



Leading...in Learning, Caring and Growing
 11905 W. Cocopah Circle North • Avondale, AZ 85323

ESTRELLA VISTA  ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HAWK TALES NOVEMBER • 2010

Administrative Team

Estrella Vista is always glad to celebrate our students and their continued success both in and out of the classroom. We are thankful to our parents and community for supporting our scholars in making good academic and social choices.

In an effort to get our students to and from school safely, we ask that our bike riders wear a bike helmet. With that they are also encouraged to always look both ways and walk their bikes through intersections. You are encouraged to look for opportunities to practice riding your bike responsibly while enjoying family time. Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Jacci Jones, Assistant Principal

Kindergarten

Hello from Kindergarten! The month of October went really quick. The kindergarten team would like to thank all families who attended our parent-teacher conferences. We had a wonderful grade level turn-out. Our students have been working really hard at learning how to write and identify all the letters of the alphabet and produce the letter sounds. We began learning to blend sounds together to produce words. In math, we have been focusing on identifying and writing numbers to 20, making patterns, and graphing. At home please continue working on the homework packet and reading each night. We thank you for your classroom donations and your support at home.

Kindergarten Team

First Grade

First grade would like to thank all the parents/families who attended conferences. We appreciate your participation and support in your child's education. In reading we are working in short vowels (a e i o u). In math we have been working in addition and subtraction and counting. Please make sure your child continues practicing his/her numbers. In writing, we are working in writing simple sentences with correct conventions. Please continue to support your child by helping them with their homework, and reading at least 15 minutes every night.

First Grade Team

Second Grade

Wow! Time sure is flying by in Second Grade! In Writing we are currently working on following directions and writing personal narratives. We are very excited about our creative writing the students have been producing. In Math our students are working on place value to the thousands, money, and time. In Reading our focus is Realistic Fiction and sequencing. In Grammar we are working on understanding nouns (proper, plural, singular, and possessive). In Science we are discussing animal habitats and our culminating activity will be going to the Zoo. We want to thank all the volunteers who attended our field trip to the Wildlife World Zoo. As the weather changes, please make sure your child's sweater or sweatshirt follows dress code colors. All outerwear must be removed inside the building. Please make sure your child is reading a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Thank you for your continued support.

Second Grade Team

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Third Grade

Third grade is looking forward to an amazing second quarter. We are working on adding and subtracting with regrouping to the hundreds place, time lines and word problems in math. In Science we will be conducting experiments and learning about various scientific tools and why safety rules are so important. We will also be going on a field trip to the Arizona Science Center to explore various science exhibits. For reading, we continue to work on fluency and comprehension skills during second quarter. Students should be reading thirty minutes a night to increase their fluency rate. Your support at home is the key to their success this year.

3rd Grade Team

Fourth Grade

We are thankful for the high attendance during conference week and look forward to meeting new goals for the second quarter. Please continue to check and sign Agendas every night. When your child reads, have them tell you a summary about what they read to increase comprehension. Most of the students have mastered their multiplication tables and are now working on long division and fractions. The students have made drug free posters to support Red Ribbon Week. We look forward to seeing you at the next school event. Thank you for all of your support.

The Fourth Grade Team

Fifth Grade

This month is an exciting month! 5th Grade has many wonderful things that we are doing. We buckled down in October after returning from a rest-filled Fall Break, and have indulged into our second quarter of learning. We will spend the majority of this month focusing on Poetry, specific writing skills, fractions, decimals, and percents!

In writing, we are focusing on a range of writing skills that include figurative language, grammar usage, and writing poetry!

In Math, we are focusing on Fractions, Decimals, and Percents. This will take up most of our second quarter and is very important to our student's foundations in mathematics. It is also essential that the students have their multiplication facts memorized! Keep working on that at home!

Finally, each week, we look at a new Estrella Vista Essential that encourages our students to always do the right thing. Each essential gives specific examples of how to treat others and how to get along with others by being a good person. Each teacher has all of the Essentials posted in the classroom and reviews those with the students.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2nd quarter and all the learning that will take place!

Fifth Grade Team

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Wahl and Mrs. Callahan's Class: This quarter, students are being introduced to Algebra. So far, students have reviewed how to correctly solve problems using the order of operations, and will move



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on to learning how to use equations and function tables to show relationships between quantities. In science, students have studied the basics about inventions and have completed a research assignment about their favorite inventor. They have also had a chance to brainstorm and come up with their own idea for an invention!

Ms. Koebler and Mr. Balder's class: We are finishing up learning the scientific method in science. Now we can move on to great experiments to learn as much as we can about the world around us. We will be moving into inventions next week, and the annual invention convention will be coming up soon. Expect a flyer soon. In reading, we are focusing on Greek root words, reading strategies, and thoroughly covering each standard by teaching and modeling, the students practicing each one, and assessing their knowledge. The genre project for next month is historical fiction. What a great bunch of readers we have!

6th Grade Team

Seventh Grade

In October, 7th grade Language Arts students worked on their narrative essays, which focused on the elements of plot, continued to grow as readers with fluency practice, and learned how to analyze a character based on characterization. Looking toward November, scholars will learn how to identify theme and figurative language in poetry, finalize and present their narrative scary stories, and finally learn the elements of writing a friendly letter.

In Math we will be learning scientific notation, standard form, and order of operations. We will also learn how to solve problems using a variable and multiple steps, numerical sequencing, graphing equations, linear equations, and analysis of change. At the end of the month we will be starting logic, reasoning, problem solving, and proof.

In Social Studies we just finished up our unit on the Civil War, and are now investigating the Reconstruction Era that followed the war. Students will be busy with creative writing opportunities, using critical thinking skills and creating timelines and posters.

7th Grade Team

Eighth Grade

The 8th grade has had an enjoyable 1st quarter of learning! The teachers would like to thank all of the parents and guardians that came out for conferences! It was great to see all of you! Additionally, our 8th graders greatly helped the Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, and Volleyball teams make the play-offs and they play a large role in the flag football team! Each teacher has contributed an update that follows below:

Math

2nd quarter is all about algebraic thinking in Ms. Siems class!! Whether it's solving equations or graphing on the coordinate plane, all of Ms. Siems's students are deep in the heart of algebra. This is good because algebra plays a large role on the 8th grade AIMS test.

Ms. Siems

Language Arts

Mr. Beachy's class is getting ready to do an author study. Students will

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read multiple works from the same author and then analyze the common themes and settings of the stories. Mr. Beachy's Enrichment Class is trying to tackle the play by William Shakespeare, "Hamlet".

Mr. Beachy

Social Studies

My name is Mr. Davis and I am the 8th grade Social Studies teacher. I joined the Estrella Vista staff just before Fall Break; I am excited to be here and I am looking forward to a great year. We are beginning with the American Revolution and learning why the colonists chose to fight for their independence and found this great country. I look forward to learning with each and every one of you in my classes this year.

Mr. Davis

P.E. Class

The weather is great outside!!! The second quarter is starting with all classes moving outside to do physical education. 1st & 2nd are starting the Parachute Unit. 3rd – 6th grades are starting the Flag Football Unit. 7th & 8th graders are starting the Health Unit and continuing into a Pickleball Unit. Please continue to eat healthy and be active.

Mr. Lanquell, P.E. Teacher

Technology

As 2nd quarter begins students are creating wonderful new projects. We did a lesson on Acrostic Poems and each student (3rd-6th graders) created an Acrostic Poem with their name. They used word art in Microsoft Word to make their poem FANCY! With a new quarter brings new 7th and 8th grade students. I am very impressed with their typing skills. The goal for 7th graders is to type 25 words per minute, and for 8th graders 30 words per minute. Keep Practicing your Typing.

Ms. Cox, Technology Teacher

Music

In Music Time, students finished studying Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev by watching an Academy Award winning animated version of his story "Peter & the Wolf". Students have also been describing and illustrating various types of "scary" music, and learning about pitch by making a sound like the wind.

Mr. Spielman, Music Teacher

Band

October through December are exciting months in the Estrella Vista Band. On October 22nd 7th and 8th grade band students traveled to La Joya to play with the high school marching band. The Advanced Band is also going to play at the Arizona State Fair on November 4th and march in the Phoenix Light Parade on December 3rd. We are anxiously preparing for these events. Not to be left out, our beginning band and strings are preparing for the winter concert on December 9th and then a Phoenix Symphony field trip in February. Lots of exciting trips to come! See you at the concert on December 9th.

Mr. Flaherty, Band Teacher



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Art

In November students are developing a complete understanding of color mixing, using the primary colors to make the secondary and tertiary colors while building their own color wheels. These will help them know and understand color theory as well as giving them valuable experience in painting. 1st grade has started studying artist Piet Mondrian and his modern art while 2nd grade has been learning about Georgia O'Keeffe's life and use of warm colors. Later this month 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders will also be learning and studying a variety of artists, ideas and themes.

Ms. Yonke, Art Teacher

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