



# Quarterly Gold



Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

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Lester Mascon- Clerk

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Jorge De Jesus, Ed.D.- Member

Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- Superintendent



## Fall Reflection

Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

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

In the spirit of collaboration, I encourage you to get involved at your child's school as a parent volunteer. There are many opportunities in our district for you to both learn how to best support your child and also share your expertise with other parents. We welcome your partnership!

AADUSD is stronger together!  
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## Meadowlark Highlights

It has been a whirlwind of excitement and learning at our school as we delved into the new academic year. The atmosphere buzzed with energy and enthusiasm, setting the tone for a year filled with educational adventures and personal growth.

It all began with the Back to School Night, where parents, teachers, and students came together, setting the stage for a year of collaboration and support. The event provided a glimpse into the vibrant learning environment that awaited the students. Soon after, our school embarked on a journey towards positive behavior with the PBIS School Launch. The initiative aimed to foster a positive school culture and create a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

One of the highlights of the early school days was the Pastries with the Principal. Here, parents and the school administrator gathered to discuss the strategic plan for our school. It was a forum for open dialogue, where ideas and visions were shared, laying the groundwork for future endeavors. The excitement continued with the arrival of the Scholastic Book Fair, transforming the school into a haven for book lovers. Children and their families eagerly explored the aisles, discovering fun and entertaining books to nurture their love for reading.

A momentous occasion arrived in the form of the Awards Assembly, a celebration of student achievements. Super Scholars, Citizens of the Month, and Most Improved students were honored, acknowledging their hard work and dedication. Families came together for a delightful experience at the Picnic with your Family (Lunch on the Lawn) event. Laughter echoed as parents and children shared meals and made cherished memories, strengthening the bond between home and school.

Meanwhile, in the bustling world of student leadership, our school witnessed the start of the Student Council. After weeks of passionate campaigning in Grade 4, leaders emerged, ready to represent their peers and contribute positively to the school community.

## Meadowlark Highlights (continued)

October brought with it the vibrant colors of Red Ribbon Week, a time dedicated to promoting drug awareness and healthy choices. Students enthusiastically participated in a Spirit Week, donning crazy socks, wild hairstyles, and even embracing twin day. The week reached its crescendo with a spectacular Family Country Line Dancing event. Teachers led students and their families in lively dance routines, creating an atmosphere of joy and togetherness. The week concluded on an adrenaline-pumping note with a BMX Show, reinforcing the importance of making positive life choices.

In the world of our youngest learners, the TK class had an enlightening experience as they explored the roles of Community Workers. The week was peppered with visits from community heroes, including firefighters, veterinarians, and law enforcement officers. Deputy Randall from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, accompanied by his loyal partner Deputy Scout, the horse, captured the children's imagination. To sweeten the learning experience, the week concluded with tasty treats prepared by a chef, leaving the little ones inspired and curious about the world around them.

Looking ahead, the school was abuzz with anticipation for National STEM Day on November 8. Teachers and students are gearing up for a day filled with exciting STEM activities, promising a hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

As the days turned into weeks, the school year is shaping up to be a tapestry of diverse experiences, educational growth, and community building. The events so far has set the stage for a fulfilling academic journey, where students would continue to learn, explore, and thrive.

Mrs. Anetrise Jones – Meadowlark Principal

Meadowlark Highlights



Meadowlark's Book Fair was a huge success! Thank you parents and students for all your efforts.



Meadowlark Highlights (continued)

Cowboy Boots Day, October 25th



BMX Fundraiser

The show was filled with fun, students also got a lesson on safety and reaching for their dreams



Meadowlark Highlights (continued)



Halloween Fun



## High Desert Highlights



### Hawks Host Staff Sgt. David Bellavia

High Desert School has been working with the Medal of Honor Character Development Program for character education in schools for the past ten years. To kick off our Medal of Honor Mentor Days, Medal of Honor Recipient, Staff Sergeant David Bellavia held a virtual assembly on Friday, September 22, 2023. The Medal of Honor Character Development Program is the backbone of character education on campus. Students are taught the core values: Sacrifice, Commitment, Integrity, Courage, Citizenship, and Patriotism.

Staff Sgt. Bellavia spoke directly to the students about the importance of doing what is right no matter who is looking. Students asked very insightful questions during the Q&A portion and were able to learn a lot from him about how they can serve as leaders in their community. He reminded the students, “You are our legacy!” and that the most important thing to ask yourself in any situation is, “Are you making the people around you better?” We are so grateful to Staff Sgt. Bellavia for his time and for his service.



### Inviting the Community to the Hawk's Nest

Hawks Family Game Night was a big success. Students and their families enjoyed the time together with each other and with all of the staff members who attended. Big thank you to Corrin Bailey and the High Desert Booster Club for their support and all of the delicious food options!

## High Desert Highlights (continued)



### Hawks SOAR into Mustang Homecoming Parade

High Desert Hawks want to thank Vasquez High School for including them in the Homecoming Floats. Our students were so excited to participate and very proud of the float they put together! It was a great event and supporting connection between the campuses by including the Hawks!

Thank you VHS!





## High Desert Highlights (continued)

### PBIS Store Opens – Striving Toward Excellence in Behavior

The PBIS Rewards program at our school is creating quite a buzz among our students as they embrace the opportunity to earn points by exemplifying the school's SOAR expectations. Striving to be their best, owning their actions, acting responsibly, and respecting all have become not just a set of guidelines but a way of life for our students. It's an exciting journey where positive behavior and hard work are rewarded. On Friday, October 6th, the anticipation was palpable as the First Hawks Store opened its doors. The store is a vibrant hive of activity, where students can redeem their hard-earned points for a variety of exciting rewards. Among the items available, mini footballs emerged as the most popular choice, flying off the shelves. The cheerful hum of students selecting their favorite rewards reverberates through the school, making the PBIS Rewards program an even more integral part of our school culture.



### Lunch Clubs at HDS

High Desert is excited to host lunch clubs for students to explore their interests during lunchtime:

M – Volleyball

T – Multi-Cultural Club

W – Basketball

Th – Art & Crafts

F – ASB Activity and Lego Club



## Vasquez High School Highlights



September 29th

### Journalism Class – The birth of The Vasquez Post:

Vasquez High School was established in 1993. Today we are happy to announce the Vasquez High School newspaper is now established in the year 2023, thirty years after the establishment of our school. Since the beginning of the 2023 to 2024 school year the journalism elective has been working to start publishing The Vasquez Post, with the incredible leadership of teacher Mr. Mangel!

October 17th

### The Art Adventure Day – Guitar Workshop

Every month Art Adventure does a specific Art. On October 17th, Mr. Speelman instructed the basics of Guitar to students in Room 603. Students enjoyed a morning filled with great music and fun!



October 24th

### College Application Workshop

Our incredible counselors assisted students with completing their college applications.



## Vasquez High School Highlights (continued)

November 2nd

Students from Spanish 2 and 3 classes visited the historical Plaza Olvera in Downtown L.A. for the El Dia de Los Muertos festival which is a traditional Mexican holiday celebrating the life of past loved ones on 11/2. Students were immersed in a cultural experience that guided them through ancient Aztec rituals, processions, Aztec dance, and music. They ate delicious Mexican foods and browsed through traditional arts and crafts. Mrs. Torrez had been looking forward to this field trip for years and was grateful to have the opportunity to bring this cultural lesson to life. She sends her personal thanks to the support of the district, administration, and transportation staff who made it happen. Prior to the start of the festivities, students also visited L.A. Union Station where they were also able to appreciate this monumental building.



## Meadowlark PTO Activities

Meadowlark has had a great start to this 2023–2024 school year.

Between fun spirit days for the students like Crazy Sock Day, Twin Day , and Nothing but a Backpack Day the students had a blast . For Red Ribbon week, PTO hosted a BMX show. The show had thrilling stunts while teaching students about respect and responsibility.

One of the BMX riders even jumped over Mrs. Fernandez one of our 3rd grade teachers! It was amazing.

PTO also hosted a Country Dance where we had two of our very own teachers teaching Line Dancing to the crowd. We also had two Meadowlark dads giving some great pointers on how to rope some dummy bulls. Fun was had by all.

We are so excited to see what will be our next activity at our wonderful elementary school.

PTO President– Heather Miliotti





## High Desert Booster Activities

High Desert Booster Club is off to a great start! It was our pleasure to kick off the school year at registration selling P.E. clothes. We also branched out and offered school supplies for parents convenience. Our first fundraiser of the year is The School Store. Students are encouraged to have family members sign up and pledge donations to their classrooms. This year they raised \$890 in gift cards for their teachers. Way to go!

Booster Club's ongoing snack bar keeps raking in the profits. The money goes directly back to support the school in various ways.



## High Desert Booster Activities (continued)

We had our first ever community Dodgeball tournament! It was a huge success! Teams were formed and dodgeball was played, and we have been asked to make this a recurring event!

We are looking forward to working with the district to further the improvements on our newly renovated athletics field.

Go Hawks!

HDS Booster President- Corrin Bailey



## Vasquez PTSO



Vasquez High School PTSO is off to a fantastic 2023/24! At the onset of the school year, PTSO assisted with registration days in the library with textbooks alongside some very helpful students while additionally signing up new members to our organization.

PTSO recently wrapped up another successful fall festival, providing opportunities for school parent organizations, campus clubs and sports teams to raise funds. The community-wide venue was filled with vendors, raffle baskets, entertainments, games, food, creepy crawlers and a haunted house. Community organizations also participated with information booths and once again recognitions for dedicated service were presented; this year's recipients were Eddie Romano, groundskeeper for Vasquez High School and PTSO member Mary Fife.

PTSO will be treating VHS staff to a fall luncheon in this season of giving thanks- and we truly are thankful for our Mustang leaders teachers, counselors, office, cafeteria and custodial staff. This autumn season also serves as a time for giving monetarily and PTSO was able to once again donate to teacher start-up funds, sports teams, and each respective class (class of 2024/25/26/27). We hope to continue our donations throughout the school year.

Thank you to all who continue to support PTSO!

Tracy Costan  
PTSO President



Vasquez PTSO (continued)



## Introducing WeCare AADUSD



### WeCare AADUSD: Mental Health Program

#### Services

The AADUSD Mental Health Program provides direct mental health therapy to students: face-to-face therapeutic sessions, and groups; training to all AADUSD staff on mental health and wellness psycho-education.

#### No Service Fees

The AADUSD received two grants: from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The AADUSD Mental Health Program services are free of charge for all Acton-Agua Dulce Students who are referred to the program.

\*WeCare AADUSD is considered a Tier 3 as it relates to PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports): At Tier 3, students receive more intensive, individualized support to improve their behavioral and academic outcomes. At this level, schools rely on formal assessments to determine a student's need.

\*WeCare AADUSD cannot meet with students to provide mental health services without the consent from the parent/guardian/legal rights holder.

#### Referral Process

Parents, Teachers, School Administration, and staff can refer a student to receive mental health services and students can self-refer through AADUSD Mental Health Program. All parents or legal guardians will be contacted upon receiving the referral for the student and the mental health rights holder for the student must sign a consent form for the student to receive mental health services. Referral form can be located at the front office of every school campus site and on the Acton-Agua Dulce School District website at <https://www.aadusd.k12.ca.us/domain/424>

## Showcasing High Desert School Athletics



### HDS Athletics

Volleyball – It was another great volleyball season for the Hawks! With Head Coach Michelle Herman and Assistant Coach Gina Botton, the Hawks were able to compete in all 4 levels for the Silver League; boys JV, girls JV, Varsity Boys, and Varsity Girls. The Varsity Girls entered the season's Championship tournament, hosted at Vasquez Gym, sitting comfortably in first place from all their hard fought wins throughout league play. They ended their season in third place for the Silver League. The Varsity boys were a brand new team that pulled together to have a memorable year. Their hard work and competitive nature helped them battle through the season to earn a place in the Championship tournament, placing 4th.

Cross Country – Headed by our new coaching staff Coach Erika Ehlert and Coach John Sanchez, the Hawks had a phenomenal season. We were so happy to have many new students thankfully join the team. Battling the heat, wind, and injuries, the hawks pulled through strong earning medals at the final Silver League Championship meet. Congratulations to Cole Stueve – 3rd place, Addie Walker – 8th place, Lexi VanOrnum – 9th place. Both teams placed 4th overall in the Silver League 2023 season.

Up Next – Teams that have started practicing Flag Football and Dance Force. We are excited to host all the Silver League games on our new field at High Desert this 2023 season. Games will be played on Tuesdays with the Championship on December 12th. The Dance Force team will be starting up practices November 13th with Ball Room competition on March 9th and 10th.

Mrs. Gina Botton–  
HDS Athletic Director

Showcasing High Desert School Athletics (continued)



Showcasing High Desert School Athletics (continued)





# STRATEGIC PLAN

## UPDATE:

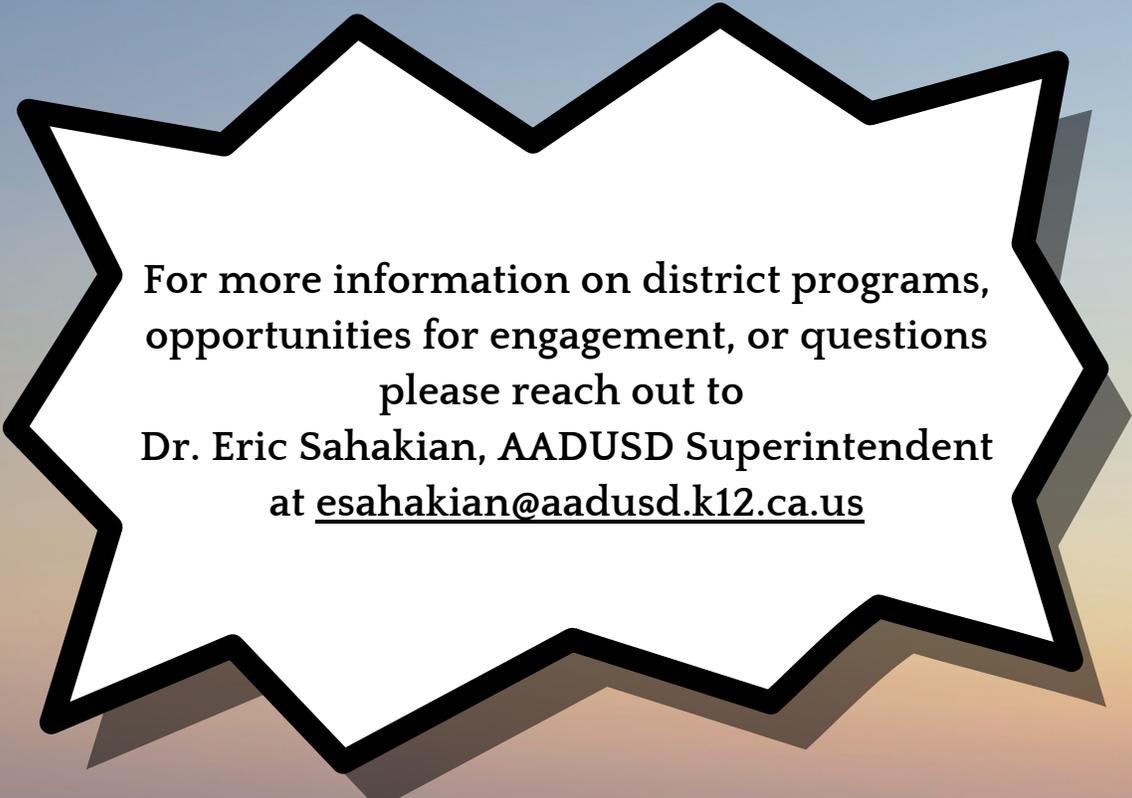
The Strategic Plan Writing team has been working diligently in synthesizing the feedback received from our insightful Strategic Plan Development Team (made up of students, parents, staff, and a community members).

With that said, the updated Strategic Plan will be a live document that would incorporate not only our strategic goals, but action items and tasks aligned to our approved LCAP- Local Control and Accountability Plan.

The Writing Team will present the final draft of the updated Strategic Plan to the Development Team in late November and then to our AADUSD School Board in December for final review and approval.

The final update will include the following:

- District Strategic Goals
- District Mission/Vision
- AADUSD Graduate Profile



For more information on district programs,  
opportunities for engagement, or questions  
please reach out to  
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