Dear Hacienda La Puente Unified Community,

Fueled by the excitement of the fall season, our students are thriving while participating in extracurricular activities and celebrations. Our focus remains on safety and best practices to ensure our schools have guidelines for in-person events.

We are thrilled to see our students collaborating and learning new skills in clubs and programs such as Speech and Debate, C-STEM and Robotics and Dual Immersion – all of which help bolster student achievement and support our goal of “learning forward.”

This month, U.S. News & World Report’s Best K-8 School rankings announced that nine of Hacienda La Puente Unified’s schools scored in the top 20 percent of public schools, based on student assessment data from the 2018-19 school year. You can visit our website for more information on this accomplishment.

October was a month full of celebration at Hacienda La Puente Unified as we recognized World Teachers Day, National Custodial Day and Administrators Week, honoring our dedicated teachers and staff across the District. Hacienda La Puente Unified also recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, Red Ribbon Week, Unity Day, Halloween and more.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Board of Education and Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Manoj Roychowdhury, for their leadership in ensuring our District improvement projects continue to move forward. Hacienda La Puente Unified remains focused on implementing state-of-the-art educational opportunities for our students and we look forward to what the last two months of 2021 have in store for us!

As always, we are #ProudtobeHLPUSD.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfonso Jiménez

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**SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE**

**Mesa Robles Students Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month**

Kindergarten students at Mesa Robles School participated in the annual showcase of musical performance and artwork, paying tribute to Hispanic Heritage Month.

The event included stories about Hispanic cultures, dances and traditional songs sung by Research Specialist Program teacher Martha Montoya.

Please visit Mesa Robles’ [social media](#) to watch more of the celebration!

*Mesa Robles Principal Perez supports TK and Kindergarten teachers as they dress up and celebrate Hispanic traditions.*
La Puente High School’s Running Group Participates in Pomona 5k

La Puente High School Runs Los Angeles (LPRUNSLA) is training and participating in races with students throughout the Los Angeles area, with the ultimate goal of running in the 2022 Los Angeles Marathon.

The team is led by La Puente High School teachers Ana Benítez and Wesley Pérez. Together, they motivate their students, research races, and find sponsors and funding for the LA marathon entry.

This month, the group competed in the Pomona 5k and the StudentRunsLA 10K. Please visit LPRUNSLA’s Instagram for more information.

HLPUSD Students and Staff Recognize Red Ribbon Week

Hacienda La Puente Unified students participated in a spirit week to support this year’s Red Ribbon Week. Students, teachers and staff supported the national campaign with creative decorations and crazy outfits designed to create awareness and promote positive social norms in school. The District community came together to join in the mission to help keep kids drug-free. For more information, please visit the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) resource website.
Workman High School students recognized Unity Day by wearing orange to show their promise to promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion on campus and in their community. Clubs such as Gay-Straight Alliance, Renaissance and dance put on a unified dance performance to show that Workman High is devoted to spreading kindness. Visit the Workman Lobos Instagram page to watch a clip of their show.

Hacienda La Puente Unified maintains a commitment against bullying year-round and provides resources to help create a bully-free environment.

Valinda School of Academics Prepares for First Lego League

The First Lego League team at Valinda School of Academics is busy designing, building and programming a robot to compete against more than 400 California schools on Nov. 13 during the annual First Lego League Tournament.

This will be the sixth time Valinda’s Varsity team, “The Super Smash Brobots,” is participating in the annual tournament. The team will complete four science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) -related components scored by a panel of engineers with the hopes of advancing to the State Championship.

The program inspires students to grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

Click here for more information on this year’s Varsity team. Good luck, Valiants!
Hacienda La Puente Unified High students showed school spirit, sporting their school colors and filling the stands to celebrate the 2021 Homecoming football games. There were halftime performances by each school’s band and color guard, cheer and dance routines, alumni recognitions and the annual crowning of the new Homecoming Queens and Kings.

La Puente High School’s Homecoming court celebrates the crowning of their new Queen, Connie Martinez.

Glen A. Wilson senior cheerleaders are celebrated with flower crowns preparing for their final Homecoming game on Oct. 22.

Hacienda La Puente Unified’s elementary and middle schools have been listed among the top-performing public schools in California, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2022 Best K-8 Schools rankings.

Nine of the District’s K-8 schools ranked in the top 20 percent of schools, including Los Molinos Elementary and Wedgeworth Elementary School – which ranked in the top 5 percent. Mesa Robles Middle School earned a spot in the top 4 percent.

Please visit https://buff.ly/2Zk3feb for more information.

U.S. News & World Report’s Best K-8 Schools Rankings!

U.S. News Best Schools Report California State Rankings

3,446 middle schools
Data includes school “ties”

Mesa Robles MS #132 96.1%
Cedarlane MS #343 90%
Lassalette MS #477 86.2%
Fairgrove MS #488 85.8%

6,569 public elementary
Data includes school “ties”

Los Molinos ES #242 95.61%
Wedgeworth ES #260 95.32%
Grazide ES #282 94.92%
Mesa Robles ES #709 87.1%
Los Altos ES #977 82.36%
Hacienda La Puente Unified students celebrated Halloween across campuses, participating in fall festivals, pumpkin carving and costume contests.

In continued support of the health and safety of all students and families, the District provided virtual alternatives for trick-or-treating and shared guidelines from the Los Angeles Department of Public Health on safe ways to celebrate Halloween while reducing the risk of COVID-19.

California Elementary School TK Students are learning to follow instructions while decorating pumpkins for Halloween!