



VALLEY  
CENTER  
PAUMA  
UNIFIED  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

# PASS AmeriCorps Newsletter

## Valley Center-Pauma 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"**

## Valley Center Middle School

*Lora Karch and Carley Null,  
PASS AmeriCorps Members*



**PASS students love to pay Miss Lora a visit before school for a round of Jenga**

Valley Center Middle School PASS students returned from Presidents' Week ready to end quarter 3 strong. February was a rainy month filled with many opportunities for VCMS students to spread kindness! For Random Acts of Kindness (RAK),

students wrote 'thank-you' notes to their teachers, which were delivered to the teachers' mailboxes towards the

end of RAK week. Valley Center Middle Teachers have given endless support to our PASS students and I'd like to thank them for using PASS as a gate to success! Students have continued to show progress and large promise for their educational careers. As we smoothly roll into March, students are eager to learn about why we celebrate Cesar Chavez day. As we move closer to the 31st, this month will also include a positive activity as their monthly service project! Our

students are continuing to grow and learn the importance of education and creating solid bonds along the way. Let the March madness begin!!

**As a tribute to Rachel's challenge, a few PASS students and Miss Lora have been selected to attend Chain Reaction day. Thank you to Ms. Cultrera for this opportunity!**



**PASS mentor Miss Dana is feeling the love from R.A.K week!**

## Valley Center High School

*Lizz Kolokowsky and  
Dana Tsoutsoudakis,  
PASS AmeriCorps Members*

Happy February everybody! This month the PASS Program at Valley Center High School recognized Random Acts of Kindness week - a week dedicated to uniting individuals through kindness and demonstrating how contagious kindness can be. We decided to celebrate R.A.K by having students at VCHS write a note to a staff member or teacher that

they appreciate, whether it be here or at Valley Center Middle School. We took it a step further by also asking them to write down a positive or inspiring message that could be fastened to the "tree" in the PASS room. Through our collaboration with the PASS mentor at VCMS - Ms. Lora - and the cooperation from our students here at VCHS, we

have a beautiful and inspirational tree that anybody in the PASS room can gaze at and become uplifted, as well as a multitude of thank-you notes to school staff. The contagion was absolutely evident amongst our students; most of them excited to write more than just one note.

## Oak Glen High School

*Anna Statz,  
PASS AmeriCorps Member*

**At the San Diego Zoo, students had the chance to feed the giraffes!**



February has already come to an end with the start of March marking the final stretch to the end of Oak Glen's second trimester. Our seniors are feeling the

pressure of the final push towards graduation and the start of their next chapter. During

February, we celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week where students were encouraged to discuss ways to show kindness and appreciation to others. PASS was open for students to make notes and posters spreading messages of kindness which were posted around the school and in the PASS room to promote positivity and support for the

school community. Thanks to San Diego Zoo, Oak Glen students were able to take a field trip and spend a day learning about careers, animals, and conservation; it was a fantastic experience for all in attendance! Looking forward, the month of March celebrates Cesar Chavez and PASS will be working on a project to honor his life and accomplishments.

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



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