



ACTON-AGUA DULCE USD "IN THE LOOP"

APRIL 2022



A "Q & A" with Meadowlark's New Principal, Mrs. Moynihan!



Q: Welcome to AADUSD! You come to Meadowlark with vast experience as an educator. What was your previous positions in education?

I was a special education teacher for 10 years, a special education program specialist for 2 years and the director of student support services for 2 years. I am so excited to be back on campus with students.

Q: What attracted you to education as a career?

I have always enjoyed working with children. I believe that all students can learn and I had a passion for working with students with special needs. As I advanced in my career it has become a goal to support inclusive practices, making sure every child is valued for their special talents.

Q: What led you to move into administration?

I wanted to help inspire other educators to help them gain their full potential. I also wanted to bridge the gap between general education and special education by promoting a spirit of inclusion.

Q: What attracted you to the Meadowlark principal job?

My first teaching experience was in Agua Dulce. I was excited to see a principalship open at Meadowlark. I feel like I have come home.

Q: What has been your impression of Meadowlark so far?

I love Meadowlark! Meadowlark has such a great staff who is truly interested in making sure every child is safe and is academically challenged. I have been incredibly welcomed by the school community and am excited as I begin this venture in my career.

Q: Could you tell us what your main day-to-day responsibilities are?

My main goal everyday is to have staff feel supported when problems arise. When teachers and staff feel supported they are better able to provide a welcoming nurturing environment for their students to learn in.

Q: Is there anything miscellaneous you'd like to share about yourself – family, interests outside of your job, favorite books, movies, sports teams, etc.?

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my family.



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Acton Agua Dulce USD would like to express its gratitude to all AADUSD educators, administrators, staff and community partners for ensuring high achievement for all learners. The District continues to provide innovative programs in support of student achievement through the introduction of new partnerships which include Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Antelope Valley College Dual Enrollment offerings for our high school students, the opening of a new Paxton Patterson CTE exploration lab, and the addition of Project Lead the Way. AADUSD will continue to reach new levels of success for our students with communication, persistence, and collaboration.

"As AADUSD's superintendent, I am truly inspired by the acts of kindness and resilience that are demonstrated throughout the community. Together we will continue to nurture and support our future leaders."

- Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

**TAKE
THE NEXT
STEP**
& ENROLL ONLINE TODAY!
[ENROLL.AADUSD.ORG](https://enroll.aadusd.org)

NEW AADUSD
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

**Enroll
Now**

- Project Lead The Way
- AVID Program
- Paxton Patterson
- AV College Dual Enrollment
- Makerspace: An Innovative Lab
- LA County Arts Ed Collective
- Parent Ambassadors



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Multiple Tiered Academic Interventions: Academic supports for students

MTSS (Multiple Tiered Systems of Support) Targeted Interventions and Additional Supports Initiated by MTSS Team (Assistant Superintendent, Counseling, TOSAs- Teachers On Special Assignment, and Site Administrators)

- District wide Universal Screener to identify areas for growth in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math
- District wide Self Screener for CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) Core Competencies
- SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) lessons embedded into weekly classroom instruction
- SOAR literacy intervention at the elementary school
 - Screening Data: grk, gr1, gr2, gr3, gr4
- Math intervention and support at the middle school
 - Due to staffing this has been adjusted, however instructional continuity will be maintained by continuing having math classes taught by the TOSA
- Designated ELD (English Language Development) classes at all three sites
- This year the team, EL TOSA and Bilingual aides, is working to ensure that all EL students are tested- ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) before spring break.
- EL (English Language) Team also working to complete the Redesignation process and monitor students' progress
- After School Tutoring at Vasquez High School
- Fully teacher supported independent study
- Information and Professional Development for Tier 1 supports in general education classrooms
- UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Support Platforms including Text Help and Immersive Reader.

Questions, please contact Ms. Kim Shaw- Assistant Superintendent at kshaw@aadusd.k12.ca.us



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Vasquez HS Athletics: Going Strong



CONGRATULATIONS Randy Sanchez, Walla Walla University NAIA Athletic Intent of Signing Day! Best wishes to Randy and family. Job well done VHS Soccer Coach- Coach Zorba. AADUSD proud!



Softball is having an amazing year so far. They are 13-3 and in first place in their league. They have an excellent chance at repeating as league champs. Baseball is 10-2-1 and is currently tied for first.

Track and swim have started their season and all the athletes have improved on their personal best times. The boys' 200 freestyle relay team has qualified for CIF prelims.

Football has already started spring practices.

Basketball is playing in a summer league for the first time in ten years.

Students are working hard and are striving to get better. They are putting in the effort. Go Mustangs!



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High Desert Athletics: Going Strong



The winter sport student-athletes at High Desert were thrilled to be back in action after a long covid shut down. The girls soccer team, led by coach Ashley Goble, capped off another successful season on the pitch. They continued their winning ways in league play and battled against SOAR Prep in an exciting Silver League Championship game! The boys soccer team made history by qualifying for the Silver League Championship Tournament for the first time since joining the league in 2018. Under the tutelage of coaches Brando and Braulio Barron, the Hawks earned a #3 seed and competed against SOAR Prep, the #2 seed, under the lights at Vasquez High School. The future looks bright for the soccer program!

As the sun set on the soccer season, basketball hit the ground running. Coached by Steve Van Ornum and Mari McLaws, along with Mustang Mentors Brody Villasenor and Max Weir, the Hawk hoopsters have been working hard to fine tune their craft. Set plays, free throws, in-bound passes, dribbling, and passing skills are being put on display weekly during Silver League games. Go Hawks!



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Counseling Corner: Welcome Ms. Bambi Ballesteros



Meadowlark Elementary is pleased to introduce Bambi Ballesteros. Bambi is a school counselor who comes with an extensive background in education. Bambi has worked in the field of education in a variety of settings over the past 15 years. She has experience as a School Counselor (General Ed, DIS Counseling and College Counseling), Child Development Specialist, teacher, ABA therapist and Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant.

Bambi grew up in Glendale and moved to Santa Clarita in her 20's. She attended Glendale Community College, College of the Canyons, Chapman University and the University of La Verne. She Graduated with her Masters in Educational Counseling in 2010.

In the month that Bambi has been at Meadowlark she has started in-class, literacy based, social emotional lessons for all grades. She is meeting with each class, reading a book and presenting lessons on various topics such as identifying feelings, making mistakes, respect and honesty.



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Counseling Corner: Welcome Ms. Bambi Ballesteros, continued



Additionally, she has started grade specific, lunch bunch groups to address topics such as making and keeping friends, conflict resolution and growth mindset. The students come during lunch and gain skills through the use of games, discussion and fun activities.

The Counselors Office is open during recess and breaks for the student to drop in and do art, play a game, learn to mediate a conflict, or practice mindfulness. The students really enjoy coming into the office and appreciate having a safe space to talk about accomplishments, anything that might be bothering them, or challenges they are facing.

When not at work Bambi enjoys spending time with her Husband and three children. They enjoy cooking together, watching movies, building legos and trips to Disneyland.

"In the Loop" is AADUSD's monthly communication piece

For more information, please reach out to Dr. Eric Sahakian, AADUSD Superintendent at esahakian@aadusd.k12.ca.us



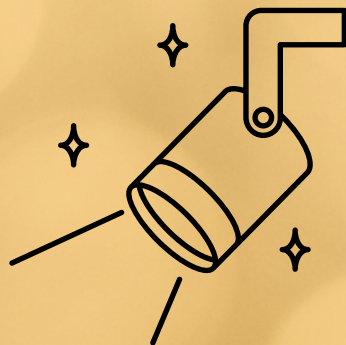
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VHS PTO Highlights

VHS PTSO had the honor of providing another staff luncheon in which StoneFire Grill delivered boxed lunches and desserts were provided by 'With Love' baking company in the form of cookies, cupcakes and chocolate-covered pretzels. Additionally, PTSO is working in collaboration with ASB to provide a Spring Festival event for the community on April 9th in which families can enjoy a day of games, food, raffles and music; there will be a variety of song and dance numbers ranging from folk music to violin to hip-hop! A weird science table will be set-up for kids to enjoy some fun with slime! And.... a very special bunny will be available for photographs! -- VHS PTSO Better Together!



VHS: Mark Your Calendar

Vasquez HS will be hosting a variety of events. If appropriate, VHS hopes you will consider attending and learning more about its program offerings:

*Wednesday, May 25th @ 6:00 PM, counselors and administration will provide a presentation for ALL interested 9th graders and ALL INTERESTED transfer students and their families. Program options, expectations, clubs, and athletics will be shared. Should you have a student who is interested in transferring to VHS, please e-mail the principal at mmurphy@aadusd.k12.ca.us. Tours are scheduled regularly.

*Thursday, June 2nd @ 6:00 PM, Night of the Stars Awards Ceremony

Similarly, as COVID restrictions have been lifted, 11th and 12th grade students will be expected to take the CAASPP Exam. 11th graders will take all areas of the exam, including English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. 12th graders will be required to take only the Science portion. Testing is scheduled to occur during the week of April 24th.



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High Desert Showcased

HDS Celebrates February Citizenship - PBIS: Hoops 4 Heart

On February 25th, students who maintained great citizenship during the month of February were able to participate in Hoops for Heart. The event including jump rope, volleyball, basketball, tug-of-war, and pickleball. Students had a great time playing cooperatively and celebrating their hard work during the month of February. We are excited to see the motivation of the students to stay active and participate in activities. Huge thanks to Mrs. Maddux and the ASB students for all of their hard work in making the event such a great success!



HDS is a School to Watch

On March 11th, HDS hosted a celebration assembly about all of the great programs happening in our schools. We celebrated programs in our school that are replicable practices and would be models for other schools to use: Medal of Honor Program, PBIS, Science Olympiad, 100-Mile Club, Dance Force, ASMO Music, Keyboarding, Handbells, and electives like: Creative Writing, CTE Lab, ASB, Yearbook, Art, and Study Skills. Special thank you to all of the staff members for their above and beyond efforts to make the day a huge success. Our students shined in their performances and represented themselves and our school well. Thank you for being incredible.

Performances included:

- Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble
- Keyboarding
- ASMO Music
- Dance Force



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High Desert Showcased, continued



Engineer's Week Inspiring Our Hawks

Lockheed Partners with HDS during Engineer's Week

On March 7th, Lockheed Engineers Ray Harris and Bill Schneider shared the use of math and science in building and designing new projects. The engineering-based presentation showcased a variety of options for exploring exciting professions based on careers in aerospace, electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering. Students engaged with videos and hands-on experiments with the support of these phenomenal engineers. Thank you also to pilot, Brian Dawson, for the drone footage and supporting the activity. The Ruben's Flame Tube showed acoustic resonance and wavelengths of music. It was a truly inspiring experience!





Launching in 2022-2023!

AADUSD's Parent Ambassadors:



Q & A

1 What is an ambassador program?



A Parent Ambassador program is an effective way for schools to take their natural advocates, or natural promoters- the people who already are talking about the school/school district and spreading positive word of mouth- and give them tools and processes that make them even more effective.

2 Who should ideally be involved in an ambassador program?



There are two groups that should be involved. Parent and alumni. Out of the groups, alumni ambassadors are often the most underutilized. However they can definitely bring a lot of value to the program. They can speak to the outcomes they've had as a result of attending our schools. They can also answer a question that a lot of prospective families have, which is "what's in it for me?"

3 Why are ambassador programs so important for schools?



The number one reason they're so important is that, for most schools, word of mouth is the number one way that new and prospective families find out and inquire about a school. The other reason they're effective is that our ambassadors will have the ability to authentically communicating the unique values of our schools and school district.

4 What criteria did you use to select ambassadors?



We have many parents who are already doing much of the work of an ambassador. We want to take these efforts and organize them by providing clear strategies and goals and enabling them to see additional successes through their efforts.

5 What roles and responsibilities have you given your parent ambassadors?



Our parent ambassadors may be involved in the following areas: Broad Community Relations, Realtor Relations, and Broad Retention/Recruitment. Additional topics to be determined.

At the meetings, support will be provided by the district office in order to enhance communication along with the necessary tools to be successful.

6 How do you become an ambassador?



Parents and alumni may reach out to the contact below to be placed on an interest list.

Stay tuned for more information!

To be placed on the interest list, please reach out to Yolanda McCauley at ymccauley@aadusd.k12.ca.us



**ACTON AGUA DULCE USD
INVITES YOU!**

"TUESDAY TALK" WITH YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Zoom meet link:

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3547587989?
pwd=T1A2VTQrbTM5T0t5OTRrc3l0aTdKQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3547587989?pwd=T1A2VTQrbTM5T0t5OTRrc3l0aTdKQT09)**

**- FEATURED GUEST: Ms. Ellen
Sanchez, LACDPH Program
Manager**

**- DISCUSSION TOPIC:
Wellbeing Center Initiative**

- Q & A

All are welcome!

Mark your calendar

Be sure to bring questions, a coffee, and a snack while you Zoom!

Weird Science
Table



Disney Theme



Live Performances



Vasquez High School Spring Festival

Where: Vasquez High School

When: Saturday, April 9th

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Food Trucks

Raffles

Photo Booth

Games

Prizes

Freshman Theme



Senior Theme



**STAR
WARS
LAND**

FRONTIERLAND

Sophomore Theme



Junior Theme

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VHS PTSO in partnership with VHS ASB