jazmin Pattison* have been busy kicking off the new school year with innovative teaching and learning. The students were asked to cite evidence to support inferences made from a text through the use of Readers Theatre. Students were split into two groups and each group was given the task to act out a play. Hard copies of the two plays, “How the Coyote Brought fire to the People – A Native American Legend” and “The Farmer, his Son and their Donkey” were given to the class so the students could cite evidence, but the group that was watching the play did not have the resolution to the play. When the play neared the resolution the actors stopped and the audience group was asked to make an inference as to how the play would end based on evidence from the text. Then the audience group came up with a theme and or moral of the story. Next, the acting group resumed the ending of the play. Afterwards, the audience compared and contrasted their inferences and predictions as to what they thought would happened with what actually happened. Then the groups switched acting and audience roles and the other play was acted out in the same manner. The students were able to use their creative juices to make their own costumes and props. The lesson was a complete success that highlighted the imagination of the students while they learned about making inferences and predicting while citing evidence from the text. Great Job 5th Grade!

Littleton’s IT Department will be rolling out the 1:1 laptops for the Littleton Campus for all of the third grade teachers and their students: *Ms. Carolina Valenzuela, Ms. Elizabeth Davis, Mr. Andrew Davenport, Ms. Rhea Ciadella and Ms. Leticia Villa*. As well as 5th grade teacher, *Ms. Valerie Smith*, STARS teacher 2-4th, *Ms. Joselyn Williams* and ELD teacher 6-7th grade *Ms. Aracely Vazquez* on September 9, 11, & 12. Throughout the year the district will be offering several required professional development sessions for the 1:1 teachers as well as a required showcase project. We are so fortunate to have the 1:1 technology and we look forward to increasing those numbers each year throughout the grade levels.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 29, 2014

Collier Elementary School

Collier's PTA kicked off the school year with a Fundraiser at Peter Piper Pizza on Tuesday, August 19th. The staff turned out in force to support PTA. We want to thank the following teachers – *Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Kanishia Thomas, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Amanda Housel, Ms. Melissa Hennek, Ms. Ashely Beason, Ms. Krystell Contreas, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon, Ms. Roxanne Zamora, Ms. Heather Zizis, Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez* and *Ms. Gioia Pitts*. This amazing event raised over \$460 for the Collier PTA.

Ms. Amy Leamon (6th Grade teacher) created the “Collier Culture Club” focused on building a positive culture on campus. Friendship is the topic for the month of August. Each day during the morning announcements a short comment supporting the topic of the month is read. These comments are developed and written by different staff members. Another part of the “Collier Culture Club” is Thankful Thursdays. During the week, staff and students have the opportunity to fill out a card thanking and recognizing an individual who has helped them. Then on Thursdays a drawing is held and several cards are selected to be read on the morning announcements. These cards are also posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway for everyone to see. The goal of the “Collier Culture Club” is to create a place where everyone wants to work and learn. Thank you *Ms. Leamon* for your time and effort to get this club up and going.

On the evening of Thursday, August 14th, *Mr. Brandon Boudreau* held a Band Rental Night. Many families turned out to learn the process of renting an instrument. *Ms. Kathryn Kosmider* (8th Grade ELA teacher) volunteered to man the sign-in table. We want to thank both of these staff members for their time and effort.

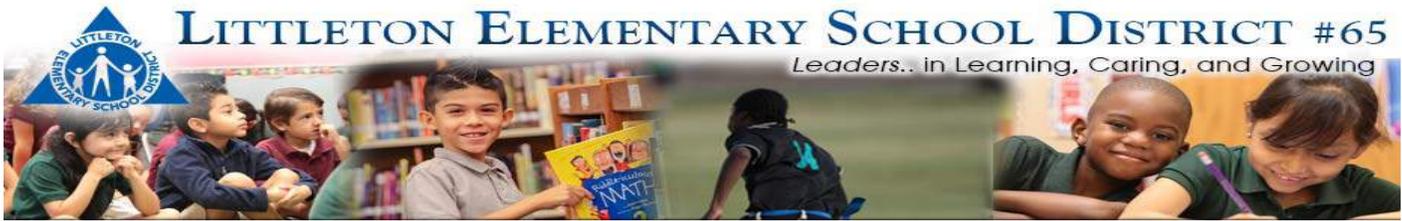
Country Place Elementary School

Country Place would like to thank our PTA for helping our school with fundraising events such as Jamba Juice sales (August 1st) and Peter Piper Night (August 7th). We had a great turnout at Peter Piper Pizza, which included free pizzas and ice cream contests. A big thanks to all the parents and staff that participated. It was nice to see several teachers and parents attend. We appreciate your support!

Another big fundraiser by PTA was our Brax fundraiser which ran from August 14th – 26th. Country Place had a very exciting kick off assembly on August 14th, which included the Cardinal's Mascot! Prizes were also given to students with the most sales. We appreciate all parent participation and support on our Brax fundraiser. We also appreciate our PTA officers, *Ms. Karen Hook* and *Ms. Jackie Davis*, Presidents; *Ms. Ana Cruz*, Vice President; *Ms. Lourdes Lopez* and *Ms. Ginny Biddle*, Treasurers; *Ms. Gina Morales*, Secretary and *Ms. Mirna Gadea*, Membership Chair.

A big thanks to our Band teacher, *Ms. Gloria Chadwick* for bringing Desert Sounds to our school on August 4th and 18th. Desert Sounds held parent meetings for children interested in obtaining a “free” instrument to use during the school year for band. This meeting was open to every interested child's parent in our entire school district.

Country Place enjoyed the Be Kind People Project surprise visit to our office on August 20th! We were thrilled to receive our “Back to School” delivery. This is just the first of four deliveries that our school will receive this year. They also provided information about extending the BE KIND character education program throughout the entire school year. We appreciate the Be Kind People Project for their many ways to continue the kindness.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 22, 2014

Grants & Family Services

Duet - We currently ended our first workshop for school year 2014-2015 Powerful Families Workshop Series with Duet Partners in Health and Aging. Duet Partners in Health & Aging offers support to grandparents as they face different challenges. Their mission is to promote a safe home and better life for the grandchildren they are raising. Duet may help in support groups, educational workshops, social activities for families, benefit and legal guidance, monthly guardianship clinics, respite assistance, and resource information and referral.

Our grandparents were ecstatic and fully engaged in these past four weeks. The workshop helped build a strong relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. In addition, it allows grandparents to become involved with other families and learn how to build a valuable social support network. The next workshop will be scheduled for September. The topic will be Practicing Self Care.

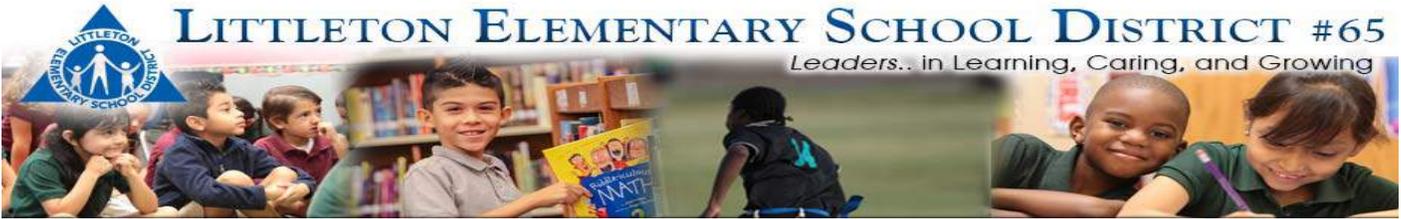
Nutrition Education Program - Our Nutrition Education Program started on Monday, August 11th. The program is a six-week program and will end on September 22nd. The program is the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and is a federal grant program that teaches free adult nutrition classes to families in Maricopa County. The goal is to teach parents the importance of eating healthy, exercising, and helping them pass that knowledge on to their children.

SNAP - Our first SNAP appointment was on Thursday, August, 14th. We had several parents show up for their appointment and had a positive experience. Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program is designed to make the process of applying for nutritional assistance and other governmental assistance a little easier for our families. In addition to the one-to-one interview, they will also help educate applicants on additional SNAP benefits. The application process takes approximately 1 hour and is set by appointment only.

ESL - Classes will be in a series of six-week (or more if needed) - 1 ½ hours per week. The classes for school year 2014 began on August 7th and will go through September 18th. The classes are currently being held at the Welcome Center. The goal is to establish comfort and confidence in participating in school family events as well as daily living activities.

Teaching & Learning Services

On August 14th eight LESD staff members attended the 2014 Arizona Innovation Summit focused on STEM and STEAM education. The teachers that attended were able to gather ideas and information to take back to their classrooms and schools. Teachers that left were thankful for the opportunity to attend and are excited to integrate their new learning into their classrooms.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 22, 2014

Transportation Department

Ashton Pointe Apartments located at 12175 W McDowell Road contacted us in July with a request to support Littleton students by “stuffing” a bus with much needed school supplies. Flyers advertising the “Stuff the Bus day” were displayed all around the apartment complex. A Littleton bus complete with a banner advertising the first day of school was parked at their site on July 25th and at the end of the day there was a variety of school supplies from the wish list on the flyer for our kids. Thank you Ashton Pointe Apartments!!

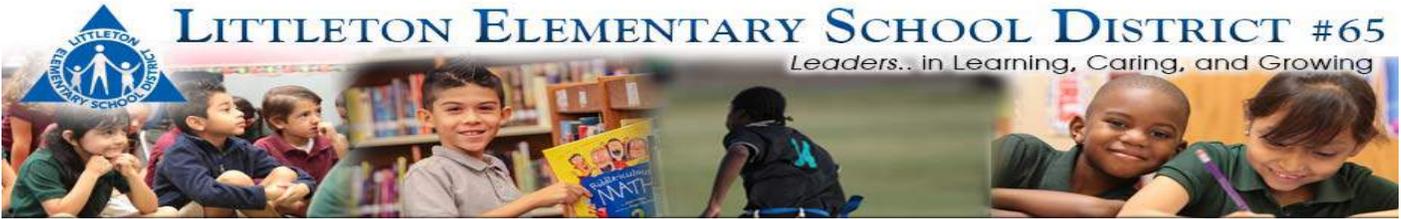
STUFF THE BUS WEST VALLEY

**Join us July 25th at Ashton Pointe Apartments
Located at 12175 W. McDowell Rd Avondale 85392
From 11am – 5pm**



School Supply Wish List

- Backpacks
- 1” binders
- Loose leaf paper
- Notebooks & folders (plain colored)
- Pencil boxes
- Pencils
- Pens
- Red pens
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Crayons
- Highlighters
- Watercolor sets
- Calculators
- Pink erasers
- Pencil top erasers
- Rulers
- Compasses
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 15, 2014

Quentin Elementary School

Lots of Good News from Quentin this month, so much to celebrate and be excited about in August!

Our halls were decked out to welcome back families and students for a new school year. Many thanks to our wonderful classified staff members that created amazing bulletin boards to greet staff, students and families.



A HUGE thank you to our PTA, they hosted a fun filled back to school lunch luau for staff. We have many new faces on campus this year and PTA made sure that we all had some fun relaxing and getting to know each other. They even set up a photo booth! It was a perfect way to kick off the school year!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 15, 2014

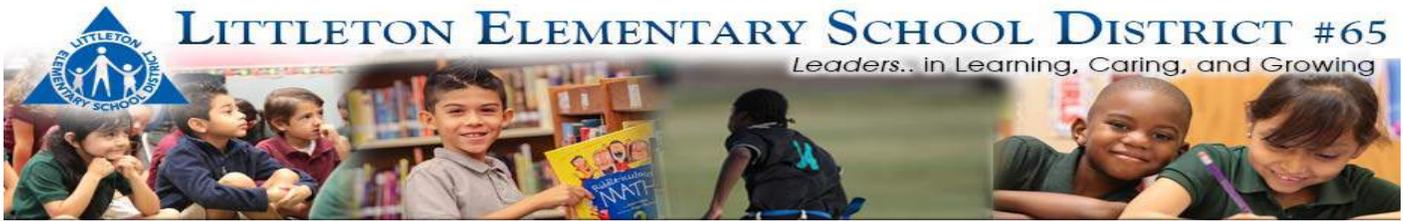
Our teachers began the week strong with lots of community building tied into content. *Ms. Corkins* 7th Grade Science Class was learning all about how to build a strong structure, while *Ms. Danahay's* Life Skills class started the year off learning how to make a recipe and cook.



The fun continued in first grade as *Ms. Martinez's* class was busily working on a class book and they were all very excited about what they were learning and doing as a class.



Great month for the Quentin Sharks as they ride the wave to success!!!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 15, 2014

Tres Rios Elementary School

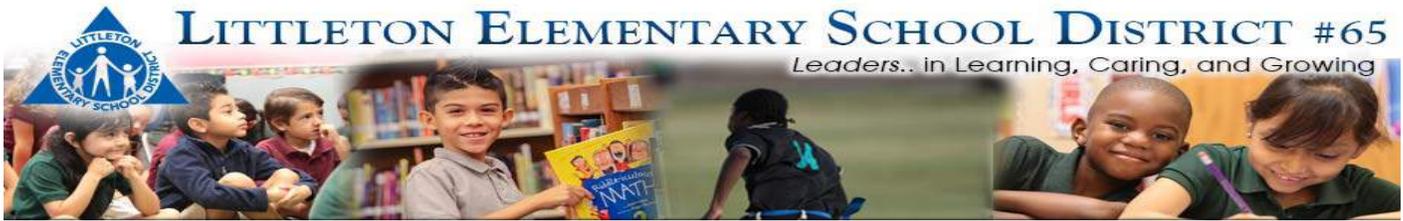
We would like to recognize our school team leads this school year for taking on a multitude of leadership responsibilities. Our wonderful leaders in learning, caring and growing include: **Ms. Danielle Stowers – Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Yolanda Jordan – 1st grade teacher, Ms. Markeita Momon – 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Heather Lawrence – 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Kari Burd – 4th grade teacher, Ms. Kimberly Clyde – 5th grade teacher, Mr. Jon Ollila – 6th grade teacher, Ms. Shannon Gray – 7th grade teacher and Mr. Chad Schafer – 8th grade teacher.** These important members of the Tres Rios team are acting as the go-to member of their team, FAC members, TAT leaders and CST committee members. All of the roles these individuals play are important to the achievement of the school by making collaborative decisions for the success of our students, staff and community members.

This year **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra - Assistant Principal**, has made a concerted effort to involve support staff in collaboration as well as training with the certified staff. This venture is to promote the success of our students with Make Your Day. We established a great start in creating consistency with the program by including the support staff in a thorough training at the beginning of the school year lead by **Mrs. Luciana Vargas – Junior Support Specialist and Make Your Day Liaison.** In addition, the support staff was involved in working in teams with the certified staff to review Make Your Day by creating skits to act out during pre-service week as well as involved everyone in the creation of the school-wide behavior matrix development. Involving all staff in these collaborative activities created a deeper understanding of the Make Your Day Citizenship program as well as the Behavior Matrix for all staff. We would like to thank **all of our staff** for uniting as a whole team to support each other and our students with the implementation of Make Your Day.

We are off to a great start with Fall Sports with basketball tryouts and teams already formed for boys and girls. Coaches **Mr. Sean Fair**, 2nd grade teacher, and **Mr. Travis Kent**, P.E. teacher, are heading up the girls team while **Mr. Brett Kennedy**, P.E. teacher, is coaching the boys team. The Tres Rios Pumas are looking forward to a season of victory for our students.

Thank you to our Social Committee, **Mrs. Vianey Fong – Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Sideqa Padawer – Master Teacher, Ms. Kelly Diekemper – Resource Teacher, Mrs. Grace Gutierrez – Office Support, Mrs. Luciana Vargas – Office Support Specialist Junior, Ms. Kimberly Clyde – 5th Grade Teacher, Ms. Monica Miller – 6th grade teacher, Ms. Markeita Momon – 2nd grade teacher** for getting together to form a committee to build on the culture and climate of Tres Rios and provide some fun for our staff as well as recognize them.

Congratulations to **Ms. Shannon Gray – 7th grade ELA teacher**, who had the opportunity to spend a week this summer in Colonial Williamsburg Virginia learning hands on about the Early British Settlers and the beginning of the American Revolution. She researched this opportunity as a way to further her knowledge with history and the program was provided to her through an anonymous donor. Her experience with this program will assist her in collaborative efforts with her 7th grade social studies teammate in integrating cross-curricular activities. Thank you **Ms. Shannon Gray** for taking the initiative to increase your pedagogical and content area knowledge through seeking the professional development opportunity.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 8, 2014

Estrella Vista Elementary School

Estrella Vista's theme this year is... *SWAG... Students With Academic Greatness!!*

We have added some important cast members to our SWAG family. We welcome to our school community: Kindergarten, *Ms. Danielle Stone* and *Ms. Margaret Sauer*. 1st Grade, *Ms. Laura Villicana*. 2nd Grade, *Ms. Stacy Batiste* and *Mr. Jason Roach*. 3rd Grade, *Ms. Rebekah Lunsford* and *Ms. Daisy Sandoval*. 4th Grade, *Mr. Anthony Haduch*, *Ms. Logan Schmidtke*, *Mr. Jorge Espinoza*, and *Ms. Emily Wottreng*. 6th Grade, *Ms. Itzel Rodriguez*. 7th Grade, *Mr. Dennis Burns* and *Ms. Donna Reed*. 8th Grade, *Ms. Kaitlin Johnson*, *Mr. Alan Kunz*, and *Ms. Rachel Vlieg*. Special Areas, teaching P.E., *Mr. Antony Brophy*. Our Reading Interventionist is *Ms. Kimberly Buckner*, and our nurse is *Ms. Rebecca Vining*.

We also would like to recognize our teacher candidates, who are part of the **iTeachAZ** program at ASU, who have come to learn and work at Estrella Vista: *Ms. Leticia Ruiz* is with Ms. Laura Montañó in 1st grade; *Ms. Ashley Chapman* is with *Ms. Lesley Gammon* in 3rd grade. *Mr. Scott Schulte* is with *Mr. Antonio Bryant* in 5th grade, and *Ms. Jane Nguyen* is with *Mr. Biju Padmanabhan* in 8th grade. We are so grateful and excited to have them on campus with us for the '14 – '15 school year.

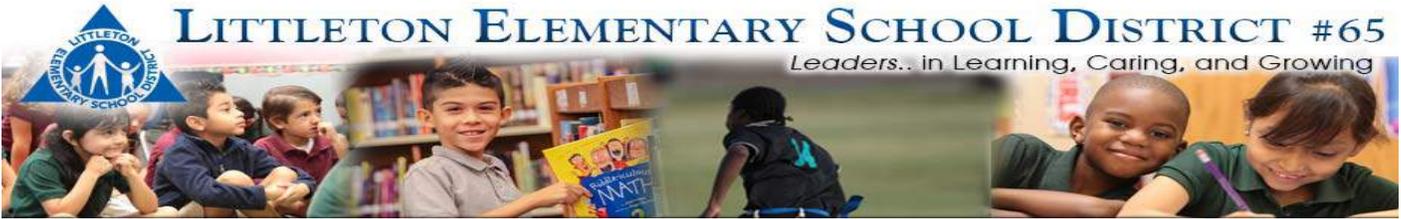
We had the opportunity to meet and greet many parents and students during the Meet the Teacher Night on July 24th. We had a *SWAG-nificant* turn out due to our combined efforts of the faculty traveling from door to door in order to make those immediate connections with our families earlier in the morning during our Neighborhood walk. They say... "*Not All Who Wander Are Lost...*" having so many families join us in the evening sets up our students for a great school year where all of the adults in our students' lives are heading in the same direction for academic success.

It truly has been a *SWAG-tastic* start to the New Year at Estrella Vista.

Littleton Elementary School

On July 24th Littleton Elementary School opened its doors to our returning students and family. Even with the evening being the hottest so far this year, excitement filled the air as Littleton experienced a great turnout. Teachers welcomed happy, smiling students who were eager to get a glimpse of their new classroom. Parent's questions were answered and by the end of the evening, everyone walked away with a renewed sense of commitment to making this 2014-2015 school year the best one yet! We are happy to have new staff members join our Firebird Family: *Ms. Juleah Ferreira*, *Ms. Kelly Allen*, *Ms. Shayna Rieger*, *Ms. Erin Deppe*, *Ms. Carolina Valenzuela*, *Ms. Rhea Ciadella*, *Ms. Alyssa Oitker*, *Ms. Jazmin Pattison*, *Ms. Megan Melna*, *Ms. Chelsea Tilly*, *Ms. Emily Meskauskas*, *Ms. Chloe Grishaw*, *Ms. Tina Brechbiel*, *Ms. Erin O'Shaughnessy*, *Ms. Sarah Boon*, *Ms. Sydney Perez*, *Ms. Amber Mager*, *Ms. Jessalyne Chavira*, *Mr. Jeremy Chacon*, *Ms. Michelle Walla* and *Ms. Kimberly Buckner*.

Littleton Elementary is very fortunate to have a partnership with ASU Teacher College's iTeachAZ program. The iTeach program more than doubles the amount of time most future teachers spend in the classroom. This exemplar provides the teacher greater quantifiable experience through their student teaching experiences.



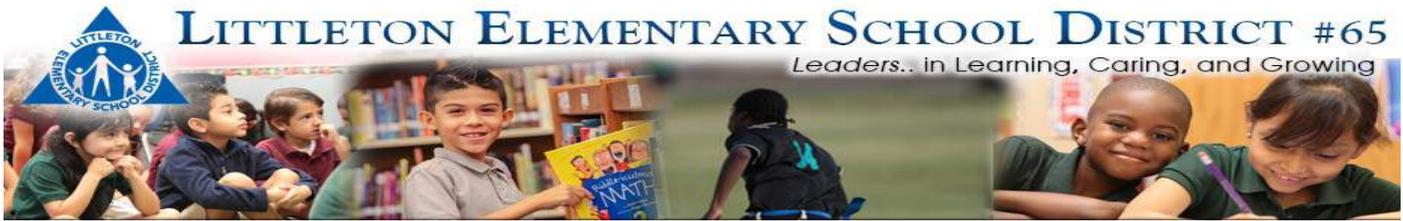
GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 8, 2014

During the students senior year they are placed in a preK-8 school district with a mentor teacher. ASU faculty provide the students classes at their very own school site so they can apply what they learn from their course work straight into the classroom. Students who graduate from this program are well prepared to meet the challenges of today's classroom. This school year we are proud to share with you the following returning iTeach graduates that were hired as new first year teachers: ***Ms. Megan Melna (5th grade), Ms. Jazmin Pattison (5th grade), Ms. Carolina Valenzuela (ELD 3rd grade), Ms. Rhea Ciadella (3rd grade).***

We also would like to welcome our newest 2014-2015 iTeach candidates and their mentor teachers: ***Ms. Corina Paul*** with mentor ***Ms. Nellie Gazmen***, ***Ms. Jasmin Rutledge*** with mentor ***Ms. Leticia Villa***, ***Ms. Brandi Wilson*** with mentor ***Ms. Samantha Foster***, ***Mr. Matt Thompson*** with mentor ***Ms. Judith Lozoya*** and ***Ms. Sarah Schaeffer*** with ***Mentor Ms. Valerie Smith.***

Writer, Charles de Lint once said, "I don't want to live in the kind of a world where we don't look out for each other. Not just the people that are close to us, but anybody who needs a helping hand. I can't change the way anybody else thinks, or what they chose to do, but I can do my bit." Here at Littleton Elementary we all strive to do our bit by following Littleton District Values which are the heart of everything we do here at our school. Our values are: ***Trust, Respect, Integrity, Collaboration and Dedication.*** These core values along with the dedicated staff are ready to take on the 2014-2015 school year with enthusiasm and optimism. The best is yet to come!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

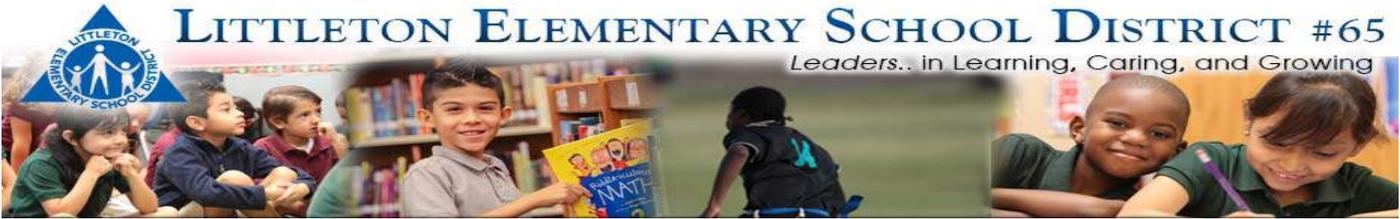
August 1, 2014

Collier Elementary School

We are happy to share that Collier experienced a great start of the school year! We are fortunate to have new staff members join our family – *Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Loralie Haynes, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Lauren Turpin, Mr. Adam Haller, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Tayler Stewart, Mr. Matthew Aud, Ms. Katrina Olle and Ms. Aimee Humphrey.* We are excited to start the school year.

The entire Collier staff enjoyed creating videos depicting different elements of MYD during Professional Development Pre-Service Week. The teachers are now able to use these videos to help model the appropriate application of MYD. The videos are a real hit! A big thank you to – *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Deidre Clizzie, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Cecelia Crawley, Ms. Sheila McCalpine, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Loralie Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Anna Lopez, Mr. Gerry Flower, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Ms. Tamara Fisher, Ms. Deb Hoshiyama, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Hai Dang, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Ms. Jean Alver, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Tayler Stewart, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Brittney Van Natter, Mr. Anthony Rojas, Ms. Lisa Vaught, Ms. Isadora Ervin, Ms. Elaine Perret, Mr. Matthew Aud, Mr. Kevin Vail, Ms. Michelle Parker, and Mr. Carlos Gallegos.*

Collier students and parents were welcomed back Thursday morning (July 24th) with staff walking neighborhoods and leaving door hangers with information on the upcoming school year at student homes. The door hanger also welcomed everyone to Back to School Night that same evening. It was a terrific morning! Thank you to the following staff: *Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Deidre Clizzie, Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Cecelia Crawley, Ms. Sheila McCalpine, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Alicia Glenn, Ms. Stephany Thimm, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Loralie Haynes, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Danielle Bailey, Ms. Anna Lopez, Mr. Gerry Flower, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Britney DeRose, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Maria Moreno, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Kanisha Thomas, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Deanna Leighton, Ms. Amy Leamon, Ms. Josephina Cienfuegos, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Lindsay Harmon, Ms. Samantha Wood, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Kathryn Kosmider, Mr. Bryan Holliday, Mr. Tamara Fisher, Ms. Deb Hoshiyama, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Ms. Hai Dang, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Ms. Jean Alver, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Tayler Stewart and Ms. Linda Stallard.*



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 1, 2014

Country Place Elementary School

We would like to extend a welcome to our new faculty on behalf of the returning staff and students of Country Place Elementary. Joining the Country Place Elementary team this year are:

Kinder: *Ms. Tina Carter*, **1st Grade:** *Ms. Kristina Bowers*, **2nd Grade:** *Ms. Patricia Wawrzyk*, **3rd Grade:** *Ms. Maria Serrano*, **4th Grade:** *Ms. Roberta Garcia* and *Ms. Astrid Garcia*, **6th Grade:** *Ms. Dinelle Lopez* (Social Studies), **7th Grade:** *Mr. Cameron Neveu* (Math), **8th Grade:** *Ms. Sidney Barada* (Science), **Specials:** *Mr. Antony Cantu* (Art), *Mr. Travis White* (Music), *Ms. Rachel Watt* (Technology) and *Ms. Vanessa Lovro* (Physical Education).

CPES held their annual **Title 1 Meeting** on July 24th, which was a great success; as it was held during **Meet the Teacher Night**. We had great parent participation on both events. We appreciate our parents and their support, as well as our staff and vendors who provided parents with informative and helpful resources. A big thank you to our **PTA Officers**, *Ana Cruz*, Vice President; *Lourdes Lopez*, Treasurer; *Gina Morales*, Secretary; and *Mirna Gadea*, Membership Chair, for helping our school with fundraising events such as Mustang Shirt sales that night.

On the first day of school, kinder parents having a hard time saying goodbye had an opportunity to go to our annual "Boo-Hoo Breakfast". This breakfast was hosted by our PTA Officers, who also shared information about Country Place PTA and encouraged parents to become members.