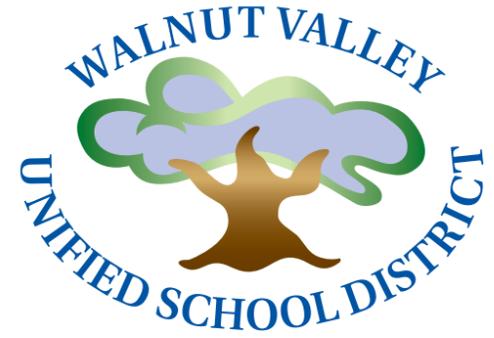


Outlook



Issue 42 **SPRING 2019**

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Walnut Valley family,

I recently had the opportunity to attend a roundtable discussion focused on the concept of Customer Experience... not merely Customer Service, but instead the notion that an organization can and

should be intentional about the type of experience that their customers EXPERIENCE. As a community-based public school district, one could argue that our primary customers are our students. As I frequent our 15 schools across Walnut and Diamond Bar, I'm amazed at the experience that is provided for our wonderful kids...just look throughout this publication for a small sampling of what I'm so fortunate to observe on a daily basis...a focus on world languages development, service leadership (acts of kindness and generosity), the finest resources and opportunities in the areas of music and the arts, career tech exploration, top-caliber athletic programs, and academic preparation that will propel our kids into bright, bright futures.

I also think about our teachers and staff...countless hours of preparation, expertise, and dedication that provide the foundation for the nationally-recognized educational experiences for all of our students. Thank you to all of our employees that serve our students!

Finally, I've spent a great deal of time since our roundtable discussion thinking about our parents and community members...hoping that your experience is positive, supportive, and memorable.

I reflect on the impact of our community's support and backing of our educational facilities...without question, also as cited in this publication, the impact of Measure WV is being realized at campuses throughout our community. As planned, the proceeds of this facilities-based initiative are providing classroom upgrades, science and technology focal points, state-of-the-art music buildings, and safety upgrades that truly enhance the Customer Experience.

Thank you for your contributions and continued support of education and Customer Experience in Walnut Valley!

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
Robert P. Taylor, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Enroll Now!

Now open to parents or guardians employed within the Walnut Valley Unified School District Boundaries

Walnut Valley USD is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Did you know that your child can attend WVUSD schools if you live outside the boundaries? The Allen Bill student enrollment option is available when a parent or guardian is physically employed within the WVUSD boundaries for a minimum of 10 hours per week. Parents or guardians may enroll their student(s) directly to WVUSD by completing an Allen Bill application, and providing verification of employment within district boundaries (i.e. pay stub, verification of employment on business letterhead). Seats are now open for Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Allen Bill applications are online at www.wvUSD.k12.ca.us/EnrollNow. For additional questions, email enroll@wvUSD.k12.ca.us.

Students Embrace Cultural Awareness

Participation is Up for WVUSD's Dual Language Immersion Program

As one of the pioneering districts in the San Gabriel Valley, Walnut Valley's Mandarin Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program is now available for kindergarten through seventh grade students.

Hundreds of students are reaping the benefits of speaking multiple languages at an early age. During the past eight years, the program has grown from 46 students to over 300 kindergarten through fifth grade students at Walnut Elementary.

In 2017, DLI expanded to South Pointe Middle School and now serves nearly 80 sixth and seventh grade students, with plans to expand to eighth grade for the 2019-2020 school year.

Students participate in a 50-50 program, where half of the day is spent learning in a Mandarin-speaking environment.

"The children soak up the new language like little sponges," said first grade teacher Henry Lin who sees tremendous growth of the young learners each year.

"I enjoy DLI because I get to learn a new language – and that's pretty cool!" commented fifth grader Logan Lee who has been in the program since kindergarten.

Walnut Elementary fifth grade students recently practiced their speaking, listening, and reading skills while acting out a script in reader's theater.

Mandarin teacher Isabelle Lin then utilized Project GLAD strategies during a social studies lesson to help students get a better understanding of the Thirteen Colonies.

Later that morning, the group rehearsed for the schoolwide Lunar New Year celebration with choreographed songs and skits presented entirely in Mandarin.



"I believe the DLI program not only exposes students to the Mandarin language, but also enables them to appreciate Chinese and Taiwanese cultures and lifestyles," commented social studies teacher Jared Wu as his South Pointe seventh graders engaged their knowledge during 30-second "freeze frame" poses while reporting on Roman achievements.

The strong and rigorous model has been developed through the extensive research and collaboration at both schools.

"Our DLI students are performing at or above their grade-level standards in all core subject areas – English, math, social studies, and science," said Walnut Elementary Principal Robert Chang. "And our program is successful because of our fantastic teachers!"

The ultimate goal for the dual language immersion plan is to help develop bilingualism, biliteracy, and an enhanced awareness of cultural diversity.

"Dual language is more than just language acquisition," said South Pointe Principal Dr. Susan Arzola. "It's having a deep understanding and respect for the Chinese people and their very rich culture."

Kindergartners Celebrate 100 Days of School!



Evergreen Elementary kindergartners marked the 100th day of instruction with counting activities, crafts, and creating collection books on January 25.

In Mona Warren's class, the children counted out loud by tens while filling circles with fruit cereal rounds. In other lesson centers, the youngsters were making 100 colorful fingerprints, drawing pictures of favorite foods, decorating donuts with 100 sprinkles, filling books with stamps and stickers, and stringing cereal necklaces.

"I could eat 100 pieces of watermelon!" exclaimed Joanna Chung who neatly colored little black seeds on several pieces of the summertime fruit.

"I liked when we did the sprinkles and coloring!" Evan Fernandez commented as his teacher put finishing touches on the final project for the day - 100th day hats for the students.

Inside this Issue . . .

Construction Update

Upcoming construction projects made possible through Measure WV funding. See page 3 for details!



2018 Classified Employee of the Year

Kelby Riley

"I truly have the best job in the world," according to Kelby Riley, the 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

The selfless Chaparral Middle School Teen Scene Supervisor has been a valued WVUSD team member since 1998 and joined the staff at Chaparral six years ago.

"This award has been the 'cherry on top' of my ice cream sundae experience!" he said. The Teen Scene champion is optimistic, enthusiastic, and a team player who always advocates for the kids.

Under Kelby's leadership, Chaparral has partnered with the growing program to add technology, library access, and a quiet room for study. During after school events, Kelby and his Teen Scene students are often on the sidelines cheering on the student athletes.

"He models Cougar Pride to all!" Principal Ron Thibodeaux shared.

"Our work is more than just a job, more than just a paycheck – it has eternal merit," Kelby said.



Kelby Riley and Superintendent Robert Taylor.

Top Classified Employees Honored

A dozen outstanding employees were honored during the 20th annual Cornerstone Awards on January 10. Classified (non-teaching) employees work with dedication and commitment to help students succeed every step of the way. Congratulations to the 2018 honorees!

Kelly Okamoto, Instructional Aide II Special Education
C.J. Morris Elementary

Connie Sanchez, Athletic Equipment Attendant
Walnut High School

Alfredo Ortiz, Morning Playground Supervisor
Suzanne Middle School

Victoria Saucedo, Instructional Aide III Special Education
Evergreen Elementary

Bill King, Technology Support Specialist
Technology

Abraham Saura, Custodian I
Vejar Elementary

Harrison Lindsey, Campus Security Officer
Diamond Bar High School

David Gomez, Custodian I
Westhoff Elementary

Mary Lou Vargas, Custodian II
Quail Summit Elementary

Brenda Hall-Searcy, Morning Playground Supervisor
C.J. Morris Elementary

Sandy O'Dell, Custodian I
Walnut Elementary

Kelby Riley, Teen Scene Supervisor
Chaparral Middle School

Westhoff Celebrates their Giving Spirit

Westhoff Elementary ushered in the spirit of giving during a Spark of Love toy drive and musical extravaganza last December.

The kindergarten through fifth grade students dropped off hundreds of new toys for underserved children in the Los Angeles area as they entered the amphitheater. Then each grade level took a turn on the stage to perform a special holiday song complete with costumes and choreography.

Westhoff has been a proud partner of the Spark of Love event, co-sponsored by Southland Firefighters and ABC7, since it began in 1992. Local firefighters from Station #146 were on hand to deliver the donations later in the day.

"Over the past years, we have collected over 10 million toys for kids in need. Without your love and support we would not be able to do that," said Captain Patrick Richardson.



WVUSD is Kindness Certified

Kindness is contagious. It can begin as a warm smile or simple "thank you" and grow to include good deeds that create a culture of kindness. Walnut Valley Schools exemplify kindness through the sharing of time, talent and treasure.

Schools Join Great Kindness Challenge

For the second consecutive year, all 15 Walnut Valley USD schools joined the Great Kindness Challenge, earning the official Kindness Certified School District badge.

Over 24,000 schools across the nation participated in the event, held January 28 – February 1, to promote kindness by encouraging students to brighten the days of classmates, family, and community.

Collegewood Elementary hosted We Lift Each Other "Up" week (from the animated Pixar movie) with acts of kindness and compliments of gratitude, including writing messages to students at neighboring Westhoff Elementary.

Ron Hockwalt Academies' students inspired smiles while delivering bountiful bouquets of pink roses and fresh greenery of kale, fennel, and celery harvested from the school's HOPE garden.

Maple Hill and Vejar Elementary students cheered up schoolmates with chalked playground messages including "It's going to be a great day" and "Take deep breaths – it's going to be OK."

Westhoff Elementary students completed their first

kind acts in unison by smiling and offering compliments to each other during a kick-off rally.

"On the count of three, let's all say, 'You are smart and you are kind!'" said counselor Ericka Robledo.

Walnut Elementary students joined a Mix-It-Up at Lunch to have a chance to demonstrate kindness to someone new and sold friendship grams with proceeds benefitting the Los Angeles Mission.

Diamond Bar High's Wellness Team presented three days of Where's Kindness? lunchtime activities. Be

Kind to Yourself day, held January 29, focused on self-care and self-compassion, E-cigarette education, stress management, dance clinic, and a bungee run.

Chaparral Middle School seventh grader Troy Pisigan fulfilled over 30 tasks including his favorite, saying "thank you" to the school's noon aides.

"I could tell by their reaction that the words meant a lot!" he said. He hopes his actions will motivate others to show kindness too.

"And maybe, it will carry on and they will do something nice for someone else!"



Tidying Up for a Cause!

South Pointe Shoe Drive

In a nod to Marie Kondo's popular Netflix series, South Pointe Middle School families have been "tidying up" closets and donating their gently used shoes. In just two weeks, over 2,000 pairs of children's and adult-sized footwear that were outgrown, worn out, or no longer "bringing joy" were dropped off in classrooms. And the world-renowned organization expert would be surely impressed with the clutter-clearing results that crushed the original goal of 1,350 pairs for the Caring Soles drive, held January 14 to February 8, presented by the school's Community Club.

Some of the shoes will be sent to needy families, while others will be recycled with profits benefitting the school.

"Our parents wanted the children to be a part of something that will help the world and help others," said Principal Dr. Susan Arzola of the globally-minded service project.

Seventh grade ASB member Edward Kim brought in two pairs of his old tennis shoes.



"It felt good to help my school and someone else who really needs them," he commented while organizing stacks of trash bags packed with shoes.

"The shoes that are unable to be donated will be repurposed by taking the soles out and then using them for other materials like playgrounds," added eighth grader Joseph Wangsa.

DBHS Students Pack-A-Patrol-Car

Community members dug into their pockets to help give local children a holiday to remember. In just a few hours, hundreds of new toy donations were dropped off during Pack-A-Patrol-Car held in front of the Walmart Neighborhood Market in Diamond Bar.

Organizer deputy sheriff Aaron Scheller and Diamond Bar High's Workability Transition students were on hand accepting donations at the fundraising drive held on December 17.

Walnut Valley's Workability program provides services to

high school students with IEPs including career assessment, exploration, and work-based learning.

Diamond Bar High students alternate working at three retail stores in the community - Walmart, Smart & Final, and Round Table Pizza - two mornings each week gaining employment skills.

"Walmart has opened their hearts and doors to us," said Career Vocational Assistant Patricia Dimas of the new partnership.

Students will have valuable work experience, skills, and a resume when they graduate from high school, explained special education teacher Tanya Aparicio.

"It's meaningful and they love it!" she said.

"I think this is a good way to help out the community," added senior Nathaniel Tabesh.



Great Bedtime Story!

Walnut Elementary Pajama Drive

Walnut Elementary 5th grade leadership collected over 60 pairs of new PJs for girls, boys, and women during the 10th annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive to benefit the House of Ruth shelter in Pomona. Collection boxes were stationed in the main office during the two-week philanthropic drive that ended December 18.

Scholastic Book Clubs also donate a new book through the non-profit Pajama Program to help give children in foster care, in poverty, or homeless a warmer good night.

Nearly 116,000 pajamas have been donated in 2018 throughout the nation.

Walnut Elementary families also filled boxes with socks for the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless and blankets and towels for the Inland Valley Humane Society.

"I brought about 20 pairs of socks," shared 10-year-old Aston Fang.

Students advertised their project with a video, morning broadcast, and by visiting classrooms to make connections with their peers.



"It feels good helping everyone," commented Hillary Ho, 10.

The leadership students are part of an 8-week Genius Hour course led by elementary learning specialist Jill Takayama.

"The students have all these great ideas and it's so much fun to guide them through the planning process of our community service project," she said.

"The best part is knowing they can and will make a difference in this world!"

Looking to the Future Construction Update



Collegewood Elementary

Upcoming construction projects made possible through Measure WV funding

In the coming years, all Walnut Valley campuses will be transformed with facility improvements made possible through voter approval of Measure WV. There will be several phases of construction projects to support high quality instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM).

Architectural renderings for the following state-of-the-art classroom buildings are currently in review at the Division of State Architects Office (DSA) with groundbreakings slated for next fall.

Collegewood Elementary School

Pictured above, new 21st century learning two-story, 14 classroom building, with outdoor student assembly and play areas. Anticipated DSA approval early spring of 2019.



Diamond Bar High School

Music Building

Pictured below, new contemporary multi-level building comprised of spaces for the school band and orchestra, offices, practice, ensemble, and recording rooms. Anticipated DSA approval spring/early summer of 2019.



Science Building Modernization

Pictured left, modernization for a state-of-the-art chemistry, biology and physics classroom/laboratories, featuring central core collaborative learning/maker space workrooms, and offices. Currently in review at the Department of State Architects Office – anticipated approval spring/early summer of 2019. Interim housing will begin March 2019 with the installation of 44 modular classroom buildings and 6 restroom buildings located on the existing junior varsity baseball fields/soccer field at the south side of the campus.

CLASSROOM Spotlight

Walnut High's Architecture Program offers Teens a Place to Dream, Explore Careers. . .

Advanced computer aided design (CAD) students at Walnut High are putting finishing touches on a guest house project using REVIT software.

Senior Jack Chuang seamlessly clicks the toolbar to drag and drop in walls for a spacious kitchen, main living room, and bathroom. Next, he makes his architectural visualization come alive with animation and by choosing paint, tile, and wood flooring materials in the 3D Lumion program.

Sophomore Scotty Liu shows how he angled his home design and added a wall of glass so that the living room could take full advantage of the sunset.



"You can do some cool stuff in Lumion," he said while changing the color of the sky.

Everything is animated and realistic with virtual walkthrough tours using the rendering software, according to ROP teacher Mike Moore.

"The trees move, you can make the stars twinkle in the sky, and even make it rain," he explained.

For the past 14 years, Moore has headed up the 150-student career technical education (CTE) program that offers a blend of engineering and architecture skills. The classes are offered through a partnership with East San Gabriel Valley Regional Occupation Program and

"I'm just the messenger who opens the door for students to learn about the field of engineering."

Technical Center. Every student builds an impressive portfolio that includes design, 3D printing, and animation projects.

Students kicked off the new year with an assignment that could benefit their own school. The advanced CAD class has been tasked with creating an amphitheater covering with a phone charging station. The teens are working in teams to measure the outdoor space, research products, and create design options using Revit architectural software.

"It would be so cool to see our ideas implemented!" said senior Justin (JJ) Lopez.

Moore recently partnered with applied arts teacher Mike Yamashiro to create a special gift to commemorate



the school's 50th anniversary. They surprised all 160 teachers and staff members on campus with personalized laser-printed plaques for the milestone event.

After three decades in education, Moore is still passionate about introducing his subject each year.

"I'm just the messenger who opens the door for students to learn about the field of engineering," he said.

Music to Our Ears . . .

Spotlight

DBHS Instrumental Music Program



The stellar instrumental music program at Diamond Bar High has produced the highest number of students named to All-State Bands for the past eight years. Diamond Bar also holds the record for the highest number of students selected to All-State California Honor Bands and Orchestras for the past nine straight years – with 63 just this year.

Additionally, the flute choir has been named the nation's top ensemble slated to perform for an international audience in Salt Lake City and percussionist Jeremy Davis and clarinetist Andrew Chang have been tapped for the 2019 National Youth Orchestra that will perform throughout Europe this summer.

Musicians Accepted to All-State Ensembles

Forty-five student musicians represented WVUSD in All-State ensembles at the California All-State Music Educator's Conference in Fresno this February. The middle and high school musicians competed against thousands of their peers from across the state for a prestigious seat in one of the two middle school and four high school All-State Ensembles. These students have shown enormous dedication and discipline in becoming excellent at their chosen instrument and will have the opportunity to work with the best student musicians in California. "I am excited to have this opportunity to learn and how it will benefit my future career in music," said Sunny Cai, Chaparral 8th grade clarinetist.

Sing-A-Round

Beatles Rocked Collegewood

The Beatles reunited to headline Collegewood Elementary's holiday show this year. Of course, it wasn't the legendary John, Paul, George, and Ringo or even a Fab Four tribute band. But, it certainly felt like the British Invasion with a recorded introduction of the sensational rock group debuting on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964.

Third graders Kyle Martin, Anthony Li, Summit Purcell, and Brandon Zhang took the stage donning mop-top wigs and skinny black neckties and began singing and playing their hearts out.

Classmates joined the lively Beatles rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", "Let It Snow", and "Feliz Navidad."

The annual Sing-A-Round featured songs performed by every grade level, students joined hands during the finale "Peace on Earth," and all were treated to a special visit from Santa Claus.



Annual Golf Tourney to Support WVUSD Sports

Golfers who support education can take to the links during the 21st Annual Walnut Valley Educational Tournament on April 5.

The four-person, best ball scramble format tourney will be held at Mountain Meadows featuring a lush 18-hole champion golf course. Tee-off time is 1:30 p.m.

A banquet dinner and awards ceremony with recognition of outstanding teams and individual golfers will follow the tournament.

The cost for individual golfers is \$175 which includes green fee, range balls, and banquet.

Proceeds from the event will support athletic programs in the Walnut Valley Unified School District.

For information, please call (909) 444-8462 or email walnutvalleyedfoundation@gmail.com.

Outlook

Issue 42 Fall 2019



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Walnut Valley Unified School District

880 S. Lemon Ave.
Walnut, CA 91789-2931
T (909) 595-1261 • F (909) 839-1214
www.wvusd.k12.ca.us

Dr. Robert P. Taylor
Superintendent

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Spring Break:

APRIL 12-19

Memorial Day:

MAY 27

Last Day of School:

MAY 30

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Walnut High ASB Hosts Stress Relief Activities

Walnut High School's Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted two full weeks of stress busting activities as teens prepared for their upcoming exams.

"We're so focused in class right now, we wanted to offer something fun during lunch to take our minds off it," said ASB president senior Kaitlin Day.

The fourth annual event held in late January featured chalk art, yoga, therapy puppies, nap time, hot cocoa, and more.

The interactive DIY activities also included making gooey slime and cookie decorating.

"The cookie decorating on Friday was a big hit," Day said.

ASB/Athletics secretary Ave Tauvao led two popular offerings this year: Zumba and line dancing.

She took to the amphitheater stage, along with history teacher Justin Panlilio, for 20 minutes of tension relief, cardio, and fun.



"Getting up on the stage is not the easiest, but just thinking of how it will help them totally pumps me up," Tauvao said.

She guided students through the steps to the popular Cupid Shuffle, Cha Cha Slide, and Wobble dances.

"Come out and have fun and relieve some stress with friends!" said ASB advisor Andy Shultz inviting students to join the activity.

"It is great seeing the kids laughing and not thinking about school for a while," he said after the event.

Panlilio brought some Zen to students while leading a yoga session during lunch on December 11.

"This is just a great way to relax after having their noses in books getting ready for finals," he said.

This year, students took participation "selfie" photos and posted on social media to enter a drawing for Travis Scott concert tickets.

"We hoped it would get more people involved and it's working!" Day added.

Teachers Set the Stage to Engage

Classes were transformed during 'Rock Your School' week

About 300 students stepped into transformed classrooms when they returned from winter break at Castle Rock Elementary on January 7. To their surprise, teachers had created winter wonderland-themed learning spaces brimming with snowmen and igloos, icicles, snowflakes – and even an ice-skating rink. Nine teachers jumped on the Rock Your School movement along with thousands of educators across the globe to set the stage to engage their students.

"We wanted to ensure that the first week of 2019 was a success for our students," said special education teacher Julie Park.

She captivated students' attention with Pinterest-inspired decorations and innovative transitional kindergarten (TK) through fifth grade curriculum created for the event. Children were eager to practice ice skating while sliding on a snow-capped plastic rink in her classroom. While ice fishing, students created sentences with words attached to each little felt catch of the day. The children also cracked codes during six Brain Break challenges including creating hexagon-shaped snowflakes from 16 cotton-tipped swabs.



"Kids just need excitement in the classroom and they'll learn anything!" Park added.

TK teacher Christa Richard said there were lots of "oohs and aahs" when the kids came in her decorated class.

In just two days, they made snowflake necklaces, painted snowmen, played in (simulated) snow, and tossed paper snowballs at each other while practicing letters of the alphabet. The school's youngest children even learned about the states of matter with a melting snowman.

Kindergarten classes decided to throw a New Year's Eve party during the Rock Your School week.

"My students had an absolute blast celebrating with our very own countdown, balloon drop, and dance party!" shared teacher Naomi Sunshine.

Light Up Literacy!

Reading Fun at Camp Read-A-Lot

Imagine a camping excursion with no packing, cooking, or cleaning. That's just what C.J. Morris Elementary offered families when it opened its doors for an evening of literacy-related activities during Camp Read-A-Lot.

With pitched tents and a roaring "paper" campfire, the decorated multipurpose room created a cozy ambience as over 400 family members gathered on blankets and munched on nachos while listening to stories read by teachers and staff members.

The children, parents, and grandparents then rotated through several reading and writing activities hosted in classrooms.

"I like to read realistic fiction - like *Bridge to Terabithia*," shared fourth grader Wailing Walker, 9, as she colored a bookmark.

"Our school community really came together to make Camp Read-A-Lot a success," said Title I specialist Jennifer Veneracion.



Students Sample Local History on Rancho Day

History lessons jumped out of textbooks as Castle Rock Elementary third graders experienced the food, games, and culture of the earliest Diamond Bar settlers.

During Rancho Days, students had a chance to design dreamcatchers and coil pots, sample homemade tortillas, dip wax candles, and play traditional games and dances of Native Americans, and Spanish and Mexican colonists.

Staff members and parent volunteers led the eight hands-on rotating activities. Instructional aide Anna Gonzalez assisted children as they flattened balls of prepared masa in a traditional cast iron tortilla press.

"Mine's almost perfect!" exclaimed Justin Zhang before sampling a fresh round of the warm flatbread.

At the candle-making station, students lined up to take turns dunking long wicks into pots of melted wax.

"I've already dipped mine ten times!" Hunter Raine said.

Students took their best aim during the hoop and stick game used by the Native Americans to practice hunting skills.

At another station, youngsters fashioned paper plate dreamcatchers by weaving green pieces of yarn and finishing with beads and feathers.

"We made our own designs and I got the Mexican colors for feathers – green, white, and red," exclaimed April Hernandez.

"California was built upon many different cultures that still influence our society today. We hope that beyond the fun activities, students remember how different life was long ago," said teacher Michelle Boots.

Spring Sports Update



Diamond Bar High Diamond Bar Brahmas completed the winter season with league titles in Girls Water Polo, Girls Soccer, and Boys Basketball. Nine Brahma wrestlers competed in CIF individuals with Connor Diamond and Moises Gamez advancing to CIF Masters. Jordyn Beaulieu, Olivia Valdivia, Jaida Wilson, Jeremiah Chukwudobe, and Dylan Hou signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Walnut High Boys Basketball advanced to CIF quarter-finals and Girls Basketball vied in second round CIF playoffs. Girls Wrestling won Hacienda League and CIF Championship, with 5 girls advancing to state tourney. Boys Wrestling won 5th consecutive league championships. League and CIF MVP Billy Von Goeben and Jacob Gaskin will compete at State championship. Girls Water Polo advanced to CIF quarter-finals.