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# The Classic Communicator

## Student Classic

ISSUE NO. 15 - STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS • SPORTSMANSHIP • ATHLETICS • MAY - JUNE 2018

### Comments from the CEO



Dick Schlagel, CEO



**Have  
You  
Heard?**

**That...**We are planning with Alpaugh School District in Tulare County, to sponsor their first AASC event.

Gary Mekeel, Interim Superintendent, is elated that their district will hopefully be sponsoring the event with the community during the 2018-2019 school year. Gary really is impressed by the event for his middle grade schools.

**That...**Alpine Vista and Mulcahy Schools in the Tulare City School District are to be commended for sponsoring two incredible AASC events. Both schools were very creative with their activities that resulted in two awesome Classics. The Leadership Teams and Staff at both schools did one fantastic job in managing the event. One which students will long remember.

**That...**The Leadership Team of the May 26, 2018 McDermont All-American Student Classic Invitational had a post-event meeting to evaluate the event. All six members are happy with the results of the evaluation. There was a vast array of favorable (very good) results. We plan to sharpen up a few of the activities and plan several new events. We are pleased the 2nd Annual Classic Invitational will be held during the 2018-2019 school year. We are looking forward to sponsoring this event which will feature the "Best of the Best" middle grade students.

#### Sponsoring an event showcasing the "Best of the Best."

This issue of the newsletter will feature another very special dream of mine - sponsoring an event that will showcase the "Best of the Best." The five top boy and girl scorers at each grade level 4 through 8 at all schools conducting the Classic during the school year will have the opportunity to participate in this incredible Classic Invitational.

We at AASC are elated and so grateful and appreciative to be able to partner with McDermont X in Lindsay, California to conduct this incredible event on May 26, 2018.

60 students from nine Tulare County schools used their "brains and brawn" competing in the Classic. 108 medals were awarded to top scorers in each of the six events.

### Invitational Leadership Team and Volunteers



#### A special thanks to our Sponsors for the McDermont X All-American Student Classic Invitational

Smith's Promotions  
AAA Awards  
Copy Center  
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Dennis Townsend for 5th District Supervisor  
Craig Wheaton for Tulare County Superintendent of Schools  
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PPPC  
Anvil BBQ  
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Merle Stone Car Agency  
Warren Gubler for Assembly  
Virginia Gurrola for 5th District Supervisor  
Imperial Ambulance  
El Tapatio  
Spoons Frozen Yogurt

**"The 1st McDermont All-American Student Classic Invitational held on May 26, 2018 was an incredible event, featuring 60 middle school students from Tulare County. This very successful Classic showcasing the 'Best of the Best' will be held again during the 2018-2019 school year."**

## “Getting Kids Fired Up About School”

### SPECIAL INTERVIEWS FROM THE ALL-AMERICAN STUDENT CLASSIC (AASC) INVITATIONAL



**Larriann Torrez**  
Director  
Tulare Adult School

**1. What is your current job?**

I am currently the Director of Tulare Adult School in Tulare, California.

**2. What event did you help with in the McDermont X AASC Invitational?**

I assisted in the academic testing section of the AASC Invitational.

**3. Why did you volunteer to help?**

When I received a call from Mr. Schlagel asking me if I would be interested in volunteering, I just could not say no. I have also heard so much about the program over the years so I was excited to be invited to volunteer for the AASC Invitational. As an administrator and educator, I know the importance of giving back to programs that promote and celebrate youth in our communities.

**4. What did you think about the AASC Invitational?**

The AASC Invitational was a huge success! It was so exciting to see middle school students from all over the valley come and complete in academic and athletic events. You could tell that the students were very excited to be part of this AASC Invitational through their participation and the sportsmanship that they showed throughout the day.

**5. What was the Classic Invitational most exciting activity?**

The activity that I heard the middle school students talking about the most was the Eagle Mountain Rock Climbing Wall. This is McDermont X's 50 foot wall that is much like a real mountainside. The students were very excited to see who could make it to the top the fastest.

**6. What three words describe the AASC Invitational?**

The three words that come to mind when I think about the AASC Invitational are *Fun*, *Exciting*, and *Entertaining*. Although the students were competing, it was nice to see that all student were participating and showing true sportsmanship. Throughout the day you could see and hear that they were having fun and were excited about their next event.

**7. Suggestions for next year's event?**

I would recommend that a snack and/or lunch is provided to students after the event. This could be provided during the time that students are waiting for the awards ceremony to begin. However, overall the event was a huge success and I would love to sponsor and be part of the next AASC Invitational.



**Valerie Craig**  
Teacher  
Tulare Adult School

**1. What is your current job?**

Current Position - Independent Study Teacher at Tulare Adult School.

**2. What event did you help with in the McDermont AASC Invitational?**

I helped in the academic testing section of the AASC Invitational

**3. Why did you volunteer to help?**

I am the Granddaughter of Richard Schlagel! I GOT to volunteer to help at the event!

**4. What do you think about the Classic Invitational?**

It was exciting to see how far the AASC has come since I participated as a Middle School student myself! I think this was a great event for those students who participated! It gave them another opportunity to shine and have their parents present to see it happen!

**5. What was the Classic Invitational's most exciting activity?**

I heard from most students that they really enjoyed the rock wall! This was unique to the Invitational, so made it extra special for participants! Of course, it was great to see students receive their awards! Shaking hands and taking pictures with special guest was very inspirational!

**6. What three words describe the Classic Invitational?**

Three words that describe the Invitational - Rewarding, Lively, and Contagious!

**7. Suggestions for next year's event?**

Suggestions for next year include- An activity that might be used for students that are in between events. Could use a computer app for trivia questions, a side event to earn additional FUN money at McDermont. or a virtual scavenger hunt etc.; lunch and bottled water for participants.

**“We are elated that 30 volunteers assisted us in sponsoring the First McDermont All-American Student Classic Invitational. 11 LDS young people from Texas, Utah, California, Mexico City, etc. were among those. All 30 volunteers did an incredible job and this helped immensely in making this event a very successful one.”**



## "Getting Kids Fired Up About School"



RECORDER PHOTOS BY CHIEKO HARA

Above: Bob Pugh addresses competitors during the awards ceremony of the All American Student Classic Invitational. Below: Giselle Hernandez of Woodville Elementary School cruises between the cones during the obstacle course event in the All American Student Classic Invitational. Students, fifth- through eighth-graders, from eight area schools competed in academic events, a 50-yard dash, rock climbing, and obstacle courses to be best in the county.

# 'Best of the best'

## First AASC Invitational held at McDermont X

By MATTHEW SARR  
msarr@portervillearecorder.com

On a Memorial Day weekend with favorable weather, some of Tulare County's best young student athletes weren't out frolicking along beaches or trekking along a mountain trail.

Instead, they gathered Saturday at McDermont X in Lindsay to compete in the first-ever All American Student Classic Invitational to determine "the best of the best" from around the county.

Since 2012, elementary and middle schools around the county have hosted AASC weeks to challenge their students with five academic and



five athletic competitions.

Winners in individual events receive medals, and the top overall scoring boy and girl from grades five through eight would receive a plaque recognizing them as All American

students.

For the first AASC invitational, the top five overall boy and girl finishers in each grade level at individual school competitions were invited to compete for county-wide bragging rights and have some fun at

the same time.

Eight schools were represented at the competition: Strathmore Middle School, Pixley Elementary, Woodville Elementary, Rocky Hill Elementary (Exeter), Lincoln Elementary (Exeter), Alpine Vista School (Tulare), Mulcahy Middle School (Tulare), and Wilson Elementary School (Tulare).

For a first-time event on a holiday weekend, AASC organizers were pleased with the turnout.

More than 60 students showed up to compete, many accompanied by robust family cheering sections.

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"The McDermont X AASC Invitational can provide middle grade students incredible opportunities for competition with their peers which could be life-changing!"



# "Getting Kids Fired Up About School"

THE PORTERVILLE, CALIF., RECORDER

LOCAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018

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## BEST

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"We're learning because this is our first one, but it's good. The kids are all busy and they're having fun," said AASC President Bob Pugh. "A lot of families have showed up, and it's been fun to talk to them and watch them supporting their kids."

Pugh was also impressed with the number of volunteers that gave up part of their Saturday to lend a hand. Thirty volunteers were staged all around the sprawling complex to guide students to and through events.

"I think it's awesome. There's a lot of smiles and a lot of fun activities going on," said volunteer Benjamin Kloepper as he kept soccer balls in play at one of the obstacle course elements.

"It's a great thing for these kids. It's very pleasurable seeing them come out here and just have fun and smile and compete at the same time," said volunteer Brandon Moody. "Volunteering has been a good way to get the family out here together and do some charity work and help people out."

To condense what is normally a week-long event into one day, students competed in three academic and three athletic events: reading, math, science, 50-yard dash, rock climb, and the obstacle course.

The obstacle course has become the AASC's



RECORDER PHOTOS BY CHIEKO HARA

**Right:** Jennifer Gonzalez of Strathmore jumps over her last hurdle during the obstacle course event in the All American Student Classic Invitational Saturday. **Above:** Medal winners congratulate each other during the award ceremony Saturday, May 26, at McDermont X in Lindsay. Students, fifth- through eighth-graders, from eight area schools competed in academic events, a 50-yard dash, rock climbing, and obstacle courses to be best in the county.



signature event over the years. During school competitions, the obstacle courses are customized by teachers and administrators based on the unique characteristics of their school and the interests of their students.

The obstacle course at McDermont Saturday did not disappoint, as it incorporated many unique features of the facility. Among the 10 elements students navigated on the timed course were a slalom area, soccer goal kick, balance beam and archery shooting with soft-tip arrows.

At the conclusion of the course, students had to pop a balloon by sitting on it in a chair, giving judges an emphatic signal to stop their timers.

Woodville fifth-grader Miguel Bedolla, fresh off turning in a sharp performance on the course, said he liked the archery portion best, but also liked the rock climb competition.

"I love it because all of the students are engaged," said Miguel's mother Noemi, who was there to support her son and five other Woodville competitors. "I love these boys and I'm here to cheer all of them on." Noemi, who teaches at Carl F. Smith Middle School in Terra Bella, hopes to see an AASC event at her school in the future.

"I'm definitely going to let them know about it," she added.

Students competed in the six events from 9 a.m. until noon, then

took a well-earned lunch break while judges calculated the scores for the awards ceremony.

The awards ceremony was given some extra buzz by the presence of guest presenter Marion Renau, Porterville native and current teacher at Farmersville High School.

Renau is currently ranked number seven in the world in women's mixed martial arts, and is preparing for her next UFC bout in July. Prior to handing out awards, she reminded students that even kids from small towns can achieve great things if they are determined to pursue excellence.

"I come from Porterville, California, born and raised, and I'm a small-town girl who can do big-

time things," said Renau. "No matter where you're from, you can go out and do big-time things and then come back and share it with your community. I hope to see you up here someday sharing the same things with another generation."

Renau placed 108 medals around the necks of top finishers for top finishing boys and girls in each grade level for the events, with many students donning four or medals by the end.

After the medal presentation came big moment: the announcement of the top overall boy and girl for each grade in the competition.

In fifth grade, top scorers were Samuel Cortez and Angie Torres, both from Wilson Elementary. Top sixth grade honors

went to Joe Ray Giron of Pixley Elementary and Sabrina White from Mulcahy Middle School.

Alpine Vista School swept in both seventh and eighth grade, with Jaden Colesberry and Jocelyn Gomez Ontiveros taking the awards for seventh grade and Michael Iriye and Brooke Trueblood finishing best among eighth-graders.

After the ceremony, competitors were free to remain and play around on McDermont's numerous attractions for the rest of the day with their families.

"I hope you who came to watch enjoyed watching your kids and their fellow competitors," said Pugh. "Your sons and daughters have already proven themselves as among the best."

## MCDERMONT X ALL-AMERICAN STUDENT CLASSIC INVITATIONAL "BY THE NUMBERS"

1. First Annual Invitational
2. All-American Students per grade (boy/girl)
3. Number of academic and athletic events
4. Number of grades competing
6. Total events, and number of members on Leadership Team
9. Schools participating
28. Sponsors
30. Volunteers for the event
60. Student participants
108. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals
570. Top points out of a possible 600 - Brooke Trueblood, 8th grade Alpine Vista School, Tulare City School District.

**"Our AASC Leadership Team is very grateful and appreciative to partnership with McDermont X under Clint Ashcraft, their CEO. We are looking forward to working with them again during the 2018-2019 school year, in sponsoring the 2nd Annual Classic where we feature the 'Best of the Best' event for middle grade students."**



## **“Getting Kids Fired Up About School”**

### **PHOTOS FROM THE MCDERMONT X ALL-AMERICAN STUDENT CLASSIC (AASC) INVITATIONAL**



**“60 Tulare County middle grade students had an opportunity to use their ‘brains and brawn’ in competing in the 6 event McDermont X All-American Student Classic Invitational.”**



## **“Getting Kids Fired Up About School”**

### **MORE PHOTOS FROM THE INVITATIONAL**



**“Life is full of a vast array of choices, challenges, and competition. Choosing to participate in the first McDermont X AASC Invitational will provide you various challenges as you compete in each of the six events.”**