

ECA Connect

A newsletter from the Director



Big-Little Sib Day: A treasured ECA tradition

Every year Student Council organizes a time for ECA students to connect across grade levels. Older students are paired with younger students to create Big - Little Sib groups. The theme this year was TV characters and we saw some great creativity and teamwork throughout the day. Junior StuCo provided breakfast, which gave students a chance to spend time getting to know their sibs. The games the students played the rest of the morning then gave them opportunities to work together with their siblings to win competitions, exercise their creativity, and just have fun!

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CONVERSATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE STAFF

Sarie met many people on her recent recruiting trip . Pray that follow-up conversations will lead some to serve at ECA.

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SLC STUDENTS . . .

. . . came back from Hungary with ideas to implement an Action Plan at ECA 2nd semester.

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NEW STAFF MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome Miss Bomgardner to our staff. She arrived at the beginning of 2nd quarter and will be teaching music and private lessons. Make sure you introduce yourselves!



Miss Shirley

Teaching 1-12 grade art provides a lot of variety & creativity for this energetic new staff member!



Miss Dorrell

Small class sizes and teaching AP Psych for the first time are making this social studies teacher love ECA!



Mrs. Morgan

New to our English department , but not to ECA, Mrs. Morgan is enjoying teaching again.

ECA's New Aquaponics Class!

ECA is excited to offer a new elective for high schoolers where students learn about sustainable agriculture and the global food system through hands-on activities. Aquaponics is a growing method in which waste produced by farmed fish supplies nutrients for plants to grow; thus, soil is not necessary. It is beneficial because it uses 90% less water and grows about 6 times more produce than traditional farming in the same amount of space – making it incredibly efficient!

Facilitated by Ms. R, students have created their own aquatic ecosystems from the ground up and are beginning to experiment with growing basil on top of these to try out small scale aquaponics. In addition, this week students are getting ECA's very own greenhouse ready to begin growing things like lettuce, basil, and cilantro in a full size system!

Soon the students will know the ins and outs of the greenhouse and will be able to host "field trips" for the elementary school classes to teach them all about aquaponics and the food cycle! It has been great to see the high schoolers learn how intricate ecosystems are through trial and error in their own systems. Soon they will get to see their labor produce a harvest! The class has been a beautiful reminder of just how creative and attentive our God is to have designed the world to work together so perfectly to provide all that is needed for life! Keep your eyes peeled in the coming months for some fresh, grown-by-students, produce that you just might be able to get your hands on!



MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION DAY

In early October, the entire middle school and a core group of nine teachers and parents went on their fall semester excursion to la Pedriza, a beautiful natural park situated between some local mountains, near a town called Manzanares el Real. Better known as "Outdoor Education Days," these middle school excursions allow students to explore some of the local attractions and regional parks in and around the Madrid area. The terrain at the park gave this year's group a chance to combine their knowledge of science, math, and geography, and use critical thinking. Students worked in smaller teams of 6-8 students, culminating in building a shelter or "fort" for protection from the elements. When asked what the students might prefer for our spring semester outdoor day, be it going to a museum or another location like La Pedriza, they overwhelmingly yelled, "We LOVE being outside!"

