



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Weeks of April 8 & 15, 2022



SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

SMYTHE LITTLE LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

On Friday, April 8th, San Diego County Supervisor and Vice-Chair Nora Vargas and Executives from the San Diego County Library dedicated a Little Free Library to Smythe Elementary School. Little Free Libraries provide free books for children and adults within walking distance of their neighborhoods ([Little Free Library](#)).

The event was attended by many dignitaries including Nancy Saski, President & CEO of United Way of San Diego County, Migell Acosta, Director, San Diego County Library and Ernesto Galvan, San Diego Honda Dealers. Board President Rudy Lopez and Superintendent Dr. Gina Potter welcomed everyone to the event. Board Members Irene Lopez and Humberto Gurmilan, Assistant Superintendent Dr. David Farkas, Principal Russell Little and many Smythe students, teachers and parents were also in attendance for the dedication ceremony. A special thank you to Yahaira Palomares, Smythe parent, who initiated the request to bring a Little Free Library to Smythe Elementary and, soon, to all our schools at SYSD. Thank you to Principal Little and staff, Child Nutrition and the MOTF personnel who made this event a great success. *San Diego Union Tribune: [San Ysidro receives first little library as part of county initiative](#)*





BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: SMYTHE 6TH GRADE STUDENT VALERIE GARCIA

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized Smythe 6th grade student Valerie Garcia for winning their schools spelling bee competition and participating in the 52nd Annual San Diego Union-Tribune Countywide Spelling Bee. Principal Russell Little introduced Valerie and awarded her a Distinguished Champion trophy. We are so proud of Valerie for committing and working hard at accomplishing this fantastic goal.



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: LA MIRADA 6TH GRADE STUDENT MAURICIO JIMENEZ AYALA

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized La Mirada 6th grade student Mauricio Jimenez Ayala for winning their schools spelling bee competition and participating in the 52nd Annual San Diego Union-Tribune Countywide Spelling Bee. Principal Laura English introduced Mauricio and awarded him a Distinguished Champion trophy. We are so proud of Mauricio for committing and working hard at accomplishing this fantastic goal.



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH CLERK ISABELLA SAVALA

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized San Ysidro Middle School Health Clerk Isabella Savala. Isabella was always a support system in the office and school especially during the COVID pandemic. Thank you Ms. Savala for your hard work, dedication and commitment to our students, families, staff and district.



BOARD RECOGNITION/DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION: RACK ROOM SHOES

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board and Superintendent recognized Rack Room Shoes. The store, located at Outlets by the Border, donated \$3,977.16 to the San Ysidro School District through the Shoes That Fit Program. With this generous donation we were able to purchase 100 pairs of shoes that were evenly distributed to our seven schools. SYSD has been part of this program for the past seven years. Governing Board President Rudy Lopez and Pupil Services Coordinator, Veronica Medina presented the award at the store since they were unable to attend the Board meeting. Thank you Rack Room Shoes for your heartfelt generosity!



MR. LUIS RAMOS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board unanimously approved Luis Ramos as the new Director of Educational Services. He started in his new role on Monday, April 18th.

Mr. Ramos brings vast administrative experience to his new position. He has served as a Resource Teacher at the District office since 2019. His responsibilities included helping coordinate and oversee Federal Program Monitoring, helping with the District AVID program and ELAC and CAASSPP, helping coordinate and support DPAC & DELAC and collaborating with the San Diego County Office of Education and District After School Education and Safety program (ASES).

Prior to his role as District Resource Teacher, he served as principal of La Mirada Elementary and Assistant Principal at San Ysidro Middle School. Mr. Ramos also served as an 8th grade teacher at San Ysidro Middle School. He joined the San Ysidro School District family as a 6th grade teacher at La Mirada Elementary in 2005. Prior to joining SYSD, Mr. Ramos served as an Intervention Teacher in the Chula Vista Elementary School District.

Mr. Ramos earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies and BCLAD Teaching Credential from San Diego State University. He received his Masters Degree in Educational Administration from National University and Clear Administrative Service Credential from San Diego County Office of Education.

Congratulations Mr. Ramos!



MR. MATHEW BANDY IS THE NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT BOTH OCEAN VIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY AND VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Thursday, April 14th, the Governing Board unanimously approved Mr. Mathew Bandy as the Assistant Principal at both Ocean View Hills Elementary and Vista Del Mar Middle School. Mr. Bandy brings nearly 20 years of classroom experience to SYSD with much of this time spent working with students with special needs in diverse communities. He joins the San Ysidro School District family from National School District where he served as a Resource Specialist instructor within the special education program and was a summer school principal who was highly regarded in the community.

Mr. Bandy places extreme emphasis on building relationships with students and parents. These relationships establish the foundation for a student's success in the classroom. Prior to his National School District tenure, Mr. Bandy was a Specialized Academic Instructor at Escondido Union School District and Resource Specialist at Delano Union Elementary School District in Central California. He has successfully held many leadership roles including Site Administrator for Extended School Year Program at National School District, Chairman on School Site Council, and a member of the Leadership Team.

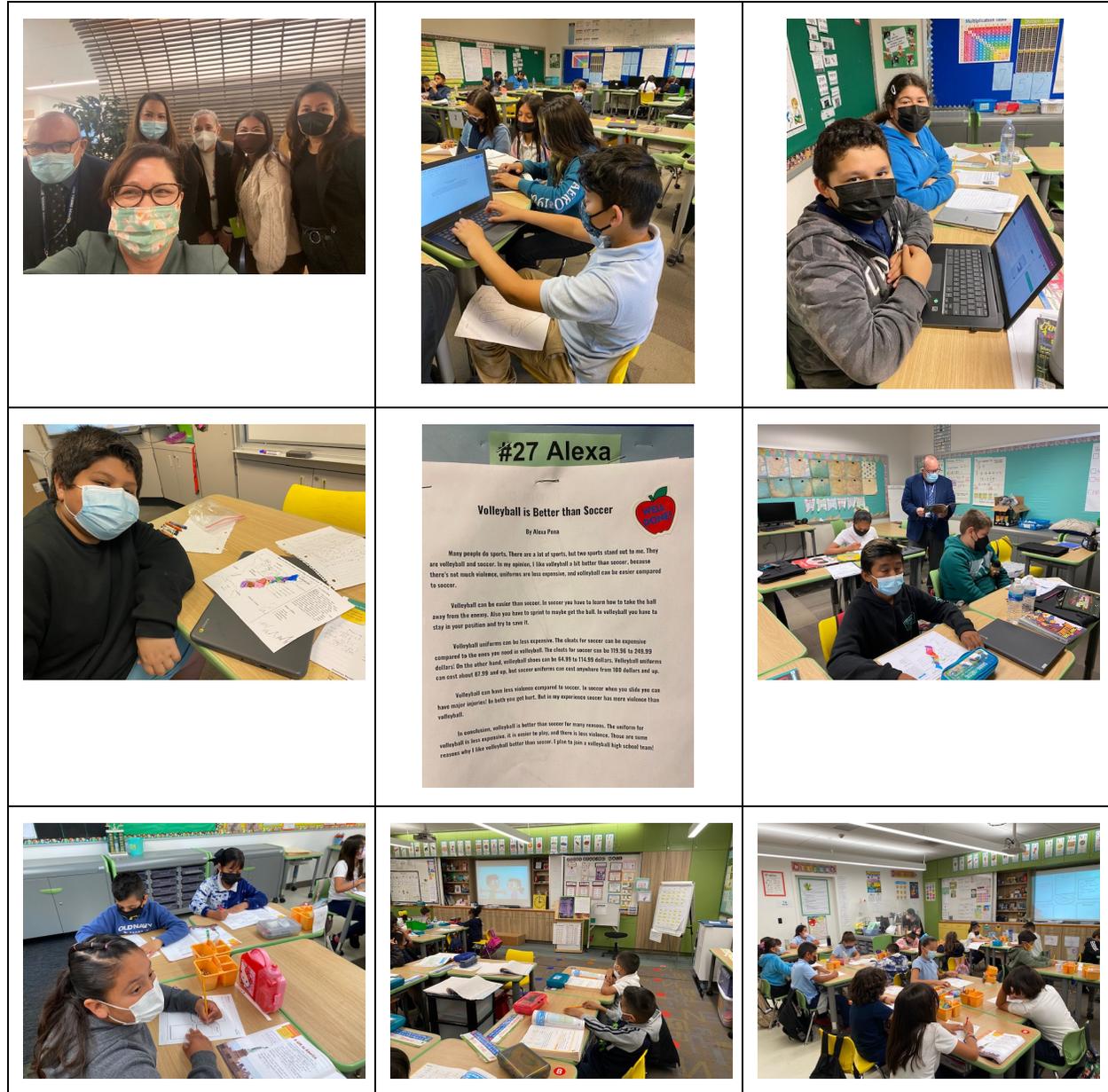
He attended University of Phoenix, earned his Education Specialist Mild/Moderate Credential at Point Loma Nazarene and Masters in Public School Administration from National University. He enjoys coaching Little League and AYSO soccer.

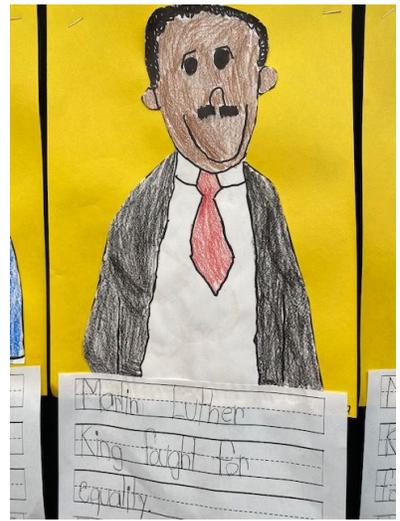
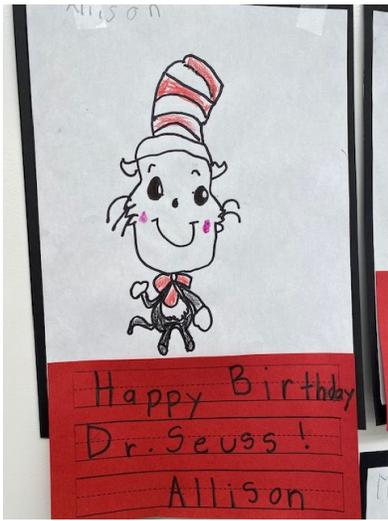
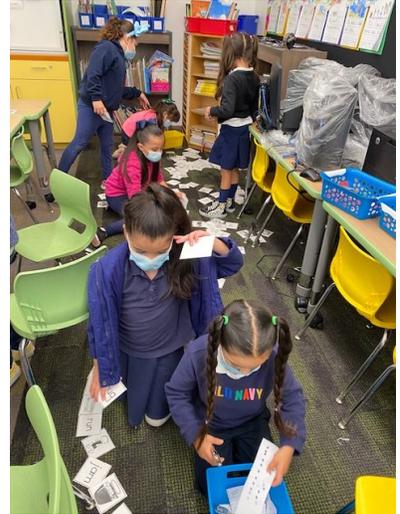
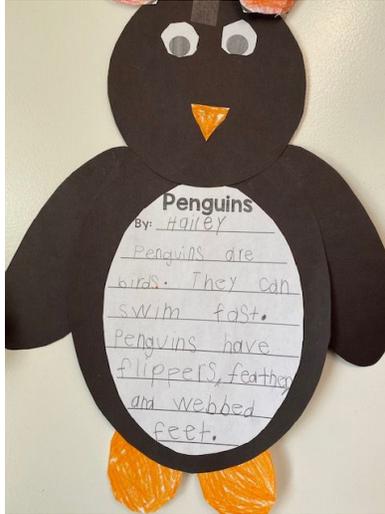
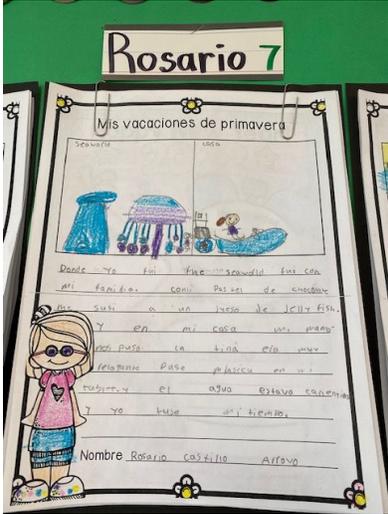
We welcomed Mr. Bandy to the SYSD family and his new position on Monday, April 18th!



SMYTHE SCHOOL VISIT

On Tuesday, April 12th Superintendent Dr. Gina Potter and Executive Director of Human Resources Linda Olea had a great school visit to Smythe Elementary. They were hosted by Principal Russell Little and school representatives: Psychologist Martha Murillo, Intervention Teacher Maria Mendez and Social Worker Jed Herron who facilitated classroom visits within each grade level. Overall, Smythe Elementary is commended for providing social emotional learning support for students with the Second Step program, Zones of Regulation, Referrals to Youth Enhancement Services and South Bay Community Services, daily SEL lessons regarding mindfulness, restorative practices, and Second Step, the Dragon Mileage Club, and Student Council.





TREES PLANTED AT WILLOW, LA MIRADA AND SMYTHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Thanks to a project called “Trees for Youth and Climate Justice” funded by the non-profit organization, California ReLeaf’s Tree Recovery Grant program <http://californiareleaf.org/>, with funds from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Urban Forest Program and the state’s Climate Investment Program, 21 trees were planted; 5 at Smythe, 8 at La Mirada, and 8 Willow on Monday, April 11th.

A total of 40 trees will be planted amongst the 3 schools. The grant was obtained and managed by a local non-profit, Lumbercycle. www.lumbercycle.org.

A big “Thank you” to Laurie Broedling & David Tcheng from Lumbercycle, MOTF Director Paulo Azevedo and staff, Willow Principal Mrs. Maria Connie Rodriguez, La Mirada Principal Mrs. Laura English and Smythe Principal Mr. Russell Little for leading the way in planning and organizing the tree planting ceremony at each school. Thank you to Mr. Chris Kallstrand, an arborist from Dudek Corporation, and Mr. Henry Herrera, an urban forester and arborist with CALFIRE, who gave detailed presentations to the kids about the role trees play and the importance of having trees in our environment. Thank you to the teachers, students and Casa Familiar volunteers who helped plant the trees at each school.





ACSA LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS 2022

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) held its 42nd Legislative Action Days (LAD) Event on April 4-8, 2022. As ACSA’s state Vice President for Legislative Action (VPLA), Superintendent Potter was incredibly honored to lead this event which brought 19 state ACSA regions together to advocate on behalf of education with state legislative leaders. This year marked the highest number of educational leaders participating with 437 joining and the largest number of legislative meetings scheduled with Senators, Assembly Members, and Capitol staff at 70 or well over half of all state leaders in the Capitol. Seven San Ysidro School District educational leaders also participated!

The focus areas of educational advocacy to support education for California’s 6 million students included topics such as mitigating growing costs and declining enrollment by boosting core funding investments, providing COVID attendance relief, broadening independent study flexibility, paying down unfunded pension liabilities, and returning educators back to educating as we transition from the pandemic to an endemic.



Pictured above (left to right) State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, ACSA VPLA, Dr. Gina Potter, (clockwise) ACSA Senior Director of Communications, Naj Alikhan, ACSA incoming Executive Director, Edgar Zazueta, California State Board of Education Board Members Dr. Francisco Escobedo (former CVESD Superintendent), and Ilene Strauss.

UPCOMING DATES

Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Administrative Professionals' Day	Wednesday, April 27th	All Schools & District Office	
Principals' Appreciation Day	Sunday, May 1st	All Schools	
Celebrating Our School Nutrition Professionals	Friday, May 6th	All Schools & District Office	
Mother's Day	Sunday, May 8th		
Week of the Teacher	Sunday, May 8th - Saturday, May 14th	All Schools & District Office	
Day of the Teacher	Wednesday, May 11th	All Schools & District Office	
SYSD 1st Annual STEM Fair	Friday, May 13th	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Smythe School
Classified/Confidential School Employee Week	Sunday, May 15th - Saturday, May 21st	All Schools & District Office	
SYSD Employee Recognition Ceremony	Friday, May 20th	4-5:30pm	Ocean View Hills School
Memorial Day - Legal Holiday	Monday, May 30th	District Office & Schools Closed	
Last Day of School for Students	Wednesday, June 8th	All Schools	

NBC7 NEWS: SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE STEP AHEAD ON NEW WHITE HOUSE AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES

On March 18th, MOTF Director Paulo Azevedo was interviewed by NBC7 and Telemundo highlighting our school ventilation system and upcoming installation of cO2 sensors in every classroom. Mr. Azevedo emphasized the \$100,000 dollar investment the District has made in changing HVAC and air conditioning filters weekly during the pandemic. He noted that SYSD was ahead of the curve of the new White House Air Quality Guidelines.

Link: NBC7 News Story:

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/san-ysidro-school-district-one-step-ahead-on-new-white-house-air-quality-guidelines/2899110/>

DAY OF THE MILITARY CHILD

On Friday, April 15th, the district invited staff, families and children to wear purple in honor of the Day of the Military Child. Each year we honor these amazing children from Military Families for the selflessness and sacrifices they and their families endure while their loved ones serve our country. Thank you for your service!

		
	<p>PLEASE WEAR PURPLE!!! FRIDAY APRIL 15TH 2022</p> <p><i>San Ysidro School District invites you to join us in recognizing our resilient military-connected children this April during the Month of the Military Child. Every year we take this time to celebrate these amazing children for their selflessness and sacrifice as they serve our country as part of a military family.</i></p>	

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>