

- The PLTW kits and robotics arrived in early September. There were many, many boxes of kits for science and robotics. See the attached photo of Cheryl Malia-McCall's office at Beartooth!
  
- We have learned that it is important for each teacher to have an iPad and Reflector software for their classroom. This will improve PLTW lessons greatly and can be used throughout the school day, every day, in all curricular areas. Through the generous gifts you provided and savings we were able to find, we had enough funds to provide a mini iPad and Reflector software to all 61 PLTW teachers who currently do not have a teaching iPad in their classroom. The Technology Integration Specialists have been busy providing professional development support to our PLTW teachers and schools. The benefits we will see from the investment will greatly impact our educators' ability to deliver STEM curriculum and other lessons throughout the school day.
  
- Our 5 PLTW schools have all completed the various levels of professional development for the PLTW program. Several of our schools joined forces and collaborated on the training program. The professional development model involved the following topics during the comprehensive building level training for all teachers. Some things teachers learned were
  - Using the Poplet App & Reflector Software
  - What is STEM Education?
  - Overview of PLTW programs
  - Experiencing the APB (Activities-, Project-, Problem-Based Instructional Approach)
  - Completed Several Experiments that students will do
  - Role of the Teacher/Student
  - How to get started in the classroom.

Teachers will now be completing the module specific core training on-line prior to teaching the module to students.

- During September-October, all of the teachers in the 5 schools have received 10 hours of training in addition to the on-line training modules they will complete in November. A key piece of the success and of your support is providing the professional development to our teachers so they can properly teach STEM Education the way it should be taught. Plus there are a number of technology teaching strategies that will be implemented to support our student learning.

- Looking ahead.... Our next 6 elementary schools for the 2015-16 school year are identified and are beginning to plan for PLTW in their schools. We have learned so much in just the first few months this year, that we are already able to get a jump start on preparing for the implementation of PLTW in year 2. The next 6 elementary schools are Broadwater, Burlington, Eagle Cliffs, Highland, Meadowlark, and Newman Elementary Schools. Additionally, we will be meeting with the 4 middle school principals to discuss the Gateway PLTW program in middle schools. Our goal is to raise the funds and focus on adding 2 middle school PLTW programs in 2015!!

- Best of all.... Check out the attached photos of teachers taking part in PLTW training and of students in Kim Johnson's first grade classroom. Kim's students were introduced to the PLTW module Structure and Function. Their task was to take 10 pipe cleaners and make the tallest, freestanding beanstalk they could. They loved it and were so engaged! They worked very hard on this project (over an hour) and only 8 kids were able to get the beanstalk to stand.