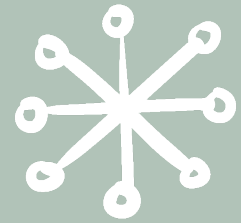


Quarterly Gold

Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

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



AADUSD School Board:

Tim Jorgensen- President

Chad Wadsworth- Vice President

Brianna Taksony- Clerk

Ken Pfalzgraf- Member

Kelly Jensen- Member

Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- Superintendent

Kimberlee Shaw- Assistant Superintendent

Ahsan Mirza- Assistant Superintendent



2021 ASMO-Meadowlark Winter Wonderland Performance

Winter reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to our winter edition of "Quarterly Gold", a newsletter showcasing the accomplishments of AADUSD. I'd like to start off by thanking our AADUSD teachers for providing engaging instruction throughout the first semester. In addition, the District would like to express its gratitude to all AADUSD educators, administrators, staff and community partners for helping us continue to ensure high achievement for all learners. We would also like to thank our students and families for their trust as the District continues to enhance innovative programs in support of student achievement. With communication and persistence, AADUSD will continue to reach new levels of success for our students and community. I am truly inspired by the acts of kindness and resilience that are continuously demonstrated throughout the community.

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. AADUSD is stronger together!

(@SuptSahakian) / Twitter

"Get in the know..."

Making it happen: Meadowlark, High Desert, and Vasquez Highlights

02

Antelope Valley College Collaboration

06

DELAC Highlighted

07

PTO/Booster/PTSO

08

AADUSD Athletics

11

Health Update

12

Golden Spotlight Recognition

13

Meadowlark ES– Together We Soar!

Meadowlark had a special visit from Santa Claus himself thanks to the Vasquez High class of 2023!



Coming to Meadowlark in January/February:

January 13th, 4th Grade will have a Walk Through California History Enrichment Activity

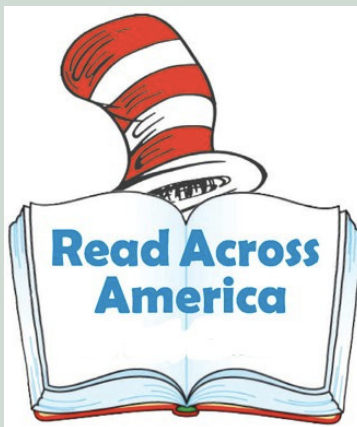
4TH GRADE - WALK THRU CALIFORNIA

Awards Assembly on February 4th

College Day February 25th

Read Across America Feb. 28th

Read Across America Day, a day to celebrate our favorite activity. The day was established by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998 to help get kids excited about reading. A perfect way to celebrate is to don a Seussian hat and read one of the famous tales, like One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish.



High Desert MS- Our Hawks Soar!

Hawks Show Their Appreciation –

High Desert had an exciting week filled with gratitude and appreciation for all of the amazing people who support us. We are grateful for all of the High Desert Hawks and their families who make our school a community.

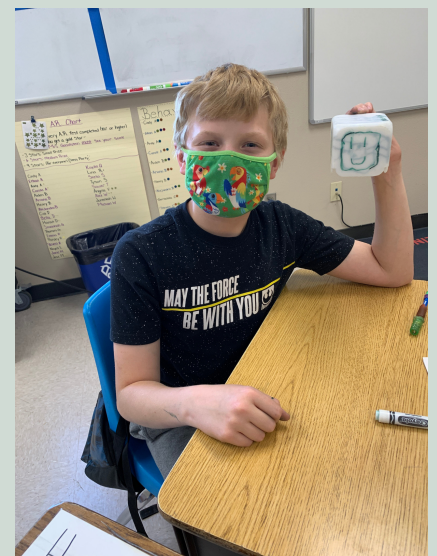
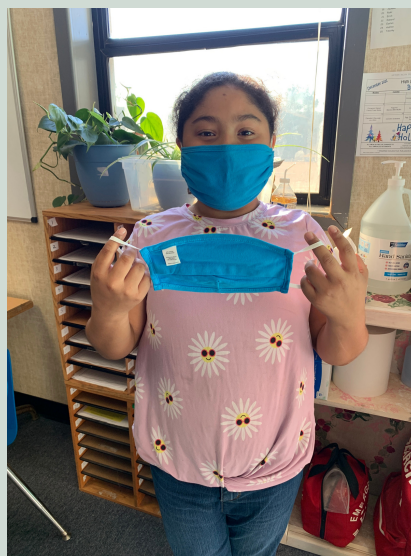
- Monday – Gratitude Journal
- Tuesday – Compliment Others
- Wednesday – Volunteer/Give Back
- Thursday – Smile Often
- Friday – Say “Thank You”



(Left) Exploration of the One and Only Ivan – Students in Mr. Rowland’s class finished up the novel “The One and Only Ivan” and shared their learning by creating character posters. Students explored the characters' strengths, weaknesses, personality traits, values, and beliefs to see the book through their eyes.

Kindness and Creativity – (Right)

Our fifth and sixth graders are working hard in school and at home as they wrap up the fall semester. Fifth-grader Sophia M. showed her kindness and generosity with a donation of masks for her classmates. Sixth-grader Henry B. loves to be creative in class and was eager to show off his original creation. It keeps him company as he works hard in his class. Kindness and creativity abound during our HDS Season of Giving.



High Desert MS- Our Hawks Soar! (continued)

Hawks Sweep the Patriot's Pen –

On December 9th, the VFW Quartz Hill Post honored four of our High Desert Hawks with scholarships for their thoughtful and inspiring essays in the annual Patriot's Pen essay contest. Francis Cabrera won 1st Place in the VFW Patriot's Pen Contest this year for his essay titled "How can I be a great American?" Michaela Williams won 2nd place and Joaquin Mejia and Michael Williams tied for 3rd Place. We are so proud of these students and their citizenship and patriotism.

Upcoming Events:

- **Academics:** Super exciting news! Our application has been reviewed and we have been moved forward to the next step in the process – the on-campus walk-through. During the virtual visit, our application will be reviewed and the director will meet with the principal and the superintendent. We are very optimistic that High Desert will be re-designated as a School to Watch. This will be High Desert's 3rd re-designation and is an amazing honor!
- **PBIS and MTSS:** High Desert's PBIS team includes parents, teachers, students, and administration and they are charting a course for a great second semester. Day two of training is on Jan. 11th and a new incentive plan along with positive rewards activities will be rolled out with students the following week. The team worked hard during the first semester developing a plan to support all students and promote an even more positive campus culture filled with Hawk pride!
- **MOH:** Medal of Honor Core Values are at the heart of our Character program at High Desert. On Jan. 20th, students at High Desert will be participating in a live webinar with MOH recipient Clint Romesha. Students are able to submit questions and have them answered during the webinar making it a very engaging and interactive experience. Although we have not been able to have live assemblies this year, we are still bringing the interactive Medal of Honor recipient experiences into the school virtually to help our students make connections with the core values and provide real-world character development opportunities for our students.
- **Awards:** Our 1st Semester Awards Assembly will be held on Feb 10–11. We will celebrate the academic achievements of students as well as the character awards they have earned through the Medal of Honor program. We look forward to celebrating our students and all of their hard work during the first semester.

Vasquez HS- Go Mustangs!

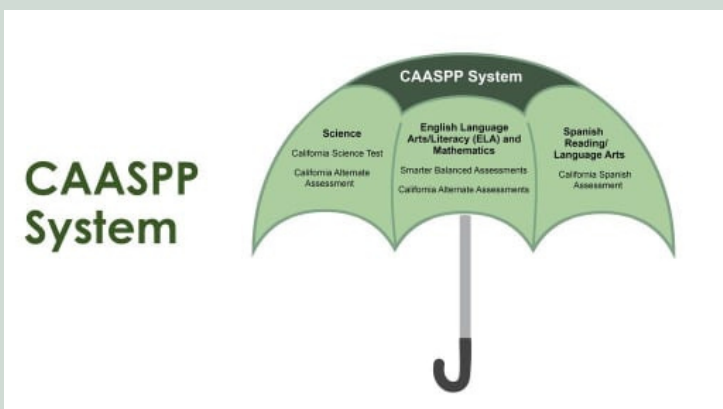
Vasquez High School is excited to ring in the New Year with renewed energy and growth towards ensuring all students demonstrate Mustang Pride through exceptional academic and behavioral means. Staff intend to work with students to develop high functioning dispositions that will ensure preparation for college, athletic, and career readiness. Through this effort, Principal Dr. Murphy will provide grade level presentations to students that will require systems that will ensure school-wide Mustang Pride. Academic expectations will encompass a–g requirements and university expectations. Behavioral expectations will highlight general concerns which include tardies, attendance, and cell phone usage. While outlining expectations, students will be introduced to a school-wide plan, collaborated among staff, students, and parents, that incentivizes doing the right thing. These incentives will be used as positive reinforcement; tangible incentives will be dedicated towards PBIS and MTSS.

VHS is preparing for several upcoming events:

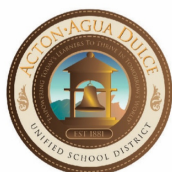
*Road Show. ASB, management, and student representatives are preparing to welcome 8th grade future Mustangs at High Desert during February and May.

*State Testing. CAASPP is tentatively scheduled for VHS in May 2022. Sophomores and Seniors will be required to take the Science exam. Juniors, on the other hand, will be assessed in all batteries in English Language Arts, Math, and Science. Freshmen are off the hook...until next year!

Approximately 25% of Seniors applied for 4–year colleges. All Seniors will be required to submit Federal Financial Aid applications should they be interested in enrolling in 4–year, 2–year, and trade schools. The Counseling Department has sent out a presentation that walks families through the application process. Families are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Murphy or Ms. Salsedo, should they require individual support. The process takes about one hour as long as all documentation is provided; 2021 Federal taxes and knowledge of Social Security numbers are necessary to complete the process.



Dual Enrollment Partnership Partnership between Antelope Valley College and Acton Agua Dulce Unified School District



ACTON
AGUA DULCE
USD



ANTELOPE
VALLEY
COLLEGE

Please contact Vasquez High School 661-269-0451 for additional information

AADUSD & AVC Collaboration Kick-Off!

Thank you to our Vasquez HS team and our AVC partners, Ms. Cathi Hart and Ms Rocio Heasley, as we have a robust pool of students who have applied for the first AVC class offering to kick-off at Vasquez HS on January 10th! We are thrilled to have put this together quickly so that our current Vasquez students have an opportunity to access an AVC course this academic calendar.

Our first dual enrollment offering, HE 120 Stress Management (3 college credits) examines stress and stressors from a health and wellness perspective. The course is designed to enable all students to understand the role of stress in their lives. The course focuses on the multidimensional nature of stress, the role of stress in many chronic diseases, and the development of a personal stress management plan. It is based on a holistic approach to stress management, rather than an approach that just teaches a variety of individual coping techniques.

Looking ahead, we are planning on adding additional courses to the Vasquez HS campus in the fall of 2022. One such course will be MUSIC 107: History of Women in Rock – a very popular class with AVC students!

Stay tuned!



Academics: DELAC Highlighted



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 meeting was held on November 2nd at our District Office. 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 AADUSD School Board.

ELAC/DELAC Happenings!!!

With EL students making up 15% of our AADUSD students it is important that we continue to work to meet the needs of these students. One important part of meeting the needs of our EL students is the formation of ELAC and DELAC committees through the ELAC/DELAC meetings. So far this school year, ELAC meetings have been held at each of our campuses as well as two DELAC meetings at the district office. Some of the highlights of those meetings have been....

- Introducing bilingual staff that has been put in place to help meet the needs of our EL students as well as to open communication between the school and home.

Bilingual Aide – Meadowlark – Gabby Graber

Bilingual Aide – High Desert – Paula Herrera

Bilingual Aide – Vasquez – Alexandra Hernandez

Bilingual Counselor – Tiffany Quezada

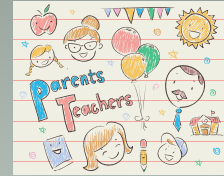
Bilingual Psychologist – Nora Miller

EL Coordinator – Janna Largent

- Giving updates on the AADUSD EL Plan – We are happy to announce that AADUSD EL Plan (last updated 2012) has been rewritten and updated and is almost ready for board approval. The EL Plan lays out the District's plan to ensure that the educational needs of our EL students are met as well as the district's goals for reclassification.
- Reporting that the Initial ELPAC testing has been completed and in February we will be beginning the Summative ELPAC testing for our EL students.

As we move into the second semester, we want to invite you to join us at the upcoming DELAC meeting which will take place at the District Office will be on February 3rd at 8:45 am. Your participation is vital as we move forward, so grab your friends and come join us for some coffee and donuts as we discuss how to continue to meet the needs of our EL students.

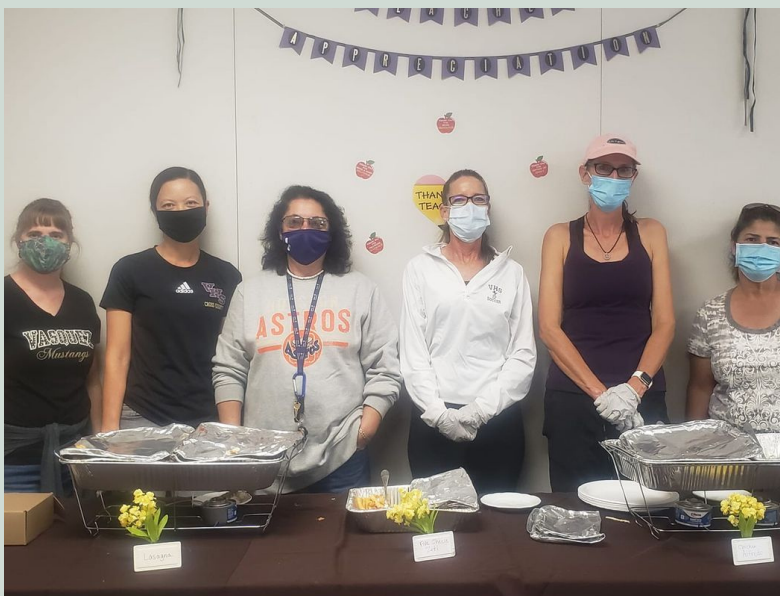
PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings



Vasquez PTSO is busy serving our amazing teachers and students. We hosted a fall 'thank you' luncheon for teachers and staff in which Olive Garden pastas, salad and breadsticks were enjoyed along with dessert. PTSO members served our wonderful staff after the absence of these long awaited gatherings –small gestures of gratitude for the dozens of hats worn by many! Additionally, our meetings will now have representation from teachers and students as we are a Parent/Teacher/Student Organization. Mrs. Lepp joined us in November and in December, students also took part in our monthly PTSO meeting and shared their thoughts –since we will be looking to offer assistance in donating to programs that benefit all students. In December, PTSO took part in the Agua Dulce Women's Club 'Parade of Tables'; Principal Murphy, teacher Shadi Moghaddas, community members and PTSO members made up the table of 10. At the event, each school was offered an opportunity to "make a pitch" as to why their site should receive monetary donations from those present during a fundraising moment. PTSO chose sophomore and ASB student Samantha Brooks to represent the VHS table; Samantha delivered a lovely 'pitch' referencing school pride and reinforcing expected behaviors, supporting MTSS and projects that are already in place. Lastly, presidents have been attending the parent meetings at all school sites– (Booster/PTO/PTSO) to formulate ideas for future joint venues and for general awareness of what is happening at each site.

Together is better!

PTSO President
Tracy Costan

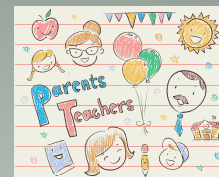


PTSO Fall luncheon photo



PTSO members Suzy Ames, Mari McLaws, Tracy Costan, teacher Shadi Moghaddas and community member Gayle Joyce

PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings (continued)



The High Desert Booster Club resumed fundraising efforts this fall by bringing back one of our most popular fundraisers, Penny Wars! Strategy and sabotage were at play as each grade competed against each other to score the most points. Dollar bills and pennies were deposited into grade level containers and counted toward the grade level positive point total. Silver coins were dropped into opposing grade level containers, in the form of sabotage, and counted against the point total. The 6th graders jumped out to an early lead only to be overtaken by the 7th graders, as the bell was ringing, on the final day. Daily prizes were awarded to the winning grade each day and the cumulative winners received a pizza party. Thank you to Corrin Bailey and her amazing fundraising team for a successful fundraiser!

On Tuesday, November 9th, the High Desert Booster Club hosted a staff appreciation luncheon. Catered by Red Robin, the burger bar was a huge hit! The HDS staff was able to enjoy a meal together while sharing in fellowship. A huge shout out goes out to Laure Bebee, hospitality chair, and her assistant, Lee Jennings for organizing this amazing event!

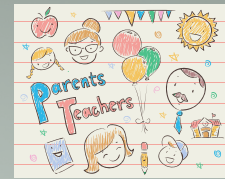
Booster President
Dawn Schneider



(L-R) Dawn Mayes, Dawn Schneider, Laure Beebe, Adaliz Gorin, Lee Jennings, and Gisela Rivas



PTSO/Booster/PTO Happenings (continued)



The Meadowlark Parent Teacher Organization hopes you all had a good and safe holiday break.

In November we honored our teachers and staff with a wonderful luncheon put together by our PTO team. A special thank you to Megan Laviolette and Corrin Bailey for making it happen!

During the month of December we were able to do some fun events and activities with our students and staff.

Meadowlark PTO President joined its first parade of table. We'd like to thank Adaliz Giron and Heather Millioti for all their hard work on our "Oh the Places You'll Go" table.

We also had our holiday shop which the children enjoyed very much. It's always fun to help them shop for their family and friends while learning how to budget, plan and organize.

We'd like to thank all of our volunteers and members for all their hard work. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our Meadowlark families for all your support and participation.

We hope to do great things together in 2022!

"Together we soar above the rest"

Veronica Pedrani-Honicky
PTO President



Showcasing AADUSD Athletics

Fall sports at Vasquez HS just finished their fall season and banquets. Congratulations to Randy Trusel for making all-league for the Girls' volleyball team!

Thank you to both Coach Mike McKnight and Coach George Esquer for their support during the 21-22 athletic season.

Athletics at Vasquez HS is now in the middle of the winter season.

Boys' Basketball and Soccer, as well as Girls' Soccer, have completed their preseason matches and are preparing for league play. VHS is excited to welcome back Boys' Soccer Coach Pete Zorba and Girls' Soccer Coach Terry Comstock. The remainder of the month is full of many opportunities for the community to catch a game after work for all of these athletic events!

Spring sports at VHS start the first week of February.

At High Desert, the Soccer kicks off its season with tryouts the week of Jan. 10th. For the girls, we have a returning coach, Ashley Goble and new coaches Brando and Braulio Barron.



Health Update- 2022



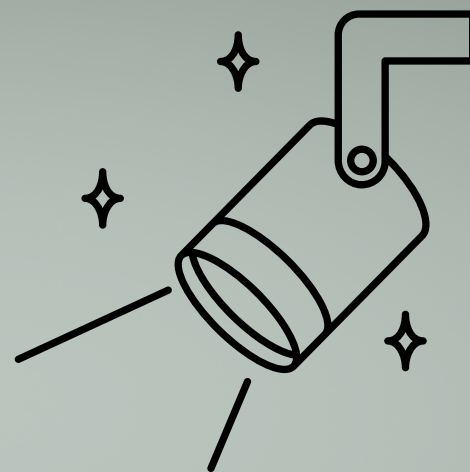
On January 3rd, Dr. Barbara Ferrer– Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health informed school districts that it is anticipated that the number of positive Covid–19 cases will continue to increase over the next couple of weeks and that with the Omicron variant we are now beginning the worst COVID–19 surge that we have seen since the inception of the virus.

As a reminder, on 12/31/21, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) issued the following policy changes that has gone into effect as we reopened our schools after the Winter Holiday:

- Testing will be required for asymptomatic close contacts of infected individuals remaining in school. Ideally, students will be tested immediately after exposure and then again on day 5; at minimum, students would be tested on day 5. This will apply to all close contacts allowed to remain in school including fully vaccinated (and boosted where eligible) close contacts who are not required to quarantine and students who were a close contact with the infected individual (given masking requirements) and eligible for modified (in–school) quarantine.
- Masks will be required outdoors where physical distancing is NOT feasible except when actively eating or drinking.
- All staff will be required to wear upgraded (surgical/respirator) masks. These are available daily for teachers and staff.

AADUSD's priority remains to keep our schools open and our students and staff healthy and safe.





Golden Spotlight- Mr. Barry Nolan

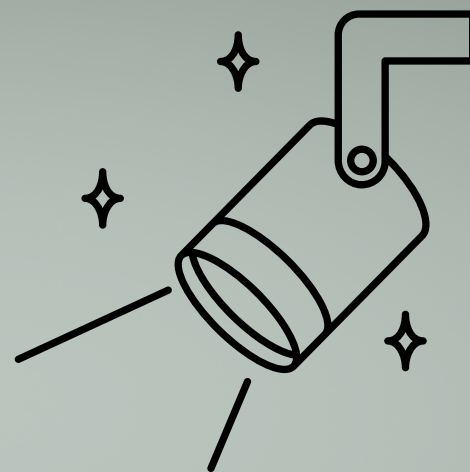
Barry Nolan has been volunteering at Meadowlark for many years, but he is more than just a volunteer, he is a member of the Meadowlark family. Mr. Nolan, or as he is referred to by many, “Grandpa Barry” gives of his time and expertise to support staff and students. He spends multiple days a week at Meadowlark 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.

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.



Golden Spotlight- Ms. Nicole Chun

The 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.

Our very own Ms. Nicole Chun was recognized and honored as a Teacher of the Year, Semi-Finalist on September 24th! Congratulations Ms. Chun. Ms. Chun has graciously served our district since 2000 as a long-term sub for 9–12 SDC. She then taught grades 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and SDC.

Nicole serves and continues to serve on many district-led committees. She has also advised the coding club and knitting club. In addition, she is Google Certified Trainer, Leading Edge Professional Learning Leader.

Nicole also serves as a Seesaw Ambassador, an Edji Visionary, and serves on the CUE LA Board of Directors (CUE – Computer Using Educators).

Nicole has a very creative side— she loves flair pens, UDL (universal design for learning), exciting science labs, and play-based learning. Congratulations Nicole. Thank you for all that you do for student achievement!

**ACTON AGUA DULCE USD
INVITES YOU!**

"TUESDAY TALK" WITH YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Date: Tuesday, January 18 2022

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Zoom meet link:

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

**- FEATURED GUEST: Mr.
Marciano Flores, AVID Program
Manager**

**- DISCUSSION TOPIC:
AVID (Advancement Via
Individual
Determination) Overview**

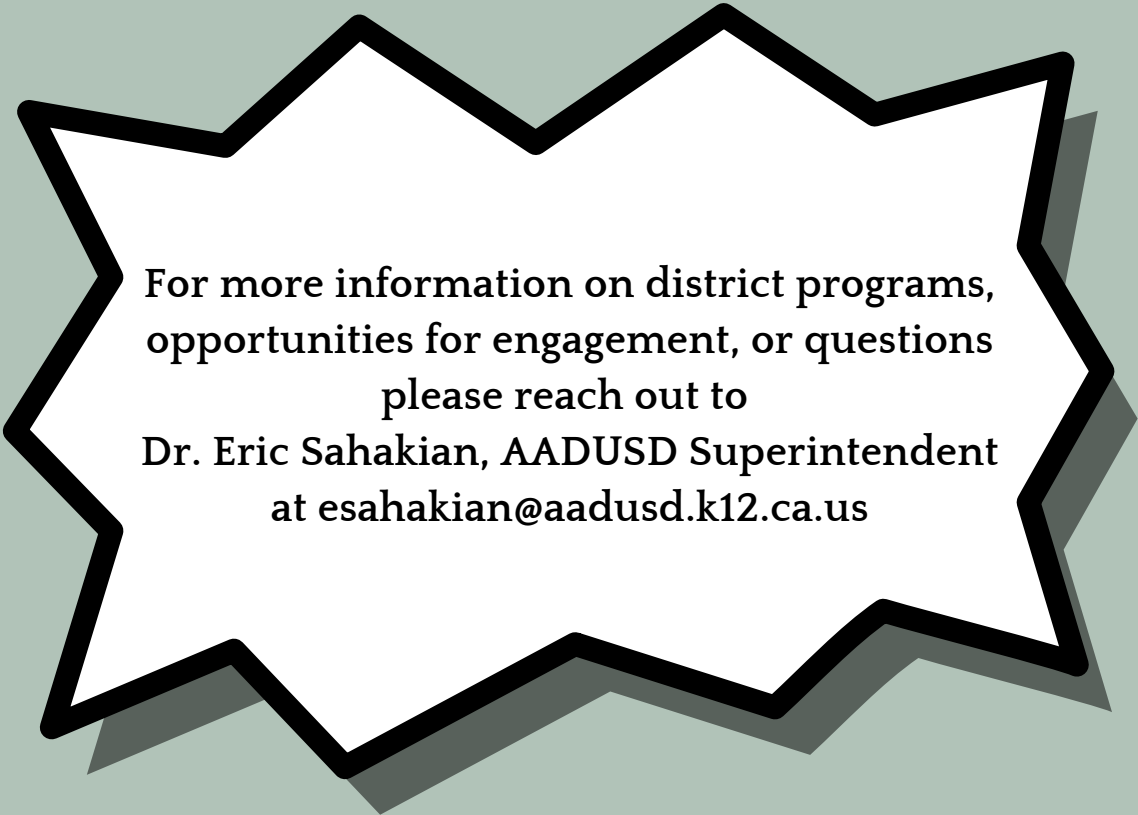
- Q & A

All our welcome!

Mark your calendar

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

Hyperlink to login for the Zoom event will be sent to all families via Blackboard closer to the date, thank you.



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