



C-VUSD CONNECTS

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION THAT INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT'S UNLIMITED POTENTIAL



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am deeply grateful for the incredible generosity and spirit of our students who consistently give back to their community. Whether it's through their involvement in the Field of Valor, organizing blood drives for City of Hope, hosting toy drives for those in need, volunteering at voting centers, or supporting various other charitable efforts, our students demonstrate what it truly means to make a difference. Their acts of kindness and service reflect the core values we instill in them every day. I'm proud to see our students using their time and talents to create a positive impact, and I'm thankful for the leadership they show. I wish everyone a peaceful and joyous Thanksgiving, filled with gratitude and time shared with loved ones.

Dr. Elizabeth Eminhizer

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION: SPOTLIGHT ON PRESCHOOL

Covina-Valley Children's Center plays a crucial role in preparing young learners for elementary school by providing a nurturing and structured environment. The preschool focuses on early childhood development, fostering social, emotional, and cognitive growth through play-based learning, hands-on activities, and individualized instruction. Students are introduced to foundational academic concepts, such as early literacy, math, and critical thinking skills, while also developing important life skills like communication, problem-solving, and cooperation. This holistic approach helps children build confidence and curiosity, giving them a strong leg-up as they transition into elementary school, ready to succeed and thrive.

[To learn more, click here](#)



COVINA HIGH SCHOOL: COLT OUTFITTERS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS CSBA GOLDEN BELL

Covina High School has once again received the prestigious California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award for the Colt Outfitters Program. This outstanding student-run thrift store is managed by students from the Life-Skills Education Advancement Program (LEAP) and the Interact Club. Together, they create valuable work experiences for LEAP students while ensuring that every student has the resources and confidence to succeed in school. Congratulations to the Colt Outfitters team on this well-deserved recognition!

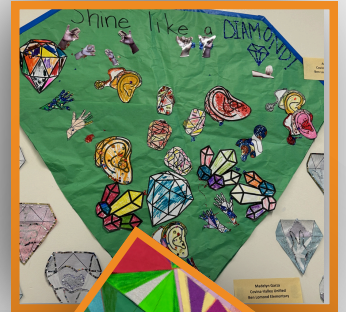
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SPECIAL EDUCATION CAC ARTS FESTIVAL

The 10th Annual Special Education CAC Arts Festival took place on Monday, October 28, 2024, at Royal Oak Middle School, with the inspiring theme, "Shine Bright Like A Diamond." Hosted by the Community Advisory Committee, the event highlighted the creativity of C-VUSD students in special education, who participated by submitting artwork and attending with family and friends. The festival featured a vibrant display of student art, live performances, and interactive art stations, creating a lively, community-centered atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed celebrating the students' unique talents, honoring the remarkable artistic abilities within the Covina-Valley community.






GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Covina-Valley's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program supports the unique talents of qualifying students. All 3rd graders in the district are screened, with those meeting the GATE screener and CAASPP qualifications invited to join in 4th and 5th grade. Covina-Valley teachers provide enriched, extended learning experiences within the classroom, tailored to GATE students' needs. Additionally, GATE students participate in three special Saturday Academies throughout the year, designed to challenge and inspire them. This year's academies will feature STEM activities, Chess tournaments, and Literature challenges, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and a love for learning.

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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2024



Xiomara Arteaga

Xiomara is an English-Language Arts teacher at Traweek Middle School and is recognized for her exceptional dedication to enhancing student engagement and well-being through culturally enriching and innovative activities. Her contributions have greatly impacted both the academic and emotional growth of her students.



Jeanette Diaz, RN

Jeanette, a District Nurse, is recognized for her outstanding contributions and dedication. Known for her high level of clinical competence, what truly distinguishes Jeanette is her unwavering dedication to student advocacy. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that every student, regardless of socioeconomic background or health challenges, has access to necessary healthcare resources.



Paul Lopez

Paul is a dedicated and highly respected custodian at Merwin Elementary and is recognized not only for his exceptional work ethic but also for his genuine enthusiasm for his job. Every day, Paul arrives with a positive attitude and a deep sense of pride, making it clear that he truly values his role in keeping the campus safe, clean, and welcoming for students, staff, and visitors alike.



Sean Houston

Sean is a District Warehouse Worker/Delivery Driver and is recognized for his outstanding dedication and growth, particularly in customer service this school year. Sean consistently ensures courteous, timely food deliveries. His positive attitude and proactive approach are greatly appreciated by the cafeteria staff, who frequently praise his friendliness and reliability.



Dr. Stephanie Kearns

Stephanie is the Director of Equity, Assessment, and Evaluator of Programs and is recognized for her dedication and integrity. What truly sets her apart is her determination; if she does not have the answer to a question, she diligently seeks it out. She is a natural problem-solver, an effective communicator, and a collaborative team player who always prioritizes students in her work.

OCTOBER NOMINEES

ESTHER GALVEZ, INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE, PIONEER

ELENA TAMAYO, LEAP TEACHER, COVINA

MINDY CRUZ, INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE, COVINA

PETE WEBER, TEACHER, SOUTH HILLS

JASON SANCHEZ, CAMPUS SUPERVISOR, NORTHVIEW

SUSAN MENDENHALL, TEACHER, MESA

SARAH JARVIS, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, SIERRA VISTA

ROMAN ESPINOSA, CUSTODIAN, MESA

KIMBERLY SANCHEZ, TEACHER, MESA

JAMES MILLER, TSS TRAINEE, TSS

VALERIE QUIROZ, CAREER CENTER CLERK, FAIRVALLEY

SHAWNA HANSEN, COUNSELOR, SOUTH HILLS

ESPERANZA DAVI, SECRETARY I, MANZANITA

JULIO PEREZ, CUSTODIAN, NORTHVIEW

KIMBERLY ALIOTO, TEACHER, CYPRESS

JESUS MERCADO, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION

YESY REYES, OUTREACH LIAISON, CYPRESS

DENISE SANTANA, HEALTH CLERK, GROVECENTER

MINDY GRIMM, TEACHER, GROVECENTER

JOANNA TARULA, SECRETARY I, C-VCC

ANDREW PEREGOY, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, FAIRVALLEY/ATP

DANIEL RUBIO, BEHAVIOR AIDE, DISTRICT OFFICE

FRED HERNANDEZ, CUSTODIAN, TCAE - PIONEER CAMPUS

MARIA VICARIO, FOOD SERVICE WORKER, NUTRITION SERVICES

KATIA ZAVATSKY, TEACHER, MANZANITA

CHRISTY CRUZ, SCHOOL HELPER, BEN LOMOND

LIZBET ARELLANO, TEACHER, BEN LOMOND

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US NEWS & WORLD REPORTS BEST K-8 SCHOOLS

US News & World Reports recently published its list of “Best K-8 Schools,” and Covina-Valley Unified School District is proud to have 7 of its elementary schools and 2 of its middle schools earn prestigious badges. These schools ranked among the top 40% in the state, showcasing their commitment to excellence in education. The schools recognized include Rowland Avenue, Manzanita, Mesa, Workman Avenue, Barranca, Grovecenter, and Merwin Elementary Schools, as well as Traweek and Las Palmas Middle Schools. This achievement highlights the hard work of students, staff, and families in the district. Congratulations to all these schools for their dedication and outstanding performance!



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, staff at the District Office come together to raise funds for the Field of Valor, a patriotic community event held around Veteran's Day at Sierra Vista Middle School. The Field of Valor donates 100% of its proceeds to support housing for homeless veterans, making a real difference in their lives. This year, the District is proud to share that \$2,400 was raised. As part of the fundraising efforts, staff held a special Halloween celebration with costumes, short videos, and a Trick-or-Treat event for students from Pioneer Preschool. The celebration was especially memorable, with creative costumes and enthusiastic participation from departments and schools.

[Click here to visit the Field of Valor website](#)

JOIN THE C-VUSD COMMUNITY LISTSERV:

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVINA-VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joining the Covina-Valley USD listserv allows community members to stay informed about important district news, upcoming events, and school updates. It's a convenient way to receive timely information directly to your inbox, helping you stay engaged with the district and support our students, staff, and schools effectively. Subscribers also gain access to valuable resources, including announcements about school programs, activities, and district-wide initiatives. Being on the listserv helps foster a stronger connection between the district and the community, ensuring that everyone is well-informed and involved.

[Click here to join the C-VUSD listserv](#)



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