



# PASS AmeriCorps Newsletter

## San Diego Unified School District

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SAN DIEGO  
UNIFIED  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

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## Recruitment Begins for 2017-18 PASS Year!

It's that time of year again! The job postings are up and the application portal has been opened. Each year, hundreds of individuals from all over the country (and sometimes the world) apply to become mentors with the PASS AmeriCorps Program. We begin accepting applications in the spring to fill positions for the following school year. We are always so impressed by the wonderful people that we meet who are interested in dedicating a year of their lives to national service with us.

The PASS AmeriCorps Program is highly competitive because of the work that we do, the professional development and networking that we offer, and the southern California location! We search for highly qualified individuals who are interested in making

a difference in the lives of the children in our San Diego County communities. Our PASS AmeriCorps Members must be at least 22 years old, hold a Bachelor's Degree, have some past experience working with youth, and have a desire to make a difference. All applicants go through a rigorous interview process with a three-hurdle step system before joining our team.

Our Term of Service for next school year is August 21, 2017 to June 30, 2018. If selected to join our team, members are placed individually or in pairs at elementary, middle or high schools in Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Valley Center-Pauma, or San Diego Unified schools. They receive a stipend of \$15,000 (1st yr) or \$16,000 (2nd yr) for a 1,700 hour term of service

contract, medical/dental/vision coverage, and student loan forbearance. At the end of a successful term of service, each member receives a \$5,815 Education Award to use to pay student loans or for further education.

*Please pass on the link to apply to anyone you think may be interested and qualified!*

We are looking forward to meeting all our new applicants and beginning to put together our amazing PASS AmeriCorps Team for next school year!



The link to apply from our PASS AmeriCorps website:  
[www.sdcoe.net/pass-amicorps](http://www.sdcoe.net/pass-amicorps)

## PASS Professional Development in February

At our February PASS All Staff Meeting, Bob Mueller, Interim Senior Director of Outdoor Education and Student Support Services at SDOCE, delivered an engaging and energizing presentation titled "The Science and Secrets of Happiness." He shared the impact and importance of positivity on both our daily lives, and our lives in the long run. In their evaluations after the training, our members expressed their gratitude for Bob and the

material he presented, saying it helped remind them of the importance of the work they are doing with our PASS AmeriCorps students. We are grateful for Bob's contribution to our program, his reminder of the importance of self-care, and the practical tools that we can all utilize both in our daily lives and with our students to increase our positivity, gratitude, and happiness.



**Bob Mueller hosted an inspiring training on "The Science and Secrets of Happiness"**

## Rodriguez Elementary School

*Brenda Torres,  
PASS AmeriCorps Member*



Helping students write thank you notes for some of their favorite school staff!

This month, PASS students celebrated Random Acts of Kindness. Students learned about the importance of being kind, performing kind acts, and contributing to their community.

On Valentine's Day, both PASS and non-PASS students came together to perform a random act of kindness by thanking school staff that are not always visibly thanked. This includes the school principal, custodians, nurses, counselors, and Prime Time staff.

Lunch Bunch has begun a Scattergories competition, which allows students a chance to have fun, participate in friendly competition, and show off their thinking skills! Students

in Lunch Bunch have also continued to challenge themselves by taking on more complex coloring pages.

Lastly, students have continued to improve their artistic skills by experimenting with oil pastels and paint. Art has allowed students to open up and express their emotions, while also learning a new skill!

## Sherman Elementary School

*Ricardo Holguin,  
PASS AmeriCorps Member*



Gentlemen's Group learning the importance of ironing, always looking professional and sharp!

Our PASS students focused on kindness and wellness this month! Students were put into groups and read one of two books called, "Birds and Words that Hurt" and "Use Your Words." The books were about respecting differences, dealing with bullying and finding out how to be your own problem solver.

Students could relate to the books and found it very helpful when dealing with a bully. Going over the solutions gave them the confidence to become better students and citizens of their community. Our 5th grade Gentlemen's Group had two awesome and empowering presenters. Our Vice Principal, Mrs. Enriquez, did a presentation around the

six pillars of building character: Trustworthy, Citizenship, Caring, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. The second presentation was by Ms. Tee-nie Le from SDCOE/PASS AmeriCorps Program. Our gentlemen learned how to iron their formal attire and fold different types of clothing, providing them a sense of ownership and responsibility.

## Horace Mann Middle School

*Mikayla Freed and  
Truman Quintanilla,  
PASS AmeriCorps Members*



Our kindness saturated hallway, promoting Random Acts of Kindness month!

This month, we celebrated Random Acts of Kindness by focusing on educating our students about the power of positive affirmations and how being intentional with kind words can change someone's day for the better. Our students engaged in a project that required cutting out different colored hearts, writing positive

quotes on them, and posting them around campus. Another focus this month was Teen Dating Violence Awareness. We educated our students by showing an informative video to make them aware of what their peers or even themselves are at risk of, when involved in unhealthy relationships. This video seemed to resonate with

a few of our students, creating a good opportunity for deeper conversations and support. Overall, this month has been productive by keeping our students on task with their grades and educating them about our world.

# Memorial Preparatory Academy for Scholars and Athletes

*Christopher Hines,  
PASS AmeriCorps  
Member*



**Students in 8th grade math class presenting to their class.**

This month, I focused on pushing into classrooms to provide extra support to my students. In the 8th grade science classes, I helped a group of PASS students with their

lab about natural selection. In the 8th grade math class, students presented to the class about specific problems that they have been working on in their current unit. The National Day of Service Project was Random Acts of Kindness! PASS students created

posters for administrators, teachers, and staff at the school that included kind words and what they appreciated most about them. The 6th grade students have been enjoying their "Fun Fridays", where they pick an outdoor game to play. Students enrolled in the PASS program and ASB will be taking a field trip to the San Diego County Courthouse located in Downtown San Diego. Students will have an opportunity to sit in on a trial, have a Q&A with a judge and take a tour of the courthouse.

**San Diego HS  
Upcoming  
Event - Career  
Fair @ SDHS -  
March 7th  
during lunch -  
Be sure to  
check out the  
AmeriCorps  
Table!**

## Crawford High School

Greetings from Crawford High. This month students in PASS and Non-PASS have been busy taking ownership by putting academics first. Students have tackled this challenge by coming in on their own free time to room 804 to receive tutoring on their classwork and homework. In addition, PASS students have taken the initiative to be more involved in their classrooms. They are asked to get out of their comfort zone and use their

leadership skills as they present this month National Day of Service Project, "Random Acts of Kindness." Students in select classrooms were asked to write a compliment or quote that would help make someone's day better. It would be randomly distributed the week after. Students really enjoyed this project because it was different and allowed them to have creative freedom. Overall, it has been an amazing month of group effort from

*Suzanne Bray and Kevin De La Cruz,  
PASS AmeriCorps Members*

students and staff as we continue to work hard through the semester.



**PASS Students  
Juan, Bianca,  
Rosharda, and Kevin working together  
on Random Acts of Kindness poster.**

## San Diego High School

First semester has concluded and it's time to review all of our students' grades to see if they qualified for the pizza party reward. In order to be invited to the reward party, students needed to achieve their personal academic goals by not receiving an F in any of their core classes. It is with great honor that we recognize seventeen students out of our total fifty student

caseload who have worked hard to improve their grades and attendance! Our students were extremely grateful to have been acknowledged for the effort they have put into school because they know their determination has not gone unnoticed. Our next reward party will be during second semester's twelve-week progress reports and we decided to challenge them fur-

ther by having absolutely no D's or F's in all of their classes, not just core. Hopefully this motivates all of our students to continuously succeed. Let us finish this year strong, Cavers!

*Sherry Flores and Edith Dominguez,  
PASS AmeriCorps Members*

**Students working on  
their communication  
and teamwork skills by playing Guesstures.**



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The PASS AmeriCorps Program serves students in grades 3 through 12 at 29 school sites across San Diego County, including campuses in San Diego, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Valley Center. Each PASS AmeriCorps member provides support for 30 targeted students through individual and group mentoring, academic support, grades and attendance reviews, leadership development, guest speakers, service learning projects, and parent outreach. Through their service with PASS, our AmeriCorps members are able to create positive change in our schools and communities.

**PASS  
AmeriCorps  
Program  
Upcoming  
Month's  
Calendar**

**March**

 <b>March 2017</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2  Dr. Seuss Day	3	4  AmeriCorps Week: March 4-11, 2017
5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 
12  Set Clock 1 Hour Forward	13 Mini-Training & AmeriCorps Week Celebration- NCREC Com Labs 1-4 8:00am-5:00pm	14	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20  1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Spring Newsletters Due VUSD & SDUSD	21	22	23	24	25  Ricky's Birthday
26	27 VUSD & SDUSD Closed Spring Break March 27 <sup>th</sup> -March 31 <sup>st</sup> All other Districts & SDCOE Open	28	29 Newsletters Due SMUSD, OUSD & VCPUSD	30	31 DR2: Cutoff NDS: Cesar Chavez Day Stipend Direct Deposit 	
<b>Notes</b>	March 4-11- AmeriCorps Week March 13 – PASS AmeriCorps All Staff Meeting and Mini-Training – NCREC Com Labs 1-4 – 8am-5pm March 27- 31- VUSD & SDUSD Spring Break (Shadow Days Recommended) March 31 – Data Report 2: Cutoff Date & Mandatory National Day of Service: Cesar Chavez					



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