

EDUCATION

Pioneer and Seeliger students partner for science

By Rebecca Allen and Phyllis Atkinson
Pioneer High School

American entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker Jim Rohn wrote, "My mentor said, 'Let's go do it,' not 'You go do it.' How powerful when someone says, 'Let's!'"

The power of "Let's" is evident in the partnership between Pioneer High School and Al Seeliger Elementary School. Over the past summer, Phyllis Atkinson (leadership teacher) and Toni Nielsen (fourth grade teacher) met and planned activities that would partner PHS leadership students with Seeliger fourth graders.

It was decided that PHS students would mentor the younger students as they participated in a joint exploration of the Carson River, its wildlife, and its water quality. Thus far, it has proven to be a successful endeavor.

In the PHS classroom, leadership students learned about benthic macroinvertebrates and their adaptations. Additionally, they learned about pH and dissolved oxygen. On Sept. 10, the well-prepared mentoring students went to Seeliger and shared their knowledge with Nielsen's fourth graders. The PHS mentors lead them through a number of activities such as making representations of oxygen in a water environment, practicing measurement of pH, dissolving oxygen in water samples, and identifying the many parts of macroinvertebrates.

This successful partnership



COURTESY

Emily, Pioneer High School student, assists Seeliger Elementary students in the field study at the Carson River.

continued at another activity on Sept. 18 at the Carson River. Representatives from River Wranglers and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection also joined in on the experience. During their time at the Carson River, the students studied the macroinvertebrates up close and assessed the water quality of the river.

Additionally, PHS students also led the younger students in several learning activities. For the water cycle activity, students created bracelets representing all the places water travels during the cycle.

For the "Build a Watershed" activity, students had the opportunity to use a map of the Carson River and identify towns, mountain ranges, and other points of interest along the total length of the Carson River.

For the final activity, "Build a Beaver," PHS students discussed adaptations of beavers while dressing the younger students in items that represented a particular adaptation.

The success of the partnership between PHS and Seeliger is paving the way for more mentoring opportunities in the future.

Carson City students explore career options in STEM, sustainability

Nevada Appeal staff report

In partnership with Envirolution, a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering the next generation of leaders and workers to drive the growth of a sustainable economy, students in the Carson City School District will have the opportunity to charge their minds and connect career options by exploring STEM and sustainability programs with local businesses, including Tesla.

Envirolution's newest program, Career Quest, facilitates industry tours for students to learn about the specific business, interact with staff and participate in hands-on activities developed to showcase an aspect of the business's mission or operation. Tesla employees provide the venue, facilitate the guided-tour and deliver a presentation to students, while Envirolution handles

the logistics of getting students to and from the Gigafactory in addition to providing them with a hands-on STEM lesson during their visit.

During the 2019-20 academic year, more than 300 students from Carson City School District will have the opportunity to tour the Gigafactory 1, located off of USA Parkway. Seeliger Elementary School was the first group of students to attend this year. Other schools from Carson City are set to tour Tesla include Carson Middle School, touring Nov. 1, and Eagle Valley Middle School, touring Nov. 15 and Dec. 6.

Additionally, in February 2020, 80 to 100 female students from both CMS and EVMS will participate in Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day at Tesla, a national event focused on showing young females how engineering is a great career choice and a great way to change the world.

We invite you to plan your
HOLIDAY PARTY