

# DaVTA Newsletter

## Positive Pro Offering Cash Prizes for Testing!

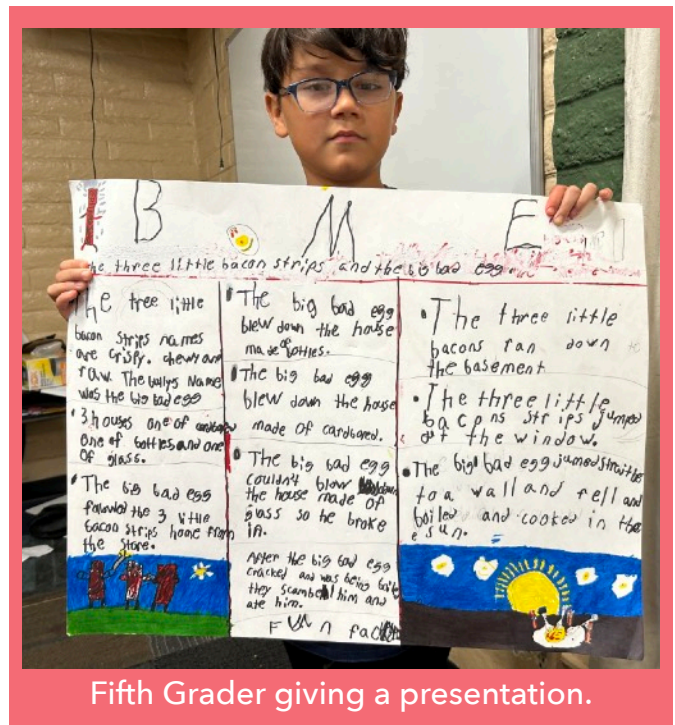
That’s right, our friends at Positive Pro are actually offering our students cash prizes for strong performances on the AASA state tests this year! This offer is exclusive for Da Vinci Tree Students. Full details are included in the AASA Prize Flyer (which should have been emailed to all our families along with this newsletter).

In short, students can earn prizes in two different ways. The first is by passing or excelling in their tests. The second is by showing growth by increasing their growth score. This way, all students (even students who are behind) have an opportunity to win! The table below shows how the prizes will work.

AASA Prize Matrix	Prize if the student passes their test at grade level AND/OR achieves a <u>good</u> growth score.	Prize if the student excels on their test AND/OR achieves a <u>great</u> growth score.	Prize if the student excels AND/OR achieves a <u>great</u> growth score on <u>both</u> their ELA and Math
English Language Arts	\$10	\$20	\$100 (replaces the two \$20 prizes)
Mathematics	\$10	\$20	
Science (5th & 8th only)	\$10	\$20	5th/8th have a max of \$120

This is an incredible opportunity for our students! For AASA, only the Tempe Union High Schools in Phoenix offer similar prizes. For more specifics on how and when prizes can be claimed in addition to other terms and conditions, see the AASA Prize Flyer.

We would like to thank Mr. Smith and Positive Pro for giving our students this opportunity!



Fifth Grader giving a presentation.

# Third through Eighth Trophy Grade Curve

## Grade Changes to Help Kids

Effective immediately, the third through eighth trophy challenge grades will be curved. The curve will be 40% with each of the six trophies counting as an additional 10%. This means earning a single trophy will put the child at 50% (5/10). Two trophies would then be 60% (6/10), three would be 70% (7/10), etc. Last Friday all grades were modified to be out of 10 points in order to fit the curve.

## Effect of the Grade Change on Skate Country / Fun Friday

Our policy is always to reward kids passing their classes and caught up with their work with a Fun Friday. Before this announced curve, kids needed four out of six trophies to be passing the challenge assignment. Now that two trophies is passing (a 60% D- is technically passing), students now need a minimum of 2 trophies in each subject by Friday, April 12th to join us for Skate Country on Friday, April 19th.

## Why the Change?

Administration was informed by our new testing coordinator on Thursday that student iPads in 3rd-8th grades will be locked during school hours on test days so that they are only capable of doing state testing. The only times kids could use them to do trophies would be during study hall.

## Why didn't the school know about this sooner?

The short answer is we lost Mr. Russas. As our testing coordinator, he was the one who handled these details. We're working quickly to make sure everything runs smoothly, but things still slip through.

## Why not just extend the deadline?

Nobody likes the trophy challenge (school staff and administration included). The only reason we are doing it is to help prepare our students for the state tests. State testing ends April 12th and we don't want to mess with the trophy challenge even a day longer!

## Testing Snacks and Treats

Every year, to make testing more pleasant for our students we offer them a variety of snacks and drinks. We also give our children gum to chew while they are testing. Research shows that the act of chewing increases blood flow to the brain and encourages thinking.

This is the only time of year that students are allowed to chew gum at school! We would like to remind all students that their used gum should be put in the trash, not spat on the ground or stuck under furniture. Finally, we'd like to thank Mea Fajardo for donating a large number of treats for our testers to enjoy!