Service in our Communities

Providing service at the All Peoples Celebration

While students had Martin Luther King Jr. Day off, AmeriCorps members saw this as an opportunity for a day on for service. PASS AmeriCorps members dispersed throughout San Diego to aid local organizations with their MLK Day activities. One group of PASS AmeriCorps members assisted Alliance San Diego with their All Peoples Celebration, which honors the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. This event brought together San Diego’s diverse community for a day of resource sharing, impactful activities, and plenty of powerful speakers. The keynote speaker, Greisa Martinez Rosas, delivered a phenomenal speech regarding taking action when it comes to your purpose. Another event that AmeriCorps members assisted with was the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. 39th Annual Martin Luther King Day Parade. The parade was filled with eye-catching floats, collegiate organizations, high school bands, and more. Mentors at each school site have been working on MLK service projects with their students to honor all that Dr. King has accomplished, and to urge everyone in their school community to spread love, not hate, by getting things done collectively. One of the many things that members like to do to get things done and build a safe community on campus, is to conduct groups that use Restorative Practices. These groups have created a place where students feel heard.

Providing service at the 29th Annual MLK Day Parade

PASS AmeriCorps Mentors Needed for 2019-20

Are you interested in giving back in your community? Serving as a PASS AmeriCorps member is a way to provide service to the most high-need youth (3rd-12th grade) with academic support, character development lessons, and service learning opportunities throughout the school year, at one of our school sites throughout San Diego County. If you are interested in serving as a mentor you must be/have:

- 22 years or older
- Associate’s degree or higher
- Computer proficient
- Experience in working with youth

Please pass on the link to apply to anyone you think may be interested or qualified:

Link to Apply

Serving in AmeriCorps has many benefits, including an educational award after completion of service. We are looking forward to meeting all our new applicants and putting together our amazing PASS AmeriCorps Team for the next school year!
The third quarter of the school year has been cold and rainy at Valley Center Middle School, but it has also been the perfect time for students to pause and see how they have been doing so far this year, and where they would like to be academically as the year starts to draw to a close. The PASS AmeriCorps students have been looking at the grades they got earlier in the year, and at the goals they set for themselves, and have been setting new goals around the grades they would like to get in the coming months, as well as thinking about the steps they need to take to achieve their goals. To celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, PASS and other VCMS students wrote down their dreams for themselves or their dreams for a better world on paper feathers. The feathers were put together into wings, to remind students to let their dreams take flight. Here are some of the messages that students wrote: "I dream of a world where there's more equality," "Be nice to other people. Treat people how you want to be treated," "I dream to have a good life," "I have a dream of a world where there is only kindness and NO cruelty," and "My dream for myself is to become a famous softball player!" I hope students will look to the future and hold onto their dreams for themselves, and at the same time acknowledge the triumphs they have already made, whatever their size. I have had a James Baldwin quote on the board for a while now, which I think conveys the idea of acknowledging our pasts, and still being able to shape our presents and futures. Baldwin writes, "I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also, much more than that. So are we all."

Valley Center High School

The PASS AmeriCorps Program at Valley Center High School was excited to welcome the new year and semester with a positive outlook. PASS encourages students to stay on top of their work, advocate for themselves, and participate in school activities. January and February were full of activities for the school as a whole, and for the PASS program. Valley Center High put on a spectacular rendition of Grease this year! There was also a Pep Rally in January to commemorate the success of fall sports, and celebrate the start of the winter sports season. Sports eligibility is a 2.0, and if students are falling behind they can always stay for ASE. However, ASE transportation has changed since last semester. This semester there is only one ASE bus that stops once at the library and this change is something to take note of when your student is staying after. The PASS AC program is still offering support for ASE on its regular schedule. You may have heard your student reciting poetry for their English class this semester. In addition to the recital in class, students had the option to participate in the amazing event of Poetry Out Loud. Students who signed up to be in Poetry Out Loud had the opportunity to recite the poem they chose in the auditorium in front of a panel of judges. All students who participated did a tremendous job! During the month of January, PASS AmeriCorps recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a collage created by the students that hangs in the PASS room. In February, PASS celebrated Random Acts of Kindness with bookmarks, where students wrote a kind sentiment on a bookmark and gave it to a family member, friend, teacher or staff member. PASS looks forward to more progress in March and April.

PASS AMERICORPS NEWSLETTER

Dream wings from the MLK Day project

MLK Collage

Valley Center Middle School

Gabriella R. Rocco, PASS AmeriCorps Member

Madeleine Blake & Erika Triebel, PASS AmeriCorps Members

Random Acts of Kindness Bookmarks
PASS AmeriCorps Mentor, Mr. Gatto, assists students in science class.

Oak Glen High School

Oak Glen High School is off to a great 2019! Following the holiday, students returned rested and motivated for a great semester. Students have brought out the desire for Associated Student Body elections and a debate club. Together, we are working on specifying the details of both clubs. Debate club will consist of discussing current events and philosophical issues; after thoughts have developed, students will be asked to volunteer to debate their ideas. After a one week period of preparation, both sides will debate their idea! Both groups will be up and running by the start of Spring! We hope that they will offer students a place to practice leadership, responsibility, and critical thinking.

In continuing the AmeriCorps commitment to service, students took part in service projects for January and February. In January, students honored the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In February, students participated in Random Acts of Kindness Week, which is a way for our students to practice kindness and spread it. Random acts of kindness serve as reminders to students that, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” When students keep this in mind, they realize that what they have to offer is enough. Some random acts of kindness that our PASS students participated in were:

- Acknowledging their staff on campus through thank you cards, helping out peers that they wouldn’t normally talk to, or picking up an extra piece of trash to help out the environment. No matter what the students decided to do, they knew that they made a positive difference with someone or something. It is important to remember to always be kind even when no one is watching!

PASS Spotlight

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The PASS AmeriCorps Program serves students in grades 3 through 12 at 30 school sites across San Diego County, including campuses in San Diego, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido, and Valley Center. Each PASS AmeriCorps member provides support for 30 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.