



Westside Wire



Community partnerships and giving

Westside Union School District is strong because of the strength of our partnerships. It is a simple statement that we stand by. From the funds raised at the South Antelope Valley Education fundraisers to our Safe Routes to School program, we are able to do more for our students because of strong community support.

Community partnerships are two-way relationships though, and our students and schools are constantly looking for ways to help out others by sharing our time, talents, and material goods.

You may have seen the recent news story on Time Warner Cable Channel 3 about our Rancho Vista student who was fundraising for victims of the flooding in the Philippines. This is just one example of the way Westside gives back.

Throughout the year Westside students and staff are constantly engaged in activities that promote giving and generosity. Earlier this year we partnered with Keller Williams Realtors for their RED Day Food Drive, for which Westside collected over 8,000 pounds of food.

We have also partnered with a number of organizations, like the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, to raise money and awareness for important causes, while encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle. Earlier this year we worked with Lancaster Rotary to offer free admission to the AV Fair with a donation to our book drive.

As the holidays approach there are even more opportunities for us to continue our efforts to contribute for the greater good of our communities. Keep a look out

for different food and clothing drives going on at campuses around Westside.

This emphasis on generosity is an important component of education at Westside. By partnering with outside organizations to help others, we model for our students the same kindness and cooperation in our community that they should have on their campus. Participation in these events teach our students to be aware of the needs of others and be helpful, sharing what you can with those in need. In short, these activities help develop a culture of respect, unity and helpfulness.

This social education is essential to help our students become future leaders in our community. We look forward to the continuing opportunities to give back to our communities who have already done so much for our students.

December
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. Westside Union School District features 12 schools, providing world-class education to students from kindergarten to 8th grade. Continuing a tradition of high academic achievement, a majority of Westside Union School District schools exceed the coveted 800 score on the Academic Performance Index administered by the California Department of Education.



Civil Air Patrol at Joe Walker STEALTH Academy

As the school district of choice, Westside proudly offers many different programs to students to help them explore their educational and career opportunities and build on their academic strengths. One such program has been getting a lot of attention lately, it is the Civil Air Patrol at Joe Walker STEALTH Academy.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Originally founded in 1941, CAP has a rich history of activity focusing on three specific missions: emergency service, aerospace education, and cadet programs. These missions fit well into the high tech education provided by Joe Walker, which is also home to VEX and FIRST Lego robotics teams.

CAP gives our students an advantage in education through hands on activities, opportunities to serve their community, and real world leadership training.

Aerospace is the bread and butter of the economy in our valley, and the aerospace education offered through the program is top notch. CAP students get to go on flights in small CAP airplanes as part of the program, seeing and experiencing the principals of flight they learn about in the classroom.

As part of the emergency services component of the program, many of our CAP students have become certified as teen

Community Emergency Response Team members through FEMA and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. They also have the opportunity to participate in CAP drills and training, like search and rescue. Our students learn how to care for themselves and others through these activities, but also develop real world leadership skills.

Community service is also a huge component of the program. In August our CAP students served as a red carpet welcome for those serving our country on armed forces day at the AV Fair. They also presented the American flag, and those of each branch of the military, during a special program that evening. On Veterans day they did the flag raising ceremony at Lancaster City Park as part of the Home Town Heroes awards ceremony.

Our CAP program is a unique example of excellence in education, as it is likely the only in-class CAP program in our state. Since Joe Walker STEALTH Academy is a choice based school, any Westside student can participate.

Parents and students interested in participating in the Civil Air Patrol program at the Joe Walker STEALTH Academy can call (661) 943-3258 for more information.

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A Message from the Superintendent

It is hard to believe that 2013 is almost over already, and with that the close of our first semester of the school year. Students continue their journey to acquire new academic skills daily, while meeting the challenge to put those skills to use in their learning immediately. Our staff continues to work on implementation of the Common Core State Standards, which will result in curriculum that is more in- depth and reflective of skills 21st Century learners will need to be college and career ready.

Over the next several issues of the Westside Wire, we will be presenting information about the change in curriculum. In addition, workshops are currently scheduled for parents to help them make the transition to this approach to educating our students.

Congratulations to John Curiel, Linda Jones and Joan Sodergren on their re-election to the Board of Trustees. They will take their oath of office on December 10th. We extend our sincere thanks to all who participated in this election as candidates, supporters, and voters.

Many amazing events have been taking place for our students over the past month. 48 middle schoolers graduated from the Kaiser Permanente Hippocrates Circle Program. The students enjoyed the information provided by this program to help them make a decision about entering a college option to become a physician. Thanks to Kaiser for including our students, and to Lena Grand Weber who coordinated this program.

Many of our schools participated in First Lego League Robotics competitions. Joe Walker Middle School students hosted an exceptional tournament for the other schools in the AV and other areas of Southern California. Vex Robotics competitions also took place recently, and our teams continue to do an exceptional job. We had some students participate in Model UN, others in CyberPatriot, Geography Bee, and Ballroom Dancing. All of these extracurricular programs enhance the classroom instruction for our students. We thank the staff members, parents, and community volunteers who give of their time to make these events possible for our students.

We want to take a minute to thank the WAVE and SAVE Foundations for helping to make programs for our students possible. Also, we thank Lancaster West Rotary for generous donations in the form of grants to many of our schools for a variety of projects, and to NRG for making a large donation to Del Sur School this past week. Our PTA/PTSA/PTO's also are always helping with events for our students including assemblies, field trips and activities for our classrooms. All of The generosity of our community partners is appreciated and makes such a difference for our learners.

As your families prepare for our upcoming Winter Break, I am hopeful that you will find time to do those things that maximize your time together. Please enjoy your vacation time, and thank you for allowing us to work with your children as together we create a bright future for all of them.

Happy Holidays to all of our Westside families.

Photo's from around Westside





Anaverde Hills Update

In August of this year we cut the ribbon on the new Anaverde Hills School campus in the Anaverde Hills community in West Palmdale, signaling the beginning of classes held on the new site. The excitement of the students and parents to move into their new school was almost tangible at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

There is still work to be done, though. While classes are in session in the beautiful new classrooms and labs, workers are pushing ahead in the effort to complete the construction of the administrative offices, multipurpose room and kindergarten wing of the school.

The school was opened before being completely finished to accommodate our Westside families in the Anaverde Hills

community who have been waiting for their community school dream to become a reality. Plagued by setbacks, delays and other challenges, this school has been in the works for nearly two decades and demonstrates Westside's commitment to building community schools that provide safe learning in a family based environment.

A fence divides the campus keeping students safe and separate from the construction site while the buildings are still being worked on. We all look forward to the school being completely finished next year, when the fences will come down, and our students will be able to completely enjoy the newest edition to the Westside family of schools.

Anaverde Hills

Anaverde Hills students reach out to honor the Veterans each year by raising money for Wreath's Across America. The money raised will go towards the purchase of holiday wreaths, which are placed on the graves of Veterans. This year, the students raised \$240, which will purchase 16 wreaths.

Esperanza

Esperanza is working to support the community during our holiday season. Recently, Mrs. de Moor's class worked with families to collect shoes to help a family adopt a child. Several hundred pairs of used shoes helped raise money so a family can welcome a new addition. Happy Holiday Everyone!

Joe Walker

Joe Walker student have been very busy lately. We hosted two different robotics competitions through our VEX and FIRST Lego robotics teams. We also have our Civil Air Patrol group participating in the Cyber Patriot competition with middle schools from around the country. We are proud of all of our students and the great things they are accomplishing through hard work.

Quartz Hill

QHE showed their holiday spirit during the Thanksgiving season by emphasizing positive behavior during Not In Our Town Week. They caught each other doing positive actions (from our Positive Action Curriculum), practiced random acts of kindness to each other, and collected food for Grace Resource Center.

Cottonwood

Happy Holidays to all!!! Cottonwood Kids led by our Student Council are putting together meal boxes for needy families; we will be collecting food for the boxes for the next two weeks. If you know of any needy family please let us know. Cottonwoods desire is that no family go without food...

Gregg Anderson

Gregg Anderson Academy is celebrating the season of giving by giving back to their community! Student Council is leading a cold weather drive to help the AV's neediest residents stay warm this winter. Now until the holiday break, student donations of gently used coats and new socks are being collected for local charities.

Leona Valley

Our students have collected over 600 toys, toiletries, gloves and food items to benefit those in need through SERTOMA, a local organization. We are thankful for the opportunity to share and educate our students about the Leona Valley community such as a walking field trip to the local fire station and to welcome our local heroes of all services to our school.

Sundown

The Sundown PTA has been doing a fantastic job providing opportunities for parents and students. Currently, the Holiday Store is open in our library, and they are hosting a parent night out evening in conjunction with many of our teachers which will allow parents to shop or have a night out while the students have fun at school.

Del Sur

At Del Sur, in November, we all took a stand against bullying with our Not in Our Town week. Now we are working towards making a difference in the lives of children. In December, we are writing letters to Santa. For every stamped addressed letter, Make-A-Wish gets \$1!

Hillview

December is a very busy month at Hillview. Our Drama Club is presenting "Baby Sitting Zombies." Our Lego Robotics is competing in the Los Angeles Region FLL Championship. The Hillview Band will be hosting their Winter Concerts on December 19th. Interact/CJSF Club is also continuing their food drive for Grace Resource Center.

Rancho Vista

Rancho Vista is so very proud of our student Randall Barron. Randall is a sixth grader who led a crusade to raise funds for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. Randall's efforts and dedication raised over \$500. We are very proud of Randall's empathy and motivation.

Valley View

The Student Council at Valley View has been hard at work supporting various community organizations. We have collected over \$850 for Wreaths Across America helping to place wreaths on the graves of our veterans. The student council is also involved in a program to help a child in a third world country gain the education and tools to overcome poverty.