



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.

Week of April 12, 2024



SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized San Ysidro Middle School students for their exemplary academic, attendance, and citizenship achievements. Congratulations to 7th grade students Ximena Orendain, Marcos Sanchez, and Ashly Lopez, and 8th grade students Erica Guerrero, Mia Silva, and Jose Munguia. Ximena Orendain also did an amazing job at our pledge of allegiance. We are so proud of all of you for your student success and achievement!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF RECOGNITIONS

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized San Ysidro Middle School staff members: Counselors Alan García and Edith Willhelm, School Psychologist Mary Jo Mullin, Social Worker Brianna Minton, Campus Security Andrew Hernández, Outreach Consultant Marisela González, and Attendance Clerks Gabriel Mungia and Zachary Rasmussen for their outstanding support with students' mental health, social skills, and wellbeing, and their focus on creating a positive San Ysidro Middle School culture. Congratulations for your achievement and for being an essential part of our San Ysidro Middle School education community.



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: 2024 SAN DIEGO COUNTY SCRIPPS REGIONAL SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized San Ysidro School District students for their outstanding participation in the 2024 San Diego County Scripps Regional Spelling Bee. Congratulations to our 5 San Ysidro School District students: Samantha Meza representing Sunset Elementary School, Axel Barriga representing Smythe Elementary School, Emma Blanco representing La Mirada Elementary School, Maritza Rangel representing Willow Elementary School, and Giselle Moreno Roque representing San Ysidro Middle School. We are so proud of your hard work and perseverance to reach this important milestone!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Maireen Ruiz welcomed and recognized San Ysidro School District 3rd grade students McCartney Scott (La Mirada), Elias Oard (Ocean View Hills), Mia Plascencia (Smythe), Valentyna Rangel (Sunset), Mackenzie Hernandez (Sunset), and Natalia Perez (Willow), 4th grade students Eiji Nakao (La Mirada,) Abygail Laguitan (Ocean View Hills), Sebastian Alvarez (Smythe), Dahiana Campa (Sunset,) and Alan Vilches Enriquez (Willow), 5th grade students Edward Barraza Coates (La Mirada,) Aisha Ali (Ocean View Hills), Hailey Diaz Mariscal (Smythe), Janelle Thomas (Sunset), and Nina Llamas Rios (Willow), and 8th grade Student: Daiana Thomas (San Ysidro Middle School) for their outstanding participation as the winners of their schools' Spelling Bee Competitions and for making it to our San Ysidro School District Spelling Bee Competition. Congratulations! You are all big winners of your schools and we are so proud of you for your continuous dedication throughout this spelling bee journey!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT SPELLING BEE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TEAM

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Maireen Ruiz welcomed and recognized San Ysidro School District Educational Services Staff for their commitment and dedication to organizing and hosting our 2024 San Ysidro School District Spelling Bee Competition. Your hard work inspires our students to believe in themselves and everything that they are capable of. Thank you for your support and for believing in our students' success. Your team did a fantastic job!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT SPELLING BEE SCHOOL COORDINATORS

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized our San Ysidro School District Spelling Bee School Coordinators for their dedication in preparing our students for the School and District Spelling Bee Competitions. A big congratulations to Viviana Collins (Smythe), Maria Kaai (Sunset), Lourdes Quezada (Willow), Veronica Schmitz (Ocean View Hills), Sarah Applegate (La Mirada), and Robin Worley (San Ysidro Middle School) for being a guiding and encouraging force for our students to reach their full potential and excel in our Spelling Bee Competitions.



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: GOVERNING BOARD VICE PRESIDENT ZENAIDA ROSARIO RECOGNIZED FOR BEING THE RECIPIENT OF THE BILITERACY AWARD BY THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized our Board Vice President Zenaída Rosario for being the proud recipient of the Biliteracy Award by the San Diego County Office of Education.

Board Vice President Zenaída Rosario is a retired teacher from San Ysidro with a strong belief in multilingual education, who transitioned her passion for learning into a role as a school board member. After a dedicated 40-year teaching career that culminated during the pandemic, and determined to stay involved, Vice President Zenaída saw an opportunity to serve on the school board.

We are now proud to call her our San Ysidro School District Board Vice President. Vice President Zenaída's focus has always been very clear: ensuring students receive the best possible education, and this includes advocating for multilingual programs, a cause close to her heart. This new position has allowed her to continue her educator's spirit by collaborating with a team and putting the needs of the children first. We want to congratulate and honor Board Vice President Mrs. Zenaída Rosario for being the proud recipient of the Biliteracy Award by the San Diego County Office of Education. Congratulations Board Vice President Zenaída, we are very proud of your lifelong career and legacy in our education community!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: COORDINATOR OF PUPIL SERVICES VERONICA MEDINA RECOGNIZED FOR BEING THE RECIPIENT OF THE COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD BY THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

On Thursday, April 11th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Acting Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized our Coordinator of Pupil Services Veronica Medina for being the proud recipient of the Community Excellence Award by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

Over the course of the years Veronica's hard work, but most notably the kindness of their heart, has been the beacon of hope and the turnaround in people's lives that has allowed them a better quality of life and a promising future. Veronica has reached San Ysidro residents in ways that very few can do. Her compassion and understanding of people's unique circumstances and lives, has helped her bring a voice, resources, and all kinds of tools to those who don't have them. She has taught them the way to better themselves and their families by offering housing, jobs, education, clothing, and the most basic necessities that you can think of. Through Veronica's work, many have found a ray of sunshine and a window of opportunity to bring stability to their very deserving families.

It is our honor and privilege to recognize her as the proud recipient of the Community Excellence Award by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. Congratulations Veronica on winning this prestigious award and thank you for helping thousands of families in our communities!



A MOMENT IN HISTORY: SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPTURES PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

On Monday, April 1st, our San Ysidro School District students and staff had a chance to witness an event brought to us by nature itself, that had not occurred since 2017, when the last total solar eclipse was visible from North America. Before that, the last total solar eclipse visible in the U.S. was in 1979, when just five states were in the path of totality.

San Diego County turned out to be a fantastic spot to experience the April 1st partial solar eclipse with 55% of the sun obscured by the moon. On this day our students were able to learn all about this incredible natural phenomena and be a part of this wonderful human shared experience.

Another total solar eclipse won't be visible from the U.S. until August 23rd of the year 2044.





COAST2COAST FEDERAL ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

San Ysidro Governing Board Vice President Zenaida Rosario, Board Member Rudy Lopez, and Superintendent Dr. Gina Potter, attended the Association of California School Administrators and California School Boards Association annual Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy event in Washington, D.C. on behalf of our school district.

The policy issues were specific to California education and consisted of a briefing on the latest issues affecting federal education policy and collaboration opportunities with prominent D.C. figures and fellow educators. The training was then followed by two days of meetings on Capitol Hill to advocate directly with California congressional representatives, White House officials, key federal agency leaders and other top policy makers.

The following topics were advocated for:

❖ Full Funding for Special Education

- Support HR 4519
- Strongly support further federal funding investments in special education to meet the 40 percent funding promise within the next five years
- Urge Congress to support an ongoing increase in funding for infants and preschool grants, as well as funding for interventions services to address growing special education populations

❖ Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

- Ask our Congressional representative to support ongoing funding increases for Part B Preschool and Part C Infant/Toddler programs under IDEA, as well as funding for intervention services to address growing special education populations
- Call your representative and ask them to co-sponsor HR 5141 to increase funding for Part B Preschool and Part C Infant/Toddler programs under IDEA

❖ Addressing the Critical Need for Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- Support HR 82 (Graves, R-LA) and S 597 (Brown, D-OH), the Social Security Fairness Act, which would repeal both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, allowing California the ability to better attract and retain educators, especially those who become teachers later in their careers.
- Support S 2417 (Smith, D-MN), the Addressing Teacher Shortages Act of 2023, which would strengthen state recruitment and retention programs across the nation by creating a federal grant that targets and financially supports teacher preparation programs ensuring educators are well-equipped and supported throughout their careers
- Support S 963 (Lujan, D-NM), the Loan Forgiveness for Educator Act would confront an obstacle many educators face, burdensome student loan debt, by expanding the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program (renamed under the bill as the Educator Loan Forgiveness Program) so that additional educators may qualify, including administrators and early childhood educators — a strong need as California continues to roll out universal TK to every 4-year-old in the state

❖ Renew the Secure Rural Schools Act

- Congress and the President must address the historic Secure Rural Schools Act commitment to rural counties, communities, schools, students and citizens and act on forest management and economic development programs
- Support S 2581 and HR 5030 – the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023

❖ **Maintain and Expand Access to Broadband**

- The ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership requests an extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program and to maintain the ECF
- The Partnership strongly supports continued expansion of broadband access, especially in rural areas, and simplifying the application process for the E-Rate program to expand access

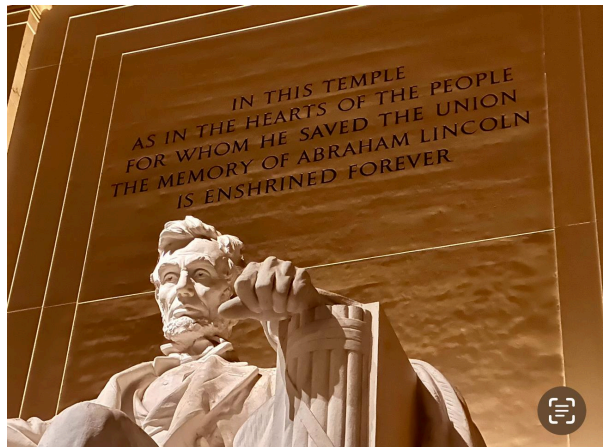
❖ **Privacy and Cybersecurity**

- California has led the nation instituting online student privacy and security in addition to establishing a new CA Privacy Protection Agency. Any legislation Congress considers must not preempt the work already accomplished in California
- Considering the rapid technological changes that impact the online children's marketplace, the Partnership supports strengthening privacy protections to better protect children as provided in both S 1409 (Blumenthal, D-CT) and S 1418 (Markey, D-MA)











SYSD SCHOOLS WEEKLY BULLETINS

Please click on the link to access the school weekly bulletins:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sKiLpBSZmxlqnhLTJTE1eF6k2kP2Rb7I>

UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	WHO
Preschool Parent Conferences	April 15th - 19th	Preschool
Memorial Day	Monday, May 27th	All Schools Closed
Last Day for Students	Wednesday, June 5th	All Schools Closed

MULTILINGUAL ENGLISH LEARNER PLAN

The Multilingual English Learner Task Force comprises teachers, staff, administrators, parents, board members, and educational partners. They have come together to align and revise our English Learner Master Plan to the California English Learner Roadmap and provide research-based frameworks and policies that build upon English Learners' strengths. This plan will give opportunities to create systems that support realizing their academic, linguistic, and social potential. The Multilingual English Learner Master Plan will serve as a commitment from all educational partners to focus on the teaching and learning of our English Learners. They will take our revised plan to our school board for approval in June 2024.

The Dual Language Committee was created as a subcommittee from the Multilingual English Learner Master Plan, which came together to support and enhance our existing programs. They are working on growing the program from preschool to 8th grade and aim to have our students promote 8th grade with the Biliteracy Seal. Dual Language Immersion is an educational approach that provides content literacy instruction in English and in Spanish. Research shows that students in well-implemented Dual Language Immersion programs perform at or above grade level on district and state tests and achieve advanced proficiency in two languages. They plan to present our updated Dual Language Handbook and the launching of the Pathway from Preschool through 8th-grade Biliteracy Seal Program during our June board meeting. Ms. Connie Rodriguez, Director of Language Acquisition and State/Federal Projects, continues to lead this important work. We thank her for her knowledge, efforts, and continuous dedication to the Multilingual English Learner Task Force!

CALIFORNIA HEALTHY KIDS SURVEY

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is a comprehensive statewide survey conducted by WestEd, a nonprofit research organization, in collaboration with the California Department of Education. The survey is designed to gather data on a wide range of health-related behaviors, attitudes, and experiences among students in California schools. It covers topics such as substance use, mental health, physical activity, nutrition, safety, and school climate.

Administered to students in grades 3-8, the CHKS provides valuable insights into the well-being of California's youth, helping educators, policymakers, and community members understand the needs of students and identify areas for improvement in school and community programs and policies.

District parents and staff will also have the opportunity to participate with specifically designed surveys for these educational partner groups.

The CHKS process will begin the week of April 15th. Active consent (parent permission) is required for students in grades 3-6. Grades 7-8 have a passive consent "opt out" process.

For more information on the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) please click [here](#).

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>