



ACTON-AGUA DULCE USD "IN THE LOOP"

SEPTEMBER 2022



Opening of Schools: 2022-2023

Welcome Back! With the addition of new AADUSD signature programs such as Paxton Patterson Lab, Project Lead The Way, Paper Online 24/7 Tutoring, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), we are seeing the many diverse ways our students demonstrate their wonder, discovery, and talents. Kudos to all AADUSD certificated and classified staff for a successful opening of schools!



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

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LACOE 2022 Teacher of the Year

The 2022 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year is an honors competition to spotlight teaching excellence and exemplary professionalism in public education.

The competition is the largest of its kind in the state and is part of the oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public school teachers.

The Teacher of the Year program, which features an annual luncheon recognition each September for all participants, is designed to provide much-deserved recognition for teachers. Those selected by LACOE as County Teachers of the Year—educators who have shown exemplary dedication, compelling classroom practices, positive accomplishments and professional commitment—serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 72,000 classroom colleagues countywide.

On September 23rd our very own Ms. Alexa Lepp (Vasquez HS and High Desert) was honored as part of the TOP 16 teachers in Los Angeles County.

We are so very proud of you, Ms. Lepp!



(L to R: Dr. Eric Sahakian, Mrs. Alexa Lepp, Dr. Paula Chamberlain, Mrs. Kimberlee Shaw)

"I am thrilled to be selected as the AADUSD Teacher of the Year. I love my students, my colleagues, and the support from our community, so this is truly an honor. Also, to have been selected as a LA County Teacher of the Year... wow! I am so excited and thankful."

-Alexa Lepp, TOSA, Vasquez High School
Virtual Academy Teacher for VHS & HDS



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Meadowlark Happenings!



Ms Edeling, our new Meadowlark bilingual assistant, has been amazing! She has been hard at work translating and making connections with parents (photo above).



Ms Palacios, our reading specialist TOSA, has been hard at work assessing every student at ML to help staff make data-driven decisions about instruction (photo above).



Ms Botton and Ms Freidman, our Occupational Therapist and Adaptive PE teacher have set up a fantastic motor room at ML. All TK, K, and 1st grade students go with their teachers to work on both gross and fine motor skills. This will help all students with their penmanship, balance, and dexterity (photo to left).

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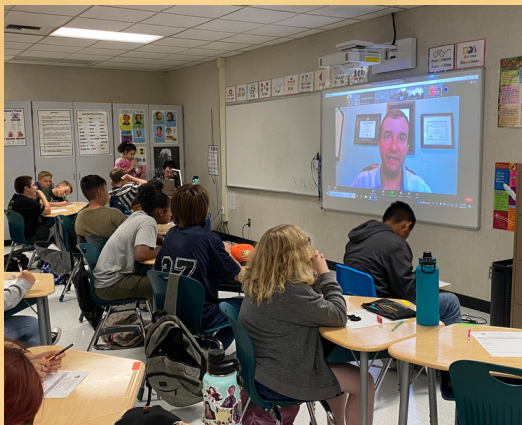


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High Desert Happenings!

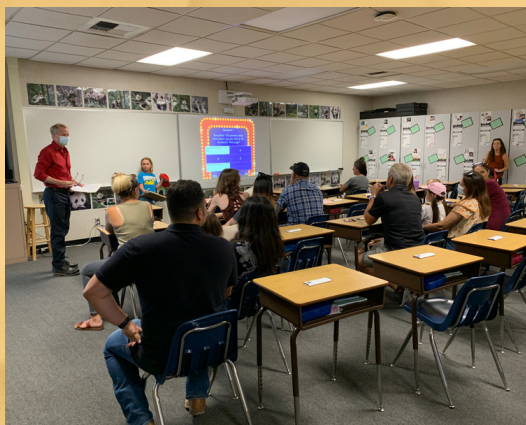


(Photo left) Medal of Honor Recipient Salvatore Giunta Shares Stories of Valor

On Friday, August 26, our High Desert Hawks were honored to participate in the live webinar specifically for our students. Medal of Honor recipient Salvatore Giunta shared his experiences and the Medal of Honor core values with our students. Staff Sgt. Giunta was the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor for service in Iraq or Afghanistan, the first living service member to be awarded the Medal of Honor since Vietnam, and the eighth service member to receive the nation's highest military decoration for valor in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are so grateful for Staff Sgt. Giunta for his service to our country and the High Desert Hawks!

High Desert Back to School Night Welcomed Families to Campus

On Thursday, September 1, our High Desert Hawks welcomed parents and families to campus for our first in-person Back to School Night since 2019. With new staff members, exciting new programs, like AVID, and many new families the night was a big success! We were able to showcase our gym, complete with banners and Hawks pride! Thank you to Agua Dulce Airport, Acton Women's Club, and Agua Dulce Women's Club for their generous donations that made our gym project possible! (photos below)





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High Desert Happenings! (continued)



(Left photo) High Desert Defeats Rival SOAR Prep On Friday, September 9, our High Desert Hawks Volleyball hosted SOAR Prep. As our top rival school, the energy in the gym was as competitive as the game. JV Girls won the first game, lost the second, and walked away with the win in the 3rd set. Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys and Girls both swept SOAR Prep., winning both games. Coaches Michelle Herman and Gina Botton are so proud of all of their teams for their hard work and success on the court! The excitement in the gym could be felt by all in our gym that is now filled with Hawks pride! Thank you to Agua Dulce Airport, Acton Women's Club, and Agua Dulce Women's Club for their generous donations that made our gym beautiful and thank you to our Athletic Director Dawn Schneider for keeping our Athletics program going to bring so much school spirit!

High Desert Hawks Family Game Night a Big Success

On Thursday, September 15, our High Desert campus Nest was filled with Hawks and their families for our first-ever Family Game Night. Students enjoyed time with each other and their family playing flag football, board games, cornhole, frisbee, exploring the obstacle course jumper, and having their faces painted. Delicious food was served courtesy of Bernie's BBQ, Kona Ice, and our incredible HDS Booster Club. ASMO teacher, Miss Emma Benatar brought out the musical games with a big range of instruments for students to play. The local 4H Club brought their own games to join in on the fun! Supported by our amazing HDS staff, the night was absolutely perfect! Thank you to High Desert Booster Club, Acton 4H, ASMO, Bernie's BBQ, Kona Ice, and the HDS Staff for working together as a community and making our first Hawks Family Game Night a big success! (photos below)





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Vasquez Happenings!

Vasquez High School is off to a great start. We started the year with a fun Spirit Week, which culminated with our first Rally. You can see the Senior poster in place for our seniors to burst onto the scene. This was followed by our first dance of the year "MORP". The dance had a great turn out with students wearing white and bright colors under the black lights. Rally #2 got VHS ready for all the floats and our Homecoming Game and Dance. Check out our Homecoming King, Dean Mathas, and Queen Melanie Rodriguez. The Homecoming Dance was a huge success and we want to thank Mathew Avila for his fantastic drum solo. It was one of the highlights of the evening.



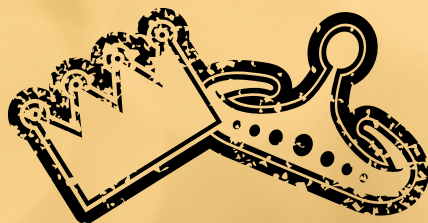


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Vasquez Happenings! (continued)





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Meadowlark PTO Highlight

September was such a fun month at Meadowlark Elementary ! Scholastic Book fair came for one full week of allowing the students to fill their minds with such great books. Meadowlark PTO hosted their very first movie night in the MPR.

It was a great success seeing all the kids and their families smiling faces. ASMO came to support and sold popcorn and the amazing ELAC group sold fresh churros and delicious nachos. Can't wait to see what's next at our amazing Elementary School!

Heather Miliotti- ML PTO President





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Meadowlark PTO Highlight (continued)



GO TEAM!





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High Desert Booster Highlight

Since the school year has started, the HDS Booster Club has been up to some amazing things. It was incredible to see all the new faces of parent volunteers at our very first meeting; we are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Sports are in full swing, with volleyball almost over and cross-country training underway. Our snack bar has been stocked and ready for each game, so we have been busy.

We held our first game night with the help of amazing community groups ELAC, ASMO, and many more. A bouncy obstacle course, flag football, and face painting were among the games we played outside. We played many indoor games as well as lotteria and board games. Additionally, we had amazing food such as BBQ and Kona ice, along with our snack bar.

We consider the night to have been a great success as a whole. It was wonderful to see everyone's joy and excitement. We look forward to another game night here soon!

Adaliz Giron- HDS Booster President





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Vasquez PTSS Highlight



"Summer ends, and autumn comes.." and PTSS is gearing up for a spectacular community-wide fall festival to kick-off the season on October 22nd. The event will feature musical acts of song and dance , food trucks, game booths, weird science table (slime and stuff), bounce houses, costume contest, pumpkin patch, raffle baskets, face painting and so much more!

Additionally, the planning of staff luncheons is underway as we continue to decorate the employee lounge as the seasons change. Our amazing volunteers are ready to assist in their areas of expertise and we are ready to serve our extraordinary teachers, staff, and students.

PTSS was able to purchase a ping pong table and foosball table for students at Vasquez through the generosity of the Agua Dulce Women's Club and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger; these items will be set-up in the near future on campus.

Together is better!

Tracy Costan, PTSS President



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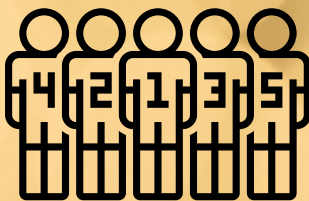
Updates from our Athletic Directors

Update from Mr. Sheldon Sparks, Athletic Director- Vasquez HS:

We are right in the middle of the football season, and even though we haven't notched our first win, we are preparing to start league play. The team has made incredible strides and progress. They have overcome some difficult challenges, and they have exhibited tremendous character and resilience. Despite a 0-3 record, the Mustangs are one of the favorites to compete for a league title.

Girls Volleyball has had an incredible season compared to past years. The team boasts more wins this season than the previous four years combined. We are currently tied for fourth in the Heritage League. Coach Wyatt Brown and Justin Coons have done an amazing job developing a young team. The future looks bright for this up-and-coming squad.

Cross country has started league play, and they picked up right where they left off last year. The girls' team has won their first two league meets and is poised to win back-to-back league championships. New coaches Mari McClaws and Molly Zorba have done an excellent job training the runners, and each runner has improved their running times over the past months.



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Updates from our Athletic Directors (continued)

Update from Ms. Dawn Schneider, Athletic Director- High Desert:

The High Desert athletic program is happy to be back to pre-Covid programming within the Silver League. All sports have returned to their previously established competitive timeline with volleyball kicking off the school year. Coach Michelle Herman is back at the helm for her 3rd season. She returns almost the entire line up from the varsity girl's championship team and varsity boys' runner up team from last year. Both teams are currently ranked #1 in the league and are undefeated. Additionally, Coach Gina Botton has taken over the development of both JV teams. She has a group of hard-working, dedicated student athletes that are eager to learn the game. If you would like to catch the Hawks in action, their last home game is on Friday, Oct. 30th beginning at 3:30 in the High Desert MPR and the Silver League Championship Tournament will be held at Vasquez High School on Tuesday, October 4th beginning at 2:30 p.m. Go Hawks!





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AADUSD Shadow Day: September 20, 2022

Shadow Day Collaborative works in unison with all three schools to provide opportunities for current and prospective parents and students to experience AADUSD programs and curriculum.

During a Shadow Day experience, students and parents will engage in activities, meet other students, and get to know staff.

Thank you to the Collaborative participants comprised of parents, staff, teachers, and community members. Thank you for your time, input, and diligence.

We kicked off the first Shadow Day event for this school year on Tuesday, September 20th.

On Tuesday, September 20th, our High Desert Hawks student athletes and their families were invited to the Vasquez High School Volleyball team match. The Hawks took a team photo with the VHS Mustangs Volleyball team! We also offered an outdoor tour of the VHS campus to our High Desert families which led up to the Hawks cheering on the VHS Mustangs!

We are thrilled and excited to be providing opportunities to build and enhance relationships across our wonderful schools. Be on the lookout for an announcement about our next event!



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Signature Program Highlighted: AVID

AVID 2022-2023 in full swing!

What is AVID?

Advancement Via Individual Determination

- Shifts schools to a more equitable, student centered approach
- Closes the opportunity gap, so that all students are prepared for college, careers, and life

Why AVID?

- Our nation's schools are full of students who possess a desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard, but many of them do not truly have the opportunity to be college ready. These are often the students who will be the first in their family to attend college and from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. AVID Secondary equips teachers and schools with what they need to help these students succeed on a path to college and career success.

AVID strategies being taught:

- Note-taking
- Organization with binder and planner usage
- Problem solving
- Advocacy skills

AADUSD AVID Implementation for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Elementary and middle school will implement AVID school-wide beginning with kindergarten
- Secondary will implement AVID for all ninth grade students
- Grades 10-12; teachers will implement AVID Strategies (WICOR) W: writing, I: inquiry; C: collaboration; O: organization; R: reading



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FALL FESTIVAL

LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

Scarecrow Alley



Saturday, October 22nd
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Vasquez High School

Haunted House



HALLOWEEN Costume CONTEST

HALLOWEEN PICTURES



Food Trucks



Raffle Baskets



Participating School Groups:

- Meadowlark PTO
- High Desert Booster Club
- Vasquez PTSO
- ASMO
- iLEAD iSupport



Game Booths



WEIRD SCIENCE



Festival inquiries: Celeste colivarez@aadusd.k12.ca.us
Register for a booth: Mari mmclaws@aadusd.k12.ca.us



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Meadowlark Elementary (PreK-4th)



High Desert Middle (5th-8th)



Vasquez High (9th-12th)



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& ENROLL ONLINE TODAY!
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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
- PAPER Online Tutoring
- Career Connections

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