



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bonita Unified Elementary School Celebrates Neurodiversity During Annual “Be You” Night

SAN DIMAS/LA VERNE - Gladstone Elementary School hosted its annual “Be You” Night in April, drawing its largest turnout to date with more than 150 students and parents coming together for an evening centered on supporting neurodiverse learners.

Organized by the Gladstone Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and supported by a campuswide community effort, the event continues to grow each year, bringing students and families together during Autism Acceptance Month through interactive, sensory-friendly activities.

“It brings our community together and it’s great to see the involvement from teachers and staff,” Gladstone Elementary parent Tisha Arroyo said. “All kids are unique and should be able to shine in their own way, and events like this give them a chance to be themselves.”

The campus was filled with activity as students and families explored hands-on stations designed to support a range of sensory needs, including obstacle courses, face painting, sensory bottles, and a petting zoo featuring goats, chickens, pigs and rabbits.

A “Communication Station” provided students with tools to interact nonverbally, highlighting the importance of inclusive communication strategies. Students participated in a movement station featuring a Just Dance activity, offering opportunities for expression and engagement.

Student volunteers from the San Dimas High School AVID program supported the event by helping facilitate activities and guide students throughout the evening, contributing to a welcoming environment for all participants. Families also received information on neurodivergence, including ways to support inclusive language and foster understanding of different learning needs at home and in the community.

Gladstone Elementary was previously recognized as a California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN) demonstration school and serves students from across the East San Gabriel Valley Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), reflecting its leadership in developing programs that support a wide range of learning needs.

MORE



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“Gladstone is an inclusive campus where all students and their needs are supported,” said Ashley Lujan, a Gladstone Elementary special education teacher. “Whether it’s students in special education classes or those receiving specialized services, everyone belongs here. This event reflects that commitment and the collaboration between teachers, leadership, PTA and support staff. It’s truly a community effort, and that’s what makes Gladstone what it is.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS

BUSD_BE_YOU_NIGHT1: A Gladstone Elementary student crawls through an obstacle course during the school’s “Be You” Night, an inclusive event celebrating Autism Acceptance Month and promoting understanding of neurodiversity.

BUSD_BE_YOU_NIGHT2: Gladstone Elementary students enjoy a petting zoo during “Be You” Night, a campuswide celebration focused on embracing individuality and supporting students of all abilities.

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