

Westside Wire



Joe Walker STEALTH Academy Hosts Annual Open House

The annual Joe Walker STEALTH Community Open House event was another success! This year Joe Walker held a recognition ceremony thanking all the community donors that contributed a whopping \$12,000 towards the purchase of seven 3-D printers. The 3D printers will teach students about prototyping and the manufacturing process. The open house held a live printing demonstration among other activities for the

public to view. Current and prospective students also had the opportunity to view a variety of class electives to select for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you to all of our community contributors; Dr. Eric Denley, Timothy Hayes, Mary Kornock, Dr. Eugene Rajaratnam, Bruce Westermo of Project Lead The Way, Northrop Grumman Corporation and Lockheed Martin.



April

2015

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.

Cottonwood to Renovate Campus with New Facilities

On March 3rd, the Westside board approved the modernization plan for Cottonwood Elementary! The project is expected to last for two years with the end result being similar to our Anaverde Hills campus. The new campus will be built to support science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics classes. It will also feature a new library and administrative offices. Students will also have access to two computer labs that will replace the current administrative offices building. This modernization plan will be funded by Measure WR that was passed in 2012, and by extra funds from the Anaverde Hills development project.

Board of Trustees

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Hillview Boys & Girls Soccer Teams Win Championship

Congratulations to our Hillview Boys and Girls Soccer teams on winning the Tri District League championship tournament and being crowned champions! Both Kaitlyn Briones and David Jerez were named MVP's.

Additionally, two players

from each team were selected to play at the all-tournament team. From

the girls team, Brenna Crump and Brooke Link were selected with Zach Gunner and Brandon Rodriguez from the boys team.
GO HAWKS!!



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Del Sur Teacher Participates in Alaskan Sled Dog Race

Del Sur teacher Kelly Rickert competed in Alaska's annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race this past March. Mrs. Rickert was able to save sufficient funds and win a grant to participate as a "IditaRider" with veteran musher racer Zoya DeNure. The race itself covers an estimated 1,000 miles in nine days or more. Mrs. Rickert was motivated by her students to participate in the actual race due to her annual Iditarod challenge. The Iditarod challenge is designed to motivate students to learn more about language arts through team activities. The challenge requires teams to complete a variety of problem solving tasks including writing challenges, scavenger hunts, building a miniature sled and an outdoor relay race. This year students were challenged to read the novels "Call of the Wild" and "White Fang." Teams are awarded points or miles for the completed tasks and the team that crosses the finish line first wins a prize. Mrs. Rickert was able to bring souvenirs from the actual race to award this year's winners. Congratulations Mrs. Rickert!

Westside Students in Action



Joe Walker Teacher Recognized as The Project Lead The Way Teacher of the Year Award

For students at Joe Walker Middle School, teacher Matthew Anderson is not just a mentor but also a companion who helps them succeed in the world of science, technology, engineering and math. Recently, Anderson was presented with the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Gateway Teacher of the Year Award due to his hard work and dedication to his students. A group of students decided to nominate Mr. Anderson for the award by submitting an essay and video. In February, PLTW held its annual California State Conference where Mr. Anderson was accompanied by his wife and students. Mr. Anderson was in disbelief to learn his students nominated him for the The Gateway Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations Mr. Anderson!



A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Westside Families,

It is hard to believe that we are into the last quarter of the 2014-15 school year, and as usual the end of the year is filled with many activities at our various school sites. Our culminating event of the year is promotion to high school for our 8th grade students. All promotion events will be on Wednesday, June 3rd, but times will vary by school.

Recently several of our middle school students participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy program through the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. Each student or group of students created a business concept or a product concept and learned how to become a business owner. Proudly, most of the students in the program were from Westside schools, and all of the businesses were given start up investments from a panel of community business owners. We are hopeful that if the program is offered to middle school students again next year, our students will again be selected to participate. From this process, however, a new elective will be offered at Joe Walker Middle School next year in how to become an entrepreneur.

Our school calendar for the 2015-16 school year is still in the process of being approved through negotiations with our staff. However, it appears that our first day of school will be August 6th with the 6th and 7th being minimum days. Once the calendar has received final approval, it will be made available in its entirety.

Students in grades 3rd -8th are engaged in taking the new state test called the Smarter Balanced Assessment. This test is administered on the computer, and students will be taking assessments in Language Arts and Math, and some grades will take Science tests as well. In addition, students in 5th and 7th grades will be completing the physical performance test as part of their Physical Education classes in the coming weeks.

We were proud to recognize all of our volunteers for this school year. Please know how much we value the service you provide to our students, and how much we appreciate the time you give. Our staff appreciates all the efforts you contribute to making a difference in the lives of our students.

In May we will be recognizing the work of our staff with the week of the teacher and the week saluting our classified employees. Please join us in thanking our staff for all the incredible dedication they bring to their work with our students every day. We are so proud of our employees and the difference they create in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Regina Rossall

Westside Union School District Superintendent

Rancho Vista

The weather is getting warmer and our students are reaching greater heights. Rancho Vista is excited about the possibilities the future holds for our students. Our VEX IQ Robotics team is hard at work on this year's robot. This is a most exciting STEM opportunity. Students get hands-on experience with robotics and have lots of fun doing it. Our GATE students are building creative capacity. We offer a pull-out program so that our GATE students can receive a truly differentiated learning experience. We will soon be starting our Latino Family Literacy Project. We hope to bring the joy of reading to all of our families and our students.

-Tom Morreale, Principal

Esperanza

Hands on Science is in full force at Esperanza! Our 4th graders had an awesome Science Night displaying their research on Desert Animals. Our 1st graders went to the LA County Zoo to explore. Our 6th Graders went to the CA Science Center where they were able to explore the wonders of science. We had the Mobile Dairy Classroom come to Esperanza and students met Blossom the cow. We've also trained over 20 teachers in "Project Lead the Way." This is an exciting program that brings in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to life!

-Nicole Hernandez, Principal

Gregg Anderson

The staff and PTA at Gregg Anderson would like to thank everyone that attended our St. Patricks Family Bingo night. The donations received will help our committee continue to provide educational field trips, assemblies and activities to our students. May 2nd we will have our 3rd annual Rummage sale, turn your unwanted items into cash in your pocket by reserving a space. Aviators Away!

-Shelly Dearing, Principal

Westside Academy

Westside Academy is very proud of one of our students who was recently awarded some seed money as part of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. He and his business partners are developing shoes with an interchangeable sole for the fashion conscious teen. In March they had the opportunity to develop and present a business model to investors at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center. It is occasions like this that showcase how important partnerships with our local businesses can be.

-Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Principal

Leona Valley

Leona Valley School is finishing up our Dance Program as our team brought home 25 medals and 26 ribbons at this year's competition. The dancers had a great season learning new dances and just having fun. On April 8th we will have our Kindergarten Round Up with new incoming Kindergarten students and their families to see our school, meet the staff and learn about the enrollment process.

-Sandra Jones, Principal

Cottonwood

Cottonwood Cougars AVID Career Day was a great success. Our students got an opportunity to begin thinking and preparing, for the many opportunities that will present themselves in the 21st Century workforce. Please come out and support our focus on SUCCESS which is A School United Around the Common Core Expecting Student Success.

Coming attractions:

AVID Night April 9th 5:30pm to 7pm

Talent Show Try Outs April 9th beginning at 1:30pm

Talent Show April 16th 5pm to 7pm

Kinder Roundup April 23rd 8:30am to 9:30 am

Founders Day PTA Celebration April 23rd 5:30pm to 7pm

-James Norris, Principal

Hillview

Hillview Middle School would like to thank the 40+ presenters that participated in our Career Day on March 20th. This was a special day that was designed to educate our students about the numerous career paths while learning about the requirements of the various professions. Presenters also shared the special training/degrees required, starting salary for the positions, job duties and challenges of the job. This experience allowed Hillview students to learn first-hand about the numerous career choices. Hillview would also like to thank SAVES for their grant donation that funded this event.

-Rob Garza, Principal

Westside Roundup: A message from your Westside principals!

Mountain Home School

Mountain School students are climbing their way to success through the use of our innovative online curriculum for home school. Students from kindergarten thru 6th grade complete their core instructional program at home through a combination of online and offline lessons and activities. P.E., library, and enrichment options like band, field trips, and assemblies are offered on campus throughout the year.

-Laura Duran, Principal

Sundown

We are excited about our upcoming Lancaster Jethawks Perfect Attendance Challenge. All students that have perfect attendance from April 6th through May 15th will receive a ticket to a Lancaster Jethawk game. We recently held out Sundown Family Reading night event, and the Family Science night will be held in May.

-Timothy Barker, Principal

Valley View

I hope everyone had a restful rejuvenating spring break. As we return from spring break we are entering the final phase of the school year. At Valley View this means we are preparing to participate in state testing. Parents, please refer to the Valley View website: <http://vve.mybigcampus.net/> for information on when your child's class will be testing. Kindergarten Round Up is just around the corner on Wednesday, April 29th at 8:30. This is a great time to come learn about the Valley View kindergarten program, to get your questions answered, and to pick up enrollment packets for the 2015-2016 School Year."

-Scott Brewer, Principal

Joe Walker

Joe Walker STEALTH Academy recently held its annual Community Expo on March 19th. The event was well attended by current and prospective students. Highlights from the evening include: recognition ceremony for community members that donated thousands of dollars to purchase 3D printers, special presentation for Mr. Anderson, "Project Lead The Way Teacher of the Year," and informational meeting regarding the specialized 6th grade program for the 2015-2016 school year which will be available for approximately 60, 6th grade students interested in starting their STEALTH education a year early.

-Steve Wood, Principal

Anaverde Hills

The PTSA group has been working hard on providing fun learning activities for our students. PTSA held a Pajama Ball where students played games and danced in their pajamas! Students had fun during Family Kite Flying Day sailing kites with their families. Our 7th and 8th graders had a blast during a field trip to Ifly at Universal Studios City Walk where they learned about force, acceleration and mass. Our kindergardeners learned about street safety during our Safe Moves City Assembly sponsored by the city of Palmdale.

-Kristin Gellinck-Frye, Principal

Del Sur

Del Sur has implemented STEM Wednesdays for grades K-8. Students are invited to participate hands-on learning activities including; creating the tallest cup tower, the longest paper chain and the tallest marshmallow tower. Our elementary teachers are becoming Project Lead the Way certified, while middle school teachers will be trained this summer and next year. Our teacher Mrs. Rickert returned from the Iditarod in Alaska, our 8th graders are going to Washington DC and 3-8 grade are gearing up to take the SBAC test. Go Dragons!

-Jessica Kott, Principal

Quartz Hill

After a successful e-waste event last month, Quartz Hill PTA is gearing up for our first ever color run on April 18. It will be held on our campus. We're also holding our annual Kindergarten Round-up on the 24th for all incoming kindergarten and transitional kindergardeners. Students and parents are both invited.

-Cathy Bennett, Principal