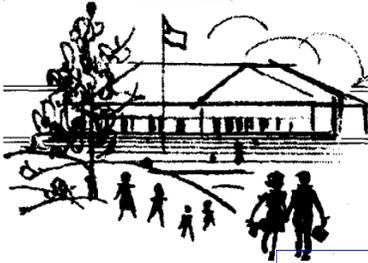


January 2014



Graham County School News



Graham County School Superintendent

Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 10, Issue 1

"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website
www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

It is normal to make personal resolutions when we turn the calendar to a new year. If you are like me, you really don't adhere to those goals, or you quit after a few weeks. We're human. I did a little research into resolutions and found some ideas that I might actually follow! Here are a few: Eat more high quality dark chocolate—it's loaded with antioxidants * Listen to more of your favorite type of music. Music boosts spirits and helps reduce depression * Invest in a few utensils that save you time * Identify the things that make you stressed during the day and take action. Create a list of things that are in your control and take small steps to change them * Keep a journal to jot down anything that comes to mind, like recipes, memories and ideas * Listen more in conversations * Give someone a compliment once a day, but really mean it * Learn something new every day * Do a safe walk of your house—replace smoke alarm batteries, check locks on windows and doors * Give yourself more credit. More than likely, there is no one who will master everything on their list. The fact is, you're trying and nothing is better than that! To see more ideas, visit simpletruth.com

Contact us:

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Superintendent
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928-428-2880
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Jill Davis, Chief Deputy
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Paulette LeBlanc, Education
Service Agency Coordinator
pleblanc@aznexus.net

Online Registration:
www.graham.az.gov

School Superintendent

Save the Date:

Jan. 1—New Year's Day

Jan. 20—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 25—Intel Math training

Jan. 27 — Graham/Greenlee Superintendents meeting in Solomon

Feb. 5—Graham County Spelling Bee

Feb. 6—FBLA Regionals at EAC

Feb. 17—Presidents' Day

March 17-21 Spring Break in Graham County **June 2-5**—SEATA at EAC

The Graham County General Services Building is open Monday—Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and is closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Monitoring Screen Time

The busy holidays are behind us. All gifts are open and wrapping paper tossed. The excitement of new toys is beginning to wane. Winter temperatures are dipping. There is a temptation to cozy up to the television and relax.

If there are young children in the house, please consider alternative activities for them. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents keep kids under 2 as “screen free” as possible, including television, movies and video games. For older children, limited screen time is recommended. “Screens can’t replace people; and it’s those powerful interactions with adults that help young children learn,” notes Shari Elkins, Graham/Greenlee First Things First Regional Director. “Look for chances to read, talk, sing, play together, go for a walk, or take advantage of the preschool story time at the library. Encourage everyone in the family to participate. These activities contribute to strong family relationships and encourage early learning.”



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 8th - Teachers grades 5-8
Discovering and Applying Concepts of Energy
Registration deadline: Friday, January 24, 2014

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

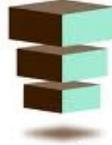
Register online: www.nau.edu/CSTL

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

Individual school enrollment to qualify students who wish to participate in the 2014 Arizona Spelling Bee should have registered by October 15, 2013.

To be eligible to send a representative to the county, state and ultimately the Scripps National Spelling Bee, schools should have registered and paid the enrollment fee, set by Scripps, of \$120.00.

The Graham County Spelling Bee, which serves as the qualifier for the Arizona State Spelling Bee, will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2014.

School District Spelling Bee Timeline:

August 15, 2013—Oct. 15, 2013: Schools must enroll with Scripps Nat'l Spelling Bee

December 2013 until January 17, 2014: Schools plan and hold their school bees

January 31, 2014: Districts bees must be held and winners reported to the county office

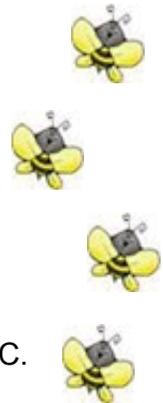
February 24, 2014: County and Regional Bees must be held by this date

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!



Save the Date!

The Eastern Arizona Science Initiative (E.A.S.I.) will be hosting another "Saturday Science Camp" on January 25, 2014.

This opportunity will be for students in grades 7-8.

All of the details will come to you from Paul Anger and more information will also be published in the January newsletter.

Thanks to Mickey Hawkins, Taylor Kerby and Paul Anger for providing the great hands-on learning experiences for our Graham and Greenlee 5-6th graders at the Saturday Science Camp last month. It was a great success!

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!

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

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Wednesday January 8, 2014 January E.A.S.I. meeting @ Discovery Park

Wednesday January 25, 2014 Saturday Science Camp for 7th and 8th graders, presented by
Jennifer McDougal and Debbie Pearson 8:00 to noon

Wednesday February 19, 2014 E.A.S.I. Professional Development Workshop

Contact Paul for more information on times, locations and presenters—428-6260

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:

Tablet 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



EASTERN ARIZONA SCIENCE INITIATIVE

7TH & 8TH GRADE SATURDAY SCIENCE CAMP

Are you a Rocket Scientist?...Well, you can be!

Join us on **SATURDAY JANUARY 25, 2014**

from **8:00 a.m. to noon**

at the **EAC DISCOVERY PARK CAMPUS—GRANT KIVA!**

WHERE YOU WILL DESIGN, BUILD AND LAUNCH YOUR VERY OWN ROCKET!

*Come and learn the incredible engineering behind aeronautics. You'll spend time in the "laboratory" where you'll test different size and shape designs of wings and nose cones for both rockets and airplanes. After you build your best, you'll combine ideas from your fellow engineers to build the **Optimal Rocket!***

We'll be using mostly household supplies, but don't be fooled...

... these Rocket designs should travel well over 300 feet!

But there's more...

*You'll be competing against another group of Rocket Scientist who will be trying to design a rocket better than yours... **Are you up for the Challenge!***

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, grade, school and parents' email and phone number.

Space is limited for the camp—register now!

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

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>

Sodexo Foundation Youth Grants

Deadline: January 31

Amount: \$500

Sponsor: Sodexo Foundation and Youth Service America (YSA)

Funding is for youth that live in the U.S. to lead projects focused on ending childhood hunger in their communities. Find out how you can help end childhood hunger:

www.ysa.org/grants/sodexoyouth

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 come 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 an 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

K-12 Student Teams Can Win Science Awards

Foundation: Toshiba and the Nat'l Science Teachers Assn. (NSTA)

Opportunity: ExploraVision Program

Funding Focus: Science education, youth (Funding supports student-led science projects)

Eligibility: K-12 student-led teams, schools

Funding: Eight winners, up to \$10,000 each

Deadline: Jan. 30, 2014.

Summary: The program (<http://www.exploravision.org>) is looking for projects which offer ideas and inventions capable of making the world a better place. The school submitting the most eligible projects will receive \$1,000 worth of Toshiba technology. Each student on the four first-place Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision winning teams will receive a \$10,000 savings bond; students on second-place teams will each receive a \$5,000 savings bond. Members of the eight teams will also receive an expenses-paid trip with their families, mentors and coaches to Washington, DC for an awards weekend in June 2014.

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



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

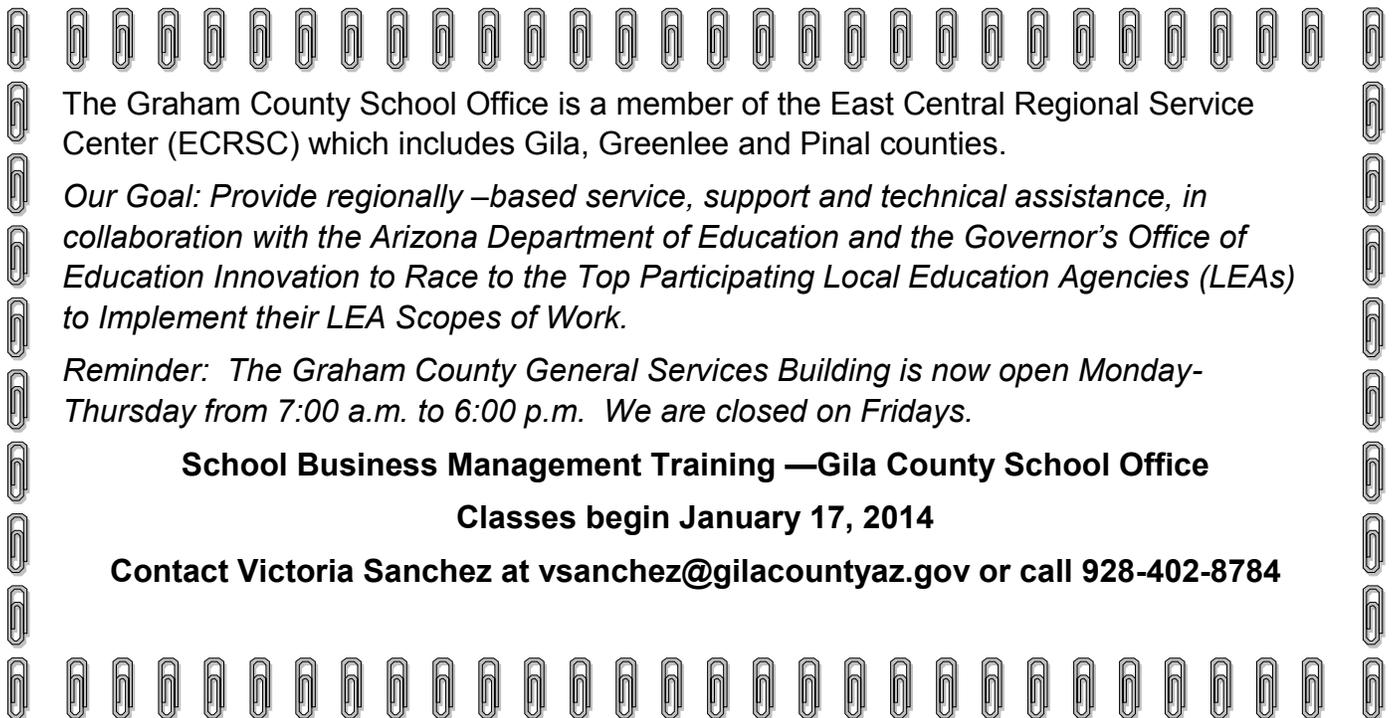
Several Graham County Social Studies teachers took advantage of the “Virtual Economics / Strand 5” training recently hosted by the Graham County School Superintendent. One really interesting and useful statistics website demonstrated in the training was

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.

School Business Management Training —Gila County School Office

Classes begin January 17, 2014

Contact Victoria Sanchez at vsanchez@gilacountyaz.gov or call 928-402-8784