



VALLEY
CENTER
PAUMA
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

PASS AmeriCorps Newsletter

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PASS Makes it a “Day On” for MLK Day

In 1994, Congress designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a National Day of Service with efforts supported and led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). As the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service, CNCS challenges us to make MLK Day a “day on, not a day off.” By engaging in service opportunities on this day, individuals and groups follow in Dr. King’s footsteps, working to strengthen their communities and make differences in many areas of human need, such as education, the environment, and public safety.

To honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy, the PASS AmeriCorps Program made MLK Day a “day on” through serving as vol-

unteers at the 29th Annual All People’s Celebration, hosted by Alliance San Diego. The event took place on Monday, January 16, 2017 at the Balboa Park Ac-



Some of our PASS AmeriCorps Members serving at the 29th Annual All People’s Celebration.

tivity Center and was attended by about 1,000 business leaders, elected officials, faith leaders, community organizers, artists, and students. Our PASS AmeriCorps Members served as ush-

ers, parking attendants, backstage and community space assistants, coffee station attendants, volunteer room assistants, and breakdown and cleanup crew. We were also able to hold a booth providing information to individuals attending the event on the PASS Program and AmeriCorps in general.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve.” Our 38 PASS AmeriCorps Program Members work hard every day to encourage and empower youth throughout our San Diego County School Districts to embrace their greatness and make a difference in their schools, communities, lives, and futures through their own hard work and service.

PASS Professional Development in January

Sal Garcia, Program Specialist with Friday Night Live at SDCOE, came to our PASS AmeriCorps All Staff Meeting and conducted an amazing training with our PASS ACs. He taught and demonstrated several ice breaker games that our members can implement with their students. Our members were so cheerful during the training, they all had a chance to reconnect and

unwind after completing their first student data report in December. Sal’s energetic training helped our team to bond and begin 2017 energized and excited to continue our work. We are truly grateful to Sal for making this contribution to our team. As one of our PASS ACs put it, “He is a Legend.”



Sal Garcia hosted an amazing training on “Engaging Youth in Activities”

Valley Center Middle School, Valley Center, CA

Lora Karch, PASS AmeriCorps Member

Building old and new friendships while huddling up in the PASS room before school!



Valley Center Middle School PASS students returned from winter break ready to conquer

quarter 3 with commendable behavior and endless enthusiasm to keep improving. January has been a great month with many fresh starts for our PASS students here at Valley Center Middle! Writing down our dreams for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and attending Rachel's Challenge has all of us motivated to do well in school and spread kindness along the way. Some dreams students shared with the rest of the school include joining the army, surfing, and

becoming a veterinarian. Students are also preparing for National Kindness Month in February, which will also be the monthly service project. To start off the project - PASS at VCMS would like to thank each VCMS staff for supporting PASS and its members. Thanks to you, students are continuing to grow and learn the importance of education and creating solid bonds along the way. Let National Kindness Month begin!

Valley Center High School, Valley Center, CA

Lizz Kolokowsky and Dana Tsoutsoudakis, PASS AmeriCorps Members



PASS Mentor and students consider ways to ignite change.

We celebrated this Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service by having students discuss the injustices they witness and experience in their lives and write down ways they wish they could change the world around them. Some examples of ideas they came up with included; "learn about other cultures" and, "be a

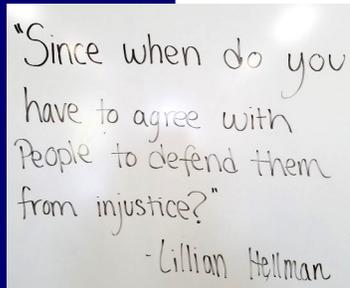
voice for someone when they don't have one." We borrowed the slogan "Ignite Change" from this year's 29th Annual All People's Celebration honoring MLK, to make a symbol on our classroom wall inspiring students to be the change they want to see in the world and on their campus. Students surrounded this post-

er with thought and speech bubbles containing their unique ideas for change. We wish for students to be able to carry on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of a more united world, and we think facilitating positive discussions about injustice and change - like the ones we had in the PASS room at VCHS - is the perfect way to do this.

Oak Glen High School, Valley Center, CA

Anna Statz, PASS AmeriCorps Member

A visual reminder during a conversation centering on MLK and practicing tolerance.



January marks the start of Oak Glen's second trimester and with it, we welcome many new students to our small family. Oak Glen High started off the year on a productive note, with many students showing renewed motivation

and determination to finish the year strong. Many students have been coming to the PASS room to research career paths, apply for scholarships and FAFSA, as well as look into college applications. Oak Glen was, for the 16th year in a row, offered the Johnathan Tarr Scholarship which will be awarded to one of our graduating seniors. Looking forward to February,

PASS at Oak Glen will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week and raising awareness about healthy teen relationships. PASS students will also be resuming their relationship with St. Steven's Thrift Store where our students volunteer sorting donations, organizing merchandise, and helping with general store maintenance.

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"Administered by California Volunteers and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service"

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**

 February 2017						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 Vanessa's Birthday
5	6 PASS AC All Staff and Mini-Training - NCREC	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	 13 rakweek RETURNING PASS ACs ONLY: Training - SDCOE	14 Valentine's Day	15 rakweek	16 rakweek	17 rakweek SMUSD & SDUSD - Shadow WUSD - Closed All other Districts and SDCOE Open	18 rakweek Daisy's & Truman's Birthday
19	 20 Presidents Day ALL Districts and SDCOE CLOSED	21 VCPUSD - Shadow Day OUSD - Closed All other Districts and SDCOE Open	22 VCPUSD & OUSD Closed All other Districts and SDCOE Open	23 VCPUSD & OUSD- Closed All other Districts and SDCOE Open	24 VCPUSD & OUSD-Closed All other Districts and SDCOE Open Newsletters Due	25 Brendan's Birthday
26	27 Tessa's Birthday	28 Stipend Direct Deposit				
Notes Feb 6 – PASS AmeriCorps All Staff Meeting and Mini-Training – NCREC Comm Labs 1&3 – 12pm-4pm Feb 12-18 – Mandatory National Day of Service: Random Acts of Kindness Week Feb 13 – RETURNING PASS ACs ONLY – Training: Helping Our Boys Succeed in the Classroom and Beyond – JRRTC Comm Labs 1-4 (SDCOE) / Excel Training – 8am-4pm						

February