

# Hawk Headlines

## Estrella Vista Stem Academy



**Message from the principal:** Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday break. Now it is time to get back to work! Please continue to make sure that your child is on time and at school every day. The next five months are crucial to their education and future success. Thank you for supporting your child at home by making sure that homework is completed, reading with your child, and providing a quiet place to work.

We offer several opportunities for parents to be involved at EV. Please see our calendar of events. One of our goals is to increase parental involvement and we have had great participation at our family events. I encourage you to set a resolution to attend our monthly PTSA meetings. We would love to see you there.

Congratulations to our Employee of the Month, school librarian, Mrs. Michelle Gonzales. Mrs. Gonzales went above and beyond to host our most successful book fair to date. She was beyond excited to earn a substantial amount of credit with scholastic to order new books for our library. Mrs. Gonzales can often be heard saying that her goal as our librarian is to instill a love of reading in our students. Thank you for all that you do Mrs. Gonzales, we appreciate you!

**Kids at Hope:** Here at Estrella Vista, our students are Kids at Hope Engineers! Thank you to our Kids at Hope committee chair person, Ms. Nelson, and committee members, Mr. Mierczynski, and Ms. Montano for an amazing talent show! Our students sang, danced, performed a musical number and even hosted a fun filled night to showcase all of the talents, skills and abilities of our EV Hawks! Be on the lookout for our upcoming events this quarter!

**Safety:** Safety is our number one priority. Thank you for following our parking lot procedures to help keep all of our students safe. Please drop off on the curb and be mindful of other drivers. Remember the parking lot is for parking only- it is not for student drop off. Our students are aware of this rule, please be a good role model for your child by following it at all times. Students are not to be on campus prior to 8:20 to ensure adult supervision is present.

**STEM Update:** We held our first STEM Showcase last month. Our students displayed their project based learning units using design thinking, an engineering process of problem solving, to receive feedback for revisions and refinements. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to practice their oral presentation skills, give, and receive feedback. Our Hawk engineers did any amazing job!

**Tax Credit:** Remember to donate to our tax credit program. Married couples may donate up to \$400 and singles up to \$200. Any donation made serves as a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on filed state income taxes. Estrella Vista has a premier after school program. By making a donation, you help us maintain a competitive sports program along with clubs and organizations. Please donate in our office or go to our website for more information: [www.littletonaz.org](http://www.littletonaz.org). Thank you for your support!



## Kindergarten News

Tis the season to be .... Jolly? Merry? Ready for learning! The temperatures are dropping and we are ready to 'snow' you what we know!

Kindergarten is at the turning point! Quarter 2 math interim and Acadience Reading and PASI benchmarks are before we head out for our two week break. Students and treasure hunters have earned time to relax and to reboot and be ready to grow our brains in January!

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, key details in a text, text features labels and diagrams, characters, setting, and events, blending nonsense words as well as reading sight words. We are progress monitoring for how many first sounds and sounds in a word students can recognize. At this point in the year, students should be able to name above 30 first sounds and segment sounds.

Mathematics: counting and labeling objects, number sentences, practice writing numbers correctly, finding missing numbers, what makes 7, 8, 9, and 10, number sentences with related facts for addition

Science: seasons, space

Social Studies: multi-diversity, holidays

Writing: formation of letters, practice print from left to right, finger spacing and proper punctuation, brainstorming, draft models, narratives, drafting before writing, complete sentence with appropriate punctuation

Classroom teachers are often sending home reminders of what to expect next within our classrooms. Be sure to check those folders daily. We would like to thank parents for their continuous help with classroom supplies. Sharpened pencils, wipes and white board markers are always appreciated.

The kindergarten team would also like to thank you for your support with completing homework and helping their students practice reading fluency every day.

As always, thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your continual support,

Kindergarten Treasure Hunters



## First Grade News

First, we want to thank parents for sending back homework every week and working with your child on those so important sight words.

English Language Arts: In this month, students are working on blends and starting to go into long vowels with silent e. (make, cake, time) Students will continue to work on fluency and comprehension. Parents please remember to practice the 200-sight words to help your child with his/her fluency.

Mathematics: students are using different addition strategies and beginning to learn and apply different subtraction strategies using manipulatives and drawings to find the difference.

Science/Social Studies: Students are learning about motion and the different types of forces.

Writing: Students are using circle maps and tree maps to brainstorm and organize their ideas. First graders will also continue to work on writing stories using characters, setting and events using First, Next, Then and Finally.

Thank you parents again for everything you do at home to help your child succeed.

As always, thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your continual support,

The First Grade Team



## Second Grade News

Second grade is half over, and we are so proud of what we have accomplished!

We have had a semester full of learning, engagement, and excitement! Our field trip to the Arizona Science Center was a huge success, with students getting hands on experiences as they learn about different scientific processes in the world. Our students did a wonderful job representing the Estrella Vista community.

In December, our students participated in the STEM showcase, and demonstrated their understanding of problem solving and presenting new ideas. Students were able to express their creativity as they showed off their projects to other grades.

Looking forward, we are so excited to continue learning and exercising our brains to make them big and strong. In reading, we're going to focus our efforts on more complex texts, and reading in order to understand new concepts. Students will also be working on using what they read to answer questions, write, and discover new things.

In math, we're going to be focusing on bigger and bigger numbers, using our understanding of place value to add and subtract with regrouping. Once we're done with that, we'll be learning about money, time, and shapes.

We are so excited to start the new decade! Make sure to read with your student every night, ask them about what they read, and tell them how proud you are of them for how hard they are working. We are so proud of them, and you should be too!



## Third Grade News

We are wrapping up the second quarter of the school year, what a busy time it has been! Third grade students were introduced to project-based learning. Students will be investigating ways to reduce waste at Estrella Vista. Working in small groups, students will have roles and responsibilities to solve this real-world problem. At the STEM showcase, students will be working on their presentation skills to share the new learning with others.

In Math for second quarter, students learned a variety of strategies to solve multiplication and division equations. They showed mastery in relating multiplication and division to addition and subtraction. Students

learned to problem solve using equal groups, arrays, number lines, and inverse operations. Students were also introduced to area and perimeter of polygons. Please continue to practice basic math skills at home every night as we move to new standards.

In reading students are identifying the main idea and supporting details through their short reads. Students are making connections and making inferences using text clues and their prior knowledge. Reading nightly with your child is critical. Please continue to support your child in reading by reading with them every night and by asking them the Five W comprehension questions (who, what, where, when, why and how).

Thank you for your continued support.



## Fourth Grade News

As Quarter 2 comes to an end, we reflect on all of the growth and achievements that were made.

In Language Arts, students worked hard on their Quarter 2 Wonders writing prompt. Students were engaged within a passage and made relevant connections towards their lives. They have been working very hard with grammar components and determining unfamiliar words.

In Math, students learned strategies to solve division problems and key vocabulary terms. They are being introduced to fractions and the connection between that and division. When the new year begins, students will begin to be separated into intervention groups: Reteach and Enrich. We are looking forward to servicing other students and pushing students to reach their full potential.

In Science, it has been a blast to incorporate our new science pilot HMH and see the engagement within the students. We are also actively working on our STEM showcase, highlighting the essential question: How can we keep our immune system healthy. Students are eager to present their research and projects with others.

In Social Studies, we are utilizing the pilot and learning about climate change and how others became a part of America. Students will be rotating around to different fourth grade classrooms learning more about holidays around the world; both academic and engaging.

The team is looking forward to tracking student growth as the new year approaches.



## Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade has had a busy month! We went to Great Skate for a STEM field trip, studied vigilantly for our interim tests, planned and built graham cracker cottages, and will be “tasting” books with hot cocoa and cookies at “Star-Books.” There is never a dull moment in 5<sup>th</sup> grade! Third quarter is going to be even BETTER!



## Sixth Grade News

This month 6<sup>th</sup> grade has overcome many obstacles but it has not stopped us from working hard, especially when it comes to our STEM projects. This year the students are discussing and empathizing about the human impact we have on the whole environment and we are focusing specifically at the school level and how we can make changes here. Currently the students are taking second quarter benchmarks to show off their learning from second quarter and hoping to show growth from first quarter.



## Seventh Grade News

In Science we will start the new year with our biggest cross curricular project of the year, incorporating Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. Students will present their environmental cases to the Supreme Court of the United States. An academic challenge if there ever was one!

In math we have been applying mathematical properties to solve for unknown values in single step and multi-step equations. We then used everything we learned to apply this to problems that involve percent. We are planning to use this often in our everyday lives to make sure that we are getting the right prices after discounts and taxes.

In Social Studies we have been focusing on how European countries made their society more like a utopia. We then compared that to the United States and what we are currently doing in order to improve our society to be more utopian. Students developed wallet cards to demonstrate a need for change in their community to inform other classmates for the STEM showcase.

In ELA we have been reviewing concepts the students have learned throughout the semester. Students are using their acquired knowledge to have discussions about the novel *The Giver*.



## Eighth Grade News

The past month has been an especially busy month for our 8th grade students. In early December we welcomed the La Joya counseling office staff and a panel of La Joya students to discuss the transition to high school and began the high school enrollment process with our students. Additionally, we attended our first field trip of the school year seeing the Phoenix Ballet's performance of "The Nutcracker" at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix.

Academically, students have had a productive month in the classroom as well. In social studies students are wrapping up 2019 studying Cesar Chavez and the workers' rights movement. In mathematics, students are being introduced to geometry through the study of angles. In ELA students have been engaged in a novel study of the "Boy in the Striped Pajamas." In science students have concluded their study of natural selection through several phenomenon investigations. We are looking forward to many more wonderful experiences with our students in 2020.



## Music News

In Music, we are learning about two exciting musicians. Edvard Grieg was from Norway and wrote the famous “In The Hall Of The Mountain King” that is heard often around Halloween. Randy Newman has written music for many movies including the Toy Story series. Students have had the opportunity to learn about these famous musician’s lives, listen to their music, and even play some of their songs on Boomwhackers! Additionally, students have been learning about music fundamentals like steady beat as well as identifying instruments by their sound.

In Middle School, students are learning about holiday music and celebrations.



## Art News

Kindergarten kids are learning about kinds of lines and are creating primary colored, basic shaped, lined birds! Work with scissors, glue, pencil, and marker are all being used. They will be gluing beads onto the letters of their names as well.

1st and 2nd grades are studying the work of Paul Cezanne and will be creating watercolor versions of Tulips in a vase. They will be exploring watercolor resist as they work on a Secret Sentence Modern piece, modeled after Stewart Davis.

3rd and 4th graders will begin by drawing HUGE sunflowers, or parts thereof, showing wind movement and overlapping(4th) . These will be in oil pastels. Look out, they're gonna be amazing!!

5th and 6th grade students will be working on creating collaborative Circle paintings at each table. There is much to learn here in terms of cooperation and collaboration and respect and creation. They will also be creating Totem Faces with cut paper. We will look at the Totems of the Northwest and decide which animal best represents them.

The 7th and 8th-grade students will begin their S.T.E.M group projects creating a totem face animal made from cardboard and various found objects! They must cooperate and make group decisions regarding their chosen animal. They will have the option to create an imaginary animal and they will write about their animal's characteristics. This should be a fun time.



## Technology News

Students of all grade levels complete lessons involving the use of computers. These lessons include the proper etiquette of internet and safety use. The lower elementary grades learn how to use the basics, such as the “mouse”, dragging, keyboard use, etc. Upper elementary grades do the same to include the creating of Google sheets, slides and docs. Students in grades K-6 are on a 4 week rotation all year. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are on a quarter rotation. The majority of the lessons are 10-15 minutes. Some quizzes or projects for the upper grades can take up to 45 minutes to complete. Students should be able to complete 2-3 lessons or one quiz/project per day, depending on their program. Students work at their own pace, however, if they fall behind, their grade does decrease. I would like to stress the need for them to have their own earbuds or headphones. They are needed for many of these programs and for health reasons, they really should bring and use only their own.



## Physical Education News

K – 2nd are working on their underhand throwing skills through a variety of games and practices.

4th & 5th are having a class tournament to see who is the best at spatial awareness game name “Waiter Wars.” Students have made their own teams, named them, and have worked out strategies together to help them win.

6th has been practicing their pickleball skills for a skills assessment coming at the end of the week. Once they have finished, they will be learning the basic form for a golf swing.

7th and 8th just finished up their own pickleball unit where they took a practical exam in the end. They are now learning the history and basic rules for soccer. Soon, they'll be forming teams and competing against each other in a small season.



## STEM News

K to 5th Graders:

- 1) Students will be learning Design thinking process.
- 2) Students are learning and exploring different careers including a description of job, job responsibilities and education required for those careers.

5 – 7th Grades: Students are learning Career of a Rocket designer. Students will be building “CD Rocket engine Car” and learn how rockets work.

8th Graders: Students will build “Super Capacitor wind car”



## Band News

In band, we just had our first performance of the school year. Both the beginner and combined 6th-8th grade bands demonstrated high levels of musicianship and we are very proud of them. 5th and 6th grades are continuing work in their method books. 7th and 8th grades are now working on projects for STEM showcase.

## Upcoming Events

01/06: School resumes from Winter Break

01/07: Honor Roll Assemblies, Cafeteria,  
Grades 3-4 8:50 AM to 9:20 AM  
Grades 5-6 9:20 AM to 9:50 AM  
Grades 7-8 9:50 AM to 10:20 AM  
Grades 1-2 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM  
Kinder 2:45 PM to 3:15 PM

01/07-01/10: Achieve 3000 Testing, Grades 3-8. Various times.

01/10: First Friday Assembly, West Field, 8:45 AM

01/16: District Wide Spelling Bee, ULC North & South Auditoriums, 9:30 AM

01/17: All Day Staff Professional Development, various locations, no school for students.

01/20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school

01/21: PTSA Meeting, Library, 5:30 PM

01/29: PTSA sponsored Dollar Dress Down Day, campus wide