



GOOD NEWS UPDATE

January 25, 2017

Littleton Elementary



District Spelling Bee. Toby B, a 7th grade student at Littleton, represented Littleton in this year's district spelling bee. Toby did an amazing job, and made us all proud by finishing first in the whole district! He will go on to represent the Littleton Elementary School District in the regional spelling bee on February 11th in Buckeye. Littleton Elementary School wishes him the best of luck in the regional spelling bee, and we know he will represent our district well! Congratulations Toby!

Second Quarter Awards. Littleton recently held their second quarter awards assembly. Each grade level recognized students for their hard work during the second quarter. Students received awards for perfect attendance, A/B honor roll, and principal's honor roll. Many parents were in attendance to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students.



Littleton Welcomes New Staff Members. Littleton is excited to welcome three new staff members to our community:

Ms. Bethany Erwin is joining us as our new 6th grade science and math teacher.

Ms. Leslie Damon is joining us as our new 3-5 cross cat. teacher.

Mr. Jim Verrill is joining Littleton as our new principal! Students and staff member are thrilled to get to know Mr. Verrill throughout the remainder of the school year.



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Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Education Master's Putting Opportunity Within Everyone's Reach. We would like to congratulate **Mr. Stephen Batchelder**, 8th grade Science teacher, for being nominated and selected by his peers as the December Teacher of the Month. **Mr. Batchelder** has been a dedicated teacher at Estrella Vista for the past two years. **Mr. Batchelder** brings a new and refreshing perspective to 21st century teaching and learning with the innovative and rigorous lessons he prepares and implements in his Science classroom on a daily basis. As a Teach For America Teacher, **Mr. Batchelder** exemplifies what it means to be a STEM teacher. He is dedicated to engaging his students in real life situations and problem solving while at the same time covering the 8th grade Science standards and content. In addition, **Mr. Batchelder** is an exemplar in what it means to collaborate to support student achievement. This school year he has dedicated himself to collaboratively planning with his colleagues at his grade level in order to integrate multiple contents into his lesson on a daily basis as well as receive support in other classrooms at his grade level to integrate the content. Way to go **Mr. Stephen Batchelder** for playing such an integral role as an Estrella Vista Hawk. We are so proud of your accomplishment!

Developing Partnerships with Parents & Kids at Hope. This month **Estrella Vista Hawk PTSA** had a great month of parent and student involvement. The parent group hosted another Peter Piper Night on Friday, January 20th. Although it was wet and cold, the fundraiser was a success with many families being able to come out and support the school and have a night of fun as a community. Coming up Friday, January 27th the PTSA will be celebrating our Dads with "Donuts for Dads" where dads, grandfathers, uncles or other father figures will come in the morning to have donuts, coffee and juice with their child. On February 10th the PTSA will continue to celebrate fathers and/or father figures with a "Father Daughter Dance". We are looking forward to both events where we get to celebrate the "Dad's" in our kids' lives. Estrella Vista is so fortunate to have such an amazing parent group! Thank you for all you do!

Kids at Hope Restock the Shelves Event. We would like to celebrate our Kids at Hope Committee members **Ms. Brittany Levandoski**, 2nd grade teacher; **Mr. Robert Loots**, **Mr. David Wadding** and **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teachers; and **Ms. Rebecca Lopez**, Dean of Students and our new Kids at Hope student leaders for planning our Kids at Hope Destination event for the month of January with a Restock the Shelves CANstruction Community Service School-Wide Project. During the last two weeks of January, parents and students will be bringing in supplies to donate to various community organizations including: St. Mary's Food Bank, Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank, Tammy's Totes and Hope's Closet. Each hallway will collect all of the donations and use their STEM knowledge to design and construct a sculpture out of the materials prior to sending them off to the organizations. The sculptures will be judged by student leaders using a rubric created by **Mr. Anthony Haduch**, 4th grade teacher. We look forward to sharing pictures of our final outcome of this service project on our FaceBook page.

LOWES Garden Grant Recipient Celebration. Way to go **Ms. Stacy Batiste**, 1st grade teacher and Garden Club Coordinator, for receiving the LOWES Garden Grant this year to support the progress of our school garden that was started last school year. Earlier this Fall, **Ms. Katherine Hoornstra**, Assistant Principal, and **Ms. Stacy Batiste** met to collaboratively write the grant together which involved sending a specific plan of how we would



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utilize the money, a project timeline and the upkeep of the Garden if we were to receive the funding. After returning from Winter Break, **Ms. Batiste** was excited to receive an email from LOWES informing her that Estrella Vista was granted with \$2000.00 for the Garden. We look forward to seeing the continuous growth of our Community Garden! Thank you **Ms. Batiste!**

Parent Involvement – Building Futures Parent Opportunity. We would like to give a shout out to **Mr. Emil Pluhar**, District STEM Instructional Specialist; **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade teacher and EV STEM coordinator and **Mr. Richard Ramos**, Principal for collaborating to bring an amazing opportunity to the Estrella Vista Campus! Building Futures is an adult community outreach educational program offered by Estrella Vista STEM Academy. This program is an adult education program for the parents of Estrella STEM Academy in the Littleton Elementary School District. The program will enroll 60 parents that will be divided into three different classes of approximately 40 minutes. The parents will rotate through all three classes each evening. The three classes will consist of Technology Education, Banking Principals and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) principles. Child care will be provided for the participants. The children will be involved in academic instruction and physical fitness education. The classes will be on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 in the evening and will be every Wednesday starting February 8th through March 15th. We look forward to sharing more good news about the progress of this initiative in the future.

EVES Clubs Updates & Celebrations

EVES Junior Stem Club has been going great this year! Students are learning about the engineering process and how it connects to their real life situations. The processes include building and evaluating their projects, testing their projects, and discussing what would they would do next time after seeing how their project tested. Some of these projects include building towers about of various materials, building a boat that could hold the most amount of weight and exploring microscopes. Thank you to **Ms. Rachel Vliek**, 5th grade teacher, and **Ms. Alyssa Pakes**, 4th grade teacher, for providing this opportunity for our 4th-5th grade students and preparing them for their upcoming involvement in STEM/MESA club in their near future!

EV STEM Club: The members of this afterschool club are all working hard to get their design build and ready for their first MESA competition on February 18th at Grand Canyon University. Their designs include a prosthetic arm, solar cars, PVC pipe bridge and a water bottle made from duct tape and golf ball launcher. This team of students has dedicated themselves to meet after school every Tuesday and Thursday since the beginning of the year to work creatively and collaboratively to prepare their projects. Thank you to **Mr. Michael Laureano**, 6th grade Math and Science teacher, for supporting our students as their advisor in this club!