



# San Ysidro

School District **EST - 1887**

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

## District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.

Week of May 31, 2024



### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

#### **BOARD PRESIDENT IRENE LOPEZ WINS BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Association of California School Administrators Region 18 and the San Diego County School Boards Association hosted the 22nd Annual Honoring Our Own Awards on Saturday, May 25th. Our Governing Board President Irene Lopez was recognized as the recipient of the 2024 San Diego County School Boards Association School Board Member of the Year Award for both San Diego and Imperial counties.



We cannot think of a person more deserving of recognition, for her entire life's craftsmanship has been dedicated to the welfare and prosperity of students and teachers. For over 60 years Board President Irene Lopez has been an influential member and leader in our community, always finding ways to encourage those with a passion for teaching and children to pursue a career in education, showing them the way and paving the road for their journey ahead.

Our Board President Irene Lopez has been an invaluable and loyal supporter of the front line of helping hands, forming part of organizations such as the Hearts and Hands Foundation, Friends of the San Ysidro Library, and the Women's Club, among many others. She has served on the Ysidro School District Governing Board since 2016 and has attended SYSD schools with her children and grandchildren. Our Board President Irene Lopez has a profound passion for Special Education and is continuously advocating to favor the needs of all students in need of individualized education programs. She has also been instrumental in the success of the San Ysidro School District. She worked in our school district for 39 years and has been a remarkable school advocate at the legislative level in Sacramento.

The San Diego County School Boards Association School Board Member of the Year Award is one of the most prestigious awards in education. It honors board members for their achievements and dedication to public education at both the regional and state levels and their contributions to making a tremendous difference in students' lives. Congratulations, Board President Irene Lopez!





















## **VISTA DEL MAR 8TH GRADE STUDENT - EZEKIEL RODRIGUEZ WINS CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

We are so proud and excited to announce that our Vista Del Mar Middle School 8th grade runner, Ezekiel Rodriguez, won Athlete of the Year for Track and Field out of all of the Sweetwater Middle School Athletic League! Congratulations Ezekiel!



Ezekiel finished the Track and Field Season earning 1st place in the 100m with 12.11 seconds and the 200m with 24.98 seconds! He was also instrumental in the VDM Boys' 4 x100m relay team, winning two out of the four meets! We look forward to seeing him run in high school.

## **MENTAL HEALTH BUBBLE RUN AT LA MIRADA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Our La Mirada Elementary School students and families enjoyed some fun in the sun at our Mental Health Bubble Run! Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team and La Mirada Elementary School Student Council hosted the event, where students enjoyed music and bubbles while exercising.

Thank you to our organizers: School Psychologist Rayna Leonor, Social Worker Jedzida Herron, Kindergarten Teacher Maggy Portillo, Outreach Consultant Adriana Garcia, Teachers Cathy Bishop and Jennifer Srisouraj, and Instructional Aide Maria Fernanda Rios.













### **OCEAN VIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1ST ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH CUT THE STIGMA DAY**

Ocean View Hills School proudly hosted their 1st Annual Mental Health Cut The Stigma Day on Friday, May 24th. Our students and their families were able to enjoy music, food, free haircuts, braid and photo booths, as well as fun games and activities built to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and neurodivergence.

We are so proud of our Ocean View Hills Special Education team, Principal Erika Meza and her staff, and Program Director, Screening to Care Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Shea Prophet, for all of their efforts in bringing mental health awareness to our students and our education community.







### **SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD DAY**

During the 2023-2024 school year, Sunset 6th grade student Carolina Perez served on the Superintendent's Student Council. One of the projects she worked on with Principal Efrain Burciaga was planning a Field Day event. The event took place on Thursday, May 30th. Students had the opportunity to participate in the following activities:

- For Kinder - 2nd-grade students - bubble run with music, bubble station, Hoola hoops, bean bag toss, and chalk drawing
- For 3rd-6th grade students: Kickball Tournament (build teams, understand and follow game rules, friendly competition, and positive sideline cheering).











## STUDENT ANTHOLOGY CEREMONY

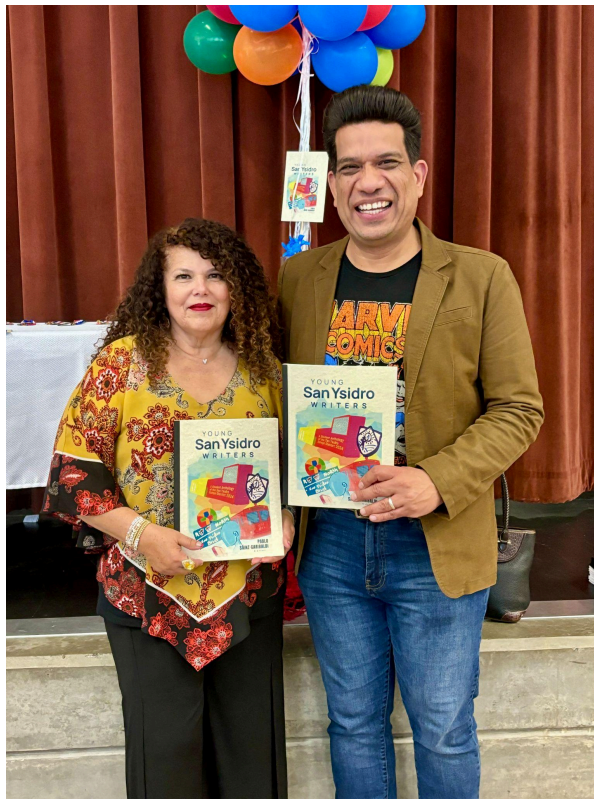
We are thrilled to announce the long-awaited revival of our “Writer’s Tea,” now called our Student Anthology! This week our district hosted a ceremony launching this excellent book featuring the incredible work of our talented young student writers and artists from our San Ysidro School District. We want to thank our Board President Irene Lopez, Board Vice President Zenaida Rosario, Board Clerk Antonio Martinez, and Board Members Rudy Lopez and Rosaleah Pallasigue for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this process. Your belief in nurturing artistic and literary talents among our students has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life.

A special thank you to our district Translator Pablo-Sainz for being the editor of our Student Anthology and our Board Vice President Zenaida Rosario for writing the preface to the Anthology!

We want to recognize and appreciate our excellent teachers and principals who have supported and mentored our students. Your dedication to fostering creativity and nurturing each student's potential is commendable. We are grateful for Mrs. Penny Cline, our retired district administrator, who for many years led the Writers Tea, Ms. Melanie Miller, our retired reading teacher, our former Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Ms. Alice De La Torre, and our former Superintendent Ms. Grace Kojima for always advocating for students' literacy.

Our Student Anthology project is built with love and commitment to journalism, literacy, and artistry. Each piece of this book is a testament to the talent and potential of our students. A compilation of drawings and stories that captivate and inspire. With this anthology we hope that our student voices resonate far and wide, reminding us all of the power of storytelling and the transformative magic of art.

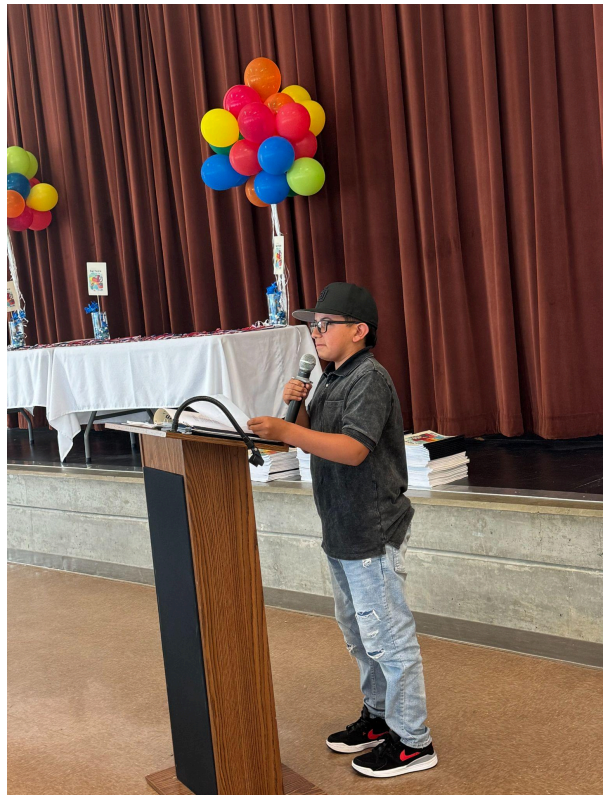
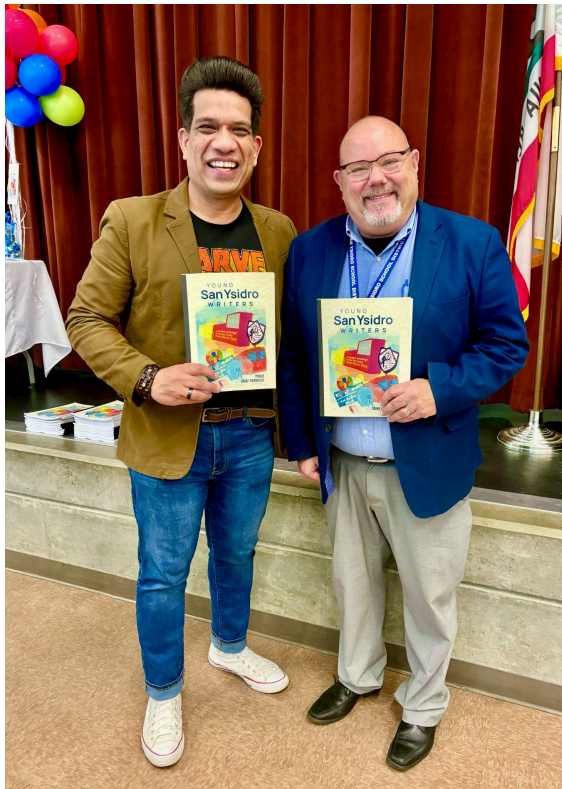




















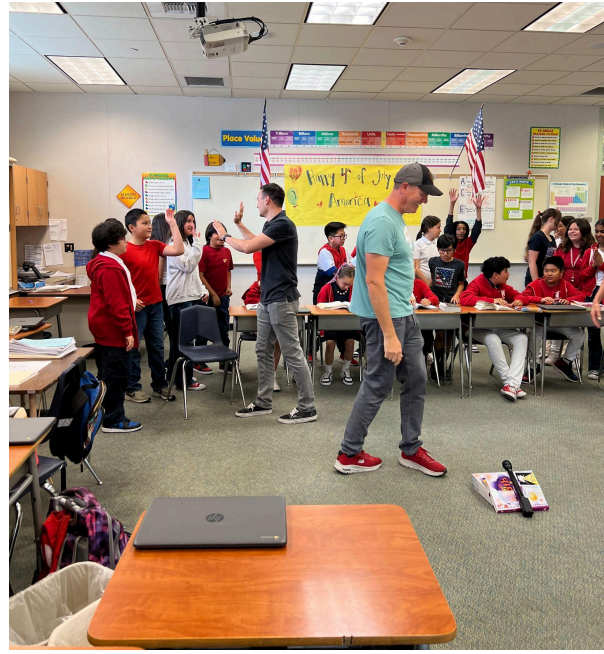
## **OCEAN VIEW HILLS SCHOOL STUDENTS FILM 4TH OF JULY BIG BAY BOOM SPECIAL WITH FOX 5 NEWS**

Our Ocean View Hills Elementary School 5th grade students did a phenomenal job filming for the upcoming Fox 5 News Big Bay Boom special! Thank you to our students for practicing their scripts, for their great participation, and for showing enthusiasm during the filming process. A special thank you to Principal Erika Meza, 5th grade teacher Neil Holter, and the Fox 5 News team for making this day so special!









Watch the Big Bay Boom show here: <https://bigbayboom.com/>  
Or on FOX 5 San Diego News Channel.

### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

This week we honored and recognized our colleagues for their years of service, retirement, and our employees of the year.

Our colleagues honored for their 10 years of service: Francisco Albarran, Arely Ames, Matilde Diaz, Marsha Monet, and Claudia Montes.





Our colleagues honored for their 15 years of service: Evelia Barbosa, Moises Camberos, Georgina Ibarra, Marlyn Moreno, and Guillermina Rodriguez.



Our colleagues honored for their 20 years of service: Rebeca Ackerman, Miguel Aguilera, Eric Chaisongkram, Cecilia Cruz, Angela De Leon, Vanesa Murphy, Ann Ordaz, Sophia Railey, Jennifer Srisouraj, Erika Valarezo, Ted Vega (retiree), Lidia Aguilera, Jessica Kerbow, and John Villalobos.





Our colleagues honored for their 25 years of service: Cynthia Arredondo, Luz Corona, Michael Direen, Neak Holter, Sylvia Mayer, Wilma Pimentel, Daniel Valarezco, Jasmine Vega, Esmeralda Alvarado, Deborah Cortes, Maria Del Rocio Diaz, Laura Escamilla, Maria E. Hernandez, Irene E. Lopez, Silvia Mendoza, and Veronica Ramirez.



Our colleagues honored for their 30 years of service: Sandra Garcia, Georgina Herrera, Alejandra Rodriguez, and Veronica Medina.





Our colleagues honored for their 35 years of service: Carmen Hernandez and Haydee Melendez.



Our Classified Employees of the Year 2024: Carolina Jaime, Jean Avila, Elizabeth Moreno, Sylvia Lugo, \*Rodrigo Amezcuita, Erika Aviles, Maria Del Carmen Magana Zuniga, Yesenia Villasenor, and Claudia Uribe. A special congratulations to our Sunset Elementary School Outreach Consultant Rodrigo Amezcuita for winning Classified Employee of the Year 2024 and our Ocean View Hills School Teacher Consuelo Carranza for winning Teacher of the Year 2025.





Our Teachers of the Year 2025: Mark Kircher, Catherine Bishop, \*Consuelo Carranza, Norma Sedano, Maria Kaai, Ann Ordaz, David Alkass, Nikole Scarlett, and Nancy Serrano.



**PARENT INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION (PIQE): Willow Elementary School - Parent Graduation**

On Thursday, May 30th, 11 SYSD parents graduated after completing their Parent Institute For Quality Education (PIQE) courses! Board Vice President Zenaída Rosario, along with other honored guests, was the guest speaker at the event. Thank you to PIQE and Principal Melissa Estrada for facilitating this graduation ceremony.











## JUNE PROMOTION CEREMONY MASTER SCHEDULE 2024

Below is the June Promotion Master Schedule 2024.

### Tuesday, June 4, 2024:

|                               |   |                    |              |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------|
| La Mirada                     | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion   | 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.  | Field        |
| CDC                           | Teacher Erika Lopez   | 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.   | Blue Room    |
| Ocean View Hills              | Kinder Promotion<br>(Teacher Hernandez, Teacher Rubalcava, Teacher Ponce) | 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.   | Auditorium   |
| Willow                        | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion   | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  | Willow Plaza |
| CDC                           | Teacher Matilde Diaz  | 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.  | Orange Room  |
| Sunset                        | Kindergarten Promotion  | 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  | Auditorium   |
| Ocean View Hills              | Kinder Promotion<br>(Teacher Karpel, Teacher Herrera)                     | 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. | Auditorium   |
| CDC                           | Teacher Nancy Serrano   | 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. | Yellow Room  |
| Ocean View Hills<br>Preschool | Teacher Cindy Kawanishi   | 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. | OVH Rm. 48   |
| Ocean View Hills<br>Preschool | Teacher Lirio Ruffo   | 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. | OVH Rm. 14   |
| Ocean View Hills              | Kinder Promotion<br>(Teacher Wright, Teacher Garcia)                      | 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. | Auditorium   |
| Ocean View Hills<br>Preschool | Teacher Alexandra Nunez   | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.   | OVH Rm. 49   |
| Ocean View Hills<br>Preschool | Teacher Yahilyn Segura  | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.   | OVH Rm. 49   |



**Wednesday, June 5, 2024:**

|                  |  |                         |                        |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunset           | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion                          | 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.       | Sunset Field           |
| La Mirada        | Kinder Promotion:<br>Teacher Portillo                    | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.       | Auditorium             |
| La Mirada        | Kinder Promotion:<br>Teacher Panzella/Teacher Marin      | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.      | Auditorium             |
| Ocean View Hills | 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion                          | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Field (share with VDM) |
| Willow           | Kinder Promotion<br>(Teacher Galante, Teacher Arredondo) | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.       | Willow Plaza           |
| Willow           | Kinder Promotion<br>(Teacher Stillie, Teacher McGowan)   | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.      | Willow Plaza           |
| Smythe           | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion                          | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.        | Smythe Field           |

**Thursday, June 6, 2024:**

|                             |                                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Vista Del Mar Middle School | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion | 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Field (Share with OVH) |
| San Ysidro Middle School    | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Promotion | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | SYMS Filed             |

**UPCOMING DATES**

| EVENT                                   | SCHOOL YEAR      | DATE                             |
|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Last Day of School for Students</b>  | 2023-2024        | Wednesday, June 5                |
| <b>School Offices Open</b>              | 2023-2024        | Until Friday, June 21            |
| <b>School Offices Closed</b>            | Summer 2023      | Monday, June 24 - Friday, July 5 |
| <b>School Offices Reopen</b>            | 2024-2025        | Monday, July 8                   |
| <b>District Office Closed</b>           | Summer 2024      | Monday, June 24 - Friday, July 5 |
| <b>District Office Open</b>             | 2024-2025        | Monday, July 8                   |
| <b>First Day of School for Students</b> | <b>2024-2025</b> | <b>Monday, July 29</b>           |

**SYSD SCHOOLS WEEKLY BULLETINS**

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

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



## 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>