

Golden Spotlight:

Our Golden Spotlight recipient this evening is so highly regarded in our community that I received testimonials from current and former staff at Meadowlark Elementary.

Barry Nolan has been volunteering at Meadowlark for many years, but he is more than just a volunteer, he is a member of the Meadowlark family. Mr. Nolan, or as he is referred to by many, “Grandpa Barry” gives of his time and expertise to support staff and students. He spends multiple days a week at Meadowlark and his smile brightens our hallways. He supports staff with technology. He has supported our staff in the library, training teachers to use the library equipment and assisting with keeping the library neat and organized and ready for student use. He reads to classes and ML students enjoy his creative readings and his kindness toward all. Grandpa Barry is kind, caring, intelligent, and loved by staff and students alike. Meadowlark is so fortunate to have such an amazing individual supporting our community.

When seeking to spotlight the contributions of Grandpa Barry Nolan to the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District, we had to rely on the collective memories of many long term employees and retired teachers because Grandpa Barry has been volunteering his time and expertise since 1998 when his grandson was in Mrs. Marrone’s kindergarten class. He is one of the longest standing figures in our district, and if he was an employee, he would be 3rd on our district seniority list.

After Mrs. Marrone’s class, he continued volunteering in classrooms for all of his other grandchildren, all the while finding new ways to support the school

When the district could no longer fund a librarian, Barry took on that role to ensure that kids had access to library books and the Accelerated Reader Program. When we began to increase devices and student technology, Barry was instrumental in supporting the roll out and maintenance of devices. When Agua Dulce School closed, he continued volunteering at Meadowlark and High Desert. If something wasn’t working, he would fix it. Nothing is ever impossible when we have the assistance of Grandpa Barry Nolan. This stands to reason, a long, long time ago, in a galaxy not so far away, George Lucas turned to him and asked if he could possibly make a sword that would light up..

When asked to recall Barry's contributions, retired teacher Ms. Readmond said, "... that he was fun, caring, and a grandfather added such richness to our class. I salute him for all the ways he enriched the lives of the children and teachers." I think we can all echo her sentiment, all of our lives have been enriched by the contributions of Grandpa Barry.

How does one encapsulate the contributions of Barry Nolan to the students and faculty of Acton Agua Dulce Unified School District? Grandpa Barry, who is now Great Grandpa Barry, is a part of the fabric of our district, somebody who continues to leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of students and teachers. We are blessed to have such a generous, talented, and humble man gifting us with his time, energy, and expertise; we are all better for having him in our lives.

Superintendent report for November 10, 2021:

This evening I will be focusing in on two strategic initiatives: Effective Instruction and Leadership, and Community Engagement.

Effective Instruction and Leadership:

- On November 1st we held our second Professional Development for both certificated and classified staff. PD day, agenda items
I'd like to thank our PD Council for their countless hours in preparation of such a productive day. Kim Shaw, Nicole Chun, Michelle Van Ornum, Alexa Lepp, Chip Krolic, and Nicole Salsedo.
I'd also like to thank our Keynote Speaker, Mr. James Klipfel California Teacher of the Year for 2021;
Some of the PD offerings included:
Trauma Informed Practices;
Classified Staff De-Escalation;
SEIS Training;
Supporting Students on Quarantine;
and Nearpod, Social-Emotional Learning.
- Makerspace:
Cabinet and I toured Palmdale SD's Makerspace labs on October 29th in the late afternoon. Makerspace is a space designed and dedicated to hands-on

creativity. That space looks different in different classrooms, and even within one classroom, the materials might look different throughout the year, depending on the type of learning that's occurring at the time. Sometimes it might include things like cardboard and duct tape, and other times it might consist of items like laptops, microphones, and green screens. A makerspace can take the form of a mobile cart that can be shared between classrooms, a set of stations that students rotate between.

Possible funding sources are being looked into for one Makerspace lab at Meadowlark ES.

I'd like to publicly thank Palmdale School District's superintendent, Mr. Raul Maldonado and his team for being so gracious with their time.

- On November 4th, HDS had the Paxton Patterson Lab Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tour.

The Paxton/Patterson - College & Career Ready Lab Ribbon Cutting. The lab will provide college and career preparation for our students at High Desert. The lab engages students with problem-based, real-world technology. It empowers our students to discover their interests and aptitudes, along the pathway to postsecondary success. The programs concentrate on STEM Education, Health Science Careers, and Architecture & Construction.

These work-based and problem-solving units will provide students an opportunity to hone in on their interests and skills.

High Desert students who were at each station in the lab during the tour were articulate, engaging, and passionate about the activities they were demonstrating. They did a wonderful job.

- Parental involvement in decisions regarding the education of their children is critical to student's academic success. The District English Learner Advisory Committee or DELAC for short is an advisory group that reviews and comments on key aspects of our district's English Learner program such as reclassification and outreach efforts to parents of English Learners.

In addition, the purpose of the DELAC is to advise the district's local governing board on programs and services for English learners.

A robust DELAC committee met on November 2nd at District Office, from 8:30-10:00 am. Topics covered at our first meeting included:

- The roles of DELAC President, Vice-President, and Secretary
- Updates to the District's EL Master Plan. An updated EL Master Plan, once complete, will be presented to the Board.

Community Engagement:

- The first Virtual Coffee with the Superintendent will be held on Monday, November 15th at 10 am.
- This community invitation will help support the facilitation of communication efforts, district initiatives, and questions from the community at large. Again, Kick-off date is 11/15 at 10 am. The virtual meetings will be held bi-monthly. The zoom link can be found on the flyer itself.

Thank you, this concludes my report for this evening.

COVID Report:

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. 1,173 news cases as reported to LACDPH for November 7th as compared to 679 new cases for October 25th as reported at our last board meeting.

The testing positivity rate a 7-day average for the week of October 31st is at .99% as compared to the week of October 18th which came in at .82%.

The percentage of individuals tested with a diagnostic COVID test since the week of October 31st is at 139,443 compared to the week of October 18th which came in at 145,254.

- I would like to remind our families, the importance of a self-check at home prior to students arriving on campus. Please look for symptoms such as a cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you believe your child may be

experiencing these symptoms, please contact your school site for additional guidance.

Thank you, this concludes the COVID report.