



# San Ysidro

School District **EST - 1887**

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

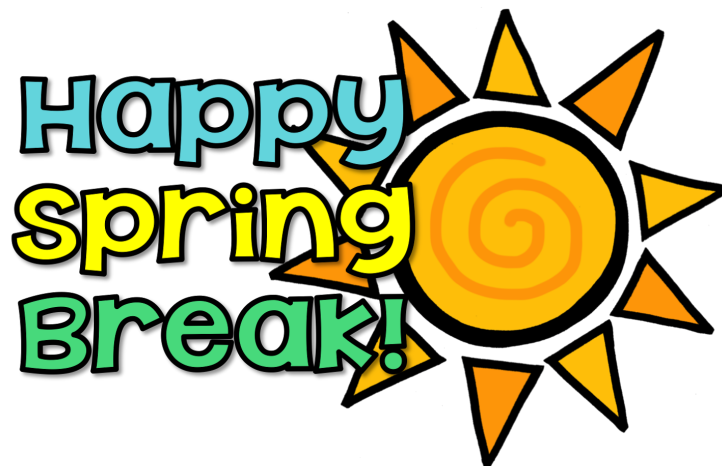
## District Highlights

Week of March 10, 2023



### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Gina Potter, Ed.D.



#### **SPRING VACATION: March 20th - 31st**

Our district wishes all students, families and staff a wonderful spring break vacation. Take the time to relax and rejuvenate. Schools Closed Monday, March 20th through Friday, March 31th. Schools will reopen for students on **Monday, April 3rd**.

#### **VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA: 20 - 31 de marzo**

*Nuestro distrito desea a todos los estudiantes, familias y personal unas maravillosas vacaciones de primavera. Tómese el tiempo para relajarse y rejuvenecer. Escuelas cerradas del lunes 20 de marzo al viernes 31 de marzo. Las escuelas reabrirán para los estudiantes el **lunes, 3 de abril**.*

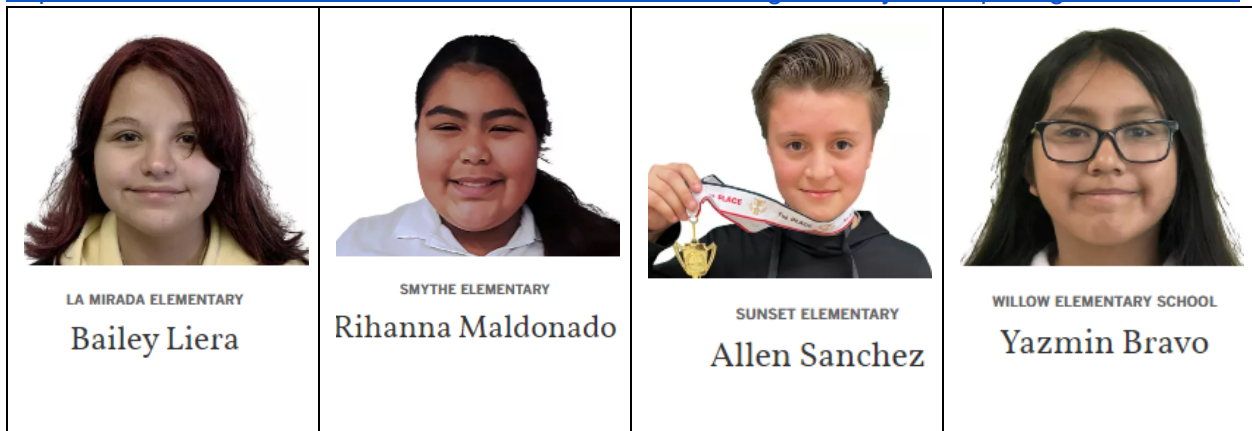
## 53rd ANNUAL SAN DIEGO COUNTYWIDE SPELLING BEE

The 53rd Annual San Diego Countywide Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the Town & Country Resort in Mission Valley. San Ysidro was represented by 4 School Spelling Bee champions; Bailey Liera (La Mirada), Rihanna Maldonado (Smythe), Allen Sanchez (Sunset), and Yazmin Bravo (Willow). We were the only south bay school district with representatives from four of our elementary schools!

Please find the link to the article from the Union Tribune the article announcing the event linked [HERE](#).

Please click on the link for the CBS8 video Link:

<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/education/2023-san-diego-countywide-spelling-bee/509-733>







**FLAG SALUTE STUDENT LEADER**

On Thursday, March 9th, La Mirada 6th grade student and spelling bee winner Rihanna Maldonado led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Governing Board meeting.



**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: SMYTHE YEAR TO DATE PERFECT STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

On Thursday, March 9th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized students from Smythe Elementary School for having perfect attendance. Interim Principal Marlo Vasquez shared some remarks and introduced each of them. Congratulations to Yatziri Ayala, Abel Castillo Blanco, Allison Castillo Blanco, Lani Barraza Conner, Sebastian Flores, Isabella Verduzco Gonzalez, Celeste Magana, Rihanna Maldonado, Aleks Martinez, Ariel Munoz, Manedjy Nicolas, Rigoberto Palomares, Cesar Pulido Perez, Andres Robles, Rebecca Robles, David Torres Rodriguez, Victoria Lara Sotomayor!



**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: CALIFORNIA PURPLE STAR RECOGNITION FOR OCEAN VIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Congratulations to our Distinguished Champions, Coordinator of Pupil Services Veronica Medina, Military School Liaison Officer Minday Hayes, Ocean View Hills Principal Erika Meza, Ocean View Hills Assistant Principal Vikki Viramontes-Castorena, Vista Del Mar Middle School Principal Irene Herrera-Cevallos and Vista Del Mar Middle School Assistant Principal Mathew Bandy. Due to their collaborative work with helping military families Ocean View Hills Elementary and Vista Del Mar Middle School was recognized by the state as a California Purple Star School. To put this incredible accomplishment into perspective; the State of California has 10,500 schools and only 91 schools were selected.



**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

On Thursday, March 9th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized the 2024 Teacher of the Year winners: La Mirada - Jenielle Ednalino, Ocean View Hills - Sylvia Mayer, Smythe - Maricela Cali, **Sunset - Cynthia Vinarao**, Willow - Christian Bockenbauer, San Ysidro Middle School - Anjelica Topete, Vista Del Mar Middle School - Juan Molina, Child Development Center/Preschool - Erika Lopez Martinez and District Office - Veronica Hernandez.



Sunset Elementary School teacher Cynthia Vinarao has been selected as the “2024 Teacher of the Year” for the San Ysidro School District. She will now represent San Ysidro School District in the County Teacher of the Year Program.

Congratulations to all of the winners!



### **BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPIONS: 2023 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR WINNERS**

On Thursday, March 9th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized the 2023 Classified Employee of the Year winners: **La Mirada - Maria Fernanda Rios**, Ocean View Hills - Melissa Sanchez, Smythe - Karla Ramirez, Sunset - Mary Tucker, Willow - Erika Aviles, San Ysidro Middle School - Brenda Lopez, Vista Del Mar Middle School - Elizabeth Valenzuela, Child Development Center/Preschool - Eugenia Teodoro and District Office - Jose Garcia.



Congratulations to Fernanda Rios, Special Education Instructional Aide at La Mirada Elementary School, who was selected as the SYSD “2023 Classified Employee of the Year!”



### **DISTRICT SURPRISES 2022 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

On Wednesday, March 8th, the District and La Mirada Elementary staff surprised the 2023 Classified Employee of the Year Fernanda Rios. Ms. Rios is a dedicated Instructional Aide for La Mirada’s RSP program. Her patient, compassionate and caring stype have inspired her students to strive for excellence and reach their academic goals.

She is the former President of CSEA. Ms. Rios passionately advocated for the CSEA members to ensure that all were treated fairly and always kept in mind that our students' education came first.

Ms. Rios is a dedicated role model with a team first mind set. Her passion for her work and our District is exemplary!

We extend a sincere “Congratulations” on being our 2023 Classified Employee of the Year.

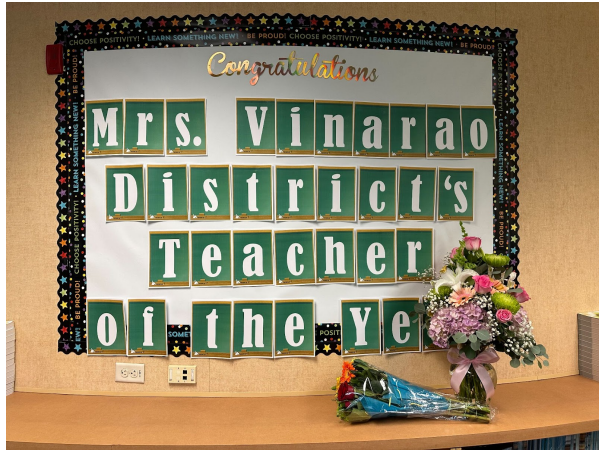




### **DISTRICT SURPRISES 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

On Thursday, March 9th, the District and Sunset Elementary Staff surprised and congratulated Ms. Cynthia Vinaroa for being named San Ysidro District Teacher of the Year. Ms. Vinaroa has been part of the San Ysidro School District family for 25 years. She's been at Sunset Elementary for her entire teaching career. She was inspired to teach by her elementary, junior high and high school teachers who showed her kindness and love and taught class with passion and a willingness to share their knowledge with their students.

Ms. Vinaroa, we are blessed, honored and proud that you are part of our San Ysidro School District family. Congratulations on being our district Teacher of the Year.

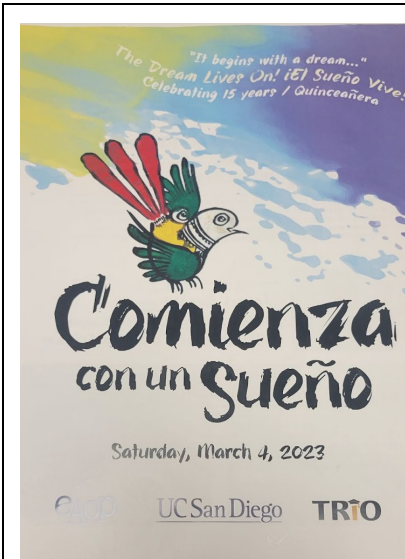


## UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
District Office Closed to the Public	March 27-31, 2023	District Office Closed
Students Return to School	Monday, April 3, 2023	All Schools
Preschool Parent Conferences	Monday, April 17-21, 2023	Preschool
Memorial Day - Legal Holiday	Monday, May 29, 2023	District Office & All Schools Closed
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 7, 2023	All Schools

## SYSD STUDENTS ATTEND COMIENZA CON UN SUEÑO AT UCSD

On Saturday, March 4th SYSD students and parents from Vista del Mar, San Ysidro Middle, Smythe and Sunset attended the 15th (Quinceñera recognition) Comienza con un Sueño sponsored by Early Academic Outreach Programs (EAOP) at UC San Diego. Students heard inspirational speakers, attended an academic outreach fair, attended workshops, and were treated to breakfast and lunch. In the afternoon, they attended a STEM Fair on the Town Square. Special thanks to the SYSD transportation department, Ms Lupe Barrera from the Pupil Services Department, and VDM staff Ms Lupita Garcia and Mr. Luis Beltaran who assisted with supervision. "It Begins with a Dream!"



## **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CCSPP)**

Superintendent Potter announced at the March 9th Governing Board Meeting that San Ysidro School District was awarded a \$200K Planning Grant from the California Department of Education (CDE) to begin working on a plan to bring the community schools vision to various schools within our district. The press release is below:

*SACRAMENTO—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that the California State Board of Education (SBE) today approved \$45 million in community schools planning grants as proposed by the California Department of Education (CDE), which builds on successful efforts to accelerate student learning through an integrated approach focused on academics, health and social services, and family and community engagement.*

*The \$4 billion California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) is the nation's largest investment in the success of high-needs students through a whole-child approach. Community schools partner with education, county, and nonprofit entities to provide integrated health, mental health, and social services alongside high-quality, supportive instruction with a strong focus on community, family, and student engagement.*

*Superintendent Thurmond is excited to continue to support the next phase of community schools transformation. "I have been a longtime advocate for community schools. Years ago, as a school board member, I introduced a policy to turn West Contra Costa Unified into a full-service community schools district. We have come a long way in our efforts to make community schools a reality throughout the state of California," Thurmond said. "Community schools aim to break down the barriers that limit student and family access to needed services and resources, ensuring that the school site itself can become a place for a variety of services. Students cannot learn and families cannot prioritize education unless their basic needs are met and families have a pathway to elevate their assets—whether that is through wellness programs, nutritional programs, job training, counseling, or language and biliteracy programs.*

*"Our goals related to community schools are straightforward," Thurmond continued. "Transform school climate through the implementation of restorative practices and steer away from punitive disciplinary practices that exclude and punish rather than embrace and repair."*

*"Community schools provide supportive, nurturing, and inclusive learning environments to help all students thrive in academics and in life. In addition, they provide much-needed community resource hubs. I am grateful to the Governor, the Legislature, and the California Department of Education for their dedication to this important program."*

*Community schools are a critical part of Thurmond's [Transforming California Schools Initiative](#)*

Special thanks to Veronica Medina, Coordinator of Pupil Services who served as the head grant writer. We would also like to thank Dr. Potter, Amber Elliot from the business department and Marilyn Andrianzen CBO for technical assistance. Exciting!