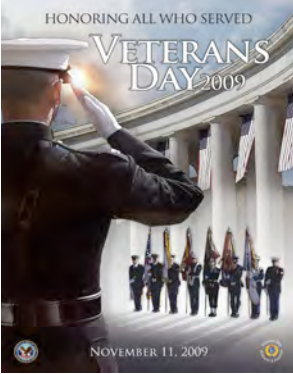


Explorer Middle School of Technology

An Arizona **Excelling** School



What's Happening at Explorer for the Week of November 9-13, 2009

Track Practice All Week After School!

- Tuesday, November 10: Project Based Learning for Teachers, 8 AM, Media Space, Led by Mrs. Scott, Media Specialist
- Tuesday, November 10: Jazz Rehearsal, 8 AM, Room 803, Led by Mr. Hatler
- Tuesday, November 10: Skills for Success, 8:15 AM, Room 402, Led by Ms. China and Mrs. Stryk
- Tuesday, November 10: Professional Development Day! Early Release for Students at 1:00 PM
- Wednesday, November 11: **VETERANS DAY 2009, NO SCHOOL!**
- Thursday, November 12: Instructional Division Leader Meeting, 8 AM, LCR, Led by Mrs. Bursi
- Thursday, November 12: Skills for Success, 8:15 AM, Room 402, Led by Ms. China and Mrs. Stryk
- Thursday, November 12: Elective Teacher Meeting, 3:35 PM, LCR, Led by Mrs. Bursi
- Thursday, November 12: SKITZOS, 3:40 PM, Room 802, Led by Mrs. Hazard
- Friday, November 13: Contest Entries Due for Naming Explorer's New Coffee and Creating a Tagline, Turn 3x5 card into Mrs. Ellis

More About What's Happening This Week!

All teachers are invited to attend Mrs. Scott's Project Based Learning Workshops offered monthly to help teachers learn how to use PBL as an instructional strategy to engage students in relevant, meaningful, real-world projects, utilizing the latest and greatest digital tools. Participating teachers are piloting the use of the Apple iTouch in their classrooms.

What Is PBL? Project-based learning is an instructional strategy in which students work cooperatively over time to create a product, presentation, or performance. The two essential components of project-based learning are an engaging and motivating question and a product that meaningfully addresses that question.

- Students can shape the project to fit their own interests and abilities.
- Students collect and analyze information, make discoveries, and report their results.
- Students conduct research using multiple sources of information.
- The project cuts across a number of disciplines.
- Students must draw on a broad range of knowledge and skills.
- The project extends over a significant period of time.
- The project involves the design and development of a product, presentation, or performance that can be used or viewed by others
- The context for the subject matter is larger than the immediate lesson.
- The instruction and facilitation is guided by a broad range of teaching goals.

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy