Embudo Valley Tutoring Association Newsletter

Successful Relaunch! EVTA and the EVL Afterschool Program Update

The Embudo Valley Library and Community Center Afterschool Program relaunch is has had an enthusiastic semester! The program has found its footing and developed a program that is both enriching and supportive.

Program coordinator, Sage Vogel reports: "Students engage in quiet activities until homework is completed, after which we transition to scheduled group activities. So far, we have made stress toys and various types of slime (photos included), gone on a fossil hunt hike, participated in group storytelling and meditation, and enjoyed outdoor games. Upcoming activities include outreach visits from the Explora Science Center and Twirl from Taos.

"Each day begins with a short mindfulness exercise, followed by a nutritious snack and personalized homework help across all subjects."

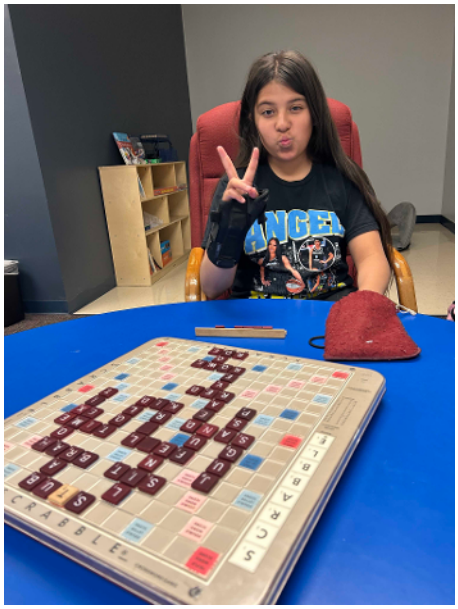
When time allows, students have access to unstructured play, whether using games and art supplies indoors or engaging in free play outside. I have found that the children overwhelmingly value outdoor play above all other activities—understandably so, given their long days at school desks. The social and psychological benefits of spontaneous play and make-believe cannot be overstated (S. Vogel).

Since our re- launch on January 6th, the program has grown to over 30 students—about half of Dixon Elementary's enrollment. Sage and his assistant, Brynn, as well as Billie and Cynthia (both experienced tutors), have been operating at full capacity. Our mentors and educators reflect the heart of EVTA's mission: to support students in both their academic journeys and their personal growth. Whether it's through solving a tricky math problem, storytelling under the apple tree, or simply being present after school, the EVTA Afterschool Program is creating a space where children can feel safe, supported, and inspired to explore who they are.

Read United Way's article about the EVL-EVTA After School program in the Los Alamos Post at:

https://ladailypost.com/making-learning-fun-embudo-valley-tutoring-associations-afterschool-magic/

EVTA tutoring at San Juan Elementary makes the difference for this student!



The student (A) and I began working together in November 2024 on reading and writing. When we first began working together, A became easily frustrated, quickly giving up when a task seemed too challenging. But they love movement, so when I invited them to write on the wall-mounted whiteboard, A rose to the occasion and began taking risks, attempting syllables and words that they might otherwise have given up on with paper and pencil, and even initiating games of "Hangman." Using the whiteboard regularly, A quickly mastered phonemes and syllable types, and confidence began growing by leaps and bounds. In collaboration with staff, teachers, and parents, school supports have been implemented. Through dedication and hard work, this student continues to grow in confidence and skill. Monthly test scores have improved every single month more than any of their classmate's. Now, A reports, "I'm not scared of reading out loud anymore."

HOW TO CONTACT EMBUDO VALLEY TUTORING ASSOCIATION

For services:

Families interested in applying for tutoring for their child(ren) can contact EVTA at info@evtanm.org or fill out the contact form on our website: embudovalleytuturing.com

To make a donation:

1. Access EVTA's website at embudovalleytutoring.com and click on the "Donate" button on the Home page.
2. Send a donation through Paypal at paypal.me/tutoringassociation
3. Send a check to Embudo Valley Tutoring Association at P.O. Box 267, Dixon, NM 87527

For further information:

1. Access EVTA's website at embudovalleytutoring.com
2. Check out our page on greatnonprofits.org by searching for Embudo Valley Tutoring Association.
3. Contact Eva Behrens, EVTA's director, at 575.779.8886 or info@evtanm.org

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS! WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

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