



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

December 16 - 31, 2022



SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.



**We wish you and your family a
Joyous and Peaceful New Year!**

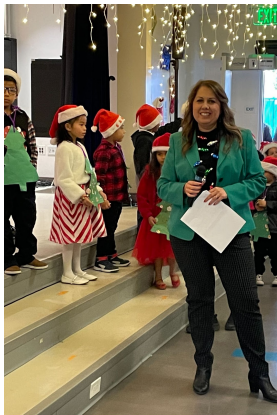
***Les deseamos a usted y a su familia un
¡Feliz y Pacífico Año Nuevo!***

HOLIDAY SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

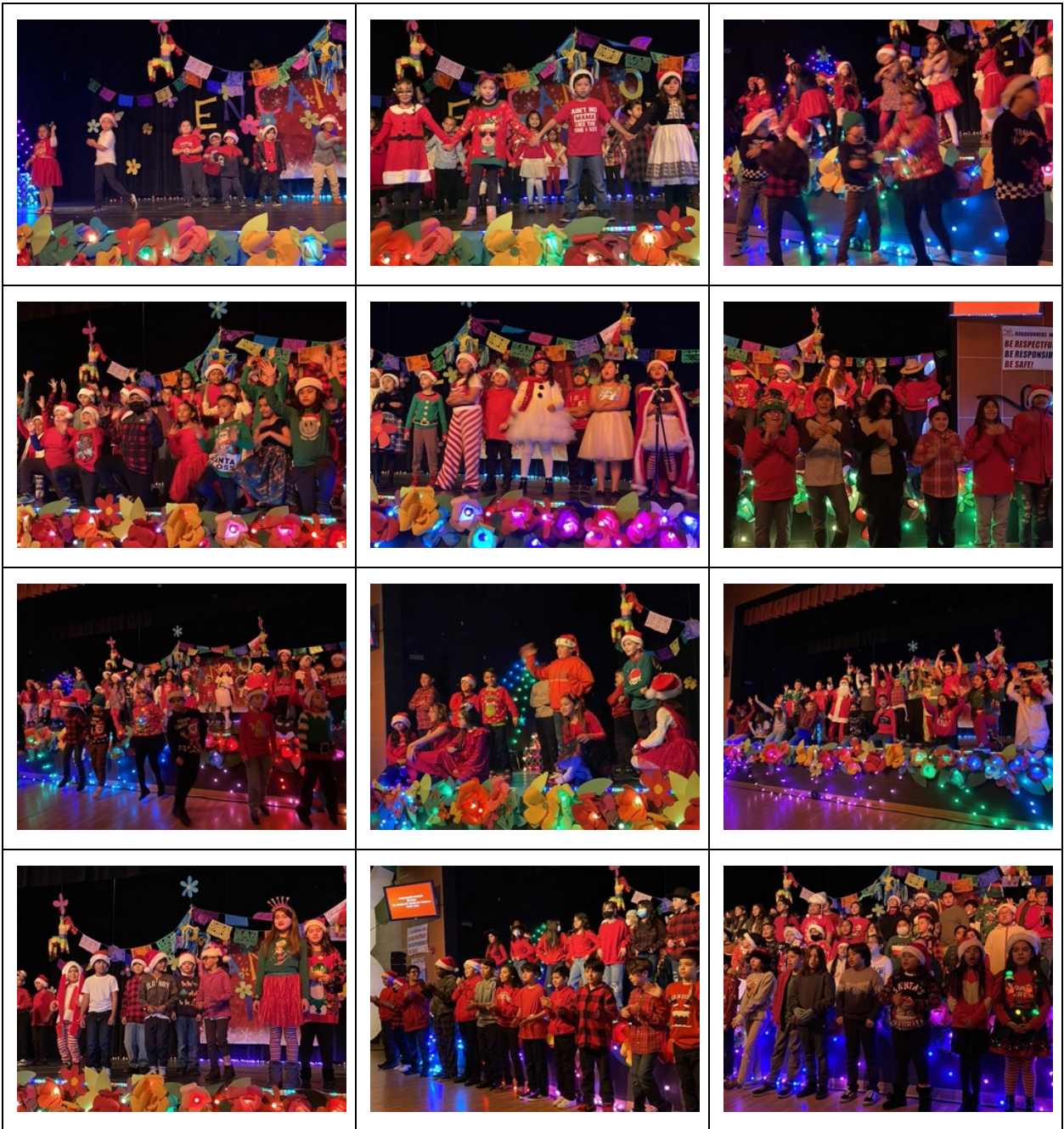
During the week of December 12th San Ysidro School District schools celebrated the holiday season with student winter performances. A special thank you to all of the principals and staff that worked hard to coordinate these beautiful events for the students and their families!













WILLOW WONDERLAND TOY GIVEAWAY FOR STUDENTS

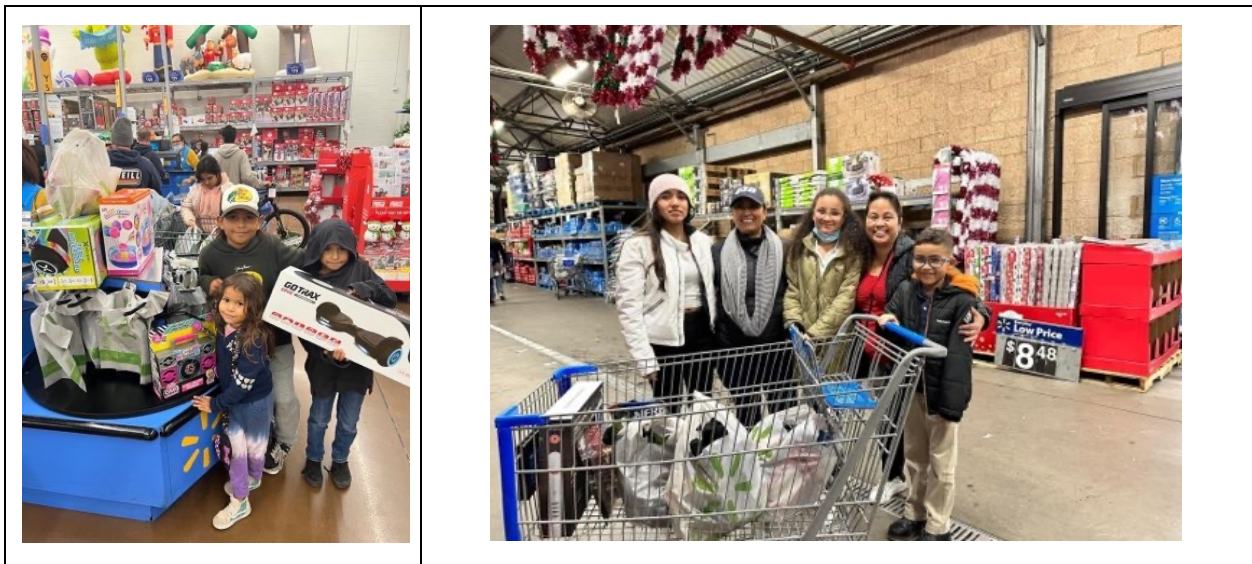
On Wednesday December 14th, Willow Elementary's library was turned into Willow Wonderland where every student present was invited to come and pick any toy that brought them joy. More than 700 toys were delivered by Chris Fuentes as a donation on behalf of Positive Movement (MVMNT), a new school-focused organization based in Pacific Beach.



MAKING SAN DIEGO SMILE EVENT

On Monday December 12th, 75 students from seven of our schools were treated to a Christmas surprise at the Chula Vista Walmart. Each student received a \$100 gift card to spend inside the store and were assigned a volunteer to help them shop. Thank you Tony Castro and Kyla Escobedo, the cofounders of Making San Diego Smile for hosting this event. Thank you Veronica Medina, Coordinator of Pupil Services, for coordinating this great event.





UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	Monday, Jan 16th	All Schools Closed & District Office Closed
Lincoln Holiday	Friday, Feb 17th	All Schools Closed & District Office Closed
Presidents' Day	Monday, Feb 20th	All Schools Closed & District Office Closed

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE DR. SHIRLEY WEBER LEADS THE OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS RUDY LOPEZ AND ZENAIDA ROSARIO

On Monday, December 12th, California Secretary of State Dr. Shirley Weber attended the Organizational Meeting of the Governing Board to recite the oath of office to elected Board Members Rudy Lopez and Zenaida Rosario.

Dr. Weber was nominated to serve as our California Secretary of State by Governor Gavin Newsom in December of 2020. She is our state's first African American Secretary of State and her position ranks her third in charge of California behind the Governor and Lieutenant Governor respectively.

Born in Arkansas to sharecropper parents, Dr. Weber moved to California when she was 3 years old. She was inspired and driven in her legislative leadership by the injustices her family faced in the South.

Dr. Weber received her BA, MA and Doctorate degrees from UCLA by the age of 26. Prior to completing her doctorate degree, she became a professor at San Diego State

University at the age of 23, and served a distinguished 40 year career as a faculty member and several terms as department chair.

Prior to her current role as California Secretary of State, Dr. Weber served as an Assembly Member representing California's 79th Assembly District. During her tenure in the Assembly, Dr. Weber served as chair of the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety, and Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Health. Dr. Weber was the first African American to serve as the chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. She also served as a member of the Standing Committees on Education, Higher Education, Elections, Budget, Banking and Finance.

Dr. Weber's heartfelt passion and dedication for equity and fairness in bettering the quality of life for all sectors of society have resulted in notable reforms in education and criminal justice.





BOARD MEMBER IRENE LOPEZ RECEIVES THE OATH OF OFFICE



ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS IRENE LOPEZ, RUDY LOPEZ & ZENaida ROSARIO WERE SWORN INTO OFFICE IN DECEMBER TO SERVE FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS

Congratulations to Board Members Irene Lopez, Rudy Lopez, and Zenaida Rosario who were elected in November 2022 to serve as board members until 2026! Board Members Irene Lopez and Rudy Lopez were reelected to serve their second 4 year term. Board Member Zenaida Rosario, who was appointed to the board in July of 2022 to serve the remainder of former Board Member Humberto Gurmilan's term, was elected to her first 4 year term.

Board Member Irene Lopez, who retired from the San Ysidro School District after 39 years of dedicated service, was reelected for her second full term. She was elected to a 2 year term in 2016 and was reelected to serve a full 4 year term in 2018. She currently serves as the Board Vice President.

For over 60 years Board Member Irene Lopez has been an influential member & leader in our community. Her passion & heartfelt commitment to the children & families of the San Ysidro School District stems from her upbringing as a San Ysidro resident. She attended SYSD schools as did her children & grandchildren. As a resident, parent, grandparent, former student & employee of the school district, Board Member Lopez has had a tremendous impact on our district and in the San Ysidro community.

Board Member Rudy Lopez, a lifelong resident of San Ysidro, will be serving his second 4 year term after being elected for his first term in 2018. He served as Board President in 2022.

Board Member Rudy Lopez has shown his sincere devotion and commitment to our community and district by always participating in events that involve our students and families such as distributing home COVID-19 test kits, numerous food distributions, Chromebook distributions, free vaccination clinics, school visits, holiday events, and so much more. Board Member Lopez has been a truly dedicated, visible, guiding, and caring leader of our school district.

Board Member Rosario will be serving her first 4 year term on the board. She was elected by her colleagues on the Board to serve as Clerk for 2023.

Board Member Rosario, a former San Diego County and California Teacher of the Year, was a beloved teacher in our district for 38 years. She began her teaching career at the young age of 21 and was a dedicated educator ever since. Prior to receiving her degree from the University of California, San Diego and being hired as a teacher, she attended Garfield High School in Los Angeles, made famous by Jaime Escalante, a former teacher at Garfield who was immortalized in the movie "Stand and Deliver".

After her retirement in 2020, Board Member Rosario wanted to give back to her community and the district. That inspired her to serve on the Governing Board.

Our district is grateful to have these dedicated and steadfast leaders serve on our Governing Board.

RECOGNITION OF 2022 BOARD PRESIDENT RUDY LOPEZ & CONGRATULATIONS TO BOARD MEMBERS WITH NEW POSITIONS

During the December 12th Organizational Meeting Board Members and Superintendent Potter recognized former Board President Rudy Lopez. The following was the statement read by Dr. Potter during the December 12th Organizational Meeting:

“It is an honor to recognize Governing Board President Rudy Lopez for his tremendous leadership and service as the outgoing Board President of our school district. Board President Lopez is a lifelong resident of San Ysidro. He has shown his sincere devotion and commitment to our community and district by always participating in events that involve our students and families such as distributing home COVID-19 test kits, numerous food distributions, free vaccination clinics, school visits, holiday events, and so much more. Board President Lopez has been a truly dedicated, visible, guiding, and caring leader of our school district.

During his tenure as Board President our district had many accomplishments, and here are a few:

- ❖ Played an instrumental role in bringing the 1st Little Library to San Ysidro at Smythe Elementary School. Eventually all of our schools will have a Little Library.
- ❖ During his tenure one of our teachers was named County Teacher of the Year
- ❖ Board President Lopez took on a state leadership role with the California School Boards Association as a CSBA Delegate Assembly Member.
- ❖ He served as our steadfast and dedicated Board Representative on the district’s Bond Oversight Committee.
- ❖ He helped to develop the Long Range Master Facilities Plan which identifies current and future general obligation bond construction projects.
- ❖ Board President Lopez led our first all staff welcome back kick off this year with a phenomenal keynote speaker, a goody bag with school and district shirts, and most importantly with chilaquiles!

Board President Lopez served as President as our school district transitioned out of the COVID pandemic and worked diligently along with our Governing Board, with compassion, determination and perseverance to safely guide our district back to an in-person educational environment. He sought to provide the best education possible for our students. He collaboratively led our board and district through this process, always keeping in mind the safety and physical and mental well being of our students, staff, and families.

Board President Lopez is a strong and mighty legislative advocate at the county, state and federal levels for our school district and for California public education. He quite successfully advocated with small teams of educational leaders from CSBA and ACSA in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. for a greater financial investment in education which led to the double COLA this school year, for additional COVID relief funding for schools, for resources to expand transitional kindergarten, for school facility funding, for funding for mental health support, and more. We sincerely thank him for his dedication and courage to robustly advocate at the state and federal levels for our students and the schools that serve them.

Board President Lopez, on behalf of our students, families, colleagues, and community, I extend to you our most sincere gratitude for your steadfast and loyal leadership, and for your dedication and commitment to our district. We are grateful and blessed that you will remain with us as a prominent Governing Board leader in our district.”



Congratulations to our board members with new 2023 positions!

President

Board Vice President

Board Clerk

Rosaleah Pallasigue

Irene Lopez

Zenaida Rosario

BOARD RECOGNITION: VISTA DEL MAR BOYS & GIRL CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

On Monday, December 12th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized the Vista Del Mar Middle School Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams. Coach Nikole Scarlett introduced the teams and shared each of their accomplishments. The girls cross country team placed 2nd in the competition. The boys cross country team placed 3rd in the competition. They will not prepare for the Spring 2023 track & field competition.



ASES (AFTER SCHOOL EDUCATION & SAFETY PROGRAM) WINTER ACTIVITIES

Our ASES before and after school programs hosted amazing events to promote and advocate for family connections and give them experiences that might not be easily available for them. Our students all across the district participated in arts and crafts, building gingerbread houses, and even a dance showcase. We encouraged all of our families to come in and share some time with their students as well as them having the opportunity to work on some of the activities that we were hosting.

Our families and students looked very happy, faces full of smiles and laughs. Parents that usually tell us they are in a hurry actually slowed their lives just a bit when noticing how much fun others were having. The YMCA teams worked diligently to be able to provide these activities for our students and families through our ASES programs. Please see the list of activities that took place across the district and enjoy the pictures of our students/families below.

OVH- 12.15.22 -- Ornaments / Arts and Crafts
WILLOW- 12.15.22 -- Dance Showcase - The Nutcracker
VDM- 12.16.22 -- Ornaments / Arts and Crafts
SUNSET- 12.16.22 -- Gingerbread Houses / Ornaments
SMYTHE- 12.14.22 -- Gingerbread Houses
LA MIRADA- Art Gallery / Design your own Ugly T-shirt or Apron
SYMS- Gingerbread Houses / Bracelets





BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

On Wednesday, December 14th, the Bond Oversight Committee met and were provided with a Long Range Master Facilities Implementation Plan Update by Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Leadership, School Support & Safety, Dr. Jose Iniguez and Bond Project Manager, Mr. Tom Silva and other various Bond topics. Please click on the links to access the agenda, presentation and meeting materials.

[BOC Meeting Materials w/ Presentation Included 12-14-22](#)