

School News

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Covering the National School District

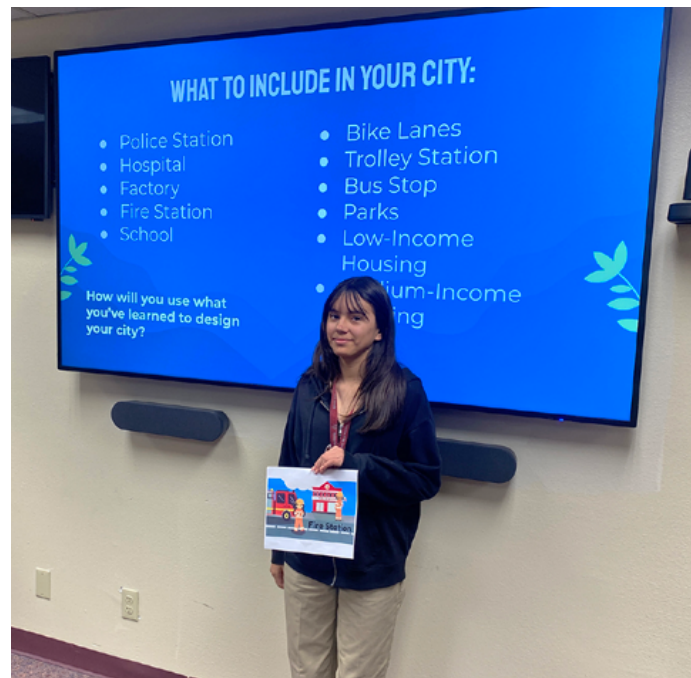


Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2024

World Citizens / Ciudadanos del Mundo

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Students Consider Sustainable Cities



Student Garden Promote Compassionate World Citizens



Students Learn about SDGs

Julie T.
Teacher
Member Since 2006

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World Citizens

Since 2018, National School District has been dedicated to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across operations, lessons, events, projects, and partnerships. Aligned with our vision of exceptionally prepared learners; innovative and compassionate world citizens, we embrace the SDGs as a framework for local action in our National City community.

One stand-out initiative is the Superintendent Student Roundtable, comprising of sixth-grade leaders from each of our ten elementary schools. Collaborating closely with the Superintendent, this select group offers valuable insights, diverse perspectives, and innovative solutions centered around the SDGs.

A highlight of this year's Roundtable work is a climate action project called EARTH-hop (Environmental Action & Response Team Hip-Hop). In partnership with San Diego State University, students learn about sustainability principles, songwriting, music production, and artistic expression, culminating in a unique showcase of their creativity and advocacy.

Moreover, National School District is collaborating with a sister school in Caguas, Puerto Rico for students to exchange ideas for songs, which will be compiled into a single album. This cross-cultural understanding and global collaboration exemplify our commitment to advancing the SDGs.

Throughout this publication, readers will discover a myriad of other ways in which our school district is addressing specific SDGs. Together, we are committed to empowering a generation of responsible global citizens dedicated to sustainable development.



**Dr. Leighangela
Brady**
Superintendent



**Sustainable Development Goal #13
Climate Action**

de canciones, producción musical y expresión artística, culminando en una muestra única de su creatividad y abogacía.

Además, el Distrito Escolar National colabora con una escuela hermana de Caguas (Puerto Rico) para que los estudiantes intercambien ideas sobre canciones, que se recopilarán en un único álbum. Este entendimiento intercultural y esta colaboración global ejemplifican nuestro compromiso con el avance de los ODS.

A lo largo de esta publicación, los lectores descubrirán una miríada de otras formas en las que nuestro distrito escolar está abordando ODS específicos. Juntos, nos comprometemos a capacitar a una generación de ciudadanos globales responsables y dedicados al desarrollo sostenible.

Ciudadanos del Mundo

Desde 2018, el Distrito Escolar National se ha dedicado a implementar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de las Naciones Unidas a través de operaciones, lecciones, eventos, proyectos y asociaciones. Alineados con nuestra visión de aprendices excepcionalmente preparados; ciudadanos del mundo innovadores y compasivos, adoptamos los ODS como marco para la acción local en nuestra comunidad de National City.

Una iniciativa destacada es la Mesa Redonda de Estudiantes del Superintendente, formada por líderes de sexto grado de cada una de nuestras diez escuelas primarias. Colaborando estrechamente con la Superintendente, este selecto grupo ofrece valiosos puntos de vista, perspectivas diversas y soluciones innovadoras centradas en los ODS.

Un punto destacado del trabajo de la Mesa Redonda de este año es un proyecto de acción climática llamado EARTH-hop (Equipo de Acción y Respuesta Medioambiental Hip-Hop). En colaboración con la Universidad Estatal de San Diego, los estudiantes aprenden sobre principios de sostenibilidad, composición



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Founder/Publisher



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Heart Safe Preparation

Central School is thrilled to share that It has been recognized as a Project Adam Heart Safe School, thanks to our collaboration with long-time partners Rady's Children's Hospital, the National City Fire Department, and American Medical Response (AMR). Through our joint efforts, we have equipped all students from Transitional Kindergarten to sixth-grade with life-saving skills.

All students received training on sidewalk CPR, and learned how to effectively use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Primary kids were educated on how and when to call 911, as well as how to provide essential information during an emergency. Students took the lead in training parents and community members, showcasing their confidence and competence in cardiac response techniques.

Central School's sixth-grade student, Levi R., made us exceptionally proud by being the only student in the National School District to undergo full CPR and AED training alongside school personnel. Levi's outstanding dedication and participation were recognized by the media, where he was interviewed on camera, further spreading awareness about the importance of CPR and AED training.



All students at Central learn and practice Sidewalk CPR and effective use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Central School continues to prioritize health and safety, empowering our students and community with life-saving skills that can make a real difference. We are grateful to our partners for their invaluable support and partnership in this undertaking. Together, we are making Central School and our community safer and more prepared in times of emergency. Congratulations to everyone involved in achieving this significant milestone!



Central school has strong collaboration with community partners Rady's Children's Hospital and the National City Fire Department to train the community on CRP and AED.



Erica Barceló-Carrillo
Principal

Preparación Cardiosegura

La Escuela Central está encantada de compartir que ha sido reconocida como Escuela Cardiosegura del Proyecto Adam, gracias a nuestra colaboración con nuestros socios de larga trayectoria, el Hospital Infantil Rady, el Departamento de Bomberos de National City y American Medical Response (AMR). Gracias a nuestros esfuerzos conjuntos, hemos dotado a todos los estudiantes, desde el jardín de infancia de transición hasta el sexto grado, de habilidades para salvar vidas.

Todos los estudiantes recibieron formación sobre la reanimación cardiopulmonar en la banqueta y aprendieron a utilizar eficazmente un desfibrilador externo automático (DEA). Los niños de primaria recibieron formación sobre cómo y cuándo llamar al 911, así como sobre proporcionar información esencial durante una emergencia. Los estudiantes tomaron la iniciativa en la formación de padres y miembros de la comunidad, demostrando

su confianza y competencia en las técnicas de respuesta cardiaca.

El estudiante de sexto grado de la Escuela Central, Levi R., nos hizo sentirnos excepcionalmente orgullosos al ser el único estudiante en el Distrito Escolar National que se sometió a una formación completa en RCP y DEA junto con el personal de la escuela. La extraordinaria dedicación y participación de Levi fueron reconocidas por los medios de comunicación, donde fue entrevistado en cámara, difundiendo aún más la importancia de la formación en RCP y DEA.

La Escuela Central sigue dando prioridad a la salud y la seguridad, capacitando a nuestros estudiantes y a la comunidad con habilidades para salvar vidas que pueden hacer una gran diferencia. Agradecemos a nuestros socios su inestimable apoyo y colaboración en esta labor. Juntos, estamos haciendo que la Escuela Central y nuestra comunidad sean más seguras y estén mejor preparadas en tiempos de emergencia. ¡Felicidades a todos los implicados en la realización de este importante logro!



Central students were recognized on the news further spreading awareness about the importance of CPR and AED training.

Growing Together

At El Toyon School, thriving gardens are an integral part of our daily routine. Students eagerly embrace gardening, cultivating not only plants, but also valuable life skills. Our gardens offer a variety of benefits, from promoting healthy eating habits to fostering environmental stewardship. Engaging in hands-on gardening activities aligns with Next Generation Science Standards, and instills a sense of responsibility and teamwork among students. We are proud to collaborate with community partners like Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center and BCK Programs to ensure ongoing gardening opportunities for the students of El Toyon.

El Toyon focuses on Global Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. School gardening embodies this goal by teaching students about sustainable food production and reducing food waste. By nurturing gardens, students learn the importance of conserving resources and making environmentally conscious choices.

Integrating school gardens into our curriculum prepares students for the future in multiple ways. It equips them with practical skills like gardening and cooking, fostering self-sufficiency, instilling a sense of environmental stewardship, and empowering students to become responsible global citizens. Together, we cultivate a brighter future through school gardens at El Toyon.



Alfonso Denegri
Principal

Creciendo Juntos

En la escuela El Toyon, los prósperos jardines son una parte integral de nuestra rutina diaria. Los estudiantes participan con entusiasmo en la jardinería, cultivando no sólo plantas, sino también valiosas habilidades para la vida. Nuestros jardines ofrecen una variedad de beneficios, desde la promoción de hábitos alimenticios saludables hasta el fomento de la gestión medioambiental. Participar en actividades manuales de jardinería se alinea con los Estándares Científicos de Próxima Generación, e inculca un sentido de responsabilidad y trabajo en equipo entre los estudiantes. Estamos orgullosos de colaborar con socios comunitarios como Olivewood Gardens y Learning Center y Programas BCK para garantizar oportunidades continuas de jardinería para los estudiantes de El Toyon.

El Toyon se centra en la Meta Global 12 - Consumo y Producción Responsables. La jardinería en la escuela encarna esta meta enseñando a los estudiantes sobre la producción sostenible de alimentos y la reducción del desperdicio de alimentos. Al cultivar los jardines, los estudiantes aprenden la importancia de conservar los recursos y de hacer elecciones concienciadas con el medio ambiente.

Integrar los jardines escolares en nuestro plan de estudios prepara a los estudiantes para el futuro de múltiples maneras. Les dota de habilidades prácticas como la jardinería y la cocina, fomenta la autosuficiencia, inculca un sentido de gestión medioambiental y capacita a los estudiantes para convertirse en ciudadanos globales responsables. Juntos, cultivamos un futuro más brillante a través de los jardines escolares de El Toyon.



**Growing Together -
Kindergarten Gardening with BCK Consultants**



**Budding Gardeners
Planting Party**

Music and Mentorship

Ira Harbison School is partnering with The House of Music, a San Diego nonprofit organization to bring free vibrant rhythms of Latin percussion to our students every Friday afternoon. Students in grades three through six can participate in free Latin percussion lessons, immersing themselves in the rich history of Latin jazz and honing their musical skills on instruments like timbales, congas, and cajons.

Led by professional musicians, these lessons not only teach music fundamentals and rhythm, but also instill important values such as leadership and determination. During the academic year, students are afforded multiple occasions to display their musical talents, such as at the annual holiday program and a concert held at the Rady Shell in San Diego.

These performances not only showcase the students' musical accomplishments but also underscore the profound impact of music in uplifting communities and instilling a sense of pride and achievement among participants. By empowering students through music education, Ira Harbison School offers invaluable educational opportunities that motivate students to excel and realize their full potential.

Each student who fully commits to the House of Music program receives a brand new, professional-grade instrument at the end of the program. This gift ensures that they can continue practicing and honing their craft, furthering their musical journey beyond the classroom. The Ira Harbison Hawk community is grateful to The House of Music for their partnership and the gift of music they provide to students, enriching their lives.



Dr. Fausto Barragán
Principal

Música y Mentoría

La escuela Ira Harbison se ha asociado con The House of Music, una organización sin ánimo de lucro de San Diego, para ofrecer gratuitamente a nuestros estudiantes los vibrantes ritmos de la percusión latina todos los viernes por la tarde. Los estudiantes de tercero a sexto grado pueden participar en clases gratuitas de percusión latina, sumergiéndose en la rica historia del jazz latino y perfeccionando sus habilidades musicales con instrumentos como timbales, congas y cajones.

Dirigidas por músicos profesionales, estas lecciones no sólo enseñan los fundamentos de la música y el ritmo, sino que también inculcan valores importantes como el liderazgo y la determinación. Durante el año académico, los estudiantes disponen de múltiples ocasiones para mostrar su talento musical, como en el programa anual de festividades y en un concierto celebrado en el Rady Shell de San Diego.

Estas presentaciones no sólo muestran los logros musicales de los estudiantes, sino que también subrayan el profundo impacto de la música a la hora de elevar a las comunidades

e inculcar un sentimiento de orgullo y logro entre los participantes. Al capacitar a los estudiantes a través de la educación musical, la Escuela Ira Harbison ofrece oportunidades educativas inestimables que motivan a los estudiantes a sobresalir y a desarrollar todo su potencial.

Cada estudiante que se compromete plenamente con el programa House of Music recibe un instrumento nuevo de calidad profesional al final del programa. Este regalo garantiza que puedan seguir practicando y perfeccionando su arte, impulsando su viaje musical más allá de las aulas. La comunidad del Halcón Ira Harbison está agradecida a The House of Music por su colaboración y por el regalo de la música que proporciona a los estudiantes, enriqueciendo sus vidas.



Feel the Beat



Let's Make Music

A Musical Legacy

The John Otis Mariachi Program enriches education by providing students in grades three through six with a comprehensive musical experience. Beginning with foundational music education using the recorder and My First Music Book, the program establishes a strong musical foundation for participants. Students then select a mariachi instrument of Guitar, Vihuela, Guitarrón, Trumpet, Violin or Voice. Through the John Otis Mariachi Program, inclusivity and equality thrive, as students of all commitment levels are welcomed and encouraged.

With a legacy spanning over 20 years in the National School District, the program serves as a pioneering force in elementary mariachi education in the United States. Alumni of the program have gone on to pursue professional careers as mariachis, showcasing the program's efficacy in talent development. Some of our former students are professional mariachis and have performed with famous mariachis like Mariachi Vargas, Sol De Mexico, and others.

Beyond musical proficiency, this initiative plays a fundamental role in preserving cultural traditions within National City. This initiative not only enhances musical abilities, but also instills values of dedication and cultural understanding. Experience the transformative power of mariachi music, and join us in embracing its vibrant rhythms and rich heritage at John Otis!



Bryan Vine
Principal

Un Legado Musical

El Programa de Mariachi en John Otis enriquece la educación proporcionando a los estudiantes de tercero a sexto grado una experiencia musical integral. Comenzando con una educación musical básica utilizando la flauta y Mi primer libro de música, el programa establece una sólida base musical para los participantes. Luego, los estudiantes seleccionan un instrumento de mariachi como Guitarra, Vihuela, Guitarrón, Trompeta, Violín o Voz. Mediante el Programa de Mariachi de John Otis, la inclusión y la igualdad prosperan, ya que se da la bienvenida y se anima la participación de estudiantes de todos los niveles de compromiso.

Con un legado de más de 20 años en el Distrito Escolar Nacional, el programa es pionero en la enseñanza elemental del mariachi en Estados Unidos. Los antiguos alumnos del programa han seguido carreras profesionales como mariachis, lo que demuestra la eficacia del programa en el desarrollo del talento.

Algunos de nuestros antiguos estudiantes son mariachis profesionales y han actuado con mariachis famosos como el Mariachi Vargas, Sol De México y otros.

Más allá de la destreza musical, esta iniciativa desempeña un papel fundamental en la preservación de las tradiciones culturales dentro de National City. Esta iniciativa no sólo mejora las habilidades musicales, sino que también inculca valores de dedicación y comprensión cultural. ¡Experimente el poder transformador de la música de mariachi y únase a nosotros para abrazar sus vibrantes ritmos y su rica herencia en John Otis!



Mariachi music is not just a form of entertainment, but a way to connect with cultural heritage.



Mariachi is music practiced and played for all ages.

A Collaborative Effort

Attendance is crucial for academic achievement and emotional well-being in schools. However, chronic absenteeism persists as a longstanding challenge in educational environments. This academic year, with collaborative efforts and initiatives, our Kimball School community is experiencing a notable improvement in addressing chronic absenteeism.

With support from the San Diego County Office of Education, educators, parents, and staff, Kimball has established a nurturing environment that prioritizes attendance through collaborative efforts with parents, teachers, and staff members. Our attendance team works diligently to identify and address barriers that may hinder regular school attendance. All efforts are focused on an asset-based approach.

Additionally, Kimball is fostering open communication channels and implementing targeted strategies. We design engaging and interactive learning experiences infused with fun to cultivate a sense of excitement and motivation among students. We also provide regular communication via a home-school bulletin to ensure parents stay informed and engaged in their child's attendance progress. As a result of these efforts,

we've witnessed a notable decline in chronic absenteeism rates, paving the way for improved academic outcomes in our dual-language school.

Despite challenges that may still lie ahead, our progress is a testament to the power of collaboration and dedication. Together, we are addressing chronic absenteeism, and we are confident that this positive trajectory will flourish with the continued support of all members of our Kimball community.



Francisco López
Principal

Un Esfuerzo de Colaboración

La asistencia es crucial para el rendimiento académico y el bienestar emocional en las escuelas. Sin embargo, el absentismo crónico persiste como un reto de larga duración en los entornos educativos. Este año escolar, con esfuerzos e iniciativas de colaboración, nuestra comunidad escolar de Kimball está experimentando una notable mejora en la lucha contra el absentismo crónico.

Con el apoyo de la Oficina de Educación del Condado de San Diego, los educadores, los padres y el personal, Kimball ha establecido un entorno enriquecedor que da prioridad a la asistencia mediante esfuerzos de colaboración con padres, maestros y miembros del personal. Nuestro equipo de asistencia trabaja diligentemente para identificar y abordar las barreras que pueden dificultar la asistencia regular a la escuela. Todos los esfuerzos se centran en un enfoque basado en las ventajas.

Además, Kimball fomenta canales de comunicación abiertos e implementa estrategias específicas. Diseñamos

experiencias de aprendizaje atractivas e interactivas infundidas con diversión para cultivar un sentimiento de entusiasmo y motivación entre los estudiantes. También proveemos una comunicación regular a través de un boletín hogar-escuela para garantizar que los padres se mantengan informados y comprometidos con el progreso de asistencia de sus hijos. Como resultado de estos esfuerzos, hemos sido

testigos de un notable descenso de las tasas de absentismo crónico, allanando el camino para la mejora de los resultados académicos en nuestra escuela bilingüe.

A pesar de los retos que aún nos esperan, nuestros progresos son un testimonio del poder de la colaboración y la dedicación. Juntos, estamos abordando el absentismo crónico, y confiamos en que esta trayectoria positiva prospere con el apoyo continuo de todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad Kimball.



Fun Events Promoting Attendance



Promoting Attendance

Every Stride Matters

Las Palmas Elementary School cultivates a positive school culture by embracing the Gator Guidelines of responsibility, respect, safety, and kindness in all aspects of school life. This commitment to nurturing the whole child has earned us the distinguished recognition of receiving the 2023 Platinum Implementation status from the California PBIS Coalition for our effective application of positive behavior recognition throughout the school.

In particular, the Las Palmas Running Club is a program designed to promote healthy minds and bodies among our students. Each student is invited to participate by either running or walking every morning before school. Students are assigned a unique QR code, which parent and teacher volunteers scan at every lap. Students earn charms shaped like feet, marking milestones for laps completed. Students are also motivated by earning prizes when they reach 30, 60, 90, and 120 miles such as certificates, water bottles, and shirts. Students wait in anticipation for Friday when the weekly top runners are announced!

An added benefit to the Running Club is that students are encouraged to be present and punctual at school each day, contributing to overall academic success. Regardless of their athletic abilities, every student is encouraged to set personal goals and work towards achieving them. At Las Palmas Elementary, we believe in giving students the opportunity to thrive both inside and outside of the classroom. Go, Gators!



Berenice Walker
Principal

Cada Paso Importa

La Escuela Primaria Las Palmas cultiva una cultura escolar positiva adoptando las Directrices Caimán de responsabilidad, respeto, seguridad y amabilidad en todos los aspectos de la vida escolar. Este compromiso de cuidar al niño en su totalidad nos ha valido el distinguido reconocimiento de recibir el estatus de Implementación Platino 2023 de la Coalición PBIS de California por nuestra aplicación eficaz del reconocimiento del comportamiento positivo en toda la escuela.

En particular, el Club de Corredores de Las Palmas es un programa diseñado para promover mentes y cuerpos sanos entre nuestros estudiantes. Se invita a cada estudiante a participar mediante correr o caminar todas las mañanas antes de la escuela. A los estudiantes se les asigna un código QR único, que los padres y maestros voluntarios escanean en cada vuelta. Los estudiantes ganan colgantes con forma de pies, que marcan los hitos de las vueltas completadas. Los estudiantes también se motivan ganando premios cuando alcanzan 30, 60, 90 y 120 millas, como certificados, botellas de agua y camisetas. Los estudiantes esperan con impaciencia el viernes, ¡cuando se anuncian los mejores corredores semanales!

Una ventaja añadida al Club de Corredores es que se anima a los estudiantes a estar presentes y ser puntuales en la escuela cada día, lo que contribuye al éxito académico general. Independientemente de sus habilidades atléticas, se anima a cada estudiante a fijarse metas personales y a trabajar para alcanzarlas. En la escuela primaria Las Palmas, creemos en dar a los estudiantes la oportunidad de prosperar tanto dentro como fuera del aula. ¡Vamos, caimanes!



Top Runner has Card Scanned



Teachers and Students Running



Walking Before School

Promoting Inclusivity

Lincoln Acres Elementary School has undertaken proactive measures to address chronic absenteeism, aiming to foster a safe and supportive learning environment conducive to student success. Through a collaborative partnership with the ICAN program, significant strides have been made in reducing chronic absenteeism, as evidenced by a reduction of 17% on average compared to the previous year, alongside a 3% improvement in overall attendance.

This progress is attributed to innovative initiatives developed in conjunction with ICAN. Notably, monthly attendance celebrations during assemblies serve as opportunities for students to engage in fun activities, such as silly stringing the principal and participating in raffles, thereby promoting consistent attendance. Additionally, students with perfect attendance are incentivized through rewards, further reinforcing the importance of regular school attendance.

Furthermore, we've introduced positive home visits and teacher-written postcards sent via mail to students with attendance challenges, ensuring direct and positive communication with families. Attendance letters sent home include detailed information on absences as well as a visual of expected attendance rate for students in comparison to the attendance rate for their child. Teachers and staff also dedicate two minutes a day for ten consecutive days to connect with these students, offering support and encouragement.

By prioritizing attendance and fostering a sense of community within the school, Lincoln Acres Elementary endeavors to promote peace, justice, and strong institutions. Themed celebrations and “attenDANCE” events further enhance student engagement and enthusiasm for learning, contributing to a positive school culture rooted in inclusivity and equity.



Daniela Ruiz-Jo
Principal



Promoviendo la Inclusión

La escuela primaria Lincoln Acres ha emprendido medidas proactivas para hacer frente al absentismo crónico, con el objetivo de fomentar un entorno de aprendizaje seguro y propicio para el éxito de los estudiantes. A través de una asociación de colaboración con el programa ICAN, se han hecho avances significativos en la reducción del absentismo crónico, como demuestra una reducción del 17% de promedio en comparación con el año anterior, junto con una mejora del 3% en la asistencia en general.

Este progreso se atribuye a iniciativas innovadoras desarrolladas en conjunto con ICAN. En particular, las celebraciones mensuales por la asistencia durante las asambleas sirven de oportunidad para que los estudiantes participen en actividades divertidas, como echar espuma de carnaval a la directora y participar en sorteos, promoviendo así una asistencia constante. Además, los estudiantes con asistencia perfecta son incentivados mediante recompensas, lo que

refuerza aún más la importancia de la asistencia regular a la escuela.

Por otra parte, hemos introducido las visitas positivas a domicilio y el envío por correo de postales escritas por los maestros a los estudiantes con problemas de asistencia, lo que garantiza una comunicación directa y positiva con las familias. Las cartas de asistencia enviadas a casa incluyen información detallada sobre las ausencias, así como una visualización de la tasa de asistencia esperada de los estudiantes en comparación con la tasa de asistencia de su hijo. Los maestros y el personal también dedican dos minutos al día durante diez días consecutivos a relacionarse con estos estudiantes, ofreciéndoles apoyo y ánimo.

Al dar prioridad a la asistencia y fomentar un sentimiento de comunidad en la escuela, la escuela primaria Lincoln Acres se esfuerza por promover la paz, la justicia e instituciones sólidas. Las celebraciones temáticas y los eventos “attenDANCE” mejoran aún más el compromiso y el entusiasmo de los estudiantes por aprender, contribuyendo a una cultura escolar positiva arraigada en la inclusividad y la equidad.



Principal Ruiz-Jo getting silly stringed by TK-K students with perfect attendance for the month.

Percent of Days Present	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Average as of February
2022/2023	90.6%	91.9%	88.8%	85.1%	87.9%	87.1%	89.8%	88.6%	88.7%
2023/2024	95.2%	92.7%	93.5%	88.7%	92.3%	92.3%	91.5%	91.9%	91.3%

Attendance Data
Comparing the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years.

Olivewood Elementary's Garden

Nestled within the Olivewood Elementary school campus is a vibrant outdoor classroom, our school garden. Here, students engage in Next Generation Science Standards lessons, immersing in environmental science, and nurturing a deeper connection with nature.

Twice a week, during lunch recess, students can join the Garden Club, and experience the wonders of our garden. Students engage in the sensory delight of "tasting" what is growing in our garden beds to the fascinating workings of an active worm compost bin. Recently, students participated in tasting a savory light tomato salad crafted from our garden's cherry tomatoes, and fresh herbs.

Olivewood's commitment to sustainability and education has garnered recognition beyond our school gates. Our garden was selected to participate in the 2024 Growing School Gardens Summit, where conference attendees were offered a field trip to our school garden.

Olivewood's garden fosters practices that support the health and vitality of terrestrial ecosystems. By promoting healthy eating habits and minimizing waste generation, the garden contributes to biodiversity conservation and the preservation of natural habitats. As we welcome visitors during the summit, we envision a future where schools embrace green spaces and hands-on learning experiences, nurturing a deep connection with the land and fostering environmental stewardship among students and communities.

At Olivewood Elementary, we are sowing the seeds of change for a brighter, greener future one garden experience at a time. Together, we strive towards a more sustainable tomorrow, cultivating a generation of environmentally conscious leaders.



Zulma Santana
Principal



Jardín de la Primaria Olivewood

Situado dentro del recinto de la escuela primaria Olivewood se encuentra una vibrante aula al aire libre, nuestro jardín escolar. Aquí, los estudiantes participan en las lecciones de los Estándares Científicos de Próxima Generación, sumergiéndose en las ciencias medioambientales y cultivando una conexión más profunda con la naturaleza.

Dos veces por semana, durante el recreo del almuerzo, los estudiantes pueden unirse al Club de jardinería y experimentar las maravillas de nuestro jardín. Los estudiantes participan en el deleite sensorial de "saborear" lo que crece en los arriates de nuestro huerto hasta el fascinante funcionamiento de un compostador activo de lombrices. Recientemente, los estudiantes participaron en la degustación de una sabrosa ensalada ligera de tomate elaborada con los tomates cherry de nuestro huerto y hierbas frescas.

El compromiso de Olivewood con la sostenibilidad y la educación ha obtenido reconocimiento más allá de las puertas de nuestra escuela. Nuestro jardín fue seleccionado para participar en la cumbre Growing School Gardens 2024, donde se ofreció a los asistentes a la conferencia una excursión a nuestro jardín escolar.

El huerto de Olivewood fomenta prácticas que favorecen la salud y la vitalidad de los ecosistemas terrestres. Al promover hábitos alimenticios saludables y minimizar la generación de residuos, el jardín contribuye a la conservación de la biodiversidad y a la preservación de los hábitats naturales. Mientras damos la bienvenida a los visitantes durante la cumbre, imaginamos un futuro en el que las escuelas adopten los espacios verdes y las experiencias prácticas de aprendizaje, cultivando una profunda conexión con la tierra y fomentando la administración medioambiental entre los estudiantes y las comunidades.

En la escuela primaria Olivewood, estamos sembrando las semillas del cambio para un futuro más brillante y más verde, una experiencia de jardín a la vez. Juntos, nos esforzamos por lograr un mañana más sostenible, cultivando una generación de líderes conscientes del medio ambiente.



Outdoor Environmental Science Education



2024 Growing School Gardens Summit

Career Exposure

Exposing students to adult mentors and local businesses is pivotal in helping them envision their future career paths. For instance, during Read Across America week in early March, Palmer Way School fostered a vibrant reading environment on the playground, where families and parents participated with enthusiasm, bringing along beach towels, blankets, and Hawaiian attire. Beyond familial involvement, the event welcomed guest readers from various businesses, offering students insights into different career avenues within their community.

Furthermore, partnerships with organizations like Olivewood Gardens provide Palmer Way students with opportunities to explore sustainability and agriculture-related professions. Through engaging lessons focused on science, health, and sustainable practices, students from TK to 6th grade delve into immersive educational experiences that align with San Diego's priority work sectors.

Additionally, Palmer Way students actively participate in STEAM classes, honing skills in engineering, coding, and theater arts. These multifaceted learning experiences not only impart knowledge but also instill a lifelong passion for learning and foster a deeper connection to the world, preparing students for diverse career opportunities in the future.



Dr. Leticia Segura
Principal



Exposición Profesional

Exponer a los estudiantes a mentores adultos y empresas locales es fundamental para ayudarles a vislumbrar sus futuras trayectorias profesionales. Por ejemplo, durante la semana de la Lectura en América, a principios de marzo, la escuela Palmer Way creó un ambiente de lectura en el patio, donde las familias y los padres participaron con entusiasmo, trayendo toallas de playa, mantas y atuendos hawaianos. Más allá de la participación familiar, el evento contó con la presencia de lectores invitados de diversas empresas, que ofrecieron a los estudiantes una visión de las diferentes vías profesionales dentro de su comunidad.

Además, las asociaciones con organizaciones como Olivewood Gardens proveen a los estudiantes de Palmer Way oportunidades para explorar la sostenibilidad y las profesiones relacionadas con la agricultura. A través de atractivas lecciones centradas en la ciencia, la salud y las prácticas sostenibles, los estudiantes de TK a 6° grado se adentran en experiencias educativas inmersivas que se alinean con los

sectores laborales prioritarios de San Diego.

Adicionalmente, los estudiantes de Palmer Way participan activamente en las clases STEAM, perfeccionando sus habilidades en ingeniería, codificación y artes teatrales. Estas experiencias de aprendizaje polifacéticas no sólo imparten conocimientos, sino que también inculcan una pasión permanente por el aprendizaje y fomentan una conexión más profunda con el mundo, preparando a los estudiantes para diversas oportunidades laborales en el futuro.



Palmer Way Families coming together to read to their children.



2nd grade students exploring during Olivewood Garden Lesson.

Nurturing Young Minds

Music has the unique ability to transcend cultural barriers and unite people from diverse backgrounds. Rancho de la Nación Elementary School is proud to host, 'Music and Movement' through the Arts Education Connection San Diego (AECSD), designed to foster a love of music and build foundational musical skills and concepts. Led by a professional musician, songwriter and an enthusiastic educator, two Kindergarten classes participated in an 8-week program culminating with students performing, "What a Wonderful World."

This community partnership provides an innovative program that integrates music to create a dynamic learning environment that not only fosters a love for music, but also cultivates essential skills and concepts in our young learners. The best part of the program is that students love it!

The feedback was so positive for the 'Music and Movement' program that we were able to extend it to our after-school program. Students meet once a week with another experienced teaching artist for AECS, professional percussionist, and performer in the "Drummer Without Borders" organization.

'Music and Movement' aligns with our school's commitment to 'Strive' by empowering students to become active participants in their communities and the world at large. By tapping into their innate curiosity and creativity, the program aims to instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts and a sense of confidence in their musical abilities with the goal of seeing students to learn, grow, and thrive.



Estephany Conlon Diaz
Principal



Cultivando las Mentes Jóvenes

La música tiene la capacidad única de trascender las barreras culturales y unir a personas de diversos orígenes. La Escuela Primaria Rancho de la Nación se enorgullece de albergar, "Música y Movimiento" a través de la Conexión de Educación Artística de San Diego (AECSD), diseñado para fomentar el amor por la música y construir habilidades y conceptos musicales fundamentales. Dirigidas por un músico profesional, compositor y un educador entusiasta, dos clases de jardín de infancia participaron en un programa de 8 semanas que culminó con la interpretación por parte de los estudiantes de "What a Wonderful World".

Esta asociación comunitaria proporciona un programa innovador que integra la música para crear un entorno de aprendizaje dinámico que no sólo fomenta el amor por la música, sino que también cultiva habilidades y conceptos esenciales en nuestros jóvenes aprendices. Lo mejor del programa es que ¡a los estudiantes les encanta!

La recepción del programa "Música y movimiento" fue tan positiva que pudimos ampliarlo a nuestro programa extraescolar. Los

estudiantes se reúnen una vez a la semana con otro artista docente experimentado de AECS, percusionista profesional e integrante de la organización "Drummer Without Borders".

"Música y movimiento" se alinea con el compromiso de nuestra escuela de "Esforzarse" capacitando a los estudiantes para que se conviertan en participantes activos en sus comunidades y en el mundo en general. Aprovechando su curiosidad y creatividad innatas, el programa pretende inculcar un aprecio permanente por las artes y un sentimiento de confianza en sus habilidades musicales con la meta de que los estudiantes aprendan, crezcan y prosperen.



Mr. Hunter Music



Mr. Diaz Music

Note-ables



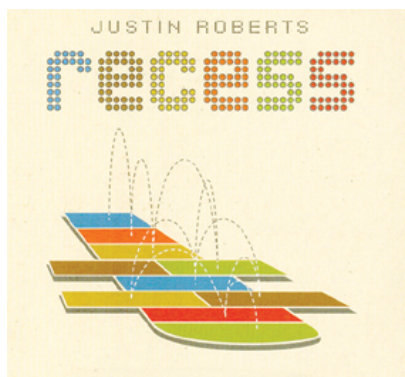
Kate Karp

Recess

Recess is here, and just in time, too. Award-winning musician Justin Roberts, along with his Not Ready for Napttime players, has whipped up a whimsical collection of songs to play, imagine and relax along with and have

a generally good time in the process. Just like recess.

Everyone, whether a dreamer or a doer, has a song here. “My Secret Robot” and “Otis” cocern a couple of most unusual imaginary friends—the name Otis is a clue to one of them. “The Princess Wore Pink” is a fantasy of how a gently subversive individual—OK, she happened to be a princess, so she had perks, but she used them for leadership—made a much-needed change to her town.



“Looking for Trains” is a lovely, lilting song reminiscent of autumn evenings with an added flavor of Simon and Garfunkel. “Every Little Step,” dedicated to Roberts’s dog, Udo, sounds just like what a dog would think and feel: “There’s no trouble as big as my heart is wide.” And if you’re a teacher and “School’s Out (Tall Buildings)” doesn’t choke you up with happy tears, I don’t know what will.

The collection is available on CD, and there’s a limited edition that includes a pop-up robot and special web links for craft activities and bonus media.

Who among us hasn’t waited for that last enchanted click of the minute hand that rings the bell? Take a little break and enjoy *Recess!*

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Word Search Contest Words Associated with School

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com (Please put National in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **June 15, 2024**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Achievers	Learning
Character	Mentors
Classrooms	Nutrition
Curiosity	Parents
Discipline	Principal
Educators	Recess
Encourage	Reunion
Excellence	Student
Focused	Success
Homework	Technology
Instructors	Thinkers
Integrity	Workers



Note-ables



Kate Karp

Back to the Land

“Now don’t get me wrong—it takes more than a song.” This lyric from the title song of Hot Peas ‘N Butter’s latest CD is a call to action to everyone on Earth.

At first listen, *Back to the Land* is a folksy, earthy collection for children, but the songs travel beyond music to mentorship. The title song is a twangy anthem for sustaining the mother planet. The vocalists invoke Arctic glacier melting and rising tides and count off the ways to help: clean, renewable energy and saving coral reefs are just a couple of them.

As with all their recordings, the Peas sing out a theme with a diversity of musical genres. The selections comprise a lively, “rootsy” mix of bluegrass, African and American folk, Dixieland and jazz. They’re performed by master musicians, including Peter Yarrow, whom some of you will remember from Peter, Paul and Mary.



“Come and Go with Me to That Land” is a New Orleans-jazz spiritual of hope; “Rainbow in Your Eyes” introduces colors to very young children and early English-language learners, and is a guaranteed earworm; “Little Fox,” which is catchy as all get-out, is a bluegrass-fiddle mountain ballad about a fox whose dinner plans are foiled, albeit

temporarily. “*Funga Alafia*” is a Nigerian song of welcome, sung in the Yoruba language by gospel vocalist Marcelle Davies Lashley, who was raised in New York by her native African parents.

Back to the Land tells listeners that every day must be Earth Day, both for the survival of the planet and harmony

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Going Green! Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com (Please put National in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2024

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Carpool | Low Waste |
| Compost | Planet |
| Conservation | Process |
| Difference | Protect |
| Eco Friendly | Recycle |
| Efficient | Reduce |
| Emissions | Renewable |
| Energy | Resources |
| Environment | Respect |
| Future | Responsibility |
| Garden | Reuse |
| Healthier | Solar |
| Impact | |

