May 31, 2019

Employees Recognized in Super Star Awards Recognition Program

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Board of Education recognized four employees in the district’s Super Star Awards Recognition Program, which celebrates employees who demonstrate high levels of service excellence and go above and beyond expectations to make a positive and recognizable difference within our district.

Brigitte Besneatte, Office Assistant III
Completely committed to bringing joy and enthusiasm to what some may consider a mundane part of her job, this superstar brightens the day of everyone who crosses her path. Responsible for photographing each employee for their district badge, she naturally conveys that each person she interacts with matters. She is dedicated to providing the best picture possible for every employee and through her infectious cheerfulness and exuberance, everyone leaves pleased and proudly displaying their badge, feeling better about themselves and their day. She brings this same passion and commitment to other aspects of her position as well, including coordinating work orders for a very busy Maintenance and Operations Department. These are not minor things, as she represents the best of what we are. She performs all tasks to the best of her abilities, even when it might not be noticed or acknowledged, always treating others with respect, support and dignity in a genuine and consistent manner.

Suzanne Chan, Library Media Technician I
In less than two years, this superstar has transformed the Sonora Elementary library into a beautiful, inviting, magical place for children. Effective, efficient and well-organized, this library media technician runs a Reading Club each morning before school, where older students help the younger readers. She also provides an opportunity every week during lunch for students to create seasonal crafts to decorate the library or their home through her “Crafts in the Coop” program. She leads the Sonora Battle of the Books Club where she coaches students during lunch and after school to prepare them for competition against other district schools. Sonora’s girls’ team recently took first place in this year’s competition! Adored by students, parents and staff for her welcoming presence, creativity and initiative, she embodies the excellence, professionalism and integrity so highly valued at Newport-Mesa.
Narisa Hoevatanakul, 5th Grade Teacher
At the beginning of the school year this superstar teacher welcomed a challenging student with unique needs into her classroom at Kaiser Elementary. Spearheading a campus-wide effort to guide and assist this student, she spent untold hours beyond the school day creating systems of support, while also ensuring the student had the essentials that others received at home. She successfully brought this student to a place where he could trust adults and be accepted by his peers, a wonderful achievement that reflected the immense talent and energy of this outstanding teacher. She did all of this while also actively supporting other students with a wide variety of challenges. She modeled patience, grace and kindness when being tested and pushed, providing tremendous lessons in compassion and humanity to a classroom of fifth grade students. This dedicated, kindhearted and outstanding educator is devoted to the success in every sense of the word to every student, every day.

Carly Konigsfeld, School Psychologist
In just one brief year, this super star made an immediate positive impact on Davis Elementary School, quickly demonstrating a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and an energetic, yet calm demeanor. She helped design and share a screening system with all classroom teachers, followed by countless hours reviewing data, before working with a small team to determine the necessary interventions to assist students in unlocking their full potential. She then created and facilitated social-emotional intervention groups and mentored two social worker interns and other staff members in order to further support students. With a natural ability to connect with students, staff and parents, she has been fantastic in handling every challenge she has faced, whether it was difficult conversations with parents requiring grace and kindness, or being poised under pressure in supporting students in need. Without question, this innovative, organized and efficient super star has made a dramatic impact on the school community.

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