



San Ysidro

School District

EST - 1887

QUALITY EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO SUCCEED

District Highlights

Superintendent - Gina Potter, Ed.D.
Week of December 15, 2023



SUPERINTENDENT

Gina Potter, Ed.D.



WINTER WONDERLAND FESTIVAL AT WILLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Year after year, Willow Elementary School students amaze their families and our community with their outstanding winter performances, and this year was no exception. Along with a wonderland festival and holiday craft bazaar, the winter presentations from our students took center stage and shined through with holiday cheer and an impeccable choreography. A special thank you to Interim Principal Ms. Manuela Colom and Teacher Ms. Kathy Ordaz for all your hard work and dedication to our students and their magnificent dance performances!



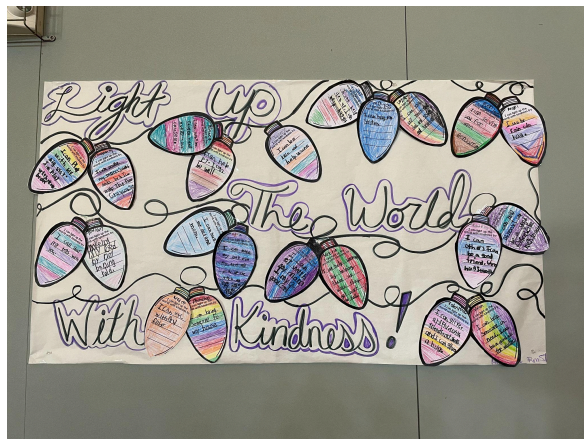


OCEAN VIEW HILLS ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY PRESENTATIONS

During the week of December 11th San Ysidro School District schools celebrated the holiday season with winter performances. A special thank you to all of the principals and staff that worked hard to coordinate these beautiful events for the students and their families! Ocean View Hills students performed many traditional and modern holiday songs along with a play based on Charlie Brown's special holiday episode.









SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

To the rhythm of “Mi Burrito Sabanero,” “El Tao-Tao,” and “Mamacita, ¿Dónde está Santa Claus?” and many other wonderful songs, students at Sunset Elementary school danced the day away and performed an incredible repertoire for our Sunset mighty lion family. Thank you to all staff and Principal Efrain Burciaga for hosting this incredible holiday presentation!









LA MIRADA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

La Mirada Elementary School students surprised all attendees with their spectacular winter performances this week, including an amazing “Glow in the Dark” dance performance! La Mirada’s originality and creativity was on full display this year. We are so proud of all students and staff for your hard work and success!



SAN YSIDRO WOMEN'S CLUB TEDDY BEARS, BOOK, & BLANKET DISTRIBUTION AT CDC & SMYTHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

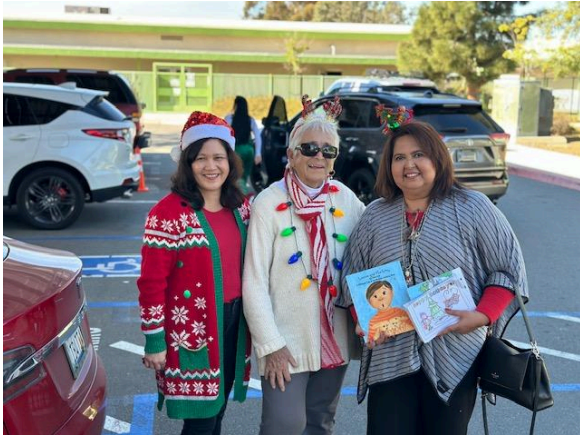
The San Ysidro Women's Club generously adopted our San Ysidro School District Child Development Center and Smythe Elementary School, and distributed Teddy bears, books, and blankets to our students this week.

Members of the San Ysidro Women's Club visited our CDC and read children's books to our students in every classroom, then Santa gifted them a teddy bear, a book, and a candy cane. The very next day the grinch, an elf, and more members of the San Ysidro Women's Club, visited Smythe Elementary School, where every student got to choose and pick out either a teddy bear, a blanket, or a book. All thanks to the grand support and effort of the ladies from the Women's Club. We would like to thank President, Maritza G. Chavarin, Vice Presidents, Alice De La Torre, Maria Maytorena, and Velia Rico-Ornelas, Treasurer, Dr. Maria Carriedo-Ceniceros, Secretary, Gaby Gregory, and lastly Co-Chair Teddy Bears Drive, Martha Jacobo.











Smythe Elementary - Kinder Winter Performance

SPRIT WEEK AT VISTA DEL MAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Vista Del Mar Middle School celebrated Spirit Week the week of December 11th, with a "Grinch Monday", "Hawaiian Winter Tuesday", "Disney Day Wednesday", "Keep your Head Warm Wednesday", and a "Cozy Winter Friday." Thank you to all VDM staff for making this season extra special and festive for our students!



SPRIT WEEK AT SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL

San Ysidro Middle School celebrated Spirit Week the week of December 4th, with a festive and holiday inspired schedule to encourage student engagement and participation. SYMS hosted a “Santa vs. Grinch” day, a “Holiday Head to Toe” day, “Crocs & Cozy Socks” day, an ugly sweater contest, and much more! Thank you to Interim Principal Mairén Ruiz and everyone who contributed to the success of these events.



DISTRICT OFFICE HOLIDAY TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

On Thursday, December 14th, district office staff gathered for the annual winter holiday staff meeting. Staff engaged in various team building activities and were provided with district office information and VEBA Resources on self-care, in person services, and virtual classes. A very special thanks to everyone for their hard work and special touches to make the event a successful one. A huge shout out to our Senior Executive Secretary, Miguel Ortega, for dressing as Santa Claus, coordinating the program and putting the vision together for the holiday decorations and program in the board room.



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Interim Principal Maren Ruiz welcomed and recognized the following San Ysidro Middle School Students: ASB President, member of the Superintendent District Student Council, and the

voice that leads the Pledge of Allegiance every day, 8th grader Sebastian Vasquez, ASB Public Relations, Superintendent District Student Council, 8th grader Layla A. Garcia, and 7th grade student representative for the Superintendent District Student Council, Ximena Orendain Amesquita. Our San Ysidro School District family is very proud of our San Ysidro Middle School student leaders!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: SAN YSIDRO MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Interim Principal Maren Ruiz welcomed and recognized the following San Ysidro Middle School staff members: PBIS and ASB Coordinator, Lead Resource Specialist Teacher, and appointed administrator, Shashanae Buchanan, Science Teachers and SYEA Union Representative for our teaching staff, Mr. David Alkass, and Campus Aide, Ms. Carmen Hernández. Our San Ysidro School District family is very proud of you!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: WILLOW TEACHER MS. KATHY ORDAZ

On Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Interim Principal Mairén Ruiz welcomed and recognized 4th grade teacher at Willow Elementary, Ms. Kathy Ordaz for being the proud recipient of the Academia Award.

The Academia Awards aims to honor and celebrate the remarkable contributions of outstanding teachers and legends in the education field. It is one of the most prestigious teachers' events in California, and on Saturday, December 2nd, they recognized Ms. Ordaz.

Ms. Ordaz has been a teacher for San Ysidro School District for the last 19 years. She has spent most of her career as a 4th grade teacher at Willow Elementary School. Before she became a teacher, Ms. Ordaz was a professional Charger Cheerleader and Choreographer. She cheered for 9 years and is one of the longest members of the squad. But her love for dance and music didn't stop there, She has choreographed many musicals and is now the master of ceremonies and organizer of the Winter Program at Willow Elementary School.

Ms. Ordaz is an amazing educator, with great rapport and connection with our community and staff. Her favorite subject is math and her students love to challenge each other on math facts. We are very lucky to have such a vibrant, talented, inspiring, and outstanding educator at our San Ysidro School District. Congratulations Ms. Ordaz for being the recipient of The Academia Awards!



DISTINGUISHED CHAMPION AWARD: DANIA RAMIREZ MAYNE

On Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, the Governing Board, Superintendent Potter, and Interim Principal Maren Ruiz welcomed and recognized Dania Ramirez Mayne for her outstanding and continuous support and dedication to our San Ysidro School District Office and our Business Department. Thank you Dania, we are so proud of you!



HONORING SYSD GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENT ROSALEAH PALLASIGUE

Throughout the years, our San Ysidro School District has seen many parents who have supported our student's success and wellbeing, but a select few have surpassed expectations demonstrating a profound devotion and dedication to their lives long after their children have left our schools. They have always found a way back into our community, to help those who need it most, and worked endlessly to ensure the prosperity of our school district. One of those parents is Ms. Rosaleah Pallasigue.

Rosaleah has been our San Ysidro School District Governing Board President since December of 2022. She has been a member of the Board since 2015 and a Board President 3 times. She is the exemplification of a San Ysidro School District parent that cared beyond what happened in her own child's classroom. She cared about what happened in every classroom. She also cared about what happened in our entire district and what we were doing to make our communities better.

As Board President Ms. Pallasigue accomplished partnerships that have brought many resources such as hundreds of books to our children. In 2023 and under her leadership, The English Learner Reclassification Rate was 24%, a total of 488 students. Our District also had its 2nd Annual STEM Fair that attracted over 1,300 students & family members. Our District was awarded the California Community Schools Partnership Grant and Pathways Program served over 1,400 children. Our Special Education department held a successful 2nd Annual

Mental Health Month and our District's Technology department won the Emergency Connectivity Fund Award for chromebooks, hot spots and laptops. These are just a few milestones reached under Ms. Pallasigues leadership.

We cannot thank you enough, Board President Ms. Pallasigue, for your continued dedication and commitment to our San Ysidro community. For providing the best opportunities and education for our children and staff. You lead from the heart and your work speaks for itself. Thank you for caring profoundly about our communities in San Ysidro.



HEARTS & HANDS HOLIDAY EVENT

Board Member Antonio Martinez attended the annual Hearts & Hands Holiday event. A special thank you to Alicia Jiminez and Hearts & Hands for their continued support to our San Ysidro community.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS GRANT AT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

San Ysidro School District is the proud recipient of the California Community Schools Grant. We are very grateful and excited to begin this journey as we create a vision for Community Schools in our district.

A community school is a “whole-child” school improvement strategy where the school district and schools work closely with teachers, students, and families. Community schools partner with community agencies and local governments to align community resources to improve student outcomes. These partnerships provide a major focus on academics, health, social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. Our Coordinator of Pupil Services, Veronica Medina welcomed our SDCOE support provider, Dr. Monica Loyce and our collaboration remains in the implementation phase.

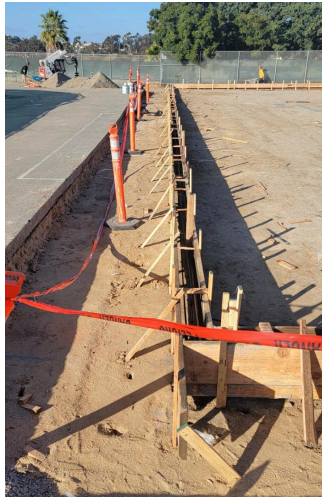
UPCOMING DATES

EVENT	DATE/TIME	WHO
Lincoln Day - Legal Holiday	Friday, February 16th, 2024	All Schools Closed
Washington Day - Legal Holiday	Monday, February 19th, 2024	All Schools Closed
Spring Break	Monday, March 18th- Friday, March 29th, 2024.	All Schools Closed
Cesar Chavez - Observed and Local Holidays	Thursday, March 28th and Friday, March 29th	All Schools Closed

PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Our playground construction project progress continues. We plan to have playground equipment installed during the winter break.





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>