



SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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“

I felt really happy, because it was giving, and I like giving. I think giving is kind.”

Noelle, 1st grade student

Solana Santa Fe Students Focus on Making A Difference and Being Kind

BY PRINCIPAL MATTHEW FRUMOVITZ

Kathy Calvin, Former President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation, said, “Giving is not about making a donation. It is about making a difference.” Solana Santa Fe School is starting the new decade with an even greater focus on kindness and ways to make a difference, and we are using past experience as our guide.

It began earlier this school year when Kindergarten and first grade students at Solana Santa Fe embarked on a journey to help less fortunate people in our community by bringing food and joy to those in need during a time when many people have both of these things in abundance, the holidays.



Photo (right): Solana Santa Fe students join together to decorate and package donations in colorful boxes, which were then donated to local families in need.



SSF Students Make A Difference (cont.)

Photo (above): Donations gathered and boxed by students and volunteers during the holiday season.

It is hard to imagine any holidays without a meal for which to be thankful. Knowing this, Solana Santa Fe students set out to make a difference. They solicited donations from families throughout the school community. This included soups, sauces, mashed potatoes, and more. Once our Kindergartners and first graders paved the way, the entire school community responded with wonderful support and generosity.

Recently, Solana Santa Fe's older students have engaged in meaningful activities to promote kindness within our school community. The Great Kindness Challenge is a nationwide, week-long demonstration of the power of being kind, and our sixth grade students took the lead by supporting their classmates in being kind to one another. During recess, our sixth graders set up "Kindness Stations." All students were encouraged to come by the stations and participate in activities that ranged from writing kind letters to community members to creating bookmarks for friends.

The older students provided guidance to their younger peers throughout the week, offering materials, ideas, and smiles so that all of our students could feel empowered to create something that would make someone else feel good.



Photo (left): As part of the challenge, Solana Santa Fe used the theme of "Building Bridges to Kindness." To illustrate the theme, a group of fourth grade students first built a bridge prototype with the idea that it could be displayed at one of the stations and students could hang messages to people they care about on the bridge. Our sixth graders then jumped on the idea by building and painting a large-scale bridge from the prototype and helping at the "Kindness Stations."

Whether through donations or demonstrations of care, the kindness of our students is meant to lift the spirits of others, and in the process, it becomes a gift back to the school community. It is an important lesson in selflessness that all of our students are learning at Solana Santa Fe.