

YOUR MHUSD CONNECTION

In Our School Community

March 2025



Pictured is the Live Oak girls basketball team after securing their third consecutive league title in February 2025.

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

QUARTERLY EDITION: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5



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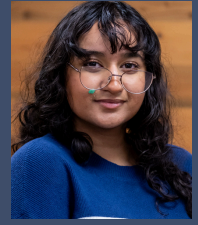
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LETTER FROM JOHN HORNER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

With nearly 8,000 students, our district is a vibrant community of learners with diverse backgrounds, talents, and aspirations. Each student brings their own perspectives and challenges, and our responsibility as a school system is to meet them where they are and support them in achieving their full potential.

Our district is committed to providing a well-rounded education that prepares students for success, no matter their path. Our programs range from advanced academic opportunities and career technical education pathways to arts, athletics, and social-emotional support services. We invest in early literacy, dual immersion, and STEM education while also focusing on student wellness and inclusion. Every effort is made to ensure that all students have access to high-quality learning experiences that help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our staff, teachers, and administrators work tirelessly to improve and innovate in everything we do. As we continue to strengthen our schools, we remain focused on creating an environment where every student is seen, valued, and supported.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work. Together, we are shaping the future, one student at a time.

Sincerely,

John Horner
President, Board of Education



LETTER FROM DR. CARMEN GARCÍA, SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Morgan Hill Unified Community,

As we step into March, we're excited to highlight several important celebrations that align with our commitment to nurturing the whole child. National Nutrition Month reminds us of the importance of healthy meals in supporting our students' focus and energy. Our Student Nutrition Team works tirelessly to prepare balanced meals using fresh, locally sourced ingredients. We're also developing a production farm and training our staff on new scratch-cooking methods, including making pizzas onsite.

This month, we also celebrate Art Education and Music in Our Schools Month. We recognize the value of art and music instruction—it promotes creativity and expression in and outside of our classrooms. We are also proud to participate in Read Across America and we thank our volunteers for sharing the joy of reading with our students. We encourage families to continue this love of reading at every age by reading together and visiting our amazing libraries.

Finally, on March 31st, we honor Cesar Chavez Day, celebrating the legacy of this iconic civil rights and labor movement leader.

We invite you to read this newsletter as it highlights the achievements and initiatives happening across our district. Inside, you'll find stories of student success, community partnerships, and updates on our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible education for our students.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of our school district, students, and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmen García
Superintendent



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



CELEBRATING ACSA REGION 8 RECOGNITIONS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding leadership within Morgan Hill Unified School District, recognized by ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Region 8.



Superintendent of the Year Dr. Carmen Garcia

Thank you, Dr. Garcia, for your visionary leadership and commitment to student success!

Classified Leader of the Year
Reina Gonzalez, Human Resources Supervisor
Thank you for your outstanding support of staff and district operations!



Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year Franchesca Kellett, Assistant Principal of Ann Sobrato

Thank you for your dedication to creating an enriching environment for students and staff!

These awards reflect the hard work of our MHUSD leaders who continuously strive to enhance learning, strengthen our schools, and support our students and staff. We are grateful for their contributions and proud to have them represent our district.

Congratulations



FARMTECH DISTRICT FARM: A NEW ERA OF AGRICULTURAL LEARNING

Exciting developments are underway at Ann Sobrato High School, where the FarmTECH District Farm is taking shape.

Spanning 20 acres, this innovative farm will feature both a 2+ acre demonstration farm and a 17+ acre production farm, offering hands-on learning opportunities and fresh, locally grown produce for our schools.



The demonstration farm will provide an immersive agricultural experience for students of all ages. Partnering with FFA and school groups, the farm will include learning stations with seasonal agriculture insights, solar and wind energy demonstrations, and the latest in farming technology. Students will engage with row crops, a greenhouse, orchards, a nursery, a vineyard, raised garden beds, and even bee hives, fostering a deeper connection to sustainable food production.

The production farm will have an even greater impact, growing seasonal produce to supply salad bars and meals across all schools in the district, and promoting fresh, farm-to-school nutrition. Funded in part by a Track 1 Incubator Grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, this project is a testament to our commitment to sustainability, education, and healthy school meals.



Stay tuned as we cultivate this incredible resource for our students and community!

BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL'S STUDENT UNION RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Britton Middle School's Student Union has been honored by the [Coalition for Adequate School Housing \(CASH\)](#) for its outstanding design and positive impact on students.

Created by LPA Design Studios, the Student Union is a modern, all-electric space designed for collaboration and learning. Its open, two-story layout connects indoor and outdoor areas, creating a welcoming space for students. The building features a café that encourages interaction, a second-floor media center for group activities, and large windows that bring in natural light and fresh air. Located near downtown Morgan Hill, it also strengthens the school's connection to the community.

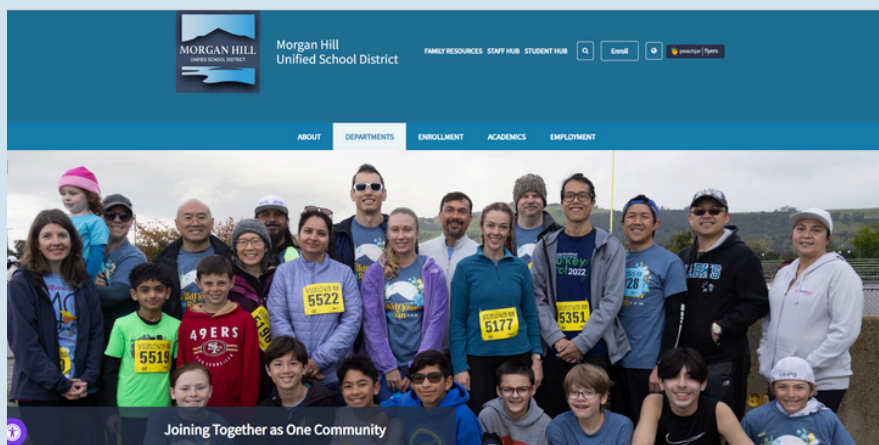
This award highlights our commitment to providing students with inspiring spaces to learn and grow.

Congratulations to everyone who helped bring this project to life!



A FRESH LOOK: MHUSD TO LAUNCH NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITES

We are excited to announce that we are working on a major update to our district and school websites. After five years with our current design, it's time to refresh and improve these platforms to better serve our students, families, and staff.



The new websites will feature a modern design, be fully mobile-friendly, and include enhanced tools for easily finding important information. With a simpler layout, visitors will be able to quickly access school news, event calendars, and district resources.

We anticipate launching the updated district website before the start of the next school year. As we approach the rollout, we will share more details about the exciting new features you can expect.



GRILLING FOR GROWTH

Morgan Hill Unified School District extends its heartfelt appreciation to MOHI Food & Wine for their generous donation of \$34,621.67 to the Morgan Hill Education Foundation. These funds were raised during the Grilling for Growth food event, held in October in downtown Morgan Hill.

This special event, featuring celebrity chefs, brought the community together to enjoy great food while supporting education. The proceeds will directly benefit the Live Oak High School Culinary Arts pathway, providing students with opportunities to develop their skills and explore careers in the culinary industry. In addition to the donation, the program also received a Big Green Egg, a high-quality ceramic grill that will enhance hands-on learning experiences for culinary students.

Thank you to MOHI Food & Wine, the event organizers, our student volunteers, our Student Nutrition Department, and everyone who participated. Your support helps create meaningful opportunities for students and strengthens educational programs in our district.

LOS PASEOS ELEMENTARY HOSTS ENGAGING MATH NIGHT WITH THE JULIE ROBINSON MATH FOUNDATION

Los Paseos Elementary School recently hosted a dynamic and interactive Math Night in partnership with the Julie Robinson Math Foundation, bringing families together to celebrate the joy of math. Students and parents engaged in hands-on activities designed to build problem-solving skills, strengthen number sense, and foster a love for learning through exploration and play.



At Los Paseos, we believe in creating a culture of math learners, where students and families work together to build confidence and curiosity in mathematics. Events like Math Night provide a valuable opportunity for parents to experience the excitement of math alongside their children, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and real-world problem-solving.



Thank you to the Julie Robinson Math Foundation for helping us create a joyful and engaging evening of learning for our school community!



NORDSTROM 4TH GRADERS EXPERIENCE GOVERNMENT IN ACTION AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Nordstrom Elementary 4th graders enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Sacramento on February 14. They received a special tour of the Senate floor, gaining a firsthand look at California's government in action.

The students were welcomed by Assembly Member Gail Pellerin, with the marquee proudly displaying, "Assembly Member Pellerin Welcomes 4th Grade Students from Nordstrom Elementary School." The visit provided an engaging and educational opportunity for students to see government in action, reinforcing lessons learned in the classroom about state history and civic engagement.

Nordstrom Elementary thanks all who made this memorable experience possible!

BARRETT STUDENTS FEEL THE BEAT OF TAIKO DRUMMING

March is *Music in Our Schools Month*, a time to celebrate the power of music education and its impact on student learning. Barrett Elementary recently brought this celebration to life by welcoming San Jose Taiko for an electrifying drumming assembly that combined powerful rhythms with dynamic movement.

Students were immersed in the energy and artistry of taiko drumming, experiencing firsthand how music and motion come together in this traditional Japanese art form.



Students had the exciting opportunity to join the drummers on stage, feeling the rhythm and power for themselves. This interactive experience sparked enthusiasm and curiosity, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for the art of taiko drumming and the role of music in cultural traditions.

EL TORO BULL RUN: FUN, FITNESS, AND FUNDRAISING

El Toro held its annual Kettle Corn Yearbook Fundraiser.

El Toro conducts fundraisers throughout the school year to raise money to provide every student and staff member with a free yearbook at the end of the school year. The Kettle Corn fundraiser is the biggest fundraiser and the students sold over \$14,000 worth of Kettle Corn! A huge shoutout and thank you to Ms. Lisa Mlceli for organizing all of the fundraisers to continue this tradition of providing all El Toro Bulls with a free yearbook each year!

The annual El Toro Bull Run brought students, families, and the community together for a fun-filled day of running and school spirit. Staff and students walked, jogged, and ran while raising funds to enhance their learning opportunities. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and donated. Your support makes a difference, and we look forward to another great Bull Run next year!



JAMM AT YMCA CAMP CAMPBELL'S SCIENCE CAMP

Jackson Academy of Math & Music (JAMM) 5th graders had an unforgettable week at YMCA Camp Campbell's Science Camp, immersing themselves in hands-on learning and outdoor adventures.

Throughout the week, students engaged in exciting activities such as archery, guided trail hikes, and an interactive animal habitat class. Evenings were filled with fun, including a game show activity that brought plenty of laughter and teamwork. This enriching experience allowed students to deepen their appreciation for nature while creating lasting memories with their classmates.



"SÍ SE PUEDE" WEEK AT SAN MARTIN GWINN

San Martin Gwinn celebrated "Sí se puede" Week, which is Spanish for 'Yes, you can' or more literally "Yes, it can be done" which is the motto for the United Farmworkers of America. This week is a powerful celebration of perseverance, resilience, and community!

Throughout the week, students engage in activities that honor Cesar Chavez's legacy, emphasizing hard work, unity, and the belief that anything is possible with dedication and determination. They started the week off with an inspiring assembly and held a beautification day after school, and a schoolwide march.

This special week instills confidence, leadership, and a strong sense of social responsibility in our students. They learn the importance of standing up for what is right, working together to create positive change, and never giving up on their dreams.





P.A. WALSH RECEIVES GRANT FOR BILINGUAL BOOKS

P.A. Walsh STEAM Academy students are celebrating a \$1,000 grant from the Morgan Hill Rotary to enhance their bilingual libraries. This funding will provide diverse and engaging reading materials in both English and Spanish, supporting literacy development and celebrating bilingualism.

PARADISE VALLEY STUDENTS SUPPORT HEART HEALTH AWARENESS

In February, Paradise Valley Engineering Academy leadership students selected the American Heart Association as their first of two community service projects. Their efforts have raised over \$5,000 to support heart health research and education.



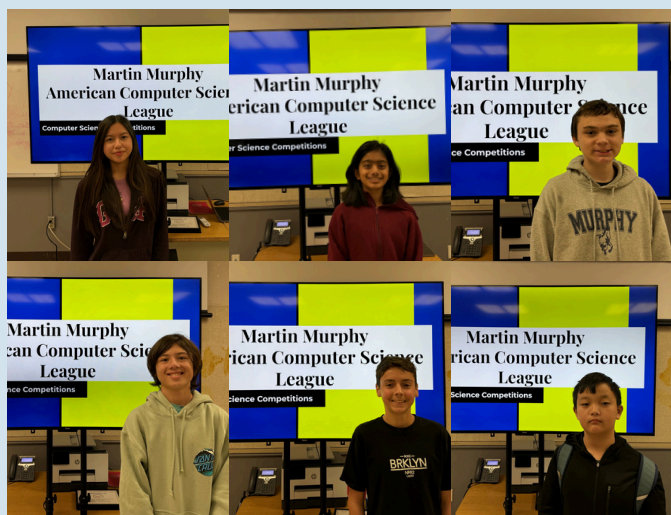
This project highlights the power of student leadership, community service, and the importance of heart health education. Way to go, PV!

MARTIN MURPHY STUDENTS EXCEL IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, AND BEYOND

Martin Murphy students continue to make history and shine in competitions and educational experiences.



A special congratulations to Qualinanna (Annie) Huynh, who became the first girl in school history to win the Santa Clara Girls County Championship in her weight class. Her hard work and determination are an inspiration to student-athletes across our district.



Our **American Computer Science League** teams competed in Contest #1 in December, facing off against teams from across the United States and around the world, including Canada, Peru, Romania, and Korea. The morning team scored 35 out of 36 points, while the afternoon team scored 34 out of 36 points.

Shout out to 8th grader Ellio Law, 7th grader Brady Scatena, and 6th grader Vash Hungerford, who earned perfect scores in both the written and programming portions of the competition. Congratulations also to 8th graders Andrew Cwajbaum and Natalie Pang, along with 6th grader Aarya Dhane, for achieving perfect scores in the programming portion.

The students recently completed Contest #3, with four students earning perfect scores in programming. Among them, Aarya Dhane, Vash Hungerford, and Andrew Cwajbaum achieved perfect scores overall for the contest. Notably, Vash Hungerford has maintained a streak of excellence, earning perfect scores in both Contest #1 and Contest #2 as well. Their dedication and problem-solving skills continue to set a high standard in the competition. Congratulations to all on these outstanding achievements!



Our Mustangs also stood out at the recent Coyote Valley MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition, a national contest. Congratulations to Jacqueline Shin and Aarya Dhane for placing in the top 25%. These students showcased their problem-solving skills and represented Murphy with pride.

Whether in athletics, computer science, or math, Murphy students continue to excel. ***Keep up the great work, Mustangs!***

BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES SUCCESS

BOYS BASKETBALL WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the Britton Middle School 8th grade boys basketball team and coaching staff. These boys once again had a stellar season, winning their second consecutive league championship! Their season record was 9-2 and they took home the hardware after winning the game vs. Rancho Milpitas, 50-43.



STEAM FAIR INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS

The Britton Student Union was buzzing with excitement during the recent well-attended STEAM Fair, organized by the South Valley Science and Engineering Initiative. Students and families gathered for a day of hands-on science activities, exploring everything from robotics and chemistry to engineering and space exploration. Students had the opportunity to experiment, problem-solve, and discover new interests in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.



CELEBRATING LIVE OAK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Live Oak High School continues to be a beacon of excellence, with students consistently earning well-deserved recognition for their hard work.

- **Alina Cabrera Jarquin:** Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley Youth of the Year. This prestigious honor acknowledges her exceptional leadership, service, and commitment to academic excellence.
- **Autumn Mongaray:** Won second place in the Morgan Hill Rotary Speech Contest Rotary Speech Contest. Autumn took with her inspiring speech, "Service Above Self," highlighted the power of student voice and the importance of giving back to the community.



In addition to these individual achievements, many Live Oak students received Academic Awards, demonstrating their commitment to learning and success. These awards reflect Live Oak's strong focus on academic excellence and the students' dedication to achieving their goals. Congratulations to all the students who have made this year so remarkable so far!





ANN SOBRATO BULLDOGS SHINE WITH OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce named Ann Sobrato drama teacher Christopher DeMelo as Educator of the Year for his dedication to the performing arts. Student Ethan Lai was honored as Student of the Year for his leadership and hard work in academics and beyond.

Assistant Principal Frankie Kellett was also recognized as Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year by ACSA Region 8 for her commitment to student success.

Congratulations to the students who earned national recognition from the College Board for their academic achievements and performed well on College Board Assessments such as PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, or AP exams. We are proud of these Bulldogs and their contributions to the school and community!



CENTRAL HIGH STUDENTS CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIP AND KINDNESS



Students at Central High School gathered in the Wellness Center for a heartwarming Valentine's celebration. They enjoyed sweet treats while making handmade valentines to share with friends, family, and loved ones. The event provided a space for creativity, connection, and appreciation, reinforcing the importance of community and well-being.



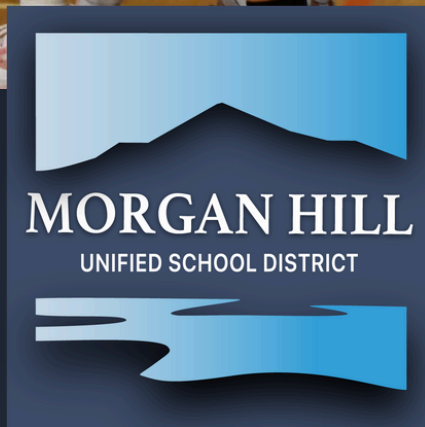
The Wellness Center continues to be a welcoming place for students to relax, express themselves, and support one another. Events like these highlight the positive impact of fostering kindness and belonging on campus.

Great job, Central students, for spreading love and appreciation!



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!





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