



Westside Wire

JOE WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL:
Vex Robotics Team hard at work in
preparation for their December
competition.



Joe Walker STEALTH Academy Robotics Team Reaches New Heights

After a proud showing at the World Championship in Anaheim earlier this year, Joe Walker STEALTH Academy's VEX Robotics team set a new goal for the next school year. Their goal was to raise enough money to have two full robotics teams at Joe Walker and make VEX Robotics an elective class rather than simply an extracurricular activity. Now, at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, Joe Walker has accomplished this commendable goal, with some work still left to do.

Team A and Team B of the VEX Robotics are now working in class four days a week to prepare for the CSUN Los Angeles VEX Robotics Championship, which will take place December 7th - 8th. The class is filled with students of varying interests, talents and strengths. Currently, each team has one robot kit and more kits are needed for all students to get the hands-on experience they

deserve. To that end, students of Joe Walker's VEX Robotics class are working diligently to raise the money still needed to purchase additional kits.

Joseph Nielsen, captain of Vex Robotics Team A characterized the positive atmosphere as one encouraging innovation. "I like collaborating with the team and having such camaraderie. There really is no wrong idea."

In addition to providing scientific learning opportunities and team building experience, this class also teaches students lessons in hard work and dedication. "These kids love it," says Matt Anderson, teacher of VEX Robotics. "They come in here even outside of class time to work on their projects. They are in here during their lunch hour and after school; whenever they have time."

"When we are here, we really become the team," says Kristy Bear, captain of Team B. "It challenges us and that's what I love about it."

"The District is incredibly proud of the students of Joe Walker STEALTH Academy and particularly what they have done with this VEX Robotics program," says Westside Union School District Superintendent Regina Rossall. "Programs like Joe Walker STEALTH Academy's VEX Robotics reinforce our commitment to breaking the mold of public education and preparing students for the careers of the future."

For more information about Joe Walker's VEX Robotics program, visit www.westside.k12.ca.us/jw/ or call the school at (661) 943-3258. To make a donation to the team's endeavor to buy more robot kits, make check payable to Joe Walker ASB with "Vex Robotics" in the

October
2012

Serving nearly 9,000 students spread across 346 square miles, Westside Union School District prides itself on being "the district of choice" with more choice-based programs than any other district in the Antelope Valley. With the opening of the Gregg Anderson Academy, there are now 12 schools in the district providing world-class education to students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Continuing a tradition of high academic achievement, Westside Union School District was the only district in the Antelope Valley to see all of its schools exceed the coveted 800 score on the Academic Performance Index administered by the California Department of Education.



QUARTZ HILL ELEMENTARY:
First graders come to school and learn with their teddy bears.

Board of Trustees

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Quartz Hill First Graders Learn with their Teddy Bears

Last month, first graders at Quartz Hill Elementary had a Teddy Bear Sleepover week. The children in all first grade classes brought their teddy bears from home to spend the week in their classrooms.

Their bears helped the students with their classwork in math, science and art projects.

Mrs. Bergman's class came to school one day and found their bears doing puzzles and reading books! The students were very excited to see their bears working and were eager to join them in working hard.

Mrs. Mahan says her class had a "beary good time with their bears!" Her students wrote about their bears every day and recorded their activities with them. Students in her class did their daily work while their teddy bears watched.

"Our goal is to make sure students enjoy learning," says Regina Rossall, superintendent of Westside Union School District. "We train our staff to recognize the methods that are most effective in engaging our students. This Teddy Bear Sleepover is an example of using fun and interactive tools to help students find joy in learning. The smiles on the students faces while reading with their teddy bears said it all. This is how we accomplish excellence in everything we do at Westside."

Mrs. Atrops and Mrs. Firouzabadi also had teddy bears in their classrooms participating in activities with the students and helping them learn. Quartz Hill first graders enjoyed reading and learning with their teddy bears. This Teddy Bear Sleepover week gave them a renewed desire to learn and work hard.

Check out the Westside News at 9!

Our Westside students will now get behind the news desk every month to bring you the Westside News at 9! Visit the Westside Youtube Channel at www.youtube.com/mywestsideschools to check out all the videos.



Get Social!

You can now follow Westside on Pinterest and Facebook for easy access to lunch menus, activities, news articles, photos from the schools, educational resources and ideas.

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SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR

Many Westside students watched
the shuttle fly over their schools



GREGG ANDERSON ACADEMY:
Parents, students and community
members gathered outside at the
Grand Opening to participate in a
balloon release in honor of the late
Gregg Anderson.



Gregg Anderson Academy Holds Grand Opening Ceremony

It was a big day at the new Gregg Anderson Academy as Westside Union School District welcomed public officials, local community leaders and the late Gregg Anderson's family to the grand opening ceremony. To commemorate the opening of the new Gregg Anderson Academy and to honor the man for whom it was named, the program included remarks by Board Members and several local public officials. Students of various grades performed songs and recitations for an audience of parents and community members.

Gregg Anderson is Westside's newest STEM school, with curriculum emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The campus employs advanced technology in the classroom, including new computer labs, Smart Boards and other high-tech classroom materials. Students will receive training in the use of this technology to help prepare them for the challenges of the future.

"STEM is so important," said Congressman Buck McKeon of the 25th Congressional District. "Especially in this Valley, people understand that." Congressman McKeon said he loves to see the excitement in all the students. "They are still believing they can do and accomplish anything. They are our future."

Speakers highlighted the life and legacy of the late Gregg Anderson and the influence his name will have on the students. "The life of Gregg that future students will learn about is threaded in hard work," said John Curiel, member of the Board of Trustees. "He set goals, achieved them and then set new goals." Curiel expressed to all the students the importance of following Mr. Anderson's example.

At the end of the ceremony, students and attendees gathered outside for a balloon release, to honor Gregg Anderson. As the students released their balloons into the sky, they recited Gregg Anderson's favorite quote, "Can't never could!"

This special new school was named after Gregg Anderson in hopes that the students would be inspired by his drive and dedication, seeking to mirror this in their own lives. "He truly was committed to excellence," said Tom Lackey, Palmdale City Councilmember. Gregg Anderson passed away in December 2009, about a year and a half after the groundbreaking of this new school.

"The importance of Gregg Anderson Academy to the Antelope Valley cannot be overstated, said Westside Union School District Superintendent Regina Rossall. "The school provides an opportunity to prepare the next generation to lead us into the future of more advanced technology and aeronautical study. Westside continues to deliver excellence to our students because they are the future of the Antelope Valley."

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Leona Valley 5th and 6th Graders Raise Money to Commemorate 9/11 Anniversary

In the month of September, students of the 5th and 6th grades at Leona Valley K-8 School proudly donated \$327 to Tuesday's Children. Tuesday's Children is an organization dedicated to helping children affected by terrorism.

Students of Leona Valley decided to commemorate the anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States by holding a bake sale and lemonade stand to raise money. They realize the best way to honor the lives of the American heroes who died on that day is to do their part in helping the children who live each day with the effects of terrorism and the pain it causes.

The students all found different ways to help in this effort. The 29 students of Ms. Brouwer's class worked very hard to create posters and flyers to spread the word throughout the Leona Valley community. Other students gathered supplies and donated baked goods to sell at the bake sale.

Finally, many of the students worked hard the day of the bake sale, counting change, restocking tables and pouring lemonade with smiles on their faces.

"We are incredibly proud of Leona Valley students and their efforts to help those affected by September 11 and other terrorist actions," says Regina Rossall, Westside Union School District Superintendent. "In conjunction with their education, we want students to understand the importance of thinking beyond themselves and putting others first. We believe part of a well-rounded education is fostering a desire to serve and become a beacon of the community. This is how Westside students reach their full potential."

After all the hard work they put into the bake sale, students were excited to count their earnings and learn they had raised \$327 for this important organization.

"These students are old enough to know that \$327 will make a difference to children affected by terrorism," says principal Kristin Gellinck-Frye of Leona Valley K-8 School. "They worked so hard and they know every dollar counts. We are proud of our Leona Valley 5th and 6th graders for putting in the extra time and effort to make a difference in the lives of others in honor of those affected by September 11, 2001."

Westside Round-Up

Anaverde

On November 9, Anaverde Hills students will honor U.S. Veterans at the Annual Veteran's Day Assembly. Students will participate in fundraisers to benefit the Wreaths Across America organization, which helps supply wreaths for the graves of Veterans at the Lancaster Cemetery.

Esperanza

Esperanza Elementary will be holding a Fall Fundraiser October 15 - 26 during which the students will be selling cookie dough and other treats, sports and collegiate collectables and much more. Please help our Esperanza students to raise money by participating. Call the school office for details.

Joe Walker

In September, local officials made a stop at Joe Walker during their STEM Industry tour. Representatives from the AV Board of Trade, Lockheed Martin and other organizations participated in the grand tour of the STEALTH Academy, which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Learning Through Humanities.

Quartz Hill

The Quartz Hill PTA is sponsoring a Reflections program. This is an opportunity for students to submit artwork, photography, music, dance routines, etc for consideration. Winners go to the next level of competition and have an opportunity to foster their skills.

Cottonwood

October 22 - 26 will be Red Ribbon Week at Cottonwood. This week focuses on empowering students to make smart decisions and avoid things that harm their bodies. The theme for the week will be *The Best Me is Drug Free!* Each day will be a themed dress up day to reinforce the drug-free message to students.

Gregg Anderson

Each month, Gregg Anderson Academy holds two STEM Fridays. STEM strategies are incorporated into daily lessons and activities. Students get hands-on experience with activities that reinforce science, technology, engineering and math. These special STEM Fridays include science experiments, virtual lessons and guest speakers.

Leona Valley

Several Leona Valley students received school supplies and backpacks generously donated by Lockheed Martin. We are grateful to local businesses like Lockheed, willing to partner with Westside schools in our effort to deliver excellence to our students. The students are so excited and grateful to Lockheed for their generosity.

Sundown

Sundown Elementary School is excited to announce the completion of a new monument sign. The old sign suffered a great deal of weather damage and the brand new sign looks great! Check the Westside Facebook page for photos!

Del Sur

Del Sur will be hosting a dance for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at the school on Friday, October 19 at 5:00 - 8:00pm. There will also be a PTSA sponsored family movie night at Del Sur on Friday, October 26th. Come enjoy some fun family time with good friends for a movie at Del Sur. The movie will begin at 5:00pm.

Hillview

Twenty Hillview students have been selected as ambassadors to raise awareness and promote an improved, bully-free campus. These student ambassadors will visit classrooms multiple times during the year to raise awareness about bullying and teach strategies for prevention. School-wide, anti-bullying activities are scheduled for the month of November.

Rancho Vista

GATE students are soaring at Rancho Vista Elementary! GATE students are excused from their regular classes every two weeks to work collaboratively on research projects. Many specialized guest speakers have visited Rancho Vista to enhance the students' research. Special field trips are planned for GATE students very soon!

Valley View

The focus of Valley View continues to be student achievement and success. As such, this school will continue its FIT Intervention/Enrichment program which will focus on helping students achieve their full learning potential.