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VETERANS DAY 2024

Valley schools honor veterans, first responders

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COURTESY OF DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seventh-grader Kai Snider received a plaque from the Armed Forces Support Group of The Grand for her essay entry at Canyon Ridge School's assembly on Nov. 8.



Posted Tuesday, November 12, 2024 9:37 am



By Delarita Ford (/browse.html?byline=Delarita%20Ford)

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Although students got a day off for Veterans Day, young people Valley-wide still demonstrated their appreciation for the sacrifices and service of local active-duty, and retired military members, even first responders.

From assemblies with guest speakers to writing letters to servicemen and women, many schools had scheduled activities to celebrate the annual federal holiday designed to recognize and honor all — living and deceased — veterans who served during wars and peacetime.

Each year, Dysart Schools celebrate Veterans Day with various events, said Renee Ryon, Dysart Unified School District director of communications and public relations. Ryon added many schools host special veteran appreciation activities, where students invite their parents/family members who served in the military to participate and be honored.

Activities include assemblies, breakfasts, presentations of appreciation certificates/awards, special guest speakers, wall displays of veteran photos, and even a soldier versus student competition. Students write thank-you notes, create artwork, perform patriotic music, participate in essay competitions, and learn through classroom activities.

“Dysart Schools proudly honors our nation’s veterans and active military members throughout the year, and through our partnership with neighboring Luke Air Force Base. We could not be more proud to have the very first Arizona Purple Star School in the state at Luke Elementary School, and provide critical support to our military families every day at all of our schools,” said Ryon.

Likewise, Scottsdale Unified School District also honored local veterans with an assembly and planned student service activity at Anasazi Elementary School, which recently joined the Arizona’s network of International Baccalaureate World Schools' Primary Years Programme.

“Service is at the heart of our IB program, and the Day of Service is a special opportunity to bring our school community together for a greater purpose,” said Principal Jennifer Waldron in a release. “Our students are excited to express their gratitude to veterans and learn the importance of giving back, reflecting the principles of the IB framework -- in a tangible way.”

School highlights

- **Cimarron Springs Middle School** hosted a Veterans Day event featuring a breakfast to celebrate Veterans, thank you notes and patriotic posters adorning the halls, performances by the choir and band at an assembly, plus honored veteran guest speakers on Nov. 7.
- **Thompson Ranch Elementary School** held a ceremony on Nov. 8 that included the Luke Air Force Honor Guard, and a local VFW presenting certificates to staff members who are veterans.
- **Canyon Ridge School’s** assembly on Nov. 8 included student award presentations with a VFW Flag Presentation to veteran Joshua Bullis; Seventh-grader Kai Snider received a plaque from the Armed Forces Support Group of The Grand for her essay entry; Peyton Boyles was honored as the second place National Winner of the Sgt. Moses Adama Memorial Middle School Brochure Contest, the highest honor ever received by an Arizona student in the national contest; Kiana Fernandez Del Valle got an award for earning fourth place in the National Sons of the American Revolution Elementary School Poster Contest.
- **Imagine Rosefield Elementary**, a tuition-free charter school for grades PreK-5, in Surprise, had its annual Honor Walk, organized by Coach Leonard Benedetto, on Nov. 8 to honor local veterans and first responders in the area with a free school cafeteria breakfast, an assembly, and parade guiding them through the halls to receive letters written by students expressing gratitude for their service. This year, sponsors provided funding to support the charity, Operation Warm Heart, which gives food and financial assistance to Luke Air Force Base airmen and their families in need.
- **SUSD’s Anasazi Elementary School** IB Primary Years Programme will participate in Arizona’s fourth annual IB Day of Service on Friday, Nov. 15. Students will write letters to U.S. armed services members through the national Operation Gratitude program to show appreciation and support for military and first responder personnel. As part of this statewide celebration, IB schools participate in service projects that reflect its core principle, Service in Action. The state’s IB schools’ association initiated the IB Day of Service, and the annual Arizona event is the only one officially recognized by a U.S. governor.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 classrooms across the country will participate in the United Through Reading (http://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=u001.JMbqyXlm66cxyVNsX7In3IBWfl6OoGjTetKLhkXZe7XkuxqztfOFVC-2BUtxuEzKDdRaBw_3d6G0s88YWumyku3cy0NctXO0VNKTaAn5pN580hSEkxRfQWmGZHmc7yj-)

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"Story Time with a Service Member" event beginning on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11 through Friday, Nov. 15. United Through Reading sends a Veterans Day video package to participating schools with a library of video recordings of service members reading an entertaining and educational age-appropriate story to classrooms countrywide, noted a press release.

The annual "Story Time with a Service Member" event demonstrates the organization's commitment to the bonding experience between distant serving military members and their loved ones, and community members through video-recorded stories. To celebrate Veterans Day, the event builds a relationship and tangible experiences between service members and students by reading aloud, added the release.

"This important national event gives tens of thousands of students in classrooms throughout all 50 states the ability to gain a deeper appreciation of the men and women who serve in the military," said Dr. Sally Ann Zoll, interim United Through Reading CEO in a release. "Story Time with a Service Member' is an educational and fun way for these students to connect with our service members in beautiful, emotional and unexpected ways."

We invite our readers to submit their civil comments on this topic. Email AZOpinions@iniasa.org (mailto:AZOpinions@iniasa.org). Email Delarita Ford at dford@iniasa.org. (mailto:jbrooks@iniasa.org)



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Keywords

Veterans Day, Scottsdale Unified School District, Dysart Unified School District, United Through Reading, Story Time with a Service Member

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Nov. 13, 2024 Volume 27 Issue 46 Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper - YourValley.net

Surprise joining new chamber of commerce

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3 newcomers leading race to claim governing board seats

City now teaming up with Southwest Valley cities to serve local businesses

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Details released for this weekend's Surprise SciTech Festival (</surprise-independent/stories/details-released-for-this-weekends-surprise-scitech-festival,546611>)

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