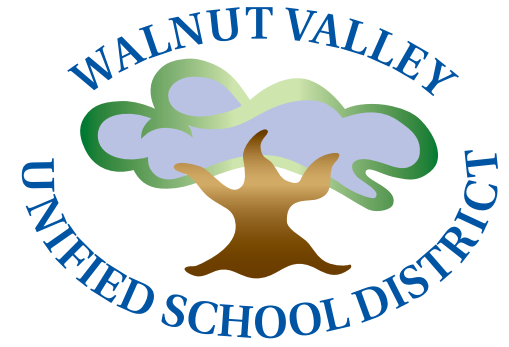


# Outlook



Issue 40 **SUMMER 2018**

## Seniors Complete PLTW Biomedical Sciences Program



For 20 Walnut High School seniors, years of tremendous dedication and hard work in a rigorous biomedical sciences program they began as sophomores have finally paid off.

On April 24, the teens were presented with white lab coats and honor medallions marking the completion of the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme/Project Lead the Way (IBCP-PLTW) Biomedical Sciences Program.

"These students are remarkable and exemplify why we have the best IBCP-PLTW Biomedical Sciences Program in the state," said instructional dean Barbie Cole.

Walnut High has also been selected as a 2017-18 PLTW Distinguished High School. The award is designed to honor schools committed to increasing student access,

engagement, and achievement in the PTLW program.

Since launching in 2013, Walnut High has remained the only school in the state to offer both IBCP with the PLTW Biomedical Sciences program as its career-related component. There are currently only 179 IBCP schools worldwide, 96 in the United States, and three in California.

Congratulations to 2018 honorees Jordyn Arce, Chriselle Badua, Brian Chang, Selena Chen, Kevin Cheng, Samuel Chien, Jocelyn Do, Isaac Duran, Emily Gehringer, Audrey Kuo, Alicia Lu, Michael Lu, Arianha Montelongo, Jodee-Anne Pagusan, Janelle Pham, Gina Pinsakul, Omar Sultan, Aryaman Trikala, Aaron Tsay, and Brandon Tueng.

## Message from the Superintendent



Dear Walnut Valley family,

I recently had the honor of representing our amazing school district (while receiving the prestigious National Schools to Watch District Award) at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. This award has only been earned by 17 school districts across America and signifies that Walnut Valley is truly recognized as one of the premier school districts in the United States. Perhaps what was most special about the award and ceremony was that we had a team of people, representing Walnut Valley, on hand to receive it ... teachers, support staff, administrators, Board of Trustees, parents, and even WHS and DBHS alums. This award is a reflection of the total community commitment to education ... thank you and congratulations!

This summer, our teachers and staff are working hard to provide continual improvement for our students. These dedicated employees are involved in a variety of professional development opportunities, such as Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Google Certifications, trainings on textbooks and instructional resources, and numerous STEAM-based seminars (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics). Additionally, significant improvements are being made to our school facilities across the District highlighted by the first Measure WV GO Bond-funded projects. Again, thank you to our incredible community for your support of the recent bond measure.

Whether you are a student, parent, staff member, or supportive community member, I hope you take some time to enjoy the summer and look forward to another outstanding school year!

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

## Driving Student Success!

## Walnut Valley Schools Make State Honor Roll



*Collegewood Elementary fifth grade students in Lori Huckler's class collaborate on a math assignment.*

After an extensive analysis of student data for every public school in California, the following Walnut Valley USD schools have been recognized as clear leaders in getting students to grade level and beyond: Collegewood Elementary, Cyrus J. Morris Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, Quail Summit Elementary, South Pointe Middle, Suzanne Middle, Walnut Elementary, and Walnut High.

These schools have been named to the 2017-2018 California Honor Roll presented by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE). The Honor Roll recognizes public elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes measures of college readiness in students. To access the ERP Honor Roll, visit [www.edresults.org](http://www.edresults.org).



AMONG 20,500 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NATION

### DBHS

RANKED 59th in CALIFORNIA & 376th in the NATION

### WHS

RANKED 111th in CALIFORNIA & 639th in the NATION

## WVUSD High Schools Rank Among the BEST in the Nation

Hats off to teachers at Diamond Bar and Walnut High Schools for grabbing medals in U.S. News & World Report's Best High School rankings for 2018. The annual list looks at nearly all public high schools in the country – more than 20,500 in all – to sift out the best with an eye on college readiness.

Diamond Bar High earned a gold medal, ranking 59th in California and 376th in the United States. Additionally, Diamond Bar placed 146th in STEM high schools.

Walnut High earned a silver medal, ranking 111th in California and 639th in the United States.

Both standout schools have been included in the report every year since the publication began its 'Best High Schools' search in 2009. U.S. News looked at overall student performance on state-required tests, examined high school graduation rates, and evaluated how the schools prepare students for college using participation and performance data from AP and IB exams.

This year, 85 California schools received gold medals, 439 received silver medals and 82 received bronze medals.

## Schools to Watch District

## Walnut Valley USD tapped for new national award

Walnut Valley Unified School District has been honored with a new national recognition as a Schools to Watch District. The award celebrates Walnut Valley's dedication to providing an exemplary educational experience for students.

In the past two years, all three middle schools – Chaparral, South Pointe, and Suzanne - earned the prestigious Schools to Watch designation for demonstrating academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents, and social equity. These model schools have been recognized at the state and national level and have become examples for middle schools across the country.

Walnut Valley is among only eight school districts in California and 17 in the nation that have earned this distinction.

"This is truly a compliment and a reflection of the commitment, dedication, and pride that all of our teachers, classified employees, support staff, administrators, board members, and personnel commissioners have placed in our 15 schools and our wonderful school district," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor.

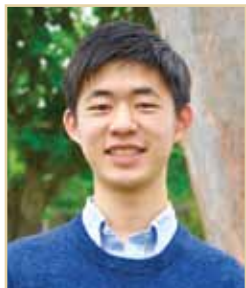
The Schools to Watch District award was presented on June 30 by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in Washington D.C.



# Super Star Seniors...

Nearly 1,500 seniors crossed the stage to receive diplomas during commencement ceremonies held on May 31. We're proud to introduce eight of our stellar students! As you will see, these students represent the best in Walnut Valley with their dedication and commitment to excellence through a wide variety of extracurricular activities.

## Diamond Bar High



**Matthew Ho**  
**Harvard University, 4.0 GPA**  
 Completed 16 AP Courses, National Merit Scholarship Winner, American Invitational Math Exam Qualifier, Presidential Service Award Gold Medal, USA Biology Olympiad Semifinalist, Symphony Orchestra vice president, Math Team captain, and Uncommon Good tutor.  
 "Diamond Bar High provided me with the environment, resources, and support from selfless teachers to equally ambitious classmates to realize my potential."



**Kaitlyn Lee**  
**Southern Methodist University, 3.98 GPA**  
 Completed 9 AP Courses, First Team Academic All-League, Choir Department president, Future Business Leaders of America vice president, Team HBV founder, Master of Sports Award, Varsity Basketball, Junior Health Scholar St. Mary's Medical Center, Church Worship and Small Group Leader.  
 "I felt like I made a difference fostering an encouraging and supportive community as a choir department officer. The department is growing and going to accomplish great things!"



**Rejie Palingayan**  
**University of California, Irvine, 4.0 GPA**  
 Completed 4 AP Courses, ACSA Every Student Succeeding Award, Student of the Year - English III Honors, Questbridge Finalist, Peer Counseling president and publicity officer, Key Club for 3 years, and Youth Mental Health First Aid certification.  
 "During the holidays, Key Club members distributed food with Isaiah's Rock. One man took my hand and referred to me as a blessing. At that moment, I was reminded of the difference we can make through service."



**Collin Satawidinata**  
**University of California, San Diego, 4.0 GPA**  
 Completed 8 AP Courses, E-Sports Scholarship recipient, AP Statistics Student of the Year, Key Club Member for 2 years.  
 "My most memorable moment was our AP Environmental Science project. Our class successfully fixed all the sprinklers at school and planted 10 trees to help with water conservation. I felt like I was able to leave my mark at DBHS before I graduated!"

## Walnut High



**Amber Chen**  
**University of California, Berkeley, 3.92 GPA**  
 Completed 11 AP Courses, Presidential Service Award Gold Medal, 2nd Place Award Yearbook copy - LA County Journalism Education Association, Publications for 3 years - copy lead, California Wish Council founder, American Red Cross president, Stanford Psychology Gotlib Lab research assistant.  
 "Through Publications, I have learned the importance of camaraderie, leadership, and organization. I was able to obtain skills applicable far beyond high school."



**Fitty Liu**  
**University of California, Berkeley, 3.98 GPA**  
 Completed 3 AP Courses, IB Diploma Candidate, FIRST Robotics Tech Challenge Winning Alliance, Division Finalist SoCal Super Regionals, Gold Award So Cal Dragon Boat Club, National Honor Society president, Fusionyx robotics team, French Club for 4 years.  
 "I was nervous about being initiated as NHS president, but soon realized it was simultaneously a challenge, medium of exploration, and opportunity to introduce new events and projects."



**Ransom Mac Leith**  
**University of South Carolina, 4.0 GPA**  
 Completed 8 AP Courses, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Academic All-League Award, Baseball for 4 years - varsity outfielder senior year, Advanced Jazz Band for 3 years - pianist.  
 "One of my favorite WHS memories was being on stage with world-famous Sinatra crooner Luca Ellis. I accompanied him during 'One For My Baby' and by some miracle played every note right!"



**Christopher Wong**  
**Stanford University, 4.0 GPA**  
 Completed 10 AP Courses, National AP Scholar, National Merit Commended Student, Congressional Award Silver Medalist, UCSB & SoCal Junior Academy of Science researcher, co-author and presenter at International Conference on Agents & A.I., Walnut MathCounts vice president.  
 "In today's society, interdisciplinary work is becoming more and more relevant. WHS prepared me with the opportunity to explore and obtain knowledge in different academic areas."

## DBHS Senior Receives a \$40,000 Surprise

Diamond Bar High senior Tanya Yang had just opened a book to study during fourth period Symphony Orchestra class on March 21 when a surprise announcement was made – she was the recipient of a \$40,000 Edison Scholars award.

"It was really a cherished moment!" the 17-year-old exclaimed after accepting the oversized check from Edison International, parent company of SCE. "My entire life I've been blessed to have parents that support me in all my endeavors, especially as a female going into STEM," she said.

Her parents and school officials joined the special presentation. Tanya will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the fall and pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.



## National Merit Winners

Five Walnut Valley seniors have been named winners of the prestigious 2018 National Merit Scholarship. Congratulations to:

**Brian Chang, Matthew Ho, Alvin Lee, and William Shao from Diamond Bar High and Eugene Y. Lo from Walnut High**

High performing scholarship winners are the finalists in each state and were judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

## IB Students Present Exhibitions

In May, Castle Rock and C.J. Morris 5th grade students present collaborative inquiry-based research projects during the culminating weeks of their K-5 learning experience. Students use IB skills, attitudes, and attributes acquired through the elite Primary Years Programme. Groups research topics of their choice based on modern-day issues including climate change, poverty, GMOs, and cyber bullying. One Castle Rock team addressed cell phone safety by posting "Cell Phone Free Zone" signs along the school drop-off zone. "We hope parents listen to our message!" said Emily Zhou.

## Spring Sports Update



**Diamond Bar High** Wrapping up the 2017-2018 school year, Diamond Bar high school boys swimming, boys golf, and badminton finished as league champions. Badminton earned their 7th consecutive CIF championship title. Boys swimming finished as CIF runner ups. Marissa Vasquez finished 1st in the 800-meter event at CIF track & field finals.

**Walnut High** Walnut High School had a great spring season with boys golf, boys and girls swim, boys and girls track, and boys tennis finishing as Hacienda League champions. Alexis Grant was named CIF champion in the 200 Freestyle. During the 2017-2018 school year, Walnut won 15 of the 22 league championships - congratulations on a very successful year!

# STEAM

## “Bringing Science to Life”

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math

### Brahma Tech Academy

## Hands-On Engineering Experiences



**T**imes are definitely changing. Diamond Bar High classroom #201, where auto shop students once tinkered on old car engines in the 90s, has been transformed into a 21st century learning space with 3D printers, Chromebooks loaded with CAD and coding software programs, and bins of robotics parts.

About 150 students are now designing and creating projects in DB Engineering, one of the pathways offered through the Brahma Tech Academy. The four-year diploma program has an emphasis on the relevance of STEM – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in today’s workplace.

Teacher Johnny Hwang has provided teens hands-on engineering experience using Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum for the past five years. The successful four-course program has earned Diamond Bar High the 2017-18 PLTW Distinguished High School Award. Only 133 high schools across the nation received the prestigious honor.

“This class gives the kids a sample of different types of engineering – electrical, mechanical, computer, robotics, and civil,” Hwang said.

“I feel like I’m getting a head start for college,” said junior Eric Susetyo, 16, who plans to pursue a career in engineering.

“They’re going to be so prepared for college and the learning curve won’t be so steep,” Hwang added. “All the programs they’re using are things used in this industry.”

### Evergreen Elementary

## Rocks in Robotics!

**T**op fifth grade teams took over the multipurpose room during Evergreen Elementary School’s 1st annual robotics competition on May 16.

About 40 students were invited to show off their skills during four rounds of maneuvers, including sumo wrestling and a gate crashing bridge, during the single elimination tournament.

Students had been working all year learning to build and program Xbot robots using Lego Mindstorm kits.

“Our team offers robotics lessons twice a week as part of our science education,” said teacher Laura Mowrey.

“Our robotics program is not just a great way for the kids to use their math and science skills, but it is also a chance for them to practice working as a team through cooperation and collaboration,” said teacher Lynn Otsu.

Throughout the three-hour competition, students used their CAD skills and calculators making final programming adjustments to edge out competitors.



On black round mats, sumo wrestling robots were programmed to fight to the end.

“We made the final sumo round!” exclaimed Sienna Simmons, a member of an all-girl team.

“Our robot’s kind of small which makes it go fast – we had a good feeling about it,” added teammate Hana Bouindani.

“It’s a long process, but by the end of the year they really know how it all works,” said teacher Dr. Cathy Patterson.

## CLIPS... STEAM

### Chaparral team qualifies for National Science Bowl

Chaparral Middle School won first place in Cal State LA’s 11th Annual Middle School Regional Science Bowl, earning a spot to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl held in Washington, D.C. The winning team includes students Daniel Chou, Ryan Chung, Akash George, Allen Wang, and Edmond You.

### Science Olympiad Medals

Walnut Valley Schools brought home top awards during the 2018 Los Angeles County Regional Science Olympiad. In Division A: Castle Rock and Quail Summit - Gold, Cyrus J. Morris - Silver; Division B: Chaparral - 4th Place, Suzanne - 7th Place; and Division C: Diamond Bar High - 3rd Place and Walnut High - 5th Place. Additionally, Diamond Bar High took 6th place overall, out of 31 teams, at the Science Olympiad State Competition held April 7 at Cal Tech.

### Diamond Bar High, Suzanne robotics teams compete in World Championships

Diamond Bar High’s Team Sprocket took home the prestigious blue banner as winners of the 2018 Orange County Regional FIRST Robotics Competition on March 24. The team also qualified for the second year in a row for the World Championships. Two Suzanne Middle School teams, 6th grade Robo Titans and 7th grade Robo Rebels, also qualified to compete at the invitational held in Houston on April 18-21.

“It is pretty unheard of for two teams from the same city, let alone the same school attend the World Championships for robotics. We are shocked, but very excited to be representing Suzanne and Walnut Valley!” said advisor Vicky Silcock.

### WHS Provides Tools of the Trade

## Students Discover Sports Medicine Careers



**W**hen stepping into the sports medicine classroom at Walnut High School the space is filled with padded therapy tables, rolling stools, skull and skeleton displays, muscle and tissue charts, a variety of cool gadgets, and state-of-the-art medical equipment – hands-on learning at its finest.

Students are actively engaged learning therapeutic treatment and intervention skills to help patients feel better, perform better, and improve movement.

At one station, senior Justin Shen administered a flexibility test using a goniometer to measure range of motion on hamstrings. During another treatment modality, the deep muscle stimulator, teens used a power tool known as the “human jackhammer” to break down any spasm in muscles that restrict range of motion.

Students also learned how traditional Chinese medicine cupping technique can be used to break down scar tissue and increase circulation.

ROP teacher Elva Salcido leads the advanced Therapeutic Exercise and Rehabilitation course, known as Ther-Ex. This month, 11 seniors will be completing the rigorous three-year career technical education (CTE) pathway.

“All these students have chosen to pursue physical therapy or other careers in the medical field,” Salcido said. “That’s our goal!”

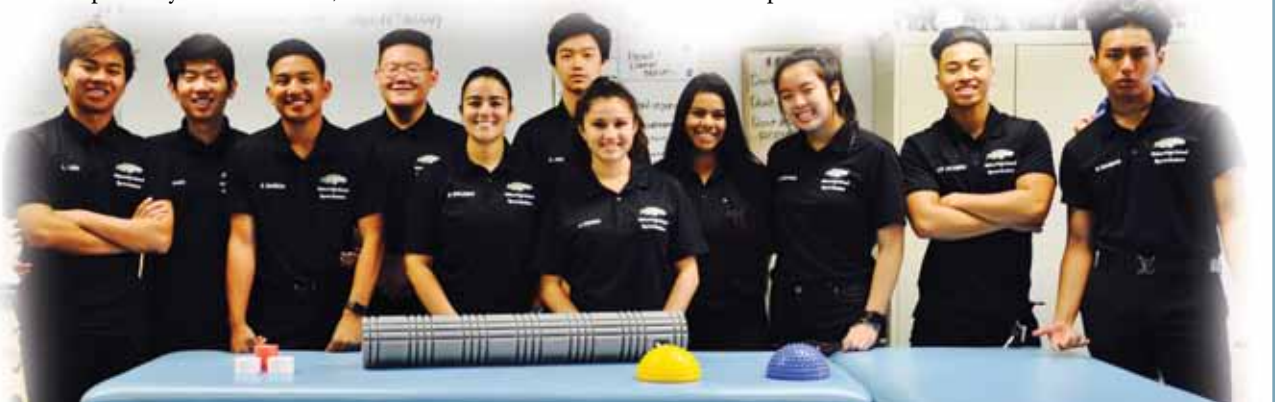
There are currently 160 students enrolled in the CTE sports medicine pathway. Last semester, the teens worked with the

Walnut Walkers senior citizens club where they were able to see first-hand how the treatments and interventions helped the patients.

“We’re using all the tools you’d see in any PT clinic that help athletes get back on the field or track,” said senior Edmund Garcia who racked up about 200 hours volunteering with the school’s certified athletic trainer.

Aspiring pediatrician Melissa Flores credits the sports medicine pathway and dedicated teachers for her decision to go into the medical field.

“During these past three years, I have learned and had the chance to experience so much!”



## A Night of the Stars Parents and Education Partners Honored

A stellar group of volunteers and community members were honored during the A Night of the Stars gala held April 26 at the Diamond Bar Center. The 4th bi-annual event, sponsored by the Walnut Valley Educational Foundation, lauded exemplary parents, alumni, business, education, leadership, and service partners.

### Distinguished Parent Partner Award Recipients

Mike Ramirez – Castle Rock Elementary  
Karen Motus – Cyrus J. Morris Elementary  
Betsy Castellano – Collegewood Elementary  
Ling Yeung – Evergreen Elementary  
Richard Nakama – Quail Summit Elementary  
Carolyne Morris – Maple Hill Elementary  
Melissa Hanson – Vejar Elementary  
April Alvarado – Walnut Elementary  
Melinda Powell – Westhoff Elementary  
Terri Lotto, Carrie Cheng, Ray and Carol Gonzales – Chaparral Middle School  
Gordon Mize – South Pointe Middle School  
David Morales – Suzanne Middle School  
Wanda Tanaka – Diamond Bar High  
Pastor Donald and Gloria Gridiron – Ron Hockwalt Academies  
Raymond and Kary Wong – Walnut High

### Distinguished Partner Award Recipients

Ryan O'Shea MD, DBHS Class of 2003 – Alumni  
SolarMAX Technology, Ching Liu – Business Partner  
Nancy Hogg and Denis Paul – Community Partners  
Walnut Valley Secondary Music Programs – Education Partners  
Walnut Valley Financing Corporation – Leadership Partner  
Walnut Valley Kiwanis Club – Service Partner

The Kenneth Goodson Memorial Scholarship was introduced in honor of the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services who passed away in February.

The event concluded with a surprise Distinguished Leader recognition for Dr. Taylor as Superintendent of the Year.

Star parents were honored for generously giving their time and talents to benefit students and schools. Three years ago, Cyrus J. Morris parent and alumnus Karen Motus was motivated to spearhead a Science Olympiad team because her two children love science. "I have been surrounded by students, faculty, and families who enjoy learning about STEAM and the importance of teamwork!" she said.

Chaparral Middle School band booster parents Terri Lotto, Carrie Cheng, Ray and Carol Gonzales successfully fundraised over \$20,000 this year to support out-of-state competitions. They arrive daily to stock, catalog, and sell snacks from the after-school band store.

"The contributions of these three families represent the commitment of this wonderful group of supporters to music, and to the Chaparral band program!" said Principal Ron Thibodeaux.

## Leading the Way in Music Education

For the second year in a row, Walnut Valley has received the 2018 Best Communities for Music Education designation from



The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. This designation was awarded to 583 school districts around the U.S. that demonstrated outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.



Last year, when Maple Hill Elementary student Ethan McNeil's grandfather was diagnosed with bladder cancer, he was compelled to advocate and support others affected with the devastating disease. With his younger sister Kailyn's help, 4th grader Ethan organized the Change the Future of Cancer school campaign that brought in \$1,500, far beyond his \$500 goal, to support the Relay for Life, a community fundraising event of the American Cancer Society.

"I was scared," reflected Ethan, who is now in 5th grade,



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Dr. Robert P. Taylor  
Superintendent

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**School Begins** – August 13  
**Labor Day Holiday** – September 3  
**Veterans Day** – November 12

**Thanksgiving Holiday** – November 19 - 23  
**Winter Break** – December 20, 2018 - January 4, 2019

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## Students Track Famed Iditarod Sled Dog Race



For one exciting week in March, Evergreen Elementary second-grade students become immersed in tracking the famous 1,000-mile Iditarod sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

To educate students about the trail race and Eskimo culture, teacher Alice Oldag first reads aloud two books, *Balto and the Great Race* and *Black Star, Bright Dawn*, before the race begins. Students then randomly select a

musher among 65 teams and follow the race on individual Chromebooks, recording team location, ranking, and number of dogs in notebooks.

"Each morning, the children run to the computers and ask each other 'Where's your musher?'" Oldag said.

A subscription to the official Iditarod Insider website allows students to watch real-time videos, read musher bios, check the status of sled dogs, and weather conditions.

Each day, the race can change drastically with the extreme sport racers dealing with frostbite, injuries, icy crossings, moose attacks, and whiteout conditions. A team can fall from first to last place in just one day, the teacher commented.

"It is very rewarding to see children so enthusiastic about learning," said Oldag, a 26-year veteran teacher. "The Iditarod experience taught them about the Eskimo culture and a way of life that is so exciting. It is an excellent example of perseverance in its highest form!"

## 2nd Graders Celebrate Earth Day



Collegewood Elementary students paid tribute to Mother Earth with a day of "outdoor school" on April 22. Second graders rotated through stations while learning about recycling, repurposing, and more.

The youngsters planted herb and flower seeds in empty milk cartons and crafted simple bird feeders from pipe cleaners and cereal rounds to hang on trees and bushes on campus. Teacher Stephanie Johnson presented a lesson on water cycles where students observed water evaporate in the warm sunlight, condense back into liquid, and then fall back down in the form of precipitation.

Students also created Earth Day posters using paper bags with handles, old crayons, paper scraps, and art pastels.

"Take care of the Earth, we only have one!" wrote Paloma Pasquill.

The group also enjoyed games of golf and croquet on the grass while listening to ecology-themed songs.

"It was good old-fashioned play – no electronics!" teacher Betsy Hale said.

## Change the Future of Cancer Maple Hill Students Donate Dimes, Quarters, Nickels, and Pennies for Cancer Research

about seeing his grandfather going through treatments. "My grandfather won his battle and is cancer free now," the 10-year-old happily shared.

But Ethan wasn't finished with his fundraising efforts for cancer research. This spring, he decided to ramp up his efforts by recruiting classmates Ivan Rogers, Hayden Toneck, and Silas Swartz, who have all been affected with cancer, to help plan a schoolwide competition.

Students in all 20 classes filled plastic buckets with quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies for the top prize of a pizza party. The boys made a color-coded poster to track donations that totaled \$800 during the first week.

"My dad and I were thinking we should do something," said Hayden who lost his mother to cancer three years ago.

His father decided to donate \$500, Hayden added \$500 from his savings account, and his grandparents offered \$100.

On May 29, the group proudly served up 18 pepperoni

and cheese pizzas to the winning upper and lower grade classrooms.

"I was proud to be a part of it," Ivan shared. "It makes you feel good to raise money to help."

The boys also walked and sold homemade items during the Relay for Life of East San Gabriel Valley on Saturday, June 23 at Suzanne Middle School in Walnut. To date, they have raised \$4,363.25 for the cause.

Online donations can be made to support the Maple Hill – Change the Future of Cancer team at: [https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay\\_donate\\_now](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=relay_donate_now).

Principal Kelly Morris described Ethan as compassionate and selfless when she honored him as the school's Super Star Student during a recent Board of Trustees meeting.

"Gentle souls like Ethan will be the calm force that the world needs to be a better place," she said.