

# THAT'S A WRAP!

Week of May 2, 2022

## LOCAL DISTRICT CENTRAL'S COLLEGE AND CAREER CELEBRATION

LD Central Visits Nava College Preparatory, Jefferson High School, Franklin Senior High, and Robert F. Kennedy Schools as the Schools Celebrate Seniors and their Next Step Decisions!



**A-G Intervention Coordinator Dr. Jonique Burton Leads Our LD Central Caravan**

On Friday, April 29th, it was College and Career Celebration Day, and high school seniors were celebrated throughout LD Central! Our own LD Central Caravan visited four schools: Nava College Preparatory (Prep), Jefferson High School (HS), Franklin Senior High (SH) and Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Schools.



**LD Central College and Career Celebration Day Banner**

At Nava College Prep, Community Representative Maria Echevarria and others were busy welcoming parents to celebrate their high school seniors! Principal Jennifer Casillas recognized the seniors with music, balloons, gift bags, and picture signs! Each of the seniors stood up at the podium and stated his or next step, whether it be college, trade technical school, career, or the military! They wrote their plans on pennants and then placed them on the wall. Nava College Prep Assistant Principal Lakeisha Williams, who was also in on the excitement, said, "Committing to college is one of the most exciting commitments in one's life. College is when you can decide who you are going to be. My own college experience changed my life...I have my dearest friends because of my college experience at Morris Brown College, a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)."

At Jefferson High School, Principal Dr. Tamai Johnson, standing in front of a green and gold background, congratulated the Class of 2022 and praised them for their accomplishments. There, the students could go up on stage, take pictures at the photo booth, state their school of choice or their plans for the upcoming year, and participate in opportunity drawings. Former Principal and now LD Central Dual Language Director Agustin Gonzalez encouraged the students to represent South Los Angeles, go to school, become mentors to others, and come back to the community.

At Franklin HS, Principal Regina Marquez-Martinez, a Franklin HS graduate, a University of California, Irvine (UCI) alum and a Cal State University, Los Angeles (CSU) alum, introduced the administrators, A-G counselors, and everyone who supported the students throughout their K-12 education. She had seniors sign a banner and write down their commitments. Each of the students were proudly sharing their plans for their next job, military, community college, CSU, UC, or private university. Principal Marquez-Martinez said, "It doesn't matter where you start. What matters is that you finish and get your degree and that you become a wonderful contributing member of society." She also mentioned how the Franklin High School Educational Foundation has raised funds that have helped students finance their future education. She encouraged students to apply to receive funds!

Our final school that we visited, RFK Schools, had a festive atmosphere as the students danced to music and marked on the blacktop the schools they were attending in the fall. A photo booth with various school pennants was available for the students to take pictures. RFK School for the Visual Arts and Humanities Principal Yesenia Arroyo welcomed LD Central to the energy of the RFK Schools! Raffle tickets were given for dorm baskets. Even in the Parent Center, Community Representative Genoveva Francisco-Gonzalez, showed the college-going culture by the college decor displayed throughout the room!

On College and Career Celebration Day, these four schools and other schools in LD Central proudly showed off their seniors! LD Central is the Home of the Champions!



**Nava College Prep**



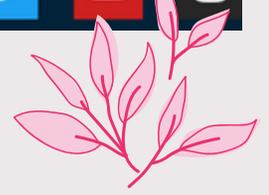
**Jefferson HS**



**Franklin SH**



**RFK Schools**





Week of May 2, 2022



## VERMONT AVENUE ELEMENTARY'S KIDS' HEART CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

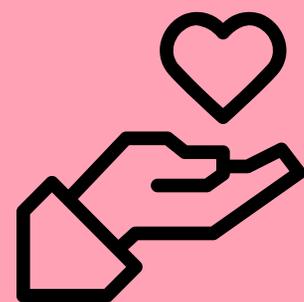


Students Learned, Exercised, and Raised Money to Help Others with Special Hearts!

Recently, Vermont Avenue Elementary School (Vermont EL) completed its Kids' Heart Challenge Campaign with the American Heart Association. The event was a three-week campaign to help Vermont EL's students learn more about how to keep their hearts healthy, both physically and emotionally. They participated in a variety of activities that demonstrated how to stay healthy.

As part of the Challenge, students were encouraged, along with their families, to sign up for Finn's Mission, a heart-healthy, task-oriented challenge available in the Kids Heart Challenge App. Over 30 students participated in Finn's Mission. A special lunchtime dance and treat was an incentive for students to participate in Finn's Mission! Teacher Ms. Castro's class won this contest. One student, Jackson Carias, completed Finn's Mission and ultimately earned the Finn's Lifesaver Award! Vermont EL's Instructional Coach Jessica Insco said, "Throughout the campaign, we all learned about people with special hearts, like Finn, and had the opportunity to express generosity to help those with special hearts."

Vermont EL raised \$1,398.20 for the American Heart Association! Vermont EL's students have strong, giving hearts!



## ESPERANZA ELEMENTARY'S PRESENCE AT EARTH DAY EVENT

Principal Brad Rumble and Students Speak at Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Groundbreaking Ceremony on Earth Day April 2022



On Earth Day, April 22nd, Esperanza Elementary (EL) took part in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Groundbreaking Ceremony with other dignitaries such as Governor Gavin Newsom and Senator Alex Padilla. This Crossing is a planned vegetated overpass across the Ventura Freeway and Agoura Road in Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills, California. The bridge will be one of the largest urban wildlife crossings, particularly for mountain lions that have faced becoming endangered.

Esperanza EL Principal Brad Rumble, Fifth Grade Student Jonathan, and Fourth Grade Student Allison spoke at the ceremony. Esperanza EL has been highlighted as a school in an urban area that emphasizes conservation. At Esperanza EL, it has converted 10,000 square feet into a native Californian habitat. Student Jonathan said the habitat has become a living lab to study 80 kinds of birds, 17 species of butterflies, and other species. This habitat has allowed the students to think about how to solve different challenges when it comes to conservation.



Student Allison said that biodiversity is very important and having the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing will help increase the genetic diversity of mountain lions and other species that will use the crossing. Student Allison told those listening, "Count on our lasting stewardship of the earth as we go through our lives." To watch the YouTube Video of the Ceremony, check out the following:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVIxVjXmA-8&t=2s>





Week of May 2, 2022

## LEADER IN ME AT AURORA ELEMENTARY



Aurora Elementary Gives Students the Tools to Become Leaders



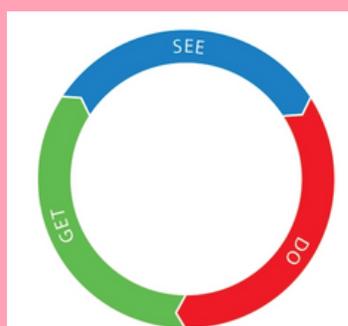
Recently, students at Aurora Elementary (EL) School celebrated the installation of the Leader in Me 7 Habits artwork. Aurora EL implemented a whole-school transformational process called the Leader in Me, which teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment, based on the idea that every child can be a leader. Aurora EL Principal Barbara Knipple Bilbao said that the Student Leaders waited in anticipation for the big "reveal" of this artwork.

All students, from the youngest learners in Preschool for All Learners (PALs) and Expanded Transitional Kindergarten (ETK) to the 5th grade students, excitedly walked through the school, enjoying the new artwork. Throughout the day, the Leaders shared their learning and understanding of each of the 7 Habits and how they live them. Each Aurora Student Leader is building his or her leadership skills, along with incorporating academic and social emotional learning.

For more information about Leader in Me, check out: <https://www.leaderinme.org/what-is-leader-in-me/>



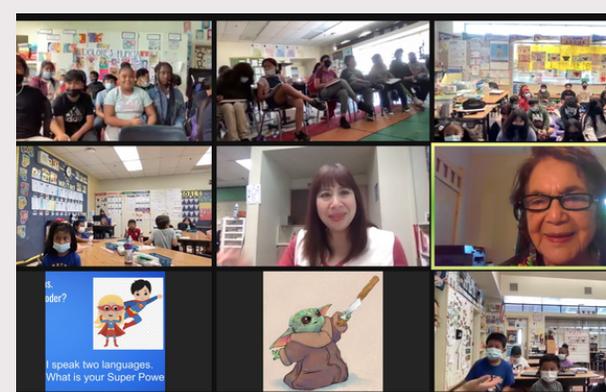
ETK and Kindergarten Aurora Leader in Me Classroom Leaders with Principal Bilbao



Fourth grade Aurora Leader in Me Classroom Leaders

## A SPECIAL VISIT FROM DOLORES HUERTA TO GRATTS LEARNING ACADEMY FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS!

Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars Welcomed Dolores Huerta, Presenting Artwork in her Honor



On April 8th, American Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist Dolores Huerta visited Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars (GLAYS). Every grade level welcomed Dolores Huerta by showcasing artwork in her honor. During her visit, she spoke to the students about the importance of family, standing up for their rights, having faith in what they believe in, and to follow their dreams.

Mrs. Dolores Huerta read *Big Moon Tortilla* by Dyanne Strongbow. Students had the opportunity to ask Mrs. Huerta questions. Some staff members expressed their admiration for her dedication as an activist and how she has influenced them in their lives. Mrs. Huerta's visit was concluded with GLAYS students singing "Happy Birthday" to celebrate her April 10th birthday. Assistant Principal Alejandra Miramontes said, "Dolores Huerta's visit was one of our highlights this school year." ¡Si se puede!