

Press Release

[SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Solana Ranch School Volunteer Named ‘2021 Parent Volunteer of the Year’



SOLANA BEACH, CA (March 5, 2021) – The San Diego County School Boards Association (SDCSBA, California School Boards Region 17) has awarded Mrs. Yu Linda Song the 2021 *Parent Volunteer of the Year Award* for her exemplary contributions to the education community. She was selected from among this year’s many outstanding nominees. She and other award recipients will be honored during the 19th Annual "Honoring Our Own" Awards Virtual Event, co-sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators Region 18 (San Diego and Imperial counties) and the SDCSBA to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, on YouTube. (Photo, left: Mrs. Yu Linda Song)

"Working with students to realize a school's daily impact on our planet and encouraging them to come up with practical changes in their sphere of influence to reduce food waste and mitigate their daily impact on our fragile planet was a highlight of my time in the Solana Beach School District," said award recipient Yu Linda Song. "These amazing students came up with ways to encourage their peers to think about their own daily actions. It is my hope that what we started is only the beginning of promoting a culture of sustainability and environmentally responsible students. It is truly an honor to be recognized in this way."

Mrs. Song served as a parent volunteer at Solana Ranch School for several years. According to Solana Ranch Principal Jerry Jones, Mrs. Song was instrumental in helping student leaders form the Solana Ranch “EnviroHawks” club, which went on to lead monthly all-school assemblies; educate classmates about recycling; initiate a composting program in conjunction with the District’s Child Nutrition Services Department and the school garden; and host “Zero Waste Lunches” in which students were encouraged to use only reusable containers, and much more. Mrs. Song also helped initiate a project

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with another SBSB campus. The collaboration between the “EnviroHawks” and Skyline School’s student club, the “EcoOtters,” resulted in a joint presentation to the SBSB Board of Education that eventually led to a new Board resolution on environmental stewardship.

“The outcomes of Mrs. Song’s ability to share her passion for the environment, inspire our young people, and guide our ‘EnviroHawk’ students at Solana Ranch School are felt across our district,” said Vicki King, President of the SBSB Board of Education. “Her work with environmental student clubs, including the collaboration with the ‘EcoOtters’ at Skyline, was instrumental in our Board’s adoption of a ‘Call to Climate Change Action, Sustainability, and Environmental Stewardship.’ That resolution affirmed the district’s commitment to modeling environmental leadership and stewardship for all of its students.”

Parent of the Year Award criteria included: Making a positive impact on student learning and achievement; effectively collaborating with parent, education and community leaders; seeking out and helping create solutions for complex challenges facing public schools; and having broad support and active involvement in the school community.

SBSB Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger says Mrs. Song has left a lasting legacy. “Her impact on the Solana Beach School District and our students will be felt for years to come. We look forward to when we may revisit these environmental practices to reduce waste and instill environmental stewardship into our classrooms and homes.”

The Solana Beach School District is located at 309 North Rios Avenue in Solana Beach, California.

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