

Principal's Message 9/23/16

Silver linings are always a good thing to look for in any situation. For the STEAM campus, the silver lining to a few hectic weeks is that we have our entire student roster together. For the first time in the history of this charter, we get to see all those tiny kindergarten and first grade faces exploring the world where we get to witness it. Thank you to all the students, families, and teachers who made small and large adjustments that allowed this to happen.

Another exciting bit that is coming up is the annual book fair. Students will get to preview the selection and receive a flyer that shows which books are available. This way you can help pick the books at home and send just the right amount of money or a check to pay for it. The book fair helps build student excitement about reading while also raising funds for the school. The book fair will be open at lunch times throughout the week and on the minimum days after school so you can visit before or after your conference.

STEAM blocks on Friday afternoons are a hit. Kids are excited about these hands on activities that allow them to explore, build, and get creative about a wide range of topics. Some are getting artistic and creating their own stamps while others are engineering balloon rockets. These trial and error activities encourage kids to take risks, experiment, observe, and adjust to success and failure. Ask your child about what he/she is doing in their Friday STEAM block.

EPO funds are already being used. This year, we were able to buy Chromebooks to have on hand as loaners. This helps when a battery dies, a student forgets theirs at home, or for families who may not be able to purchase one just yet. In addition, we've been buying supplies for emergency preparation, curriculum, the playground, and more. The latest big purchase we made with parent donated funds is access to Reflex math for all students. This program helps students build math fluency while providing instant feedback through an engaging platform. Your child should be starting to use it within the next week or two. Next, we will be buying a water fountain for the large playground. Every dollar you donate to the school goes toward making the students' experience at AEA a better one. Thank you for supporting the school and your students.

If you haven't already done so, please bookmark our new website address. Our old site is still live, but it isn't getting updated anymore. Until we can get a redirect posted to the site, please be sure to go to www.aeasteam.weebly.com. Current information about upcoming events, program details, EPO goodies, and teacher contact information has already been updated. We'll continue to build the site so that it is your best source of information for anything related to AEA STEAM.

After a challenging few weeks, this week ended with a sense of normalcy. No roster changes were made and the focus is back on the students. I look forward to the next few weeks of school and building more activities that keep your kids excited about learning. A lyric from Blue October's song "Home" summarizes how the AEA staff is feeling as we approach October.

“Tomorrow we get to do it over again.” Thanks for giving us the opportunity to spend “tomorrow” with your child. See you Monday when we get to “do it over again.”

Scott Cusack
Principal - AEA STEAM Elementary