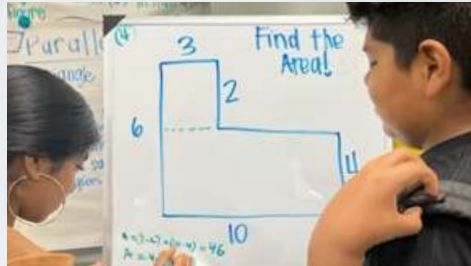


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

The official monthly EEF Newsletter will highlight Foundation grant recipients, upcoming and past events, and happenings around Escondido that affect the students of the city.

WHITEBOARDS FOR MATH AT DDAAS



Teacher Hoa N. Palomino at Del Dios Academy of Arts and Sciences (DDAAS) shared student experiences with whiteboards purchased through an EEF grant and donation from AES this year. Hoa reports her students' engagement in math and problem solving has increased dramatically. She states, "At least twice a week, student teams work at the whiteboards. Standing together to problem solve and answer questions collectively leads to collaboration and allows peer teaching. The whiteboards allow students to actively learn from each other."

Ms. Palomino and the entire DDAAS 6th grade math team also included a very well written thank you letter to EEF and AES for the donation of the vertical whiteboards.

MATH MANIPULATIVES FOR OAK HILL 5TH GRADERS



Fifth grade teacher Kristen Moss at Oak Hill Elementary School gave a big thank you to EEF and AES for their generous donation to purchase math manipulatives for her students. Kristen was able to buy engaging games like Shut the Box, Division Dominoes, Decimal War, Fraction War, and more. These tools have brought math to life for her students, helping them build confidence and understanding through hands-on learning and play. She states, "The excitement in the room when we introduce a new game is truly priceless. Students who once hesitated during math lessons are now eagerly participating and even asking to play these games during free time. Kristen's students also wrote very nice thank you letters to Michael Huynh from AES."

CULINARY WORKSTATIONS AT HIDDEN VALLEY MS



Hidden Valley Middle School's brand new Culinary Arts program needed supplies so they looked to EEF for a grant. EEF and The Peggy Raymond Award delivered. Culinary Arts teacher Kerri Paul wrote a thank you letter to EEF and The Peggy Raymond Award thanking them for their generous gift of 4 stainless steel tables. These tables have contributed significantly to the success of the Culinary Arts program at HVMS. According to Ms. Paul, "The workstations were used daily for a wide range of culinary tasks including preparing and cutting ingredients, kneading dough, and organizing mise en place for group recipes. We also used the stations as serving lines during school-wide events such as school dances and our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Their durability and mobility made setup and cleanup smooth and efficient."

NUTS! THE MUSICAL AT LR GREEN ELEMENTARY



EEF President Carolyn Royer visited L.R. Green to see the first graders perform the musical, NUTS! According to Carolyn, "They were absolutely amazing.....they knew the words and sang at least 5 different songs and several students sang in small groups. Almost 110 students performed. They were so very professional about the play. All the gestures were there, every piece was well done, no confusion. Just excellent! The gist of the play is to understand the circle of life from an acorn's point of view!"

The EEF helped pay for costumes and materials for parents to make costumes. Almost every kind of nut was portrayed, animals, clouds, sun, all parts of our environment. Teachers were thankful for all the help from parents....one who worked on the singing and music and the many who worked on costumes.

GEOLOGY PLAY AT OAK HILL ELEMENTARY



EEF Board Members Pam Putnicki and Carolyn Royer had the pleasure of attending a performance at Oak Hill Elementary in May of first graders performing a play from Bad Wolf Press Musicals! According to both the first graders knew their songs and the arm movements that went with the music! They saw ferns, volcanos, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks (students portrayed these). Students even had balloon-type instruments. The audience was made up of students in the school so lots of people got to see the performance.

The best part was that students must have studied some geology to know what they were singing about! Kids are never too young to learn!

FIRST ANNUAL FELICITA MATH NIGHT



Felicita Elementary conducted its first ever Family Math Night on Thursday, May 29. It was well attended with 12 different activities for students and parents to work together on. Principal Stephanie Higginbotham thanks The Foundation for the generous grant that made purchasing the supplies possible.

UNIFIED BY DIVERSITY AT RINCON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Murals

- Mock up design approved by the superintendent, Dr. Ibarra
- Mural will be placed at the front of the school by the office
- Exploratory students created cultural art

Accordian

- The Band program purchased a cultural instrument commonly used in Mexican music.
- Students are excited to learn a brand new instrument to the program!

Band

Talent Show

Through the Peers Uniting Peers program, PUP general education student mentors and PUP students in special day classrooms (Todd and Novello) are creating a cultural dance and costume accessories for a combined Lunar New Year, Hawaiian culture, and Ballet Folklorico performance.

- Approximately 40 students will participate in the talent show finale in late May. The talent show is led by Ms. Anderson & Mr. Yales.
- Ms. Rojas and her ELOP students are making skirts for the girls and Ms. Baza is creating bow ties for the boys in the special day program.

Peers Uniting Peers Program

Cultural Meals

- Students created cultural meals representing different countries.
- Some of the countries included Mexico, England, Germany, and Italy.

Culinary Arts

The \$5000 Unified by Diversity grant from EEF challenged students to learn about their peers and staff in a different way and focus on the positive impact of diversity on the campus. Rincon MS art teacher Kirsten Josephson wrote in her grant reflection:

"In Video Productions, students were successful in learning how to use the newly purchased equipment. Students really enjoyed interviewing other students on campus and learning about their unique cultures and experiences. AVID and Yearbook students learned through recording, analyzing, and disseminating information about how diversity benefits everyone and consequently promotes unity in our schools and greater society. The cameras, lenses, and other photography accessories that we received through the EEF grant provided a new mode for academic expression, and the equipment also added legitimacy to our recording goals. In advanced art, students enjoyed reaching out to staff members to get feedback on how to represent our campus in a diverse way through their large mural. Our cultural dinner project aimed to celebrate diversity and foster cultural understanding among our students through a series of themed dinner events. Band and choir students were able to learn music from a culture they may not have been previously familiar with, and students who have a Latino background were able to feel a sense of pride in having their peers learn music from their culture. Through the purchase of the accordion, many students got a chance to see an instrument they had only heard before, and many students were able to try to play it. Together, they learned how the instrument works, and some students were able to get guidance from family members on how to appropriately play it. It brought not just the students closer together, but families as well."

LIFECYCLE AT ROCK SPRINGS ELEMENTARY



Rock Spring Elementary 3rd grade teacher Sarah Sandige thanked the Foundation for providing grant money to purchase caterpillars, bug larvae, and seeds for her classroom's lifecycle block. She implemented the block after Spring Break this year, stating it was a great decision. Sarah's students, along with Rock Springs' TK classes released their butterflies in the school's garden (see video above). Sarah feels the project was very successful and hopes to expand on it in the coming years.

EEF BOARD NEWS

At the May EEF board meeting president Carolyn Royer resigned as president after 15 years of selfless service. The Foundation board would like to heartily thank Carolyn for her incredible leadership, tenacity, and guidance. She has truly embodied the idea of a servant leader and has been instrumental in the success of untold number of students of the Escondido Union School District who have benefited from the Foundation's grants. Carolyn will stay on the board as a mentor and consultant. The board elected Ali Parviz as the new president.

The Escondido Education Foundation is a community driven fundraising organization which provides funding for essential resources, and programs that empower teachers, inspire learning, and promote innovation and academic excellence in EUSD.

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