



# Westside Wire



## Cottonwood Receives a Gift of \$10,000 dollars from Singer Tiffany Alvord

YouTube sensation and former Cottonwood student Tiffany Alvord partnered with Target to donate \$10,000 dollars to Cottonwood Elementary in honor of kindergarten teacher Mrs. Elliott. Tiffany surprised her former teacher by presenting a check on behalf of Target and a live performance for the students.

Tiffany Alvord attended Cottonwood Elementary when she resided in the Antelope Valley. When Target invited Tiffany to join its Thanks A Billion campaign, she selected her former teacher Mrs. Elliott to receive a \$10,000 dollar gift.

The donation was made possible by Target's Thanks A Billion campaign. The program is Target's effort to donate one billion dollars to education by the end of 2015. This donation will allow Cottonwood to continue upgrading its technology as they renovate its school site.

June  
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.

## Over 430 Hillview Students Walk to End Breast Cancer



Over 430 students at Hillview Middle School laced up their walking shoes to beat breast cancer. The Mini Avon 39 was a 3.9 kilometer walk on Hillview's upper field. A donation of \$20.00 dollars was made by each participant. The event included 20 cancer survivors, who participated in the

1st lap of the walk to give students first hand knowledge of the severity of cancer. All proceeds of the event went directly to Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer, to raise money for cancer research and awareness.



## Quartz Hill PTA Color Run

In an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise additional funds for student activities, the PTA at Quartz Hill Elementary organized its annual

Color Run. The event took place at Quartz Hill's baseball field, transforming it into a tie-dyed diamond. Each participant received a free color pack and t-shirt. All the proceeds from the run went directly to student programs organized by the Quartz Hill PTA.



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## Anaverde Hills Celebrates Completion



Anaverde Hills held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of its campus. The dedication ceremony included presentations from local, state and federal representatives, a video montage that dated back to the school's Summerwind days

and performances by students. Among those present were Palmdale Mayor James Ledford, Superintendent Gina Rossall and the district's board members. The ceremony also included seven students that had been with Anaverde Hills since its opening. Anaverde Hills is now a California Distinguished School, and we are thrilled for all the accomplishments the school has been able to achieve before completion.

## Joe Walker's Mr. Anderson Receives a Key to the City

Joe Walker Middle School teacher Matthew Anderson continues to receive recognition as the Project Lead The Way Gateway Teacher of the Year. During a recent city council meeting, Mayor R. Rex Parris recognized Anderson for his hard-work and dedication by presenting him a key to the city of Lancaster. Mayor R. Rex Parris spoke of Anderson as, "a great



representative of Lancaster, what he has accomplished is absolutely magnificent." Anderson accepted the key with his wife Elizabeth Anderson and Superintendent Gina Rossall.

## Westside Students in Action



## A Message From The Superintendent

Dear Westside Families,

2014-2015 school year is drawing to a close, and I want to take time to thank you for your support of our schools and students this past year. As we continue to navigate the new Local Control and Accountability Plan requirements, we have been so pleased to have parents partner with us in the development of programs for all students, but especially with those who are socially-economically disadvantaged, foster youth and our English Language Learners. Thank you for the time you have taken responding to surveys, commenting at site and district meetings and in conversations with staff. Shortly we will be submitting our annual update to the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and hope it is approved for implementation next school year.

If you are planning to volunteer again next year, please check the District's website for scheduled days for your badge pictures to be taken. We will be doing part of this over the summer so that your badges are ready for you when school starts.

Our calendar for the 2015-2016 school year is also posted on our website for your information. School will resume on August 6th with both the 6th and 7th being minimum days. Effective in the coming school year, there will be no flex or short Thursdays. Minimum days can be found on the posted calendar for planning purposes.

Congratulations to our Employees of the Year: Ana Penaloza, WUSD Teacher of the Year; Joy Larena, classified full time employee of the year; Karen Tiffany, classified part time employee of the year, and De'Antae Carter, playground supervisor of the year. Our staff members work very diligently every day to ensure that our students receive a quality instructional program, and we are pleased to recognize these employees who represent their fellow employees for this school year!

There will be changes in our administrative staffing for the 2015-2016 school year. Three members of our staff have been promoted to the District Office—Rob Garza, Director of Human Resources; Scott Brewer, Director of Student Support Services; Kristin Gellinck-Frye, Director of Special Programs (LCAP). Principal assignments are as follows: Kristin Kruzinga, Anaverde Hills; Laura Duran, Cottonwood; Jessica Kott, Del Sur; Nicole Hernandez, Esperanza; Shelly Dearing and Tom Morreale (co-principals), Gregg Anderson Academy; Rodney Lots and Jennifer Slater-Sanchez (co-principals), Hillview; Steve Wood, Joe Walker; Cathy Bennett, Leona Valley; Andrea Paxton, Quartz Hill; Cathy Bennett, Rancho Vista; Tim Barker, Sundown; James Norris, Valley View; Debbie Rutkowski-Hines, Westside Academy. Your continued support of our administrative staff is appreciated.

In May we were able to dedicate the Anaverde Hills School, an event that took a long time to achieve. We are continuing our work in the modernization of Cottonwood School which is projected to be completed in late 2017. Over the summer many projects are slated for our school sites. We will be working to utilize our available water to maintain our playfields for both our students and the community, however, with the projected drought-related cutbacks we anticipate our fields will be impacted by the lack of water.

Please be sure to check the website for your child's school periodically this summer for updates about Back to School events. I am hopeful that you and your families will enjoy your summer vacation time, and will return safe, rested and ready to start the next grade on August 6th.

Sincerely,

*Regina Rossall*

Westside Union School District Superintendent

# Westside Union School District 2015-2016 School Year Calendar

## **JUNE 2015**

5-30 VACATION - NO SCHOOL

5-30 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **JULY 2015**

1-31 VACATION - NO SCHOOL

1-2 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

## **AUGUST 2015**

1-5 VACATION - NO SCHOOL

6 CLASSES BEGIN - MINIMUM DAY

6 FIRST QUARTER/ FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS

7 MINIMUM DAY

31 MINIMUM DAY

## **SEPTEMBER 2015**

7 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL

24-25 MINIMUM DAYS

## **OCTOBER 2015**

9 FIRST QUARTER ENDS

12 SECOND QUARTER BEGINS

26 MINIMUM DAY

## **NOVEMBER 2015**

11 VETERAN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL

23 LINCOLN'S DAY - NO SCHOOL

24-27 THANKSGIVING - NO SCHOOL

## **DECEMBER 2015**

7 MINIMUM DAY

18 MINIMUM DAY

18 SECOND QUARTER/FIRST SEMESTER ENDS

21-31 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **JANUARY 2016**

1-8 WINTER VACATION - NO SCHOOL

11 CLASSES RESUME

11 THIRD QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS

18 M.L. KING HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

15 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL

## **MARCH 2016**

17 THIRD QUARTER ENDS

18-31 SPRING VACATION - NO SCHOOL

## **APRIL 2016**

1 SPRING VACATION - NO SCHOOL

4 CLASSES RESUME

4 FOURTH QUARTER BEGINS

## **MAY 2016**

MEMORIAL DAY - NO SCHOOL

## **JUNE 2016**

1 MINIMUM DAY

2 FOURTH QUARTER/ SECOND SEMESTER ENDS

2 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MINIMUM DAY

\*There will be NO early release on Thursday's for the 2015-2016 school year