



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.
Week of December 8, 2023



SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

SAN YSIDRO WOMEN'S CLUB 23RD ANNUAL "TEDDY BEARS FOR KIDS" AT SYMS

The spirit of the holidays and the season of giving shined bright all over San Ysidro Middle School this Friday, December 8th. It was all smiles from our San Ysidro School District students and their families at the drive-thru lanes of the San Ysidro Women's Club 23rd Annual Teddy Bears for Kids holiday event, where each student received a teddy bear, a blanket, a candy cane, and a book!





It is thanks to the incredible volunteer efforts and giving hands from the leaders of The San Ysidro Women's Club that this meaningful holiday event is made possible. We would like to thank President, Maritza G. Chavarin, Vice Presidents, Alice De La Torre, Maria Maytorena, and Velia Rico-Ornelas, Treasurer, Dr. Maria Carriedo-Ceniceros, Secretary, Gaby Gregory, and lastly Co-Chair Teddy Bears Drive, Martha Jacobo. A special shout out to Willow Elementary School Teacher Mr. Martin Galante and our Coordinator of Pupil Services, Ms. Veronica Medina for all their support during the planning and fundraising of the event.









It is also due to the incredible contributions of several community partners and leaders such as Chief Executive Officer from the San Diego Council on Literacy, Mr. Jose Cruz and Founder of the Non-Profit Organization Education Begins at Home, Mr. Edward Becerra, that we are able to make this event happen. We would like to thank everyone who joined us and volunteered, including our San Ysidro School District Teachers, Administrators, SYSD Lead Custodian, Fidel Castro, SYSD Gardner, Ernie Marquez, SYSD Maintenance, Operation, Transportation, and Facilities Department, and our San Ysidro School District staff members for their generous support and donations.



LA MIRADA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE

La Mirada Elementary School students were presented with a wonderful opportunity to showcase their “time, talent, and treasure” and raise money for organizations that they are passionate about, all while creating solutions to problems that they identified within their

communities. Thanks to the OtterCares Foundation, La Mirada Elementary School 2nd-6th grade students were able to foster philanthropic skills that will last them a lifetime.

The following classes presented their projects:

Ms. Glantz's Class (Performing Arts) Raising awareness on the lack of performing arts within elementary schools. All proceeds will go to the Old Globe Theater creating opportunities for San Diego schools to participate in watching their shows.

Ms. Nunez's Class (Organic Food) Raising awareness on organic vs. non organic produce. All proceeds will go to creating a school garden.

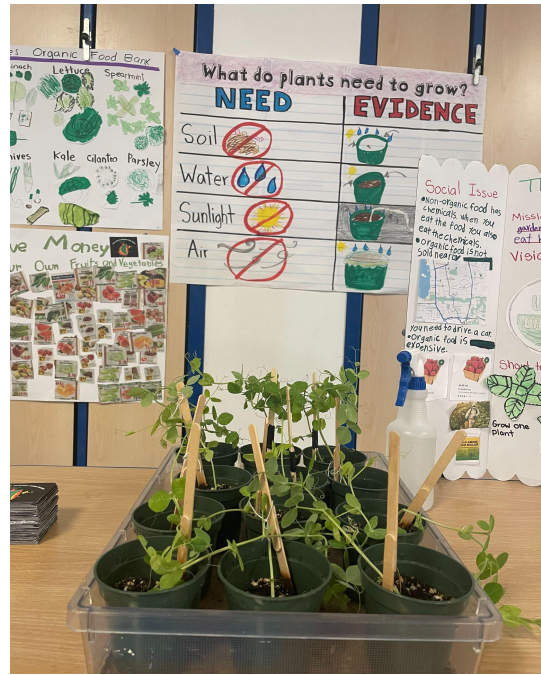
Mr. Kim's Class (H2O Response Team) Raising awareness on water pollution and how the community can save water. Proceeds will go to funding a field trip to the Discovery Life Center to gain more knowledge on their topic. Moreover, extra proceeds will go to purchasing sink filters for all classrooms.

Ms. Railey's Class (Recycling) Raising awareness on recycling and how the community can help towards sustainable living. All proceeds will go to purchasing sustainable classroom materials.

School Support (School Climate Culture) Raising awareness on the importance of community for school safety and how everyday activities can promote positive mental health.

We are very grateful to the OtterCares Foundation, San Diego State University "Sirens of State Choir," San Diego State University Hiking Club, La Mirada Elementary School Principal, Laura English, La Mirada Elementary School Social Worker, Jedzida Herron, La Mirada Elementary School Health Clerk, Germania Velez, and San Ysidro School District Social Worker, Karina Victorino. A special thank you to our Governing Board Member, Ms. Irene Lopez for being in attendance.









THE ACADEMIA AWARDS HONORS WILLOW TEACHER MS. KATHY ORDAZ

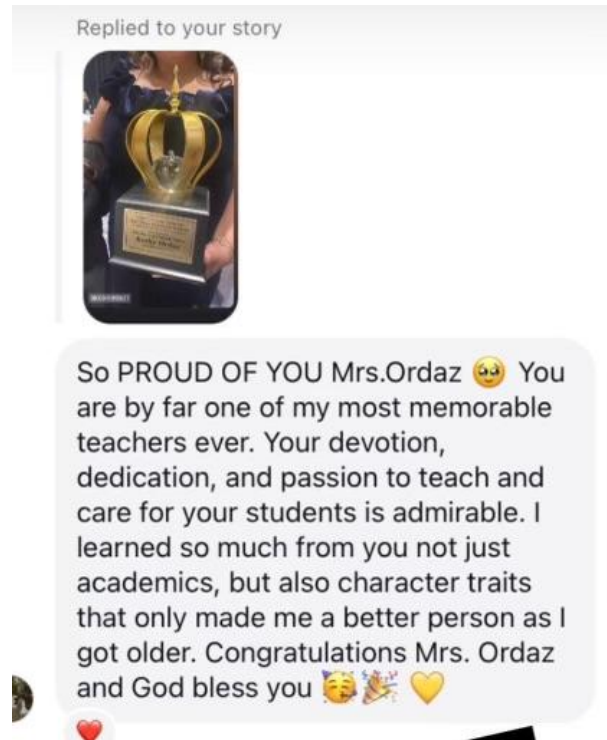
The Academia Awards aims to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions of outstanding teachers and legends in the education field. It is one of the most prestigious teachers' events in California, and on Saturday, December 2nd, they recognized our very own 4th grade teacher at Willow Elementary, Ms. Kathy Ordaz.

Ms. Ordaz has been a teacher for San Ysidro School District for the last 19 years. She has spent most of her career as a 4th grade teacher at Willow Elementary School. Before she became a teacher, Ms. Ordaz was a professional Charger Cheerleader and Choreographer. She cheered for 9 years and is one of the longest members of the squad. But her love for dance and music didn't stop there, She has choreographed many musicals and is now the master of ceremonies and organizer of the Winter Program at Willow Elementary School.

Ms. Ordaz is an amazing educator, with great rapport and connection with our community and staff. Her favorite subject is math and her students love to challenge each other on math facts. We are very lucky to have such a vibrant, talented, inspiring, and outstanding educator at our San Ysidro School District. Congratulations Ms. Ordaz for being the recipient of The Academia Awards!







CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS GRANT AT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

San Ysidro School District is the proud recipient of the California Community Schools Grant. We are very grateful and excited to begin this journey as we create a vision for Community Schools in our district.

A community school is a “whole-child” school improvement strategy where the school district and schools work closely with teachers, students, and families. Community schools partner with community agencies and local governments to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships provide a major focus on academics, health, social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. Our Coordinator of Pupil Services, Veronica Medina welcomed our SDCOE support provider, Dr. Monica Loyce and our collaboration remains in the implementation phase.

UPCOMING DATES

| EVENT | DATE/TIME | WHO |
|---|---|--|
| End of First Semester | Friday, December 15, 2023 | San Ysidro Middle & Vista Del Mar Middle Schools |
| Winter Break | Monday, December 18, 2023 through Monday, January 8, 2023 | All Schools Closed |
| District Office Closed to the Public | Monday, December 18, 2023 through | District Office Closed |
| Students Return after Winter Break | Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 | All Schools Open |

PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Our playground construction project progress continues. The hope is that the playground construction will be completed by February.

La Mirada & Smythe Elementary Schools





SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

A BIG thank you to Mrs. Liana Davis, Resource Teacher, for stepping in to support San Ysidro Middle School as acting Assistant Principal from November 14th through December 8th. Mrs. Davis will be returning to her prior assignment on Monday, December 11, 2023.

The San Ysidro School District proudly welcomes back teacher retiree, Mrs. Gloria Mena, to cover the Assistant Principal position at SYMS until our new principal is selected.

SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT GETS A+ ON TRANSPARENCY GRADE FROM THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Our San Ysidro School District received an A+ on transparency grade with our facilities bond program, according to an annual report card published by the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. Basically, how our district is spending money. Bond Programs are voter-approved and often involve hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for school facilities. A bad grade means you're not being transparent with the public and a good grade means that you are.

The taxpayers association's report card calculates grades for school districts based on certain criteria. A few examples of this is whether the oversight committee posts online meeting agenda packets, our governing board meeting minutes, our annual reports, audit reports, and a list of bond projects and their progress.

Chula Vista Elementary, Grossmont Union High, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College, MiraCosta Community College, San Diego Unified, and San Ysidro School District received A+ grades. Click on the link provided below for the complete article:

Link:

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/story/2023-12-01/which-san-diego-county-school-districts-are-most-transparent-on-how-they-spend-taxpayer-money-heres-what-a-new-report-finds>

DISTRICT JOB OPENINGS



Please click on the link to access our current district job openings:

<https://www.edjoin.org/Home/Jobs?countyID=37&districtID=650>