



# Quarterly Gold

Spring

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

32248 Crown Valley Road, Acton, CA 93510 Phone: 661-269-0750

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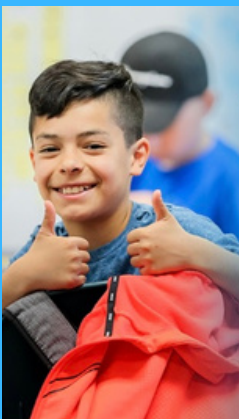
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**NEW AADUSD SIGNATURE PROGRAMS**

**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

## Spring reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to our spring edition of "Quarterly Gold", a newsletter showcasing the accomplishments of AADUSD.

What a journey we all have been on this academic year! Thank you all for supporting your child and our teachers this year as we navigated some "unchartered" waters! I am just so proud of all our students and the academic progress they made this year as we continue to work to close gaps over the summer as well. THANK YOU for your flexibility and responsiveness throughout this year.

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. Together we will continue to nurture and support our future leaders.

Wishing our entire AADUSD community a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

AADUSD is stronger together!

(@SuptSahakian) / Twitter

"Get in the know..."

Open House and Night of the Stars

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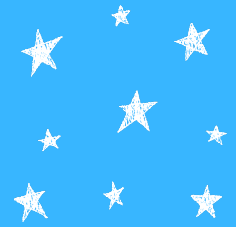
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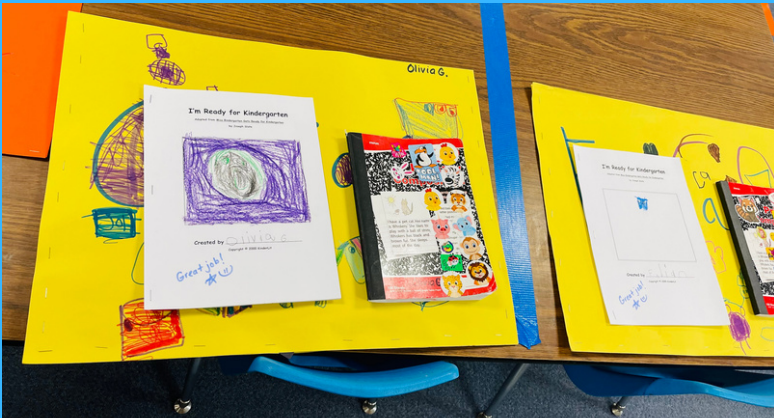
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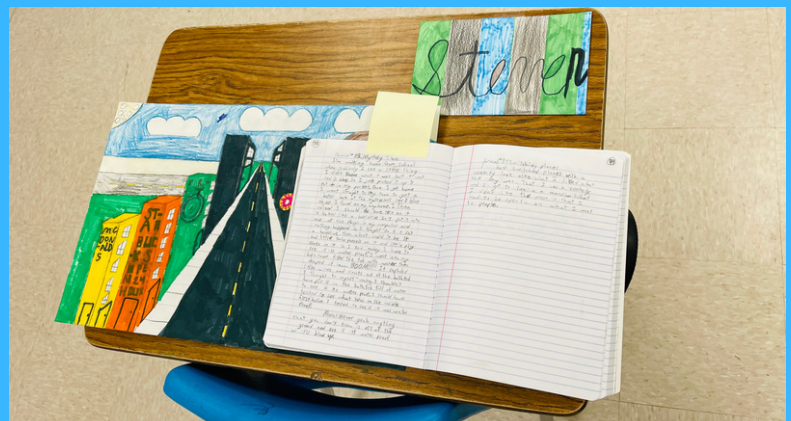
## Spring Open House & Night of the Stars



Meadowlark's Open House was held on June 1st had an amazing turnout by the ML community. Thank you parents, staff, and ML's PTO for all of their efforts.

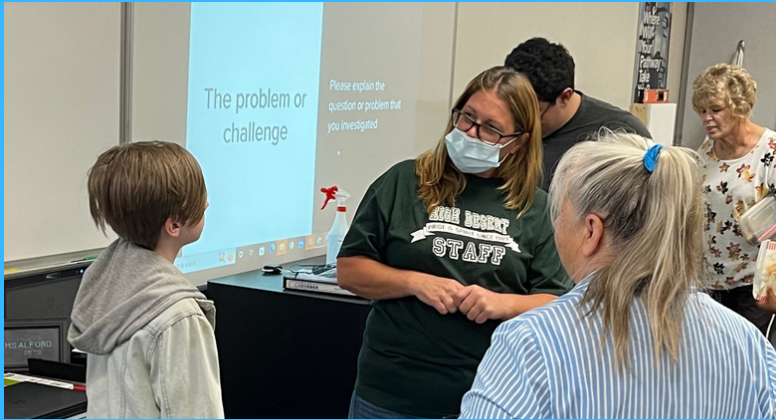
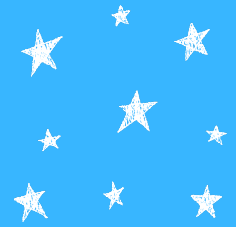


High Desert's Open House was held on June 2nd. HDS had a wonderful turnout by the HDS community. Thank you parents, staff, and HDS's Booster Club for all of their efforts.





## Spring Open House & Night of the Stars (continued)



The Vasquez HS's 2022 Night of the Stars was held on June 2nd. Department recognitions, academic excellence, valedictorian, and honors in athletics awarded to students. Thank you parents, staff, and students for the celebratory evening!





## Community Partners– Making it Happen



### Thank you to the Acton Women's Club– VHS Senior Scholarships

On May 18th, the gracious Acton Women's club recognized four Vasquez HS seniors with scholarships.

We are grateful for the Acton Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on providing scholarships to our qualifying four Vasquez High School seniors. Thank you Acton Womens' Club Board of Directors and President, Victoria Taylor for this invitation.

Thank you for the support of Supervisor Kathleen Barger's office– Mr. Charles Bostwick, field representative.

Students, congratulations for being recipients of the scholarships. You are on amazing journey, treasure each and every moment.





## Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)



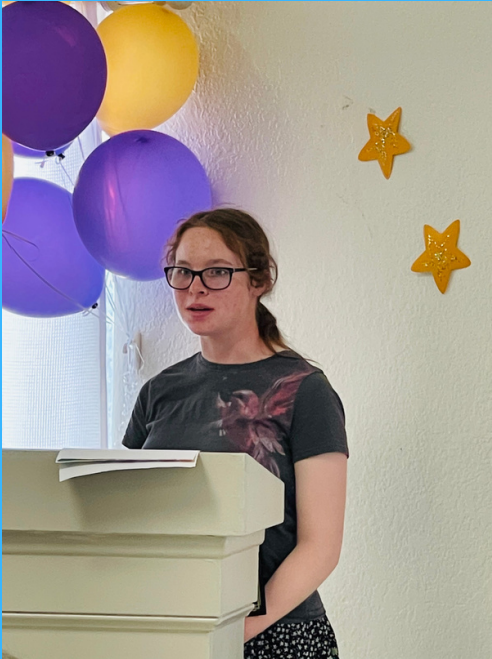
The four recipients are:

Nick Costan– attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall

Maya Hurtado– attending UCLA in the fall

Valerie Romero– attending Fresno State University in the fall

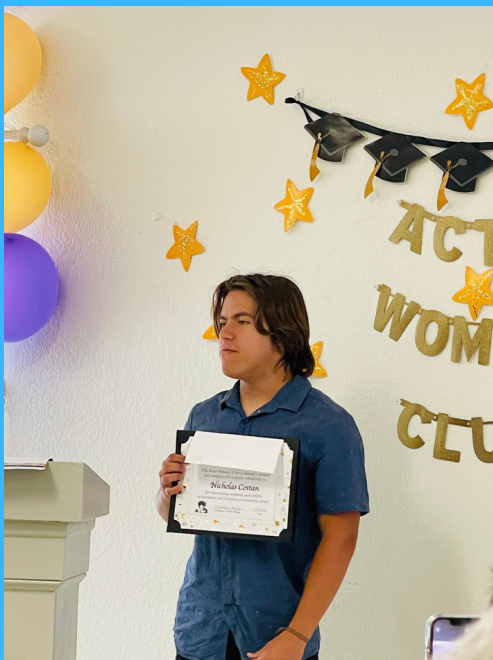
Amanda Ames– attending BYU in the fall



Amanda Ames



Valerie Romero



Nicholas Costan



Maya Hurtado



Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)



ASMO: Another Successful Spring Concert 2022!

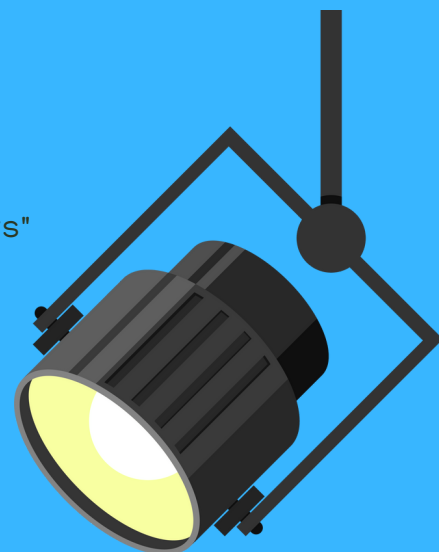
Thank you to the efforts of the Meadowlark ES Staff, Meadowlark PTO, and especially ASMO (Acton School Music Organization) for another successful concert. Wonderful turn out by our AADUSD community.





## Meadowlark ES Shines!

Meadowlark is on its way to setting up a "Meadowlark Morning News" Students are learning a lot about technology and trouble shooting.



Social Emotional Learning has been an important aspect at Meadowlark. Ms Bambi Ballesteros, counselor has worked incredibly hard to make sure that all students feel safe while at school. She has created a space for students to express their feelings and learn coping skills to solve peer conflict (right)



#bekind, a project Ms. Bambi has developed with student input (left)

## Meadowlark Elementary School SCHOOL COUNSELING REPORT Ms. Bambi Ballesteros March- May 2022



### PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE:

- Individual Counseling Needs: Anxiety, friendship issues, anger, self-regulation, grief and loss
- Small Groups: Changing Families, Coping with Anger, Growth Mindset & Making and keeping friends



**MISSION STATEMENT:** To maximize the personal/social, academic, and career potential of all students through the delivery of an evidence based, comprehensive school counseling program that aligns with the ASCA National Model.

**SUMMARY OF SERVICES:** Meadowlark focused on building students' feelings identification and social skills through a series of classroom lessons delivered to all K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Playground behaviors, peer conflict, de-escalation and restorative practices were addressed in individual and small group settings.

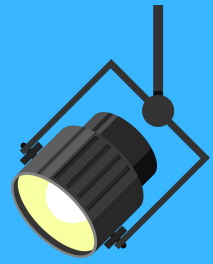
### SCHOOL COUNSELING by the numbers

74	120	85	56	47	28	14	100%
Referrals Received	Individual Sessions Delivered	Small Group Sessions Facilitated	Classroom Lessons Taught	Lunch Bunch Meetings Led	Parent Contacts Made	Risk Assessments done	Percentage of Students Served

© Music City Counselor



## High Desert MS- Our Hawks Soar!



Music is in the Air

### ASMO and Keyboarding Spring Concert

On May 24th and 25th, the Acton Schools' Music Organization (ASMO) held their spring concert at Meadowlark. Led by music instructors Emma Benatar and Robert Rudolph, our students sang songs of the Sand and the Sea. From drums to solo singers and more, the students were all aboard for a great performance.

On May 26th, the keyboarding students led by Mr. Rowland celebrated their year of learning with a spring concert showcasing the talents of the students. The concert included a solo, duo, and group performances as well as audience participation, where the parents learned a little about how to read music and follow with clap, tap, and snap beats. Thank you to all of the instructors who share their love of music with our students.



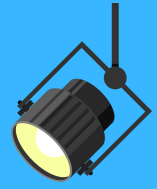
### Career Day Explorations

#### HDS Community Supports Student Success

On May 13, 2022, the HDS Community of Professionals shared their knowledge and expertise in an incredible Career Day. All of the presenters donated their time to encourage, inspire, and engage our students in thinking about their futures. Career Day Presentations included nurses, financial planners, the automotive industry, an animal sanctuary, firefighters, dancers, and technology leaders. Our lucky Hawks were able to explore a wide range of professions and learn about the importance school will play in their future. Big THANK YOU to all of the presenters and to the HDS Booster Club for the delicious lunch for the speakers and staff!



## High Desert MS- Our Hawks Soar! (continued)



### Dance Force Champions

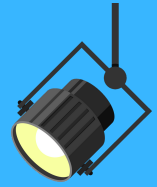
#### Hawks Take Flight on the Dance Floor

High Desert Hawks Dance Force team competed for their first time and made High Desert proud. Under the direction of Mrs. Gina Botton and Ms. Melissa Trusel, our amazing students left it all on the dance floor. Congratulations to 5th graders Rylei Scantlin and Sophia Motto, who placed 2nd in both the Merengue and East Coast Swing. Congratulations our 6/7/8th graders on their incredible performance against tough competition. Foxtrot: 4th – Hailey Honicky/ Victoria Hagiu, 6th Place – Alexis Van Ornum/Joaquin Mejia and East Coast Swing: 6th Place – Alexis Van Ornum/Victoria Hagiu, 7th Place – Hailey Honicky/Joaquin Mejia. We are so proud of their hard work, dedication, and great work representing High Desert School!





## High Desert MS- Our Hawks Soar! (continued)



### 4th Grade Roadshow

Meadowlarks become Future Hawks High Desert welcomes the Meadowlark Future Hawks to the campus for the 4th Grade Roadshow on Thursday, April 28th. Students enjoyed field activities, including Hula Hoop Chain, Tug-of-War, Sharks and Minnows, and an Obstacle Course Relay Race. Next, they participated in an activity tour of the campus including demonstrations in the science lab and CTE lab. Mrs. Van Ornum, HDS Principal brought the school spirit with a warm welcome including a video about the engaging programs, sports, and activities offered at High Desert. Lunch was provided by our incredible cafeteria staff followed by more games on the quad. We want to thank Mrs. Maddux and the ASB staff for an interactive and incredible day! We can't wait to see the future Hawks in their spirit wear on campus next year!



## Vasquez HS- Go Mustangs!



Varsity Softball celebrated Hannah Weaver, Valerie Romero, and Mackenzie Noland on Senior Day.



The logo for PAPER, featuring the word "PAPER" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving it a 3D appearance as if it's a sign or a piece of paper.

## Addition of New Signature Programs: Check it Out

### Paper

Paper provides schools with unlimited access to a variety of services through a device-agnostic, secure, Educational Support System (ESS). With Paper, students receive Unlimited 24/7 One-on-one Tutoring for all subjects, delivered by a live educator through Paper's Classroom in both English and Spanish.

Each online educator is a Paper Employee who is trained in the Socratic teaching method and undergoes a criminal background check prior to employment. Paper also provides students with Essay Review, where students can upload any piece of written work and receive an annotated version of their work within twenty-four hours. Paper will provide support to our 6th–12th grade students.

### Career Connections

Students learn basic and intermediate carpentry skills in commercial and residential construction, and the essentials of construction site safety. The program also includes training in employability skills including goal setting, positive attitude, punctuality, teamwork, and taking initiative.

The aim here is to provide continuity of career technical education exposure and opportunities through the scaffolding of innovative instruction, i.e. Makerspace (Meadowlark), Paxton Patterson (High Desert), and Career Connection (aka SWRCC/Career Connections, at VHS).

## Academics: TOSA Team Update



The TOSA (Teachers On Special Assignment) Team have been focused on organizational tasks, school wide schedules, planning for summer task force meetings, etc. This year they worked on the following:

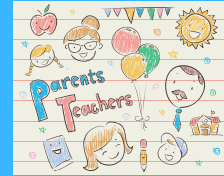
- Evidence based reading intervention for grades K–4
- Improving and supporting SEL (Social Emotional Learning) supports for Tier 1 classroom instruction
- Tier 3 support for behavior, academics, and social emotional
- We have implemented Branching Minds in a basic way with plans to expand it's usage to track student needs and evidence based supports provided
- We created a web-based staff resource for SST (Student Success Teams) that is posted to the website
- We are building a full website of staff resources
- As a team we worked on tasks related to 2:1:2 schedules, Summer school, textbook adoption, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)
- We instituted universal screeners for both SEL and academics
- We have a goal to universally screen students for GATE (Gifted & Talented Education) at 3rd grade, beginning next year (as well as working on a plan for capturing those students who past that screening window)
- We had 100% of all EL (English Learners) students complete ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) testing this year.

Job well done, team!





## PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings



PTSO is winding down the year with so much to be thankful for. Our first spring festival was a huge success with an outpouring of community support from restaurants to local vendors donating items and gift certificates. The festival was filled with games, food, music and raffles! From the countless volunteers to the students, families, musicians, food vendors, teachers and district staff that assisted in making the days' venue a tremendous event-THANK YOU!

The traditional 'staff appreciation week' was also "fantastico!" with a Cinco De Mayo theme and food items each day for staff to enjoy. There was even a pinata mixed in the fun and a sundae bar to round up the week.

Elections were held in May and I'm honored to continue to serve as President for Mustangs! Mari McLaws will continue as Vice President, as well as Suzy Ames as Secretary; Amy Hagiu has stepped up to serve as Treasurer.

Finally, what's on the agenda for PTSO next school year? We plan on bringing back the annual Fall Festival, continuing with staff luncheons as well as expanding membership in the hopes of having more ELAC parents sharing ideas and taking part in venues. We will also be purchasing a "fun item" this summer for all Mustangs to enjoy with the monies donated by Supervisor Kathryn Barger which relates to MTSS.

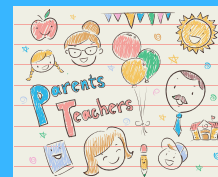
"A little kindness goes a long way.." and that is what we will continue to do with staff luncheons, supporting students and the campus and spreading some cheer with community-inspired venues such as festivals.

Together is better!

Tracy Costan, PTSO President



## PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings (continued)



### The High Desert Booster Club

From our volleyball girls' team winning the silver league championships and our boys team making it to the final game.

Our snack bar was an absolute huge hit, and we raised money for next year, can't wait to make future games fun and filled with Hawk Pride!

We also had out "May the 4th be with you Teacher/staff appreciation week"

We also supported Career Day, and provided lunch for our amazing presenters, in collaboration with ASB was definitely a day to remember.

We also supplied, with help from parents, High Desert students with a snack or a sweet treat for testing week!

Booster also collaborated with ASB for the 4th grade road show. How amazing it was to see the incoming Hawks excited about their new school. We made snack bags for them to keep them going and thrilled for what is to come. With that said, it was a pleasure to have experience the shadow day collaborative between all the schools.

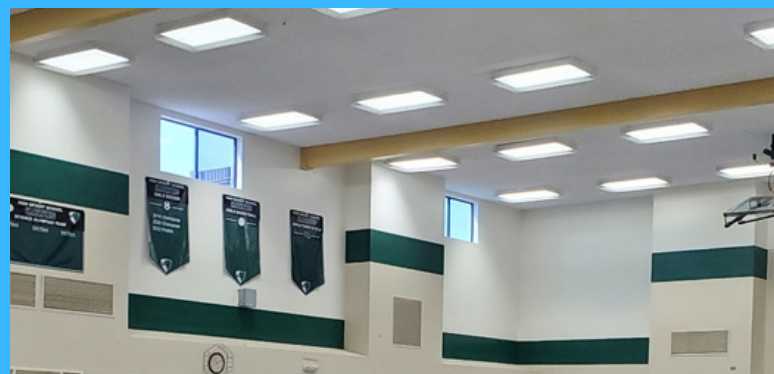
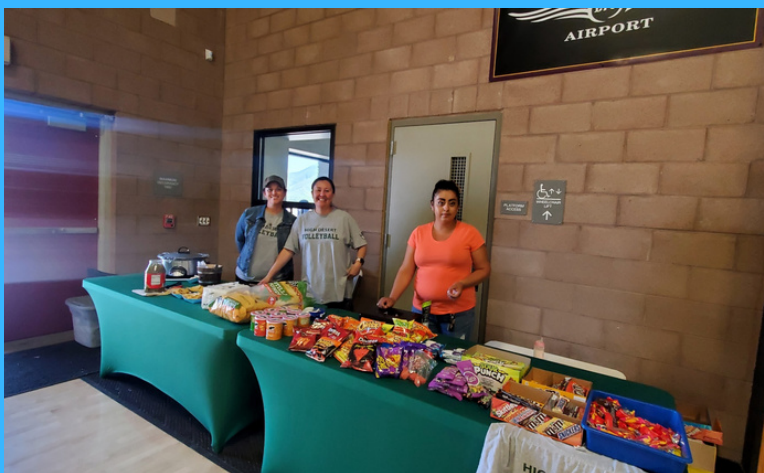
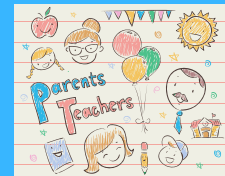
We also donated a basket for the ASMO spring concert.

Booster was ready for the end of the year of the school year!

HDS Booster President  
Adaliz Giron

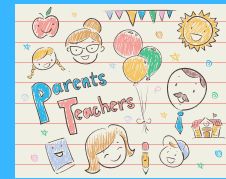


## PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings (continued)





## PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings (continued)



### Meadowlark PTO: Spring Fun



Volunteer Parents at APEX run



ML Book Fair set up (right)



ML Students enjoying the Book Fair  
Carson Millioti, Phoenix Henry, Rawleigh  
Balckom, Emmeres V



Students in action at the APEX Fun Run

### ML PTO Highlights:

\*PTO brought SkyDome to our school, the kids had a great time crawling into a really cool inflatable dome in our MPR where they were able to see the “skies” above them and learn about constellations.

\*Our students completed the Apex fun run event, it was a wonderful two-week event.

\*Scholastic book was a success, lots of kids stocked up on books to continue reading this summer!

\*Heather Millioti your favorite honorary volunteer of the year during our volunteer breakfast.

“I’d like to thank the staff and parents for all their help during the events and fundraisers PTO has brought this year.

As we slowly returned to normalcy it was wonderful to have all their support. Thanks to your support PTO was able to bring fun activities for the kids as well as successful fundraisers in order to continue providing funds for our teachers, fund future assemblies, field trips, etc. Cannot wait to see what next year brings for us. Have a wonderful summer.”–

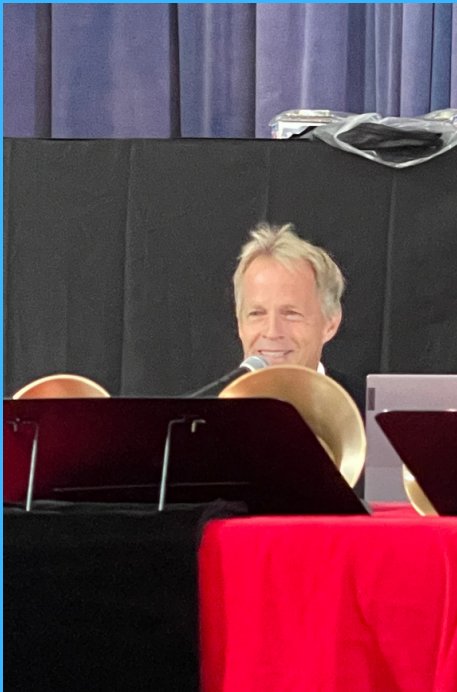
Veronica Pedrani– ML PTO President



## Harmonic Bronze: End-of-the-Year Program



June 5, 2022: End-of-the-Year Harmonic Bronze program. Congratulations to Mr. Larry Rowland & the Harmonic Bronze for an exceptional and exciting program.





## Showcasing AADUSD Athletics



The 2021–2022 VHS sports season concluded when softball, baseball, swim, and track completed their last matches.

The swim team had their best season in many years with two athletes, Kaden Bennett and Flavio Orlando qualifying for CIF. The team finished second in the league and coach Kianna Harris was named coach of the year for the Heritage League. This is the fourth coach this spring season to win this honor.

The track team also had a successful season. They finished second in the league to arch-rival Desert Christian, but three students finished the league's final meet with personal bests. This team is young and Vasquez's future looks bright with all these athletes returning next year.

Softball finished off its amazing season with a heartbreaking loss to San Marino High School in the first round of CIF playoffs. The team's coaches Anthony and Nicole Salsedo managed the team to its second league title in as many years. This is the team's ninth title overall. Next year's team might even be better with returners Nicole Muro, Tenley Puett, Harley Lundquist, and Haley Rudd leading the charge.

Baseball just completed its season by losing in the first round of the playoffs. They finished second in the Heritage league and have now qualified for playoffs six years in a row. They were led by seniors Alex Soberanis, Jacob Van Ornum, and Daniel Lomeli.

Job well done student athletes and coaches!

## Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



The High Desert volleyball teams returned to play this spring after having their fall season postponed. Led by Coach Michelle Herman, the amazing athletes on both teams battled their way into the championship game! When the dust settled, the girls emerged victorious and earned High Desert's first Girls Silver League Championship in Volleyball and the boys finished as Runner-Up. Congratulations to the High Desert Volleyball players for spiking their way into the history books!

The final sport of the year was track and field. Mrs. Gina Botton stepped up to coach and did an unbelievable job, under an accelerated timeline, to lay the foundation for a successful track and field program! Highlights include Zach Van Ornum winning the Silver League Championship in Long Jump, Leonardo Rivas placed 2nd in Shot Put and 3rd in Long Jump, Robby Spears placed 3rd in the 1600M run, Rylee Larson placed 3rd place in shot put, and our boys 4x400m relay consisting of Zachary Van Ornum, Ethan Krejcarek, Logan Williams, & Robby Williams finished 2nd and our girls 4x400m relay consisting of Shalyn Botton, Briana Hagiu, Victoria Hagiu, & Alexis Van Ornum finished 3rd. Congratulations on a successful season!





## 2022 Promotion and Graduation Celebrations: Congratulations!

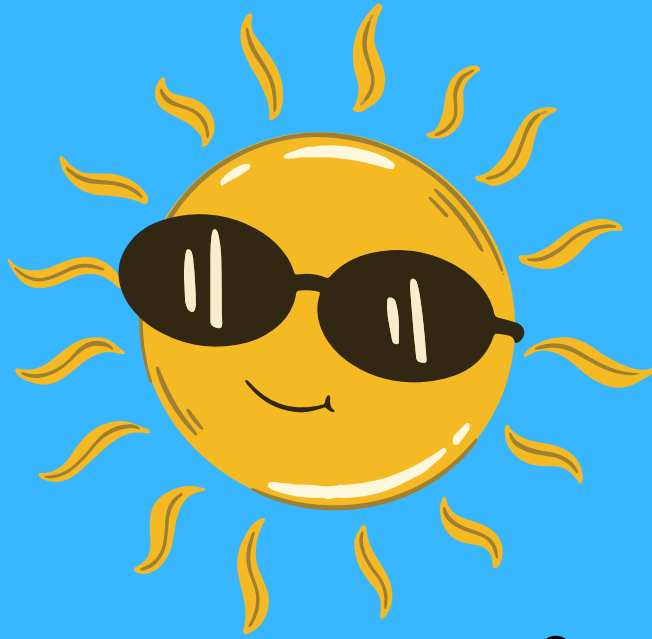




## 2022 Promotion and Graduation Celebrations: Congratulations!







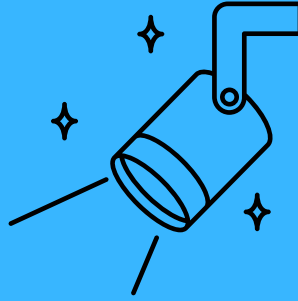
2022 AADUSD Summer School

Dates: June 21-July 19 (July 4 Holiday- no summer school)

Programs: At ML, Preschool-7th ESY (Extended School Year)  
VHS, 8th-11th ESY

8th-11th Summer School at VHS

Hours: Gates open at 8:30 am  
School begins at 8:45 am  
Snack/Recess- 10:00 am to 10:20 am  
School dismissal at 12:15 pm



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Meadowlark Elementary (PreK-4th)



High Desert Middle (5th-8th)



Vasquez High (9th-12th)



NEW AADUSD

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**Enroll  
Now**

Project Lead The Way

AVID Program

Paxton Patterson

AV College Dual Enrollment

Makerspace: An Innovative Lab

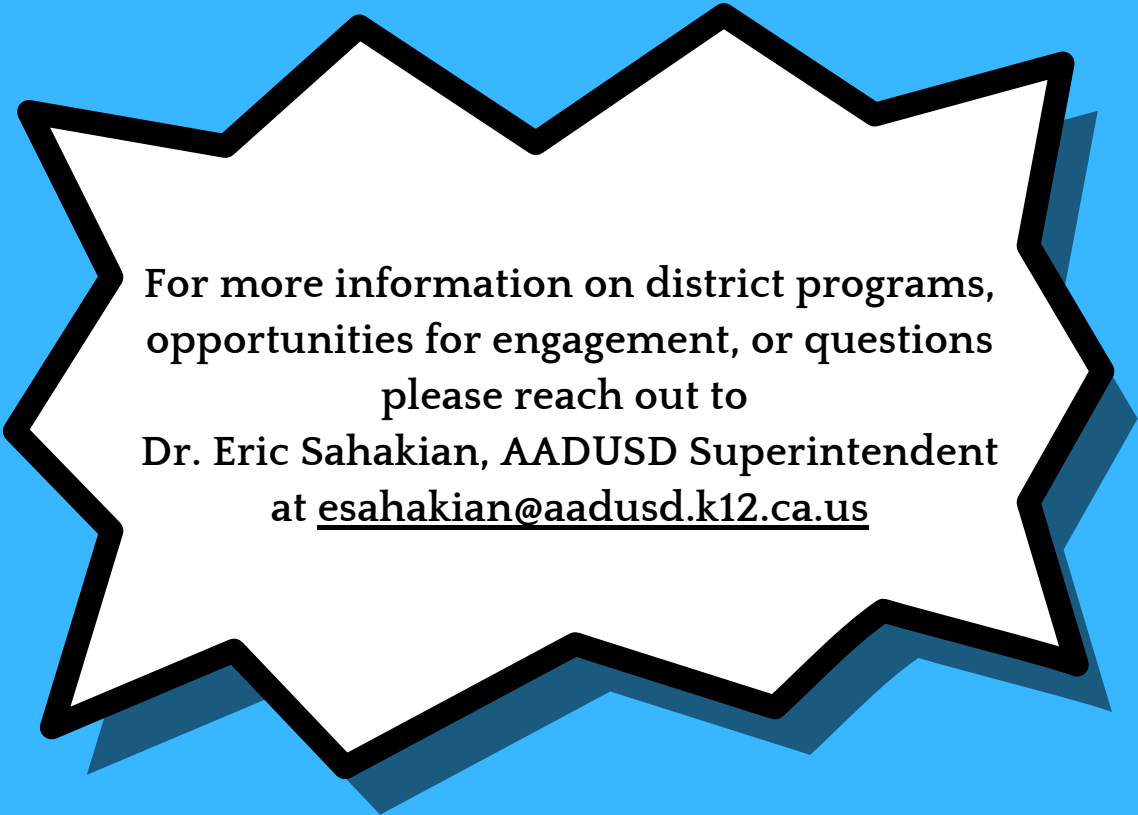
LA County Arts Ed Collective

Parent Ambassadors

PAPER Online Tutoring

Career Connections





For more information on district programs,  
opportunities for engagement, or questions  
please reach out to  
Dr. Eric Sahakian, AADUSD Superintendent  
at [esahakian@aadusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:esahakian@aadusd.k12.ca.us)