

# October Newsletter 2022

## Afterschool Programs

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for the childRen

Hola PLN familia,

I am Wendy Cebreros and I would like to welcome you to read our October newsletter. It is always exciting to see all the fun enrichment activities our students are doing throughout the three afterschool programs with students from TK all the way to 8th grade.



*Wendy Cebreros*

Administrative Lead  
Afterschool Programs

## Students at our Elementary School Learn how to Code

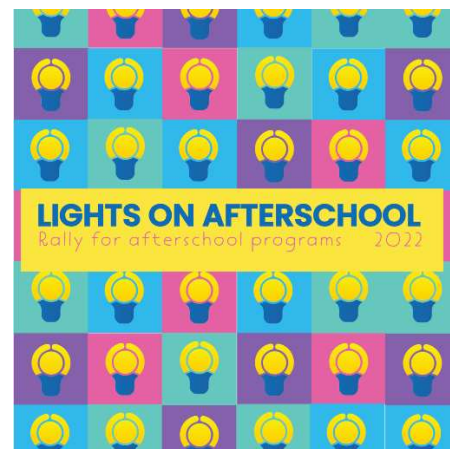


Parallel programs have resumed for Afterschool students.

Parallel program are programs that are contracted and an instructor comes to our sites and conducts classes like; robotics, coding, music tech, or teaches a

specific instrument. Our 4th and 5th grade students have begun taking robotics classes, in which they learn how to build robots and code them to do a specific function. Recently, our students learned through a guide how to build

a robot and code them to dance to a specific song. It is the first time taking any type of robotics class for our 4th graders. Our students participate in Robotics on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Our parallel programs are always intended to expand our students' learning capacities and resources. These classes, like robotics allows for our students to access equipment and teaching experiences, plus all classes are free of cost to our families.



## Upcoming Events

Visit our page!

<https://paralosninos.org/education-community/after-school/>



Eron Cortez – 25th

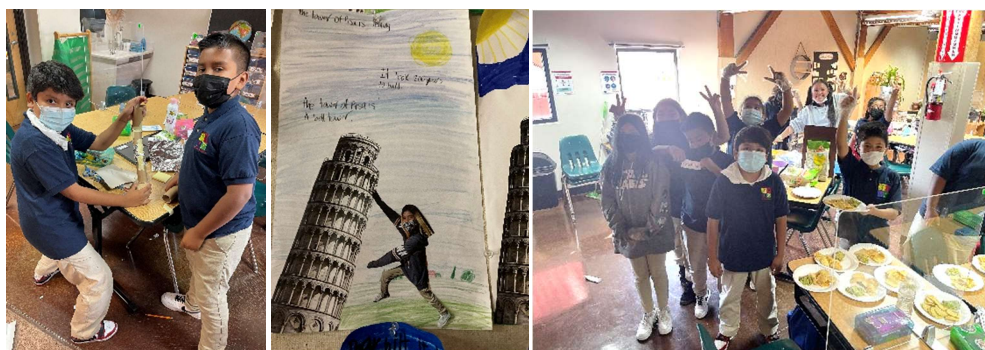


## Our Students at Gratts Primary Center Engage in Junior Technology

Every Wednesday afternoon, at Gratts Primary Center our second grade students engage in technology activities and learn how to code using a specific program and their Chromebooks. With the advancement of technology we need to keep up with the development of technology and providing coding classes through junior technology, our students are exposed and learn about coding and its functions. Digital Dragon, whom we partnered for many years provides the classes and features visual programming, robotics, and digital design. Students are exposed to a fun and balanced mix of creative expression and applications of technology and they look forward to every Wednesday when they get to create a new design.



## Our Students at our Elementary School Start Afterschool Clubs



Another program rolling out for our students at our elementary school is Clubs. Clubs is a component in the afterschool program, which gives our teachers a creative outlet to put a unique spin in students' learning. It is a project based learning approach that starts with history and meaning of the topics, to hands on learning and culminating with a project made by students. Students get hands-on experiences while learning new crafts. Every five weeks, a new round of Clubs is written by teachers in order to keep learning fresh for students. Clubs take place every Tuesday and Thursday, in addition to academic lessons. The clubs for this round include, "Around the World" (5<sup>th</sup> grade), "Cooking Club" (5<sup>th</sup> grade), "Holidays from Around the World" (4<sup>th</sup> grade), and "Life Hacks: Gardening and Healthy Lifestyles" (5<sup>th</sup> grade). Our students at our three sites participate in clubs.

## Our Students at Gratts Primary Center Engage in Various Activities



Students at our Gratts Primary Center in Ms. Nava, Ms. Valle and Ms. Solidum's class (TK – K) are learning their letters, using various activities such as music and sing-along and tracing letters of their names. Students were also decorating the letter of their name using various materials. At Gratts, students use their fine motor skills

and learn how to hold scissors by cutting out shapes. In addition, in the afterschool program, students also learn how to hold a pencil, learn to color inside the lines and recite the alphabet, numbers and sight words recognition. The afterschool provides activities in disguised learning where the students believe they are playing games but in actuality they are learning. Our approach: though it is only three hours a day, it's a lifetime of difference.

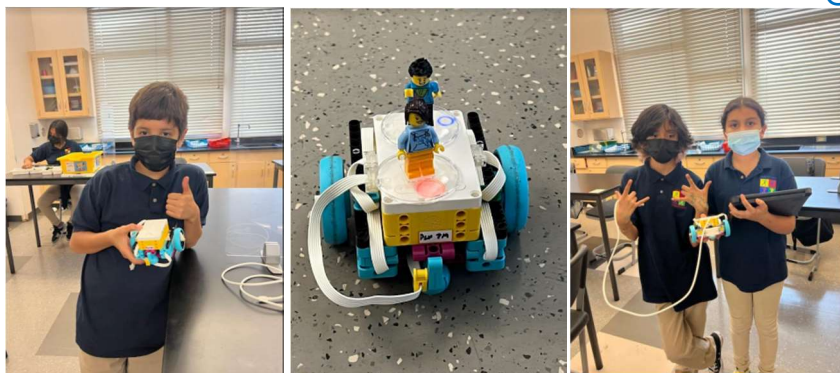


## The Afterschool Program at the Middle School Hosts a Dodgeball Tournament

During the month of September the charter middle school hosted its first parent conference week, so students had early dismissal from September 19th through September 23rd. During afterschool time, this means hosting tournaments, specifically a dodgeball tournament this time around! Our students from across all grade levels were able to recruit their own teams of 10 players per team, (1 being the team captain) and create their own team name. For this tournament, a single elimination bracket was created for teams to compete on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Team captains were tasked with relaying the rules to their team members and making sure that each team member abided by them. Each match consisted of three, eight minute rounds where the winning team would be able to move onto the next scheduled game. The rest of our students in the afterschool program served as our cheerleading audience which added flair to the games. A total of eight teams competed in our tournament and the last two teams had afterschool staff additions which also spiced up the matches. In the end, our crowned champions were "The Brown Churros". Congratulations to all of our Mustangs that participated in our dodgeball tournament and a special shout out to Mr. Gilberto Ochoa who emceed the tournament.



## Our Middle School Students Engage in Advance Technology



A new school year means the start of robotics classes in our afterschool program. With Digital Dragon as our partner program in this space, we have been able to continue incorporating STEM into our program. This year is particularly exciting because we have the incredible opportunity to integrate robotics classes 3 days out of the week for 10 consecutive weeks each session, as compared to 1 day out of the week in previous years. As additional context for our

visitors that decide to pop-in to campus, we have started with our three sixth grade classes and will continue to move our way up to our eighth grade classes. Each class is designated to either Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, where they participate from 4pm to 5pm. In these classes students are able to work with Legos and iPads to strengthen their 21st century skills and demonstrate their creativity when building and programming their robots. Devin, our instructor, has been an awesome leader in each of our classes and students are adapting quite well. We look forward to seeing the growth that our students will exhibit over the entire school year.



***"Three Hours a Day,  
Makes a Lifetime of  
Difference"***



