

Quarterly Gold

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

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Fall reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to our first edition of "Quarterly Gold", a newsletter showcasing the accomplishments of AADUSD! I'd like to start off by sharing that it was great to see the enthusiasm of the students, teachers, and parents as our schools welcomed students back to in-person learning. I had the pleasure of visiting our schools and classrooms and was very impressed by how well our dedicated staff is creating a safe and nurturing environment for our students.

Please take a moment to "get in the know" of the many successes we have been a part of during these past couple of months thanks to our students, staff, parents, and community partners.

We're all in this together to do our best for our students and make this year a great success.

AADUSD is stronger together!
(@SuptSahakian) / Twitter

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Meadowlark ES

September 10-Spirit Day/Patriot Day:

In remembrance of and to honor every life that was taken too soon on 9/11 our staff and students wore red, white, and blue on Friday, September 10, our **Patriot Day**. We honored the first responders — firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency workers, and service members — who answered the call of duty, and the brave civilians who rushed into action to save lives that day. Their courage embodies the American spirit and resilience, and their heroism continues to inspire new generations of Americans.

"At Meadowlark, we felt it was important to show our support by wearing the colors of the American Flag."

- Principal Paula Saavedra

October 1-Awards Assembly

On this day we honor students at Meadowlark who have worked diligently in their academics and shown good character and been good examples to those around them. Three students are chosen from each class to receive either the **Super Scholar**, **Citizen of the Month**, or **Most Improved Award**. These students are a shining example of what the Meadowlark community is and can be. We are proud of all of our students and celebrate their effort and character.



High Desert MS

S - Strive to Be Your Best

With a year of isolation and distance learning behind us, High Desert teachers and students are finding ways to make meaningful connections as we return back to school. Ms. Trusel changed up her morning time block this year to include "Morning Meetings" that utilizing children's books. The goal of the morning meeting is to promote a climate of trust, academic growth, and positive behavior by beginning each day with a whole class gathering. The first theme was belonging. The teacher reads along with the students varied stories about students who struggle to belong in different situations. One little girl struggled because she did not look like other members of her family. In another book, the little boy did not fit in at school. Students are able to talk about the experiences of the characters in the story while also reflecting and applying the situations to those in their own lives. Morning meetings foster social-emotional growth, connectedness, and the building of a respectful, responsive classroom community.

O - Own Your Actions

Building community is also about teamwork. Ms. Alford Walsh and her students took on the Marshmallow Tower Design Challenge. Students worked together to build the tallest, free-standing structure in just 18 minutes using no more than 20 sticks of spaghetti and 20 mini-marshmallows. Students owned their actions as they used the design process to plan, implement, revise, and rebuild over and over until they had a design that literally rose up to the challenge. Students understood that some materials are stronger than others and that tension can affect stability and cause the structure to break. They also came to learn that even weak materials can be made stronger with good design techniques. These are all life lessons and parts of the scientific design process that helped our 7th and 8th grade science students reconnect, build a foundation and grow together as a reunited group.

A - Act Responsibly

The Acton Town Council and the Acton Agua Dulce Community have been working hard over the past few years to ensure that High Desert students have a safe path to and from school. Their efforts have included the paved path to the library, the addition of the crossing guard, and the addition of the trees lining Crown Valley Rd. just to name a few of the projects they have worked on.

R - Respect All

Students in Mr. Rowland's class return to school and found a friend waiting for them to "adopt" (stuffed toy dogs). The students made dog houses for them and they are their little buddy pets that can come to class with them since their real pets have to stay at home and can't do school with them anymore (from Distance Learning). The students named their new pets, created homes for them, and even "fed" them with coins. Similar to the way students are welcomed into class for the new school year, these pets helped them to feel welcome, provide comfort and friendship, and remind them of the importance of continuing to grow through good nutrition. Now on display in class, the dog patrol welcomes the students each day and brings a little bit of companionship and home into the classroom.

"High Desert Students and Staff returned to campus this year prepared to SOAR into in-person learning."

- Principal Michelle VanOrnum



Vasquez HS

Cross Country: 09-30-21 was the team's third meet with the coach reporting the following. "Congratulations to our GirlsTeam for another Team win today and lots of PR's (personal records). They did an awesome job!" Five members of the girls team were in the top 10: Marie Pape coming in 2nd, Haley Rudd in 3rd, Leilani McLaws in 5th, Isabella Galvez in 6th, and Emily Hounanian in 9th.

Football: Football is progressing after being plagued with quarantining. They have had two games now and are getting better with each competition.

Basketball: Both Boys and Girls basketball would like to welcome new coaches. Mario Bates for Boys Basketball and Gene Schnar for Girls Basketball. We will have more on them next time.

HOMECOMING 2.0

October 22nd at 7 PM: Homecoming Football Game

Calling all families, students, community members, and alumni! Mark your calendars for October 22nd, where our Mustangs will be playing Silver Valley High School for our rescheduled Homecoming Football Game! Before the game begins, we will have Senior Night to honor our Senior Football players. At halftime, we will have our Homecoming floats and celebrate the Senior Homecoming Court.

Gate fees (cash only) are:

- \$7 for Adults
- \$5 for Students and Children over 5
- Free for ASB, Military, Veterans, VHS Staff, and Children Under 5

Local small business truck Tacos El Dorado will partner with ASB at the football game selling food! ASB's Cantina will also be open!

"We are greatly looking forward to celebrating Homecoming 2.0! ."

- Interim Principal Dr. Paula Chamberlain

KONA ICE® IS COMING!

VASQUEZ HIGH SCHOOL DANCE

Saturday, Oct 23



KOWABUNGA

\$7.00
\$4 refills



COLOR CHANGING

\$6.00
\$3 refills



KING

\$5.00

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ADELITA'S KITCHEN FUNDRAISER

A Fundraising Effort for
Vasquez High School ASB

OCTOBER 18TH-23RD
10:30AM- 6PM | OUTSIDE
AMPM IN ACTON, CA

Present this flyer when purchasing to
give 10% of sales back to VHS ASB.

Vasquez HS (continued)

October 23rd from 7-10 PM: Homecoming 2.0 Dance

We know many were saddened that some students couldn't attend the first Homecoming Dance, so we wanted to offer another opportunity for students to celebrate Homecoming! **On October 23rd, from 7-10 PM, VHS will host a Homecoming 2.0 Dance!** Our new theme voted by students is Enchanted Forest! This dance will mainly be held outdoors, but we will also offer students indoor seating options in the gym. Reminder: masks must be worn at all times when students are indoors.

We will be serving snacks, water, and juice for free at the event. Students will also have the ability to purchase food from our local food truck, Adelita's Kitchen (accepting cash and Zelle), and Kona Ice.

Kona Ice is donating 20% of the proceeds back to Vasquez High School ASB! This time around, students can either order at the Homecoming 2.0 Dance OR pre-order what they want and pick it up at the dance by sharing their name. They will be able to **order from now until Friday, October 22nd at noon.** Access the pre-order page by clicking here:

<https://app.konaicepay.com/#//F00735>

Adelita's Kitchen is also having a week-long Homecoming 2.0 Fundraiser from October 18th-23rd! All you need to do is present the attached flyer when you order a meal, and Adelita's Kitchen will give 10% of the sales to Vasquez High School's ASB. You can find Adelita's Kitchen outside of the AMPM near High Desert School. Adelita's Kitchen is open every day (except for Wednesdays) from 10:30 AM- 6 PM. They will also be at the Homecoming 2.0 dance, so students can order dinner (they accept cash and Zelle only).

Students can see Mrs. DeHemmer in the library to purchase presale tickets; however, VHS students can also buy tickets at the door.

- Presale price w/ ASB: \$15
- Presale price w/out ASB: \$18
- \$20 at the door

We are greatly looking forward to celebrating Homecoming 2.0!

On August 18th, AADUSD welcomed new staff to the AADUSD Family with an Orientation Kick-Off along with a bus tour of our wonderful community.



AADUSD Excellence



Thank you to the Professional Development Council, teachers, and staff as we focused on supporting the work of ensuring learning for all students at high levels- August 19th & 20th, Topics included, but not limited to: Vertical Alignment Pre-K to 6; Vertical Alignment 7 to 12; Renaissance Data Presentation; and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports).



AADUSD Excellence

The **LA County Arts Education Collective** brings together leaders and practitioners to learn, collaborate and network. We partner with regional organizations to reach a range of school district stakeholders, from education foundations to arts coordinators and school board members.

Accessing our this robust network will help increase visibility of our successes. Our district's efforts will be prominently featured as part the story of arts education in LA County.

The Arts Ed Collective dedicates a staff person to supporting our district. Our first collaborative meeting was held on October 6th. The collaborative is comprised of parents, students, staff, and community partners with a passion for the arts. **During the 2021-2022 academic year**, the collaborative's goal is to develop an Arts Infrastructure Strategic Plan that will increase the quality, quantity, and equity of arts instruction in our schools starting in the fall 2022.

School districts in the Arts Ed Collective that have strategic plans for arts education that have been formally adopted by their local school boards are eligible to apply for funding. Matching grants offer financial support to assist school districts in achieving key action items identified in our district arts plans. More to come on this exciting collaboration!



AADUSD Excellence

Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year: 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 T.O.Y. 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.

Our very own **Ms. Nicole Chun** was recognized and honored as a **Teacher of the Year, Semi-Finalist!** Congratulations Ms. Chun!



AADUSD Athletes Shine!

High Desert Athletics

Coach Michelle Herman wrapped up the **volleyball season** on Thursday, Sept. 30th. The Silver League voted to postpone the season until the spring hoping COVID restrictions would ease, but since Coach Herman had already initiated tryouts before the Silver League decision was made, she held practices for the month of September. The kids had a great time learning the game!

Cross country is in full swing. For the first meet, the course was modified due to the high temperatures to a 1-mile race. HD had an excellent showing and several runners placed in the top 20 and received medals! On Thursday, Sept. 30th, the HD cross country team came to VHS to cheer on the Mustang runners at their home meet. The CC team is looking forward to a fun and successful season.

Vasquez Athletics

We have reached the halfway point in the **football season**. The football team has only been able to play one game thus far, due to COVID cancellations. The team has endured many highs and lows but they have persevered and have not given up. The team is looking forward to starting league play on **Saturday, 10/2 at Big Bear HS.**
Our next home game is 10/8 vs Riverside Prep at 7pm.

Cross country has had a fabulous season thus far. The boys have finished second in three straight races and the girls have finished first. The team runs again tonight at VHS. The cross country team has a good chance of competing for a league title if everyone stays healthy. The coaching staff is excited about the growth the team has displayed and has been impressed with the times of all our runners. VHS has hosted three matches and it has been exciting to see how the community has come out in support of the team.

Girls Volleyball has two more weeks left in their season. They have four matches left and they are all home games. **The team is graduating five seniors and senior night will be 10/14.** The players have enjoyed the camaraderie, and the bus trips and they are nostalgic that the season is coming to a close.



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

The High Desert Booster Club has emerged from COVID with renewed energy and vigor. With approximately 30 members in attendance at our first meeting, the productivity level was high. Committee Chairs were established, and goals were discussed. HDS Boosters have been working diligently to increase membership, both in number and diversity, expand roles within the club, develop a relationship with ELAC, and provide financial support for students, teachers and staff which enhance the opportunities and experiences provided by the school.

In addition to regular fundraising efforts, The High Desert Booster Club will be working with ASB, staff, and stakeholders to create a vision for the HD MPR beautification project. The vision for the MPR beautification project is to create a space where students and athletes feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. Student successes will be celebrated through the hanging of banners and pride will be felt through wall artistry.

Meadowlark PTO Projects:

- Popcornopolis fundraiser upcoming
- PTO will be hosting a "Winter Shop" at ML for students to purchase small gifts for family, caregivers, and friends.
- PTO and Principal Saavedra are planning a "college week" in the spring!
- PTO will be hosting a grab and go lunch for staff in November as part of staff appreciation.
- PTO has purchased items (bracelets, pencils, and other goodies) to distribute to students during Red Ribbon Week.

"New members are always welcome! Reach out to the HD office if you would like to share your energy and talents with us."

- Dawn Schneider, HDS Booster Chair



"Spotlight"

On September 9th, we kicked off to kick-off the **Golden Spotlight** to be held at each and every board meeting. It is our intent to spotlight and showcase our students, staff, and community stakeholders.

On 9/9, we kicked off the spotlight with a group of students from Vasquez High School.

Advanced Placement courses gives students the chance to tackle college-level work while they're still in high school—whether they're learning online or in the classroom. And through taking AP Exams, students can earn college credit and placement.

With distance learning and the multitude of challenges last school year, here are all of the students that took AP exams this past spring. Kudos to each and every one of you for your dedication, and commitment to your studies:

Amanda Ames
 Ryann Arnold
 Annabel Becker
 Nick Costan
 Kemp Fairbanks
 Braeden Flores
 Adam Frank
 Camilla Galvez
 Diego Galvez
 Ashley Hinkel
 Maya Hurtado
 William Kendall
 Chloe Main
 Keiko Martini
 Mackenzie Nolind
 Abigail Perez
 Vanessa Plaza
 Haley Rudd
 Emily Sandoval-Plouffe
 Jacob Van Ornum
 Brody Villasenor
 Aiva Wyganowska



"Spotlight" (continued)

The **Acton Town Council** and the **Acton Agua Dulce Community** have been working hard over the past few years to ensure that High Desert Middle School students have a safe path to and from school. Their efforts have included the paved path to the library, the addition of the crossing guard, and the addition of the trees lining Crown Valley Rd. just to name a few of the project they have worked on.

High Desert Students and Staff members along with the District staff and School Board would like to thank these amazing community and school members for their foresight and over the top efforts to ensure High Desert Hawks now have a clean path to school and from school each day.

Thank you to this amazing group of volunteers who saw a need, organized a group, and spent half of their Saturday cleaning up the dirt area along Antelope Woods Rd, adding trash cans to keep the area clean for the future, and extended their clean-up efforts to include the freeway on-ramp and off-ramp that students walk past. For our High Desert students, it made a big difference to have a clean path to walk on for their first day back to school. What a great welcome back to full in-person learning.

We would also like to thank **Acton Ace Hardware** for the donation of the trashcans and the clean-up supplies. They are huge supporters of our community and our school. On behalf of the High Desert students and staff, and the district as a whole, we would like to extend a big thank you to all of the community members involved in this project!

On 9/23, we formally thanked:

Kaydence Messerly (HDS student and ASB Member)

Levi Klaus (student at HDS)

Autumn Klaus (HDS Student and ASB Member)

Adina Klaus (Parent and Teacher at ML)

Tammy Necessary (grandparent of HDS students and Community Member as well as clean-up group leader)

Community Clean-up Group Members:

Tom Tolan

Tarri James

Ken Monson

Jeri Sloan

Mr. Francisco

John Sisco

SUPERINTENDENT'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

STAR: STUDENTS TOGETHER FOR ACTION AND RESULTS

The purpose of the Superintendent's Student Advisory- STAR is to create and implement goals through student input into areas that impact student performance, safety and security, mental health, and other areas of concern.

WE NEED YOU!

2021-2022 MEETING DATES:

ONCE A MONTH- DATES AND MEETING TIME TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON STUDENT AVAILABILITY AND NEEDS.

EACH MEETING WILL COVER A GOAL OR AN AREA OF GROWTH THAT WE WILL WORK ON AS A GROUP.

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council is AADUSD's very own coalition of high school students and middle school students. The advisory aims to develop initiatives and amplify student voices to create positive change at school. **If you are a current high school student or middle school student in our district and are passionate about school or district wide issues, please email: ymccauley@aadusd.k12.ca.us**

[Students! Make a difference by joining STAR!](#)