

COMMUNITY CORNER

Developing Responsible, Respectful and Prepared Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 2, 2025

Banning GATE Students Step Back in Time with Hands-On Fossil Experience

BANNING, CA — Nearly 70 Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students from Cabazon, Central, Hemmerling, and Hoffer Elementary Schools recently took a journey back to prehistoric times during an exciting, hands-on learning experience held at the Cabazon campus on Thursday, March 6.

The Western Science Center brought a special presentation to Banning students, led by Dr. Brett Dooley and Education Specialist Reggie Sauls. Students had the opportunity to examine dozens of real and recreated fossils, including mastodons, giant sloths, and saber-toothed cats—prehistoric animals whose remains were uncovered in the Temecula Valley during the excavation of Diamond Valley Lake in 1995.

In addition to exploring ancient fossils, students rotated through engaging STEM-based activities, including science games and interactive coding lessons. The event offered a dynamic blend of history, science, and technology, enriching the educational journey of participating students.

This experience reflects Banning Unified School District’s ongoing commitment to fostering curiosity and providing high-quality enrichment opportunities that inspire every student to reach their full potential.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Hoffer Elementary students participate in an online activity.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Cabazon Elementary students explore and document their findings from a hands-on learning activity.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Central Elementary students demonstrating hands-on learning experiences.

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