

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

August 21, 2015

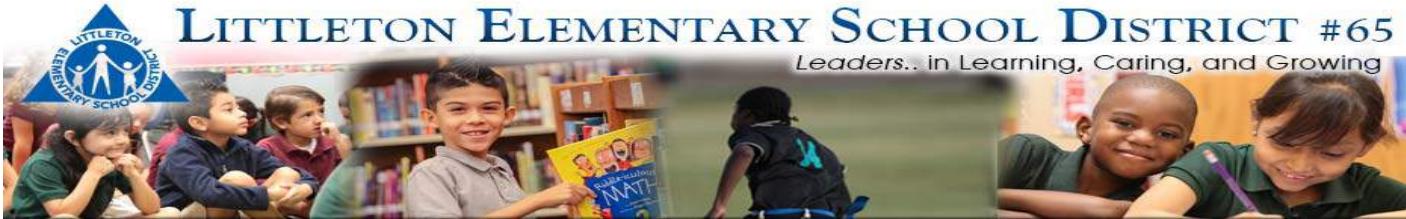
## Collier Elementary School

The 2015- 2016 school year is off to a great start! All summer long the custodial crew at Collier worked hard to make sure the campus was clean and ready for staff. We want to thank **Mr. George Gonzalez** and **Mr. Louis Madrigal** for the extra effort they gave to make sure the school was spotless. In addition, the front office staff worked tirelessly to see to it that information was ready for staff and parents in time for the first day of school. Thank you to **Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon**, **Ms. Sue Dallas**, **Ms. Ruth Rodriguez**, and **Ms. Elena Rodriguez**. Without these individuals the first week of school would not have run so smoothly.

This year Collier welcomes new staff to campus – **Ms. Cynthia Ambriz**, **Ms. Breena Boone**, **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**, **Ms. Heidi Melfi**, **Ms. Christine Camou**, **Ms. Alycia Thompson**, **Ms. Shari Griffiths**, **Ms. Yadeli Corella**, **Ms. Brianne Bailey**, **Ms. Clare Kelly**, **Ms. Becky West**, **Ms. Jessica Barbis**, **Ms. Kathryn Londigan**, **Mr. Benjamin Sullens**, **Ms. Julie Wright**, **Ms. Patti Shannon**, **Mr. Matthew Tolman**, **Mr. Mike Linehan**, and **Ms. Alexandrea Rodriguez**. This year we have several staff members who have transferred over to Collier from other areas around the district. We want to welcome – **Mr. Jeremy Chacon**, **Ms. Brianna Schneider**, **Mr. Anthony Perez**, **Mr. Anthony Sagubio**, and **Ms. Samantha Foster**. Collier is also happy to bring on former I-Teach student candidates who have now become new Collier staff members – **Ms. Melissa Hennek**, **Ms. Amanda Housel** and **Ms. Ashely Beason**. There is one more staff member we want to recognize –**Ms. Brittany Ramirez** who is now a new certified staff member this school year. **Ms. Ramirez** has worn many hats over the past years working in Littleton as a para professional, campus assistant, and cross guard. Last year she worked hard to complete her coursework at Grand Canyon University and now she is a kindergarten teacher at Collier. It will be an amazing school year with these dedicated new staff members onboard!

The Collier staff headed out by foot and by car to place door hangers on homes prior to the start of the school year. The staff spread the word about the start of school and Meet the Teacher Night. We want to thank everyone who came out and hit the pavement on a hot day – **Ms. Clare Kelly**, **Mr. Adam Haller**, **Ms. Brianne Bailey**, **Ms. Yadeli Corella**, **Ms. Shari Griffiths**, **Ms. Amanda Steele**, **Ms. Alycia Thompson**, **Mr. James Dean**, **Ms. Christine Camou**, **Ms. Jessica Cummins**, **Ms. Anissa Ottens**, **Ms. Heidi Melfi**, **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**, **Ms. Ashely Beason**, **Ms. Breena Boone**, **Mr. David Cedor**, **Ms. Susan Candelaria**, **Ms. Anna Lopez**, **Ms. Lynda Espino**, **Ms. Melissa Hennek**, **Ms. Amanda Housel**, **Ms. Kailey Wright**, **Ms. Jackie Older**, **Ms. Leslie Casillas**, **Ms. Lorialle Haynes**, **Ms. Monta Glass**, **Ms. Becky West**, **Ms. Ashley Agney**, **Ms. Bertha Cervantes**, **Ms. Cecilia Crawley**, **Ms. Stephany Nasr**, **Ms. Alicia Yount**, **Ms. Liv Martinez**, **Ms. Tammy Ngeno**, **Ms. Barb Maddux**, **Ms. Brittany Ramirez**, **Ms. Ilene Rosas**, **Mr. Hai Dang**, **Ms. Michelle Younghans**, **Mr. Brian Hopkinson**, **Mr. Jeremy Chacon**, **Ms. Patti Shannon**, **Mr. Matthew Tolman**, **Ms. Samantha Foster**, **Ms. Diane Hedges**, **Ms. Gerri Flower**, **Ms. Ana Frias**, **Ms. Brianna Schneider**, **Ms. Lisa Vaught**, **Ms. Linda Stallard**, **Ms. Isadora Ervin**, **Mr. Anthony Perez**, **Mr. Carlos Gallegos**, **Mr. Christian Diama**, **Mr. Anthony Sagubio**, **Ms. Marissa Rodriguez**, **Ms. Melissa Strand**, and **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa**.

We know that this school year will be an amazing year full of fun and learning!!!



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 21, 2015**

## **Country Place Elementary School**

The Country Place Mustangs are off and running! The 2015-16 year has started off with a bang! Our staff was out in force in the neighborhood visiting the homes of our students in order to build community and remind families about Meet the Teacher Night and the first day of school. Families were given a postcard with parent resources and a door hanger with our calendar. We had a huge turnout for Meet the Teacher night! Families came to meet their teachers, connect with the PTA and some students even got to pick up their 1:1 laptops!



Country Place Welcomes New Staff! The Mustangs are welcoming two new members to the Leadership Team, **Dr. Michael Cagle**, principal and **Ms. Brittany Jimenez**, Master Teacher. Our new teachers include **Ms. Samantha Hopkinson** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, **Ms. Tami Hooper** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, **Ms. Selma Berlanga** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, **Mr. Manuel Torres** 4<sup>th</sup> grade, **Ms. Julie Fach** 6<sup>th</sup> grade, **Ms. Suzanne Green** 7<sup>th</sup> grade, **Ms. Carla Carranza** 7<sup>th</sup> grade, **Mr. Danny Hernandez** 7<sup>th</sup> grade, **Mr. Robert Lubick** 8<sup>th</sup> grade, **Ms. Julie Moses** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, **Mr. Anthony Davis** Art, **Ms. Madeline Knaggs** Reading.

Country Place is a place of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports-The Mustangs have started strong in creating a safe and positive environment! Our 3 core values are: Be respectful, Be responsible and Be safe. Staff and students are focusing on implementing our school wide behavioral expectations. Some of the school wide expectations include walking in lines in the hallway, respectful behavior on the playground and positive interactions. Staff are recognizing students with Golden Horses and each other with Mighty Mustangs! Thank you **Mr. Tony Balsama** for leading the positivity charge!

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of leadership and learning!



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**August 21, 2015**



The Littleton Elementary School District participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs to provide nutritious and affordable meals. Breakfast is free to all students.

Free & Reduced Meal Applications were available beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 for this school year 2015/2016. If your child was approved during the prior school year for free or reduced meals and you wish to continue to receive those benefits, a new application is required every school year. **Applications approved last year expire on August 28th, 2015. After that date, your child will return to full pay for lunch at \$2.45 each.** If you have any questions, please call the Food & Nutrition Department at 623-478-5655 or 623-478-5627.

Breakfast and lunch includes a carton of milk. For students that bring their lunch, a carton of milk can be purchased for 30 cents.

You may pay with a check or cash for your child's lunches. Make the checks payable to your school or Littleton School District and include your phone number and your student's name.

You may also prepay for students meal accounts online at [www.mySchoolbucks.com](http://www.mySchoolbucks.com). Pre-payments are encouraged, as lunch service lines go more quickly with account rather than cash transactions. On-line payments may be set up by creating an account, adding the students, and making payments online. If you have any questions as to the balance left on the account, please call your school cafeteria.



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**September 3, 2015**

## **Quentin Elementary School**

We are pleased to welcome our newest staff member **Mr. Ryan Taylor**. He grew up in Phoenix and then left for Montana to go to school, but has now returned to his childhood home in Phoenix. We are happy to have him as part of our team.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> we held our first literacy night. We had students and parents join us for a book swap (students were able to come in and exchange an old book for a brand new one) and we were able to teach our students and families the joys of reading by way of setting up centers to explain this. The night was a success with smiling students, happy families, and engaged and supportive teachers. The books received from the book swap will be donated to a local shelter.



We are excited to share that our collaborative partnership with Estrella Vista telepresence for 7<sup>th</sup> grade math is going great! Our teachers work very well together with **Mr. Padmanaban** coming to Quentin twice weekly to support our students. We will be holding our telepresence parent night for our 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents so that they can come in to see how the technology supports our students learning. So far we have received positive feedback from our students and families regarding this medium of instruction. We want to thank **Ms. Christine Behler** for going above and beyond by setting up a partnership with a second grade classroom at a school in Indiana where her students will be pen-pals with the students from that school. We are eager to see this relationship between the two classes grow and we are going to share this with our staff in hopes of seeing more classes on campus participate in opportunities such as these.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 3, 2015

### Tres Rios Elementary School

**Ms. Dikemper** our 4-5 Resource teacher created a Donors Choose project when she found out that she would be looping with a majority of her students for the 2015-2016 school year. She wanted to intertwine literature and a thematic unit to make reading, writing, comprehension, and overall conversations in the classroom more meaningful. She knew that she wanted to open students' eyes with the fabulous book, Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. These books will do more than satisfy academics they will also help our kids learn about acceptance, empathy, and perspective.



The donations continue in Kinder, Thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors and the parents in Room 241, two of **Ms. Sheila's** Donors Choose projects were funded. Those projects were 15 Cents Teaches Science, Social and Reading LET'S FIND OUT and Best of Both Worlds: Teaching and Assessing. These are two fabulous resources that will benefit our little ones and inspire them to learn more. They will learn about friendships, holidays, nature, other cultures, American history, life science, and summer safety. What a great project to fund



**Ms. Rorick's** Donors Choose was all about technology. She was able to purchase two Acer Chromebook computers. Her students are using the Chromebooks in many contexts and subject areas. She chose the Chromebooks because of the Google Apps that are highly interactive and useful for educational purposes and for boosting collaboration in the classroom. Her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are using Google Drive to submit written pieces and assignments, Google Calendar to set up appointments in terms of progress and reading groups, Google Docs for partner and group work, and Google Slides for presentations.



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**Ms. Avelar** is also a happy Donor's Choose recipient. Her project was designed to increase the variety of books for her students. She chose books across reading levels so that each student would have different books accessible to them at their reading level. Look at all the smiling faces!



### \*\*\*\*\*Important Information from Littleton ESD Food Service Department\*\*\*\*\*

If your child received Free or Reduced meal benefits last year that application expired on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not filled out a new application for this year, you may fill one out today. Applications are available in school front offices or in each cafeteria.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

September 18, 2015

### Collier Elementary School

We are off to a great start. The year kicked off with a night of fun and friends. PTA hosted Movie Night on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria. Families brought chairs and blankets to see the movie "Home" and enjoy snacks. We had several staff members join in – **Mr. Ruth Rodriguez, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Brittany Ramirez, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Sue Dallas, and Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**. Thank you for supporting the Collier community!

On Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> there was a mishap with the district auto dialer. Many parents/guardians began contacting Collier to make sure their child was safe. We want to thank the following individuals who stepped up and helped reassure parents – **Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Elena Ramirez, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Mr. Jeremy Chacon, Mr. Hai Dang, Ms. Diane Hedges, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Ms. Patti Shannon, Ms. Melissa Strand, and Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa**. We appreciate your extra support during lunch and throughout the day.

Littleton School District has started the sports season with basketball. Collier is proud to say that **Mr. Brian Hopkinson** and **Mr. Adam Haller** have stepped up to the plate and are working together as Co-Directors of Athletics for the entire district. Thank you for your time and effort to get the sports season off to a good start. The basketball season is up first and **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa** and **Ms. Katie Londigan** are coaching the girls' team. **Ms. Lynda Espino** and **Mr. Brian Hopkinson** are working as a coaching team for the boys' team. It is going to be a super season of sports at Collier!

On Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> **Mr. Matthew Tolman** put together a Band rental evening in the cafeteria. Students brought their families to the event to try out different instruments and to decide which instrument was the right one. Parents also had the opportunity to begin the process of renting the instrument for the year. Collier had a great turn out for the event. Thank you **Mr. Tolman** for organizing the night.

### Country Place Elementary School

Country Place PTA sponsored a welcome back to school night at Peter Piper Pizza. The event was well attended by parents, students and staff and the PTA earned over \$500! PTA has also restarted the Mustang Munchies program and hosted Jamba Juice after school. Country Place appreciates our PTA Officers, Presidents **Ms. Elizabeth Acosta**, Vice President **Ms. Ana Cruz**, Treasurer **Ms. Lourdes Lopez**, Secretary **Ms. Michelle Montoya** and Membership Membership Chair **Mirna Gadea**.

Our Basketball season is off to a great start! A special thanks to our boy's coaches **Mr. Serena Garcia** and **Mr. Travis White** and our girl's coaches **Ms. Mariza Lopez** and **Ms. Erika Poblete**.

Student Council is also off and running at Country Place! We have successfully completed our office elections and are welcoming our homeroom representatives. 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 Lead, **Ms. Carrie Rodriguez**.

Country Place elementary in partnership with the Country Place Homeowners Association, the Country Place Block Watch and the Phoenix Police Department will be hosting the first **G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods)** as part of **Crime Prevention Month** on Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. **G.A.I.N.** is a celebration for the successes of crime



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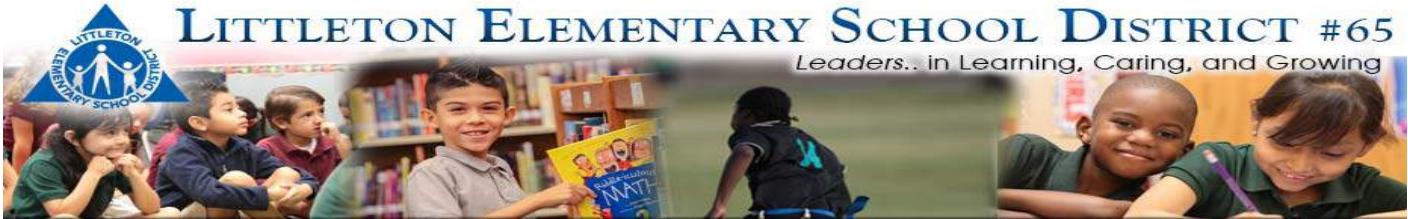
prevention through community involvement. The event will feature food and drinks, an art show, prizes, kid's games, raffles, and visits from the Phoenix Police Department, the Star Wars Storm Troopers and the characters from Disney's Frozen. Please come out and join us from 10 am to 2 pm and get involved in our community!

### Teaching & Learning Services

The Teaching and Learning Department just completed DIBELS testing at all school sites with the assistance of the first Littleton Elementary School District DIBELS Testing Team. The team consisted of teaching and learning staff, reading interventionists and several retired teachers. The school deans did an amazing job of organizing materials for the team's arrival and the entire process ran very smoothly. The District was able to have all DIBELS testing completed within a two week window and individual schools were able to receive data for all K-3 students within a two day period. The team will meet again to complete testing in January and again in May. The DIBELS testing in K-3 is complete and data is entered. Teachers will now use this data to inform their reading instruction in whole and small groups. Using this data students will now be identified for intervention services as well as progress monitored according to their results. Thank you to **Ms. Kimberly Buckner** for overseeing the testing team and the Deans on each campus who ensured the testing team had the materials they needed to complete the testing.

The Benchmark Review Committee was reconvened this year as teacher input throughout the benchmark process is valued. This team, of teachers and Teaching and Learning staff, reviews the Kindergarten through eighth grade reading and math quarterly benchmarks to ensure the test questions align with the standards scheduled to be taught each quarter in our Beyond Textbooks curriculum. The process provides the committee an opportunity to discuss standards and appropriate test questions. This year the online benchmarks will include some technology enhanced questions to give 3-8 grade students the opportunity to answer online questions that are similar to what they will tackle when taking the AzMERIT test next spring. Thank you to the members of the Benchmark Review Committee for their time and dedication to this process.

On Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup> Littleton ESD held the All District Professional Development Day. All Littleton ESD staff members attended professional development sessions related to their job duties. Some highlights of the day were: Defensive Driving, Customer Service, Number Talks, Instructional Routines, and Vocabulary Instruction. Thank you to the Professional Development Committee and all of the facilitators who made this day of learning and professional growth possible.



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### Estrella Vista Elementary School

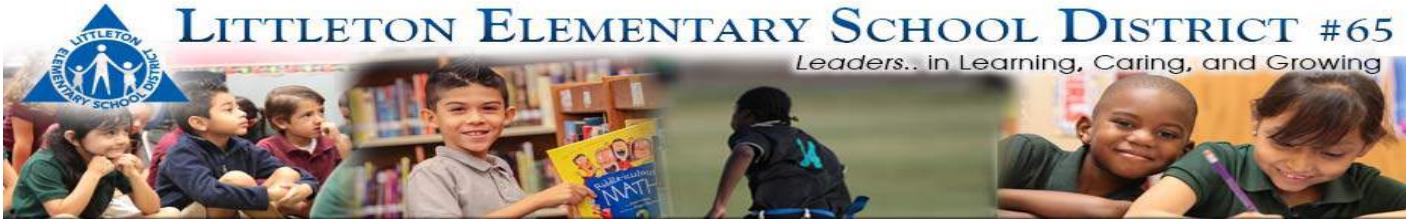
The S.O.A.R Program is an initiative for our student Hawk Geniuses to assist them with taking ownership in their attendance and academics. The program does this by allowing students the opportunity to have an environment that is conducive to completing missed homework or any missed work when the students are late to school with support from staff members who supervise the session. We would like to give a shout out to the following Hawk Team members that work with our students who attend this program on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays: **Ms. Laura Montano** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Susan Rumann** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Jodi Rudd** – Master Teacher and **Mr. Richard Ramos** – Principal. Thank you all for your time and commitment in providing our students with Opportunities for Success at school!

The Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA, **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and President, **Ms. Stacy Batiste** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and Secretary, **Mrs. Nelly Plasenca** – Vice President and parent and **Mrs. Susie Salas** - Treasurer and Parent have continued to plan activities that support parent involvement in activities that make Estrella Vista a Community Based center. The activities held in the month of September sponsored by our genius Hawk PTSA included a Grandparents Day Breakfast that took place on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The event was a success with grandparent participants filling the cafeteria to enjoy a delicious breakfast with their grandchildren served by our **food service providers**. In addition, they had their monthly evening family involvement event, Family Zumba Night, where families enjoyed a night of health and wellness in a group Zumba session. We look forward to the amazing things our PTSA Geniuses will be doing this year to support community involvement and promote the **Kids at Hope Home and Family, Community and Service and Hobbies and Recreation Destinations**.

Way to go Estrella Vista Book Study Geniuses – **Ms. Laura Montano** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Sean Cappello** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Logan Schmitzke** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Nicole Clark** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, **Ms. Rebecca Lopez** – Dean of Students, **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** – Assistant Principal and **Mr. Richard Ramos** – Principal. The team continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis and plan professional development based on the book, **Multipliers**, and then go out to teams of 6-8 staff members and provide collaborative professional development sessions. There has been so much learning and building on culture and daily practices in our personal and professional lives and the Hawk Geniuses look forward to continuing these book study sessions throughout the next couple of months.

Thank you to **Mr. Richard Ramos** – Principal, **Ms. Danielle Stone** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Margaret Sauer** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Jamie Peltier** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Jason Roach** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Rosie Fleeman** – K-2 Special Education teacher, **Mr. Sean Cappello** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Olivia Nichols** – 3-5 Special Education teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Jorge Espinoza** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Rachel Vliek** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and **Mr. John Frilando** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher for getting our **Hawk Mentoring Program** off to a great start. Team members were aware that there are some students at each grade level who need the support of an adult on campus. Therefore, the team collaborated with their grade level teams and identify 3-5 students who would benefit from being mentored on a weekly basis by one of our genius staff members. We look forward to the genius work of our Hawk Mentor Committee members in assisting with ensuring all student's success as Estrella Vista.

Way to go **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** for implementing the New Student Orientation Program at Estrella Vista and training our genius 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Student Ambassadors to run the program. When a new student arrives at the school, the front office staff contacts one of our Student Ambassadors and informs them to come to the office to welcome a new



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student. The training for new students includes: Make Your Day training via PowerPoint presentation, training on the use of our Daily Communication Agendas, handbook review, a brief summary of our Kids at Hope philosophy and ends with a tour of the whole school. Once the training is complete, students escort the new student to class and introduce them to their peers in that classroom. The Ambassadors have been doing an amazing job training our new students and making them feel welcome as a new Estrella Vista Hawk Genius.

Congratulations to our August Teacher of the Month, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for being nominated by her colleagues. Michelle has been recognized multiple times this month for her excellence in the classroom, filling the role of two teachers and keeping engagement high. Some things that were said about Michelle: "**Michelle Gerrick** deserves to be teacher of the month for the month of August. She has been teaching her own classes, as well as always planning/coordinating and often actually teaching her buddy teacher's class in her absence. She has been a great mentor, fielding every variety of crazy question from us newbies on her 6th grade team. She has helped me countless times with implementing MYD, and listened to seemingly endless frustrations with a couple of my students. She deserves teacher of the month because she has gone above and beyond in every capacity. She has been a committed and caring educator, as well as a great leader"; "**Michelle Gerrick** showed her genius this month when she put her student's needs first and before her own. This is evidence that good teaching is good teaching no matter how many students you have, no matter what their performance level, no matter what their background, every child can be reached. We are so proud of you **Ms. Gerrick** and are so lucky to have you as a part of the Hawk Genius Team!"

The Make Your Day and Kids at Hope Committee met for the first time in the month of September. Committee members include: **Ms. Theresa Fernandez** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Jacqueline Robinson** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Jamie Peltier** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Laura Montano** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Ashley Chapman** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Laura Villacana** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Daisy Sandoval** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Leslie Johnson** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Logan Schmidtke** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Itzel Rodriguez** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Pitters** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, **Mr. Bronson Goodsell** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher, **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, **Mrs. Christine Byrne** – PE teacher, **Ms. Jodi Rudd** – Master Teacher, **Ms. Rebecca Lopez** – Dean of Students, **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** – Assistant Principal and **Mr. Richard Ramos** – Principal. The team developed a survey for staff on their individual areas of need in order to start planning differentiated professional development for various components of the program. At their next meeting they will review the surveys and begin to plan the differentiated professional developments for staff as well as begin to discuss Kids at Hope and the opportunities we can offer for families and community members for night events shaped by the 4 Kids at Hope Destinations. Thank you Make Your Day/Kids at Hope Committee geniuses!!!

## Littleton Elementary School

Littleton Elementary is proud to announce our school officers for the 2015 – 2016 school year. **President: Ariana Contreras**, **Vice President: Stephanie Simpson** **Treasurer: Joya Fisher** and **Sargent of Arms: Faith Davis**. We were very thankful to have **Mr. Brown** and **Ms. Korf** who helped with the organization and administration of the student council elections. We at Littleton are eager to get started with the wonderful upcoming events brought to us by our fantastic student council members.

The staff at Littleton is lucky to have fantastic additions to our team this year:

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Kristen Marheine**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Alan Kunz- Math**



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### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Wesley Smith-ELA

Littleton teachers and staff are thrilled to welcome and work with our Firebird families. We will be having our first Kids at Hope night for the 2015 – 2016 school year on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be celebrating the Home & Family destination. During Kids at Hope night we will be having many activities sponsored by our teachers and staff. Please come join us for some fun that the whole family can enjoy. This would be a great time for teachers and parents to get to know each other and have some FUN!!!!

For the 2015 – 2016 school year, the Firebird students are working to RISE UP! We are striving for all grade levels to be able to take quarterly bench marks electronically. Littleton Elementary has received 35 laptops that will be used in addition to our two computer labs and one-on-one devices to facilitate this initiative. By having all students test electronically both teachers and students benefit greatly. Teachers will have data to use in their classrooms instantly, rather than waiting on someone to process the bubble sheets. The benefit for students would be the interaction that they will be able to have with the computer based testing to help them keep on track. Along with rigorous instruction and computer based testing here at Littleton we look forward to the high academic success and student achievement we will see in the future.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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### Exceptional Learners Services

Arizona is struggling in staffing classrooms with teachers. Littleton ESD is proud to be fully staffed in the area of special education.

We have 3 of our 6 schools who are 100% in compliance for immunizations. Congratulations to Country Place, Estrella Vista, and Tres Rios.

### Grants & Family Services

The Grants and Family Services Department had a very successful Parent Coffee Talk on September 25<sup>th</sup> with 27 in attendance from all the schools. Local agencies provided information on free resources and classes for parents. We also shared with parents our upcoming October opportunities, such as ESL classes, Nutrition classes, Strengthening Families, Duet Workshop for grandparents and more. Thank you **Ms. Ruby Arenivas** for arranging all these opportunities for our parents.

We are very excited to say that since September 11<sup>th</sup>, Collier students have donated over 25 boxes of non-perishable food items to the Westside Food Banks! Thanks to **Mr. John Meacham** and **Collier National Junior Honor Society** for helping with the collection of donated food items.

### Operations

Operations department welcomes **Ms. Angelica Suarez** as our new Administrative Secretary.

We are also pleased to report that Rytan Construction is working at Elementary #8 on the perimeter fencing and mas grading.

### Teaching & Learning Services

On Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup> all certified teachers, Deans, and Assistant Principals attended the first Littleton District Wide Articulation session of the 2015-2016 school year. These sessions were a continuation of the professional development sessions offered in August. Teachers in grades kindergarten through fifth grade were engaged in continued learning on Number Talks. By engaging in purposeful Number Talks students have the ability to strengthen their accuracy, efficiency and flexibility with math strategies and skills. This is an important instructional tool and Littleton wants to ensure teachers have multiple opportunities to understand the structure and purpose of using Number Talks in their classrooms. Individuals in the other sessions centered on vocabulary instruction, math practices, and assessment. Thank you to the following individuals who facilitated the articulation sessions: **Ms. Iliana De La Rosa**, **Ms. Melissa Strand**, **Ms. Brittany Jimenez**, **Ms. Margie Hourihan**, **Ms. Stefani Bender**, **Ms. Jodi Rudd**, **Ms. Jennifer Brees**, **Ms. Samantha Armstrong**, **Ms. Gina Forney**, **Ms. Sideqa Padawer**, **Ms. Dawn Robinson**, **Ms. Rebecca Coda**, **Ms. Kimberly Buckner**, **Ms. Katie Carnicelli**, and **Dr. Vicki French**.

During the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>-October 2<sup>nd</sup> students in 3rd-8th grades successfully completed the first district wide online benchmark assessment. Students in these grade level were able to interact with technology enhanced items similar to those they will encounter on AzMERIT. The testing went smoothly with students and teachers



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having once again showing they are leaders in using technology. Thank you to the IT staff, **Ms. Heather Zizis, Mr. Tony Balsama, Ms. Becky Lopez, Mr. Abel Flores, Ms. Marieka Michaud, Mr. Eric Nelson, Ms. Carrie Gentry, and Dr. Vicki French** for making sure Littleton students had a successful transition to online testing.

## Transportation

We are also proud to announce the addition of our new certified Bus Driver **Ms. Lois Powell**. We want to welcome **Ms. Powell** to the Transportation Team.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> the District's insurance partner, The Trust, provided our transportation department with a Mobile Bus Simulator. The simulator was the final phase of the defensive driving training that the department has been receiving. The simulator took the drivers through realistic driving situations and tested safety skills necessary to safely transport students and drive district vehicles. An emphasis on defensive driving training is one of the many ways we strive to keep our drivers safety conscious and trained. All transportation employees and maintenance personnel participated in this training.

**Ms. Thelma Whitbeck**, Littleton ESD Transportation Supervisor, has been requested to sit on the City of Avondale Transportation Safety Program committee. This is a great honor as Littleton Elementary School District is the only district represented on this committee. The purpose of the Safety Program is to establish a city-wide vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures for transportation safety. The stakeholders will be meeting October 2015 through May 2016. We look forward to her contributions to our community.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2015

## Collier Elementary School

The month of September was filled with many exciting activities. The Collier staff was very busy. Each month staff head out to St. Vincent de Paul to volunteer their time and support. On September 24<sup>th</sup> **Ms. Jackie Older**, **Ms. Kailey Wright** and **Ms. Gioia Pitts** helped students with homework and played games.

On Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> Collier held a Math and Community Night in the cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Over 200 students, parents and guardians showed up to participate in an evening filled with math games and prizes. Collier's cafeteria was sprinkled with math stations manned by different grade levels. At the kindergarten table **Ms. Barbara Maddux**, **Ms. Britney Ramirez**, **Ms. Tammy Ngeno**, and **Ms. Martinez** interacted with individuals by playing math puzzles. At the first grade table, **Ms. Cecilia Crawley**, **Ms. Bertha Cervantes**, **Ms. Alicia Yount**, and **Ms. Stephany Nasr** provided families an opportunity to work with tangram puzzles. At the second grade table **Ms. Ashley Agney** and **Ms. Becky West** provided a game involving place value. At the third grade table **Ms. Jackie Older**, **Ms. Kailey Wright**, **Ms. Amanda Housel**, and **Ms. Melissa Hennek** hosted an estimation station where students made their predictions of how many items were in the jar. At the fourth grade table **Ms. Susan Candelaria**, **Ms. Anna Lopez**, **Ms. Lynda Espino**, and **Ms. Cynthia Ambriz** offered students a game with multiplication. At the fifth grade table **Mr. David Cedor**, **Ms. Ashley Beason**, **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**, and **Ms. Breena Boone** had students work with measurement. At the sixth grade table **Ms. Christine Camou** and **Ms. Samantha Foster** worked with students on tessellations. The seventh grade table with **Ms. Amanda Steele**, **Mr. James Dean**, and **Ms. Shari Griffiths** played a frog math game. The eighth grade team set up a table with a math card game with **Ms. Yadeli Corella**, and **Ms. Marissa Rodriguez**. The enrichment team with **Ms. Cynthia Whoolery**, **Mr. Benjamin Sullens**, **Ms. Jessica Barbis**, and **Ms. Kathryn Londigan** offered students a chance to play money BINGO. The Special Areas team with Jeremy Chacon, Ilene Rosas, and **Ms. Patti Shannon** set up a table with a math turtle toss. **Ms. Gioia Pitts**, **Ms. Heather Zizis**, and **Ms. Amy Chapman** guided parents to the activities at the door. With the support of so many staff members the annual Collier Math and Community Night was a huge success!

**Ms. Jessica Cummins** is heading up Collier's MESA Club which just recently received \$400 in materials. Go Fund Me in partnership with Think It Up were funded in part by individual donors and by Exxon as part of the STEM initiative. **Mr. James Dean** has also teamed up with **Ms. Jessica Cummins** to support students who are thinking like engineers. Thanks to both of these staff members for their time and support.

## Country Place Elementary

Our boys and girls basketball teams are in full swing! Our student athletes are competing hard and learning a ton! The playoffs are fast approaching! Thanks to our coaches, **Mr. Travis White**, **Ms. Serena Garcia**, **Ms.**



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 23, 2015

**Mariza Lopez** and **Ms. Erika Poblete**. Mustang artists and singers are also participated in the art club and chorus facilitated by **Mr. Travis White** and **Mr. Tony Davis**. The MESA science club is up and rocking and is sponsored by **Ms. Kristine Perria** and our fabulous 8<sup>th</sup> grade mentors.

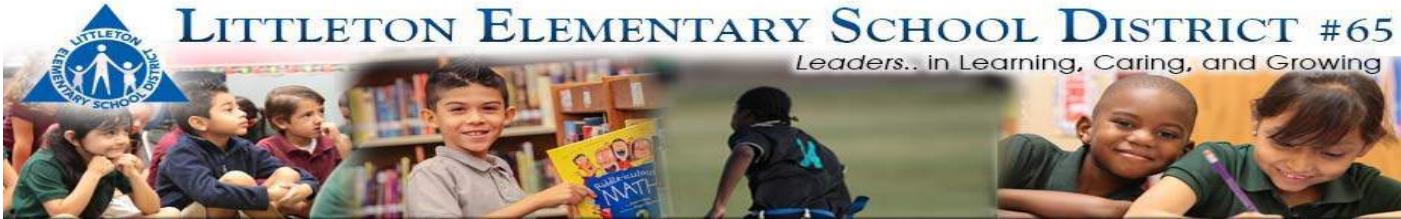
Parent/Teacher conferences were a huge success. We appreciate all parents and teachers for their participation and support.

Our Peter Piper Pizza night “Trunk-or-Treating” will be on October 30<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to see everyone dressed up and celebrating Halloween together! As always, we appreciate our PTA Officers: **Ms. Elizabeth Acosta**, President; **Ms. Ana Cruz**, Vice President; **Ms. Lourdes Lopez**, Treasurer; **Ms. Michelle Montoya**, Secretary and **Ms. Mirna Gadea**, Membership Chair.

Country Place will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week from October 23-30. We are encouraging and celebrating our students staying Drug Free and making great choices about their future! We are also going to have some fun! The activities include creating a promise chain, T-shirt designs, cause and effect comic strips, poetry and a bulletin board decorating contest! We also will have a spirit week, where students can show their support for staying drug free!

Over fall break we had three fantastic teachers earn their Master’s Degrees! **Ms. Carrie Rodriguez**, **Ms. Erika Poblete** and **Ms. Serena Garcia** all graduated from Grand Canyon University! We are so proud of them! They are great models of our growth mindset philosophy!

Our first annual G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event took place on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Country Place elementary in partnership with the Country Place Homeowners Association, the Country Place Block Watch and the Phoenix Police Department hosted the community as part of Crime Prevention Month. G.A.I.N. is a celebration for the successes of crime prevention through community involvement. The hit of the event were the Phoenix Police Officers posing for pictures with the Storm Troopers and the storms themselves! A great time was had by all and we look forward to growing the event in the future! A special thanks to **Mr. Cody Cherland** and **Ms. Charisse Walls**, the HOA and Block Watch President for all of their hard work in setting up the event!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2015

### Estrella Vista Elementary School

Estrella Vista is reaching out to parents in our community to support supervision during morning recess. This initiative was to respond to a need for supervision of students who were arriving at school earlier in the morning. However, once this morning recess was created and parents were supportive in volunteering, we found that not only was the issue of student supervision addressed, but also a reduction in the amount of tardies we have on a daily basis occurred. Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered so far this year, **Mrs. Rebecca Pacheco, Mrs. Carol Whiting, Mr. Brad Whiting, Ms. Learose Mendez** and we look forward to working with other parents as partners of Estrella Vista to promote success and safety for all students.

Way to go **Ms. Danielle Stone, Ms. Jacqueline Robinson, Ms. Margaret Sauer and Ms. Theresa Fernandez** for creating opportunities for our Kindergarten parents to Partner with the Kindergarten team in supporting academics at home. The team offered a Parent Workshop prior to Parent Teacher Conferences to teach parents tools that they can use to support ELA and Mathematics success at home. During the workshop students worked with their parents to create the materials they would use for the ELA and Math activities at home and left with the materials and ideas to support student achievement. Thank you **Kindergarten Team** and Parents who attended as Partners in your child's education.

Congratulations Estrella Vista teachers, students, staff and parents for an amazing turn out at our Fall Student Led Conferences. Due to your hard work and dedication, Estrella Vista Staff was able to meet with 92% of our parents prior to Fall Break. Our staff is dedicated to ensuring that parent communication regarding student progress is essential for students success and continued to do conferences after Fall Break helping the school to reach almost 100% completion of parent contacts for conferences. Way to go Estrella Vista Geniuses!

During the month of October, the Make Your Day/Kids at Hope Committee continued their discussion and plan for supporting Make Your Day Fidelity on the Estrella Vista Campus. The team is moving forward with reaching out to veteran teachers who have a clear understanding of implementing Make Your Day and matching them up with newer staff members or staff members to help them grow in Make Your Day. Thank you **Ms. Laura Montano** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Ashley Chapman** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Laura Villacana** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Daisy Sandoval** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Leslie Johnson** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Logan Schmidtke** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Itzel Rodriguez** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Pitters** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, **Mr. Bronson Goodsell** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher, **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, **Mrs. Christine Byrne** – PE teacher, **Ms. Jodi Rudd** – Master Teacher, **Ms. Rebecca Lopez** – Dean of Students, **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** – Assistant Principal and **Mr. Richard Ramos** – Principal.

Congratulations **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and September Teacher of the Month! **Ms. Nelson** has incredible patience with her learners! She always supports them with routines and procedures in the classroom so that every student feels safe and able to learn. She also does an amazing job with PTSA on top of being team lead for second grade. Last but not least, her class adores her! **Ms. Nelson's** colleagues showed their appreciation of **Ms. Nelson** by creating a bulletin board in the hallway all about her. Thank you **Ms. Alyssa Nelson**, for all that you do to support our students, staff and community members in the many hats you wear on a daily basis!

A huge thank you to **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and PTSA President, **Ms. Stacy Batiste** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

October 30, 2015

**teacher and PTSA secretary and the PTSA Board** for organizing a fantastic fall festival. The attendance was overwhelming, costumes were great, and our students and families had loads of fun! We would also like to give a shout out to the staff members from each grade level team who supported the event by creating game stations for each of the activities at the Fall Festival. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to support family events for our community.

## Littleton Elementary School

Littleton Elementary student council is proud to once again take part in the student council food drive that will occur from October 19<sup>th</sup>- November 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Kids at Hope are donating nonperishable food items to support our community. Student council will be sponsoring our fall dance for our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It's time to get their groove on. A huge thank you goes out to **Mr. Brown** and **Ms. Korf** for doing an amazing job in orchestrating all our student council activities.

The staff at Littleton is lucky to have fantastic additions to our team this year. We want to welcome **Ms. Kristina Caruso**, who joined our Special Education Team. **Ms. Caruso** is teaching 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade CC.

We had the great pleasure to work and play with our parents and community as partners in education. The Firebirds participated in Kids at Hope – Home and Family Night. Our community had many fun family filled activities to choose from. Many students and families enjoyed the sack races, photo booth, football toss, hat making and cake walk along with much, much more. The Treasure Hunters at Littleton elementary provided activities and fun, which over 100 families participate in. It was great event, and enjoyed by many. We look forward to our next Kids at Hope Destination Day.

For the 2015 – 2016 school year, the Firebird students are working to RISE UP! The Littleton elementary boys' basketball team won their first boys basketball game this month and are eager to start the playoffs. We had a very successful book fair this year at Littleton and had many visitors buying books during parent teacher conferences. This month we also celebrated and honored students from first quarter who showed academic excellence in the areas of attendance, student achievement and behavior. As we continue to celebrate our students, it is important that we communicate our expectations of completing homework, staying on task in school and meeting expectations every day. By doing this we insure that we will have a successful school year.



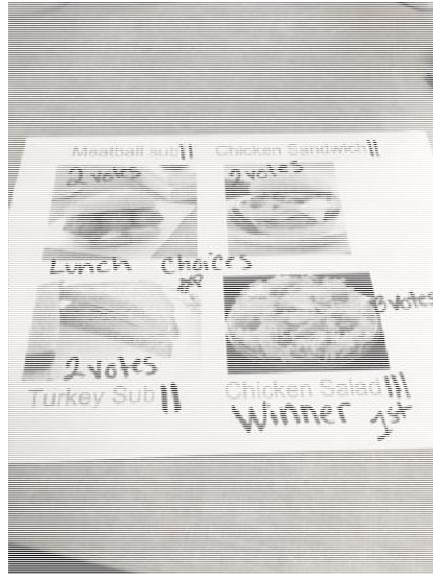
## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 6, 2015

### Quentin Elementary School

Lots of great news at QUES. We completed our Red Ribbon week in the month of October. Monday was “sock it to drugs”, Tuesday was “Team up against drugs”, Wednesday was “it’s crazy to do drugs”, Thursday was “Friends don’t let friends do drugs” and Friday was I’m red-y to say no to drugs” day. Students and staff enjoyed taking a stance against drugs. We also had student assemblies that supported making positive choices. Kenna Hough from Kids@Hope came to QUES to assess our staff with regards to Kids@Hope and challenged our staff with thought provoking questions. She will return in January to further train our staff with the Kids@Hope philosophy. Our music and band students will be going to the MIM museum, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders went to the Desert Outdoor Center. Life Skills received funding for small group activities and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade received support with small group reading materials all compliments of Donors Choose.

A big thank you goes out to **Ms. Cecilia Stratton** for honoring Election Day with our Life Skill students by modeling the importance and privilege of choice that we have in this country through activities in their classroom.





**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**November 6, 2015**

### **Tres Rios Elementary School**

Tres is all about the TWIST and our community partners, parents, staff and students are helping us to grow and get better every day. This month we spotlight good news on and off campus!!

There is nothing more AWESOME than teachers taking an interest in kids and their hobbies, True to our Kids at Hope Philosophy, our amazing **Mr. Fusi** helped one of our students show his prize winning steer at the Arizona State Fair. **Mr. Fusi** and **Hayden** planned and strategized how best to show the steer. Such a great example of Kids at Hope and time travel.



Basketball brings everyone together! Our girls and boys basketball team challenged our staff to a basketball game and the staff came to win. It was a great game and great chance for our weekend warriors to compete and have fun. Well done to our students and staff that played.



It is always GOOD NEWS when teachers get supplies and our friend **Joel Gonzales** from **Larry Miller Chrysler Jeep** dropped off some goodies for Tres Rios staff. **Mr. Gonzalez** and his colleagues wanted to do something special for teachers and that they did. Friday morning they helped make our day.





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 13, 2015

## Exceptional Learners Services

The Exceptional Learners Services department arranged for **Ms. Farber** and **Ms. Reeds'** classes to attend Kid's Day at the Arizona State Fair on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by **OakCraft Cabinetry**. The event was tailored to address critical communication, social, and academic skills in the students individualized education plans.

The Welcome Center staff has been working with the Nurses and Director of Exceptional Learners Services to ensure that students are properly immunized prior to enrolling in school. With a new procedure in place we are assisting with preventative measures to support the health of our staff and students.

## Grants and Family Services

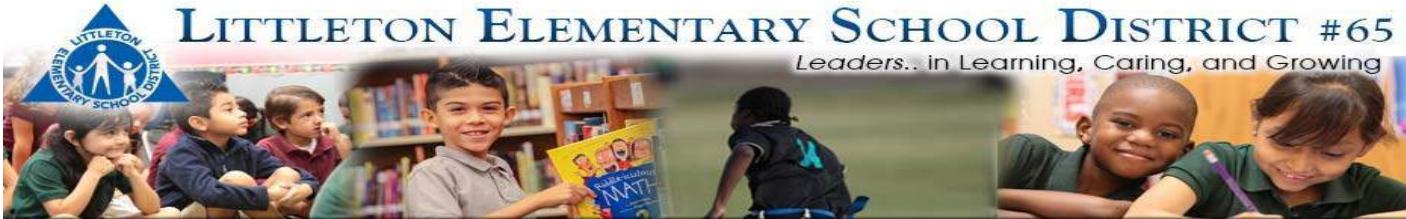
Littleton Elementary District has been on fire! We have been providing many opportunities for parents to learn and grow. We have our ESL classes, which continue to be popular a couple times a week. We have also had the **City of Avondale** and **DUET** offer classes to our parents. We also have a great partnership with **Childhelp** and they will be completing their class this semester, "Strengthening Families with a graduation and dinner. Thanks to **Childhelp** for being a valuable resource for Littleton Elementary School District.

Recently, we also met with other local business, education and church leaders to share how we could help students. This event was called the School Connect Summit, held at Grand Canyon University. It was a great time to connect with the local community to provide services and support for our students.

## Teaching and Learning Services

On Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> Littleton ESD teachers and school administrators had the opportunity to attend their first Choice PD session for the 2015-2016 school year. Littleton ESD offered approximately twenty five different sessions that covered a variety of educational topics. Participants had the opportunity to register for one Choice PD topic and will attend that session over four Wednesday afternoons during the 2015-2016 school year.

Immediate feedback on Choice PD sessions is positive with teachers indicating they were excited to select an area of focus that met their personal professional development needs. Thank you to the many facilitators who took the time to prepare and deliver quality sessions for the Littleton ESD staff. These facilitators included: classroom teachers, master teachers, deans, assistant principals, consultants and district instructional specialists.



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2015

## Collier Elementary School

October was a very busy month for the students, staff, and families at Collier Elementary. The month began with a special recognition of one of our staff members – **Ms. Ilene Rosas**. The Westside Impact Grant provided her \$792 to cover the cost of a class set of ukuleles. **Ms. Rosas**'s goal for project is to have 5th grade students play and write their own song. Students will first learn how to play chords, study chord progressions, and use our musical skills to help develop their own pieces. The highlight is to have students perform together as a group during the Spring Concert. Congratulations **Ms. Rosas**!

Sharing with parents and guardians the accomplishments of students is the focus of Parent Teacher Conferences which was held the first week of October. We want to thank all of the staff members who worked tirelessly to make sure contact was made with each Collier family – **Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Britney Ramirez, Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Alicia Yount, Ms. Stephany Nasr, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Amanda Housel, Ms. Melissa Hennek, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Cynthia Ambriz, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Ashley Beason, Ms. Elizabeth Stevens, Ms. Breena Boone, Ms. Christine Camou, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Heidi Melfi, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Alycia Thompson, Ms. Shari Griffiths, Ms. Yadeli Corella, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Brianne Bailey, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Mr. Benjamin Sullens, Ms. Jessica Barbis, Ms. Kathryn Londrigan, Mr. Jeremy Chacon, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Mr. Hai Dang, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Mr. Matthew Tolman, and Ms. Patti Shannon.** In addition, **Ms. Melissa Strand, Ms. Gioia Pitts, Ms. Heather Zizis, Ms. Amy Chapman, Ms. Samantha Foster, Ms. Sue Dallas, and Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon** guided parents to conferences and provided support. In addition, **Ms. Ruth Rodriguez** and **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa** provided translation support to parents. Parent Teacher Conferences was a huge success!

Collier's Quarterly Kids At Hope Day took place on Friday, October 23rd. We want to recognize **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa** who has continued this tradition at Collier by heading up this exciting afternoon each quarter. We want to thank the following staff members who helped make this a success – **Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Britney Ramirez, Ms. Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Alicia Yount, Ms. Stephany Nasr, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Monta Glass, Ms. Lorialle Haynes, Ms. Becky West, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Amanda Housel, Ms. Melissa Hennek, Ms. Susan Candelaria, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Cynthia Ambriz, Mr. David Cedor, Ms. Ashley Beason, Ms. Elizabeth Stevens, Ms. Breena Boone, Ms. Christine Camou, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Heidi Melfi, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Alycia Thompson, Ms. Shari Griffiths, Ms. Yadeli Corella, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Brianne Bailey, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Mr. Benjamin Sullens, Ms. Jessica Barbis, Ms. Kathryn Londrigan, Mr. Jeremy Chacon, Ms. Ilene Rosas, Mr. Hai Dang, Ms. Michelle Younghans, Mr. Brian Hopkinson, Mr. Matthew Tolman, Ms. Patti Shannon, Ms. Melissa Strand, Gioia Pitts, Heather Zizis, and Amy Chapman.** We also want to recognize our front office and custodial staff who work hard to see that the event goes off flawlessly – **Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, Mr. George Gonzalez and Mr. Louie Madrigal**.

The Collier Community participated in Movie Night on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students, families and staff came out to see “Paranorman”. A big thank you to **Mr. George Gonzalez, Ms. Brittany Ramirez, Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms.**



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

November 20, 2015

*Marissa Rodriguez, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Linda Stallard, Ms. Gioia Pitts, and Ms. Heather Zizis.*

### Country Place Elementary School

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Country Place students participated in the annual Turkey Trot. The event is put on by our fabulous PE teacher **Ms. Vanessa Lovro** and supported by our PTA. Each grade level came out to the field during their specials time to participate in exercise and fun. The students line up along the "Start" line and once the whistle is blown, the Turkey Trot is on. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade run two laps and K-2<sup>nd</sup> run 1 lap. The first 5 boys and first 5 girls of every grade received a certificate and the first boys and first girls of every grade received a \$10 gift card to Fry's. All Kinder students received a participation certificate from their teacher.

The Country Place Student Council is collecting food to help out families in our community! Each class and grade level is competing to see who can make the biggest impact on our community. If a class collects 100 items their picture will be put on our wall of fame. The grade level that collects the most items will earn a kickball tournament with Dr. Cagle and Mr. Balsama. A special thanks to our Student Council members and sponsors! As of 11/19 our students and families had donated 1,160 items and **Mrs. Hill's** class and **Mrs. Groover's** class are all ready for the Wall of Fame!

The Mustang staff is reading the book, The Leader in Me, to learn more about what a Leadership Focus School looks like and how we can make an even larger positive impact on our school, community and the world. Two groups of parents and staff have visited Leadership Events at other Leader in Me schools in the Phoenix area. A team visited **Caesar Chavez Leadership Academy** in October and were treated to a fantastic Leadership Day filled with student led activities including student speeches, songs, school tours and leadership notebooks. Another team of staff visited Laveen Elementary School this week and observed a monthly leadership assembly where upper and lower grade students worked together as Accountability Partners and shared their progress on their goals.

We have a variety of service learning projects in development, created and managed by our student leaders. 6<sup>th</sup> graders in **Mrs. Fach's** class and **Mrs. Macillas'** class are planning a Community Breakfast for local business leaders to ask for their support in service learning projects and to elicit ideas for partnerships and service learning from them. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have projects relating to school beautification, collecting socks for the Phoenix Rescue Mission and reading with kindergarten students at CPES. Our First Lego League Team is investigating starting a partnership within the community to begin composting food waste to reduce the amount of trash in our local landfill. A 7<sup>th</sup> grader is writing a play-skit to bring attention to the issue of bullying in schools. We are very proud of all of the work that our students are doing to help make Country Place, our community and our world a better place! Go Mustangs!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2015

## Quentin Elementary School

We were able to serve approximately 300 parents for our Thanksgiving Luncheon. We had smiling, families and students on campus throughout the afternoon. Our Turkey trot was a successful event with the PTA sponsoring a turkey for the top male and female finisher at each grade level along with a certificate.

Quentin sponsored a food drive the week of Thanksgiving and we were able to raise enough food to feed 1282 people!!! Thanks to our students, staff and community for making Thanksgiving a reality for under-privileged families.

Release the Fear came to Quentin to work with our challenging kids. They went through activities that supported self-esteem and self-awareness. At the end of the three day event our students collaborated on the creation of a portrait that summarized their commitments and the learning that they had accumulated!

## Tres Rios Elementary School

Tres is all about the TWIST and our community partners and parents are helping us to grow and get better every day. This month we spotlight good news on and off campus!!

Our Chief Science Officer Clay and other West Valley Students got a chance to talk about all things STEM with **Congressman Grijalva**. What a wonderful learning opportunity to see how Science and Government work for students and education!



Families come together to share the Thanksgiving Holidays and schools do too. Tres Rios AMAZING Café Staff prepared a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast for all of us to enjoy. Thanks to **Ms. Candice** and her amazing team!! Amazing job to our STEM committee for putting on a Terrific Turkey Trot! Our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners took home a Turkey and treats!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 11, 2015



A day at the Museum, why of course we will go!!! Our Band, Music and Choir students had a wonderful day at the MIM. Thanks to **Ms. Knighton** and **Ms. Chadwick** for pulling this all together! The students had a wonderful time learning new things and making new discoveries!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2015

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## Grants & Family Services

Littleton Elementary School District continues to provide classes for our parents! We are very excited with our partnership with **Childhelp** to provide a holiday meal and presents for some deserving families. They will go to an event with games, food, and presents. We also had our second Parent Coffee Talk and want to thank the Teaching and Learning Department for presenting to our parents!

We are very happy to say that last week Collier students donated over 166 pounds of non-perishable food items! Thanks to **Mr. John Meacham** and **Collier National Junior Honor Society** for helping with the collection of donated food items.

## Operations

Construction of the new school is moving forward nicely. The classroom building walls are topped out and **Rytan Construction** will start setting steel on the week of December 21<sup>st</sup>. Part of the concrete floors are poured on the



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

December 18, 2015

100 building and they will start laying the block walls the week of December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Employees in the operations department are looking forward to the winter break so they can spend time with their families.

### Teaching & Learning Services

December 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> a team of teachers and administrators had the opportunity to attend the Arizona Department of Education's OELAS conference. The conference is centered on strategies and methods to assist ELL students in obtaining high academic achievement. The conference provided an opportunity for learning and collaboration centered on ELL students in Littleton ESD. Thank you to: **Ms. Bertha Cervantes, Ms. Erica Cuccinello, Ms. Amanda Zunck, Ms. Shandra Leis, Ms. Astrid Garcia, Ms. Markeita Momon, Ms. Katie Carnicelli, and Ms. Susan Gibson** for the opportunity to collaborate on how to implement the new learning in Littleton!

Students in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade completed the mid-year writing assessment last week. Students had the opportunity to engage with informational text and respond to a prompt related to the text. This assessment was the second time students engaged this type of writing assessment which mirrors the expectations of AzMERIT. This week (December 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>) students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will be completing ELA and Math benchmarks. Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will be taking the benchmarks online which allows for additional practice with technology enhanced items. Thank you to **Dr. French, Mr. Abel Flores, Mr. Eric Nelson, Ms. Rebecca Lopez, Mr. Tony Balsama, Ms. Heather Zizis, Ms. Marieka Michaud**, and the IT staff for all of your assistance with testing!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2016

## Collier Elementary School

December and the end of 2015 was filled with many activities at Collier. The sports season came to a close with the Boys Football team coached by **Mr. Brian Hopkinson** and **Mr. Adam Haller** and the Girls Volleyball team coached by **Ms. Brittany Ramirez** and **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa**. In addition, we want to recognize **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens** and **Ms. Breena Boone** for their coaching of the Collier Cheerleaders. Thank you for all your time and support for our students!

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Collier PTA hosted the Winter Festival. Many families came out to an evening packed with fun crafts, movie watching, and Santa Workshop shopping. This special event could not have been done without the time and support of the following staff members: **Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon**, **Ms. Ruth Rodriguez**, **Ms. Leslie Casillas**, **Ms. Breena Boone**, **Ms. Liv Martinez**, **Ms. Brittany Ramirez**, **Ms. Jackie Older**, **Ms. Kailey Wright**, **Ms. Amanda Steele**, **Ms. Amanda Housel**, **Ms. Diane Hedges**, **Ms. Kathryn Londigan**, **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**, **Ms. Cecelia Crawley**, **Ms. Heather Zizis**, and **Ms. Bertha Cervantes**. However the one individual who invested so many hours into the Festival to ensure everyone had a memorable time was **Ms. Linda Stallard**. Thank you for all you do!

We want to recognize **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens** who has taken time to search out organizations to support her fifth grade classroom. A list of book sets and items to help foster a love for reading was provided through [donorschoose.org](http://donorschoose.org). In addition, a college flag project has been fully funded by support of Extra Yard for Teachers, Arizona Organizing Committee and College Football from Scottsdale, AZ which is displayed on the walls in the cafeteria. This same group provided **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens** math manipulatives and classroom supplies!

Collier's cafeteria was packed on two different nights. On Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade shared their musical talents with families. **Ms. Ilene Rosas** did an outstanding job putting together this special performance during the holiday season. The following week on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Choir performed, along with the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band. **Mr. Mathew Tolman** did a good job preparing the band students for this winter concert. **Ms. Ilene Rosas** did a terrific job getting the choir ready to share their holiday favorites. Thank you to both of these teachers for all their time and efforts on behalf of our students!

## Country Place Elementary School

Students from **Mrs. Mancillas**, and **Mrs. Fach's** classes held Operation Community Breakfast in December. They presented four student created proposals or service learning projects that will impact our school and community. The projects include collecting socks for the Phoenix Rescue Mission, beautifying our school campus and creating a reading buddies program with primary students. Representatives from Goodwill, Wal-Mart and Hungry Howie's attended. Students have already been contacted by the Operations Manager at Goodwill to begin a partnership with them. Great job 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

Our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade football players and coaches have been invited to visit and learn at the world-renowned Fisher Institute of Physical Therapy and Performance. Our student athletes will have an opportunity to meet with physical

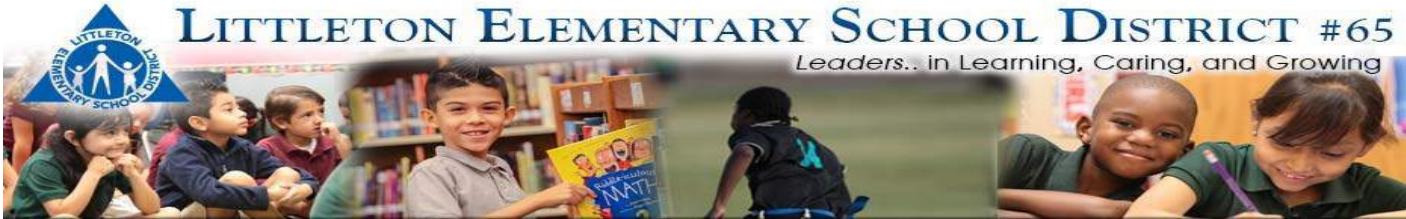


## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 8, 2016

therapists, learn about careers in the field of sports medicine and participate in a workout. It is a great opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons and dream big!

Country Place is on its way to becoming a ***Leader in Me***, Leadership Focus School. The staff has completed ***The Leader in Me*** book study. We have applied for an "***I am a Leader***" Foundation Grant that is sponsored by Panda Express. The grant would pay for the training costs for staff, and student and teacher materials for year one of the program. We have scheduled the first of our world-class staff trainings for May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup> where our staff will learn the 7 Habits of highly Effective People and then before school starts our staff will participate in another training to learn how to implement the 7 Habits with our students and use the student and teacher materials.



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**January 29, 2016**

## **Exceptional Learners Services**

The materials committee is meeting and making recommendations for supplemental materials for special-education by the end of the school year.

Preschool transition meetings from preschool to kindergarten are being scheduled and arranged with homeschool campuses.

The program committee has met and set parameters around our programming to assist with better placement of students in order to effectively meet their needs.

## **Grants & Family Services**

A **Children's Christmas Party** selected 25 students from Littleton Elementary School to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Christmas party and each child received a brand new bicycle for Christmas. The Christmas Party is sponsored by the Westside Recreation Program, a local community organization.

**Childhelp** selected 68 Littleton families to participate in the Winterfest Program. The event was filled with many smiles, laughter and high appreciation from our families as Santa provided games and toys to our special guests.

**Nurturing Parents Raise Great Kids** is a community-based parent education program that is funded by First Things First Southwest Maricopa Region to serve communities between Tolleson/Avondale to Gila Bend/Paloma.

The Nurturing Parenting curriculum (topics include “Understanding Feelings”, and “Communicating with Respect”) is presented in 12 weekly sessions in either English or Spanish. We provide free childcare, and every family is given a children’s picture book to add to their home library at every session they attend.

**Littleton Elementary School District** will be hosting its Annual Family Resource Fair. Littleton School District invites local agencies to help our annual fair become a success. This event allows families to get familiar with local resources and services available in the community. Come and learn about all the resources available to improve your family’s quality of life. The annual resource fair will be on **Friday, February 26, 2016, at Quentin Elementary School from 3:30 – 6:30 P.M.**

## **Teaching & Learning Services**

The district Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The first place winner was **Ashley Hernandez**, 8th grade student from Collier Elementary whose winning word was ‘spherical’. Second place was won by **Colton Daly**, 8th grade student from Estrella Vista. There were 21 total rounds. Both students will now compete in the Westside Impact Region Five Spelling Bee, which will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Youngker High School in Buckeye. Both students will have the opportunity to compete against students from several other west valley school districts. Thank you to the school spelling coordinators, **Ms. Karen Grose, Ms. Melissa Strand, Ms. Pam Duty, Ms. Jodi Rudd**, and **Ms. Kim Buckner** for all of their assistance in making the day a great experience for our students. Special thanks to **Mrs. Sandi Nielson**, Governing Board Member for attending this event in support of our students and staff!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2016

## Collier Elementary School

The month of January was filled with lots of recognition for both students and staff. **Ms. Jessica Cummins**, Sixth grade teacher, just recently learned of her scholarship award, after submitting 3 essays and letters of recommendation earlier this school year. She was awarded a \$40,000 scholarship from University of Phoenix. **Ms. Cummins** will be furthering her education with a Masters in Arts and Curriculum. We want to wish her the very best!

Collier hosted Quarter Two Awards Assembly for students in kindergarten through eighth grade on the evening of January 21<sup>st</sup>. Families came out to recognize students' academic achievements, including students who had perfect attendance for the quarter. This night was well attended by the 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: **Barbara Maddux, Britney Ramirez, Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Martinez, Cecilia Crawley, Alicia Yount, Stephany Nasr, Ashley Agney, Monta Glass, Lorialle Haynes, Becky West, Jackie Older, Kailey Wright, Amanda Housel, Melissa Hennek, Susan Candelaria, Anna Lopez, Lynda Espino, Cynthia Ambriz, David Cedor, Elizabeth Stevens, Breena Boone, Jessica Cummins, Christine Camou, Anissa Ottens, Heidi Melfi, James Dean, Alycia Thompson, Shari Griffiths, Yadeli Corella, Brianne Bailey, Marissa Rodriguez, Cynthia Whoolery, Benjamin Sullens, and Jessica Barbis.**

Collier's Quarterly Kids At Hope Day took place on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We want to recognize **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa** who each quarter continues this tradition at Collier by organizing this special student centered afternoon. Thank you to the following staff members who helped make this a success - **Barbara Maddux, Britney Ramirez, Tammy Ngeno, Ms. Martinez, Cecilia Crawley, Bertha Cervantes, Alicia Yount, Stephany Nasr, Ashley Agney, Monta Glass, Lorialle Haynes, Becky West, Jackie Older, Kailey Wright, Amanda Housel, Melissa Hennek, Susan Candelaria, Anna Lopez, Lynda Espino, Cynthia Ambriz, David Cedor, Ashley Beason, Elizabeth Stevens, Breena Boone, Jessica Cummins, Christine Camou, Anissa Ottens, Heidi Melfi, Amanda Steele, James Dean, Alycia Thompson, Shari Griffiths, Yadeli Corella, Adam Haller, Brianne Bailey, Marissa Rodriguez, Cynthia Whoolery, Benjamin Sullens, Jessica Barbis, Deirrieo Duncan, Kathryn Londigan, Jeremy Chacon, Ilene Rosas, Hai Dang, Michelle Younghans, Patti Shannon, Melissa Strand, Gioia Pitts, Heather Zizis, and Amy Chapman**. We also want to recognize our front office and custodial staff who work hard to see that the event goes off flawlessly – **Sue Dallas, Elizabeth DeLeon, Ruth Rodriguez, George Gonzalez and Louie Madrigal**.

On Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> Littleton ESD hosted the School Choice registration event from 4 to 7 pm at District Office. We want to recognize our Collier staff who came out to answer questions and provide support: **Gioia Pitts, Amy Chapman, Tammy Ngeno, Cecilia Crawley, Bertha Cervantes, Ashley Agney, Becky West, Elizabeth Stevens, Marissa Rodriguez, Linda Stallard, and Ilene Rosas**. Go Collier!!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 5, 2016

### Country Place Elementary School

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students want to make a difference in the community and have organized a sock collection drive to benefit the Phoenix Rescue Mission. Their goal is to collect 1000 pairs of socks to help those in need at the Mission. **Dr. Cagle** agreed to sing to the winning class or if the school meets or exceeds 1000 pairs of socks he will sing to the entire school. A Country Place parent works for Century Link and they have asked to partner with Country Place in the drive. **Dr. Cagle** (or the audience) may be in trouble! Great job making an impact on the community Mustangs!

The County Place PTA hosted a Family Dinner and Concert on Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Leaders from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sang the song, "Dynamite 7 Habits." The PTA provided hot dogs and hamburgers for all in attendance.

The County Place kindergarten held their annual Alphabet Parade to celebrate the learning of all of their letters this year. Each student dressed up as a letter and the alphabet marched through the campus. The kinder students were welcomed and celebrated throughout the building. It was amazing to see the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders cheering and clapping for the kindergarteners. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students sang them the alphabet song as they passed. It was a great display of learning, school culture and caring!

Country Place had a strong showing for Declare It Day 2016! Over 2000 students and their families came to the district office to choose their school! A special thanks to **Ms. Jazmin Pacheco, Mr. Tony Balsama, Ms. Brittany Jimenez, Ms. Margie Hourihan, Ms. Carrie Rodriguez, Ms. Ginny Biddle** and **Dr. Cagle** for helping man the table, recruit and celebrate as students chose Country Place. The best part of the night was seeing how students and families reacted when we cheered and clapped and celebrated them being Mustangs!





GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 11, 2016

## Estrella Vista Elementary School

Congratulations **Mr. Antonio Bryant**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, selected by his peers as the February Teacher of the Month. Some comments that **Mr. Bryant's** colleagues had to say in their nominations included: "**Mr. Bryant** has gone above and beyond in and outside of the classroom. His students continue to excel in academics and the Make Your Day Citizenship Program. He has once again taken on the role of mentoring an ASU teacher candidate, is the facilitator of school professional development and coordinator for our new Boys Running Club. **Mr. Bryant** contributes in a positive manner in PLCs and should be recognized for his growth as a professional."; "**Mr. Bryant** is a great leader and mentor!"; "**Mr. Bryant** demonstrates endless leadership and drive for success of the people around him." Way to go **Mr. Antonio Bryant** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Congratulations to our Support Staff Geniuses of the Month, **Ms. Heather Finch, Mrs. Cathy Jimenez, Mr. Juan Garcia** and **Ms. Samantha Chapin** – Front Office Staff. The staff was recognized for showing their GENIUS every day. The staff had the following to say about their team: "This month we would like to recognize a special group of our support staff. These GENIUSES work hard every day helping students and teachers. They are the first people to greet anyone who walks in our school and they always do so with a helping smile and positive message. We are extremely lucky to have such hard working and dedicated individuals here at EVES. The amount of things they do for us is beyond anything we can comprehend. We truly appreciate them showing their GENIUS." Way to go **Ms. Heather, Mrs. Cathy, Mr. Juan** and **Ms. Sam**!

Way to go Estrella Vista Book Study Geniuses – **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** – Assistant Principal and **Ms. Rebecca Lopez** – Dean of Students for extending this year's book study on the book, *Multipliers*, with the EVES Support Staff. **Ms. Hoornstra** and **Ms. Lopez** will be meeting with this group of staff twice per month to collaborate about readings and learning from *Multipliers*. Thank you team for your leadership on our campus and for the time spent facilitating an amazing and worthwhile book study!

Thank you to **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez** – Kindergarten Teacher, **Ms. Ashley Chapman** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Mrs. Laura Villicana** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher **Ms. Lesley Johnson** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Jorge Espinoza** and **Ms. Logan Schmidtke** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Bronson Goodsell** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and **Ms. Jodi Rudd - Master Teacher** for participating in this month's engaging collaboration and analysis of Make Your Day Step 4 Data. **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra – Assistant Principal**, lead the team of teachers through the process of Activating & Engaging, Exploring & Discovering and Organizing & Integrating using Step 4 data.

We are looking forward to our Future Day to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. A sub-committee of teachers, **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez** and **Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson** – Kindergarten teachers, **Ms. Ashley Chapman** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Daisy Sandoval** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher are working to organize a variety of community members to come in to EVES and share their Careers with our students. In addition to sharing about their careers, community members will share with students about their road to success outlined by the Kids at Hope Destinations and Aces.

The Estrella Vista Mentor Committee has officially launched and GENIUS is in the air! In our first wave of this



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 11, 2016

program, we paired thirty of our identified Kids at Hope with experienced treasure hunter mentors. First communication was initiated at the end of January 2016 and the needed structures of relationship development have continued to grow! Our "Dining with the Treasures" event is set for the end of February, which will act as an event for our mentor/mentee pairs to bond through a common experience. This initiative is ON FIRE and we cannot wait for the further developments of our treasures! Thank you to our amazing Mentoring Committee team members, **Ms. Danielle Stone** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Jamie Peltier** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Jason Roach** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Sean Cappello** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch & Mr. Jorge Espinoza** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, **Ms. Rachel Vliek** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. John Frilando** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Rosie Fleeman & Ms. Olivia Nichols** – Resource teachers, for your hard work, dedication and collaboration in organizing this opportunity for our Kids at Hope and Treasure Hunters!

Our genius PTSA has done it again! Way to go **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and PTSA President, **Ms. Stacy Batiste** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and PTSA secretary and the **PTSA Board** for another successful family event. On Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> the **PTSA** hosted a Father Daughter Dance. The EVES house was full of dazzling daughters and their fathers for this special event. **PTSA** was able to raise \$700 to use towards other school events and did an amazing job organizing this event. We would also like to thank **Ms. Laura Montano** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, for assisting with creating all of the signs and decorations for the dance and all of the staff who attended to participate in the event. Thank you **PTSA** and we look forward to more family fun events!

Thank you **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Rachel Vliek** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and **Ms. Julie Whelihan** – Art teacher for the dedicating yourself as a team to collaborate in planning social events to enhance our positive culture and climate with our staff at EVES. They are planning several events that include bowling night, Volleyball night/kickball night, afterschool dinners and potlucks. For the major holidays they always have a secret gift exchange and are excited for Valentine's Day. Way to go Hawk Social Committee!

## Littleton Elementary School

Littleton's student council brought the NED show for students and staff. This is an innovative character building assembly using a learning model to inspire students. The students also had an opportunity to learn yo-yo tricks while participating in the show. Student council also put on a winter dance full of good music and fun for students and teachers. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped make the dance a success for our students.

In the approaching weeks Littleton's PTA has partnered once again with Peter Piper to bring back family night at Peter Piper. A portion of the proceeds will go back to the school. We look forward to future opportunities to work with our PTA, parents and partners in our community.

Littleton firebirds are eager to rise up for their upcoming testing. This month our students will be taking part in AZELLA, AIMS, AzMERIT and district benchmarks. We look forward to see our students' growth in the next couple of months.

This past Friday was an opportunity to honor our students and staff at our monthly Firebird Rally. Congratulation to our Firebirds!!!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

February 19, 2016

### Quentin Elementary School

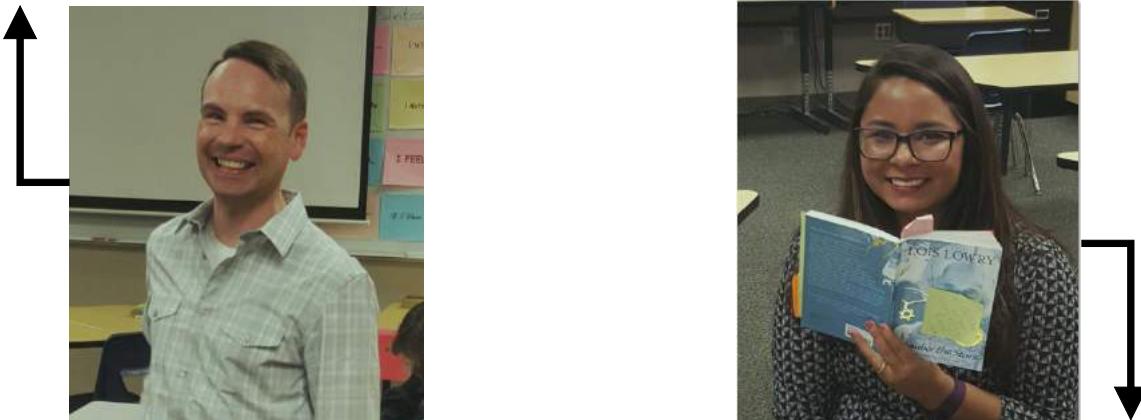
We had the NED show visit and perform for all QUES students. The show's message was about making good choices and how these choices impact you and others. The students loved the performance. We also were visited by *Operatunity* with a performance for our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf". The performers sang the play in opera toned voices. The show was interactive and fun for students. Its message was that you don't have to be mean and scary to make friends or get things. Our students enjoyed this very much.

We had super hero math night and students that attended dressed as their favorite super hero. We had all grade levels supporting math games and resources our families could reproduce at home to support our students. We gave out prizes for students with the best costumes. It was a great time for all involved.

### Tres Rios Elementary School

Tres is all about the TWIST look at the awesome things our staff is doing outside of school.

Congrats to the AMAZING **Dr. McIntosh** our EP Teacher. He is featured in this month's Teaching for High Potential Journal. He wrote a wonderful article called *Seagulls, Treasure Maps and Seasickness: Sailing as a Metaphor for Differentiation*. The article is a wonderful way to talk about how we can best differentiate for ALL learners. It is indeed worth a read. <https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/nagc-publications/teaching-high-potential>



More Congrats for **Ms. Selene Luna** our 7-8 Resource teacher. She has been selected for the Privilege Project for TFA. This project is focused on providing meaningful experiences to deepen corps members' understanding of their own identity as well as how they are positioned to work actively against racism and systems of oppression. She will travel to Philadelphia to represent Tres and LESD.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2016

### Collier Elementary School

The month of February was filled with so many special activities. On February 25<sup>th</sup> sixth grade students were provided gift vouchers to attend the Suns vs. Nets game at 7:00 pm. Sixth grade students interested in attending were able to select a parent or guardian to join them on this exciting evening. We want to thank **Ms. Christine Camou** for setting up this donation through **Phoenix Suns** organization.

On Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Collier hosted its annual Science Night. The Collier community looks forward to this night filled with science related activities/games and the display of science fair projects. Each grade level, including special area teachers participated by setting up booths for students and families to visit. The booths offered: plants, laptops, blubber, coding station, light bulb activity, bottle rockets, slim activity, weighing and a coffee activity. The following staff members supported this amazing night: - **Ms. Barbara Maddux, Ms. Britney Ramirez, Ms. Liv Martinez, Ms. Cecilia Crawley, Ms. Alicia Yount, Ms. Ashley Agney, Ms. Leslie Casillas, Ms. Jackie Older, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Amanda Housel, Ms. Melissa Hennek, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Cynthia Ambriz, Ms. Elizabeth Stevens, Ms. Breena Boone, Ms. Christine Camou, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Amanda Steele, Mr. James Dean, Ms. Yadeli Corella, Ms. Brianne Bailey, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez, Ms. Cynthia Whoolery, Ms. Benjamin Sullens, Ms. Jessica Barbis, Ms. Jeremy Chacon, Mr. Hai Dang, Ms. Patti Shannon, Ms. Samantha Foster, Ms. Sue Dallas, Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon, and Ms. Gioia Pitts.** We also want to recognize our custodial staff who work hard to see that the event goes off flawlessly – **Mr. George Gonzalez** and **Mr. Louie Madrigal**.

Collier hosted a school dance on Friday February 5<sup>th</sup>. This Valentine themed dance was a real hit for junior high students. We want to recognize the staff who came out and volunteered their time – **Ms. Britney Ramirez, Ms. Amanda Steele, Ms. Linda Stallard, Mr. Adam Haller, Ms. Marissa Rodriguez, Ms. Yadeli Corella, Ms. Anissa Ottens, Ms. Christine Camou, Ms. Jessica Cummins, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa, Ms. Kathryn Londrigan, Ms. Lindsay Punke, Ms. Gioia Pitts, and Ms. Amy Chapman**. A big thank you goes out to **Ms. Ashley Agney** who was a sponsor for the event and helped guide Student Council through the process of putting together a school dance.

On Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> Littleton School District hosted Digital Learning Day. Guests visited Collier's campus to see how teachers incorporated technology into their teaching. The following teachers opened their classrooms – **Ms. Leslie Casillas, Mr. Benjamin Sullens, Ms. Kailey Wright, Ms. Lynda Espino, Ms. Anna Lopez, Ms. Cynthia Ambriz, Ms. Susan Candelaria, and Ms. Heidi Melfi**. Thank you all for your willingness to participate and share with others how technology makes a difference in student learning.

### Country Place Elementary School

Leadership is in the air at Country Place! Students and staff are showing the myriad of ways to be leaders and excel in unique ways!

“The more you read, the smarter you get” is our mantra at Country Place. On March 1<sup>st</sup> students, staff and families were treated to a fabulous reading event! Families were invited to come to school and read with their students.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2016

There were activities, read alouds and projects that families could participate in together. 8<sup>th</sup> graders in **Ms. Teresita Esquibel's** class participated in a Reader's Café where they read their favorite portions of a book they were reading and discussed why they chose it. Students in attendance also received a book mark (The more you read, the smarter you get!) and a book thanks to generous donations from the PTA and friends of Country Place. We also shared information on how to help your student be a better reader. Readers are Leaders! A special thanks to **Ms. Margie Hourihan** for coordinating the event and the student leaders from National Junior Honor Society for their leadership and hard work!

On February 16, Country Place students and staff proudly showed off their leadership in technology! We had over 20 classrooms and student groups presenting. The presentations included animated short films, presentations on the Presidents, research questions and many other learning opportunities. Staff demonstrated a variety of The Art club, the STEM club and the Robotics team also showed off the amazing work they are doing with technology! A special thanks to our Digital Learning Leader, **Ms. Brittany Jimenez** for helping coordinate the showcase!

40 young ladies from Country Place are participating in the Mini-Mermaid running club. The club focuses on building self-esteem, increasing positivity, building up others, the value of movement and a balanced life. The club culminates in a 5K run. Our girls will run the Laura's Run on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Scottsdale Sports Complex. A special thanks to staff members **Ms. Erika Poblete, Ms. Mariza Lopez, Ms. Tatum Green and Ms. Carrie Nicholson** for bringing this great opportunity to the young ladies of Country Place! If you are interested in joining us please do so! Look for the mermaids...and rumor has it that **Dr. Cagle** will be running in a pink tutu...Go girls!  
<https://raceroster.com/events/2016/5772/10th-annual-lauras-run>



**GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

**March 11, 2016**

### **Estrella Vista Elementary School**

Congratulations February Teacher of the Month **Mrs. Christine Byrne**, P.E. teacher. Some comments that **Mrs. Byrne's** colleagues had to say in their nominations included: “**Mrs. Byrne** has fully embraced STEM and is leading the way with designing lessons in her P.E. classes that integrate Science, Math and Engineering and Language Arts.”; “She does an amazing job engaging her students from start to finish of all of the lessons she teaches.”; “**Mrs. Byrne** ensures that she considers all learning groups in her classroom and accommodates for our ELL and Special Education students with fitness.”; “**Mrs. Byrne** has been a great asset to the Make Your Day/Kids at Hope Committee in that she offers a lot of expertise and knowledge in the Make Your Day Program since she has been at the school since Make Your Day was implemented.”; “**Mrs. Byrne** has worked with the Special Area team to offer Make Your Day moments in our weekly staff meetings which supports all staff in implementing Make Your Day with fidelity”; “She is a great support to me as her fellow P.E. teacher as she offers so many new ideas of fun and engaging activities for us to use in our P.E. classes.” Way to go **Mrs. Christine Byrne** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Congratulations to our Support Staff Geniuses of the Month, **Ms. Fabiola Avina, Mrs. Imelda Gomez, Mrs. Michelle Gonzales, Mrs. Evangeline McCue** and **Mrs. Mary Rodriguez** – Paraprofessionals and Library Clerk. This group of support staff was recognized for showing their GENIUS every day. Their colleagues had the following to say about their team: “These wonderful ladies work hard every day to assist teachers and staff in ensuring the success of our students. They work in every grade from Kindergarten all the way up to Eighth. You often see them working with students in the hallways or helping them in the library. We are so lucky to have them and we appreciate their dedication and support to our little GENIUSES!” Way to go **Ms. Fabiola, Ms. Imelda, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Evangeline** and **Ms. Mary!**

Our genius PTSA has done it again! Way to go **Ms. Alyssa Nelson** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and PTSA President, **Ms. Stacy Batiste** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and PTSA secretary and the **PTSA Board** for another successful family event. On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> the **PTSA** hosted a fundraising event at Peter Piper Pizza. Students, families and staff joined together in a night of fun while playing games, participating in an ice cream eating contest, dancing and a straw and cup race. Through this event the PTSA was able to raise \$425 for future family involvement events at Estrella Vista. In addition to the Peter Piper fundraiser, the parent and teacher group organized a Sweets N' Treats fundraiser that took place from February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>. The PTSA is still awaiting their results on what our student's raised for this fundraiser. Thank you **PTSA** and we look forward to more family fun events!

#### **School Initiative: Make Your Day/Kids at Hope Committee – Future Day a Success!**

Thank you to **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez** – Kindergarten Teacher, **Ms. Jacqueline Robinson** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Ashley Chapman** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Daisy Sandoval** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for taking the lead in planning this year's Kids at Hope Future Day! On Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> a variety of community members came to visit Estrella Vista and speak to our students about their careers. The professionals discussed how they worked with their Aces throughout their lives to get to where they are today in their Education and Career Destination. Some of the community members who visited classrooms included: fire fighters, a dentist, a water conservationist, an engineer, a pilot, chefs, a web designer, a sports broadcaster and a Marine Recruiter. In addition to our visitors, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers explored careers with their students and showed video clips of 21<sup>st</sup>



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 11, 2016

century careers, students were able to practice writing a resume and applying for careers. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers offered their students the opportunity to visit their near future and took a field trip to La Joya High School where they were greeted by the Lobos Student Government and received a presentation from the Principal on future education. Students were then broken up into groups and participated in various activities with high school students including: theater, science and team building. We would like to give a shout out to the rest of our Kids at Hope/Make Your Day Committee members who collaborated with their teams and communicated information from the committee in order to plan this wonderful experience for our students. Thank you **Mrs. Laura Villicana** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher **Ms. Lesley Johnson** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Logan Schmidtke** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, **Mr. Scott Schulte** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Bronson Goodsell** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and **Ms. Jodi Rudd** - Master Teacher for your dedication to collaboration and communication in planning this event with your teams! Next Month we look forward to our **Kids at Hope Community and Service Destination Celebration** on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day. The team will be working collectively to plan day of community and service within our school and in our greater community.

Thank you **Mrs. Theresa Fernandez** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Rachel Vliek** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and **Ms. Julie Whelihan** – Art teacher for dedicating yourselves as a team to collaborate in planning social events to enhance a positive culture and climate with our staff at EVES. The committee has planned a Bowling Evening for our staff to participate in, in order to connect, bond and build relationships outside of the school day. Thank you **Hawk Social Committee** for supporting our staff in having a work/life balance!

## Littleton Elementary School

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Littleton Elementary student council is proud to work with STEM in creating two cities in the multi-cultural STEM regional competition. The students had the opportunity to visit Honeywell and also meet employees from all STEM fields and Governor Ducey's office.

In the approaching weeks Littleton's PTA and their partners will be discussing ways to support upcoming testing with parents to help insure best testing practices are being implemented at home and school. We look forward to the many different activities coming up

Littleton Firebirds where eager to rise up for AzMERIT testing. This month our students will be taking part in AzMERIT practice test in preparation for April's AzMERIT testing. Practice testing can be done at home and at school sites. With all this testing we urge students and staff to rest as much as they can these upcoming months.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 18, 2016

### Quentin Elementary School

Shark nation has been on fire. In celebration of Read Across America week, Quentin participated in various literacy based activities highlighting the joys of reading. Our families and community were also able to join us on Wednesday evening during our “Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash”. Each grade level participated having planned interactive and engaging activities from building word families in our lower grades, using the Lorax to discuss care for our planet, readers theaters, cootie catchers both for Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Harry Potter inspired wand building and house sorting and STEM activities created using The Hunger Games. We also provided opportunities for our families to visit with the Avondale Public Library representatives to get their very own library card, view our book fair and participate in our book swap. Students who attended were entered in drawings for a new book to take home and enjoy. Staff, community and students who attended all enjoyed the activities planned and the event overall. We had community events at Peter Piper Pizza, it was a Dr. Seuss themed night with students coming dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character.

We had our first ever McTeacher Night at McDonald's. Parents and students attended eager to be served by the Quentin staff.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students received a special presentation from Senator **Lupe Contreras**, Representative **Diego Espinoza** and a representative from Delta dental with SMILE kits (toothbrush, floss and toothpaste) for all. They spoke about the importance of dental health and Quentin 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were excited to learn about oral health!

Quentin 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to visit the Phoenix Coyotes at the Jobing.com arena to take part in the Coyote STEM day. They learned about STEM careers and they also got to watch an open hockey practice. They interacted with the GM, head coach, head of social media, technology director and the head of ice maintenance.

### Tres Rios Elementary School

Tres is all about the TWIST and our community partners and parents are helping us to grow and get better every day. This month we spotlight good news on and off campus!!

Getting the word out about our students is always fun to do and no one is a bigger fan of spreading Puma Pride than **Mr. Laureano** our MESA Advisor. The weekend of March 11<sup>th</sup> **Mr. Laureano** and the MESA team represented at GCU as they get ready to take on the state competition in late April. Thanks **Mr. Laureano** for sharing the TWIST Spirit on and off campus.





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

March 18, 2016

We love to share wonderful things with families and there is nothing better than the Student Of the Month Celebration. It is always such a great time to see parents, teachers and kids come together to share all the GOOD NEWS about our kids!



Thanks to **Mr. Kelbick** and our wonderful Digital Learning Day Greeters. **Mr. Kelbick** trained all of our greeters to make sure to deliver the Best in Customer Service as our esteemed guests toured our campus!





## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 1, 2016

### Grants and Family Services

Littleton Elementary School District held its Annual Family Resource Fair on February 26<sup>th</sup>. This year we had over thirty vendors join our resource fair to present their services to our families. Families enjoyed a variety of food and entertainment. A special thank you to Quentin Elementary School for hosting this year's event, to our partner Childhelp and to **Ms. Ruby Arenivas** for coordinating this event.

Many thanks to Collier Elementary and **Mr. John Meacham** for continuing to donate food to our local food banks. This month we donated about 300 pounds of food.

### Teaching and Learning Services

AZELLA testing is complete and we are confident that 100% of our eligible students were tested. We are looking forward to receiving the results in May and celebrating the successes of our students and teachers. A big kudos to the teachers and paraprofessionals who assisted with testing. Thank you to the leadership and testing coordination provided by the Deans, **Ms. Amanda Strickland**, **Dr. French**, and **Ms. Stefani Bender** at Estrella Vista (who went above and beyond to help us complete this task on her site)!

AzMERIT online testing, grades 3-8, starts next week. As we are preparing for this upcoming state test, there are a few people we would like to thank. **Ms. Marian Shepherd**, free and reduced lunch labels, **Ms. Cleo Reyes**, special education updates, and **Ms. Amanda Strickland**, ELL levels. In addition, **Ms. Carrie Gentry** has consistently updated all student information so we know which students need to be tested. These employees have ensured we have captured accurate demographic data within our student testing system. We appreciate their timely responses! Thank you to **Dr. French** for her ongoing, training, guidance and support with AzMERIT!

The District Math Challenge took place on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Each school competed with a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade team. Thank you to the site coordinators at each school for their help preparing the students for the competition: **Ms. Christine Camou** and **Ms. Alycia Thompson** at Collier, **Ms. Brittany Jimenez** at Country Place, **Ms. Nicole Clark** at Estrella Vista, **Ms. Chloe Grishaw** and **Ms. Emily Meskauskas** at Littleton, **Ms. Samantha Armstrong** at Quentin and **Ms. Sideqa Padawer** and **Ms. Gina Forney-Lee** at Tres Rios. We would also like to thank **Ms. Mia De La Rosa** and **Ms. Jazmin Pacheco** for judging and **Mr. Charlie Blanton** for not only being a judge but also for his help in creating math problems for each team's competition. The winning team from each grade band will represent Littleton in the Westside Impact Math Challenge being held at Fowler Elementary School District on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to **Ms. Kim Buckner** for her leadership and organization of Littleton's Math Challenge!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 8, 2016

### Collier Elementary School

The month of March began with honoring Dr. Seuss and providing students with an amazing literacy experience. Collier hosted its annual Literacy Night on March, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students and parents came to this event which offered a variety of booths – Seussy Snack Mix, Oobleck, Reading Corner, Seuss Pinwheels, Pipe Cleaner Glasses, Seuss Face Masks, “Oh The Places You’ll Go” Coloring Balloon, and Seuss Catcher. In addition, Collier held a door decorating contest school wide to build the excitement and interest in reading. We want to recognize both **Ms. Steele** and **Ms. Stallard** who have continued this tradition at Collier by heading up this exciting evening. We also want to thank the following staff members who helped make this celebration a success – **Ms. Barbara Maddux**, **Ms. Britney Ramirez**, **Ms. Tammy Ngeno**, **Ms. Liv Martinez**, **Ms. Cecilia Crawley**, **Ms. Bertha Cervantes**, **Ms. Alicia Yount**, **Ms. Stephany Nasr**, **Ms. Ashley Agney**, **Ms. Monta Glass**, **Ms. Lorialle Haynes**, **Ms. Becky West**, **Ms. Jackie Older**, **Ms. Kailey Wright**, **Ms. Amanda Housel**, **Ms. Melissa Hennek**, **Ms. Susan Candelaria**, **Ms. Anna Lopez**, **Ms. Lynda Espino**, **Ms. Cynthia Ambriz**, **Mr. David Cedor**, **Ms. Ashley Beason**, **Ms. Elizabeth Stevens**, **Ms. Breena Boone**, **Ms. Jessica Cummins**, **Ms. Christine Camou**, **Ms. Anissa Ottens**, **Ms. Heidi Melfi**, **Ms. Amanda Steele**, **Ms. James Dean**, **Ms. Alycia Thompson**, **Ms. Shari Griffiths**, **Ms. Yadelia Corella**, **Mr. Adam Haller**, **Ms. Brianne Bailey**, **Ms. Marissa Rodriguez**, **Ms. Cynthia Whoolery**, **Mr. Benjamin Sullens**, **Ms. Jessica Barbis**, **Mr. Deirrieo Duncan**, **Ms. Kathryn Londrigan**, **Mr. Jeremy Chacon**, **Ms. Ilene Rosas**, **Mr. Hai Dang**, **Ms. Michelle Younghans**, **Mr. Brian Hopkinson**, **Mr. Matthew Tolman**, **Ms. Patti Shannon**, **Ms. Melissa Strand**, **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa**, **Ms. Gioia Pitts**, **Ms. Heather Zizis**, and **Ms. Amy Chapman**. We also want to recognize our front office and custodial staff who work hard to see that the event goes off flawlessly – **Ms. Sue Dallas**, **Ms. Elizabeth DeLeon**, **Ms. Ruth Rodriguez**, **Mr. George Gonzalez** and **Mr. Louie Madrigal**.

On March, 10<sup>th</sup> eighth grade parents and students were invited to an Informational Eighth Grade Promotional Meeting. This evening event provided time for parents to learn and ask questions. We want to thank the following staff members who came to support eighth grade families – **Ms. Iliana DeLaRosa**, **Mr. Adam Haller**, **Ms. Sue Dallas**, **Ms. Brianne Bailey**, **Ms. Yadelia Corella**, **Ms. Marissa Rodriguez**, and **Ms. Amy Chapman**.

Collier students participated in a regional competition with the central Arizona schools on March, 5<sup>th</sup>. **Ms. Jessica Cummins** and **Mr. James Dean** are the sponsors for the MESA Club. Thank you for all your time and effort!

Congratulations to **Ms. Jackie Older** who received the Westside Impact Grant for over \$700. The focus of the grant is alternative seating to increase creativity and engagement.

### Country Place Elementary School

Congratulations to the Country Place Math Challenge Teams facilitated by Master Teacher **Ms. Brittany Jimenez** and supported by all of our fabulous math teachers. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade team won the district competition and our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team came in second place after a tie breaker. Great job Mathmagicians!

Mustangs not only were leaders in the classroom, but also on the playing field! Both our boys and girls soccer teams competed in the District Soccer Championship Games and went into penalty kicks to decide the Champions!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 8, 2016

Our girls' team, coached by **Ms. Erika Poblete**, **Ms. Mariza Lopez** and **Mr. Tatum Green**, won in penalty kicks over a great Littleton team. Our boys' team, coached by **Mr. David Bier** and **Mr. Anthony Davis** lost in a close match during penalty kicks. They were both great games and all of the teams involved showed great sportsmanship.

Congratulations to the Country Place Teacher of the Year is **Ms. Erika Poblete**. **Ms. Poblete**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and science teacher, was nominated for being extremely dedicated to her work with students and going above and beyond every single day. She makes sure that students feel loved, respected and challenged. She is a natural teacher who gets great results. She is humble and a great teammate and co-worker. She coaches a variety of sports and is one of the sponsors of the Mini-Mermaid running club for girls. She focuses on building commitment and determination in her players and makes sure they are students first. Our school, staff, students and community are blessed to work with **Ms. Poblete**! As one colleague put it, "Great instruction and AWESOME culture!"

Congratulations to the Country Place staff member of the year is **Ms. Ruby Espana**. **Ms. Espana** is a paraprofessional working in **Ms. Biddle's** 4-5 combination classroom. She was nominated for being very dedicated and willing to take on any task, job or assignment. She is very positive and always looking to help out in the classroom, out on campus and in the office. She is always involved in school events. She makes sure her students feel comfortable and cared for. She also makes teachers feel supported and understood. She literally knows what to do and how to do EVERYTHING! We are very lucky to have the opportunity to work with **Ms. Espana**. As one staff member said, "Ruby is just a role model."



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 15, 2016

**Estrella Vista Elementary School**

We would like to congratulate **Ms. Laura Montano**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, for being nominated and selected by her peers as the March Teacher of the Month. Some comments that **Ms. Montano's** colleagues had to say in their nominations included: "**Laura** is so excited to learn. She gives advice, shares ideas and is so natural at leading and creating a loving and caring environment."; "**Ms. Montano** loves her students dearly and is always there for the staff."; "Her students look up to her now and even students who have had her in the past."; "Her practices are very student centered and all of her lessons are focused on her specific student needs and engagement."; "**Ms. Montano** is always adapting her lessons to individual student needs."; "In addition to **Ms. Montano** being a phenomenal teacher, she also plays a huge role in assisting with initiative outside of her classroom. Some of the activities she has played an important role in facilitating or assisting with included: Book Study Facilitator, Kids at Hope/Make Your Day Committee Member, support for all PTSA events, support for after school clubs – Garden Club and Professional Development Facilitator. These are just to name a few of the initiatives **Ms. Montano** has involved herself in to support the Hawk team." Way to go **Ms. Laura Montano** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Congratulations to all **Estrella Vista teachers, student, staff and parents** for an amazing turn out at our Spring Student Led Conferences. Due to your hard work and dedication, Estrella Vista Staff was able to meet with 92% of our parents prior to Spring Break. Our staff is dedicated to ensuring that parent communication regarding student progress is essential for student's success. Way to go **Estrella Vista Geniuses!**

Thank you to **Mr. Richard Ramos - Principal**, for using the trainer of trainers model to facilitate collaborative professional development on the STEM Design Thinking Process. The team: **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra** - Assistant Principal, **Ms. Rebecca Lopez** – Dean of Students, **Ms. Erica Cuccinello** - 1<sup>st</sup> grade ELD teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Gerrick** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Rebecca Boltjes** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, **Ms. Jodi Rudd** – Master Teacher and **Ms. Stefani Bender** – Master Teacher were trained by **Mr. Ramos**. The team is awaiting feedback from the rest of the Hawks crew in order to continue providing professional development that will assist us on our journey as a STEM Academy. **Way to go Mr. Richard Ramos** and the **Leadership Team members!**

The Estrella Vista Hawks would like to give a big shout out to club sponsors who supported in our first year of extending after school club opportunities for our students to allow students to explore their talents in the four Kids at Hope Destinations. Below, are a few words from our sponsors regarding their clubs.

Thank you to **Mr. Anthony Haduch** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and **Ms. Julie Whelihan** - Art teacher, for the work you have done with our students in our after school Drama Club. The Drama Club, composed of 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Teachers and students are preparing for their big show to be held in the Estrella Vista Library on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The show is called "How the Ocean Got its Waves" and the group has a bevy of mermaid beauties and a shoe full of Mother Goose kids ready to impress. **Mr. Haduch, Mrs. Whelihan** and the **students** have been working hard and dedicated to pull off a great performance! Thank you **Mr. Haduch** and **Ms. Whelihan** for your dedication to the arts and the Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Destination.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 15, 2016

Thank you to **Ms. Emily Wottreng** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the work you have done with our students in our after school Girls Running Club. Girl's Running Club finished with a final 2 mile run! The girls had a blast during the 9-week season, learning about healthy eating and living, playing running games, and working on their endurance for long-distance running. Coaches **Mr. Sean Cappello** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Mrs. Rebekah Smith** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Michelle Pitters** - 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher, **Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson** – Kindergarten teacher, and **Ms. Margaret Sauer** – Kindergarten teacher, were quintessential in helping 38 fourth and fifth grade girls grow in their love for exercise and wellness! Thank you **Ms. Wottreng** and **supporting staff members** for your dedication to the Kids at Hope Hobbies and Recreation Destination as well as the health and wellness of our young ladies!

The Estrella Vista Hawks would like to give a big shout out to the Mentoring Committee **Ms. Danielle Stone** – Kindergarten teacher, **Ms. Jamie Peltier** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Jason Roach** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Sean Cappello** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. Anthony Haduch & Mr. Jorge Espinoza** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, **Ms. Rachel Vliek** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Mr. John Frilando** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, **Ms. Rosie Fleeman & Ms. Olivia Nichols** – Resource teachers for finalizing the Mentor/Mentee Mixer that will occur on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The mixer will be a culminating event to celebrate teachers and students who have worked together this school year to promote student success in all or some of the four Kids at Hope Destinations. What a way to end the year with family, food and fun EVES Mentoring Committee!

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**Littleton Elementary School**

During the first two weeks of April, our teachers were hard at work administering the AzMERIT to our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Littleton would like to *thank all of our teachers* for being diligent with administering the assessment. A very special thank you to the following teachers for assisting in the testing arena: **Ms. Katie Carnicelli** - Language Acquisition Specialist who provide additional help with AzMERIT in our 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELD room, **Ms. Rebecca Coda** - Technology Specialist who helped the facilitation of the overall testing protocol, **Ms. Stefani Jenkins** and **Mrs. Jennifer Brees** - Master Teachers who administered the AzMERIT for Resource students and make-ups. Thank you **Dr. Vicki French** - Assessment Coordinator for all of your support and guidance. You all are amazing!

A new sports season is upon us... Congratulations to all athletic teams. We are off to an exciting Baseball and Softball season. Thank you to **Coach Brittany Zamora** and **Coach Chelsea Tilly**, our girls' softball coaches, and **Coach Andrew Davenport** and **Coach Rhea Ciadella** our boys' baseball coaches. Your guidance and leadership on the baseball/softball diamond provides our students with great successes in the classroom both academically and as role models to their fellow students.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

April 28, 2016

### Exceptional Learners Services

The cross cat, functional academics, social communications, and severe/profound classes participated in an annual day of Super Special Olympics, recently at Trevor Browne High School. Thank you to the following staff who made this wonderful day such a success for our students: **Dawn Robinson, Kyle Martinez & Paras, Michelle Farber & Paras, Sydney Perez & Paras, Joselyn Williams & Paras, Ashley Reed & Paras, Sarah Boon & Paras, Paras from Ms. Tilly's class, Candace Thompson & Paras, Susan Danahy & Paras and Paras from Ms. Stratton's class.**

### Grants and Family Services

Congratulation **Mrs. Gibson** for being honored with the Cherish the Children Award from the West Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council recently. She was nominated by the **Childhelp** organization because she works with community partners to shape safe, healthy and successful learners. **Mrs. Gibson's** team provides various classes for our students and parents through the family resource center and volunteers with the community theater.

### Teaching and Learning Services

Congratulations to all the students from Littleton ESD that participated in the MESA Club Competition on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at ASU. Littleton had several teams place in the competitions, to include:

- Country Place's Solar Car Team qualified for the final race and placed 8th out of 56 middle school solar car teams from across the state
- Country Place's Egg Launcher team placed 6th out of 37 teams from across the state
- Country Place's Duct Tape Survival Challenge team placed 6th out of 39 schools
- Tres Rios' solar car team won best design.
- Tres Rios' "Student Design" team and "Change Maker" teams placed 10<sup>th</sup>
- Quentin's Solar Car Team placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the final solar car race.

All students in the MESA Club have worked incredibly hard this year and we are all very proud of them. Thank you to our MESA sponsors **Jessica Cummins, Kristine Perria, Rachel Vliek, Emily Meskauskas, Bianca Espana, and Michael Laureano** and principals for making MESA Club a success.

### Transportation Department

As the School Year winds down Littleton's transportation department is in high gear, finishing up educational field trips and wrapping up our baseball and softball seasons. We are in the midst of planning and preparations for our 2016-2017 school choice model for transportation.

The Maricopa County Travel Reduction Program Task Force recently recognized **Ms. Thelma Whitbeck**, our Transportation Supervisor, and the Collier Elementary School employees for the exceptional 100% response rate on the annual TRP Survey. The Task Force recognition acknowledges the individual efforts of **Ms. Whitbeck** to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.

We are happy to announce that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) recently conducted a commercial driver's license examination compliance review, and it was determined there were no instances of non-compliance.



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 6, 2016

### Collier Elementary School

The month of April began with the quarterly Awards Assembly for grades Kindergarten through Eighth in the evening on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. This quarterly tradition at Collier invites families to come and recognize students' academic achievements, including students who had perfect attendance for the third quarter. This night is always well attended by the Collier community, however it was the support of the staff that makes it extra special for students. We want to thank the following staff members for taking time to honor their students: **Barbara Maddux, Brittany Ramirez, Tammy Ngeno, Liv Martinez, Cecelia Crawley, Alicia Yount, Stephany Nasr, Ashley Agney, Lorialle Haynes, Becky West, Jackie Older, Kailey Wright, Amanda Housel, Melissa Hennek, Susan Candelaria, Anna Lopez, Cynthia Ambriz, David Cedor, Ashley Beason, Elizabeth Stevens, Jessica Cummins, Christine Camou, Heidi Melfi, Amanda Steele, Shari Griffiths, Yadeli Corella, Marissa Rodriguez, Cynthia Whoolery, Jessica Barbis, Deirrieo Duncan, Kathryn Londigan, Iliana DeLaRosa, Gioia Pitts, and Heather Zzis.** We also want to recognize **Sue Dallas** for her hard work in putting together all the certificates that students received during the celebration.

On Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> families again came to Collier for Movie Night. Staff members worked in the snack bar to provide moviegoers with delicious treats. We want to thank the following staff members who came out – **Iliana DeLaRosa, Marissa Rodriguez, Brittany Ramirez, Cecelia Crawley, Kathryn Londigan, and Amy Chapman.** A big thank you goes out to **Linda Stallard** who organized and took the lead in making this evening a wonderful neighborhood family event.

The final sports season kicked off in April with boy's baseball coached by **Brian Hopkinson** and **Adam Haller**. The girl's softball team coached by **Anissa Ottens** and **Lynda Espino**. We want to thank these staff members for their hard work and time that they have invested into their teams. Go Coyotes!

### Country Place Elementary School

We are proud to announce the Mustang Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 14 new members on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks to honored guests, **former State Senator Anna Tovar** and **Littleton Superintendent Dr. Roger Freeman** for celebrating the amazing accomplishments of our student leaders. Another special thanks to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher **Roberta Garcia** for sponsoring the NJHS and organizing the induction.

6<sup>th</sup> grade student leaders hosted their families and friends during Ancient Civilizations Night. Guests learned about Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt. Student leaders practicing their public speaking skills while presenting a variety of topics they researched including military, government, art, literature, religion, food, and dress. Great job 6<sup>th</sup> graders!

A huge thanks to our PTA for their support of Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week! Our PTA put together goodies for staff, hosted a lunch donated by Peter Piper Pizza and a breakfast. A special thanks to officers **Ana Cruz** and **Lordes Lopez** for all of their assistance!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 6, 2016

The Art Club, sponsored by Art Teacher **Anthony Davis** has organized a field trip to the Phoenix Art Museum. Students brainstormed ideas for a field trip, researched options and arranged for a free trip to the Phoenix Art Museum. Great job Mustang Leaders of Art!

Country Place Leadership Academy will host its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Kindergarten Celebration Concert on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Our kindergarten community-students, staff and families, will be celebrating the incredible accomplishments of their first year in school! The PTA will be sponsoring snacks for our families. A special thanks to our kindergarten teachers, **Jackie Davis, Karen Hook, Anastasia Hans** and **Tina Carter**.

The Country Place Leadership Academy Staff will be synergizing together for an amazing personal and professional learning experience May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The entire staff, teachers, paraprofessional, office staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers and the administrative staff will be participating. We will be learning the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and the leadership principles that The Leader in Me is based upon. We will then focus on implementing leadership principles and the 7 Habits in our own lives as we prepare to teach them to our students and community in the 16-17 school year!



## GOOD NEWS UPDATE

May 27, 2016

### Exceptional Learners Services

**Kyle Martinez** a Cross Cat Teacher in Littleton ESD arranged a series of carnival games for students this week. **Mr. Martinez's** class worked with General Education Teachers, NJHS and Student Council to host this event. We want to thank students and staff for their help and support! It was a great success!

- Booths run by 8th grade buddy students with SPED student support
- Student council and NJHS student volunteers for running prize booth, food booth, music, and supporting other booths
- Donations from: student council, cafeteria, teacher staff, PTA. Donations in food, prizes, props, cafeteria booth, and money
- 8th grade buddy students planned out most all of the logistics. All students were assigned one of the following jobs: builder, advertising, planner, staff outreach, or prizes; each job planned out one specific set of ideas for the carnival. All 8th graders had to submit a write-up for their booth as well as their specific job and responsibilities. Students did most of the actual implementation.
- The day ran from 8:30am-2pm with 4 different 1hr. sessions (K-1, 2-4, 5-6, 7-8). All 4 sessions ran well with enough materials and help to sustain

Our PreSchool teachers have received training on their adopted curriculum, Creative Curriculum.

### Teaching and Learning Services

On Monday May 9<sup>th</sup>, Littleton ESD held the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Littleton Art Show. Student art work from all six Littleton schools was on display at the Avondale Civic Center Library. Student art work was judged by a panel of judges, Littleton ESD Superintendent **Dr. Roger Freeman, Mrs. Phyllis Kinder, Mrs. Susan Gibson, Mrs. Nancy Morgan, and Mrs. Stefani Bender**. Student winners were selected for each grade and school. Twelve pieces of art were selected for purchase by Littleton ESD. These students will be honored at a future Governing Board Meeting. Thank you for all who assisted in the organization of this event. A special thank you to the art teachers: **Patti Shannon, Anthony Davis, Julie Whelihan, Michelle Walla, Tammy Van De Bogart, and Natasha Bridges**.

On Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, Littleton ESD held the New Teacher End of the Year celebration. Each teacher received a certificate of achievement as well as recognition from their site administration. This celebration concluded the yearlong professional development sessions that were provided by **Karen Grose**, Principal at Tres Rios Elementary, **Sideqa Padawar** Master Teacher at Tres Rios Elementary and **Rosemary Gaona** Mentor Teacher at Quentin Elementary. Thank you for sharing your expertise with our new teachers.

Another end of the year event held on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, was Littleton's Performing Arts Honor Festival featuring choirs, bands, and music programs from all six schools in the District. The students performed a variety of musical arrangements. Thank you to the music and band teachers for their hard work in preparing the students for this performance: **Matthew Tolman, Ilene Rosas, Gloria Chadwick, Travis White, Michael Spielman, Christine Saul, Brian Dill, Janice Pemberton, and Susan Knighton**. Thank you to those who assisted with the preparation of the event: **Stefani Bender, Susan Gibson, Ada Cillis, and Nancy Morgan**.