

# ASPEN | COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | VOLUME III



## Blackstone Merchants Association Town Hall At Aspen Meadow

On October 2, 2023, our Aspen Meadow Public School campus hosted the Blackstone Merchants Association Town Hall. The gathering brought together community members, police Chief Balderrama, Mayor Jerry Dyer, City Attorney Andrew Janz, and many other city leaders. The gathering served as a platform for the Aspen Meadow neighborhood to voice their concerns, share experiences and successes, discuss safety improvements, and outline the necessary steps for a safer community.

The primary focus of the meeting was to provide a forum for the community to express their concerns. Chief Balderrama acknowledged the need for more of a police presence and pledged increased resources to the area. Mayor Dyer emphasized the importance of community-wide collaboration and his dedication to improving safety.

The meeting highlighted not only progress made in enhancing safety but also future plans in the area, including new housing projects along Blackstone Avenue.

## Newsletter Highlights

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INTRODUCING  
ASPEN'S NEW PAYROLL  
ASSISTANT

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RIDGE RAVENS ART

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VALLEY PREP:  
MESSAGE FROM SITE  
DIRECTOR

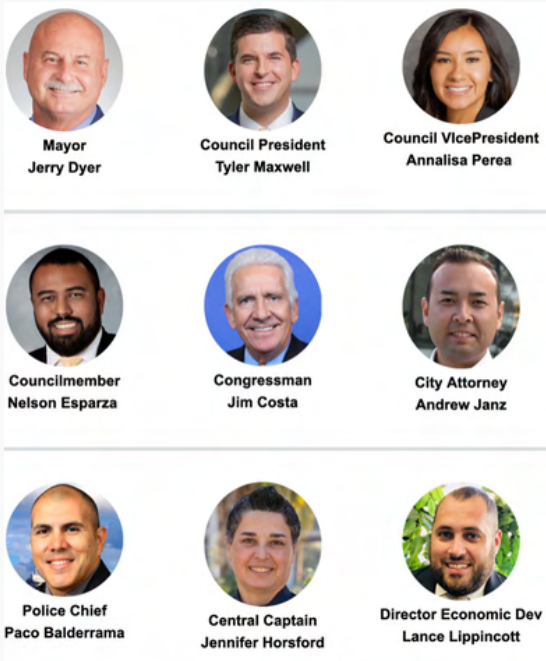
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FOSTER, HOMELESS  
CONNECTION OFFICE

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City officials demonstrated their commitment to addressing the community's concerns. By Blackstone Merchants Association's offering a platform for community voices to be heard and acted upon, this meeting has set the stage for a safer and more vibrant community. It serves as a compelling example of how collaboration between city leaders and constituents can lead to positive change, ensuring a brighter future for our Aspen Meadow neighborhood.



## Introducing Aspen's New Payroll Assistant

Hello, My New Aspen Family!

My name is Nohely Bernal-Manzo. Though I have only been here a few months I have enjoyed being a part of the team. I began my position at Aspen Public Schools as a Payroll Assistant August 2023. My daily responsibilities include but are not limited to making sure payroll timesheets are accurate, assisting with the onboarding process of new hires, and assisting in human resources. I have had the pleasure to work in many different roles in the past that have led me here. Roles such as being a personal assistant, mentoring high school juniors and seniors in preparation of the SAT/ACT tests, working as a lead in an afterschool program environment, payroll assistant and tax preparation. I am very excited to work with everyone here and assist in any way possible.

NOHELY BERNAL,  
PAYROLL ASSISTANT



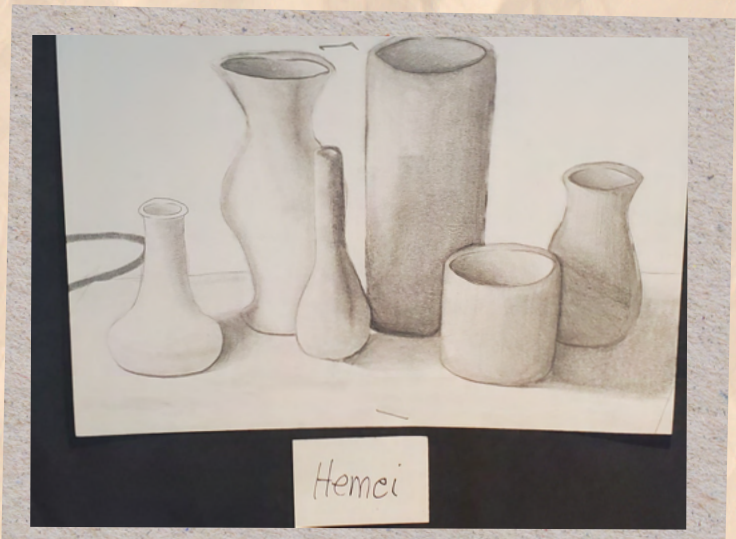
# RIDGE RAVENS ART



RIDGE RECEIVED A NEW CERAMIC KILN FOR CERAMIC CLASS.



HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS MAKE THEIR OWN SKETCHBOOKS FROM SCRATCH.



LOOK AT WHAT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE CREATING IN ART CLASS...VALUE DRAWING.



STUDENTS PRACTICE HOW TO USE THE POTTER'S WHEEL.



# MEADOW OWLS ART



**PAIGE MASON RECEIVES  
\$1000 INNOVATION GRANT  
FOR A 3D PRINTER!**



*Nancy Alvarez*

Foster, Homeless Connection Coordinator

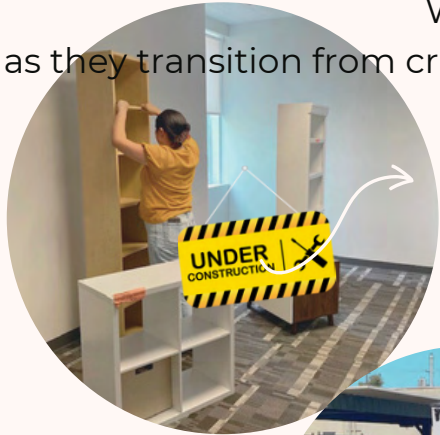


*Lidia Marquez*

Foster, Homeless Connection Coordinator Assistant

# Foster, Homeless Connection Office

We love, care and listen to our students and families as they transition from crisis into community.



Connection Office @The City Center Open House coming soon!



## Partnering with our Community

If you are interested in donating school supplies, uniforms or gift cards, please contact our Connection Office to schedule a drop off.



Finding ways to identify and refer students to be provided with resources that will allow them to succeed at APS is a priority.

Growing at all sites

Valley Prep 47/13%

Meadow 72/24%

Ridge MS/HS 42/18%



Thank you for your referrals!



# JOG-A-THON

Aspen Meadow Public  
Jog-A-Thon



**NEW DATE: NOVEMBER  
14TH**

**COME SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**

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# MESSAGE FROM SITE DIRECTOR

BY NICOLE RIVERA, *SITE DIRECTOR, ASPEN VALLEY*



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Dear Aspen Valley Elementary School Parents and Community,

We are delighted to connect with you about the 2023–2024 school year. As we return from a wonderful Fall Break, Aspen Valley is buzzing with enthusiasm for the incredible experiences we have in store. Let's dive into what's happening:

**Jog-a-thon and Lunch on the Lawn (October 31st):** On the spooktacular day of October 31st, we're hosting our annual Jog-a-thon. This event is not just for our students; we extend a warm invitation to you, our dedicated parents, to join us on the green lawns of our school. Watch as your little athletes run laps, and after the race, we'll share lunch together. We also encourage parents to step up as volunteers to make this day memorable. If you can help, please get in touch with our main office. We'll be serving a slice of pizza to all students, but feel free to bring your own favorite dishes or fast food options. During this time, we'll also be celebrating Red Ribbon Week (October 30 to November 3) with dress-up days promoting drug and bullying prevention.

**Parent Portal in Infinite Campus:** It's with immense pride that we announce the launch of our Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. This portal grants you access to your child's attendance, class schedule, and grades. Teachers will update their grade books on the second and last Fridays of each month. In case you still need to receive your access code, our main office staff will be more than happy to assist during school hours.

**Spelling Bee (Grades 1–6):** This year, Aspen Valley Elementary is making waves by participating in the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee. We're hosting a school spelling bee, with classroom bees scheduled for December 8. The top performers from each class will advance to the AVP School Bee on February 2, 2024. This promises to be an exhilarating competition, with fourth to sixth graders competing from 11 am to 1 pm. The victor and the runner-up from the fourth to sixth-grade bee will have the chance to represent us at the Regional Spelling Bee (FCSS Spell Off) on March 19, 2024.

Math Fact Fluency and iReady Program: We firmly believe that math fact fluency is the cornerstone of mathematical success. To support this, students in grades 2-6 are engaged in honing their skills through Reflex—a game-based platform that makes learning math facts an enjoyable experience.

Our iReady program is another valuable tool we use to monitor students' growth in reading and math. The December diagnostic tests begin on December 4th. As these tests reveal what our students have learned, we encourage you to support your child in excelling by ensuring they get ample sleep, eat a hearty breakfast, read each question carefully, and use scratch paper to work through problems.

The 2023-2024 school year is shaping up to be an exciting chapter in our journey at Aspen Valley Elementary. Your involvement and support are essential, and we're always here to assist. Should you have any questions or wish to volunteer for upcoming events, please reach out.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we'll make this school year a truly remarkable one!





# ART ROOM newsletter



Celebrating the creativity of our young artists! 🎨 Aspen Valley art students are embracing self-expression and individuality through self-portrait projects. 🖼️ Let's encourage their artistic journey and appreciate their unique perspectives.

🌟 #YoungArtists

#SelfPortraits

#CreativityInEducation

Let's come together as a community to celebrate and support our young artists as they embark on this incredible journey of self-discovery through art. We look forward to seeing the impact of these art projects and the lasting effect they will have on our students' lives.



*Fabiola Ramirez*  
Art Teacher at  
Valley Prep

