Serving our Communities at Creek to Bay Cleanup

Global Youth Service Day was established in 1988 to celebrate and mobilize young people to serve their community. For this National Day of Service, PASS AmeriCorps took part in a community clean up on April 21st, also honoring Earth Day. AmeriCorps Members, the leadership team, and a few dedicated PASS AmeriCorps students served and connected with our different communities through I Love a Clean San Diego’s “Creek to Bay Cleanup”. We cleaned creeks, parks, and streets to prevent ocean pollution. The “Creek to Bay Cleanup” is held twice a year and the PASS AmeriCorps Program participates every spring.

On April 3rd, 2018, more than 5,200 elected officials showed their appreciation for AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers in their communities. Mayors and city leaders, county officials, and tribal leaders across the country are using national service more and more to solve their community’s toughest challenges.

In our own community, mayors from Oceanside, Vista, Chula Vista, Escondido, Encinitas, El Cajon, National City, Imperial Beach, along with our San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer and County Supervisor, Dianne Jacob, honored local volunteers.

CNCS, America’s leader in volunteering and service efforts, engages over 325,000 AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers in national service at more than 50,000 locations each year. Through partnerships with schools, faith-based groups, nonprofits, and local agencies, national service members are embedded within the communities they serve, using their ingenuity and training to make a tangible, lasting impact.

Whether responding to natural disasters, tackling the opioid epidemic, educating students for the 21st century workforce, or supporting veterans and military families, AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers help local leaders make their communities stronger.
Hello again Casita! The end of the school year is in sight, but we still have time to fit in a few more activities before break. This month our focus was on Earth Day here at PASS AmeriCorps. The Activities Planning Club met and decided to help raise awareness for Earth Day by making collaborative posters. The posters were large trees with students’ handprints as leaves. Many of our students got to showcase their artistic talent in creating these posters. I was a little worried about introducing finger painting into a project, but our volunteers were extra careful. We made it to the end of the event without any major messes! I’d like to draw special attention this month to my student volunteers. These students have really stepped up to get things done. This time around we had students painting hands, cleaning dishcloths, carrying tables, taping posters, and giving instructions to other students. We had more volunteers than were needed for the job, and that was fantastic! Thank you to our student volunteers. I hope they continue to lead by example as they have so far this year!

PASS volunteers helped transport our finished Earth Day posters

Olive Elementary School

We had our first Olive Elementary STEM fest. Olive students and parents had the opportunity to invent and create amazing STEM projects. It is great to be inspired by the big ideas our students came up with from volcanos to catapults. Our 5th grade students had the opportunity to participate in the Junior Achievement’s BizTown program where they learned about the skills needed to be successful in a real life job such as teamwork, working under pressure, and management skills. Our students worked in small groups simulating workplace environments ranging from working at a Jack in the Box to working at U.S. Bank or the San Diego International Airport: It was truly a life-changing experience for our students. Lastly, we had our Olive Elementary Healthy Falcon Week, where students learned about the importance of eating healthy, especially the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, as well as, the importance of daily exercise.

Madison Middle School

Hello Madison Mustang Family! This month our National Day of Service Project focused on Earth Day. Students had the opportunity to plant seeds to take home. This project gave students the opportunity to discover how easy it is to plant seeds. Students learned that Earth Day was on April 22nd and enjoyed the idea of planting their own herbs and vegetables because they had never planted seeds. A student shared that he grows tomatoes, herbs and flowers at home. This month definitely flew by fast and students are in disbelief at how fast the school year has gone by. This month, 8th graders had the chance to meet with their high school counselors to choose their classes and clubs/sports they want to participate in. I had a few PASS students share with me that they want to play football, volleyball, and basketball. Another PASS student mentioned she wants to join the M.E.Ch.A Club at RBVHS. I have seen the hard work 8th graders are putting in to end the semester strong and are looking forward to high school. I am excited for next month and what it will bring.

PASS students, Romina and Aaron, presenting their volcano project at the Olive STEM Fest

Miss Lisbeth handing a student some seeds to plant.
Greetings from PASS AmeriCorps at RMMS! April is wrapping up and you can definitely feel the end of the year approaching, but there’s no time to slow down while state testing is approaching rapidly. For April’s National Day of Service, we will celebrate Earth Day. We will have a poster of the Earth and students will write their goals about how to help make a better planet, while also teaching about Earth Day and pollution. Additionally, the soccer team had their first game of the season. Unfortunately, we did not win, but the opportunity to win future games is still there! Lastly, we had our first PLUS Forum, a program to discuss school issues and the opportunity to help fix them. It was a great success, thanks to the fantastic work of our counselors and the help of General Murray High School students. With May on the horizon, I hope to see the students finish the school year strong.

Rancho Minervva Middle School

Happy April Roosevelt Middle! With the school year coming to a close the Wildcat community has been extremely busy. This month in classes, 8th grade students have paused on their artful learning units to focus on Heritage Day. Heritage Day is something unique to Roosevelt Middle School where 8th grade students dress in outfits from the 1780s and partake in different activities throughout the day that are pivotal in United States history. I’m grateful for the opportunity to engage in one of Roosevelt’s traditions. Along with Heritage Day another highlight of April was discussions on the history of Chicano Park in Mr. Parrott’s 8th grade science classes. After discussions on Chicano Park and the importance of working together and uplifting our communities, students built rock cairns. It was a humbling experience to see students work together to create such beautiful and natural representations of community.

Vista Innovation and Design Academy (VIDA)

The school year is winding down here at VIDA! PASS AmeriCorps students have been hard at work in all of their classes and setting new goals for the end of the year. This month VIDA hosted the district’s STEM Fest, an awesome event where students throughout VUSD, including VIDA, were able to showcase their exciting STEM projects. In the PASS office, students have been learning about the importance of healthy friendships by completing friendship lessons in small groups. Students have also been getting homework help during lunch time. This month, students are celebrating Earth Day. For our NDS project, students planted seeds to take home and grow. There are now only six weeks left of school which means our 8th graders are gearing up for their promotion ceremony. Their promotion is taking place on May 24th at the Moonlight Amphitheatre. All of the 8th graders are buzzing with excitement as the day gets closer and are excited to start their high school journeys.
April was a busy month for PASS AmeriCorps! Our students returned from Spring Break on April 2nd and already started working hard to get their grades up. Six weeks into the semester and already some of our students improved in a core subject, attendance or behavior. Our PASS AmeriCorps students have received a total of 524 mentoring hours so far! For April’s National Day of Service, we celebrated Earth Day by discussing ways that we can make the Earth a better place. Twelve PASS students brainstormed and put together some artwork and posters. Some wrote that their family collects bottles and turn them in to a recycling center. Another wrote that he turns off the lights to save energy when he’s not using it. PASS AmeriCorps mentors in VUSD schools assisted in the annual “Creek to Bay” cleanup at the Vista Conservancy to do our part to keep our community clean. We’ve accomplished great things in our PASS AmeriCorps program, which wouldn’t be possible without the supportive climate here at RBVHS.

One of our PASS students helping to plant marigolds

Hello Panther Family, welcome back from Spring Break! We hope everyone had an outstanding and relaxing Spring Break. The second semester has definitely been going by very quickly as we are approaching the end of the school year. This month, PASS AmeriCorps focused on Earth Day and how everyone can get involved to help our planet Earth. Earth day is on April 22nd, but we believe everyday should be Earth day. For this project, we had our students make signs, reminding everyone to do their part and be a helping hand. Students got very creative with their signs and we had a variety of them to put up on our campus bulletins. Many students decided to get more involved and get a little messy with paint to make the recycling symbol on their poster. Ms. Karen and Ms. Andrea also got involved in helping the Vista community by participating in cleaning up the Vista Conservancy. We hope everyone can do their part in keeping our community and Earth clean.

One of our PASS students helping to plant marigolds

April was focused on post-high school goals. PASS AmeriCorps worked on getting students to think about their next steps after high school. Several students, including some involved with the program, took a field trip to Palomar. Alta also sponsored a Career Day. Several professionals came to speak with the students and PASS hosted a resume workshop to make sure our students were prepared. Graduation season is near and seniors will receive extra support in the upcoming weeks. Some of our seniors are already participating in group discussions. During the group they discuss fears, goals, and what they’re doing to prepare for their future. In addition to an end of the school year focus, most of the PASS students had the opportunity to participate in Earth Day in which students planted marigolds for the school. Lastly, football season has officially begun and updates will be available through Alta’s website.
We only have about six weeks left of school - I really can’t believe it! Graduation is on everyone’s mind as we are in the home stretch. Students are looking toward the future enrolling at Palomar or Mira Costa and completing their FASFA. April 23rd was the first day of hex six and PASS AmeriCorps will be going over graduation plans next week as transcripts will be updated this week. In April, we encouraged students to participate in National Volunteer Week and PASS was even able to offer the students elective credits for community service. The Creek to Bay Cleanup was put on by I Love a Clean San Diego. This month Murray students were invited to the Vista Court House to participate in the first Superior Court Color of Justice Program. The students were able to meet a number of judges and attorneys in speed interviews and hear the testimony of their personal career path.

“The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share”

-Lady Bird Johnson

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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, 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.

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May 2018

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**May**

**Upcoming Month’s Calendar**

- **May 6th** – Mother’s Day
- **May 14th** – LIFE After AmeriCorps 6:30 Staff Meeting – SDCE Office Room 301
- **May 16th** – FINAL Performance Reviews – SDCE Office Room 301
- **May 20th** – Memorial Day – All Offices & SDCE Closed
- **May 28th** – Armed Forces Day
- **May 29th** – American Samoa Day
- **May 30th** – Memorial Day – All Offices & SDCE Closed

**Notes**

- May 2nd – 10th: Service Project at your School Site. Visit your site coordinator for more information.
- May 14th – LIFE After AmeriCorps 6:30 Staff Meeting – SDCE Office Room 301
- May 16th – FINAL Performance Reviews – Schedule will be emailed (2 MS)
- May 18th – Intent to Serve for 2018-19 School Year Due – Email to Monica and give original to your Supervisor