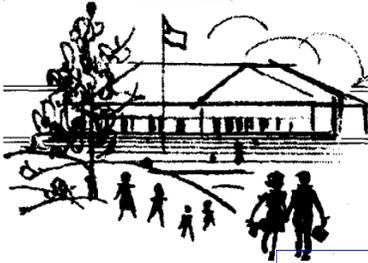


February 2014



Graham County School News



Graham County School Superintendent

Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 10, Issue 2

"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website
www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

I am so pleased to announce that our plans for the 2014 Southeast Teachers' Academy are in the works. We are structuring the academy to try and meet the needs of more educators. We want to allow for more flexibility, so this year, participants may choose to attend all or part of the four-day academy. Keep an eye out for registration materials, which should roll out in early March. Save the date—June 2-5, 2014!

We have several big events coming in February, including the annual Graham County Spelling Bee on Wed. Feb. 5th at 6:00. The General Services Building reaches capacity with educators, family and friends cheering on the students vying for the title of best speller. Last year, our champ, Cal Hargis, placed 4th at the Arizona State Bee. We wish all of our students the best as they prepare for this competition.

On a more somber note, we all send our condolences to the families, students and staff members who recently suffered losses. Pima School District librarian Judy Tatum passed away and the Safford and Solomon districts experienced the loss of one of their students.

Contact us:

Donna McGaughey
Superintendent
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Safford, AZ 85546
928-428-2880
Fax: 928-428-8824

dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov

Jill Davis, Chief Deputy
jdavis@graham.az.gov

Polly Merriman, Deputy
pmerriman@graham.az.gov

Paulette LeBlanc, Education
Service Agency Coordinator
pleblanc@aznexus.net

Online Registration:
www.graham.az.gov

School Superintendent

Save the Date:

Feb. 5—Graham County Spelling Bee

Feb. 6—FBLA Regionals at EAC

Feb. 12—FFA District Competitions at SHS

Feb. 13—Valentine's Dance for self-contained students hosted by the Safford Woman's Club

Feb. 14—Statehood Day, Valentine's Day

Feb. 17—Presidents' Day

Feb. 27—4th Graders Day at the Gila Valley Health & Safety Fair—EAC

TBA late Feb. / early March—Auditor General/ADE USFR for small schools training

March 5—ADE On-site teacher certification in the Graham Co. General Services Building

March 17-21 Spring Break in Graham County

June 2-5—SEATA at EAC



February: Dental Health Month

Teeth and Cavity Bugs

“Let’s count teeth today”, coached Rexann Rogers while she visited a room of 3-year-olds at the Palomita Children’s Center in Safford. “And, let’s talk about cavity bugs. Hmm. What do you think they look like?” Rexann Rogers, First Smiles Registered Nurse, thus started her series of lessons that built up to a dental screening for all the children in Kayla Soohy’s classroom.

The Graham/Greenlee First Things First Regional Council funds this oral health strategy through a grant awarded to the Graham County Cooperative Extension. This program increases young children’s access to preventative dental care through oral health screenings, fluoride varnishes and referrals for follow up treatment. A written report is sent home to families noting any presence of white spots, cavities and decay.

“There is nothing more important than early intervention”, states Rexann. “Children are not healthy if their mouths aren’t healthy. We as healthcare professionals are continually discovering the correlation between oral health and learning. Poor oral health has been related to increased absences, decreased school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life. When children’s acute dental problems are treated and they are not experiencing pain, their learning and school attendance records improve.”

For more information contact Cindy Pearson at (928) 428-2611.



Presents Professional Development Opportunities in STEM Education

Effectively Integrate Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, A Framework for K-12 Science Education, & Next Generation Science Standards

STEM education is the latest buzzword; but what does **STEM** mean? *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* shares a vision for an integration of science and engineering practice with disciplinary core content and cross cutting concepts. How does this translate to classroom instruction? How can **Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards** be integrated into STEM learning? What instructional strategies best promote STEM learning? Join us in our professional development workshops to explore these important questions and more.

The following sessions are designed to meet your needs for developing effective **integrated STEM instruction for your grade level.**

Saturday, February 22nd - Teachers grades 3-5

Discovering and Applying Concepts of Ecology and Earth Systems

Registration deadline: Friday, February 7, 2014

Saturday, March 1st - Teachers grades 3-5

Emphasizing the 'M' in STEM

Registration deadline: Friday, February 14, 2014

Saturday, March 29th - Teachers grades PK-1

Exploring STEM in Early Childhood with Life Science

Registration deadline: Friday, March 14, 2014

Registration Fee: \$195

Includes a *Great Explorations in Math and Science*[®] (GEMS) teacher guide and either STEM and literacy resources or an *Engineering is Elementary*[®] (EiE) teacher guide depending on the workshop. A light lunch will be provided.

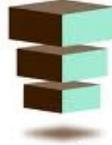
Location: Northern Arizona University North Valley Campus
15601 N. 28th Ave. Phoenix, AZ

Register online: www.nau.edu/CSTL

Payment: Payment may be made by check or purchase order to the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, Northern Arizona University, PO Box 5697, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5697, FAX: [\(928\) 523-7953](tel:9285237953). **Confirmation:** You will receive confirmation of your registration and map to the professional development by **email**. Registration is not complete until payment is received.

Cancellation and Refunds: Ten business days notice of cancellation is required to receive a refund, minus a \$10 processing fee. We are sorry that we cannot issue a refund after the 10-day deadline.

For more information please contact: Lillie Giffen [928-523-7187](tel:9285237187),
Lillie.Giffen@nau.edu



EXPECTMOREARIZONA.ORG®
Ready Kids • Ready Graduates • Ready Workforce

Expect More Arizona is building engaged leadership and public commitment to ensure a world-class education system for all students. We raise public awareness, educate, advocate and mobilize Arizonans to support these five building blocks:



World-Class Academic Achievement

Arizona students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs.



Excellence for All

Arizonans embrace the state's diversity and value the potential of every child's life. Every Arizona student has the opportunity to attain an excellent education, regardless of zip code, background, or special need.



Commitment to Innovation

Arizona students are critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who are prepared for the jobs we want in Arizona and who will strengthen Arizona's global leadership and quality of life.



Strategic Investment

New and existing resources are strategically invested in Arizona's students, birth through career, to improve student achievement and to grow the number of world-class educators and schools.



Communities Working Together

Arizona's business and community leaders, elected leaders, voters, educators, parents and students work together with urgency, optimism and a long-term view to ensure that every Arizona student succeeds in college, career and life.

Spelling Bee Information

The Graham County Spelling Bee, which serves as the qualifier for the Arizona State Spelling Bee, will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2014. The bee will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. in the Graham County General Services Building.

School District Spelling Bee Timeline:

February 24, 2014: County and Regional Bees must be held by this date

March 3, 2014: Biography forms from each county/regional winner must be submitted

March 29, 2014: Arizona Spelling bee will be held in Phoenix at Eight/AZ PBS

Late May / Early June 2014: Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held in Washington, D.C.

Good luck to all spellers!



Thanks to Mickey Hawkins, Taylor Kerby, Jennifer McDougal, Debbie Pearson and Paul Anger for providing the recent great hands-on learning experiences for our Graham and Greenlee students at the **Saturday Science Camps**. They have been great successes!

Teachers who are interested in joining the Eastern Arizona Science Initiative should contact Paul Anger, Director at the Eastern Arizona Discovery Park Campus:

paul.anger@eac.edu

928-428-6260

Join your colleagues and have fun sharpening your science skills!



EAC Discovery Park Campus announces

“Bridges of the Gila River”

EAC Discovery Park Campus welcomes Tom Palmer, EAC Engineering Instructor, with a historical and interesting presentation on “The Bridges of the Gila River.”

Saturday February 1, 2014

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

EAC Discovery Park Campus-Jupiter Room

Don't miss this historical presentation on the history and importance of the bridges of the Gila River! Mr. Palmer will share lots of photographs of present and historical bridges – come and see how many you remember! This is a fun family-friendly presentation for all ages, and don't forget to tour through the Graham County Historical Society's artifacts display in the Discovery Park Gallery and observe the night sky through the 20" Tinsley Telescope in the Gov Aker Observatory, all free of charge and minutes away from home!

Congratulations to Carol Anne Weech, US History and Government teacher at Pima High School. Last fall she represented Graham County in the Arizona Rural School Association's Teacher of the Year program.

From Paul Anger, Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park and E.A.S.I.

2014 Eastern Arizona Regional Science Fair Competition

- The Regional Science Fair is open to all Eastern Arizona (Graham and Greenlee Counties) School Districts and Charter Schools
- There will be three levels of participation: 5th & 6th grade, 7th & 8th grade, and open high school. There will be three categories in each level: earth science, life science and physical science
- All projects will be judged by EAC and upper-level science faculty
- 1st & 2nd place winners will receive trophies, place ribbons and certificates of participation
- 3rd place and honorable mention winners will receive place ribbons and certificates of participation

The Overall Winners in each grade level will receive:

Kindle Fire HD with email, web and phone

7" HD screen * up to 10 hour battery life * dual stereo speakers

Dual-band wi-fi * 8 GB of storage

Plus, all 1st place winners will receive a full tuition scholarship to the 2014 EASI Summer Science Camp, hosted by Discovery Park Campus and Eastern Arizona College

Project displays must be delivered to the EAC Discovery Park Campus—Ranch House by Thursday March 6, 2014

Public Viewing:

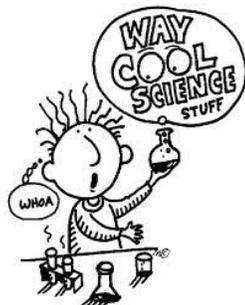
Thursday March 6, 2014 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Friday March 7, 2014 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Saturday March 8, 2014 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony—Saturday March 8th in the DPC Ranch House

For more information, contact your science teacher or Paul Anger, Eastern Arizona Science Initiative: paul.anger@eac.edu



*Teachers! You are invited to attend
a FREE Professional Development Workshop
For Graham and Greenlee County*

Middle School & High School Teachers:

“ROCKS, MINERALS, AND MINING!”

This workshop will be geared toward the High School Teaching Level, to improve teacher content knowledge on a variety of geologic topics. This is your chance to ask questions, get ideas on how to share with your students, and feel confident while teaching anything geology related! – plus, you’ll earn C.E. Credits!!

Wednesday, February 19th

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

EAC Discovery Park Campus – Ranch House

--You must pre-register by Friday February 7th 2014--

Door Prizes !!

Pamela Wilkinson, Geologist/ Educator is the Educational Outreach Coordinator for the Lowell Institute for Mineral Resources at the **University of Arizona**. She is responsible for developing and delivering up to date accurate information on Arizona’s modern mining industry. Prior to beginning this program with the Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources she spent over 15 years as a volunteer teacher and “scientist in residence.” She taught, developed lessons, and led field trips on a variety of subjects including mining, volcanoes, dinosaurs, rocks, minerals, and earthquakes. She is a member of American Institute of Professional Geologists, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Geological Society of America, and Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, National Earth Science Teachers Association, National Association of Geoscience Teachers, Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, and Arizona Geological Society.

Register to attend:

Contact Jackie Madsen at Jackie.madsen@eac.edu or call the EAC Discovery Park Campus at 928-428-6260. Please leave your name, email and phone number.

EASTERN ARIZONA SCIENCE INITIATIVE



Thirty-six 7th and 8th grade students from Duncan, Safford, Thatcher, Pima and the Safford Christian School participated in the awesome

EASI MIDDLE SCHOOL SATURDAY SCIENCE CAMP

The camp was held at the EAC Discovery Park Campus on Saturday January 25th. Special thanks to Safford Middle School Teachers Jennifer McDougal and Debbie Pearson for presenting a fun activity on designing and launching paper rockets! The students were divided into two groups and instructed on rocket and aeronautics designs, including the most important aspects of the wings; thrust and lift, and nose cone shape. The students created a variety of wing designs and tested them on their rockets as well as nose cone designs that would offer the best in aerodynamics and strength and tested them with foot operated air pumps. Several students chose airplane type wings to offer stability and accuracy, while others used streamlined wings or even went without. The nose cone choices were between pointed, rounded, and blunt, mostly depending on the amount of time each student chose to invest in their rocket. When the design tests were finished and the project rockets were complete, the students went to the launch area in the Grand Kiva at the Gov Aker Observatory. Each student had an opportunity to launch their rocket from a special air launcher with 40psi and then later 60psi, amazingly several of the rockets, which were simply made from rolled copy paper and masking tape flew well over 50 yards in distance and height!

This was a great opportunity for these students to meet and work together on designing the rockets and ultimately to have fun while launching them to prove their ideas. Some of their comments on the activity demonstrated that the Camp was a success, when asked what things did you learn at the Science Camp? The majority of the answers were similar to this: *"I learned how to make a paper rocket", and "this science camp is awesome!"*. I believe the most telling comments were when asked would they like to change anything, they answered, *"You should give a few more classes", "more classes outside", and "P.S. I really want to do this again!!!"*.

It's pretty exciting to hear 7th and 8th grade students asking for more fun STEM activities, and the Eastern Arizona Science Initiative's goal is to make that happen! If you are interested in participating with any of the EASI activities and events, please contact Paul Anger, Chair of EASI, at paul.anger@eac.edu .

SAFFORD CITY
GRAHAM COUNTY
LIBRARY



808 S. Seventh Ave.
Safford, AZ 85546
(928) 432-4165

The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. **It's free to Graham County students.** Visit the library's homepage at www.cityofsafford.us and click on the *Homework Help* icon. This will lead you to the icon for **Tutor.com**. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with *First Things First* to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!



The Safford City—Graham County Library has partnered with the Arizona State Library to bring a fabulous FREE database of eBooks to our students!

Visit www.saffordlibrary.org

On the left side of the screen, click on "TumbleBooks / eBooks for Kids

"Check out" the titles, which now include non-fiction!

The books are indexed by reading levels, grade, and lexile.

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity—it's free!

Visit the Gift Shop!

Safford City / Graham County Library

808 S. Seventh Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546 928-432-4165

Hours: Mon.—Thursday 10:00 a.m. —7:00 p.m. Closed Friday—Sunday

Governing Board Members Receive Recognition

The Arizona School Boards Association honored more than 250 members with boardsmanship awards. The awards are based on the hours of training received, and were presented at the fall ASBA county meetings.

Certificate of Orientation

Pilar Carter—Pima USD Todd Haynie—Thatcher USD
Pat McEuen—Ft. Thomas Myron Moses—Ft. Thomas
Rose Rope—Ft. Thomas Jeremy Saline—Pima USD
Shirley Turner Chaplin— Safford USD

Associate of Boardsmanship

Beth Hinton—Ft. Thomas USD



How to help students who struggle with reading

Source: Pam Allyn, *Educational Leadership* / March 2012

Ten Actions for Creating a Reading Culture:

1. Don't judge the reader— "Avid readers, and some budding readers, will read anything; cereal boxes, magazines, posters, video game instructions, graphic novels."
2. Offer a range of materials—expose readers to all levels and types of reading materials.
3. Provide time for dialogue— "Dialogue is a window into another person's reading experience and is an effective way to get people excited about reading."
4. Give readers a tool kit—give readers resources such as alphabet charts, word boxes, word walls, digital devices, etc.
5. Let readers read at their comfort level— "Books slightly below the student's reading level encourage that student to read faster and more confidently. Such books should never be underestimated, and a student should never be ashamed to read them."

The author reported an encounter with a student unhappily reading the Junie B. Jones series. She asked him why he was reading it if he didn't like it, and he said "It's at my level; it's all I'm allowed to read."

6. Dive deep—talk to students, and allow them to talk to others, about what they are reading.
7. Value browsing and rereading— "These are signs of a strong reader. Rereading builds comprehension; a person is reading differently every time he or she comes to the text."
8. Build stamina— "Quick reads" give a challenged student a successful reading experience without making that student wait weeks to feel successful.
9. Teach students to curate their own reading lives—empower students to choose what they read and to see themselves as readers...show them different ways to keep a record of the material they read.
10. Remember, joy matters— "Most reluctant readers have experienced a great deal of anxiety and stress around reading. Create a world for all readers that's full of the joy of discovery, imagination and information.

Pam Allyn has written *Pam Allyn's Best Books for Boys* (Scholastic 2011)

Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

Esri Education Site License Program for Arizona K-12 Schools

Arizona has a statewide site license for this program and it is at **no cost**. The license may be free, but if you are new to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), you will want to do some self-training before you install it at your school.

It is highly likely that you don't need the full package. For small projects, you may find the free software available on the Esri website is easier for you to utilize.

If you are new to GIS, we highly encourage you to do the basics at <http://www.esri.com/what-is-gis>

You can apply for the full Esri software:

http://perceval.bio.nau.edu/grail_form/default.aspx

KaBOOM! Let's Play Grants

Deadlines: Rolling

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group & KaBOOM! Are excited to offer \$500 Let's Play Completion Grants to qualifying Do-It-Yourself communities to be used toward the improvement of an existing playground built using the KaBoom! Community build model and \$750 Let's Play Maintenance Grants to communities who wish to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting.

http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants

VEX Robotics

Schools interested in learning more about VEX Robotics and available grants should visit

<http://www.vexrobotics.com>

www.roboticseducation.org

www.robotevents.com

D-Backs Program Grants

D-Backs program grants are given statewide to non-profit organizations. Funds for these grants are raised throughout the season through team fundraising events, including the annual Evening on the Diamond benefit dinner, Shirts Off Our D-Backs and additional events. All 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Arizona are welcome to apply for funding, however, funding must be serving the people of Arizona. The deadline is open and the amount of grant funding available for projects is \$1,000—\$5,000. For more info:

<http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/community/grants.jsp>

The 2014 Brainware Brain Awareness Week Grants Program

Key dates: Feb. 1—applications open

Feb. 28—application deadline

March 10-16—Brain Awareness Week Award Announcement

<http://www.mybrainware.com/who-we-help/>

Youth Program Grants

Deadline: Open

Sponsor: The Entertainment Software Association Foundation

Amount: Varies

Type: Social & Economic, Arts & Culture

The ESA Foundation is dedicated to supporting positive programs and opportunities that make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

<http://www.esafoundation.org/application.asp>



Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education Application Window: May 1st –Oct. 30th

(Start planning for next year!)

Please visit www.freeportinmycommunity.com Click on: Our Programs

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500 a school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year. Additional grant opportunities are available including the STEM Education grant. Congratulations to Lena Mattice, Ft. Thomas Unified School District on receiving this grant.

Graham County received nearly \$500,000 in the recent round of Community Investment Fund grant awards held in August. Several schools received grants, including Thatcher Unified, Safford Unified, Pima Elementary, and Solomon Elementary School District.

Strengthening Secondary Education

Deadline: Open

Amount: \$100,000—\$200,000

Sponsor: Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

Type: Education

Grants are made for innovative professional development programs that strengthen teachers and their teaching in grades 9-12.

<http://www.avdf.org/FoundationsPrograms/SecondaryEducation.aspx>

Disney Friends for Change U.S. Grants

Deadline: February 6th

YSA and Disney Friends for Change are offering young change-makers an opportunity to receive a \$500 grant to help make a lasting, positive change in the world. Applicants leading high-impact and/or large-scale projects may also request an additional \$500 grant (up to \$1,000 total) to support their work.

http://www.ysa.org/disney_friends_for_change_us_grants

KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can be eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

<http://grants.kaboom.org>

DoSomething.org Seed Grants

Deadline: ongoing

Are you working to start a community action project or program with your friends? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? A \$500 DoSomething Seed Grant is given out every week to help young people like you!

Visit the website:

www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants

Daily Point of Light Award

Deadline: Rolling

The power of the individual to spark change and improve the world—that's what the Daily Point of Light Award celebrates. Nominate a local hero for this award. Recognition includes a certificate signed by President George H.W. Bush.

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/recognition>

Instrument and Equipment Awards

Deadline: Open

Amount: Varies

Sponsor: Fender Music Foundation

Type: Arts and Culture

The Fender Music Foundation awards instruments and equipment to eligible music instruction programs. These items are lightly used, blemished, or otherwise imperfect and have been collected from manufacturers and retailers. The organization is currently awarding acoustic guitars, electric guitars, etc.

<http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/grants/grants-info/>

Free Classroom Supplies Are Now Available for Teachers!

How to help a teacher:

1. Visit the NAEIR website at www.naeir.org
2. Click on the Teacher's Program drop down
3. Click on the View Products to view the products that are available through this program.
4. Interested teachers can register for the program—the registration fee is only \$9.00. Click on the Teacher's Program Registration.
5. The day after registering, the new member of the Teacher's Program will receive and invitation to set up a Login I.D.

The Dupont Challenge© Science Essay Competition - As one of the foremost student science and technology prize programs in the U.S. and Canada, the Challenge helps to increase science literacy among students and motivates them to excel in communicating scientific ideas. Students in grades 7-12 are asked to write a 700 to 1,000 word essay in one of four categories: food, energy, protection, or innovation. Prizes include U.S. Savings Bonds and a special awards trip to the Walt Disney World® Resort and the Kennedy Space Center. Teachers advising winning students receive a cash grant, the awards trip, and an expenses-paid trip to the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Learn more at <http://thechallenge.dupont.com/sponsors/nsta.php>

News from the Arizona Geographic Alliance

Contact: Cathy L. Davis, AzGA Arizona State University
School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning
PO box 875301 Tempe, AZ 85287-5302 cathy.davis@asu.edu 480-965-5361



Strengthening Geography Education in Arizona

Kavli Science-In-Fiction Contest <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/kavli-science-contest/>

Now in its third year, the Kavli science video contest gives middle and high school students the opportunity to investigate how science is portrayed in TV, films, and games, then make a 30 to 90 second video about how current or emerging technologies could help realize those science fiction concepts.

Entry period runs from Nov. 1, 2013 to March 21, 2014

Doodle4Google—starts in January 2014 <http://www.google.com/doodle4google/>

Doodle 4 Google is an annual program that invites K-12 students in the United States to use their artistic talents to think big and redesign our homepage logo for millions to see. In 2013 students were asked to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme, "My Best Day Ever..." **One talented student artist will see their artwork appear on the Google homepage, receive a \$30,000 college scholarship, and a \$50,000 technology grant for their school!**

Population Pyramids of the World from 1950 to 2100 <http://populationpyramid.net/Western+Europe/2015/>

Choose a year and then click on a country, continent or region. Fast and very visual.



Request for Proposal Science/Computer Labs

Greetings,

I am writing to announce the release of a request for proposals (RFP) aimed at rural middle and high schools in Arizona. Science Foundation Arizona (SFaz) has received private donations with the express purpose of assisting rural Arizona districts to raise the achievement level of their students. This RFP is for middle and high schools to develop or enhance stationary or mobile science and computer labs. There will be multiple awardees for grants up to \$50,000. I have attached the RFP for you to disseminate to school districts that are rural and contain middle and/or high schools. **The proposals are due in to SFaz by 2:00 pm on February 26, 2014. The awards will be made this spring in time for the purchase of equipment for the 2014-15 school year.**

Thank you for your assistance in publicizing this RFP.

John A. Kriekard, Ed.D.
Director of Education
Science Foundation Arizona jkriekard@sfaz.org

The RFP link has been sent to each principal.



Welcome to the Age of Discovery at Student Days 2014! Don't miss this unique learning opportunity at the Arizona Renaissance Festival Student Days in March 2014! Student Days have incorporated the new core

standard and are addressing STEM needs through its Arizona SciTech Festival partnership. 2014 Student Days are scheduled for **Tuesday March 4th for elementary schools and Thursday March 6th for Jr. & Sr. High students.**

Order by February 7, 2014 and receive 1 FREE chaperone ticket for every 8 students! Download a Student Days Information and Order Form NOW at: <http://royalfaires.com/arizona/images/pdf/2014%20SD%20Handout-Flyer%20ASSET.pdf>

The Arizona Renaissance Festival has also partnered with Bear Essential News and created an **Essay Contest** where the **1st place winners will receive FREE admission for his/her class to Student Days.** Essay Contest information can be downloaded at:

<http://royalfaires.com/arizona/images/pdf/2014%20Essay%20Contest.pdf>

For more information about **Student Days** please visit: http://royalfaires.com/arizona/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=55

If you have questions please contact M'Lissa Clark at (520) 463-2600 x102 or marketing@renfestinfo.com. We hope you'll consider the Arizona Renaissance Festival Student Days; it's a unique and wonderful way to get the students engaged and interested in history!

Super Why Kindergarten Readiness Camps Facilitator Training

Monday, March 3 & Tuesday, March 4

At the Eight, Arizona PBS Offices

555 North Central Avenue, Suite 500, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Evidence-based curriculum aligned to

AZ Early Learning Standards & College & Career Ready Standards Attendees will learn how to implement each of the three Super WHY! Reading Camp curriculums, receive a curriculum binder and a certificate for participation.

Camp Topics:

SUPER WHY and the Three Little Pigs

SUPER WHY & Hansel and Gretel: A Healthy Adventure

SUPER WHY & Around the World Adventure

\$275 includes parking and lunch for both days

Research has shown that Super WHY! Reading Camps

have a significant impact on children's acquisition of early literacy skills. During camp, the preschool participants took pre- and post- tests to assess learning gains from the five-day experience... Campers showed **gains in all of the literacy skills** presented in the program, and **developed proficiency in reading letters, sounds, and words.** Preschoolers showed an **84 percent gain in phonics skills and a 139 percent (more than double) gain in word recognition skills.** - Florida State University's Center for Reading Research

Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Uod3aK0LS4uqV2Qm0aK5BsJfre8FI99fzz2gyMmMrz0/viewform>



The SE Arizona Workforce Connection team promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, workers and communities across Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties workforce solutions that achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

1910 W. Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ

928-432-6932

www.seazworkforce.org

Kimberly Termain, Business Development/Outreach Coordinator

ktermain@cpic-cas.org

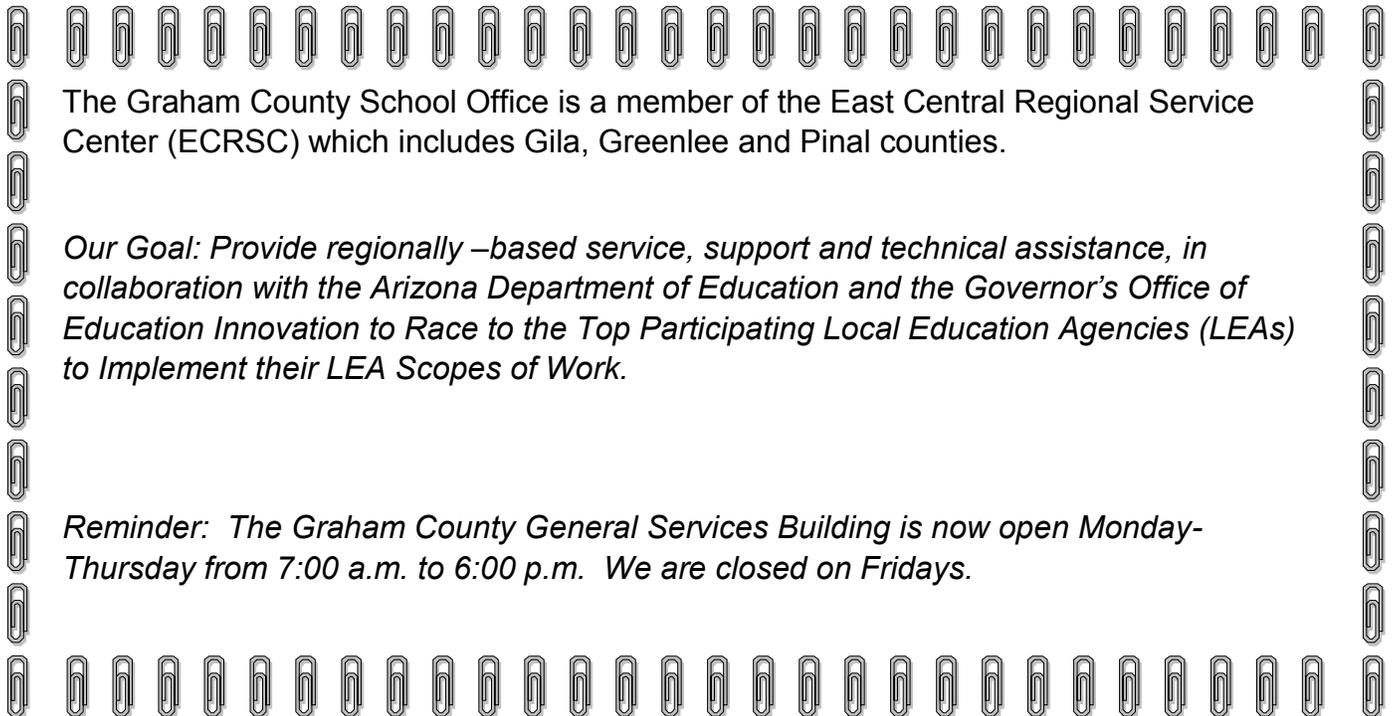
Several Graham County Social Studies teachers took advantage of the "Virtual Economics / Strand 5" training recently hosted by the Graham County School Superintendent. One really interesting and useful statistics website demonstrated in the training was

www.gapminder.org

Check it out!

Assistive Technology Loan Library

Arizona Dept. of Education Exceptional Student Services has partnered with Northern Arizona University's Technology Access Program to make available, at no cost, a wide variety of assistive technology. Forms are available at www.adeatloan.org or email atloanlibrary@nau.edu



The Graham County School Office is a member of the East Central Regional Service Center (ECRSC) which includes Gila, Greenlee and Pinal counties.

Our Goal: Provide regionally –based service, support and technical assistance, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Education Innovation to Race to the Top Participating Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to Implement their LEA Scopes of Work.

Reminder: The Graham County General Services Building is now open Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We are closed on Fridays.