CUSD CELEBRATES HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES AND THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO—Nearly 50,000 CUSD students have begun their summer holiday as they celebrated the last day of the 2015-16 school year today.

Yesterday, the California Preparatory Academy celebrated the graduation of 74 students who were enrolled in the independent study high school established through Capistrano Unified School District. California Preparatory Academy has the benefits and flexibility of virtual curriculum blended with face-to-face instruction with highly qualified Capistrano Unified teachers. Students, families, teachers and staff were joined by Amy Hanacek, President of the Board of Trustees, Martha McNicholas, Clerk of the Board and Trustee Gila Jones.

Today, graduation ceremonies are planned at Aliso Niguel High School, Capistrano Valley High School, Dana Hills High School, San Clemente High School, San Juan Hills High School, Tesoro High School and Junipero Serra Alternative High School.

Nearly 3,900 seniors will receive their diplomas and take their first steps into their post-secondary plans.

“This year’s graduating class is preparing to enter prestigious universities such as Harvard, Brigham Young, NYU, Pepperdine, UC’s, Texas A&M and many, many others,” stated Superintendent Vital in a video message to families. “Graduates are also preparing to begin their post-secondary education at Saddleback or they’re entering the military.”

Superintendent Vital continued, “Many more are starting careers through the experience and education they have received while in our classrooms and through our Career Technical Education program. Our students receive on-the-job training and college credit working with partners like Kaiser Permanente, Monarch Beach Resort, Haas Automotive and many others. Over this past year, we have worked to increase the number of career pathways available for our middle and high school students. We will continue these efforts in the years to come so that our young people can enter careers in fields like health and medical occupations, engineering, science, culinary arts, architecture and manufacturing.”

In a phone message sent last evening to CUSD families, President Amy Hanacek stated, “The end of year excitement has been everywhere with student performances and parties at our elementary schools, finals, awards and celebrations at our middle and dynamic high schools. Students have been busy with
last minute tests, projects, locker clean outs and the important yearbook swap. Tomorrow we will say goodbye to the class of 2016 and with each hand we shake we wish them much success, happiness and joy in all that they pursue. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, have a wonderful, safe, healthy and happy summer.”

The Superintendent, District Cabinet and the Board of Trustees will attend and participate in all of the commencement ceremonies. Trustee Lynn Hatton-Hodson will be at Capistrano Valley High School, celebrating with 612 graduates including her daughter. Clerk of the Board Martha McNicholas will be at Dana Hills High School, President Amy Hanacek and Trustee John Alpay will be at San Clemente High School. Superintendent Vital will be at Aliso Niguel High School, Trustee Gila Jones will be at San Juan Hills High School and Vice President Jim Reardon will be at the Tesoro High School graduation.

Earlier today, President Hanacek, Clerk of the Board McNicholas, Trustee Hatton-Hodson, Trustee Jones and Superintendent Vital attended the Graduation Ceremony of 111 students from Junipero Serra High School and Bridges Community Day High School.

It is an honor for all of us to participate in these events. We wish our graduates the very best in their future endeavors!

Superintendent Vital’s video message is available on our website at capousd.org.

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