



Westside Wire



Students Celebrate the Great Kindness Challenge

Our students started their year celebrating the Great Kindness Challenge. Each school held a kick off assembly to develop and generate positive character in our students and improve campus climate. Students were challenged to complete 50 acts of kindness by the end of the week. Faculty and staff worked with students in creating kindness cards, friendship hand shakes, kindness bracelets, songs and colorful signs to post throughout the campus. Our goal is to continue promoting a positive environment in all of our campuses. We are proud to be a certified "Kindness School" and look forward participating in the challenge for years to come.

February

2016

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.

Joe Walker Vex Jets Help Establish a Robotics Team in Japan



Students involved in the Vex Jets Robotics team at Joe Walker Middle School helped a former student form a robotics team in Tokyo, Japan. Under the guidance of teacher Matthew Anderson, the Vex Jets Robotics team has been video corresponding with former student Noah Okada for the past four months.

Okada was heavily involved with the Vex Jets and 3D printing lab

during his time at Joe Walker.

Once he moved to Japan he quickly noticed his school did not have a robotics team so he reached out to Anderson for guidance on assembling a team to compete in VEX Robotics Competitions.

Each month the Vex Jets would video chat with Okada and other interested students to learn the process of forming a robotics team and discussed strategies for an upcoming competition. Okada was permitted to form a team named the Knights in order to compete in December of last year. During the Knights preparation, the Vex Jets video conferenced the Knights to exchange advice on building and programming robots and to explain the challenges they may face at their first competition.

The partnership among the teams led the Knights to receive the Innovated Award at the VEX Robotics Competition in Japan and a bid to compete at the World Championship. Both teams are hopeful that they will meet in person at the 2016 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship in April.



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Westside!

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and like us to stay up
to date on the great
things going on!

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Westside Union School District

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Coming in to Common Core

By Marguerite Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

California law requires that every district develop and adopt a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) that outlines how the district plans to use its resources to best meet the educational needs of its students. Each LCAP must include annual goals for all students, including low income, foster, English Learner students and activities to meet those goals. Goals and activities must address eight state educational priorities.

1. Providing all students access to fully credentialed teachers, instructional materials that align with state standards, and safe facilities.
2. Implementation of California's academic standards, including the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math, Next Generation Science Standards, English language development, history social science, visual and performing arts, health education and physical education standards.
3. Parent involvement and participation, so the local community is engaged in the decision-making process and the educational programs of students.
4. Improving student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures, including test scores, English proficiency and college and career preparedness.
5. Supporting student engagement, including encouraging regular attendance and addressing chronic absenteeism.
6. Highlighting school climate and connectedness through a variety of factors, such as suspension and expulsion rates and other locally identified means.
7. Ensuring all students have access to classes that prepare them for college and careers, regardless of what school they attend or where they live.
8. Measuring other important student outcomes related to required areas of study, including physical education and the arts. www.capta.org/edu/e-school-finance/LCAP

The plan is a three-year plan that is revisited and revised annually.

Westside's LCAP includes three goals:

Goal 1: Education for Life and Work: Ensure all students are well-equipped with the cognitive, linguistic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills necessary to be successful in a global society.

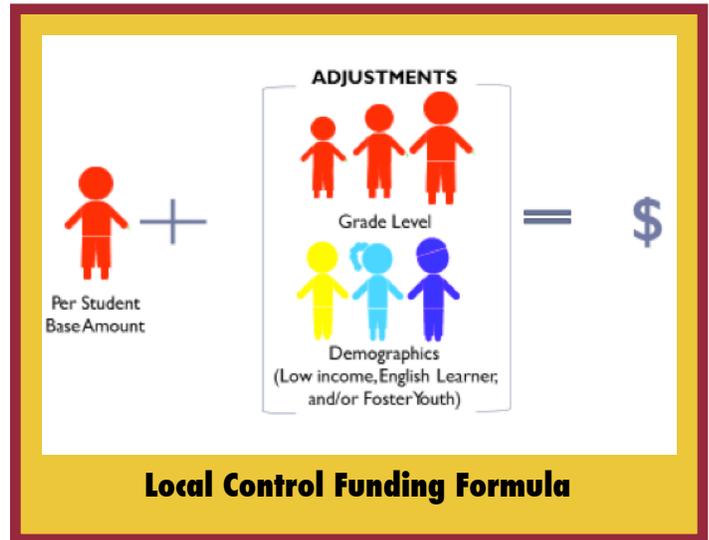
Goal 2: Access for All: Provide all students access to a high quality instructional program and the research-based supports necessary for them to engage fully and meaningfully with the program.

Goal 3: Active and Responsible Citizenship: Develop and implement programs that support students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth and success.

Common Core Continued...

Key activities and services included in the Westside LCAP include: implementation of AVID in Kindergarten – 8th grade; implementation of districtwide writing plan and a new mathematics adoption in Kindergarten – 8th grade; implementation of Project Lead the Way in grades Kindergarten – 8th grade; afterschool tutoring at all school sites; intersession and summer school programs, extensive professional development for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals; increased behavior support; and expansion of our counseling program. We are extremely excited about the four elementary counselors that have been added to our staff. They have hit the ground running, joining their middle school colleagues to provide academic and social-emotional support for our students and outreach to parents and families.

Additionally, the LCAP must include the expenditures budgeted for the activities. These vast majority of the activities and services described in our LCAP are funded with \$5,007,040 of Supplemental grant funding. Schools receive the bulk of their funding through the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).



Under LCFF, all school districts throughout the state receive the same funding per student for four grade spans called a Base grant. (We anticipate receiving Base grant funding of \$62,959,802 for 2016-2017.) The four grade spans for the base grant are Kindergarten through 3rd grade, 4th through 6th grade, 7th through 8th grade, and 9th through 12th grade. In addition to the Base grant, Supplemental grants are provided for English Learners, low-income students and foster children. Districts in which more than 55% of their students are identified as English Learners, low-income, or foster children also receive a Concentration grant. (44.75% of our enrollment is identified as English Learner, low-income, or foster, generating \$5,007,040 in Supplemental grant funding for 2016-2017.) The Supplemental and Concentration grants must be used to "increase or improve services for English Learners, low-income and/or foster students." Implementation and full funding of the Local Control Funding Formula are being phased in over an 8-year period.

Common Core Continued...

Active parent engagement will strengthen the Plan. Between now and April parents and community members will have several opportunities to provide feedback about our LCAP. The Superintendent's Advisory will meet February 11 and May 19 at 11:00 a.m. at the District Office. Community meetings will be held at each of our middle schools. These meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. We encourage parents to come out and learn more about the Plan and to provide input. The schedule is listed below.

Community Meetings

February 22	Del Sur School	9023 W. Avenue H, Lancaster
February 29	Joe Walker Middle School	5632 W. Avenue L-8, Lancaster
March 7	Anaverde Hills School	2902 Greenbrier Lane, Palmdale
April 4	Hillview Middle School	40525 Peonza Lane, Palmdale

Students Explore at Gregg Anderson's Kidz Science Safari



A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Westside Families,

I am hopeful that you will find the information contained in our latest edition of our newsletter helpful and that you have become a follower of our Facebook page where lots of updated information about happenings at our schools can be found.

In the coming weeks your children will begin taking their annual testing. As you may recall, testing is for students in 3rd-8th grade and is completed on the computer. Our staffs are currently working on practice tests so that students are familiar with both the content and layout of the test. I encourage you to ask your students about those tests. More information about the test and sample tests can be located on the California Department of Education website. Look for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium on our District website as well.

As you know several of our schools were damaged by storm water during the October floods this year. We have recently completed all the investigation of our claims by our insurance companies, and can now begin to make the necessary repairs. Because of the extensive damage to the office at Rancho Vista School, it will be completely remodeled which will require design approval by the Department of the State Architect. It is estimated that construction will not start on that office until late July or early August which means that the office will have to continue to be located in the kindergarten room. Once construction can start, it should be completed in a few months. The rest of the reconstruction does not require State approval, so it will be completed as soon as possible. Some of it cannot be done without disrupting students, so that will wait until either spring break or summer break.

The modernization of Cottonwood is well underway. Foundations for the new classrooms have already been completed and framing is also well underway. We are hopeful that classes will be held in the new rooms in August. Next year, however, the new core building and some remodeling of existing buildings that may be repurposed will continue throughout the 16-17 school year.

Many of you are aware there is a drastic shortage of teachers throughout our state and the United States. WUSD is experiencing this shortage as well. If you know people who are in college studying to be a teacher or if you have studied to be a teacher and were unable to pursue your career before, I encourage you to apply for a job with the District. Applications can be filed on the District website through EdJoin for any open positions that we have. We are in need of teachers in a variety of subject areas, and classified employees are needed as well.

Thank you for your continued support of our students through your membership in PTA, PTO, PTSA, School Site Council, ELAC, and the Superintendent's Advisory Council to name but a few of the outlets for parents. Without your commitment our schools could not make the progress that we do!

Sincerely,

Regina Rossall

Westside Union School District Superintendent

Westside Round Up: A message from your principals

Quartz Hill

Quartz Hill Elementary has recently implemented the Boys Town program to teach and encourage our students to make appropriate choices in and out of school. Each week, our entire campus focuses on developing a specific behavioral skill. The skill is explicitly taught in each of the classrooms, and is reinforced all of our campus. When walking around our campus, the Boys Town strategies can be seen in the classrooms, in the office, and in the cafeteria. Along with making good choices, Quartz Hill students are working on improving their attendance. The students at Quartz Hill can receive weekly and monthly rewards for having perfect attendance.

-Andrea Paxton, Principal

Cottonwood

Cottonwood kicked off the second semester with a flurry of activities in January! Over 200 hundred students were recognized with academic, citizenship, attendance, or special awards at our grade level awards assemblies and 4th-6th grade evening honors dessert. Our peer leadership group, known as the Cottonwood Cougar Character Building Bully Busters, put on a Great Kindness Challenge kick-off assembly. Students pledged that, "Kindness begins with me!" then performed kind deeds and delivered notes of gratitude all over campus. Thanks to WAVE, our entire student body ended the month by traveling to the Lancaster Performing Arts Center and enjoying the ACME performance of CATS.

-Laura Duran, Principal

Sundown

We had a wonderful round of awards ceremonies honoring all of our Honor Roll and President's list students from Semester 1. The PTA will be hosting a Valentine's Sweetheart dance for families and students of Sundown on February 12th. This will be a great family event! Our Great Kindness Week activities went well as students had many opportunities to show kindness and empathy. We look forward to keeping the spirit of the Great Kindness week activities going throughout the year.

-Timothy Barker, Principal

Esperanza

Esperanza has been hard at work implementing all the exciting programs our district has provided us this year. We have received training in the areas of writing, technology, and math. Our new Interactive Whiteboards are in daily use and it is exciting to see all the resources that are available, to teachers and students, at the touch of a finger. Our 5th grade is conducting a STEAM Friday program, where students rotate classrooms to learn about math, science, art, and so much more. For more information, check our school website at: <http://ee2.mybigcampus.net>

-Nicole Hernandez, Principal

Westside Academy

Westside Academy is busy preparing for the Great Kindness Challenge. Students have already started some of their activities. Our official kick-off is coming up quickly, and many of our activities will be extending throughout the month of February. We have also integrated kindness into our group counseling lessons.

-Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Principal

Gregg Anderson Academy

The students at Gregg Anderson Academy are soaring to great heights. Our STEM curriculum is in full swing as we embrace collaborative learning interwoven with our rigorous curriculum. Students are enjoying the many various student engagement activities as they hone their problem solving skills on their path to being 21st century learners. Our students are embracing the challenges put forth in the Project Lead the Way program and showing their technological skills as they regularly utilize the Google Apps for Education. Our students are reaching great academic and social heights of achievement here at Gregg Anderson Academy.

-Shelly Dearing & Thomas Morreale, Co-Principals

Del Sur

Del Sur has many great events and educational experiences for our students and families in February. Our 6th graders have a Mulligans Lock-in event February 5th and our Middle School students have their Winter Ball on February 12th, that our ASB students have worked hard to prepare for. We are administering our interim SBAC testing for grades 3-8 this month and also have an LCAP Community Stakeholders meeting on February 22nd from 6:00-7:30pm. Come celebrate Del Sur on February 26th for our Founders Day at 6pm. Our after school enrichment programs are in full swing and we are bringing a special week long after school dance program to our students. We also have our Dancing Feet students headed to competition in February. Go Dragons!

-Jessica Kott, Principal

Rancho Vista

Rancho Vista has been a busy place in the past few months. We just completed our semester awards where dozens of students were rewarded for their hard work and good citizenship. On the 29th of January we attended the ACME performance of CATS. Then on the same day, we had a family movie night for students and their families. Science Olympiad meetings continue with qualified students along with Vex Robotics. Our GATE students are gearing up for a field trip to LA Music Center in February 18. Many activities took place around campus for Kindness week (January 25-29).

-Cathy Bennett Principal

Valley View

As we began the new semester, we embraced our ability to SHINE! In January, our teachers attended the Boys Town training and discovered that teaching our students the appropriate procedures and skills helps students to be successful 21st century learners. Each week, we have introduced skills such as how to greet others, how to accept a No Answer and how to follow directions. Students have a week to practice with their teacher, staff and friends. The Great Kindness Challenge was the week of January 25th and our campus had lots of fun finding ways to be kind to each other.

-Rebecca Davis, Principal

Leona Valley

Leona Valley is full of opportunities for students. At an assembly on January 15 students received their awards for the semester. This was followed by a dessert celebration with their parents. PTO frequently provides activities for the students right after school, including Fun Food Fridays. Leona Valley Students attended the ACME CATS performance. They also recently had the NED show at their school, which is an assembly that emphasizes good character and wise choices. Students also enjoy using the district provided technology in their classroom, along with using the cart of iPads purchased for them through the hard work of PTO.

-Cathy Bennett, Principal

Joe Walker

Joe Walker Middle School has been very active in the community over the past couple months with several programs providing money and items for families in need. California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) collected 784 canned and boxed goods for needy families. ASB collected over \$700 through the annual Reindeer Run to donate to our local Red Cross. We are very proud of the drive and dedication these two groups of students exhibited to support those less fortunate than us. GO JETS!!!

-Steve Wood, Principal

Hillview

Hillview has been a buzz of activity since coming back from winter break. Basketball is in full swing with our teams leading the tri-district sports league. Students have been eager participants in the "Great Kindness Challenge", wearing different clothes to show spirit, sharing positive messages with each other, and otherwise creating an amazing atmosphere of "Kindness." Hillview students did some excellent academic work 1st semester. Upcoming department awards will recognize almost 200 students for their hard work and our honor's awards will recognize around 400 students on Honor Roll and Principal's List. We conclude the month of January with our formal Winterball. Students are always excited for this event where they get to show off their fancy clothes and some fancy dance moves.

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

Anaverde Hills

Anaverde Vipers have been off to an incredibly busy start this semester! We are proud to announce that we had 4 basketball teams compete this season! We are excited and appreciative to have received 2 additional Chromebook carts to continue building our technology capacity and advancing our students' skills. Our Lego Robotics team recently competed in the Legoland tournament, and represented our school with poise and spirit! Several of our teachers are taking part in the AVID Spring training to further enrich their professional growth, and to ensure that students continue to have access to rigorous and relevant classroom curriculum.

-Dr. Kristin Kruizinga, Principal

Westside Announcements

Intra District Transfers

If you would like your child to attend a different school than what you're zoned for, or currently attending, within the district please pick up a form at any Westside school or the District Office. Applications will be accepted during our upcoming Open Enrollment Period, March 1st - April 15th.

Return your completed form to the school site where you wish to transfer. You will be contacted with the outcome from the District Office by the first week of July.

Once a student receives an approved Intra District Transfer, that school will then be considered the student's home school. If a student desires to change schools after being granted an Intra District Transfer, including returning to his/her school of residence, a new transfer request must be submitted to the requested school and approved before a student will be allowed to change schools.

WAVE Foundation



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.



President's Day

Don't forget Monday, February 15th there will be no school in honor of President's Day. Enjoy your three day weekend!



Anaverde Hills

2902 Greenbrier St.
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 575-9923

Cottonwood

2740 West Ave P-8
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 267-2825

Del Sur

9023 West Ave H
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 942-0488

Esperanza

40521 35th St. West
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 575-0420

Gregg Anderson Academy

5151 W. Ave. N-8
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 206-3750

Hillview Middle School

40525 Peonza Lane
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 722-9993

Joe Walker Middle School

5632 West Ave L-8
Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 943-3258

Leona Valley

9063 Leona Avenue
Leona Valley, CA 93551
(661) 948-9010

Quartz Hill

41820 50th St. West
Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 943-3236

Rancho Vista

40641 Peonza Lane
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 722-0148

Sundown

6151 West Ave. J-8
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 722-3026

Valley View

3310 West Ave. L-8
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 943-2451

Westside Academy

5606 West Ave. L-8
Quartz Hill, CA 93536
(661) 206-3711