

Ontario-Montclair

School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Over the past four years De Anza Middle school 7th grade students have engaged in a fundraising effort to help children and families from the Sudan get closer access to clean water for drinking, cooking, and daily living. Thanks to donations totaling over \$5,000, De Anza Middle School students have contributed enough money to nonprofit organization Water for Sudan to fund one fully-functional well.

Four years ago, De Anza Middle School seventh grade English Language Arts and Social Studies teachers designed a Project-Based Learning (PBL) instructional unit aligned to the book, "A Long Walk to Water." The book describes life in the South Sudan from the point of view of children. The young boy featured in the book grew up to establish "Water for Sudan" to support children and families in his community. As part of the project, students have raised funds in a variety of ways, with all money donated to the organization.

"De Anza students have learned how their education can empower them to take action, and that action can impact the world in a positive way. The Board of Trustees could not be more proud of these young students," said Board President Elvia M. Rivas.

"This achievement is the result of high levels of collaboration on the part of our staff and students, and it is only the beginning of the amazing ways that the De Anza Middle School community will influence the world," stated De Anza Middle School Principal Dr. Adriana Gonzales.

The City of Ontario will be honoring and recognizing the De Anza Middle School students and educators on their fundraising efforts to provide a well for Sudan at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. De Anza Middle School staff and students will be in attendance to accept the recognition and to share information on their project.

"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"