



MAY 2019 4-H CAPITAL NEWSLETTER

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



RABBIT FACTS

- Rabbits and bunnies are the same animal but rabbits and hares are a different species
- A female rabbit is called a doe
- A male rabbit is called a buck
- A baby rabbit is called a kitten or kit for short
- Rabbits cannot see in front of their noses
- Over half the rabbits in the world live in North America
- Baby rabbits are born blind and furless
- Rabbits are herbivores - they only eat plants
- Rabbits do a happy dance called a "bink" where they jump and twist in many directions!

ANIMAL SCIENCE

BY KATIE THOMPSON

This month the Animal Science team has been focusing on animal care! Everyone has been working together to care for more than 20 newly hatched chicks, 50 rabbits, and all the other animals that live here in the office. Fortunately, with all the hard work comes the greatest rewards. All students in animal science classes have had multiple opportunities to meet, handle, and learn how to care for different kinds of animals. The rabbit classes at T.A. Brown and Wooten Elementary have been going well thanks to rabbit instructors, Hannah and Jazmin, who have taken on the challenging task of planning thoughtful lessons, teaching students about rabbit care and anatomy, and ensuring that they remain as healthy as possible. Their students have worked hard this month and are looking forward to the upcoming rabbit show!

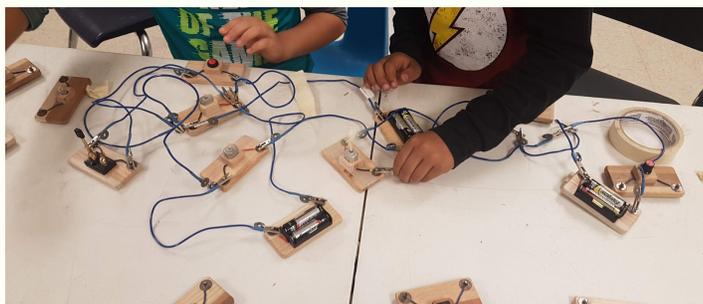
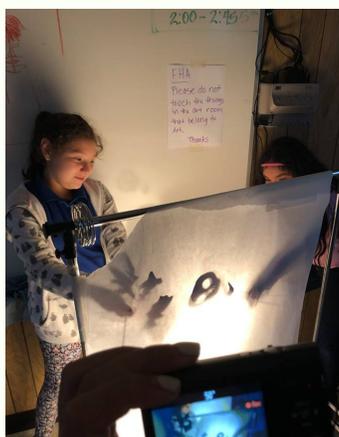


ENGINEERING & TINKERING

BY EMILY WEERTS

April was a busy month of making, exploring, engineering and tinkering. Over at Harris Elementary, Grace's all girls STEM class spent a rainy afternoon creating shadow puppets. After exploring how to engineer moving parts and armatures, the students created narrative shows and filmed their work. On a sunny afternoon Blair's Engineering and Ecology class learned how to set up tents. At Linder Elementary, students in Ja'Leesa and Laquita's STEM classes got a chance to search for Easter Eggs using GPS units... once they found the eggs, they were in for a surprise! The eggs contained math puzzles and riddles that they all eagerly solved. Students in Dani and Kryssie's Engineering and Tinkering classes at Ortega got excited about programming Sphero robots - they built courses for the robots and developed rules for Sphero soccer. The Spheros were also a huge hit at Ortega's STEM night.

Engineering and Tinkering Specialist Emily had the opportunity to go to Marcus' class at Perez to teach the students soldering. Each of the 3rd through 5th graders learned how to safely solder a



The 4-H CAPITAL team is going to be at many community events during the month of May!

Come visit us at any of the following free community events:

- **Lanier Fútbol Rápido Resource Fair - Saturday, May 11th @ Lanier High School (1201 Payton Gin Rd. Austin, TX 78758), 9am - 2pm**
- **Goodnight Ranch Festival of Good - Saturday, May 18th @ Whitter Park (8701 Whitter Dr. Austin, TX 78747), 11am - 3pm**
- **Travis County Family Resource Fair - Saturday, May 18th @ Lagos Elementary (11817 Murchison St, Manor, TX 78653), 10am-1pm**



Join Us

**TRAVIS COUNTY
TOWN HALL MEETING
&
FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18
10 AM - 1 PM**

**Lagos Elementary
11817 Murchison St.
Manor, TX 78653**

FREE FOOD • KIDS ACTIVITIES • RAFFLE PRIZES



NATURAL RESOURCES

BY KATHERINE STRUTH

Spring is in full swing! April has brought many new things to the 4-H CAPITAL office, and our schools. We introduced a new Natural Resource Specialist, Katie Struth, a 4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps Alum, who's excited to be joining the team. With STARR testing during the school day, members took time to bring fun outdoor activities to their students. They made engineered kites and parachutes, problem solved zip-lines, and constructed catapults to launch seed balls. At Houston, students planted a native garden bed at the front of the school. Students from Baty visited McKinney falls, where they learned about native plants and animals, and saw remnants of native peoples. Classes at Popham learned how to use a GPS and participated in an orienteering scavenger hunt. Classes were also visited by Texas Gas Service, where they learned how to be safe at home. Over the next few weeks, classes will be learning about camping and survival skills to get students ready for summer fun!



GARDEN SCIENCE

BY SARAH BALLANCE

This past month Garden Science and other AmeriCorps members led three very successful activity tables at the East Austin Garden Fair, a community event hosted by the Travis County Master Gardeners. Visitors learned about vermicomposting, planting in eggshells, and nature as seen through a variety of different microscopes. Thanks to all that came out! Meanwhile at schools, we already have some tiny tomatoes and other vegetables appearing in our gardens, and even a strawberry at Widen! Rodriguez learned all about different biomes, culminating in Earth Day celebration activities. Students at Hillcrest have been preparing dishes from around the world, including Italian Pesto Pizza and North Indian Dumplings called Momo. The engineering class at Hillcrest have been designing their own Beyblade toys on Tinkercad and building an arena for them. Perez's TasteBuds kids loved using our new spiralizer to make a zucchini pasta dish. The tech classes at Perez have been making stop motion animation movies, and then got to experiment with different popcorn seasonings as they watched their creations. Students at Pecan Springs learned about iridescent butterfly wings by experimenting with iridescent bubbles and made scribble bots. Wooten kids have been learning about geology by doing some mineral testing and a rock scavenger hunt. As you can see, Garden Science has been very busy, and we are getting ready to harvest more next month!





THANK YOU!

**On April 22-April 26th, we celebrated
Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week**

(<https://naaweb.org/naa-events/afterschool-professionals-appreciation-week>)

AND Environmental Education Week

(<https://www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-week>).

**We spent the week shouting out our members
and appreciating the Environmental Education
that we've been able to implement in our after-
school classes, mostly thanks to our
hardworking AmeriCorps Members.**

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AMERICORNER

BY CASEY BRANTHOVER

Here's a highlight on one of our members taking a gap year, Becca: "My name is Becca, I'm 18 and I am originally from Seattle, WA. I currently teach Animal Science at 4-H Capital! When I graduated high school I had an unexpected 8 months until fall semester of college. Because I had all that time to reflect, I chose to take a gap year and do AmeriCorps to make sure I wanted to go into the education field. Before my year of service I was working two jobs and trying to figure out my life lol. My first memory related to science is probably when we had our third grade #science fair. My project was to blow up a balloon with boiling water and to deflate it with ice water. It's still one of my favorite experiments! My favorite thing to do in Austin is to walk around the city and visit new places. It's so beautiful and full of life! I recently went to Alamo Drafthouse for the first time and it was really great! My favorite smell is probably lavender because it's soothing and pretty. My favorite teacher was Mr. Aker from 4th/5th grade. He was a very kind and understanding teacher who always understood everyone's needs. Even when he didn't quite understand, he took his time and patience to speak with whoever needed his attention. Waffles. Hands down waffles are superior. No questions or debates. Since being in Austin I've gotten a dog! His name is Biggie and he's the loml lol he's such a sweet dog full of personality and life! He deserves all of the recognition!!!"