



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.
Week of February 7, 2025 & February 13, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

SYSD CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH: FEBRUARY 2025

San Ysidro School District honored Black history and heritage, along with the many contributions of Black Americans in building and shaping our great nation.

"Celebrating Black History Month in classrooms and schools helped students and families feel seen, heard, and valued — and it created space for all students to learn about the contributions of Black Americans to our country's prosperity and spirit." ~ San Diego County Office of Education

For information and resources that provided support and educational opportunities in celebration of Black History Month, click on the following link from the San Diego County Office of Education: [Black History Month Resources for Students and Educators](#)



SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

On February 6th, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from Sunset Elementary School participated in a Spelling Bee Competition to prepare the winning students for the district competition and possibly for the San Diego County Scripps Regional Spelling Bee Competition. The proud winners were third-grader Ava Figueroa, fourth-grader Valentyna Rangel, fifth-grader Dahiana Campa Cardozo, and sixth grader Naomi Figueroa.

Congratulations to all of them for their hard work and great accomplishments! A special shout-out went to Sunset Elementary School Interim Principal Mathew Bandy, Spelling Bee Coordinator Mr. Vargas, and Instructional Media Resource Aide Maria Del Rosario Castro for their dedication to the competition and the students.





DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

On February 6th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Sunset Elementary School Interim Principal Mathew Bandy recognized Sunset Elementary School students: 6th Grade - Edgar Carillo, 5th Grade - Dihana Campa Cardozo, 4th Grade - Kimberly Castillo, 3rd Grade - Ava Figueroa, 2nd Grade - Uriel Espinoza Sandoval and Eliana Orendain Amequita, 1st Grade - Alan Chaviva, Fernando Martinez, and Alexa Villalvazo for their outstanding achievement as an accelerated reader at Sunset Elementary School for the year 2024-2025. Congratulations to our amazing students for their hard work and perseverance. We are so proud of you!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF

On February 6th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Sunset Elementary School Interim Principal Mathew Bandy recognized Sunset Elementary School staff members for their exceptional dedication and contributions. Outreach Consultant Rodrigo Amezcua was honored for his outstanding commitment to ensuring the success of programs and students at Sunset Elementary School. Theresa Martinez was recognized for her unwavering dedication and support to Transitional Kindergarten students with special needs, creating a nurturing environment where the youngest learners could thrive. Alana Arciaga-Laurino was acknowledged as an invaluable guide to new teachers and maintaining excellence in instruction for 6th-grade students. Congratulations to all of them for being celebrated for their achievements and hard work in serving the Sunset familia!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

On February 6th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Vista Del Mar Middle School Principal Irene Herrera-Cevallos recognized the following Vista Del Mar Middle School students for their reclassification during the 2024-2025 school year: Jaylah Bernal, Maximiliano Delgadillo, Mia Duarte, Ximena Gomez Dominguez, Olivia Luna, Jacob Rodriguez, Adrian Lepe Garcia, Samirha Esquivies Torres, and Ximena Gutierrez Miranda. Congratulations to these amazing students for their outstanding achievement — everyone was so proud of them!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF

On February 6th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Vista Del Mar Middle School Principal Irene Herrera-Cevallos recognized the following Vista Del Mar Middle School staff members for their unwavering commitment to helping students reclassify as English Language Arts and English Language Development teachers: Rebeca Aguayo, 6th Grade; Ms. Breeauna Futrell, 6th Grade; Ms. Crystal Henry, 7th Grade; and Ms. Holly Black, 8th Grade. Congratulations to them for their hard work and dedication to supporting students in their reclassification journey. Their exceptional efforts as English Language Arts and English Language Development educators at Vista Del Mar Middle School made a lasting impact on the academic success of their students.



DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION OSCAR MADERA WINS THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES

Special Education Director Oscar Madera was announced as the winner of the Special Education Administrator of the Year Award! The district was grateful to celebrate Oscar Madera, who made an extraordinary impact on students, families, and educators. Director Madera's leadership transformed the district, and as an advocate for neurodiversity and inclusion, he created a lasting legacy of equity and opportunity for all students, particularly those with disabilities.

From his early days as an instructional aide to his role as Special Education Director, Mr. Madera's unwavering commitment to students and his community was evident in every program he developed — from individualized mental health interventions for autism to social-emotional and academic support classrooms, mental health support, and beyond. His work reshaped the district's approach to inclusion, mental health, and student well-being.

Director Madera's journey to special education leadership reflected his deep understanding of the challenges children faced, especially in the Hispanic/Latino community. His bilingual and bicultural background allowed him to create truly inclusive environments for all families. Mr. Madera's efforts, from championing professional development to his dedication to student success, continued to inspire everyone.

Congratulations to Mr. Madera on this well-deserved award. His leadership, passion, and commitment made a profound difference, and the district was grateful to have him leading the way.



LA MIRADA ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A FUN TEAM BUILDING PICNIC

Valentine's Day, or as other countries celebrated it, "El Día del Amor y la Amistad" or "The Day of Love and Friendship," was a fantastic opportunity to foster environments of positive friendships, collaboration, fraternity, a sense of community and belonging, and teamwork.

The district was so proud of the La Mirada Elementary School Eagles for always keeping up with and maintaining the spirit of "cariño," love, and friendship alive on their beautiful campus.







NEW PROFESSIONAL GROWTH PATHWAY FOR DISTRICT COLLEAGUES

The district launched an exciting new Professional Growth Pathway specifically designed for bus aides. This initiative was a structured, district-led opportunity that empowered bus aides to pursue professional growth, including becoming state-certified bus drivers. For example, the district recently implemented a series of targeted, hands-on training sessions as part of this pathway, which were enthusiastically attended by all bus aides.

Not only did this initiative provide direct benefits to the bus aides by expanding their skills, but it also greatly benefited the district. Ultimately, this fantastic opportunity contributed to building a more proficient and well-trained transportation team, promoting higher standards in the safety and efficiency of services provided to students and families.



Another example of how this growth pathway benefited district colleagues and the district was Veronica Alvarez, one of the dedicated custodians, who successfully passed all bus driver-required examinations, including her CHP driving test, achieving a perfect score! She invested a total of 110 training hours in preparation for her certification. As a result, Veronica earned a school bus driver certification.

Congratulations to Veronica on this outstanding achievement!



UPCOMING DATES

| EVENT | DATE | LOCATION |
|--|--|----------|
| Spring Break - Schools are closed | Monday, March 24, 2025 - Friday, April 4, 2025 | |
| Students Return to School | Monday, April 7, 2025 | |

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>