



Westside Wire



Del Sur Celebrates its New Garden

Students at Del Sur were excited to see their garden come to life during its Garden Groundbreaking. Thanks to our community partners, the staff at Del Sur were able to make their plans for a garden into reality. Each grade has a designated area to grow a variety of plants including: strawberries, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers, herbs that included mint, and pear and nectarine trees. The garden will help students learn the value of healthy food, while applying their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. After all the hard work and dedication that was put into this project, the students will soon be able to eat the fruit and vegetables that they have grown in their own garden on campus. A big thank you to everyone that gave a helping hand.

May

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.

Facilities Update on Storm Damages

By Shawn Cabey, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services

The walls and fixtures affected by the flood at Leona Valley Elementary, Quartz Hill Elementary and Esperanza Elementary will be completely repaired and replaced by the end of the Spring Recess. Upon the installation of new carpeting, which we expect to have completed prior to May 1st, the affected areas at those three sites will be 100% restored. The unprecedented damage to the Hillview Middle School multipurpose room and front office and the Rancho Vista Elementary front office has required more extensive repairs. Restructuring design plans are currently being developed for the Rancho Vista Elementary front office, which sustained major damage. Given that the scope of the flood damage necessitated extensive demolition to the facility, the District decided to leverage the situation by taking the opportunity to re-examine both the use of the existing space, and the options for restructuring the floor plan to mitigate the impact of any future flooding events. The timeline for completion of the restructuring is impacted by a variety of factors, most critically by whether or not the restructuring will require approval by the California Division of State Architect. The walls of the Hillview front office and hallway areas have been restored and the walls in the multipurpose room will be completed before students return from Spring Recess. Work to complete the flooring is expected to continue into the summer.

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Vex Jets Win Build Award at the 2016 Vex World Championship



The Vex Jets Robotics Team 4073b from Joe Walker Middle School won the Build Award at the 2016 Vex World Championship, which took place April 20-23. The students competed against 86 teams in their division from a total of 172 teams from around the world for the title.

The team of 12 students traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in the competition, created by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (REC). This was the first time a Vex Jets team earned a qualifying position to compete and the first time a female student served as team captain.

Collectively the team dedicated countless hours in the hopes to earn a spot at the world championship. During the holiday breaks teacher Matthew Anderson explained how students would ask him to open up the shop so they could

continue to work on their robots. You can imagine the reaction from the team when they became this year's recipient of the Build Award.

The Build Award is given to a team with a well-crafted and constructed robot that also shows a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail. Judges select a robot that has a professional feel and quality, with clear attention to detail in construction, efficient use of mechanical and electronic components, and reliability on the competition field. Students at Joe Walker began building their robot last year for the "Nothing But Net" vex competitions.

This season alone, team 4073b has won seven awards, including the Excellence Award, one of the highest honors among vex robotic competitions. Now the Vex Jets are busy gearing up for the 2016-2017 vex robotic competitions.

However, the team is still accepting donations to pay the total cost of the recent world championship trip, which exceeded \$15,000. To donate to this cause, visit: gofundme.com/vexjets.



A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Westside Families,

Our school year is rapidly approaching its end. While we are in the fourth quarter of the year, I am hopeful that your children are well on the way to achieving all the goals that you both set for this school year. Our staff has worked tirelessly to make sure that success is possible for all of our students.

April is a time for us to honor the many volunteers who unselfishly serve our students. At the last Board meeting we were able to honor each school's volunteer of the year, the PTA/PTO/PTSA Presidents, School Site Council Presidents, the Citizens' Oversight Committee, The Board of Trustees, the Superintendents' Advisory Committee and the WAVE Board. We so appreciate the time that the individuals honored gave to help make our schools even better. In addition, we have over 1200 volunteers who also work in our schools, and we thank each of them as well. With all of your support we are able to help our students achieve even more.

May is a time to recognize our employees for their service. Our site teachers of the year will be named in early May and our District Teacher of the Year will also be named. This is an opportunity for us to thank our wonderful Westside teachers for all they do for our students. As you know they help miracles in learning to occur daily, and we are so fortunate to have them working with our students.

The second half of May is a time to recognize our classified employees including our instructional assistants, school secretaries and clerks, our health and library clerks, custodians, food service workers, maintenance staff, instructional technology staff, and many more. We appreciate all that they do to make sure our schools are safe, clean and secure, and that our teachers are supported to do their important classroom work.

I hope that you will take time to thank our staff for all they do for our students. Our partnership with you and your students is what makes instructional growth possible. Thank you for allowing us to work with your children.

As you know our state testing is also taking place at this time for 3rd-8th grade students. Please be sure that your children arrive at school on time, well rested and nourished so that they are ready to participate in the testing process. Results from the tests should be available in September.

Thanks again for all your support this year.

Sincerely,

Regina Rossall

Westside Union School District Superintendent

Westside Round Up: A message from your principals

Esperanza

Esperanza is showing our GRIT as we prepare to take the CAASPP test in grades 3-6. Our testing window is April 4-May 20. Attendance is imperative during this window. We will be having an all school Attendance Challenge where ALL students who have zero absences and zero tardies, between allotted days, will earn a free Jethawks ticket. The Jethawks game is on May 24th! Let's test our best, Esperanza!

Join us for our Open House Nights:

May 12th from 5-6pm will be for grade 5-6

May 19th from 5-6pm will be for grades 1-3.

4th Grade had their Science Night in February.

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.

Sundown

Students at Sundown have been using new technology this semester. The students are enjoying the Chromebooks and iPad minis as they are starting to be used in many classrooms. Our Sundown PTA is hosting the Scholastic Book Fair as we start the fourth quarter of our school year. Sundown is currently having an attendance challenge from April 4th-May 13th. All students that have perfect attendance during this time will receive a free ticket to a Lancaster Jethawks game. Students will begin taking the California Assessments this month.

Quartz Hill

Fourth quarter is proving to be very busy for Quartz Hill students and staff with lots of opportunities for learning. Our fourth grade students are currently learning about the life cycle by studying a freshwater habitat in each classroom which includes snails. In a couple of weeks, we will send our first team of sixth graders to compete in the Mathletes competition hosted at Knight High School. Quartz Hill will begin our SBAC testing this month and will be using our Chromebooks to complete out testing.

Westside Academy

Westside Academy is heavily focused on our end of the year academic goals. As we wind down this year and look forward to our graduation ceremony, we have already begun planning for next year. We are now enrolling students for the 16-17 school year. Interested parents should give the school a call to set up an informational or enrollment appointment.

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.

Del Sur

Del Sur students Tk-8th grade are busily planting and maintaining our school-wide garden. Our students, staff and community are working together to plant and produce strawberries, flowers, tomatoes and more. Grades 3-8 are taking their SBAC exams in the months of April and May. Teachers have been working hard to prepare their students for this computer based exam. Our 8th grade graduation and festivities are quickly approaching. Graduation will take place June 1st. Del Sur had a great turn out at our Kindergarten Round-Up and we are gearing up for our Summer Camp Del Sur. Our Summer Camp program will run from June 6-10. Courses being offered include: PLTW for grades K-6, Dance, Robotics, Creative Writing and more. Go Dragons!

Rancho Vista

February and March have been busy months for RV students, with an emphasis on the arts. Feb 18, our GATE students took a field trip to the Blue Ribbon Children's Festival to watch the Black Violin and Rennie Harris at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Following this, they participated with other schools in a choreographed dance. February 27, 5th and 6th grade students performed at the Dancing Feet Competition at the Fairgrounds. Then, in March, all our students got to watch the Irish Dancers perform during St. Patrick's Day assemblies at our school. The students are also gearing up for a talent show.

Valley View

Valley View Vikings are making sure they come to school each day from April 5 to May 6 for our Attendance Incentive. All students making sure they Show Up and Shine will receive a voucher to attend a Jet Hawks game on May 25. Right now, we are taking the SBAC tests and utilizing our chrome book carts in many of our classrooms. We are excited to receive grant money for Project Lead The Way and to build a Maker Space for next year. We want our students to build and create.

Leona Valley

Leona Valley 5th and 6th grade students did an excellent job in the recent Dancing Feet competition, with many of their dancing pairs placing in the finals. Students worked hard and showed great dancing talent as well as good sportsmanship through the whole event. This spring, 4th through 6th grade students are also invited to join our new Lego Robotics team. PTO also continues to offer a variety of activities for students after school. In addition, we are inviting parents of next year's kindergarten students to come to our information Kindergarten Round-up on April 8th.

Joe Walker

Joe Walker Middle School STEALTH Academy had a very successful Community Open House on March 10. Guests were invited to see first-hand the special programs and unique STEAM learning opportunities we have to offer, such as: VEX Robotics, FIRST Lego Robotics, AVID, ASB, Civil Air Patrol, Yearbook, Advanced coursework, Ballroom Dance, Drama, Band, and the 6th Grade Academy. Additionally, Joe Walker is excited to announce that our VEX Jets Robotic Team won the Build Award at the VEX World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. We were the only team from the Antelope Valley that competed in the World Championships! Good job VEX Jets!

Hillview

Hillview students have been hard at work in the classroom, on the court, on the stage, and on the field! Over three hundred 6th and 8th grade students attended the S.T.R.E.A.M. Kids Expo 2016 held at Rancho Vista Gold Course in March. Both of our 8th grade basketball teams were tri-district league champions! And both of our 6th/7th grade teams took 2nd place. Our drama club performed three shows of the original play "Mistaken Identity" for parents and students. We held an AVID parent night for incoming 6th and current 7th grade families to learn about the AVID program and A-G requirements for college. Hundreds of families visited the Hillview to hear more about our academic and athletic program, electives, and extra-curricular activities at our Community Open House and 6th grade Info Night. Also our soccer had a great season, with our girls' team winning the league championship and our boys taking second. Go Hawks!

Anaverde Hills

Anaverde Vipers have been incredibly busy since the beginning of the new quarter. Several of our elementary classes have taken fieldtrips, and our SBAC testing is in full swing. Earth Day was celebrated at Anaverde Hills with our 3rd grade classes giving 10-15 minute environmental conservation presentations to our upper grade levels. We are extremely proud of our middle school track team who has made their presence and good sportsmanship known at recent competitions. We are eagerly looking forward to end of the year festivities including our PTSA sponsored Spring Festival on May 21st! Go Vipers!

Westside Announcements



SBAC Testing

Many of our schools have begun their Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing period. Please make sure your child sleeps regularly and eats a healthy breakfast each day prior to testing. We want to make sure all students feel well prepared during this time. As always, please make sure your child arrives on time. Daily attendance is important year round.

WAVE Foundation



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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!

Vex Jets Need a Helping Hand

The Vex Jets represented our district and the Antelope Valley well at the 2016 Vex World

Championship. As mentioned in the above article they took home the Build Award for their division.

Now the Vex Jets are still working hard in gathering donations to pay for the total cost of the trip, which exceeded \$15,000 dollars. If you would like to make a generous donation please visit gofundme.com/vexjets.

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.



Box Tops

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



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