



# SVJUSD NEWSLETTER



## News from the Admin...

**Audra Evans**

Hello from Surprise Valley Schools -

School got out yesterday (May 30th) and the hallways are so quiet. The hustle and bustle has left the building for the summer and the staff and seniors finished off the year with a wonderful breakfast and a chance to share the memories of our 5 graduating seniors. We also celebrated the retirement of our long time district secretary Cathy Laxague. She will be finishing up in June and headed out the door to enjoy some time for herself. Thank you Cathy for all the years of service that you provided our district.



Mrs. Evans received the Star Administrator for the Superior Region FFA and attended the State FFA Conference in April to interview for the state title.

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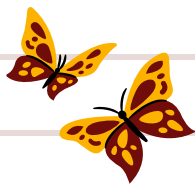
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## ADMIN CONTINUED

### March

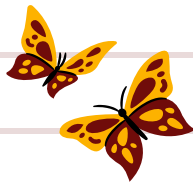
This spring has been very busy for students and staff. The end of the 3rd quarter was March 14th. There were 16 elementary students and 22 high school students that made the honor roll. Congratulations to these students. The elementary students were able to enjoy a breakfast at the Country Hearth and the high students enjoyed a lunch of pizza. As March continued, students prepared for FFA Week by decorating their doors with the theme “Farm to Fork”. FFA week was the last week of March and it included dress up days and riddles with clues to find hidden emblems. This week also brought elementary school parent/teacher conferences. We also held our STEM night that consisted of activities such as digital breakout puzzles, brown bag challenges, a glow in the dark engineering lab, and high school students tested the capacity of the bridge they built. Also on display were house/barn models that were constructed during class. Mrs. Pratt and the 8th graders also had the Book Fair set up and open for business during the week. The final day of the week brought the Ag Olympics, which was full of fun activities for the elementary students. The FFA ended the day with a very yummy Tri-Tip lunch. It was a minimum day, as Spring break was the following week. To top off the lunch for that day, our new bus arrived. We bought a 43 passenger bus and it was very exciting to finally receive it.



Spring break was the last week of March. There was not great weather, but Mrs. Scritchfield and seven students loaded up into her SUV and headed for Sacramento for the California State FFA Convention. I was fortunate enough to also attend the convention and attend sessions with the Surprise Valley crew, but I also participated in the Admin Experience. During the convention I was awarded with the Superior Region Administrator of the Year. This was such an honor and humbling experience. I was able to attend the Small School District Association Conference the day after the FFA Convention. This is an extremely important conference because I am able to network with other small districts and meet new people that want to help small schools.





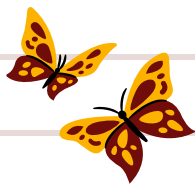


## ADMIN CONTINUED

### April

In the beginning of April we were able to host a Town Hall meeting for information regarding Crime Victims. This same week we hosted MESA and their Star Lodge. This created a planetarium inside the dome. It seemed very interesting and the kids seemed to enjoy it. We also started a new after school program once a week for middle and high school students. It is called the Wellness Center. This started with the help of MCOE, but many students have really enjoyed the activities. April 12th, seven middle school and three high school students traveled to the Bay area to participate in the state MESA competition. The group had a great time and learned a lot. Thank you Mr. Goodwin for taking them on this trip. On Friday April 18th, the seniors continued the tradition of the Easter Egg Hunt at the park for the primary students and our friends at the preschool. The 5 seniors started by hiding the eggs and then they were the ones in charge of the egg hunt. These almost adult students sure enjoyed their time with the younger kiddos. It is always a fun event to watch the interactions with all the kids. They even had a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny. On April 23rd, three students from Surprise Valley FFA participated in the local project competition. Mrs. Scritchfield and three judges traveled to each student's house to see and hear about the projects that each person has, from raising market hogs, market sheep, ranching experience to creating a garden box. It is always fun and interesting to learn about each student's project, interests and future plans. To finish the busy month of April, the high school students attended probably the rainiest prom in history. The event was held at the Marchy Barn with an Enchanted Garden theme. It was a beautiful evening and almost every student in the high school attended and stayed through the last song. The students voted for prom King and Queen and they voted for Hannah Toya and Arthur Delgado. This was another wonderful event with our students. The high school students in grades 8 and 11 started the CAASPP testing (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) in reading and math and the 8th and 12th graders completed the Science portion of the CAASPP. To wrap up the month of April, the high school participated in their mid cycle WASC review. We updated goals for moving forward with improving our programs and reflected on all the things our staff is really doing.





## ADMIN CONTINUED

### May

Once we hit May, it became even busier. We even put a checklist in the staff room as we were completing all of the activities that May brought to us. I started off by attending an Adult Education Conference in Fresno. I got a lot out of this conference, however, being in a rural area, our program is much different than populated areas. The first week of May we celebrated the hard work of all the staff with Staff Appreciation Week. Small treats and a few meals, along with bringing more people into the staff lounge to enjoy some time together. On May 7th FFA hosted their annual awards banquet. This was a very nice evening with lots of celebrations of students and members of the community that continue to support our Ag program. Cathy Laxague and Audra Evans received the Honorary Chapter Degree Award.



Mrs. Pratt ventured out on the 8th grade trip to Fort Bragg. The trip went really well and the group made many new memories. The following week Mrs. Grove and the seniors ventured out on their senior trip to South Lake Tahoe. Again, they had a wonderful time making memories as they geared up to make their final departure from Surprise Valley High School. Mrs. Scritchfield and the ag students held their annual plant sale for two days. Her greenhouse was relieved to have many of the plants sold. Among the bigger trips, we sent students on two field trips up to Cedar Pass Campground for fire safety with our different local fire agencies. K-3 also went on a field trip to Alturas to participate in Ag in the Classroom which is sponsored by Cattlewomen and many other partner agencies. The final trip for the elementary students was an incentive trip to the Movie Theatre in Alturas where they enjoyed a movie with popcorn and a drink. They came back to enjoy a school wide lunch of Hornet Burgers served outside. To wrap up that fun day, they participated in a water field day on the field. Some of the high school students were able to help set up and manage some of the games, while other high school students were in their classrooms finishing up their final pieces to their classes.







## ADMIN CONTINUED

The last week of school brought the high school honor roll trip to the Shasta Caverns and then to the Oasis Fun Center. 16 students and three staff members went on this fun trip. Some of these activities are able to happen due to our recycling program.

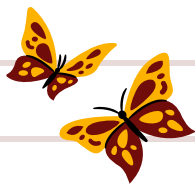


Thursday May 29th was our final day of school. Our seniors pulled their senior prank and redecorated the hall into Club 25. They had the music playing and they checked the students in as they walked through the door. They also had a small wading pool in the hallway waiting for the right time to start getting the younger students and staff wet. Thursday morning we celebrate our elementary students with our quarterly assembly. Students were recognized for Students of the Quarter, Citizens of the Quarter, Math Facts, Accelerated Reader Awards, Million Word Club, Honor Roll (15) and 2 Perfect Attendance Awards.



We also celebrated with the students that summer has arrived and we sent the students away with hugs and well wishes. The 8th grade girls were celebrated Thursday night as they graduated and officially became high school students. Friday May 30th was our Seniors last day. This started with having breakfast for the seniors, their ushers and staff. After breakfast the seniors moved their focus to graduation prep with most of the high school teachers, while most of the elementary teachers were able to focus on wrapping up their classrooms for the year. The seniors graduated at 7pm on Friday evening. Both ceremonies were very nice and such a great way to end the school year.





## ELEMENTARY NEWS

### Kinders & 1st

*Mrs. Heather Pratt*

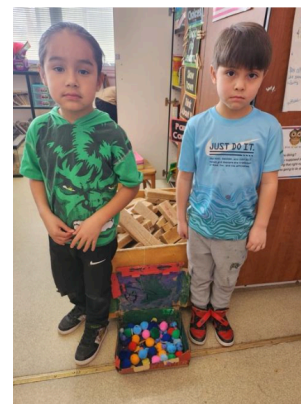
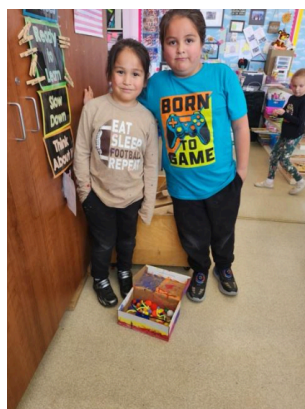
This year has flown by, it's already time for summer!! We had a great time and super busy 4th quarter with lots of school activities, field trips and of course learning.

The whole entire kindergarten and 1st grade class participated in pee wee basketball this year. They are so much fun to watch.

We had a lot of fun at the Ag Olympics. The students participated in many games and got lots of prizes.



On St. Patrick's day, we built traps and tried to catch the leprechaun that destroyed our classroom.







# Kinders & 1st Continued



Our annual Easter egg hunt put on by the Senior Class was a great success and the weather was very nice for us.



The students have worked hard all year long on earning Hornet Tickets. They earn these for following our PBIS expectations, being responsible, respectful and safe. We earned a PBIS party, popcorn and root beer floats, after earning 100 tickets!!



Our second to last week was filled with field trips. The first one was to Ag in the Classroom. The students got to see lots of animals, make things, check out the farm equipment and get a yummy lunch. It is always a great event put on by the Modoc County Cattlewomen.



Another trip we attended was a forest field trip. The students got to do all sorts of exciting activities on this trip to Cedar Pass Campgrounds including, listening to drumming, spraying water from the fire truck, learning about rocks and fossils, playing a game involving predators and prey, and throwing an atlatl.







## Kinders & 1st Continued

Our final trip was the annual incentive trip. We went to watch a movie and then came back and played some fun games outside. There was lots of water play and many wet children when it was all over.



A just for fun activity with Ms. Adrien – mustaches©



And finally, the year ended with an awards assembly.

Kindergarten student of the quarter – Navi Almanza

Kindergarten citizen of the quarter – Lola Habig

Kindergarten most improved student – Elliot Martinez

Kindergarten Handwriting award – Abigail Carpenter

1st Grade Student of the Quarter – Aliya Pratt

1st Grade Citizen of the Quarter – Wednesday Myers

1st Grade Accelerated Reader Award – Nanego Contreras

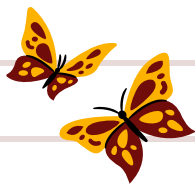
Math Facts Award – Aliya, Wednesday and Nanego



I hope everyone has an amazing summer!!







## 2nd & 3rd Grade

*Mr. Vicente Fernandez*

Another year done, and it just seems to go by faster every single year. This year we ended the year with 16 students in the 2nd and 3rd grade, 10 of them will be moving on to 4th grade with Mrs. Grove next year. As always, spring is a very busy time with a lot of fun events and trips going on.

3rd grade is a big year for students. We work hard academically all year in preparation for the state tests which are taken for the first time at the end of 3rd grade. 3rd grade students completed multiple tests in ELA and Math.

One of the big events we get to be part of is FFA week. The whole week is full of fun activities for the students. One of the things we get to do as a class is decorate our classroom door. This year's theme was "from farm to fork". The 2nd and 3rd grade class won 1st prize, and got a really nice treat!



We had a beautiful day for the easter egg hunt this year. We were also lucky enough to have the easter bunny join us at the park for the easter egg hunt!







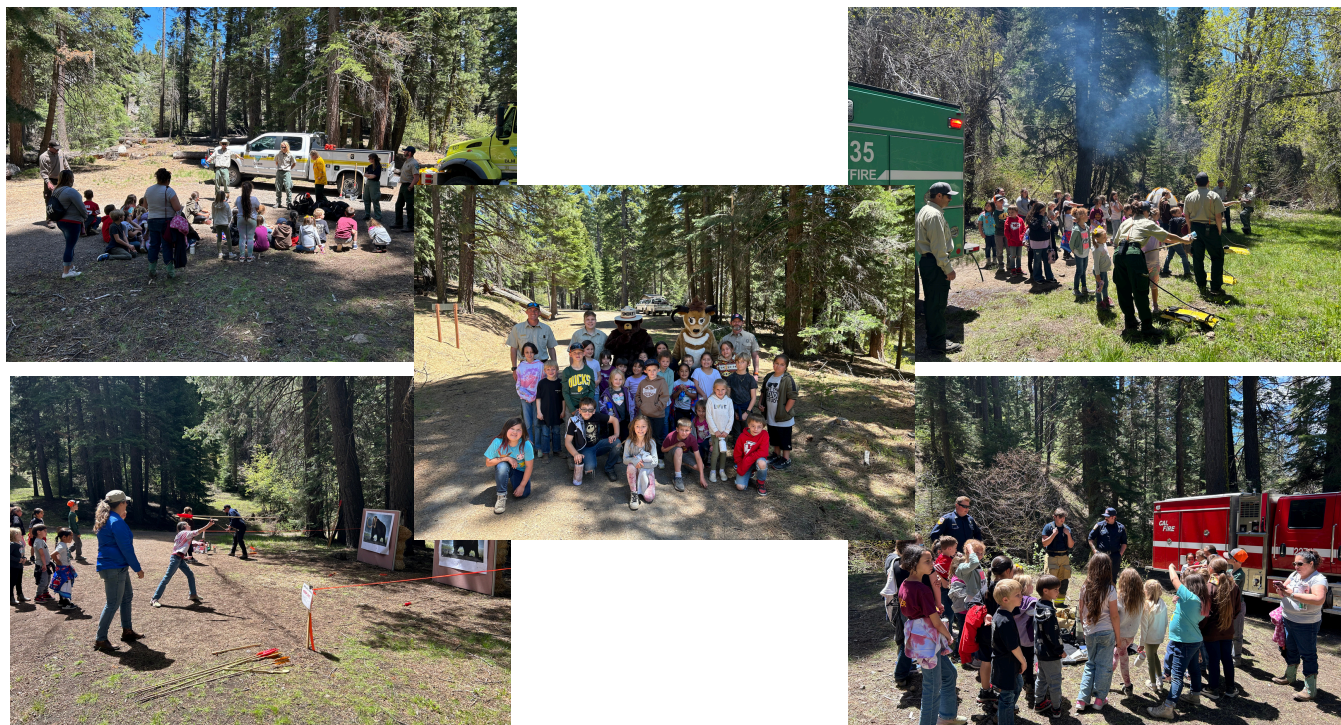
## 2nd & 3rd Grade Continued

Ag in the classroom took place in Alturas again at the JLS grounds. There were many presenters, and students got to learn about food, animals and equipment. A lot of local people and businesses come out to help educate the children about what they do, and why they do it.



This year we got to go on a field trip to the Cedar Pass Campground. It was a great trip, and the students really enjoyed their day outdoors. We learned about a lot of different things, including some history about Modoc. The students also learned how to be safe with fire. Our local BLM, Forest Service, and Cal fire personnel let the students try out their equipment, try on their gear, and explained how it is all used.

Another good ending to a busy year!!!







## 4th & 5th Grade

*Mrs. Jenny Grove*

We have had a great year and are looking forward to summer. The students are working hard daily but we do take the time to have some fun as well. Breakouts are a fun way to review material we have learned. Using teamwork and prior knowledge they solve the clues that lead them to “breakout” and solve the mystery.

Fractions have been the main focus in math for both grade levels. They are doing a great job adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. We have been wrapping up our science and history units and finishing our ELA book study.

The 4th - 7th grades had a fun day at Fun in the Forest. They enjoyed reviewing predator and prey, learning to throw an atlatl, learning how a cloud works and about different types of rocks. They had a blast using the BLM and Forest Service engine fire hoses and trying on their gear.



## 6th & 7th Grade

*Mr. Josh Oilar*

The last quarter of the year has been an interesting one for the 6th and 7th-grade class. Many students thought that their brains were being challenged beyond capacity during our math unit on perimeter, area, surface area, and volume, but most got to where they could figure out the problems given.

The girls in the class went to the Bay Area for a MESA competition on Friday April 11 while Mr. Oilar and the boys made a pic-nic table and cleared the brush from the SV.

On May 15 we enjoyed a great field trip to the Cedarpass camp ground where wonderful people from various government agencies taught us about things ranging from hiking safety, local wildlife, anthropology, to modern firefighting. It was a great day of learning and the students got to spray water from the firetrucks and had an overall wonderful time.







# Hello from Room 8!

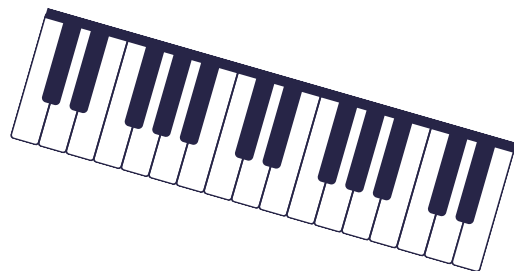
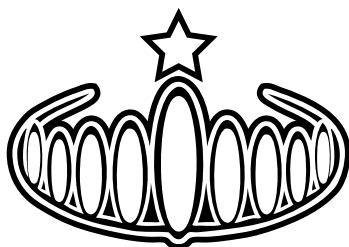
*Ms. Evah Dixon*

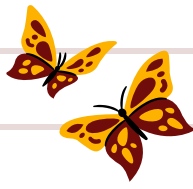
This has been a wonderful year for Special Education here at Surprise Valley! We have seen so many remarkable miracles happen over the course of this year. I want to give a round of applause to Danielle Jones and Christie Bess. Without these two amazing women, our students would not be where they are today. They have been amazing IA's to work with because they show an unprecedented amount of unbiased care, compassion, and empathy to all our students that allows them to bring out the best in each one. I knew that I had a special team but want to share that even MCOE has commented on the rarity of such an in sync and cohesive group.

When thinking back on the course of this year, I am flooded with so many memories. I want to share a few that will help to put into perspective what it is that we do as a Special Education Team. We are here to help boost up our students that need extra help, whether through interventions or due to a learning disability. During this year, we had one student that needed help with reading. Danielle and Christie were so dedicated to this student that they were an integral part in this student increasing their reading level by nearly two grade levels! Another student of ours was very shy at the beginning of the year. They just needed encouragement and by the end of the year they had starred in a play, made Honor Roll, was in the homecoming court and was crowned the Prom Queen! When our students smile, we smile!

Finally, I want to share that one of our students has broken the mold and is showing savant qualities for playing the piano. A local church has hired him as part of the TPP program. One day after work, he sat down to play the piano because he had never played before. He just started playing! Everyone was so astounded that he was tested with a 10 second clip of a song and he immediately started playing it! I've never seen anything like this and it reaffirms my belief in miracles. As a gift to this student, a piano is being donated to him so that he will be able to practice at home.

Thank you to each of you for reading our section. Working in Special Education has been one of the most rewarding experiences for myself because when our students succeed, our school succeeds, and therefore, Surprise Valley succeeds. Together, as a team, there is no one left behind! ~ Ms. Dixon





## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### From the Academic Advisor...

*Mrs. Heather Bordwell*

The class of 2025 has accomplished their goal of walking across the stage and are now embarking on the next phase of their lives. They have plans for their futures and whether those plans are changed as they find new interests or not, each of our grads has the talent and heart to accomplish everything they set out to do. They have done a fabulous job at applying for scholarships, and each of them received a share of the \$18,841.30 of local scholarships that were awarded by local organizations at graduation.

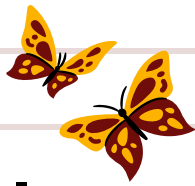
The juniors have been recently discussing their future plans and their path toward graduation with Mrs. Bordwell and all seem to be giving serious thought to what the future holds for them. Any parents who would like to meet with their children and Mrs. Bordwell to discuss college readiness, future educational opportunities, or career goals can contact Mrs. Bordwell to make an appointment. Juniors and their parents should be preparing to fill out The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) in the fall to see what financial assistance will be available for college or trade preparation for the 26-27 school year. The application is supposed to open in October and a representative of the Lassen College Financial Aid Office will come help our students and families fill out the application. The new format of the FAFSA has had a rocky roll out and was not available until December of this last year, but Lassen College staff helped a lot and worked with families to get problems resolved. We look forward to seeing what our graduates do in the future and working with all of our students toward success.

### Student Council

*Mrs. Jenny Grove*

Prom was held on April 28th at the Marchy Barn. Students had a great time and they all looked amazing. Thank you to Linda and Hans Marchy for the use of the Barn and Michelle Bartolo for all her help with decorating.





# Adademic Decathalon

*Mrs. Heather Bordwell*

The Academic Decathlon team traveled to Reno and toured the University of Nevada, Reno. The trip was to reward the team for their hard work at the Academic Decathlon in February. Next year's team will form in September and begin preparing for the competition on the first Saturday in February. Any interested student is welcome to join the team. The theme for the 2026 IS Academic Decathlon is "The Roaring Twenties" and the novel is "The Great Gatsby!"



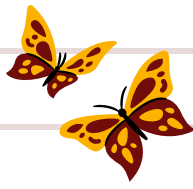
# SV Engineering

*Mr. Damond Goodwin*

The SV engineering club has begun a shed building project to raise funds for their club. They have used locally milled lumber to begin the construction of a 6ft x 8ft woodshed to be completed and auctioned off over the summer. The hope is to raise enough money from the shed to complete a snowdog track sled machine and a larger landsailer for the dry lakes should they dry out this fall.







# Cultural Sharing - RISE

*Ms. Ingunn Ringvold*

## Powwow Dancing

The RISE Medicine Wheel youth and the Intertribal Youth Dancers, ages 7 to 10, came together to inspire Surprise Valley Schools during a school-wide assembly. The event celebrated the richness of culture through powwow-style dancing, where students learned about different styles and their profound meanings. Eight dancers showcased their skills with grace, demonstrating styles like Fancy Shawl, Grass Dance, and Jingle Dress, captivating everyone with their footwork and movements. A powerful story was shared about the origin of the Jingle Dress, also known as the Medicine Dance. To conclude the assembly, students were invited to join the youth dancers in a heartfelt friendship social dance, fostering unity and connection within the community.



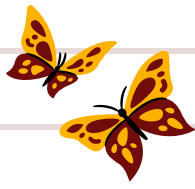
## Star Lodge

At the thrilling intersection of winter and spring, Surprise Valley schools initiated a positive movement of cultural exploration with an unforgettable assembly featuring the amazing portable planetarium, Star Lodge! This captivating event celebrated the ancient art of storytelling, perfectly aligned with the season's spirit. The time-honored tradition of sharing stories shone brightly, offering wisdom passed down through generations.

The excitement grew with a special guest appearance by local legend and Paiute tribal member, Meldrick One Horse. He captivated students with a compelling Paiute tale, alongside RISE Director Lisa Craig. Together, they highlighted the rich heritage of the Paiute & Pit River Nations and shared fascinating stories about how the stars came to illuminate our night sky.



But that's not all! Students also dove into the incredible world of star-gazing careers, discovering the diverse paths that lead to unraveling the mysteries of the stars, moon, and planets. It was a day filled with wonder, learning, and inspiration—one that reminded everyone just how magical our universe truly is!



# Cultural Sharing - RISE Continued

RISE Students (Not pictured: Natalie Carter - 2nd grade):

12 Rena Linton  
 11 Haywee Saterstad  
 11 Hannah Toya  
 10 Talise Fernandez  
 9 Eugene Sam  
 9 Saiya Fernandez  
 9 Brady Linton  
 7 Iliyan Nabahe-Henry  
 6 Tianna Horse  
 4 Elleni Hernandez  
 3 Monroe Linton  
 3 Hadassah Almanza  
 2 Natalie Carter  
 1 Nanego Contreras  
 K Navi Almanza  
 K Nemseni Contreras  
 K Jay Hernandez



Rena Linton received her blanket in the blanketing ceremony at the annual Honor Gathering.



Rena Linton receives her Eagle feather in her graduation ceremony.



Talise Fernandez and Rena Linton Present Mrs. Scritchfield as a tribute at this year's Honor Gathering.





# MESA

*Ms. Ingunn Ringvold*

The MESA college preparation program, for grades 6th-12th, bridges classroom concepts to real-world practice through project-based learning. MESA students apply their knowledge of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology to create competitive projects, utilizing their creative thinking skills while collaborating with their peers and using the engineering design process throughout the school year.

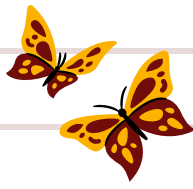
Surprise Valley High School teams competed at the MESA Preliminaries in Alturas on February 21st and 28th, 2025, against Modoc Middle School, Modoc High School, and Tulelake High School. First- and second-place winners in their category qualified for the Regional MESA Day competition. The event was hosted by the University of California, San Francisco's MESA college preparation program at Contra Costa Community College in San Pablo, CA, on April 12th, 2025. Over 600 MESA students from Northern California competed in the event, which included campus tours, visits to the planetarium, and science demonstrations led by college professors, all designed to inspire students on their educational journey and future success.



WAITING TO ENTER THE PLANETARIUM (LEFT TO RIGHT) TIANNA HORSE, ZOHEY CURRAN, IYAN NABAHE-HENRY, AIYANA ORTT, LORENZO FERNANDEZ, ARTHUR DELGADO, BRADY LINTON, CAELAN HUECKSTAEDT, ANDREW ANGUIANO







# From the Desk of Mr. Goodwin

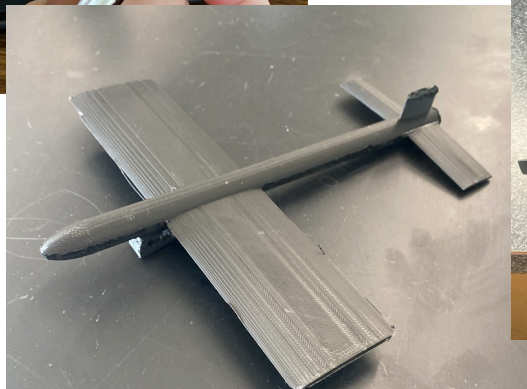
*Mr. Damond Goodwin*

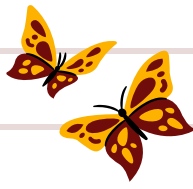
## **Algebra 2 / Advanced Math**

Class ended by learning some principles of elementary physics and calculus as a practical application of more advanced mathematical concepts. We worked on this to prepare students who are interested in the medical field or engineering for their future college courses, and to help returning students build a foundation for next year. Some of the returning students will most likely enroll in Calculus 1 for the fall semester of 2025. Calculus and physics are closely linked and are necessary in almost any scientific endeavor.

## **Geometry**

For a final project the students were tasked with building a glider. The goal of the project was to build a glider that maximized flight distance. Students could either throw the gliders or use a large rubber band to launch their glider. Students were expected to work in groups to simulate a real life work environment and the challenges associated with them. A lab report accompanied the glider and some fundamental concepts in technical writing were taught to provide students with exposure to professional level writing in the science, medical, and engineering fields. Some students opted to create Computer Animated 3D designs of their glider concepts to be 3D printed out of plastic. Others simply used paper, wood, or cardboard as their main building materials. The difficulty of the task was evident in the results of the experiment with no students creating a glider that lived up to their expectations.





# Mr. Goodwin Cont.

## Spanish I/II

Spanish ended the year working on the 100 most frequently used verbs in the Spanish language. In addition we worked on the conjugation of these verbs in the past present and future tenses.

## 8th Grade Math

The 8th graders finished the year with a comprehensive final of the entire year. They had learned most of the concepts to a satisfactory degree.



# Drama Elective

*Mrs. Heather Bordwell*

The drama class produced and performed *Bad Dates* by Jon Jory and Michael Bauer through special arrangement with Pioneer Drama. The delightful comedy starred Gennasys Fernandez and Juba Medford as a young couple who have dated since sixth grade but are not ready to commit. They take a break, and each goes on a series of really bad dates. Andrew Eichstadt, Gregory Bordwell, Nevaeh Sweeney, and Talise Fernandez each played dual roles of two dates all with hilarious personality quirks that led to the realization that comfortable wasn't boring and being happy together was better than facing a world full of uncomfortable dating encounters. Talise and Andrew each also took on another character as customers of *Porkchop Heaven* in two scenes written by Mrs Bordwell to provide a little more interesting interaction with Hannah Toya's character, The Server. When Talise's sports injury repair surgery kept her from attending the performance, Saiya Fernandez stepped up and filled all three of her roles! The whole cast did an amazing job!







# A note from the Ag Dept...

*Mrs. Maigen Scritchfield*

The end of the year was fast and furious. Although the agriculture department “slows down” there really is no slow down in the ag world.

Ag Mechanics finished the year working on their fair projects. We have some pretty great projects heading to the fair with all but a few being entered into the 2nd Annual Frank Estill Memorial Scholarship Project Auction. A percent of funds go into the scholarship fund while students make the profit off of their projects based on their bill of materials in their project plans.

The 8th grade Ag and Introduction to Agriculture courses spent most of their time in the greenhouse preparing for the plant sale in the beginning of May and then cleaning up the greenhouse following our big plant sale weekend. As always, we have plants that need homes and deals to be made if anyone is in need of desperate plants just wanting to be transplanted. Students were also split into groups and assigned a livestock species. They prepared a slideshow presentation and an interactive lesson activity. Students made butter, created cattle brands, learned how to judge market sheep and explored the process of wool grading.

The advanced agriculture business class has finished the year out by using what they learned throughout the year to create a business plan. The business plan had to define the type of business and the roles and responsibilities of those involved. Two chose sole proprietorships while one student planned for a partnership.

Ag chemistry ended the year learning the different types of chemical reactions. Students learned to balance equations and then how to identify products through synthesis, decomposition, single and double replacement reactions. With all of the end of the year activities going on, we didn’t get the chance to do our big end of the year lab activity. But students had a great year jumping into the depths of chemistry to at least get their foot in the door for college chemistry courses that many will take in the future.

Agriculture Biology wrapped up the year with genetics and livestock health. Students struggled with dihybrid punnett squares and understanding the cross of multiple genes at once, but once they understood how to work on one gene then another, the majority aced it. Following our genetics units, students learned about the different classifications of disease and infections. Students chose an area of health concern, researched it and presented it in small groups.





# A note from the Ag Dept Continued...

Outside of the classroom - life has been rolling right along. In the third week in March Trevor Pratt was presented his State Degree in Anderson. Unfortunately school life during the National FFA week was too crazy for us here at school so after some discussion, we moved it to the National Ag Week, the last week of March. It was just as crazy with three minimum days and parent teacher conferences for elementary teachers and parents. BUT, we had a blast and celebrated the end of FFA week with the annual Ag Olympics and Kiss the Goat. Students enjoyed the week-long activities and battled it out to get Cathy Laxague (retiring in June) to kiss the goat. Also that week we had our annual Spring Drive-thru BBQ for pork loin. It was successful. Thank you for your support!



April started with a trip to the state capital for the State FFA Convention. Seven students attended and Mrs. Evans was named the Superior Region FFA Star Administrator. She went through the interview process for State Star Admin and enjoyed the unique experience of being interviewed by a large group of students. Students enjoyed the keynote speakers, the massive dance parties before session openings and the Friday night block party where some experienced a silent disco for the first time. We also had our last regular FFA meeting that was celebrated with an Easter Egg Hunt. Students found eggs with letters and spelled the words that corresponded with the winning prizes. The student who finished the word won the prize. It was super fun and a unique way to make it competitive. To end April, we did our annual Project Competition. Trevor Pratt, Greg Bordwell and Talise Fernandez competed and showed off their SAE projects for our judges Bill Bordwell, Audra Evans and Cassie Oyarzun.



May started with our local FFA Field Day. We had students judge two classes of bulls with the Harris Family, one class of Horses provided by the Harris Family and Ms. Venn, a class of market hogs provided by the Evans Family and then headed back to the school for a class of plant identification, tractor ID and tractor driving test. Our FFA Banquet followed on May 7th. We celebrated the accomplishments of students and awarded degrees to our 8th and 9th graders and those who qualified as their chapter farmer degrees. Seniors were given their graduation honors and Mrs. Evans and Cathy Laxague were named as our Honorary Degree earners for this year. Two weeks later we held the annual plant sale. We had a large turnout on Saturday even though the weather decided to wake everyone up at 5am with severe thunderstorms. We appreciate everyone's support of our program through the plant sale. We also helped at the annual Ag in the Classroom. Students were group leaders and led them to the different stations on agriculture applications in Modoc County.







# A note from the Ag Dept Continued...

As we head into another year of craziness in the ag department, we are still working on getting our hoop house constructed using funds received from the farm to school grant provided by the USDA. Working with Mr. Steve bringing more local food into the school has been a rewarding process and is exciting for our students. We have a new walk-in order that will provide more storage for local food procurement. We are excited to get some of these things established in our school system so we can keep bringing in local and California procured food for our students.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

More events will be posted to our Facebook - make sure to follow!

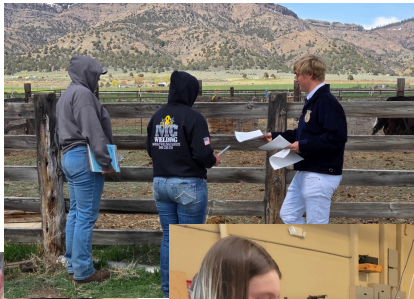
August 23rd → Fair BBQ - \$20 a plate, \$15 for 10 and under  
Potentially a New PSJ Date - We will keep everyone updated



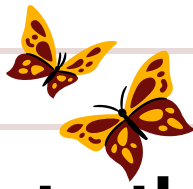




# More FFA and Ag Department







# Congratulations to the Class of 2029! You're headed to High School!

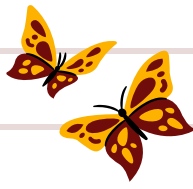
...



Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade class in the high school gym here at Surprise Valley. Natalie Dixon welcomed family, friends and staff to the evening ceremony. Each graduate then read their 8<sup>th</sup> grade speech reminiscing on their time in elementary school and the bonds they created as a class over the last year. There were many memories brought forward about their trip, giving the annual advice to just do your AET and the laughs they all shared together as a group. Many of the graduates reflected on a quote that represented their year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or that meant something special to them.

Mrs. Pratt, their advisor, then gave her annual virtues to each student focusing on their strengths and most important attributes. Virtues such as authenticity and patience were among some of the virtues handed out to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that graduated onto high school.

As they exited the stage, they left with a flare of confetti and added some sick shades to end up by their cake table in style. Families, friends, staff and community members congratulated the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates, there was cake and punch for everyone to enjoy.



# Good Luck SVHS Class of 2025!

Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> was a hot evening in the Surprise Valley High School Gym. But, many family members, friends, staff members and community guests showed up in support of the graduating class of 2025. These five students put on a wonderful ceremony with the help of their class advisor Ms. Vennuracci and teachers Mrs. Bordwell and Mrs. Scritchfield. Adelia Martinez began the evening by welcoming everyone in attendance. And then introduced our speakers. If you missed graduation or were privy to the untimely microphone issue, we will be providing the salutatorian (Kaylee Balcer) and valedictorian (Rena Linton) speeches starting on page \_\_\_\_, so you can experience the amazing words of endearment and support from these two students.

In addition to our student speeches, Isabel Juarez presented the gratitudes and Adelia Martinez and Casey Grove read the virtues. With the booming community of Surprise Valley in our future, it was all thanks to each graduate coming back to the valley with their ten children in tow. The crowd really enjoyed the predicted futures of our graduates.

Everyone also had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Pratt, their guest speaker, recall her times with them throughout the years and finally had the opportunity to present them each a virtue, something she was not able to do since they partook in the COVID times graduation parade for 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. Bordwell presented the scholarship awardees and shared that together, the class of 2025 earned \$. Thank you to our scholarship presenters and congratulations to our students. See page \_\_\_\_ for a list of scholarship presenters and winners.

As this crew steps out into the great unknown of adulthood, they are each on a journey of success and will also have a group of people here at Surprise Valley High School that will continue to support them along the way. Hats off to the class of 2025 and hopes to always being on time! 😊







## Salutatorian Speech

Kaylee Balcer

**Good evening, everyone, and thank you for coming to support our class's graduation.**

I want to start by giving thanks to the people who have helped me get here.

### **To my dad:**

Dad, you've gone above and beyond for me and Cayden. With everything you've been through, you still manage to show up for us every day. You've been my protector, provider, biggest supporter, and role model. You've sacrificed so much to give me a better life, and I'll never be able to thank you enough. You've taught me what strength looks like—not just physical strength, but emotional strength, the kind that keeps pushing forward no matter what. I'm sad to leave you and Cayden when I go to college, but everything I do moving forward is because of what you've given me—your time, your love, your guidance. I'll carry that with me everywhere. I love you forever and always. Thank you for everything, Dad.

### **To my mom:**

Even though we don't live together, you've never stopped being one of the most important people in my life. No matter what's going on or how busy you are, I know I can always count on you. Whether it's a phone call when I'm stressed, a quick text, or just knowing you're there—you always show up for me. Thank you for being my safe place, my sounding board, and someone I can always turn to without judgment. I've learned so much from your strength and the way you keep going, no matter what. I carry that with me too. I love you, Momma—more than words can say.

### **To Cayden:**

I know I get on your nerves—I tease you, annoy you on purpose, and yeah, you think I'm "cringe." But I love having you as my little brother. You're always there when I need help, even if you pretend you're not. You make me laugh, keep me grounded, and remind me not to take life too seriously. I'll really miss seeing you every day. I'll always be your annoying older sister—and you'll always be one of my favorite people. Thank you for being you.

### **To Dylan:**

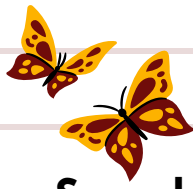
I know we argue—and yeah, we get on each other's nerves—but I wouldn't trade having you as my brother for anything. You're growing into such a smart, strong, and thoughtful young man. I'm proud of who you're becoming. Even when we don't say it out loud, I hope you know I believe in you. I know you're taller than me now and love to remind me—but no matter how tall you get, you'll always be my baby brother. I'll always be cheering you on. Thank you.

### **To our teachers:**

Mrs. Bordwell, Mrs. M, Mrs. Ven, Mr. Goodwin, Mrs. Pratt, Mr. Fernandez, Mrs. Grove, Mr. Oilar, and Mr. Coronado—thank you for everything you've done, not just for me, but for our whole school. Living here has shown me how close and connected a school community can be. You all feel like family.

To all the staff who may not be in the spotlight—our aides, custodians, office staff, Savanna and Benny—thank you for keeping our days running smoothly and our school feeling like home.

Another big thank you to Steve for cooking us meals every day, so we don't have to go to rabbit trax and spend all our money. *(continued on next page)*



## Salutatorian Speech Continued

Kaylee Balcer

### To Mrs. Evans:

Thank you for everything—not just as our principal, but as someone who truly cared about each of us. You’ve been a mentor, a role model, and someone who made time for us, even with so much on your plate. Every basketball trip we took together showed me how much heart you put into everything. Whether I was trying to keep you awake on those long rides or we were having deep conversations, those moments meant a lot. You made me feel seen, supported, and understood, and I’ll always carry that. Thank you for your leadership, compassion, and belief in all of us.

### To my class:

Thank you all for everything. I can’t believe we’re here—we made it! We’ve changed so much these past four years. We’ve been through a lot together, but we’re finally at this moment. When we walked in as freshmen, most of us were still figuring out who we were. We’ve grown—through the awkward phases, hard classes, wins, losses, late nights, tough times—and now here we are, stronger, more confident, and more ready than we thought we’d be.

I can’t wait to see what the future holds—Adelia, becoming an ultrasound technician; Isa, a psychologist; Ren, a vet; and Casey, a mechanic. We might be nervous, but we’re going to go far.

### To the students still in school:

Don’t rush these years. They go by so fast. Say yes to opportunities, learn from mistakes, and enjoy the little things.

I’ll end with a quote from Henry David Thoreau:

**“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.”**

May these words inspire us to pursue our paths with courage, purpose, and belief in what’s possible.

Once again, thank you for being here and supporting the Class of 2025.

**We didn’t just make it—we made it matter!**







## Valedictorian Speech

Rena Linton

Patience is a virtue, and good things come to those who wait. These are two very common sayings I've always told myself. These words are the very depth of what I believe in, and they stand as a basis for a great chunk of my life. My closest virtues: patience, humbleness, diligence, empathy and transparency. These building blocks both kept me steady within these few years of high school, and they were what led to this ultimatum or chapter in my life: graduation.

Good Evening Board Members, teachers and staff members, family and friends, classmates and fellow graduates. Thank you for coming, and I hope you've enjoyed this ceremony so far. I'm truly honored to be up here, and I can't help but say thank you once more. Today is a turning point in each of our lives, the graduates of Surprise Valley High School, 2025, and these past four years within high school have been unforgettable, stressful, and overall humbling.

"Do not take lightly your hopes, your ideas, your fantasies. Let them grow. Nurture them. Then your wildest imaginings will soon trip the dream fantastic." - Stephen Fry

Within our past, we have learned the basics and material to take with us to the real world, and in my view, high school has prepared us for challenges within the workforce, future schooling, and even real-life situations. We learned so much in so very little time, and I can't just walk past this fact. I feel the need to stop and address this, and I'd like to thank the teachers that have gotten us here. Without a doubt, our teachers are superheroes when it comes to these things, and where would we be without them? I wouldn't know. Thank you to Mrs. Scritchfield and Mrs. Bordwell especially, for they helped me the most with my career choices and even the paths I took within the time I've been in this school. If not for them, I wouldn't be as educated on my future. They helped make it easier for me, and I'm forever grateful.

Alongside our past comes our present, graduation and what lies ahead. Here, at this ceremony, each and every one of us graduates have spotlights. We're all being recognized for our accomplishments. Certain individuals fail to experience this, and I can only hope that my fellow graduates realize just how important they each are. If it weren't for them, high school would've been more stressful and less appealing. There's beauty around every corner, whether you see it or not. Within my time in this school, I've made friends with all the other graduates, and I've come to see how unique and amazing each one of them are. They were all main reasons as to why I showed up to school with a willing smile on my face, and I love them all. I'll always be thankful I met them later on rather than never.

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## Valedictorian Speech Continued

*Rena Linton*

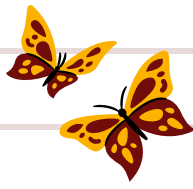
Our future holds greatness, and many questions lie ahead for it: When will I accomplish my goals? What will be the outcomes of my actions? Will my plans work out? And all I have to say is one thing, and one thing only... you, as a person, can make anything possible, as long as you put your mind to it. Look where I'm at now, and look at what lies ahead for me! I'm going to college in the fall, and for what? I'm majoring in Animal Science, so I can become a veterinarian in the near future. We, as a whole, can do this. Hard work pays off.

Past, present, and future set aside, I'd like to acknowledge my family, friends, and others who've been in my life. If it weren't for you all, I wouldn't have seen the beauty in life, and I wouldn't have cherished my own as much as I do now. Thank you Mom and Dad, for always believing in me even when I didn't believe in myself. I'd be heavily in debt if I had to pay you both back for everything you've done for me. Life isn't always easy, but that doesn't mean it'll always be hard. I love you, Mom and Dad. Forever and always.

Class of 2025, Goodluck. This is just the beginning of our futures, and growth is just around the corner.







## Awards & Scholarships

2025 SVHS GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTERS:

### Honors

Valedictorian– Audra Evans (Rena Linton)

Salutatorian Award – Audra Evans (Kaylee Balcer)

MESA Graduate: Audra Evans (Rena Linton)

### Scholarships

Hoop Wars Scholarship – Maigen Scritchfield (Isabel Juarez)

Frank Estill Memorial Surprise Valley FFA Scholarship- Maigen Scritchfield  
(Kaylee Balcer, Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez)

Modoc County Cattlemen/ Cattlewomen's Scholarship- Nicole Hinton (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez)

Modoc County Farm Bureau- Cassie Oyarzun (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez)

VFW Post 7888 Scholarship- Steve Gorzell (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez, Rena Linton)

VFW Auxiliary Awards- Audra Evans (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez, Rena Linton, Kaylee Balcer, Isabel Juarez)

Vya Conservation District – Riann Odendaal (Casey Grove)

Surprise Valley Chamber Of Commerce – Tim Elam (Casey Grove)

Kober Masonic Scholarship- Jesse Harris (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez, Kaylee Balcer)

Surprise Valley Service Club -- Josh Oilar and Tanis Minto (Casey Grove, Adelia Martinez, Rena Linton, Kaylee Balcer)

Surprise Valley Education Foundation Scholarships- Savanna Bolton (Adelia Martinez, Rena Linton)



# Upcoming for SVJUSD



## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

SURPRISE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE HOSTING SUMMER SCHOOL FOR OUR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS STARTING ON JUNE 9TH WHICH WILL RUN THROUGH JUNE 27TH. WE WILL TAKE THE WEEK OF JUNE 30TH OFF TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY. WE WILL START BACK UP ON JULY 7TH AND RUN IT THROUGH JULY 25TH. SUMMER SCHOOL WILL BE FROM 8AM TO 12PM, WITH AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FROM 12PM TO 5PM. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE OFFERED TO STUDENTS.

## **SEAMLESS SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM**

THE SEAMLESS SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM IS ALSO BEING RUN THIS SUMMER. THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS ANY CHILD 0-18 TO RECEIVE A MEAL FROM THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A MEAL, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL AT 279-6141 EXT 227 BY 10AM DURING THE WEEKS SUMMER SCHOOL IS BEING OFFERED. THIS WAY WE CAN MAKE SURE WE HAVE ENOUGH MEALS BY PICK UP TIME AT 12:15PM.

## **RECYCLING PROGRAM**

FIRST WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED THEIR PLASTIC BOTTLES, ALUMINUM CANS, AND GLASS. WE HAVE USED THESE FUNDS TO HELP SUPPLEMENT THE EXPENSES FOR FIELD TRIPS FOR OUR STUDENTS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SHARE YOUR RECYCLABLE ITEMS. I BELIEVE OUR TRAILER WILL BE MOVING OUTSIDE THE GATES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT WE NEED TO COMPLETELY FIGURE OUT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. UNTIL THEN, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL AND SOMEONE CAN MEET YOU TO TAKE THEM TO THE RECYCLING TRAILER THAT IS CURRENTLY PARKED BHIND THE CRESSLER STREET GATE BEHIND THE GYM.

## **JUNE**

- 12 SVJUSD BOARD MEETING @7PM
- 16-20 MODOC JLS
- 20 JLS SALE
- 21 JLS GROUNDS CLEAN-UP
- 9-14 SUMMER SCHOOL & SEAMLESS SUMMER

## **JULY**

- 4 FIRST FRIDAY
- 7-25 SUMMER SCHOOL & SEAMLESS SUMMER
- 8 BLOOD DRIVE IN THE SCHOOL GYM - STARTS @12PM

## **AUGUST**

- 11-13 TEACHERS REPORT
- 12 ES OPEN HOUSE & 8-12 ORIENTATION/SCHEDULING
- 14 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 15-17 SV FFA OFFICERS GO TO COLC
- 21-22 MINIMUM DAYS FOR FAIR
- 21-24 MODOC DSITRICT FAIR
- 23 SV FFA FAIR BBQ

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 1 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 11 FIRST HOME VOLLEYBALL GAME VS. TULELAKE @5PM