



# San Ysidro

## School District

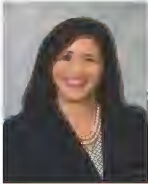
EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

### District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.

Week of February 15, 2024



### SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.

#### DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SUNSET STUDENTS RENAISSANCE myON READING CHALLENGE

On Tuesday, February 13th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Principal Efrain Burciaga welcomed and recognized the top Sunset Elementary students at the Renaissance myON Reading Challenge. Principal Burciaga spoke about the importance of literacy in a person's life and how this select group of students is showcasing hard work and commitment to their reading skills that will become vital for their future success. We are so proud of all of you for your marvelous work and achievement!





### **DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SOCIAL WORKER LIZETH DIAZ**

On Tuesday, February 13th, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Principal Efrain Burciaga welcomed and recognized Social Worker Lizeth Diaz. She received a Distinguished Champion Award for her dedicated support to Sunset Elementary students through socioemotional groups, mental health activities, and resources. Congratulations and thank you for being an inspiration to our entire community!



### Pledge of Allegiance

Sunset Elementary 4th grade student Dahiana Campa led the pledge of allegiance during our Tuesday, February 13th regular board meeting. She did a spectacular job, thank you Dahiana!



### BOARD PRESIDENT IRENE LOPEZ WINS 2024 SAN DIEGO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



We are proud and privileged to announce that our exceptional leader, **Board President Irene Lopez**, is the winner of the 2024 San Diego County School Boards Association School Board Member of the Year Award!

We cannot think of a person more deserving of being recognized, 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 to 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 along with her own 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 also been a remarkable school advocate at a 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 their dedication to public education at both the regional and state levels, and their contributions in making a tremendous difference in the lives of students. Congratulations Board President Irene Lopez!

## **CELEBRATING EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

*San Diego County will honor the educators, parents, community members, board members, and support staff who make a difference in the lives of students at the annual Honoring Our Own Awards. The awards will recognize the 2024 San Diego County School Boards Association award recipients and the [Association of California School Administrators Region 18](#) administrators of the year. Honoring Our Own is a collaboration between the two organizations.*

*School Board Member of the Year: Board President Irene Lopez, San Ysidro School District*



### **GLORIA MCKEARNEY IS RECOGNIZED IN THE HONORING OUR OWN AWARDS 2024**

San Ysidro and Chula Vista Elementary School District Bond Oversight Committee Vice Chair Gloria McKearney is awarded Retired Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators Region 18. Gloria is a retired principal from Chula Vista Elementary School District with 30 years of experience in teaching and administration. She is skilled in K-12 education, STEM, curriculum and instruction, assessment, technology leadership, and literacy.

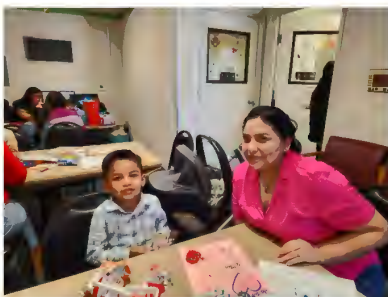
As part of our San Ysidro School District Bond Oversight Committee since 2019, Gloria McKearney has played a key role in reviewing expenditure reports produced by the District to ensure that bond revenues are spent in accordance with Prop C, Measure T and Measure U. She has received and reviewed copies of the District's Financial Audit Report, inspected school facilities and grounds for which bond proceeds have been or will be expended, and produced annual written reports to the District's Governing Board.

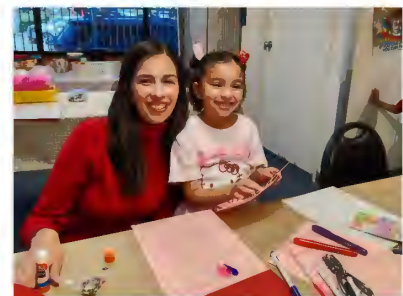
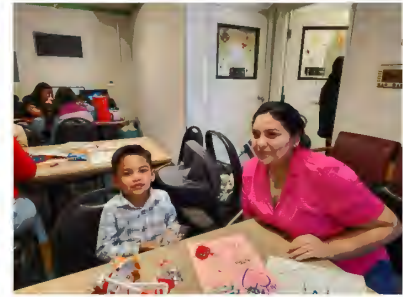
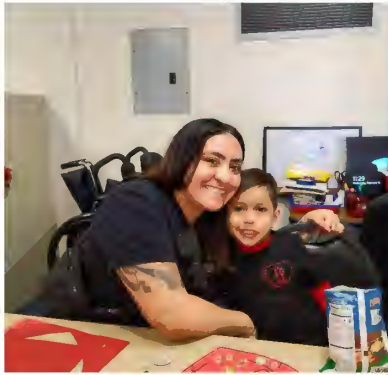
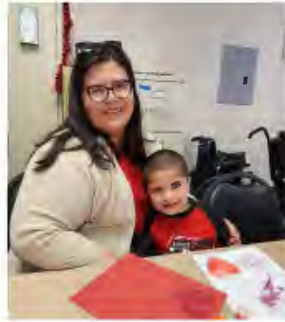
Gloria McKearney is also a military family advocate. We are so proud of her for being the recipient of this prestigious award!



#### **VALENTINE'S DAY CRAFTING AND CELEBRATING AT OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (EL DIA DEL AMOR Y LA AMISTAD)**

It was a day full of love at our Child Development Center. Our students had a great time this week creating arts and crafts along with their family members in celebration of Valentine's Day or el Dia del Amor y la Amistad. They created work that was representative of their love and appreciation for their friends and family, all made possible by our wonderful preschool program. Our preschool social workers and resource teachers did a great job facilitating the activities.

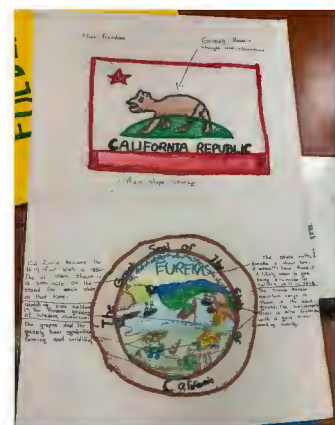
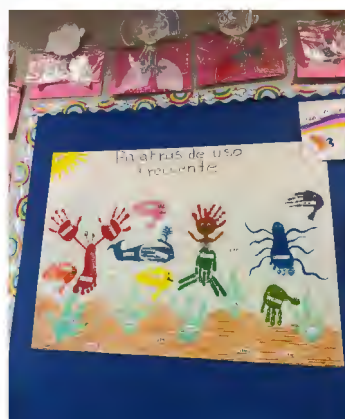
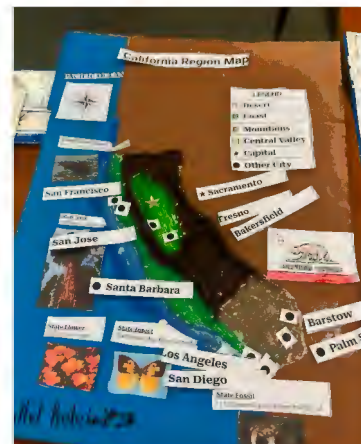




## OCEAN VIEW HILLS PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

On Thursday, February 15th, Ocean View Hills Preschool & Elementary held their Open House Event. Ocean View Hills Elementary Assistant Principal Vikki Viramontes Castorena greeted parents as they arrived and shared information about their in person open house. Afterwards, parents had an opportunity to meet with their child's classroom teacher. Thank you to our team from Ocean View Hills Preschool & Elementary for a great Open House event!

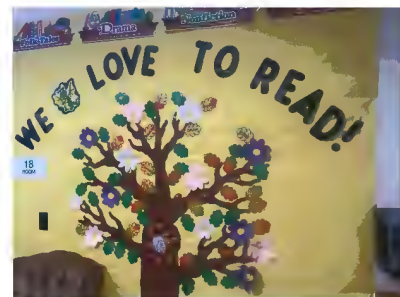


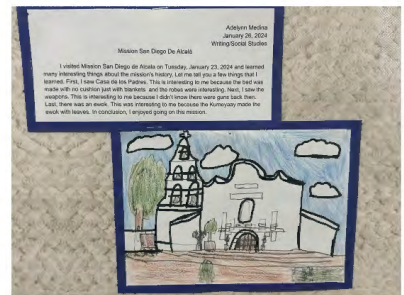
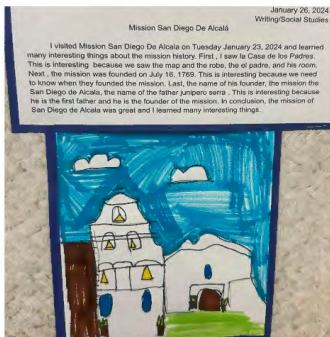
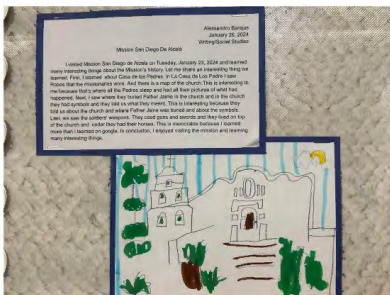
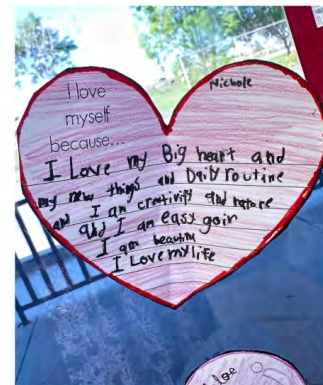
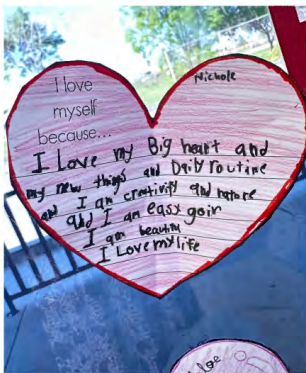


## SMYTHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VISIT

On Wednesday, February 14th, Board President Irene Lopez, Board Vice President Zenaida Rosario, Board Member Rudy Lopez, Superintendent Potter, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Leadership and Pupil Services Russell Little and Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Support, School Support and Safety Dr. Jose Iniguez had a great school visit to Smythe Elementary School. They were hosted by Principal Dr. Rebecca Bravo who facilitated classroom visits. Overall, they observed outstanding teaching and learning throughout Smythe Elementary!

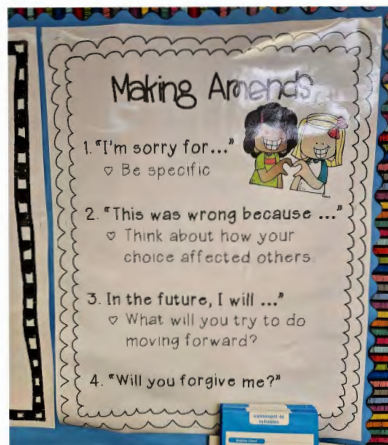
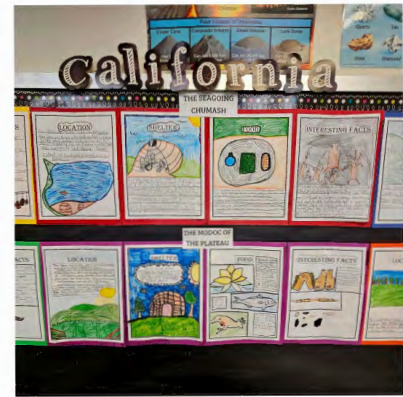
## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

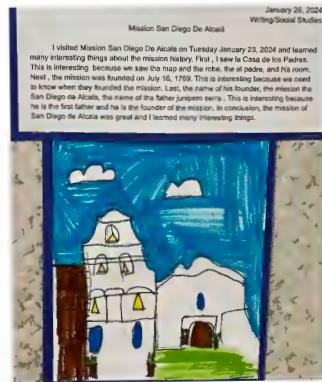
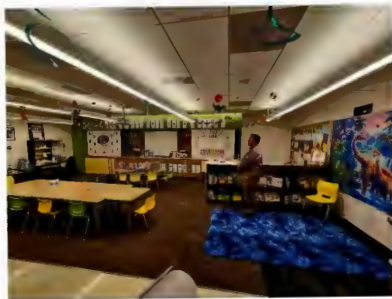












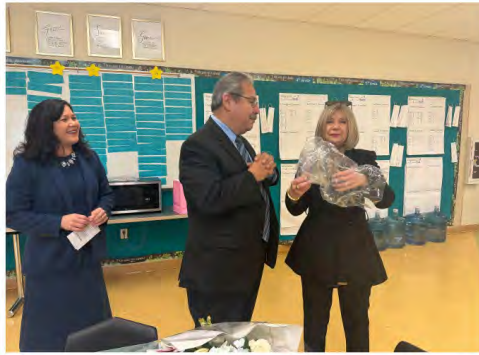
### **A THANK YOU TO MANUELA COLOM FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AT SYSD**

We want to express our most sincere gratitude to Manuela Colom who took on a role that takes a person who truly understands our Willow education community and our culture. She began working with us once more as Interim Principal at Willow Elementary since the month of November.

Ms. Colom has a lifetime of experience in education and serving our community dedicating over 36 years of her expertise to our San Ysidro School District families in her professional roles as a Teacher, Principal, and Executive Director of Educational Services.

We also would like to extend our warm welcome to Lorena Varela-Reed who has served our San Ysidro School District since 1988 as a Teacher working for several of our schools. She was also Director of our Child Development Center.

Varela-Reed has extensive experience managing multiple sites, she has an amazing way of connecting with all staff, parents, and students. Her warmth and kindness are something we always look up to and something that is an essential part of our San Ysidro and Willow culture. She will now take on the role of Acting Principal at Willow Elementary. We are very grateful to have her working with us once again.



## CELEBRATING LITERACY AT SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH “READ ACROSS AMERICA”

Please join us and share your love for reading with our San Ysidro School District students. The organization “Read Across America” in collaboration with our district is welcoming all interested volunteers to come read to our students. Our participating schools are Sunset Elementary and Ocean View Hills Elementary.

To volunteer at Sunset Elementary RSVP: 619-428-1148 ext. 3691  
[maria.castro@sysdschools.org](mailto:maria.castro@sysdschools.org)

Link to volunteer at Ocean View Hills Elementary:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849A5AC2AA7FFC70-48112197-read#/>

## SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING 2024 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE



School (Please add in chronological order)	Date	Time/Schedule/Location
Ocean View Hills Preschool	Thursday, February 15, 2024	3:15 - 5:15 p.m.
Ocean View Hills Elementary	Thursday, February 15, 2024	3:15-3:45 p.m.: Principal's Message 3:00-4:45 p.m.: Resource Fair

		4:00-5:00 p.m.: Classroom Visits 5:00 p.m.: Carnival at the Park
Smythe's Preschool & Child Development Center (CDC)	Wednesday, February 21, 2024	3:30-5:30 p.m.
Smythe Elementary	Tuesday, February 27, 2024	3:30-5:30 p.m.
San Ysidro Middle School	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	4:00-4:30 p.m. Administration Presentation  4:30-6:30 p.m. Career Day & Classroom Visits
Willow Elementary	Wednesday, February 28, 2024	4:00-4:30 p.m. Administration Presentation  4:30-6:30 p.m. Classroom Visits
Sunset Preschool	Thursday, February 29, 2024	3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Sunset Elementary	Thursday, February 29, 2024 3:15-5:15 pm	3:15-5:15 p.m. Administration presentation will be first and then classroom visits
La Mirada Elementary School	February 29, 2024	3:30-5:00 p.m.
Vista Del Mar Middle School	<b>New Date:</b> Thursday, March 7, 2024	4:00-4:25 pm: Administration Presentation MPR  4:30-5:30 pm: 6th, 7th & 8th grade classroom visits

#### UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	WHO
<b>Spring Break</b>	Monday, March 18th- Friday, March 29th, 2024.	All Schools Closed
<b>Cesar Chavez - Observed and Local Holidays</b>	Thursday, March 28th and Friday, March 29th	All Schools Closed
<b>Students Return</b>	Monday, April 1st, 2024	All students return to school

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CLASSES FOR PARENTS

Our parent English learner classes offered by Southwestern College have begun! Registration assistance is provided by Southwestern Community College in the Chula Vista and San Ysidro campuses. Our Communications Specialist Cristina Inzunza is also helping parents who come to our district office. Classes are currently being held on Mondays and Wednesdays at our San Ysidro School District Office Parent Resource Center and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Willow Elementary School.



Southwestern College Teacher Ms. Christine Palumbo and a group of SYSD parent students form her ESL II class.

# CLASES DE INGLÉS PARA PADRES

El Distrito Escolar de San Ysidro en colaboración con Southwestern College Depto. ESL ofrecen clases gratuitas en inglés para padres.

**¡Comienzan el 29 de enero!**

**¡LAS CLASES SON EN PERSONA!**

ESL II comienza el 29 de enero  
Lunes y Miércoles de 9:00 a.m. a 11:20 a.m.  
District Parent Center, 4350 Otay Mesa Road,  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

ESL I comienza el 30 de enero  
Martes y Jueves de 9:00 a.m. a 11:20 a.m.  
Willow Elementary School, 226 Willow Rd,  
San Diego, CA 92173

ESL II comienza el 15 de abril  
Lunes y Miércoles de 9:00 a.m. a 11:20 a.m.  
Willow Elementary School, 226 Willow Rd,  
San Diego, CA 92173

ESL I comienza el 15 de abril  
Lunes y Miércoles de 9:00 a.m. a 11:20 a.m.  
Smythe Elementary School, 1880 Smythe Ave.  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

ESL III comienza el 16 de abril  
Martes y Jueves de 9:00 a.m. a 11:20 a.m.  
District Parent Center, 4350 Otay Mesa Road,  
San Ysidro, CA 92173

**¡ESPACIO LIMITADO!  
REGÍSTRESE EN LÍNEA:**  
<https://www.openccapply.net>

**En Persona:** Southwestern College Chula Vista  
 900 Otay Lakes Road, Chula Vista o en Southwestern  
 College de San Ysidro, 460 W San Ysidro Blvd, San Ysidro.

**San Ysidro**  
School District EST. 1997

### **CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES**

Our Assistant Superintendent of Safety Dr. Jose Iniguez, Child Nutrition Services Coordinator Ana Bush, and Child Nutrition Services consultant Sarah (Sally) Spero provided kitchen safety training for all CNS staff this week. The training took place in person and online simultaneously.



### **SYSD SCHOOLS WEEKLY/MONTHLY BULLETINS**

**Link:** <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>