



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

# Falcon Community Connection

**STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

Dear Fiesta Gardens Families,

It is our pleasure to provide you all with an update on the 6th grade class!

We are pleased to announce that our 6th grade students are receiving instruction for roughly half of their day in English and half of their day in Spanish. This allows us to remain true to our immersion model and master plan!

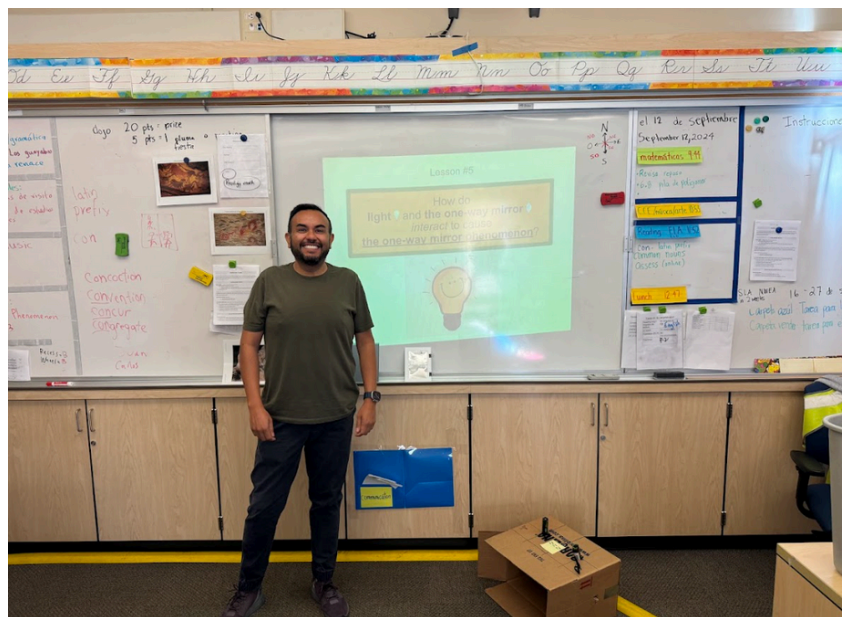
The following courses are taught in Spanish daily by one of our two 6th grade teachers and Dual Language Immersion ToSAs (Ramón Macías & Douglas Byrd): Spanish Humanities (SLA & Social Studies), Math, and PE.

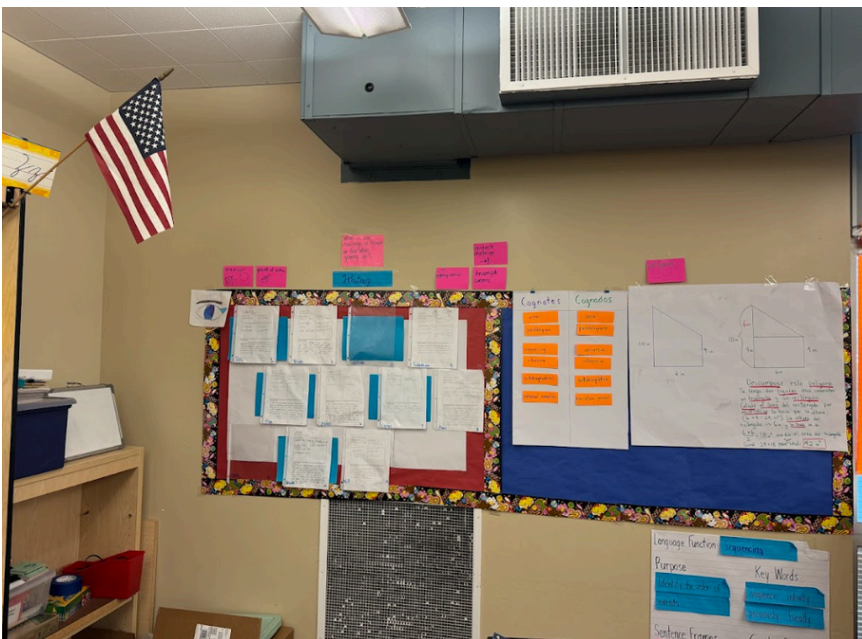
The following classes are taught in English: ELA, Science and Wheel. Our Sotomayor room has received some important updates and will be used as our science lab this year!

Wheel is our elective class. It consists of Lego/Technology, College and Career Education, Art, and Music. We are excited to announce that, this year, our 6th grade students will be learning to play the ukulele in music class!

A copy of our 6th grade schedule may be found [here](#).

We look forward to providing you with more updates on our school expansion and transitions as the year progresses!







TK and Kinder families, if you were unable to attend our Super Miercoles, you will be able to pick up your students chromebook from **September 27th - October 3rd (1:00pm - 4:00pm)**.

During that week chromebooks will be ready for pick-up in Room 20. Our Digital Literacy teacher Dylan will be in the Wellness Center to answer any questions you may have.

### **Message from the SMFCSD District - Assessment Team:**

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) created by the Northwest Evaluation Association™ (NWEA™) - [NWEA Parent Guide](#)



## **Your Student's Safety Matters**

### **Dismissal/Arrival Safety DO's:**

- Closely supervise your children
- Pull all the way forward when driving in the pick-up/drop off lane
  - Remain in your vehicle if you are in the pick up lane
  - If you do not see your child, continue to circle around
- Park in the parking lot or near school if you will be exiting your vehicle
- Use the crosswalk
  - Wait for the cross guard to stop the vehicles before crossing
- Arrive on time for dismissal and arrival

### **Dismissal/Arrival Do NOT's:**

- Allow children to run in the dismissal area or damage greenery
- Allow children to climb school fixtures
- Cross to the parking lot in undesignated areas
- Keep younger siblings waiting until upper grade release (unless they are accompanied by a non-staff adult)
- Do NOT block:
  - Fire Hydrants
  - Driveways (we have received complaints from neighbors)

- Bus lane

**ELAC:**



SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



FIESTA GARDENS  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
A Culturally Responsive School

# ELAC Meeting

English Learner Advisory Council

## JOIN US!

September 19, 2024  
6:00pm-7:00pm  
FGIS MPR

We will have raffles and gifts! Dinner and childcare will be provided.

**Agenda**

- Our why
- ELAC Purpose
- ELAC Responsibilities
- ELAC Officers and Duties
- EL Needs Assessment

For more information contact our Community Specialists,  
Isabel and Karina, 650-312-7737



**Resource Fair:**



Cynthia Gutierrez  
Mental Health Clinician  
Terapeuta de Salud Mental  
(650) 312-7777 Ext 5818  
cgutierrez@smfcsd.net



Dylan Hardman  
Chromebook  
Support



FIESTA GARDENS

# Resource Fair

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL RESOURCE FAIR  
WHERE WE WILL HAVE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS COME  
PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON THE WORK THEY DO IN OUR  
COMMUNITY!

OCTOBER 3RD, 2024 | 8:30AM - 12:00PM  
FIESTA GARDENS  
BREAKFAST WILL BE PROVIDED!

For more information contact our Community Specialists, Isabel & Karina at 650-638-2927



Phone: (650) 873-6993 Fax: (650) 873-0283 Email: pa450@postalannex.com  
M-F: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-2pm  
855 Cherry Ave, Suite 27  
San Bruno, CA 94066



girl scouts



SECOND HARVEST  
of SILICON VALLEY



Medi-Cal



MULTICULTURAL  
INSTITUTE



San Mateo  
Public Library

## Art Class:

[Art Class Dates: 2024-25 calendar \(multiple tabs\)](#)



**Dear Teachers and Office Staff,**

Welcome to Art classes with the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)! We look forward to working with your students this year, and we are excited to formally introduce your Art Teacher, **Roxana Romero Vega**.

**EMAIL:** rromero@arts4all.org

**PRONOUNS:** She/her/hers

**EDUCATION AND BACKGROUND**

Roxana began learning art at a very young age through Benjamin Cory Elementary-a performing art school focused on serving the hispanic community. Beyond high school and college, she continued learning through a variety of community and college classes, freelance and collaboration opportunities with artists and authors in Oregon, California, and Mexico.



Roxana began her teaching career in Oregon with a desire to help people, through an opportunity as an expressive arts teacher for Bridgeway Recovery Services-a program for people of all backgrounds in rehabilitation. The desire to teach younger students began when she noticed her nephew's art inclination. Finding importance in the arts and in developing creative outlets became a central focus as she aimed to learn better ways to communicate with younger people who are just beginning their artistic journeys. Currently you can find Roxana doing live-painting events in and around the bay area as well as in a variety of exhibitions primarily hosted by SV pride organization.

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

By engaging the students in immersive art activities, we learn how to utilize art in a way that captures the individuality of each student. There are countless benefits to self-expression and the main focus in my classes is developing confidence in the decision making process, becoming comfortable making creative mistakes and finding out what drives them to choose a particular color, shape or material. "Technical skills can be taught while artistic direction is sought."

**Art Class Dates: 2024-25 calendar (multiple tabs)**

Please refer to the color-coded calendar on the 2nd tab for your class dates -- if you have any questions about the schedule, please ask your Art Teacher.

**Important Information:**

During CSMA Art classes, the classroom teacher must be present during the lesson in addition to the Art teacher. Your presence is important to maintain classroom standards of behavior and for safety knowledge of the campus policies. Teachers are encouraged to participate with students in the art projects!

We kindly request that student pull-outs be scheduled outside of art class time whenever possible. Our opportunity to work with your students is limited, and when they miss all or part of class it can impact their progress as we build on their technical and conceptual artistic skills and prepare for the end of year student art show together.

Rescheduling Classes: If the class is unable to attend a scheduled art class because of a field trip or school event, please notify the Art Teacher and Program Manager at least 24 hours' notice if possible. If the Art Teacher needs to miss a scheduled class, the teacher will notify the School Office and Classroom Teachers. The Art Teacher or CSMA administrators will contact you about the best time to reschedule your art class if applicable.

Please contact your principal or the administrators below if you have questions. We look forward to a wonderful, art-filled year!

**Emergency Bags:**

# EMERGENCY BAGS

## 2024/2025

The Emergency Bags will be kept in each of your students classroom in case of an emergency.

Please make sure to send your student with their emergency bag with the following items by **Thursday, October 3rd** to receive a **Gold Fiesta Feather**. Emergency Bags should be turned in to your teachers in their classroom.

Inside each Ziploc Bag there should be:

2 Water Bottles



2 Granola Bars  
(No peanuts, no allergy-causing foods)

Family Portrait  
Make a family drawing and/or print a photo



If you need support or have any questions, please contact our Community Specialists Isabel 650-638-2927 and/or Karina 650-312-7517.

*An example of an Emergency Bag is located in the office bulletin board.*

**Annex Lead Teacher Introduction:**



# Meet the Annex Lead Teacher at Fiesta



## Ms. Bri

Dear Fiesta Gardens Community,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Briana Alfaro, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new Leader Teacher for the ANNEX program at Fiesta Gardens.

I joined this wonderful district at the start of the school year, and I have already been inspired by the incredible diversity and vibrant community within all schools. My journey in education began in a small town outside of Bakersfield, California, where I held a similar role. Since December 2019, I've been dedicated to working with students, and it has been a deeply rewarding experience.

I am genuinely excited about this new chapter and the opportunity to work with the students and families here at Fiesta Gardens. I look forward to a fantastic school year ahead, filled with growth, learning, and shared successes.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community. Here's to a great year together!  
Warm regards,

Briana Alfaro  
Leader Teacher, ANNEX  
Fiesta Gardens

[balfaro@smfc.k12.ca.us](mailto:balfaro@smfc.k12.ca.us)

**Annex Fall Camp:**



# ANNEX FALL CAMP

OCTOBER 7TH-11TH  
8:00AM-5:00PM  
LAUREL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
316 36TH AVENUE, SAN MATEO

ART-STEM-FUN!  
SNACK PROVIDED DAILY  
TUITION: \$545/WK

OCTOBER 10TH: FIELD TRIP TO  
LEMOS FARM IN HALFMOON BAY!

APPLY HERE!



SMFCSD.ARUX.APP

FOR REGISTRATION QUESTIONS  
☎ 650-312-7706



TERI BENAVIDES- [tbenavides@smfcSD.net](mailto:tbenavides@smfcSD.net)  
LESLEY NERI- [lneri@smfcSD.net](mailto:lneri@smfcSD.net)



ANNEX  
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM  
SAN MATEO COUNTRY CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT

Girl Scouts:



## San Mateo & Foster City Fall Kickoff!

Girls going into grades TK-5, and their parent or caretaker, are invited to join us for the annual SU389 Fall Kickoff to learn about Girl Scouts in San Mateo & Foster City and how to get started!

**Local volunteers and Girl Scouts of Northern California staff will provide information and be on hand to answer your questions, while girls make new friends and try out Girl Scouts with fun activities.**

This free event is for girls grades TK-5 for the 2024-2025 school year, who are not yet Girl Scouts, and their parent or caretaker.

**Registration is required. giver must attend with each child—no drop-offs please.**

**Sunday, September 22, 2024**  
**2:00-4:00 PM**  
**\*Audubon Elementary School**  
 841 Gull Ave Foster City, CA 94404  
**Space is limited, please register in advance:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yuwf77u6>  
 If you can't attend, but want to be added to our interest list, please register anyway.  
 Please email [asilber@gsnorcal.org](mailto:asilber@gsnorcal.org) with questions or if you're ready to get started today!

\*El espacio para reuniones es proporcionado como un servicio comunitario por el Distrito Escolar de SMCFC. El distrito no patrocina ni respalda este evento ni a la persona u organización que lo presenta.

### Late Drop Offs:

All students will have to walk on their own to their classroom if they arrive late to class (parents are not to walk to classrooms after the school day has started as this will interrupt the flow of classroom procedures).

The only exception to this is TK students, they may be walked to their class by parents if they arrive late. Kinder to 6th grade students should walk to their classrooms on their own.

### School Absences:

If you have any student out sick, not feeling well, your student will be late, or will be having a doctor's or dentist appointment please make sure you call our main office at 650-312-7737. After the 3rd day, if your student continues to be sick you will need to provide a doctors note to the office a week from the 3rd day missed. Please make sure you call before 10:00am on the day that your student will be absent and not the following day. If you don't notify us your student will be marked absent.

If your student is absent please make sure to bring a medical note as soon as the next day or when your student returns to school so that we may correct their attendance with enough time.

### Community Room Bulletin:

# FGIS DONATIONS




**Room 20 is taking donations!**  
**We welcome donations from our families and community, which are shared back with our FGIS students and families.**

**WE ACCEPT:**

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Floss
- Menstrual products
- Hair ties
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body soap
- Hand soap
- Dish soap
- Toilet paper (individually wrapped)
- Paper towels (individually wrapped)
- Face wash
- Face lotion
- Body lotion
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Combs
- Hair brushes
- Leave in conditioner spray
- Lice spray
- Apple cider vinegar
- Empty, clean glass / mason jars
- White vinegar
- Baking soda
- Small travel containers
- Laundry detergent



**DONATIONS STUDENTS NEED:**  
WE ASK THESE ITEMS BE NEW OR GENTLY USED, THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING!

- School uniforms
- Children shoes
- Backpacks
- Lunch bags
- Unused or new school supplies



**WE DO NOT ACCEPT:**

- Adult clothing
- Adult shoes
- Baby car seats
- Perishable food items



**PLEASE READ**

Having our families and students access hygiene products, home products, and food items is important to us! For this reason we kindly ask that all items in these categories be donated new. Thank you for your support to our FGIS community room!

**Lost and Found:**

If your student has lost something recently please make sure to stop by and look at our lost and found located in our Community Room. We will be donating forgotten lost and found items every Friday at the end of the day to a charitable organization.

Parents are STRONGLY encouraged to LABEL articles of clothing (particularly coats, sweaters, caps, lunch boxes, etc.) with you students name in case they get lost or misplaced.

**MAP Food Distribution:**

If you are interested in receiving a box of food please contact Isabel or Karina.

Tuesday, 10/1/24	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 11/5/24	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 12/3/24	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 1/14/25	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 2/4/25	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 3/4/25	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 4/8/25	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 5/6/25	11:00am-4:00pm
Tuesday, 6/3/25	11:00am-4:00pm

**STAY IN THE KNOW**

If you missed a previous post stay in the know by checking out the links below for more information:

[\*Fiesta Gardens Website\*](#)

[\*Common/Uniform Dress Code\*](#)

[\*Cellphone and Smart Watch Policy\*](#)

[\*H.O.P.E Uniforms Program\*](#)

[\*Personal Care Products Needed List\*](#)

***Istation Parent Guides: [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)***

[\*Radio-Frequency Identification \(RFID\)\*](#)

[\*District Communication\*](#)

[\*PTA Calendar\*](#)

**NWEA Parent Guide: [ENGLISH](#) / [SPANISH](#)**

**Upcoming Events:**

**9/17 & 9/24:** PIQE - 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**9/19:** ELAC Meeting - 6:00pm

**9/20:** Jog-A-Thon

**9/24:** General PTA Meeting - 6:00pm

**9/27-10/3:** Parent/Teacher Conferences & Minimum Days

**10/1:** MAP Food Distribution

**10/3:** Parent Resource Fair - 8:30am-12:00pm