



# Quarterly Gold



Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District's Official Newsletter

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## Spring/Summer Reflection

by Eric Sahakian, Ed.D.- AADUSD Superintendent

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Quarterly Gold, our district newsletter celebrating the achievements and milestones of AADUSD!

As we wrap up another incredible school year, summer has officially arrived—and it's well deserved.

I couldn't be more proud of our students and the academic growth they've shown throughout the year.

To our students and staff: thank you for your hard work and unwavering commitment. You've truly earned this moment to reflect and celebrate.

Together, we remain focused on uplifting and guiding the future leaders of tomorrow.

Wishing our entire AADUSD community a safe, relaxing, and joyful summer break.

Stronger together. AADUSD Proud.

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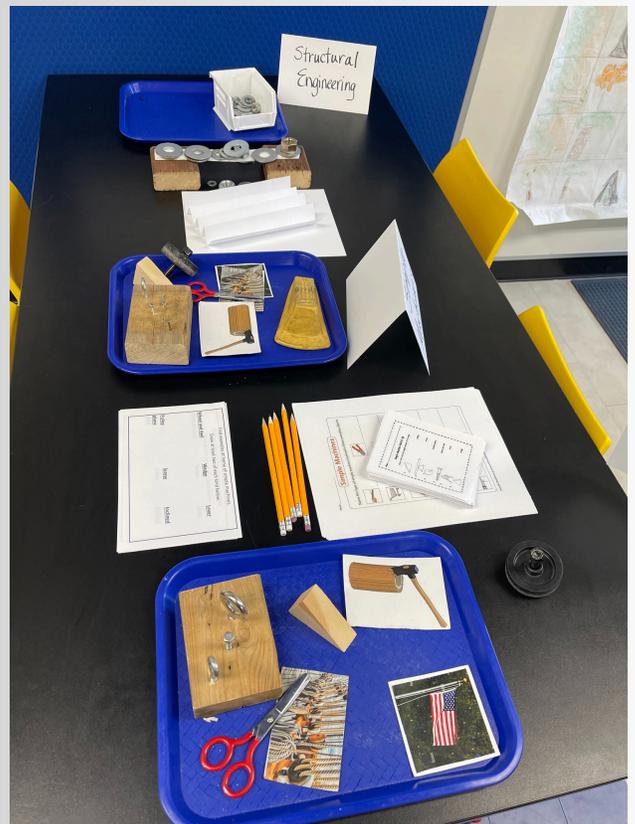
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Spring Open House at Meadowlark and High Desert

# OPEN HOUSE

Meadowlark's Open House on May 15<sup>th</sup> had an amazing turnout by the ML community. Thank you parents, staff, and ML's PTO for all of their efforts.



Spring Open House at Meadowlark and High Desert

# OPEN HOUSE

High Desert's Open House was held on May 29th. HDS had a wonderful turnout turnout by the HDS community. Thank you parents, staff, and HDS's Booster Club for all of their efforts.



## LOLC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



On May 15<sup>th</sup>, AADUSD hosted the Little Owls Learning Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Thank you to our AADUSD school board for their vision and support of the expansion of our early childhood education program to the Acton school site. Your advocacy in support of student learning and growth is evidenced by the opening of our pre-kindergarten and transitional kindergarten offerings and as well as Meadowlark kindergarten sections moving to this site in time for the opening of schools this coming fall. Thank you parents, staff, and students for the celebratory afternoon!





## Community Partners– Making it Happen

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

On May 17th, the gracious Acton Women's club recognized six Vasquez HS seniors with scholarships. We are grateful for the Acton Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on providing scholarships to our qualifying four Vasquez High School seniors. Thank you Acton Womens' Club Board of Directors and President, Valerie Williams for this invitation.

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

- Ryan Ames
- Sadie Mendoza
- Brandon Vasquez
- and Lukas Williams



Community Partners– Making it Happen (continued)



Volunteer Luncheon 2025

In our district, we know it takes a team—teachers, staff, students, and amazing volunteers to help our students succeed. Whether you're helping in classrooms, planning events, running clubs, or working behind the scenes, your impact is huge.

Merridith Fallgater, thank you for your countless hours and tireless efforts as ASMO Chair. Your heart has always been in the right place: doing what's best for the children. You've helped keep the arts alive here at AADUSD for so many years, and that means the world to us.

Volunteer of the Year, Dawn Schneider

Dawn thank you for your incredible commitment, leadership, and heart. You've set a shining example of what it means to give back.

Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. Thank you for being an inspiration and for showing us what true volunteerism looks like.

To all of our volunteers: thank you. You are the heart of our schools, and we couldn't do it without you.



## Meadowlark Highlights



From March to June, Meadowlark Elementary School was a hub of growth, collaboration, and celebration. As we entered the final stretch of the school year, our dedicated staff, students, and families came together to ensure a strong finish and a memorable transition for our 4th-grade students.

In March, we focused on academic rigor and student achievement, with targeted instruction in literacy and math to support all learners. Our SOAR intervention model continued to provide small-group, differentiated instruction aligned with i-Ready Foundations, helping students build foundational skills and confidence. Teachers worked collaboratively to analyze student data, guide instruction, and prepare for end-of-year assessments.

April brought renewed energy with spring enrichment activities, state testing preparation, and a focus on social-emotional learning. Students engaged in classroom projects, community-building activities, and continued showing growth in their learning. We also emphasized campus expectations and positive behavior through PBIS initiatives, fostering a safe and respectful school environment.

May was full of energy and community connection. We kicked off the month with our amazing Talent Show, where students proudly showcased their unique gifts and creativity. Painting with Mom was a huge success, bringing families together for a memorable and meaningful afternoon of artistic expression. We also celebrated our young musicians during the Spring Concert, featuring performances from both LOLC and ML students. The month wrapped up with an active Field Day, filled with fun, teamwork, and school spirit, and our end-of-year Awards Show, recognizing student achievements across academics, character, and citizenship.

June brought pure joy as students enjoyed our fun-filled carnival, complete with games, laughter, and lasting memories. They also participated in Build with Dad, a hands-on experience that encouraged creativity and family bonding. Our journey culminated in a heartfelt and joyful 4th Grade Promotion Ceremony, where students proudly walked the stage to celebrate their hard work, growth, and readiness for the next chapter.

As we close this chapter, we remain grateful for the dedication of our staff, the support of our families, and the incredible progress of our students. Together, we've made these months unforgettable and laid a strong foundation for future success.

# Meadowlark Highlights (continued)



## Meadowlark Highlights (continued)



4th Grade Promotion marks a significant milestone. It's a time when we pause to recognize that you're stepping into a new chapter of life. And students, you are entering this next stage full of promise, potential, and possibilities. Congratulations!

## High Desert Highlights



**Living Voices Assembly Inspires Students**  
Our students had the opportunity to experience a powerful Living Voices assembly titled “Hear My Voice,” presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Rainier. Through a moving performance, students learned about the Women’s Suffrage Movement and the fight for voting rights.

**STEAM Night Sparks Curiosity and Creativity**  
Families came together for an exciting evening of hands-on learning at STEAM Night! Students explored science, technology, engineering, art, and math through fun activities like coding, rocket launches, paint night, and an egg drop challenge. It was a night of innovation and imagination!



**Arts Exploration Day was Incredible**  
Arts Exploration Day was a creative adventure where students dived into a world of artistic expression! From strumming guitars to swirling oil pastels with watercolors, they unleashed their inner artists. A tattoo artist shared their craft, while comedy improv kept everyone laughing. Students molded air-dry clay, painted landscapes, designed floral art, and even solved puzzles in a music escape room. Anime drawing brought characters to life, culinary arts filled the air with delicious scents, and line dancing had everyone moving to the beat.





## High Desert Highlights (continued)



HDS Art Mural Brings Color to Campus

Students had the exciting opportunity to work alongside a professional artist to design and paint a vibrant mural on campus. In addition to creating a beautiful piece of art, they also learned about pursuing a career in the arts and how creativity can lead to a bright future!

### 5th Grade Blasts Off at STARBASE!

5th Grade Classes had an unforgettable experience at STARBASE Edwards, where they dove into hands-on STEM learning with real-world applications! From launching rockets to building space shuttles and exploring robotics, our students engaged in exciting, high-tech activities.



### 5th Graders Walk Through the American Revolution

5th grade students brought history to life during the Walk Through the American Revolution experience! This interactive program transforms students into historical figures, complete with scripts, songs, and challenges as they explore key events, geography, and leaders of the American Revolution.

A heartfelt thank you to the Acton Women's Club for their generous support in making this enriching and engaging experience possible for our students!

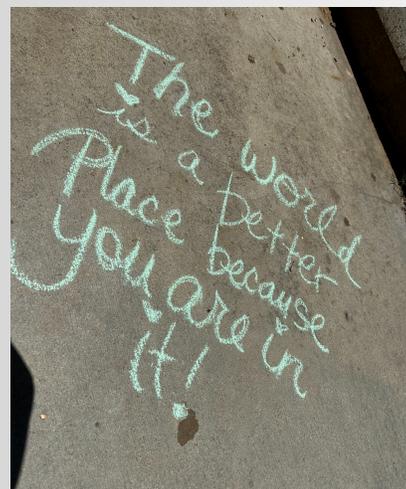




## High Desert Highlights (continued)

### HDS Celebrates Mental Health Awareness Week

High Desert School came together to promote wellness during Mental Health Awareness Week with daily activities focused on mindfulness, kindness, and self-care. Students and staff wore green to show support and participated in campus-wide efforts to break the stigma and prioritize mental health.



**HDS Students Shine on CAASPP Testing**  
HDS students did an outstanding job on this year's CAASPP assessments, with 268 awards given to those who increased a level or scored Standard Met or Exceeded in Math, English, and Science! Thank you to our hardworking students for giving their best effort and to the incredible teachers for preparing them for success.



### Ring in the Joy: Spring Handbells Concert

The Spring Handbells Concert was a beautiful celebration of music, talent, and teamwork. Thank you to Mr. Rowland for another amazing year of music education and dedication to our students. A special thank you to ASMO for their generous donation, ensuring the handbell program continues to thrive for years to come!

## High Desert Highlights (continued)



### Celebrating Milestones: Senior Walk & 8th Grade Promotion

HDS was filled with pride as they welcomed back graduating seniors for the Senior Walk and celebrated their 8th graders at Promotion. To mark this special achievement, 8th grade students enjoyed an exciting trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain! As they look ahead to high school, we hope they remember the lesson from *The Shark and the Goldfish*: “Don’t wait for someone to feed you—choose to swim and find your own food.” And as *Teach Like a Pirate* reminds us, “Passion and enthusiasm are contagious.” Carry your drive, creativity, and heart with you—your next adventure is just beginning!!

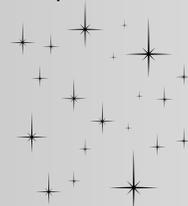


## Vasquez Spotlight Highlights



### Night of the Stars Shines Bright on Student Excellence (Wednesday, May 21st)

Our annual Night of the Stars celebration was a truly memorable evening, honoring the outstanding achievements, dedication, and character of our Vasquez High School students. With inspiring performances by our Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble and the presence of dignitaries including Superintendent Dr. Eric Sahakian, the evening showcased the best of our school community. From scholarships awarded by local organizations to academic, artistic, and athletic recognitions—including our Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Senior Honor Scholars—this night reflected the excellence and promise of our graduating seniors and rising leaders. We are proud to celebrate these exceptional young individuals and the bright futures they represent.



## Vasquez Highlights (continued)



### Grad Nite: A Celebration of Hard Work and Fun (Thursday, May 29th)

On May 29th, eligible seniors celebrated the end of their high school journey with an unforgettable Grad Nite at Universal Studios. Reserved just for graduating seniors, the night was filled with thrilling rides, music, and time spent with friends. After a night of well-earned fun, students returned home in the early hours of the morning, tired but full of memories. This special event was a fitting reward for their dedication and achievements.

### Living Voices Performance Brings History to Life (Friday, May 30th)

On Friday, May 30th, the entire Vasquez High School student body gathered in the gym for a powerful performance of *Through the Eyes of a Friend*, presented by Living Voices and generously sponsored by the Acton Women's Club. Performed by Elizabeth Rainer, this one-woman multimedia show blended live acting with archival film and audio to tell the harrowing yet inspiring story of a young Jewish girl's survival during the Holocaust. The experience was both emotional and educational, leaving a lasting impact on students and staff alike. We are deeply grateful to the Acton Women's Club for providing our school community with this unforgettable opportunity to engage with living history.



## Vasquez Highlights (continued)



### Prom 2025: A Night to Remember Aboard the Queen Mary (Saturday, May 31st)

On Saturday, May 31st, 130 Vasquez High School students experienced an unforgettable evening of elegance and excitement aboard the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach. Traveling in style on three charter buses from campus, students had the unique opportunity to explore the iconic ship, capturing photos on its storied decks before stepping into a glamorous ballroom for a night of music, dancing, and celebration. Set against the backdrop of maritime history and sparkling harbor views, this year's prom was a perfect blend of tradition, adventure, and lasting memories.



### Senior Sunset: A Bittersweet Farewell (Tuesday, June 3rd)

On the eve of graduation, the Class of 2025 gathered one last time for Senior Sunset—a heartfelt tradition marking the end of their high school journey. After starting the year with a sunrise, they now shared a sunset filled with food, games, yearbook and shirt signing, and memorable goodbyes. It was a perfect moment of reflection, laughter, and connection before stepping into the next chapter.

### Senior Walk: Inspiring the Next Generation (Wednesday, June 4th)

In one of our most cherished district traditions, the Class of 2025 visited Meadowlark Elementary and High Desert Middle School dressed in their caps and gowns. Cheered on by excited students and staff, our seniors walked the halls they once called home, sharing high-fives, hugs, and a few emotional moments along the way. The event serves as a joyful celebration of how far they've come and an inspiring reminder to our younger students of what's possible through hard work and perseverance. It was a fun, uplifting day filled with pride, memories, and a glimpse of bright futures ahead.

## Vasquez Highlights (continued)



### Commencement 2025: Honoring the Journey, Celebrating the Future (Wednesday, June 4th)

Vasquez High School proudly celebrated the Class of 2025 in a moving commencement ceremony that reflected the spirit, resilience, and unity of our school community. With the traditional strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” marking their entrance, our graduates were honored by family, faculty, and district leaders. Class President Emily Hounanian led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a stirring National Anthem performance by Maylea Bruce. Superintendent Dr. Eric Sahakian and Board President Lester Mascon—joined by Trustees Brianna Taksony, Dr. Jorge De Jesus, William Mayes, and Ken Pfalzgraf—officiated the conferral of diplomas with great pride. Principal Dr. Reyna Smith delivered the welcome, recognized our Honor Scholars, and introduced Salutatorian Emily Hounanian and Valedictorian Maxwell Schneider. The entire event was supported by our outstanding faculty, staff, and district administration. From the first address to the final turning of tassels, this ceremony was a powerful celebration of achievement and the bright paths that lie ahead for our graduates.

## Showcasing AADUSD Athletics



Athletics wrapped up in early May, and we've already begun preparations for the upcoming fall season. Cross country and football have started their preseason workouts, showing great commitment early on. We saw an increase in student participation across the board this year, with track, football, and baseball fielding our largest teams—each adding more than 12 new athletes. Both softball and baseball continued their strong tradition by making the playoffs for the eighth consecutive year.

Sheldon Sparks—  
Athletic Director, Vasquez HS



### Varsity Boys Basketball:

With an unyielding commitment to the game of basketball, to the school, to competition, to their teammates, this group of boys were an inspiration to watch this season. There was a passion on the court we all loved to watch. Coached by the McWilson team, the boys made it to the championships tournament finishing 3rd in Silver league.

## Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



### Varsity Girls Basketball:

This year we had some returners but were also very excited to have students step out of their comfort zone and try out a new sport. They worked hard and had a ton of fun! The girls were inspired by returning Coach Rivas and Coach Prosser making it to the championship tournament finishing 4th in Silver League.



### JV Flag Football:

This group of athletes were high energy with an enthusiasm to try their best in every practice and game they participated in. We have a lot of talent on our hands with this young group of athletes and we couldn't be more excited to watch their journey! Improving in each game they played, Coach Prosser, Coach Mike, Rivas and Tom led the team to the Semi Finals finishing 3rd in the SCAL elementary division.



### JV Girls Volleyball:

Our girls team was a tiny but mighty crew that had a ton of drive and developed a strong passion for the game of volleyball. They were a positive group with a commitment to learn the game and try their best. Guided by our seasoned coach Michelle Herman, the girls took home 3rd place in the SCAL elementary division.

## Showcasing AADUSD Athletics (continued)



### Track & Field:

Coach Erika Ehlert and Coach Jen Olson led the team to another exciting year of track and field. Competing in 3 meets, our team ended up bringing home a few wins in the finals. Team events : 🏆 1st place – Boys 4x400 relay team, 🥈 2nd place girls 4x400 relay team. Individual events : 🥈 2nd place Shalyn Botton in the girls 400 and 🥉 3rd place to Cassidy Olson in the girls long jump.

Way to Goooo HAWKS !!!!

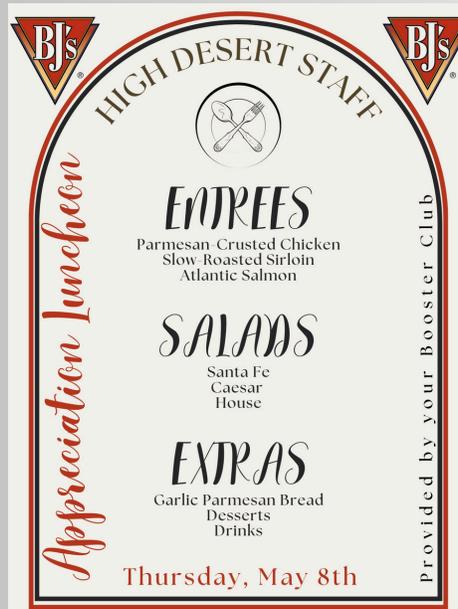
Gina Botton, HDS Athletic Director

## PTO/Booster Activities



Vasquez PTSO was busy in the Spring. We held our annual board elections in April. At the very end of April we had Teach Appreciation Week. Our Hospitality Team organized a week full of delicious food. We got so many compliments from staff on the Mediterranean Luncheon. On May 18th we had our first ever Binghetti Fundraiser at Agua Dulce Women's Club. It was not only a very successful fundraiser for us, it was a lot of fun! We had such a great turn out from the community and it was requested several times that we do this again! We are looking into having another Binghetti Fundraiser after our 2026 Fall Festival. On June 4th we helped out with the annual Senior breakfast which is such a bittersweet event to help out with. Seeing all the seniors arrive back from the senior walk in their caps and gowns is a little emotional for us. Especially when we have volunteers whose kids were graduating that evening. We are thankful to have a little time off, but we are already looking forward to next school year!

## PTO/Booster Activities (continued)



Spring has been an exciting time for the Booster club. Booster was given a generous donation to purchase a snack shack by the Acton women's club. If you don't know our snack bar is our biggest fundraiser every year. It's really wonderful our amazing volunteers are no longer exposed to the elements. Booster also fed the presenters for both Arts Day and Career Day. Staff Appreciation Week Booster club started the week with donuts and coffee followed by muffins and yogurts the next day. We also recreates our famous snack bar on Wednesday and it was a huge hit. The week ended with a catered lunch from BJ's. Booster club also serves ice cream to the students on the last day of testing. The year ended with Booster decorating for the 8th grade promotion. We welcome the summer break.



# Welcome Summer

**AFTER THE HECTIC PUSH TO THE FINISH LINE, SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!**

**I AM SO PROUD OF ALL OUR STUDENTS AND THE ACADEMIC PROGRESS THEY  
MADE THIS YEAR.**

**STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF- THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND  
COMMITMENT THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR. BE PROUD OF A JOB WELL DONE!**

**TOGETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO NURTURE AND SUPPORT OUR FUTURE  
LEADERS.**

**WISHING OUR ENTIRE AADUSD COMMUNITY A SAFE, RESTFUL, AND ENJOYABLE  
SUMMER.**

**AADUSD IS STRONGER TOGETHER!**

**AT YOUR SERVICE,**

**ERIC SAHAKIAN, ED.D.- AADUSD SUPERINTENDENT**



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