

# Asombro Insights

*Science education for eager minds*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 4 (October - December 2016)

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## Science Sponsors Give the Gift of Science Education

More than 900 students were given the gift of an Asombro science education program in the last two months! Generous donors to our inaugural Science Sponsors campaign overwhelmed us with their quick response to our call for support in August.

We developed Science Sponsors to meet the need of local classes that are unable to afford even the modest fees for Asombro programs. As a nonprofit with donated office space and utilities, Asombro keeps

program costs low. However, we need to cover the costs of travel, staff time, lesson development, equipment, and consumable supplies.

Science Sponsors donate \$100 per classroom science lesson to cover these costs. That donation gives a classroom of children a one-hour, hands-on science lesson with Asombro's talented staff. Science Sponsors receive notes from the children and/or their teacher as well as the knowledge that they helped bring the wonder of science to local children.

Seed money for the development and launch of Science Sponsors was generously provided by the New Mexico Children's Foundation.

The demand for sponsored programs is going to quickly outstrip our current resources. Please consider becoming

a Science Sponsor. Visit the Asombro website ([www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)) and click on the Science Sponsors link to learn more about the program and to make a secure, online donation.

One donor suggested that he might give a Science Sponsor donation as a Christmas gift to his friend "who has everything." What a great gift that keeps on giving!



*The GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces gave the gift of science education to four local classes. Members Susan Vantrass (left) and Lynn Mulholland (right) present a check to Asombro's Ryan Pemberton and Donna Yargosz.*

*"Our first grade team is so excited about bringing science to life for our students... We feel that the lessons you present will be a huge step in helping our first graders to start engaging their minds toward scientific thinking."*

A local teacher applying for a sponsored class program

*I feel so sciency! I love using the science tools and collecting data!*

9th grade student during Asombro lesson

## Stepping Out for Science Education Expands to 8th Grade

This school year marks the first time Asombro will be working with all of Las Cruces Public Schools' 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as a part of our Stepping Out for Science Inquiry Program. After working with 7<sup>th</sup> graders for more than five years, we are elated to have the opportunity to expand our reach into 8th grade. We will deliver two regionally focused and hands-on science activities to nearly 2,000 8th graders during the school year.

Our first visit with students focuses on energy throughout a Chihuahuan desert food web. Students will explore the transfers and transformations of energy, beginning to recognize that energy is a concept that cuts across all areas of science.

With the native kangaroo rat as the centerpiece, students will track how energy moves and morphs from the sun to a rattlesnake, and everywhere in between. Using wind-up toys and rubber snakes, solar panels and laser thermometers, bean bags and sound meters, we know students will have a great time while they learn all about energy in the desert!

Asombro's second visit to 8th grade classrooms focuses on water in New Mexico: how much we have, how much we use, and how we can conserve it. With predictions of increasing population and less

predictable precipitation in New Mexico, the need to save water is pressing.

To learn about three alternative water conservation methods, students will use watering cans and model houses to explore rooftop rainwater harvesting. They will roll marbles down a marble run to demonstrate how greywater recycling works and mold kinetic sand to investigate how shaping the land can help conserve water for local use.

There are myriad ways to conserve water! Students will leave this lesson

empowered and equipped with knowledge to make a difference in how water is used in their home and community.

Asombro is excited to continue to build our relationship with Las Cruces Public Schools' administration, teachers and students.



*At the energy lesson's food web station, students move beanbags to model the transfer of energy.*

### Education Programs

**Thanks to your support, Asombro staff provided 616 hours of science for 11,931 students so far in 2016!**

18-22 Jul	J Paul Taylor Academy - Climate Hub agriculture unit	15-Sep	Camino Real MS - carbon cycle
1-2 Aug	University Hills - arthropod identification	15-Sep	J Paul Taylor Academy - I'm a Scientist, Too
11-Aug	White Sands School - open house	19-20 Sep	Lynn MS - carbon cycle
13-Aug	Project Main Street - Sort Like a Scientist	21-Sep	LC Catholic - I'm a Scientist, Too and numbers & counting
20-Aug	Butterfly Flutterby	22-Sep	LCPS Teacher Workshop: Desert Stories
22-25 Aug	Mayfield HS - Climate Hub agriculture unit	22-Sep	LCPS Teacher Workshop: Glimpse of the Chihuahuan Desert
26-Aug	Sierra MS - vegetation measurements	22-Sep	LCPS Teacher Workshop: Climate Hub
26-Aug	J Paul Taylor Academy - Desert Stories	24-Sep	Native Plant Society of NM - plant hike
29-Aug	Sierra MS - carbon cycle	26-Sep	Vista MS - carbon cycle
29-30 Aug	J Paul Taylor Academy - Desert Stories	26-Sep	Camino Real MS - Data Jam #1
31-Aug	Sierra MS - carbon cycle	27-Sep	Vista MS - carbon cycle
1-Sep	Sierra MS - carbon cycle	28-Sep	LC Catholic - classification & See It Little/Big
2-Sep	Sierra MS - field trip	29-Sep	Sierra MS - Data Jam #1
7-Sep	Zia MS - carbon cycle	30-Sep	Camino Real MS - carbon cycle
8-9 Sep	Picacho MS - carbon cycle		
13-Sep	Zia MS - carbon cycle		

# Why Not Dash for Asombro?

## Join Us for Our 4th Annual Desert Dash Trail Race Fundraiser

Excitement is building for our 4th annual Desert Dash Trail Race fundraiser on Saturday, November 12!



Come out to enjoy a run or walk on the beautiful trails of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park! There's a distance for almost everyone. What better way to show your support for the Asombro Institute? All race proceeds will be used for our education programs.

Participants receive a technical race shirt and post-race refreshments.

All children in the 1-mile race will receive a finisher's medal.

## November 12, 2016

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park  
Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Children's 1-mile

Registration and information:

[www.asombro.org/dash](http://www.asombro.org/dash)



Photo by Brnd Cooper.

## Luminarias

Friday, December 9

5 - 7:30 PM

Chihuahuan Desert  
Nature Park  
Free!



Photo by Will Keener.

More than 300 luminarias will light up the paths, giving visitors a unique view of the desert. Stroll the paths, catch some Pokémon, sing carols by the fire ring, roast marshmallows, and enjoy hot cocoa and other refreshments. Unique gifts will be available for purchase - last minute shopping opportunity!

Yes, we did say catch some Pokémon. You read that correctly!

## THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the generous donors in the third quarter of 2016.

### Asombro Booster Club (monthly donors)

Stephanie & Brandon Bestelmeyer  
Lisa Ehlers-McCuller & Brian McCuller  
Gene & Maureen Gant  
Carolyn Gressitt & John Freyermuth  
Libby Grace  
Stephanie Haan-Amato & Jeff Amato  
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Marcella Newman  
Deb Peters  
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Walt & Linda Whitford  
Justin Van Zee

### Science Sponsors

Anonymous (2)  
Leoniece Beatty  
Larry Brenner  
Beverly Denney & Ron Tipton  
Ed Frank  
Gene & Maureen Gant  
Aravamudan & Champa Gopalan  
GFWC Progress Club of Las Cruces  
Leilani Horton  
Bill & Diana Howard  
Laura Huenneke & Stephen Warburton  
Catherine Kemmer, MD  
Lynn & George Mulholland  
NM Children's Foundation

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Optimist Club of Las Cruces  
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## Garage Sale To Benefit Asombro

**Saturday October 29**

**7:30 - Noon**

**4000 Senna (Las Cruces, NM 88011)**

Spend some time this Halloween weekend shopping for bargains while feeling great about contributing to Asombro's science education programs for local children. The Asombro Board of Directors is hosting a garage sale, and 100% of the proceeds benefit the organization.

If you have some items to donate for the sale, please contact Board member Donna Yargosz (575-312-2145 or [yargoszdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:yargoszdonna@yahoo.com)).

We hope to see you  
at the sale!



YES! I want to support the  
Asombro Institute for Science Education!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Quartz (\$15 +)  | <input type="radio"/> Obsidian (\$250 +)   |
| <input type="radio"/> Gypsum (\$50 +)  | <input type="radio"/> Peridot (\$500 +)    |
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