



Kristie Faitz-Kroener and Jennifer Stults

PVSchools is proud to have two of its teachers complete the process to become an [Arizona Master Teacher](#) through the Arizona K12 Center. **Kristie Faitz-Kroener**, an ELD instructional coach with the Language Acquisition Department, and **Jennifer Stults**, a SEI instructional coach with the Language Acquisition Department, have earned the distinction of Arizona Master Teacher.



Top row: Angela Morgan, Blaine Beatty, Jennifer Yuhas, and Wanda Wilson. Bottom row: Karen Brown, Rosamaria Cordova, Sheryl Chariton-Kirshenbaum, and Sydney Sutton-Liswith.

PVSchools is proud to have five teachers complete the rigorous process to earn the elite status of being [National Board Certified Teachers](#) (NBCTs), and three teachers renew their credentials. [Learn more about our NBCTs.](#)

PVSchools had six teachers receive classroom grants from the Fiesta Bowl Charities for Wishes for Teachers. They are:

- **Leilani Jacobson**, an Autism teacher at [Shadow Mountain High School](#), will use the funds to purchase updated curriculum, sensory equipment, and classroom supplies for the Special Education program.
- **Kellie Merrill**, a 2nd grade teacher at [Indian Bend Elementary School](#), will purchase flexible seating options for her classroom.
- **Brian Minnick**, a social studies teacher at [Mountain Trail Middle School](#), will use the grant money to purchase supplies to build a multifunctional garden.
- **Glenda Ortiz-Martin**, an honors teacher at [Wildfire Elementary School](#), will purchase math booklets.
- **Jennifer Martin**, a communication development teacher at [Desert Cove Elementary School](#), will use the funds to purchase new technology programs, sensory equipment, and learning tools for her classroom.
- **Randi Reader**, a special education teacher at [Greenway Middle School](#), will use the funds to purchase high integrated books and comfortable chairs.

Michelle Lindstrom, a teacher at [Grayhawk Elementary School](#), received one of the Arizona Public Service and Phoenix Suns STEM mini-grants. The money will fund a project called Full STEAM ahead, which will feature four specialist teachers (STEM, music, band and visual arts) teaming up for multiple collaborative projects that have real-world applications. Projects include engineering solar ovens to produce conglomerate, melted crayon blocks and using recycled materials to construct working musical instruments after learning the physics of sound.

Diana Flanery, a 1st grade teacher at [Eagle Ridge Elementary School](#), was named Arizona PTA Teacher of the Month for December. As a Teacher of the Month she is in the running to possibly be selected AZ PTA Teacher of the Year at the Arizona PTA Convention in June.

Three students in **Mrs. Bird's** Self-contained Gifted class at [Fireside Elementary School](#) placed first in the fall Stock Market Game. This game gives students the chance to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in an online portfolio. Students are learning economic and financial concepts they will use for the rest of their lives. The students are **Ethan Lanese**, **Tahlia Mak**, and **Surbhi Chandak**.

On Dec. 5th, gifted students in **Mrs. Befort**, **Mrs. Pantier**, and **Mrs. Cox** classes at [Desert Trails Elementary School](#) participated in the Amazon Hour of Code. The event was created to give students the opportunity to learn code with the help of Amazon Software Engineers. Amazon Hour of Code allowed students to do something they may have otherwise not approached, Coding! In addition, students learned in a space where

they are comfortable and with the guidance of software engineers who have extensive knowledge of coding. It also gave students the opportunity to see what type of job their computer skills could get them in the future.



Artwork by Tessa Logue and Uriel Zavala Calderon

Whispering Wind Academy students Uriel Zavala Calderon, a 4th grade student and Tessa Logue, a 5th grade student, artwork were selected as Honorable Mention in the 2019 Phoenix Chinese Week Art Contest. Uriel and Tessa are invited to a special presentation during the 29th Annual Chinese Cultural & Cuisine Festival on Feb. 8th-10th at Margaret T. Hance Park East, where their artwork will be displayed.

The **Eagle Ridge Elementary School PTSA** is a recipient of a 2018 PTA Connected with Google grant. They will use the \$1,000 to host a Be Internet Awesome workshop. Additionally, the Eagle Ridge PTSA was awarded a \$250 Arizona PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant. Funds will support the Sensory Paths and other improvements on our campus. Eagle Ridge PTSA was one of five grant winners selected by Arizona PTA.



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