



# San Ysidro

School District **EST - 1887**

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

## District Highlights

Weeks of March 11 & March 18, 2022



### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Gina Potter, Ed.D.



### **SPRING VACATION: No school Monday, March 21 through Monday, April 4, 2022**

Our schools will be closed from Monday, March 21st through Monday, April 4th for spring vacation. School staff will return to work on Monday, April 4th and our **schools will reopen for students on Tuesday, April 5th.**

### **DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED**

The district office will be closed to the public from Monday, March 21st through Friday, April 1st. The office will reopen to the public on Monday, April 4th.

### **CONGRATULATIONS MAURICIO JIMENEZ AYALA, LA MIRADA, AND VALERIE GARCIA, SMYTHE, FOR YOUR GREAT PARTICIPATION IN THE SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE COUNTYWIDE SPELLING BEE!**

On Thursday, March 17th the San Diego Union Tribune hosted its 52nd annual Countywide Spelling Bee competition via Zoom. The countywide spelling bee is open to


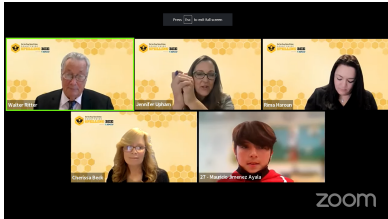


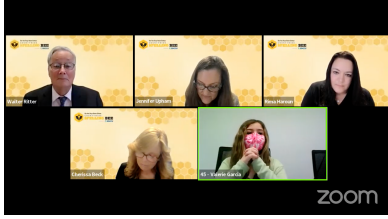
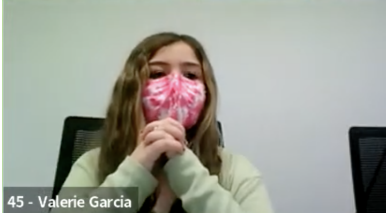
6th, 7th and 8th grade students in a public or private school with a combined enrollment of 30 or more children.

La Mirada Elementary 6th grade student Mauricio Jimenez Ayala and Smythe Elementary 6th grade student Valerie Garcia were 2 out of the 60 spelling bee contestants in the competition! Mauricio and Valerie are incredible spellers and our district and their schools are so very proud of both of them for making it all the way to the county level spelling contest!



The San Diego Union-Tribune  
COUNTYWIDE  
**SPELLING BEE**

PRESENTED BY 

 <p>LA MIRADA ELEMENTARY Mauricio Jimenez Ayala</p>	 <p>zoom</p>	 <p>27 - Mauricio Jimenez Ayala</p>
 <p>SMYTHE ELEMENTARY Valerie Garcia</p>	 <p>zoom</p>	 <p>45 - Valerie Garcia</p>

Please click on the link to access the San Diego Union Tribune Spelling Bee website that contains additional information: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/spellingbee>

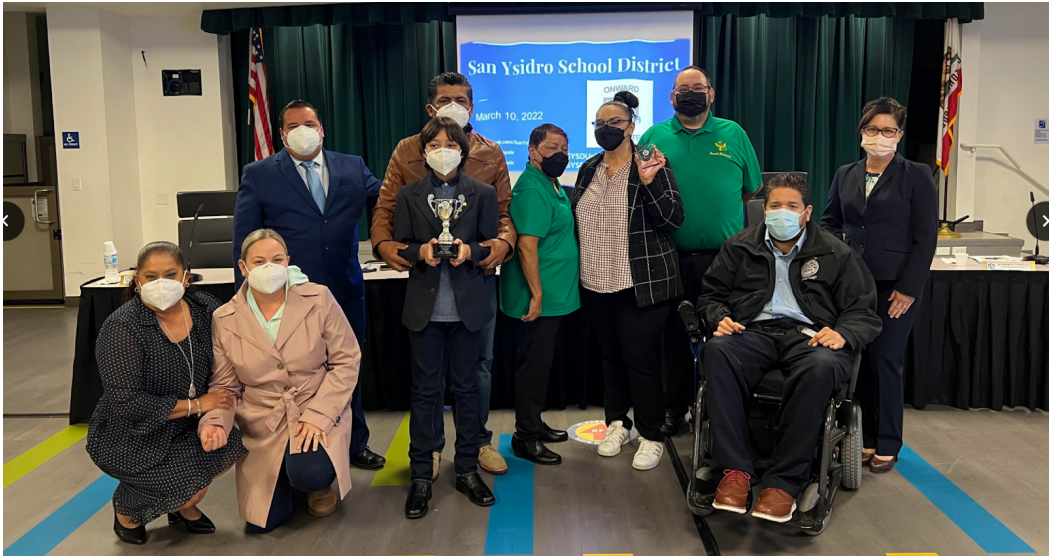
### **WILLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JOINS “READ ACROSS AMERICA” & INCORPORATES “DRESS UP DAYS” WITH EACH DAY’S DESIGNATED BOOK**

Throughout the week of March 14th through March 18th, Willow Elementary students participated in “Read Across America”. Not only did they read a new book each day but they were encouraged to dress up in various themes associated with that day’s book. On Monday, they read *“Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl’s Baseball Dream”* and the students wore their favorite sports team gear; Tuesday, *“Bad Case of Stripes”*, dressed in stripes; Wednesday, *“The Rainbow Fish”* dressed in rainbow or favorite color; Thursday, *“How to Catch a Leprechaun”*, dressed in green; and Friday, *“When a Dragon Moves In”* they brought their favorite stuffed animal. This made reading even that much more exciting and fun!! Great job Roadrunners!



**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: WILLOW 6TH GRADE  
TEACHER ELIZABETH GOMEZ & 6TH GRADE STUDENT ESTEBAN SERVIN**

On March 10, 2022, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized Willow 6th grade teacher Elizabeth Gomez and Willow 6th grade student Esteban Servin. Teacher Gomez always incorporates educational challenges during school breaks. Most recently, her students participated in the Achieve 3000 challenge. Willow 6th grade student Esteban Servin participated in the challenge and received the Top Achiever in the State of California Award. Congratulations to both of our distinguished champions!



**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: MANUELA COLOM -  
TEMPORARY CERTIFICATED MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

On March 10th the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized administrative substitute and retired cabinet member, Manuela Colom. Ms. Colom started her



temporary duty as Principal in October of 2021 while the district conducted a search for a new principal. This February, Ms. Erika Meza was selected as the new principal of Ocean View Hills Elementary. Ms. Colom assumed the duties of temporary Assistant Principal while a search for the new Assistant Principal was conducted. A heart-felt “THANK YOU” Ms. Colom for your tremendous support and dedication to our district. We truly appreciate you!

**BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: DR. DAVID FARKAS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, PUPIL SERVICES AND SAFETY**

On March 10th the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Farkas. He took the lead in spearheading our District’s commitment to making sure our students, staff and families are kept safe during the pandemic. Dr. Farkas has been the district leader in authoring and implementing the district’s COVID Safety Plan in compliance with the state and federal COVID safety guidelines for schools. Prior to our schools reopening, Dr. Farkas led the team, which included MOTF Director Mr. Paulo Azevedo and the Maintenance and Facilities team, that made our schools safe for learning in-person. He made sure that our schools and the district office met all safety measures and guidelines during the pandemic. His number one priority was the safety of our students, staff and families. Dr. Farkas even dabbled in acting by producing a video highlighting all the safety measures that were in place at each of our schools.

He led the effort to secure COVID testing at our school sites. He assembled a team that was trained in administering the tests and became a trained tester himself! He was instrumental in securing vaccination clinics at our school sites and obtaining home testing kits for our students and staff.

He continues to be the lead in making sure all safety measures are in place as we transition from pandemic to endemic.





## OCEAN VIEW HILLS SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, March 8th, Ocean View Hills School held their Virtual Open House Event. Principal Erika Meza met with parents, students and staff via Zoom. Afterwards, parents had an opportunity to virtually meet with their child's classroom teacher. Thank you to our team from Ocean View Hills for a great Open House!

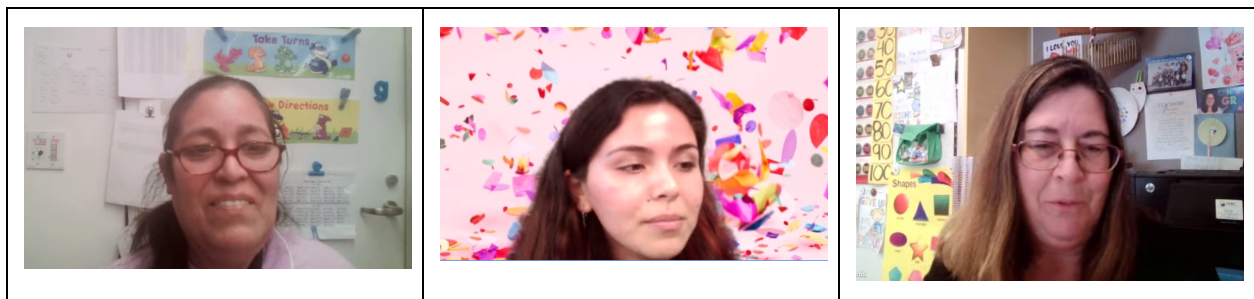


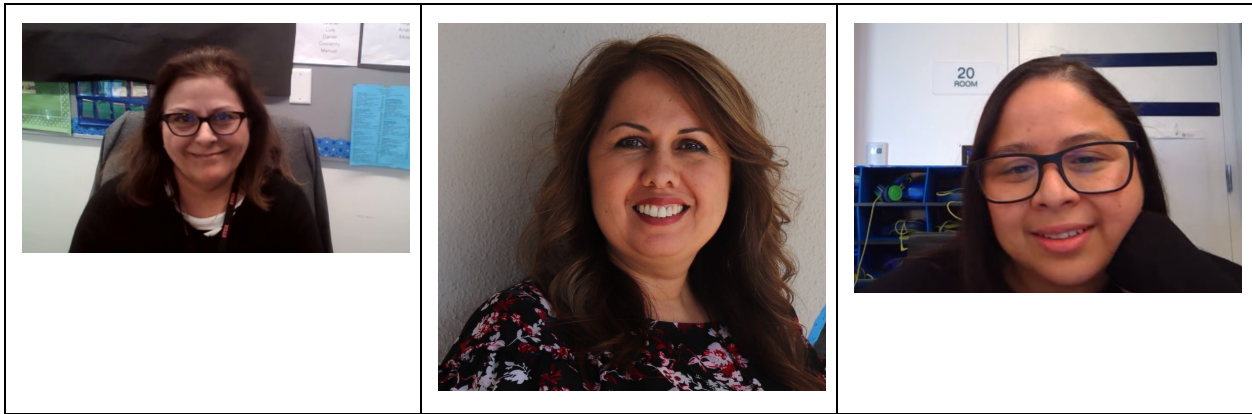
## LA MIRADA SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, March 8th, La Mirada School held their Virtual Open House Event. Principal met with parents, students and staff via Zoom. Afterwards, parents had an opportunity to virtually meet with their child's classroom teacher. Thank you to our team from La Mirada for a great Open House!

**Please click on the link to access Ms. English La Mirada Virtual Open House Presentation:**

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tAFvtPnDhw9YvecfYs-59O36nEGerl8x/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117975998743952418574&rtpof=true&sd=true>





**SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

On Thursday, March 17th, San Ysidro Middle School held their Virtual Open House Event. Principal Manuel Bojorquez and Assistant Principal Maria Preciado met with parents, students and staff via Zoom. Afterwards, parents had an opportunity to virtually meet with their child’s classroom teacher. Thank you to our team from San Ysidro Middle School for a great Open House!



**TEACHER AND CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

**Juanita Nuñez** has been selected as the “2023 Teacher of the Year” for the San Ysidro School District. She has served in numerous roles in our district . She is a current teacher on the Sci/Phy instructional team, but has taught 3rd thru 5th grades in the past. As a member of the Sci/Phy team, she currently teaches 370 4th-6th graders in the STEM Program at 5 different elementary schools. Juanita states, “the power of an education has been a personal testimony in my life. I have committed to developing strong relationships and a strong sense of self-worth among my students, many who have gone on to tutor and mentor other students.” The selection committee noted that

she is an outstanding teacher who has mastered her craft. Congratulations to Jaunita Nuñez who will now represent SYSD in the County Teacher of the Year Program.



Congratulations to **Isabella Savala**, Health Clerk at San Ysidro Middle School, who was selected as the SYSD “2022 Classified Employee of the Year!” She has worked in her current position for 19 years. Mr. Bojorquez, her principal, describes her work performance as “exceptional, always maintaining accurate and timely health records, while respectfully caring for 511 students and their parents. On many occasions, Mrs. Savala has gone above and beyond her duties as Health Clerk, providing assistance at the main office and anticipating the needs of our students, parents, and staff. Mrs. Savala has been a source of strength, commitment and inspiration.” We congratulate Mrs. Savala for being selected as our district’s “2022 Classified Employee of the Year!”





## UPCOMING DATES

Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Spring Break	Monday, March 21st through Monday, April 4th		Schools Closed
District Office Closed to the Public	Monday, March 21st through Friday, April 1st.		District Office Closed
Students Return	Tuesday, April 5th		All Schools
Memorial Day - Legal Holiday	Monday, May 30th		District Office and All Schools Closed
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 8th		All Schools

## ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY LEGISLATIVE MEETING

The Annual South County Districts Legislative took place on Saturday, March 5th. Educational leaders from Chula Vista Elementary School District, Coronado Unified School District, National School District, South Bay Union School District, Sweetwater Union High School District, and San Ysidro School District participated by sending their respective representatives (1-2 Board Members, the Superintendent, and the President or alternate from both their teachers' union and classified union). The purpose of the meeting was to identify key educational priorities and review proposed legislative bills to determine a common message that will be sent to legislative leaders in Sacramento regarding education. A special thanks to our Board Member Humberto Gurmilan, SYEA President Natalie La Rosa, and CSEA President Fernanda Rios for their participation as leaders from our district in this event.

**Please click on the link to access the PRESS RELEASE:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XKzsDiQ\\_V9xIELPFIwte2lomt6QKxi41/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XKzsDiQ_V9xIELPFIwte2lomt6QKxi41/view?usp=sharing)



## SDCOE SOCIAL WORKER DIRECT SERVICE AWARD

The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) hosted the Second Annual School Social Work Awards in recognition of the school social work profession on March 9th, 2022. The purpose of the event was to highlight the incredible work of school social workers who balance resiliency, passion, and perseverance while simultaneously serving students, families, and staff members in districts and schools across San Diego County.

**Karina Victorino**, District Social Worker was nominated for the SDCOE School Social Worker Direct Service Award. Her nomination was for the important services that she performs to support students with Mental Health needs. These services range from Tier 1/2/3 interventions, including Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERHMS), staff and parent training, and outside agency collaboration.

Ms. Victorino was recognized at the county level as our district representative and as a top 6 county finalist. We are incredibly proud of her for this accomplishment and the incredible work that she does to support our staff, families, and students.



## SMYTHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL “LITTLE LIBRARY” CEREMONY

On Friday, April 8th, 2022, County Vice-Chair Supervisor Nora Vargas and San Diego County Librarian Laura Zuckerman will visit Smythe Elementary School to open the first “little library” in San Ysidro.

“Little Free Libraries are small neighborhood book exchange structures that can be placed throughout communities to allow for anyone, but particularly students, to have access to books closer to home. **Source:** <https://www.sdcl.org/LFL/>

They provide access to books across San Diego and particularly in low-income communities and communities of color, reducing the gap for students that lack access to transportation to visit a physical library building or with connectivity challenges at home.

### **COVID VACCINATION CLINIC IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COLOR HEALTH AND SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT**

On March 12th, SYSD hosted another vaccination clinic for our students and families from 8:00am to 4:00pm. It was our eighth vaccination clinic. Over 80 vaccination doses were administered.



Veronica Medina and Mr. Bojorquez



Mr. Bojorquez and Dr. Farkas

### **COVID CASE DASHBOARD**

This Dashboard is an effort for our district to be transparent regarding COVID cases. Our dashboard reflects the number of cases since July 26 and through March 11. Most of these cases have been “contact traced” to places other than school sites. This past week, our schools again witnessed a dramatic drop in cases among our students and employees, as compared to prior weeks after winter break. The district’s multi-layered safety measures are proving highly effective in curbing the transmission of COVID within our schools. At the March Governing Board Meeting, outdoor masking and amending the COVID-19 Safety Plan will be an agenda item.

[📄 San Ysidro School District COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

### **BOARD PRESENTATION: LONG RANGE MASTER FACILITIES IMPLEMENT PLAN - REVISED**

On March 10, 2022, Director of Maintenance, Operations, Transportation and Facilities Paulo Azevedo and Construction Project Manager Tom Silva presented the Revised Long Range Master Facilities Implementation Plan to the Governing Board. Please click on the link to access the board presentation: [LRMFP Implementation Plan - Revised \(03-10-22\)](#)

### **FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION/DISTRIBUCIÓN DE ALIMENTOS GRATIS:**

San Diego Food Bank: <https://sandiegofoodbank.org/gethelp/>

Feeding San Diego: <https://feedingsandiego.org/find-food/#locate>

### **COMMUNITY COVID RESOURCES**

Please click on the link to access the COVID Community Resources from San Diego County Health & Human Services: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.html>



