



*A Specialized Services Newsletter*

*Inside the Issue*



## THANKFUL EDITION

During this season we reflect on all that we have and all that we are thankful for. We work with so many amazing people and we wanted to share our hearts with you. In Specialized Services, we are thankful for...

"This year especially, I am thankful for staff that work hard every day to ensure our kids are getting a great education and access to the help they need. Our Specialized Services team is dedicated and professional and the District is better because of their sincere care for our students."

*Carl Coles, Superintendent*

### CHAP & VISTA HIGH SCHOOL



"At Chaparral & Vista High School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for Frank Lares. He is always available to help us and goes out of his way to make sure we have what we need."

*- Jeanie O'Connell, Secretary*

### SAN DIMAS HIGH SCHOOL

"At San Dimas, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for our incredible staff and their dedication to our students' success. They work unbelievably hard for every kid because they know that every kid counts. I couldn't ask for a better group of teachers and paraprofessionals."

*-Scott Sparks, Principal*



"At Chaparral High School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for our teachers Mr. Gross, Mrs. Lavin, and Mrs. Salgado. We are also thankful for our students who are ROCKIN' distance learning! We are so grateful for our team!"

*- Christine Black, Principal*

"I am thankful for teachers who go the extra mile every day to help their students. They are amazing human beings who love their kids."

*-Rita Kear, Assistant Principal of Campus Culture*

### BONITA HIGH SCHOOL



"We are thankful for the great kids and hardworking students that are giving their all to make the best of this unusual learning environment."

*-Edward C. McMillon II, Assistant Principal*

### LONE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL



"I am thankful for the teamwork within the site's Specialized Services department and the school as a whole."

*-Erin Ramirez, School Psychologist*

### RAMONA MIDDLE SCHOOL



"At Ramona Middle School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for our team of selfless professionals. This is a team that works together and is always available day and night to step in to answer a question, cover a meeting, or just provide support. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a dynamic group."

*-Cristal Workman, School Psychologist*

"At Lone Hill Middle School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for our teachers' genuine care for students and their willingness to be creative and flexible in meeting the students' needs."

*-John Tung, Principal*

### EKSTRAND ELEMENTARY



"At Ekstrand Elementary School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for a team made up of incredibly determined, thoughtful, and open-minded individuals who truly want to see our students fulfilling their purpose!"

"At Lone Hill Middle School, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for Barbara Albanese. She is always on top of all that is asked of her, and then when asked to do more than her very busy job, she does not hesitate to jump in and lend a hand. Thank you Barbara for all that you do."

*-Pam Pacheco, Secretary*

*-Liberty Grammer, School Psychologist*

# GRACE MILLER ELEMENTARY



"At Grace Miller in Specialized Services, I am thankful for the hardest working staff imaginable. The creativity and the commitment to students is awe-inspiring!"

*-Keri Hadjis, School Psychologist*

"At Grace Miller, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for Adrienne Casas, Tony Garza, Renee Gregory, and Jackie Rodriguez. They continue to provide exactly what our students require."

*-Elba Monka, Secretary*

"Keri Hadjis, at Grace Miller, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for the mentoring you have provided over the years, your patience, friendship, and your consistent ability to give grace.

Jackie Rodriguez at Grace Miller, I am thankful that we have teachers that work as hard as you do to provide excellent care to students with special needs."

*-Heather Martyn, School Nurse*

# OAK MESA ELEMENTARY



"At Oak Mesa, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for the love and opportunities our staff provides every student, every day!"

*-Steven Patterson, Principal*

# LA VERNE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY



"Here at LVH we are THANKFUL for Laura Metcalfe for re-inventing herself as a 1:1 aide online! She is AMAZING!!!!!"

*-Jaymi Abushum, Principal, and Tanya Bartholomew, Secretary*

# ROYNON ELEMENTARY



"At Roynon Elementary, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for all staff members maintaining a devoted work ethic, passion for student learning, commitment to student engagement, and an unwavering positive attitude. I feel blessed to serve alongside such awesome individuals."

*-Carmen Morell, School Psychologist*

# ALLEN ELEMENTARY



"At Allen Elementary, in Specialized Services, I am thankful for the endless hours and dedication to our students."

*-Debbie Grenier, Principal*

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

"If you know me, you know my heart is in Special Education. I often attribute the love I have for my job to the opportunities I have to help our children; the most vulnerable in our community. I love to help create equity for those who need it.

I tear up when I see successful high school students and remember them clearly as their three-year-old selves. How far they have come because of their families, community, schools, teachers, support providers, and leaders. Each of us has a part to play. I believe in those moments and that is why I love my work. Trust me, I love kids, but that is not the whole story.

I love my work because of the people I work with, their hearts, and creative minds. I have the opportunity to think-tank with beautiful minds to determine how to help our kids. I know that helping kids is the only thing on the agenda. We know there is no option to give up on a child, but to dig deeper, think deeper, and help children overcome obstacles together.

Helping our children is a huge, multi-year group effort. It takes a really good group to enjoy this work and be successful. It takes a group you can trust, a group that works hard, a group that has similar vision and heart. I have that group.

I feel so fortunate to have you in my group. Thankful for you."

*-Danielle Walker, Senior Director*

# G LADSTONE ELEMENTARY

"At Gladstone, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for the creativity, collaboration, and compassion exemplified by our amazing team of education specialists."

*-Allison Daniels, Principal*

# SHULL ELEMENTARY



"At Shull Elementary, in Specialized Services, I'm thankful for the professionalism and expertise of the staff."

*-Adam Eslami, Principal*