

DoDEA Newsletter

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**El Paso
Independent
School District**

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About DoDEA-6 Grant

The Department of Defense Education Activity, Cycle 6 (DoDEA-6) grant was awarded to the El Paso Independent School District in September 27th, 2013.

The DoDEA-6 grant was awarded to 9 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school:

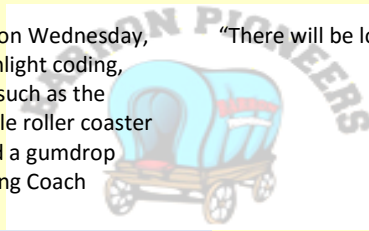
- Barron Elementary School
- Bliss Elementary School
- Clendenin Elementary School
- Hughey Elementary School
- Logan Elementary School
- Milam Elementary School
- Nixon Elementary School
- Powell Elementary School,
- Tom Lea Elementary School
- Ross Middle School
- Chapin High School

Barron Elementary School

"Barron will be hosting a STEAM night at our campus on Wednesday, February 24th. We will be featuring stations that highlight coding, robotics, as well as various engineering components, such as the opportunity for students to construct and test a marble roller coaster (utilizing foam tubing), a build-a-bridge challenge, and a gumdrop tower building station." – Stacy Beals, Campus Teaching Coach

"There will be lots of fun activities and a robotics club presentation."

–Niccole Delestre, Principal

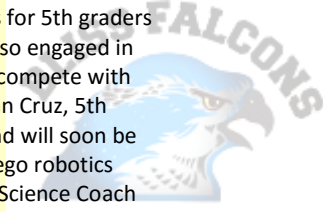


Upcoming Events at Barron ES:

- ◆ Wednesday, February 24th: STEAM Night

Bliss Elementary School

Bliss Elementary is holding afterschool Robotics classes for 5th graders on Tuesdays from 3:15 pm to 4:00 pm. Students are also engaged in games of strategy as they learn how to play chess and compete with one another in an after school Chess club. Mr. Jonathan Cruz, 5th grade math/science teacher hosts these 5th graders and will soon be opening a second robotics class now that the DoDEA Lego robotics modules have arrived. – Mrs. Blanche Herrera, DoDEA Science Coach



Hughey Elementary School

LEGO WeDo After School: 3rd, 4th, 5th grade students learning programming and creating robotic figures

LEGO December '15 Open House: Families were invited to see students in action, programming and building robotic figures.

EiE: Fifth grade students integrating all STEM components in a daily class environment

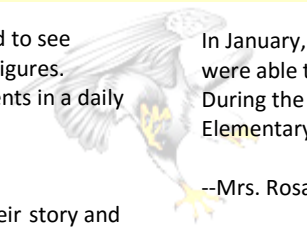
Living Museum: In May, fifth grade students become a scientist/inventor/engineer and come "alive" to tell their story and

contribution.

In January, we held our science fair with about 300 entries. Students were able to use their processing skills and have fun too!

During the spring semester, we are continuing LEGOs, Engineering is Elementary (EiE), and Living Museum.

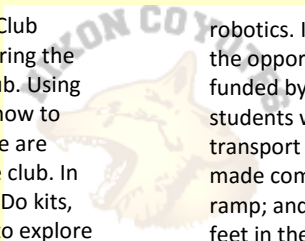
--Mrs. Rosalie Luckey, Elementary Science



Nixon Elementary School

Dr. Nixon Elementary offers an afterschool Robotics Club facilitated by DoDEA-6 science tutor, Alex Barron. During the fall semester, over 40 students participated in the club. Using Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotic kits, students learned how to build, program, and battle their robots. This spring we are anticipating another full group of students to join the club. In addition, Nixon has currently purchased the Lego WeDo kits, which will enable younger students the opportunity to explore

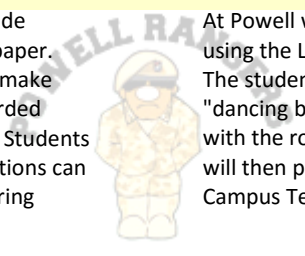
robotics. In addition to robotics, students in fifth grade have had the opportunity to explore engineering through various projects funded by DoDEA-6. Using the engineering design process, students were challenged to create: boats that would safely transport passengers through wind, rain, and hurricanes; vehicles made completely out of pasta that would safely travel down a ramp; and water bottle rockets that could be launched 100's of feet in the air. –Mrs. Susan Barron, 5th Grade Teacher



Powell Elementary School

As part of the monthly focus on Engineering, first grade students learn how to make difference by recycling paper. Students worked with their DoDEA Science coach to make recycled paper. Students learned how to reuse discarded school papers to create a homemade valentine card. Students embedded flower seeds so these valentine card creations can then be placed into the earth to become part of a spring garden.

At Powell we currently have a robotics program afterschool. We are using the Lego WeDo robots. We integrate reading and language arts. The students are creating scenery and a skit to go along with their "dancing birds". Once complete the students will then film their skits with the robots using iPads and the movie maker app. The students will then present their project to the other groups. –Mrs. Lauren Cano, Campus Teaching Coach



Ross Middle School

Ross middle school provides S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as an elective for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Ross Rebels have an opportunity to experience science that caters to project based learning. Collaboration among the S.T.E.M. teacher, Mrs. Alma Chavez, the librarian, Mrs. Socorro Durant, the campus instructional coach, Ms. Dominique St. John, and the yearbook/ humanities teacher, Ms. Amy Valles has endorsed a display of a makerspace which

caters to S.T.E.M. Student's work is showcased in the library for other students to enjoy. Questions are placed on the display in order for students to think about the science behind the projects. The current makerspace is a roller coaster made out of different colored card stock and a variety of twists and turns. Students place a marble on top of the ramp and follow it all the way to the end of the ride. This makerspace reminds students of the similarities and differences between potential and kinetic energy as they observe the marble in action. –Ms. Dominique St. John, Campus Teaching Coach

Chapin High School

Chapin is located on military property and serves both military and non-military families. Chapin High School is the only high school included in the DoDEA6 Grant awarded to the district. The grant specifically targeted both the Pre-Engineering and Science programs at the high school with a special focus on creating a Dry Lab for the Engineering program. Faculty and staff have participated in STEM training in order to enhance Chapin's STEM curriculum.

For each year of the DoDEA6 grant The Pre-Engineering Magnet and Science programs received monies for the activities listed below.

1. The Pre-Engineering program received funds to create a Dry Lab in which magnet students' work on course projects and prototypes for senior capstone projects.
2. The grant also provided funds for Magnet senior students to purchase all materials needed to complete their capstone projects.
3. Pre-Engineering teachers also received funds to purchase resources needed to teach their engineering courses.
4. The Science department was given funds each year to pay for tutors.
5. Funds were provided to the science department to purchase reading materials.
6. Technology purchases were also made for the first year of the grant for the science department.
7. Each year of the grant, science teachers were given funds to purchase general science supplies.



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DoDEA News

We will be having our own link on the EPISD homepage soon! We are in the process of building our own webpage!

We are also looking into continuing the Summer Robotics Camps at UTEP this summer! More information to come soon!

Follow us on Twitter!

HURA Club News

The HURA (Heard, Understood, Recognized, Acknowledged) Club is intended to bring together military students to participate in a variety of group activities designed to help them build up their resilience, improve their socialization skills, learn coping and problem solving skills, learning

strategies and making new friends. Participation is voluntary. Please contact....

We welcome our two LPC's that are joining our team: Martamaria Frappier and Rudy Acuna!

“Family is not an important thing. It’s everything.”
--Michael J. Fox

We are on Twitter!

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#EPISDDoDEA6