TORRANCE
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE & MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 29, 2025

THREE LOCAL SOUTH BAY ROTARY SERVICE CLUBS JOIN TOGETHER TO BRING THE DICTIONARY PROJECT TO TORRANCE UNIFIED STUDENTS

TORRANCE, CA – Starting this week, local Rotarians will deliver the gift of a brand-new dictionary to every Torrance Unified School District third-grade student. The project is led by the **Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise** (24335) and sponsored as a joint effort between two additional local Rotary Clubs: **Rotary Club of Torrance Del Amo** (762) and **Rotary Club of West Torrance** (746) and distributed through the Dictionary Project, a nationwide nonprofit who has assisted in the distribution of **37,104,245** dictionaries since the project began.

In the age of AI, automatic spellcheck, and Google, the dictionary might seem like a relic of the past; however, as the champions of our recent Elementary Spelling Bee can attest, knowing how to use a dictionary properly is still a key literacy foundation. The gifted dictionaries will help students equitably learn a myriad of skills, including how to spell correctly, discover new words, read through multiple meanings for each word, and practice the proper pronunciation of words.

Rotarians believe in the magic that comes from a student having the ability to flip through and explore a physical book, where they can serendipitously discover words that they may not have thought to look up on Google and don't have to worry about encountering any words or definitions that are not appropriate for children.

"*We are very pleased to be able to offer this gift and deliver the dictionaries in person to all 17 elementary schools. Our club members feel the project's mission is aligned closely with our desire to encourage students to become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners*," explains **Rotary Club of South Bay Sunrise President, Pat Sandt**.

INVITATION TO MEDIA

WHAT:	**Rotary Dictionary Distribution**
WHO:	**Rotarian Volunteers** All third-grade students at **Hickory Elementary School**
WHEN:	**Monday, February 3, 2025 -** (Confirming with Rotary and School)
WHERE:	**Hickory Elementary School** 2800 W. 227th Street Torrance, CA 90505

HIGHLIGHTS & PHOTO OPS:	• Rotarian volunteers presenting the dictionaries to third-grade students • Students using the dictionaries in class • Group photos and thank yous
INTERVIEWS:	• Rotary President **Pat Sandt** • Torrance Unified Spokesperson **Director of Communications Sara Myers** • **Students and teachers**, *upon request and media releases*

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Torrance Unified School District: Empowering Every Student, Every Day

Torrance Unified School District strives to ensure that each and every student is prepared to succeed in life. Our team is dedicated to maximizing individual potential and developing lifelong learners who will be contributing members of our global society.

Today, Torrance Unified proudly serves over 21,500 students, offering a wide array of educational opportunities across 17 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, and 4 high schools, in addition to 1 continuation and 1 alternative high school. Our reach extends even further into the community through our preschools and 3 adult school campuses, reinforcing our commitment to lifelong learning and educational accessibility for all ages.

At the core of our identity are our shared values—diversity & inclusion, health & safety, innovation, and lifelong learning. These principles guide us in creating an environment where every student is empowered, every day—a commitment to elevate, inspire, and transform lives through the power of education.

For more information about the Torrance Unified School District and our programs, please visit our website **tusd.org** or contact our office directly.