

YOUR MHUSD CONNECTION

In Our School Community

February 2024

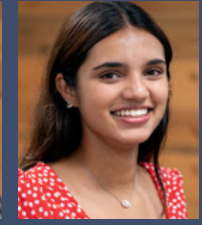


*Serving Morgan Hill, San Martin, and San José
TK-Adult students and families.*



QUARTERLY EDITION: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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Letter from Adam Escoto, Board President

Dear MHUSD Community,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the first semester, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the collective efforts of our dedicated educators, supportive parents, and engaged community members. Together, we have laid a strong foundation for our students' success.

I would like to take a moment to show my appreciation to the Morgan Hill Unified community. Your dedication to our students' academic, social, and emotional growth is truly inspiring and shows the vast commitment of our community.

At MHUSD, we recognize the immense value of diversity and the unique perspectives it brings to our learning environment. It is imperative that we continue to create a culture where every student feels seen, heard, and valued for who they are. By embracing our differences, we foster an inclusive community where all students can thrive.

I urge each of you to remain committed to our shared mission. Let us continue to learn from each other, to challenge ourselves to grow, and to create meaningful opportunities for our students to succeed.

Together, let us make this year a memorable one, filled with transformative learning experiences, meaningful connections, and extraordinary achievements.

With warm regards,

Adam Escoto
President, Board of Education





Letter from Dr. Carmen García, Superintendent

[Click here](#) to watch a special video message from the Superintendent:



Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

Thank you for your commitment to supporting our students this school year. As we transition into the second semester, we are committed to reaching our LCAP goals. Your active participation in our recent community forums has played a crucial role in our district's success.

February marked the celebration of National African American History Month, a time when we honor the profound contributions of African Americans to our nation's heritage. Diversity lies at the core of our district's values, and we remain steadfast in our dedication to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive.

This past month, we took the opportunity to recognize National School Counseling Week, highlighting the important role our counselors play in providing support and guidance to our students. Likewise, we recognized our Home and School Clubs and expressed our gratitude for all the help provided to students, staff and families.

As we continue to collaborate, I am deeply grateful for the collective efforts of our school community in empowering our students to unlock their unique potential.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen García
Superintendent



RECOGNIZING COMMENDED LIVE OAK STUDENTS AND AP SCHOLARS AT MHUSD BOARD MEETING

At our February 6 Board of Education meeting, the Board recognized Live Oak High School student Dennis Zhan for being named as Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by the College Board.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended students entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

At the February meeting, the Board also acknowledged Live Oak students receiving the AP Scholars Award for 2023. This award is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are: Sofia R. Ruiz-McGinty, Keerthi M. Sriram, Ines M. Van Crayelynghe, Gabriela A. Benitez, Daniela M. Colorado, Justin T. Coughlan, Teuscher A. Ganir, Anna Sophia Guenet (with Honor), Isabella F Jeffrey, Elsa C. McNarney, Marissa M. Mitchell, Katelin A. Pfeil (with Honor), Jennifer Rivera, Chiara C. Rocchio, Joshua J. Thompson, Amaya Valencia, Dennis Zhan (with Honor), and Amira S. Zulhazmi. We are SO proud of you!

Congratulations also go out to the Live Oak Winter Guard. They performed for the first time in the upper echelon class, Scholastic World Guard. They secured first place over the previously undefeated James Logan Guard!

Congratulations go out to 6 students in our FFA program who are receiving a high honor: CA FFA State Degree. This is the highest degree in the California FFA Association. This degree demonstrates that the student has put an exceptional amount of time into their supervised agriculture experience, developed their leadership skills, and provided service to their community. Students: Emily Blenn; Alondra Dominguez; Kendall Driscoll; Ignacio Macias; Parker Simon; Adri Lepera (graduate). Well done!





LEADERSHIP MORGAN HILL HOSTED AT JAMM

JAMM enjoyed hosting Leadership Morgan Hill on Education Day. Leadership Morgan Hill is a 9 month training and development program dedicated to inspiring future leaders to community service. On Education Day, Leadership visits our schools and participates in a panel discussion on preparing students and the community for the next level which may include vocational/careers/adult education. JAMM, and the other participating schools, shared information with the Leadership group regarding the impact of staff training on student academic achievement, CTE classes in secondary schools/“specials” in TK-5 and TK-8 schools, community schools and other family and community engagement opportunities. Education Day was such an informative day of sharing ideas and collaboration among the groups. JAMM was grateful for the opportunity to engage with this group.

VICTORIES AND CELEBRATIONS AT MURPHY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Congratulations to our 8th-grade basketball team for making it to the playoffs!

Murphy is also proud of our students whom we celebrated during our GPA Assembly for all middle school grades. We had a great turnout with nearly full participation from students and teachers. Prizes such as pizza and ice cream parties, and PBIS points were given to classes to highlight the students who make Murphy great and encourage them to keep up the good work!

Our students also celebrated and interacted socially with one another outside of the classroom. Our Winter Dance was so much fun for all who attended.



CRAZY HAIR AND 100 DAYS AT BARRETT ELEMENTARY

We found fun and engaging ways to incorporate math into celebrating the 100th day of school. One of the ways we start children on their math journey is to count the days we have been to school and every ten days of school, we sing the bundle, bundle, bundle song and group the ten ones sticks into a bundle of ten. On the hundredth day, we bundle the ten ten bundles into a one hundred group - place value taught through experience! This year, Mrs. Silva and front office staff copied one hundred Barrett tiger logos and hid them around the school. Students found them and then had to figure out where their logo went on the one hundreds chart. It was fun to listen to them talk through how to figure out where to put their logo. We repeated the experience this month with kindness hearts.

Barrett families love a good crazy hair day! The parents really outdid themselves with some of their children's hairstyles this year. We are grateful to have so much school spirit here at Barrett.



MATH MAGIC AT P.A. WALSH STEAM ACADEMY

January and February were exciting months at PA Walsh STEAM Academy. We had visitors from the fire department, a family math night and students participating in a Math Challenge at the Library.

The Morgan Hill Fire Department visited our TK students. The firemen showed the tools they use to assist when there is an emergency. The students had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about some of the community helpers.

P.A. Walsh hosted a Math Magic Night. Families participated in workshops to learn mathematic instructional strategies. The workshops helped families learn more about helping their students. While families were in workshops, students engaged in mathematic games and activities.

We had four 5th graders compete in the Library's Math Competition and Samantha won 3rd place. Congratulations to Samantha Nava Murga from Ms. Bliss' class for earning 3rd place at the Girl STEM Empowerment Challenge! Samantha earned a \$100 scholarship to use towards science camp.





ROCK THE MOCK AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Our students were fortunate to participate in Rock the Mock, which is hosted by the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce each year. Students enjoyed four workshops covering resume and interview skills, financial literacy and more.

The Central Interact Club generated positive vibes among students by selling Valentine's Grams the first week of February just in time for Valentine's Day.

WINTER CONCERT AND MEETING FUNDRAISING GOALS AT EL TORO

El Toro had a lot to celebrate as we saw the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year come to a close. We had our annual Evening with Santa in December, which brought our families together to get to know each other better. Everyone had an amazing time dancing, taking pictures with Santa, eating great food, and winning some raffle prizes! Mr. Downer's percussion group also performed during our gathering.

Later in the month, we had our Winter Concert in our cafeteria. Our performances were put on by our Visual and Performing Arts teacher, Ms. Little. All of our students did an amazing job singing winter songs to our families.

We recently held a fundraiser and sold enough kettle corn to buy every El Toro student a yearbook! We are grateful for our generous community. The school year is flying by and we are ready to look ahead to Spring when we hold our Bull Run. The Bull Run is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and so much fun!

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION AT PARADISE VALLEY ENGINEERING ACADEMY

CalFire visited campus and provided a fun morning of Fire Prevention Education. The students enjoyed learning from firefighters what a real emergency is and how to use 911. The students also learned about the function of smoke detectors, how to "stop, drop, and roll," and the importance of never hiding from firefighters or smoke. It was a very informative visit and the start of a true appreciation for our first responders for these young Panthers.





MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Migrant Education Program is excited to announce that we will continue our partnership with the California Teaching Fellows Foundation that coordinates the program Summer University, where our High School students can participate in an immersive, college life experience at California State University Fresno. Students will live in the dorms, attend academic classes, and socialize with other students from across California. Students will also attend two-day field trips to California universities in our region, led by the Summer University staff.

We have identified all eligible High School MEP students, and everyone will be invited to participate in a presentation of what the full program will entail. Also, we are increasing the number of students to ten. If you would like to read more information about this past Summer University event, please click [here](#).

MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY ADULT SCHOOL

Morgan Hill Community Adult School has been diligently working on the Self Evaluation Report for WASC Accreditation. ACS WASC is the Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges, responsible for accreditation of "...elementary and secondary schools, adult schools, and supplementary programs."

MHCAS and district maintenance staff have been busy upgrading our campus facilities to ensure that we have a positive, professional, respectful learning environment for our adult learners. We recently added new classroom furniture to each classroom, and have also upgraded student break areas as well. Still some exciting changes to come for all our adult learners at MHCAS!



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We wrapped up our fourth round of Parent University with our expanded offerings which included Spanish and English as a Second Language, along with Basic Computer Literacy courses available in both languages.

We are excited for our next session which will begin in April. In this next round, we'll continue to offer Spanish and English as a Second Language classes, along with a continuation of our Basic Computer Literacy course. We will introduce a new series focused on brain health and dementia prevention, recognizing the importance of holistic well-being for our families. Furthermore, the Parent Project in Spanish and Triple P in English, alongside Project 2 Inspire, will kick off on March 21st, offering valuable resources and support for parents navigating various aspects of family life.

Please watch for our flyers with more detailed information about the upcoming sessions. Our goal is to serve families through education and support, and we hope to see more and more families engaging in these enriching activities.

We're excited to share that we have two groups of 9th and 10th-grade families participating in the PIQE Bridge to College webinar series. This initiative underscores our commitment to supporting families at every stage of their educational journey, from early childhood to college preparedness.

Our recent numbers of both Spanish- and English-speaking participants reflect the growing enthusiasm and participation within our Parent University community, and we're grateful for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming sessions.



101 DAYS AT SAN MARTIN GWINN

The San Martin Gwinn TK students celebrated the 101st day of school on 1/31 by dressing up like the 101 Dalmatians. They had so much fun and even made their own shirts!

SMG is planning our first Spanish Spelling Bee for April 2024 for students in grades 4-8! Our after-school study sessions led by parent volunteers are underway and will continue through March 27.



LIVING HISTORY DAYS AT NORDSTROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nordstrom 5th graders and 1st graders had living history days celebrating life long ago and in the Colonial Days. First-grade students have been learning about the difference between the way people lived a long time ago and now. Fifth graders have been learning specifically about the Colonial Days. The students experienced school activities in that period and also engaged in tying ropes, making quilt squares, writing with ink and folding laundry.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOS PASEOS

We continue to have many great learning experiences at Los Paseos! Our 4th grade class and many parent volunteers went to Mission San Juan Bautista. Our 5th graders worked hard on their graphic novels, which were published and shared at our Learners Fair.

As a school, we recognized our students who demonstrated exemplary integrity. Coach Khoa just concluded an epic hockey tournament! We were so excited to see so many teams participating with great sportsmanship.



ANN SOBRATO: STUDENT AND EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Ann Sobrato student Giovanni Tlaxcalteco was selected as “Student of the Year” by the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce. Gio was selected for academic excellence, leadership and his contribution to his community. Gio will be honored at the “Celebrate Morgan Hill” event on March 24. Congratulations, Gio!

“Celebrate Morgan Hill” will also honor Sobrato teacher Nicole Barry, who was selected as Educator of the Year by Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Barry was selected for her authenticity, passion and leadership. We are so proud Mrs. Barry is receiving recognition for her outstanding dedication to her students every day.

The Sobrato Academic Decathlon finished fifth in the Bay Regional Academic Decathlon and 2nd in Santa Clara County! Additionally, our Super Quiz Team of Yash Ambasta, Grace Sakauye, Avi Shirgur, Cally Paredes, Quincy Salloom, Patrick Thai, Sariah Covarrubias, and Will Zelony placed 2nd in the Bay!

Students competed in academic competitions in the areas of Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Literature, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science, and Speech. Three of our decathletes: Grace Sakauye, Avi Shirgur, and Yash Ambasta received honors as top-3 overall scorers in the entire Bay Area for their grade level and GPA category!

Our team as a whole raised their score from 27,500 last year to 31,500 this year. Next year we will continue our quest to win Santa Clara County, The Bay Region, and one day the State of California!

During Black History Month, our student Mohamed Merghani reflects on racism in Morgan Hill/Gilroy Life.

[Click here to read Mohamed’s reflection](#)



SECOND ANNUAL SLAM POETRY AT BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eighth graders at Britton Middle School participated in our second annual Slam Poetry. Slam Poetry is a form of performance poetry that combines the elements of performance, writing, competition, and audience participation. All students recorded their performances to be watched and assessed by peers within the classroom. Many of our courageous Bobcats performed their poetry in front of their peers in our auditorium. We are proud of all our Bobcats for taking this assignment seriously, opening up, and allowing us to glimpse into their hearts and minds. Please enjoy A Slam Poem by Aaron Gonzalez Zaranda and Catalina Garcia.



Congratulations to the Britton Basketball team! With their dedication, they soared to victory, winning the league championship title, making their school immensely proud! Go, Bobcats!



What It's Like Being a Mexican

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: Of course, everyone always thinks I only speak Spanish

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, people think our dad's work in construction

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: Of course, millions of people assume my favorite sport is soccer when really it's softball.

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, everyone always assumes that I don't have my green card

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: Of course, I was born in California, but everyone believes I was born in Mexico.

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, people always assume I like beans even though I don't because beans are like mud.

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: People always think I only listen to Spanish music

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, when I step into a store, the employees automatically assume I am going to steal.

Both: We're Mexican

Both: Of course, they're gonna assume our name, like

Catalina: What's up Jose

Aaron: What's up Maria

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, people always assume that I'm not smart

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: Of course, people always think that I'm gonna skip school

Both: We're Mexican

Catalina: Of course, people are gonna expect that I'm gonna cook for the family gathering.

Both: We're Mexican

Aaron: Of course, people are gonna make assumptions about me that aren't always true.

Both: We're Mexican, and we are brown and proud.

Coming up at MHUSD!

CHATS WITH CARMEN

If you haven't had a chance to attend a coffee chat with our Superintendent, there are still a few "Chats with Carmen" scheduled this school year. Our next one is March 15 at Coffee Guys at 9:00 AM. We'd love to meet you!

DR. CARMEN GARCÍA
SUPERINTENDENT

MORGAN HILL UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHATS WITH CARMEN

JOIN DR. GARCÍA FOR A CUP AND A CHAT

GET TO KNOW DR. GARCÍA!

FRIDAY, MARCH 15: COFFEE GUYS, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM
50 E. 3RD ST. #140
MORGAN HILL

THURSDAY, APRIL 11: STARBUCKS, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM
125 BERNAL RD.
SAN JOSE

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

LCAP INPUT FORUMS

Thank you to everyone who has come to our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) forums. We appreciate your time and valuable contributions to these sessions and for completing the survey. Our final input session will take place on March 14, 6:00-8:00 PM in the Ann Sobrato Library, to report on community feedback and discuss LCAP goals for 2024-2027.

Coming Up at MHUSD!

41st Annual Wildflower Run

10K RUN | 5K RUN or WALK or STROLLER | KIDS' 2K | ALL AGE 2K

A Morgan Hill Tradition!



MARCH 24, 2024
Live Oak High School

PHOTO BY DZUNG TRAN



WildflowerRun.org

Proceeds fund community grants, scholarships, and leadership programs for women and girls.

- * Limited edition annual t-shirts
- * Country setting: scenic, flat, fast
- * 2K events on high school track
- * Chip timing; prizes; medals
- * Medals for all kids (10 and under)
- * Bonus t-shirts for 5K Stroller tots
- * Entertainment along routes
- * Free downloadable event photos
- * Free youth activities at finish



Summer Enrichment Program!



EDUCATION

Math & Language Arts
Science & Engineering
College & Career Readiness



TECHNOLOGY

Computer Science
Coding
Robotics



ARTS

Fine & Performing Arts
Literary Arts
Digital Media



SPORTS & WELLNESS

Leagues
Health & Fitness
Life Skills

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

June 10 - July 26 | 8 :00 am - 6:00 pm

AGES 5 - 14 | Monday - Friday

DAILY SNACKS, NUTRITIOUS LUNCHES & FIELD TRIPS

SAFETY

This program follows ALL Public Health Department guidelines to ensure your child is safe and healthy.

FEE

\$1300 - 7 week summer program

Payment processed at www.bgclub.org or in person

\$100 non-refundable deposit due with application, applied toward summer program fees.

All fees must be paid in full by June 1, 2024. If not paid in full, a \$25 fee will be assessed to summer fees.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Limited scholarships available for qualifying families – please visit your local clubhouse or our website: www.bgclub.org

We accept enrollees in third-party childcare programs such as

Choices for Children and other agencies. Not sure if you qualify? Visit their website: www.cfcsc.org/parents



Morgan Hill Clubhouse

17666 Crest Avenue, San Jose, CA 95037

Director: Alban Diaz

Phone: 408-560-2542

Email: Alban.Diaz@bgclub.org

~Closed July 4, 2024~



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SILICON VALLEY

Join us for an exciting summer filled with fun, friends and adventure!

Summer Career Pathways Program!



2024 SUMMER CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Are you interested in learning about careers in healthcare?

Join us for an amazing opportunity to learn about various jobs in healthcare, from medical assistants, emergency department technicians, to doctors, you'll have a chance to connect with our great healthcare team.



Who: 9-12th grade (2024-2025)

When: July 22 – 26, 9 am – 3 pm
Virtual: July 23-25th
In-Person: July 22th and 26st
**Virtual/In-Person meeting subject to change*

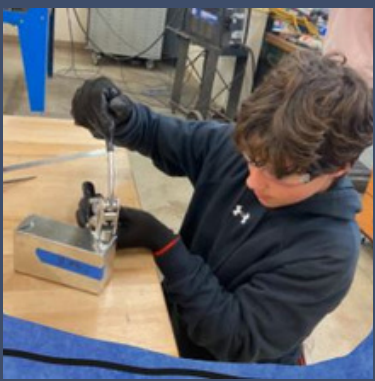
Where: San Jose Medical Center
275 Hospital Parkway

Application: <https://forms.office.com/r/qAqA4mPBne>
If any further questions, email us at: kp-scpp@kp.org, subject title:
High School 2024 SCPP. Applications are due March 11th.

PERMANENTE MEDICINE®



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





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(408) 201-6000 office

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