

Sierra School of Peoria

December 2022

Holiday Food Drive

This year the campus was able to collect, package, and sort food boxes for 17 of our families. Our BEST Model high school students in the Shine classroom took charge of this project, with help from a few friends, by sorting the items in order to create boxes that were complete with all the necessary items to make a holiday meal for a family of four. This endeavor helped our student practices skills that they could transfer over to a job requiring sorting, taking inventory, or fulfilling orders. Staff then were able to either send home boxes with our students or deliver them as needed. We are truly grateful to have had so many volunteers donate items to our families.



Halloween Spirit

Sierra students had a great time celebrating Halloween this year. Each classroom designed and constructed their own display to show off during trick or treating, with our high school Shine classroom winning the award for most creative display. Way to go, Shine!



Horse Therapy

This year we continued our partnership with the HEART Center for our horse therapy. Students learn basic safety guidelines, how to care for the horses, and of course, how to ride. This therapeutic practice helps our students develop Personal confidence, emotional growth, and behavioral accountability to name a few of the benefits. In addition to riding, our high school students also have the opportunity to volunteer weekly at the HEART Center, working with students from our Scottsdale campus, or helping with general maintenance and care of the facilities.



Announcements

- January 16: No School in observance of MLK Day
- February 10: No School for Professional Development
- February 20: No School in observance of President's Day
- March 13-17: No School for Spring Break
- Look out for information on our upcoming Lunch and Learn Event with Dr. Diane Myers
- Look out for information on our upcoming DDD Services Parent Night

Student of the Month

- Congratulations to **Elijah Johnson**, who was selected by Sierra Staff of Peoria to be the Student of the Month for August. Elijah has been able to exhibit what it's like to be considerate, accountable, safe, and engaged by being able to complete all of his assignments on time, being kind to peers, and always having a smile on his face.

- Congratulations to **William Howell**, who was selected by Sierra Staff of Peoria to be the Student of the Month for August. William has been helping throughout the entire campus by assisting with maintenance needs. William's willingness to take pride in his campus is wonderful to see, and the staff as well as his peers are grateful for his dedication. Thank you, William!

- Congratulations to **Adam Yoonan**, who was selected by Sierra Staff of Peoria to be the Student of the Month for September. Adam has made great progress since coming to Sierra School of Peoria and learning about CASE. Adam has learned to come to school with a positive attitude and enjoys playing with his new friends. He also has been able to improve upon his academic goals and extend his time-on-task during rotations. Adam, we are so very proud of you!

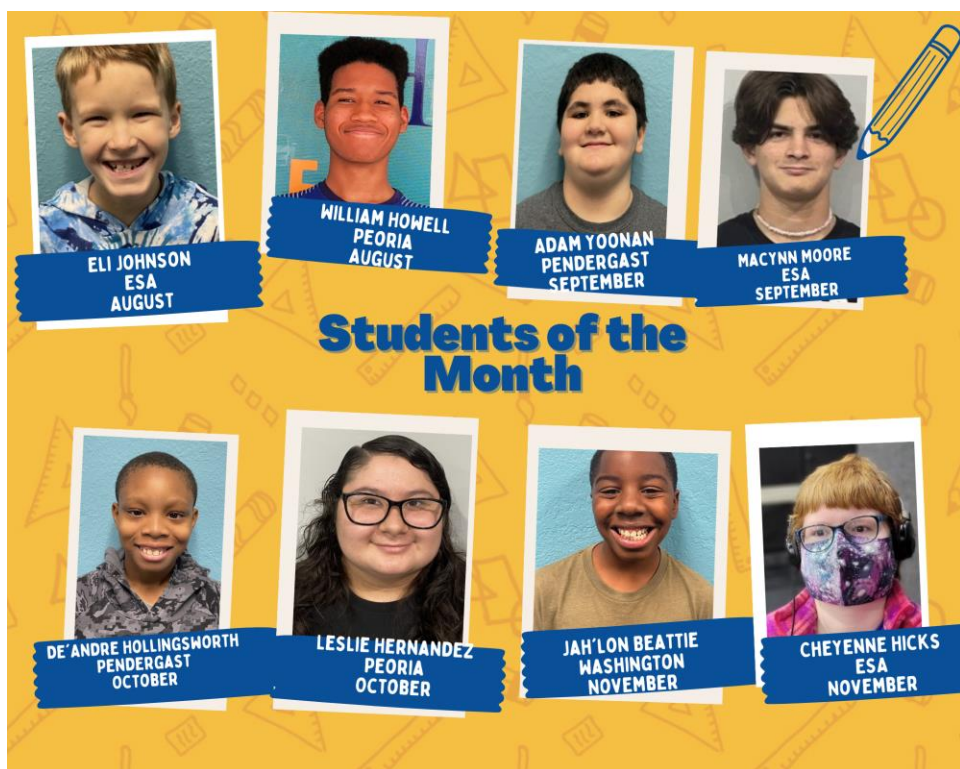
- Congratulations to **Macynn Moore**, who was selected by Sierra Staff of Peoria to be the Student of the Month for September. Macynn came to Sierra with the goal of completing some credit recovery, and through a lot of hard work, was able to complete almost an entire year's worth of core credits in just nine weeks! Macynn's dedication has paid off, and he has been able to return to his homeschool on track to graduate. Congratulations, Macynn!

- Our October Student of the Month is **De'Andre Hollingsworth**. De'Andre has done an amazing job of demonstrating restraint and using his coping strategies. De'Andre has consistently asked for a break when he is starting to feel frustrated, speak to a staff member, or used a fidget to regulate himself. Way to go, De'Andre!

- Our October Student of the Month is **Leslie Hernandez**. Leslie has gone above and beyond in accepting the responsibilities that go along with supporting her school community. Leslie has been volunteering in one of our elementary classrooms, managing the Student Store, as well as managing our campus Coffee Cart. Leslie's dedication to supporting others is truly commendable. Thanks, Leslie!

- Our November choice for Student of the Month is **Jah'lon**. Jah'lon continues to exemplify what it means to be a CASE student. He is considerate to all of his peers and offers assistance around the class. He has positive behavior and regularly encourages his fellow classmates to be on their best behavior. Jah'lon has a great attitude and always wants to make you smile. Congratulations, Jah'lon!

- **Cheyenne** is a very independent student. She likes to complete her work all by herself. Cheyenne had a hard time asking for help or accepting help if an assignment was incorrect. She is now doing better in that area. Cheyenne also works at the coffee cart, and we are very happy with her customer service. She is very nice to everyone and helpful with the orders.



Inspiration for Educators

Our first quarter Lunch and Learn event hosted by Dr. Diane Myers centered around Reframing Our Approach to Supporting Students with Challenging Behaviors. This presentation focused on being proactive and preventative, using evidenced-based practices, and operating from a strengths-based approach to improve how we work with students as well as their families.

Our second quarter Lunch and Learn event was hosted by Amy Farmer, provided an in-depth look at our Broad-Based Educational Services and Therapies, or BEST Model programming. This particular classroom model is ideal for students with significant autism or developmental disabilities. We utilize ABA approaches to improve language-based social and leisure skills, build fine motor skills, reduce maladaptive behaviors, and work to generalize these skills in real-world situations.