



Westside Wire



Vex Jets Robotic Team Will Program Star Wars R2D2 Car

The Vex Jets Robotic team at Joe Walker is thrilled to receive their first project of the year. Teacher Matthew Anderson will be mentoring students on programming a Star Wars vehicle with an attached R2D2 robot. During the summer Anderson had the opportunity to meet Star Wars fan Shawn Crosby, also known as Obi-Shawn, who was looking for a group of students to program his car. After learning about the accomplishments and the rich reputation of the Vex Jets Robotic team Obi-Shawn visited the students to make his partnership official. The main goal for the Vex Jets is to create a more personalized R2D2 that can interact with the public and develop new ideas that can enhance the car. Obi-Shawn created his Star Wars car from recycled goods and travels to over 150 charity events each year. Students at Joe Walker were thrilled to announce their new project to the community by participating in interviews with ABC 7 Eyewitness News, Telemundo 52, and the Antelope Valley Press.

September

2015

Serving over 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.

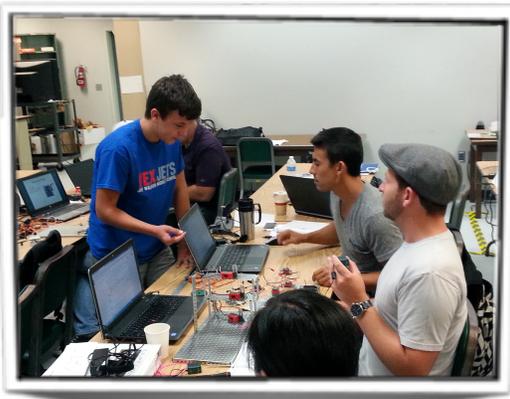
2014 Prestigious Honor Roll Award

Westside Union School District takes pride in the quality of all of its schools. However, four schools Anaverde Hills, Esperanza Elementary, Hillview Middle School, and Gregg Anderson Academy have been awarded the prestigious 2014 Honor Roll award by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE). Each year, CBEE presents this award to individual schools that have excelled in raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps. Schools receiving this distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic success, including reduction in achievement gaps among students and persistent improvement overtime. The Honor Roll award is a true testament to the success of our students, faculty and staff. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Vex Robotic Students Teach at Cal Poly Pomona

Two recently graduated students from Joe Walker Middle School joined their teacher Matthew Anderson to educate California teachers on 3D printing and vex robotics. Each year Anderson educates other teachers from around the state on Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Gateway education program at Cal Poly Pomona. This year Anderson decided to invite students from his Vex Jets Robotic team to help educate future PLTW instructors. Students Noah Okada and Devon Woolston volunteered their time to educate teachers on

programming robots, vex robotic competitions and 3D printing. Okada and Woolston had the opportunity to educate 96 teachers during the summer. Both students were actively involved in Anderson's award winning Vex Jets Robotic team and 3D printing lab.



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Del Sur Received A Summer Makeover

Del Sur is grateful that Boy Scout Troop 586 volunteered their time over the summer to paint its playground. The troops painted a new map of the United States that outlines each state in the country. Additionally the troops painted games on the pavement like hopscotch and art decorations for Del Sur. Students are having a wonderful time identifying

the states and playing on their new and improved playground. We would like to give a big thank you to Boy Scout Ricky Dumars for putting this project together. Del Sur is looking great!



WUSD Teacher Nominated for LA County Teacher of The Year

Westside Union School District's 2014 Teacher of the Year Ana Pelanoza was nominated for the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year. During the summer Ana participated in a variety of interviews which placed her as a semi-finalist. Her nomination was based on her accomplishments and achievements at Del Sur during the 2014-2015 school year. Her district involvement also played a role in her nomination. Ana decided to dedicate

her extra time as a professional learning community facilitator for teachers that educate students enrolled in special education. Additionally, she was an intern coach for first year special education teachers. WUSD is proud of Ana and all our fellow faculty and staff members; they work hard every day to provide an excellent source of education for the students of Antelope Valley.



Welcome Back Students!



A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start. Thanks to all of you for your patience as we have worked on the traffic safety around our schools, especially the morning and afternoon pick up and drop off. With over 1,500 new students to our District, it takes time for everyone to learn the patterns and understand that we all want our students to be safe! Also, thank you for your understanding as we've had to modify some of our classrooms, adding new teachers, leveling classes, and in some cases reducing classroom or class sections.

This past week the results for our California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (our state spring testing) were released. As you will recall, this is a new test for our State, in addition to new standards and new curricular materials. Following a presentation to the Board on Tuesday, that report will be available on the District website for your review. As expected with any new assessment, our results form the baseline from which we will continue to improve, however, in almost all categories WUSD results exceed both the State and County average scores.

Congratulations to Mr. Steve DeMarzio on his re-election to the Board, and to Mrs. Patricia Shaw on her initial election to the Board. Since no other candidates filed to run for the position of Trustee, these two are automatically elected and will take their seats in December. Currently, workshops are being held prior to each Board meeting to help our new trustee learn more about the District. These meetings are open to the public and some of you may choose to attend and become more familiar with WUSD as well.

Mrs. Ana Penaloza, Teacher of the Year nominee for WUSD, was selected as a semi-finalist in the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year Program. We are proud of Mrs. Penaloza, who teaches at Del Sur School, and we are proud of all our Westside teachers and staff who work diligently every day to ensure that our students achieve.

We have many new employees to serve our students this year. Your help in making them feel welcome to our District is always appreciated.

Thanks again for your partnership in helping your children reach their academic potential. Together we will make this an outstanding year for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Regina Rossall

Westside Union School District Superintendent

Westside Round Up: A message from your principals

Quartz Hill

Quartz Hill Elementary welcomed their students to the new school year with a "Thanks a Minion" social hosted by the PTA. Students were treated to cake as they took a picture with a loveable minion, and parents were able to purchase yearbooks and spirit wear. Families met school staff and discovered the location of their new classroom. This year, Quartz Hill welcomes many new staff members. Gloria Kastner is the new counselor available to students in need of some additional support. Ms. Andre joins our staff as a 1/2 combination teacher, Ms. Termath is joining our SDC preschool team, David Schaefer and Janelle Moore will be providing physical education instruction to K-6 grade students. The office staff is joined by Andrea Paxton as Principal, Amy Brouwer as the Teaching Vice Principal, and Denise Gagliardi as the School Clerk. QHE looks forward to a productive and rewarding school year.

-Andrea Paxton, Principal

Cottonwood

Welcome to the new school year! At Cottonwood, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational program that engages the whole child. We are proudly a k-6th grade AVID school, we utilize innovative intervention programs like Fast ForWord, and are excitedly preparing to launch Project Lead The Way this year! Our 2015-2016 theme is "Building Up!" Our motto speaks not only to the construction project underway, but to the privilege we have of building up the bright futures of our Cottonwood Cougars. Some of our awesome activities are College Thursdays, Student Success Week, Student Council, Anti-Bully Squad, Just Dance Fridays, Girl Power and College Bound Boys Club. We are BUILDING UP to an exciting year!

-Laura Duran, Principal

Sundown

At Sundown Elementary School, we have many PTA functions coming up over the next few months to get our school year started off in the right direction to support our students. Our Ice Cream Social and membership drive will be on September 17th from 5:30-7pm in our cafeteria. Our PTA fall fundraiser is also ongoing. Please visit our school website for additional information <http://se1.mybigcampus.net/>. We are very excited about the new technology that is currently being installed in the classrooms as this will provide more opportunities for student engagement and learning.

-Timothy Barker, Principal

Hillview

We are off to a great 2015-2016 school year at Hillview! Our PTSA has been working hard on its membership drive - please join! They support many events and have already sponsored an anti-bullying assembly for our students. Hillview sports is already underway with Cross Country, and Volleyball tryouts that will be happening soon. There are many opportunities for our students to be involved in extracurricular clubs, such as drama, band, Lego-Lead, and aviation club to name a few. There is a great deal of excitement happening for our Friday SPIRIT DAYS! Don't forget to wear your green and blue. GO HAWKS!

-Jennifer Slater-Sanchez, & Rodney Lots Co-Principals

Westside Academy

Westside Academy is gearing up for another fantastic year! Students began their year with a focus on five paragraph essays and the writing process. They have begun with narratives, but will be quickly moving on to expository and persuasive essays. Students attended their first dance on August 21st. There was a lot of excitement about this, since some students have never attended a school dance before. We are all looking forward to our Back to School presentation night on September 16th!

-Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Principal

Gregg Anderson

Gregg Anderson Academy is off to a great start. We've had a very successful Back-to-School night with nearly 100% of the families in attendance. We are a great school thanks in part to the wonderful families we serve. Our PTA recently sponsored Flutes Across the World. Our students learned to play and make flutes. They created a flute for themselves then crafted a flute to be shared with a less fortunate student on another continent. We are moving forward with Google Apps for Education in all of our upper grade classrooms. One of the many ways our teachers are implementing the use of technology through Google Docs in their assignments. We at Gregg Anderson Academy strive to ensure that our students experience a World-Class STEM educational program.

-Thomas Morreale, Principal

Esperanza

Esperanza held our Back to School Night the night before school this year, giving families a chance to meet and greet their new teachers as they learned about the exciting programs we offer. We have recently been named a 2014 Honor Roll School by Campaign for Business & Education Excellence, for raising student academic achievement and closing the achievement gap. We are proud of this achievement. One of our goals this year is to help students develop "grit." Grit is perseverance and passion for long term goals. In our lives, we will meet challenges, but having the grit to keep on course is in our hands. Here's to a great year at Esperanza!

-Nicole Hernandez, Principal

Rancho Vista

Rancho Vista has gotten off to a great start. Several PTA events have already occurred. They included a class list posting celebration the day before school started, a Volunteer Breakfast where PTA presented volunteer opportunities to parents, and a family movie night featuring the movie Home. Our teachers are hard at work too. Back to School Night was a success on August 12. Several teachers applied for and received an ACS grant which unites RV into a partnership with Antelope Valley College and their science department. What a great beginning!

-Cathy Bennett Principal

Valley View

The 2015-2016 school year proves to be a time to "Show Up and SHINE." It's important for each of us to be present each day to each other and provide a "SHINE" opportunity, that is, "students having innovative new experiences." In order to make this happen daily, we need to be at school. Our staff have prepared new meaningful ways to engage students in learning. We encourage every one to become part of our Show Up and SHINE initiative. Our faculty and staff would like to thank those that attended our Back to School night on August 13th. We had a wonderful time meeting all of our Valley View families.

-Rebecca Davis, Principal

Leona Valley

Leona Valley staff and PTO are working hard to provide a great school experience for the students in their community. Back to School Night on August 13 was well attended. Parents received lots of valuable information about the upcoming year. LV PTO is already busily working with preparation for a Fun Food Friday on September 25 as well as a Rummage Sale on September 26. This rummage sale is in conjunction with the Leona Valley community rummage sale. Proceeds will support purchasing more iPads for the students as well as fund other school activities.

-Cathy Bennett, Principal

Joe Walker

Joe Walker Middle School had a great start to the school year. Approximately 60 6th grade students joined the STEALTH Academy this year. They are so excited to be receiving a middle experience as a 6th grade student, and have assimilated nicely into the Joe Walker programs. Back to School Night was a huge success on August 20th, with students and parents visiting their teacher's classroom. On August 26th, Joe Walker's VEX Jets Robotic program was featured on ABC 7 News for being asked to program a Star Wars car owned by Obi Shawn Crosby. Our students are very excited to apply their knowledge and experience in programming to a real-world project. On August 27, Joe Walker's Civil Air Patrol presented the colors at the Antelope Valley Fair for Military Appreciation Day. Active and retired servicemen and women were very appreciative of the heartfelt thanks they received from the CAP cadets for their dedication and sacrifice for our country.

-Steve Wood, Principal

Anaverde Hills

Students at Anaverde Hills are beaming with excitement and enthusiasm since the beginning of the new school year. The majority of our teachers dedicated part of the summer break to participate in conferences, trainings, or planning meetings to ensure that our students have access to rigorously challenging and engaging curriculum! Integration of technology is in full swing at Anaverde, with the roll out of Blended Learning units, and the addition of two brand new Project Lead The Way electives for our 7th and 8th graders. PTSA has successfully kicked off our first school wide fundraiser of the year this past week, and our first Bilingual parent meeting of the year drew a larger crowd than ever before! Our next bilingual parent meeting will be held in November. Go Vipers!

-Dr. Kristin Kruizinga, Principal

Del Sur

Del Sur has already accomplished so many wonderful items this 2015-2016 school-year. Our students and staff came back to a freshly painted playground thank you to Boy Scout Troop 586. We have had a Back to School AVID social, AVID tutoring is up and running and our Cross Country team has already started practicing. Teachers and students are utilizing our interactive whiteboards that have been installed in all of our classrooms and we are getting ready to kick off our STEM Wednesdays and PLTW lessons. We have welcomed Mr. Briggs to Del Sur as our Vice Principal and we are looking forward to an amazing school year. Go Dragons.

-Jessica Kott, Principal

Westside Announcements

WAVE Foundation

The West Antelope Valley Education Foundation (WAVE) has donated over \$10,000 dollars to Westside schools in the month of August alone. Funding was provided for school field trips, educational programs, extracurricular activities, school supplies and more.

Please continue supporting our Westside schools by participating in WAVE. All proceeds received through the foundation go directly to Westside schools. Each month we will announce a new WAVE fundraiser through our district's Facebook page.

In the month of August WAVE organized the annual Totally AV Fair WAVE Race. A big thank you to everyone that participated and volunteered their time.



Amazon users don't forget to log in through

www.smile.amazon.com to support our schools. Type in "West Antelope Valley Education Foundation" as your charitable organization and 0.5% of your eligible Amazon purchases will go to WAVE. Happy shopping!



Box Tops

WUSD is always collecting box tops for education. Stop by your local WUSD school to drop off your collection of box tops.

WUSD Mobile App

Download the Westside Union School District mobile application for free. Get access to district news, schools directory, view upcoming events, lunch menus and more. Search for "Westside Union School District" in the App Store or Google Play.



Parents Get Involved!

WUSD would like to encourage all of our parents to get involved with their child's school. Parents can join the Parent Teacher Association, become a WUSD volunteer and participate in school and district-wide fundraisers. Learn how you can get involved by contacting your local WUSD school or the district office today!

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