**Young Scientists In Action!**

First graders at Robles Elementary School have been learning about different earth materials in Science. They recently conducted investigations from the FOSS Pebbles, Sand, and Silt Science Kit. During the investigations, the students learned the names of different rocks and focused on the properties and uses of different natural resources. This hands-on approach to Science is not only fun and engaging for students, it allows them to develop and explore an interest in the world around them; observe, describe, and sort different rocks based on their properties; gather data about their observations by drawing and writing in their Science journals; and learn new academic vocabulary. It’s a little bit messy (lots of pebbles and sand on the desks and floors!), but the first grade teachers are all very excited about teaching Science, and the students are loving it! Check out the students in Mrs. Debra Norris’ classroom!

![Students working on Science activities](image1.jpg)

**Altar Valley Middle School Eaglebots Soar At First Lego League Tournament!**

The Altar Valley Middle School Eaglebots, coached by 6th grade teacher Julie Venglarcik, participated in the Tucson Red Qualifying First Lego League Tournament on Saturday, December 5th and received several honors! They were recognized as a “Developing” team on their project on composting with red wigglers and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. The team scored several “Accomplished” marks in their robot design category. In the area of Core Values, the Eaglebots received “Exemplary” marks! Specifically, they were recognized for their inspiration and teamwork: Veteran team members Aden Rose and Madison Pizzuto worked together with rookie team members Brandis Johnson and Roberto Alvarez to catch the attention of one of the judges, who recognized the team with the Judges Award. Finally, they brought back the trophy signifying that they showed grit in the face of multiple setbacks in their access to the technology necessary to learn and complete their mission. Since the competition, the Eaglebots have acquired two brand new computers and we are
very excited about what they’ll be able to accomplish now that they have updated technology! We are very proud of our Eaglebots!