

**PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive contributions to the community and global society.



***Press Release***

*Date: August 22, 2018*

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**Pajaro Valley Unified School District Celebrates Success in Summer Reading Challenge and Announces Winners**

Watsonville, CA – August 22, 2018. Dr. Michelle Rodriguez is pleased to share with the community that our youngest readers continue to learn through the use of the early literacy bilingual app Paso a Paso, Creciendo Juntos/Step by Step Growing Together. At the beginning of the summer break, Dr. Rodriguez announced a summer reading challenge with the opportunity for 3 young readers to win a donated tablet at the end of summer. PVUSD students responded positively to the challenge as together they read almost 3.5 million words over summer break. This translates into approximately 1,882 extra hours of exposure to literature!

“We are honored to partner with Footsteps 2 Brilliance in this transformative community-wide initiative that gives all children equal access to high quality bilingual English and Spanish literacy instruction. PVUSD believes this is a powerful and effective model to prepare our youngest to be ready for school,” stated Dr. Rodriguez.

Congratulations to the following young reading leaders and winners: **Mextli Medrano** from Alianza, and **Omar Awwad** and **Noah Baliscao** from Rio del Mar. This morning Superintendent Rodriguez delivered the prizes to students, surprising them in their classroom and celebrating their success in front of their peers.

The prize for summer challenge was a tablet for each winner in three categories: Preschool to TK, K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The tablets were a donation from the Chevron STEM Zone grant. Each tablet has the app uploaded to ensure winning students continue to play and learn using Paso a Paso/Step by Step. PVUSD is grateful to Chevron STEM for its commitment to supporting technology in education through these grants.

PVUSD is grateful to families and partners for the success of Paso a Paso/Step by Step. Together we will continue to inspire a passion for reading in the youngest members of our community.





*Mextli*



*Mextli*



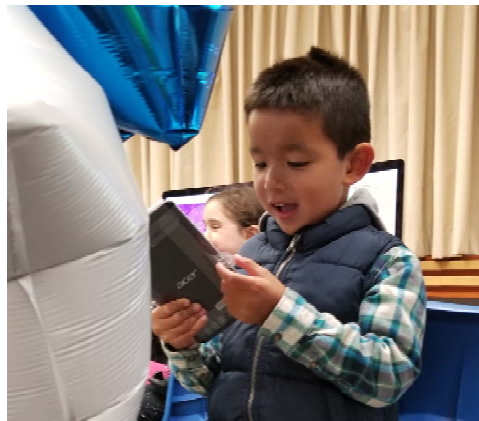
*Omar*



*Omar*



*Noah*



*Noah*

Amesti \* Ann Soldo \* Bradley \* Calabasas \* Freedom \* H.A. Hyde \* Hall District \* Landmark \* MacQuiddy \* Mar Vista \* Mintie White \* Ohlone \* Radcliff \* Rio Del Mar \* Starlight \* Valencia \* Aptos Jr. High \* Cesar E. Chavez \* E.A. Hall \* Lakeview \* Pajaro Middle \* Rolling Hills \* Aptos High \* Pajaro Valley High \* Watsonville High \* Renaissance High \* New School \* Academic Vocational Charter Institute \* Alianza Charter \* Ceiba Charter \* Linscott Charter \* Pacific Coast Charter \* Watsonville Charter School of the Arts \* Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education