



Westside Wire



The new Anaverde Hills School, opening this August, is in the Anaverde Community in Palmdale.

Anaverde Hills School to Open in August

August will be a special occasion for students of Anaverde Hills School. It will be the first time the students will learn in classrooms at their new campus in the Anaverde neighborhood in Palmdale.

The story of the Anaverde Hills campus is one of challenges and difficulty, but it also highlights Westside's dedication to providing excellence to its students.

Twenty years ago the concept for the new campus was laid out. The realization of that concept was stalled by many factors, including the housing collapse. In 2006, residents were filling the beautiful new homes of the Anaverde residential development in Palmdale. When this happened, Westside quickly realized the children living and moving in to that area needed a school site.

Rather than waiting for a new school site to be built, Westside created, staffed and opened Anaverde Hills School, using a school site leased from the Palmdale School District. In 2010 Anaverde Hills School was moved to the Cottonwood Elementary School campus, sharing the school with the Cottonwood students. This summer Anaverde Hills School will make one final move: the move home.

The campus, located on Greenbrier Street, in the Anaverde community, is being built by Interex General Contractors, with locally hired labor. It sits just west of the community park on the western edge of the currently developed portion of the housing tract. The picturesque location overlooks the valley floor.

The campus will service the 350 students currently attending Anaverde Hills School, with room to grow. This is an important feature as the Anaverde community is young and continues to grow and attract more families. Another important feature of the campus is the implementation of technology. The campus features a number of high technology enhancements for its students, such as state-of-the-art computer labs.

The new campus is an opportunity for students to further build and expand their education. Anaverde Hills School has already earned a very respectable API score of 823. This campus will provide safe learning in a family based environment, close to home, for the Westside families living in the Anaverde area.

Summer Edition

2013

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.

A member of Joe Walker's Civil Air Patrol group accepts his certificate of completion of the Teen CERT program from a Sheriff Deputy.



Joe Walker Civil Air Patrol Ready to Help

When a disaster strikes, where will you look for help? For those around Joe Walker Middle School, relief during a disaster may come from the students in Joe Walker's Civil Air Patrol Cadet program who have gone above and beyond by recently graduating from the Teen Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, program.

The Civil Air Patrol is a civilian auxiliary group to the US Air Force. Their mission is to provide volunteer emergency services, such as search and rescue and aerospace education. The Teen CERT training is a natural addition to the program, as it teaches more emergency services skills. In the 20 hours of training the cadets learned how to conduct light search and rescue, safely and effectively use a fire extinguisher, administer disaster first aid and much more.

The director of Joe Walker's Civil Air Patrol program is Tracy Scott, a retired Air Force Lt Colonel. She saw the benefit of the Teen CERT training on a recent exercise where the Joe Walker cadets participated with cadets from around the state in a simulated plane crash. "Our students were able to teach the other schools how to properly triage," said Scott. "They have

information that they can pass on and use to help real people."

The Teen CERT program is designed by FEMA, and run locally by the LA County Fire and Sheriff departments. The Joe Walker cadets were taught by Bob Foster, a retired Sheriff deputy.

Foster has been teaching CERT classes to adults for the last ten years, but this was his first Teen CERT class. "When I stepped foot in the classroom I was taken aback by their maturity, honor and respect," Foster said. "From start to finish, they were outstanding."

Ashley Harvey, a parent of one of the cadets, said, "I like the program. It teaches them respect, responsibility and to think for themselves." Harvey isn't the only fan of the training. "I absolutely love it," said Christina Fitzgerald, principal of Joe Walker. "This is an amazing group of children. Every one of them is a leader."

Beyond the benefits of the program to the students, Fitzgerald is also happy for its impact on the campus. "I feel that as a campus, we are very prepared for a disaster," she said.

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Gregg Anderson at the Mojave Air and Space Port



A student tests out his marble zip-line as part of 'Imagination Point: Ride Physics' at Camp Invention.

A student explores the inside of a donated VCR in the 'I Can Invent: Launchitude' module of Camp Invention.



Camp Invention Rocks!

This year students at Gregg Anderson Academy were able to participate in a fantastic week long summer program called Camp Invention.

Camp Invention is part of a nationwide program that teaches children STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts through exciting, hands on programs.

The weeklong day camp featured five modules that students rotated through each day. These modules gave students the opportunity to learn about solar energy, electrical components, tools, Newtonian physics, structural engineering, collaborative problem solving, how to plan, water purification and recycling.

Two of the most popular activities offered were 'Imagination Point' and 'I Can Invent.' Imagination Point had students building roller coaster tracks for marbles. The student-built tracks featured steep drops, loops, and even zip-lines.

At I Can Invent, students were asked to bring in an old or broken appliance. The students then dismantled these appliances, learning about parts and components along the way. Students then took the pieces and repurposed them to build catapults, or slingshots, to launch rubber ducks.

One of the unique aspects of the camp was the staffing. In each module, students were supervised by two counselors and one credentialed teacher. This created an atmosphere of fun, with a high level of learning.

Students began and ended each day at 'Base Camp' where they participated in thunderous cheers and chants about their ability to make, create, and invent.

Of the 110 open seats, 106 were filled, making the Camp Invention's first visit to the Antelope Valley a huge success.

A Message from the Superintendent

It always seems that the end of the school year arrives sooner than expected! Our students have been so busy all year growing academically, socially, physically, and emotionally that it is sometimes difficult to see the end result of their work. As we held our promotion ceremonies for our 8th graders, a great sense of pride in the accomplishments of our students was evidenced with the students, their families and our staff. Together we have worked tirelessly to help them reach their highest level of success, an accomplishment that happened because we all care about our students.

As you begin your summer vacation, I hope that you will find time to do the special family activities that create memories that last a lifetime. Whatever you do, enjoy the company of your family, doing things that bring joy to your lives. Rest, relax, and rejuvenate, but please help your children continue to stretch their skills so they don't forget the many new things they learned this past year.

We will continue to update our Facebook page and keep our website active over the summer to keep you abreast of District activities. Please remember that you can make enrollment

appointments all summer by calling 722-0716. If you have new neighbors or know of incoming kindergarteners, be sure to share the registration information so that we can be ready for all of our new students in advance of the first day of classes.

On a more somber note, the past few weeks have been devastating for many in our community. The Powerhouse fire spread rapidly through our area, causing serious damage for our neighbors. One thing, however, became very evident, and that is the giving, generous nature of our community. Drives were held throughout the area to help those in need, and the donations were numerous. Our thoughts and prayers continue for those who suffered damage during the fires. Thanks go to everyone who helped, and sincere thanks to our firefighters, deputies, and every other agency that helped to keep us as safe. You are amazing!

Thanks again for your support throughout this year. Enjoy your summer, and we'll see you back for school on August 8th.

Westside Round-Up

Anaverde

Anaverde Hills is planning the second annual Kindergarten Camp for incoming kindergarteners from July 22nd through the 24th. This is a time for incoming kindergarteners to get to know their teacher and the routines on campus. Contact the district for more info.

Esperanza

Esperanza would like to thank everyone for a great 2012-2013 school year. It was great to see everyone grow and learn as the year went on. We hope you all have a great summer break. We are excited to see you all again in August. Best of luck to our outgoing 6th graders.

Joe Walker

Joe Walker is proud of its graduated eighth grade class. We wish all of you luck and prosperity in the next adventure in your educational journey. We also welcome all of our incoming students. We are excited to have you here. Welcome to the Jets family!

Quartz Hill

Quartz Hill Elementary school is excited about a new program called Positive Action this coming year. The program is a curriculum to enhance self-concept. It will reinforce basic social skills, and teach personal and social responsibility. We will be sharing more information about this program at our Back To School Night.

Cottonwood

Cottonwood Elementary welcomes their new principal, Mr. James Norris. He comes from a broad background of experience in the field of education and most recently as the principal of Sundown Elementary school. Please stop by and say hello as you return to campus.

Gregg Anderson

We look forward to Back To School Night on August 7. Campus opens at 3:30. There will be a school-wide presentation in the cafeteria from 4:00pm-4:30pm with an introduction of the teachers. We will have two classroom sessions from 4:30pm-4:55pm and 5:00pm-5:25pm. School resumes on August 8.

Leona Valley

We are excited to announce some new opportunities that we'll have available next year. We are beginning an elective program, including foreign languages, starting a 4H club and will be joining up with Hillview for our middle school sports program. Go Bobcats!

Sundown

Thank you for a great year parents! It has been exciting to watch our students learn and grow. Have a safe and fun summer. We look forward to hearing about your adventures as we start a new school year in August.

Del Sur

We would like to thank our 8th grade students for setting a positive example for our students and wish them the best in all they set out to accomplish. Del Sur is excited about the upcoming AVID summer institute trainings and the possibility of becoming a national AVID demonstration school.

Hillview

Hillview Middle School is busy gearing up for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Our staff is busy prepping for next year with the transition to common core and for the expansion of our Lego League and Project Lead the Way programs for next year.

Rancho Vista

We have some fun and exciting activities lined up for next year at Rancho Vista School, including a new elective program for 5th and 6th graders. In this program students will venture to another classroom with exciting new activities in math, art, history, and more. Until then, enjoy your summer.

Valley View

This has been a dynamic year at Valley View. We have been impressed by the numerous ways the community has shown support for our school. As we begin to prepare for the 2013-2014 school year we are looking at our many programs and finding ways to improve them. We are looking forward to an amazing 2013-2014 school year.