

MAY • 2024

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER STUDENTS

Edited in the Theresa &amp; Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center

Nameplate Art © Tina Hendricks 2017



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Best  
mom   
ever

St. Madeleine  
Sophie's Center is  
**CLOSED ON**  
**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 27, 2024



**MOTHER'S DAY**  
Sunday, May 12, 2024

# 5 & Dime

STUDENT COLLECTIVE  
LOVE ON A LEASH



Libby Pieti petting Mazie.

## Love on a Leash

Love On A Leash is a nonprofit that specializes in connecting therapy pets and their handlers to community spaces such as nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and centers like St. Madeleines. All therapy animals are privately owned pets, their handlers are volunteers, and all visits are free. Relying on the special and mutually beneficial relationship between animals and people volunteer teams engage in meaningful pet therapy as their animals give comfort and happiness to people!



Pet therapy dogs Harley and Mazie, visited SMSC students on campus and our students were so excited to see them! They gave the two furry friends lots of love, pets, and attention.



From top to bottom  
Richard Neves,  
Greg Hitchcock,  
and John Blalock  
petting therapy dogs.



# 5 & Dime

STUDENT COLLECTIVE

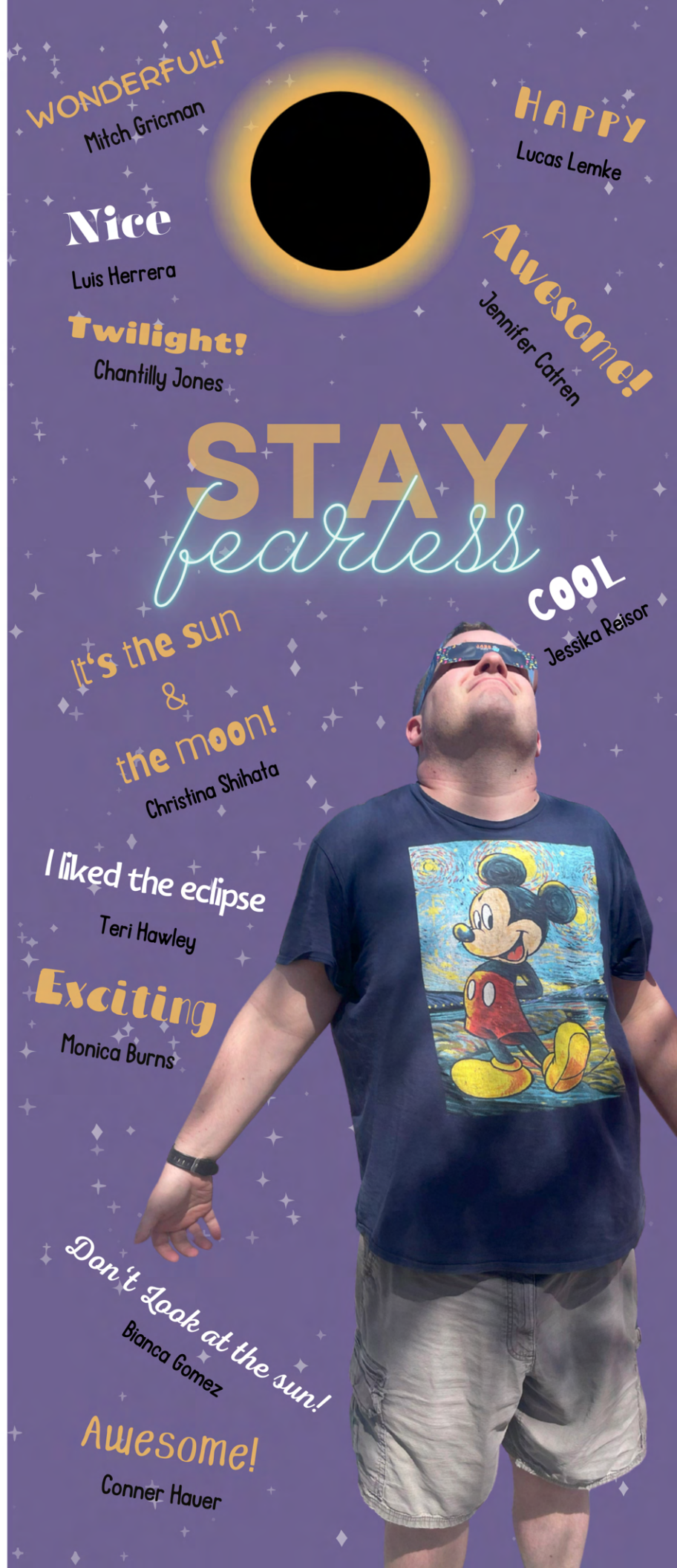
## THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

By: Jennifer Catren

The 2024 solar eclipse was so important and special. It was a major event. The totality lasted twice as long as the one in 2017, depending on the observers' location. It was also the longest totality on land for over a decade. So, eclipse chasers from around the world flocked to the path of totality. The eclipse started between 10:30 – 11:05 AM. Some planets that were visible during the solar eclipse, they were Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and Saturn.

The solar eclipse only happens every one to three years. St. Madeleine's provided us with special solar eclipse glasses so we could watch it live from our campus. I felt really excited about seeing it live and in-person for the first time on my life. It lasted 4 minutes and 28 seconds on April 8, 2024. One word to describe the solar eclipse is awesome! The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the continuous United States will be on August 23, 2044. I hope I get to see it when it happens again.

Joey Terhaar viewing the solar eclipse!



# 5 & Dime

STUDENT COLLECTIVE  
EASTER CELEBRATION  
PICKLEBALL EVENT



John Blalock and Francisco Mendoza wearing bunny masks they made in a craft activity.



Ian Harrison holding up the bunny mask he made.



Stephen Koon wearing an Easter egg tie while holding paper Easter eggs he made.



Pickleball tournament student greeters on the local news.

# PICKLEBALL



John Lingvall hits the pickleball court!

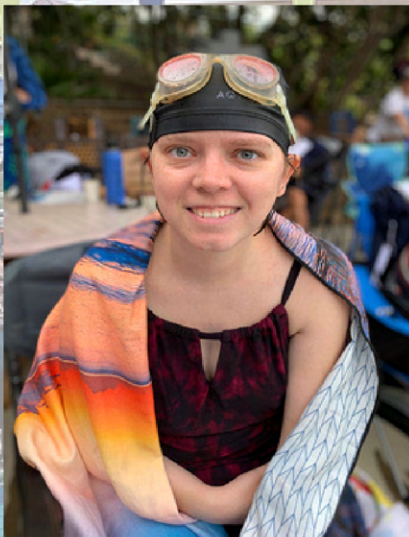
It was a perfect day for playing pickleball at St. Madeleine's new fundraising event, a pickleball tournament. It was held at the San Diego Mission Bay Resort on Friday, April 19th. About 60 pickleball players attended along with 5 students who got to play a few sets. Everyone had a great time!



Pickleball tournament participants.

# 5 & Dime

STUDENT COLLECTIVE  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS SWIM MEET



Tritons swimmer  
Rebekah Ring.



Tom Page with daughter Cappy and  
Tritons swimmer Cameron Cromwell.



Tritons swimmer Lucas Lemke.

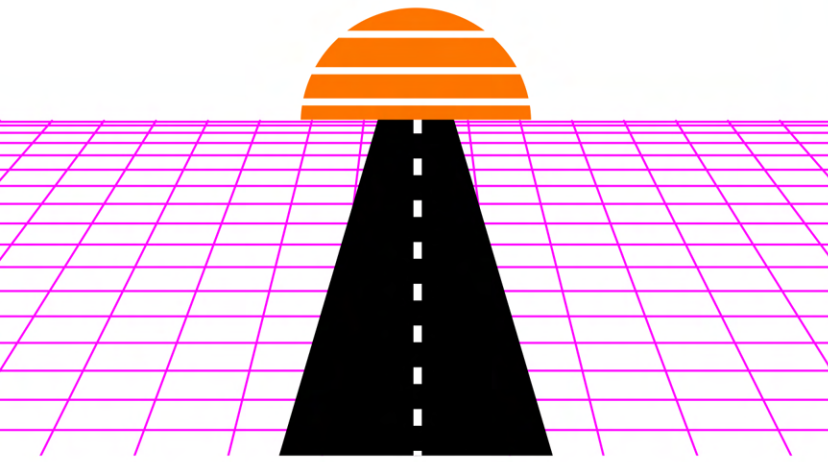


Rebekah Ring receives her metals.

## THANK YOU TOM!

Excitement was in the air at the Special Olympics swim meet held at St. Madeleine's pool. Athletes from four teams the La Mesa Dolphins, Poway Piranhas, Encinitas Sea Stars, and our Tritons, completed on a warm spring day with plenty of fans watching their meets. Families, friends, volunteers, and SMSC staff were on hand to cheer and motivate swimmers. Competitors high-fived and hugged in a game that was competitive, fast-paced, full of camaraderie, and a lot of fun to watch. Congratulations to everyone that competed and to all swimmers that won metals!

The meet ran like a well-oiled machine thanks to SMSC staff! There were also a lot of volunteers helping too. The Sprites timed races, and Whispering Winds Church provided a free lunch to all, while encouraging donations to the aquatics program. One very special guest, Tom Page attended with his daughter, Cappy. He personally funded the Tritons swim team for the 2024 season! While watching the action, Tom met with aquatic staff and members of the Tritons.



St. Madeleines is hosting an exciting new program for self-determined youth who are exploring their passion for gaming and technology with the Unified Esports League (UESL), a social-recreation program using gaming and technology as an educational and recreational tools. Video games build and strengthen friendships while increasing skills of communication, coping with winning and losing, collaboration, and encouraging team building. Vocational skills that surround gaming skills such as photography, video skills, graphics, and web design are also part of their educational program. UESL is supported by the San Diego Regional Center. The program is 2 days a week but is expanding to 5 days a week soon, for more information visit their website.

**Matthew Iske Founder**  
**Tamaz Bolkvadze Assistant Manager**  
**Tony Rubino Business & Special Needs Development**

<https://www.unifiedesl.com/>

## UNIFIED ESPORTS LEAGUE



*"The positive side of technology is that it encourages and pushes students to learn, and skills from video games transfer to careers." - Tamaz Bolkvadze*



UESL coach resetting program on virtual reality headset

May the 4th ✨



Be with You!

Star Wars Window © Michael Mercadante 2015

Feliz



Cinco  
-De-  
Mayo

Sunday, May 5, 2024

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# MEMORIAL DAY

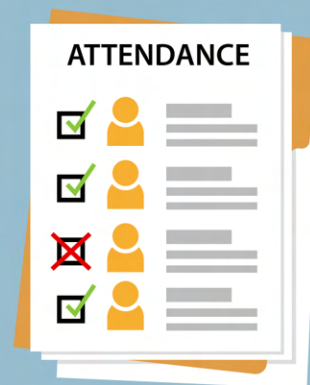


★ REMEMBER AND HONOR ★

Monday, May 27, 2024

AT

St. Madeleine's  
YOUR ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS!



Win 2 weeks of free lunches!  
Ask your Case Manager  
for more information.

# Aloha

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month is observed annually in May. It celebrates and pays tribute to the many contributions that generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made to American history, society, and culture. The month is a time to honor the diverse histories of people from East, South, and Southeast Asia as well as the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

The month of May was chosen specifically to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese citizens to the United States on May 7, 1843. It was also chosen to honor the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Chinese workers played an essential part in building the western section of the railroad.

The 2024 AANHPI Heritage Month theme is *Advancing Leaders Through Innovation*. Hosted by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council, this theme pays homage to the visionaries and trailblazers who have shaped AANHPI history and who still contribute to America's economic prosperity, technological advancements, and social/political change.

<https://seramount.com/>



## Cultural Corner Celebrating Diversity Asian American & Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander Heritage Month



*The traditional Hawaiian Aloha shirt dates to the 1930's when local Japanese women started using kimono fabric to create men's shirts. Gradually printed fabrics were developed with Hawaiian motifs that were inspired by Hawaiian kapa, bark cloth, Hawaiian quilts along with Japanese kimono and traditional Chinese robes and dresses. The first company to produce Aloha shirts was the Kahala company in 1936. Their shirts were popular with tourists who after leaving the islands took the shirts home. Hawaiian shirts found greater commercial success as they hit the mainland. The Aloha shirt continues to stay in fashion with motifs that reflect Hawaiian culture and represent identity and connection to a place.*







# Aloha

## **Hawaiian Shirt Day**

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

→ Wear a Hawaiian shirt to program  
in celebration of  
the history & culture of Hawaii



St. Madeleine's Organic Garden Presents

# Mother's Day Flower Sale

May 9th / May 10th

In the lobby

\$2 individual flowers

Bouquets prices will vary

**30th San Diego People First Conference**  
Friday, June 7 + Saturday, June 8, 2024  
2-Day In-Person Conference

**Keynote Presenter / Wesley Witherspoon**  
*Self-Advocate and Chair*  
*CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Join in for a masterclass in self-advocacy to help you achieve your dreams and goals! Meet new friends, network with others, and learn about your rights and responsibilities related to individual services. Come share your thoughts and feelings about self-determination with service providers as a valued member of the community, all while enjoying an adventure in a 4-star hotel in the heart of sunny San Diego!

**Workshops / Street Fair / Dinner / Dance**

**Diego Marriott Mission Valley Hotel**  
8757 Rio San Diego Drive

SELF ADVOCATES



BEE THE  
CHANGE



For more information please contact:

Creative Support Alternatives: [creativesupportalternatives@gmail.com](mailto:creativesupportalternatives@gmail.com)  
Debbie Marshall: [debbie\\_marshall@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:debbie_marshall@scdd.ca.gov)  
or Viri Salgado: [viridiana.salgado@sdr.org](mailto:viridiana.salgado@sdr.org)



St. Madeleine  
Sophie's Center

# America ON MAIN STREET



Saturday, May 18, 2024  
IN DOWNTOWN EL CAJON

Live Entertainment - Food Booths - Rides - Arts & Crafts  
Display Booths - Petting Zoo - Bounce Houses

A celebration of the American spirit through appreciation and respect of the many diverse ethnic and historical groups in the community. This annual family-friendly event is held in Downtown El Cajon on East Main Street and Rea Avenue, between Magnolia and Claydelle Avenues!

## SOPHIE'S GALLERY WILL BE OPEN FOR AMERICA ON MAIN STREET

Free Craft - Elastic Beaded Friendship Bracelet  
25% of any full-priced item & selected items on sale  
(up to 75% off giftware)

140 E. Main St. El Cajon, CA 92020  
For more information Call: 619.593.2205



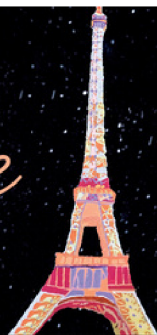
At Sophie's Gallery

FREE  
CRAFT

Elastic Beaded  
Friendship Bracelets

St. Madeleine  
Sophie's Center  
San Diego's oldest Catholic parish and  
Charter School for over 150 years

BON  
JOUR



46<sup>th</sup> Haute  
with Heart  
FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

SATURDAY  
AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>  
2024  
SAN DIEGO HILTON  
BAYFRONT HOTEL



Prints  
Keychains  
Tote Bags  
Zippered Bags  
Umbrellas  
Bandanas  
& More!



# Shifting Gears

June 12 - August 15, 2024

Public Reception

Wednesday, June 12

5 - 7:30 PM

During the Car Show

Car Print © Mikey Klein 2024  
Tool Prints © Lauren Papworth 2024

A collection of original prints  
inspired by the  
Cajon Classic Cruise Car Show  
in Downtown El Cajon

Created by & Supporting  
Artists with Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities!



*Sophie's*



Gallery

140 E. Main St.  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
619.593.2205  
stmisc.org





**THANK YOU TO OUR MONTHLY GIVING PARTNERS**  
**OUR CHAMPIONS OF THE FUTURE!**

*Welcome!*

**New Monthly Giving Members**

**Beth & David Blue**  
**Tanja & Rick Guerrero**  
**Dr. Stephen Kohl**



**RACHEL GUERRERO HOLDING HER  
MUSICAL NOTES MOSAIC PLAQUE**

Rachel's mosaic plaque of musical notes was inspired by her favorite songs Bohemian Rhapsody and Kung Fu Fighting. She likes to sing along with the first and dances to the second!

*Everyday Tells a Story* is a tagline for a series of uplifting stories we are sharing with families and on Facebook to encourage everyone to join our Monthly Giving Program. They tell the story of the impact of our programs and services on our students.



**SHAUNA DAVIS AT  
MORNING GLORY  
BRUNCH**

**TOMMY BLUE POSING  
AT THE BUTTERFLY SELFIE MURAL**



**Join our exclusive club, become a Monthly Giving Partner. No gift is too small!**  
**Your Monthly Donation Supports SMSC Quality Programs and Services for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. Contact: Joe Perucca / [jperucca@stmisc.org](mailto:jperucca@stmisc.org)**

# Happy Birthday!

Steven Bartholomew  
Victoria Bayer  
John Blalock  
Heather Brewer  
Stephan Bruening  
Elmer Buck  
Jerry Burch  
Melissa Corrao  
Emily Cunningham

Sara Elias  
Dong Han  
Lauren Heim  
Luis Herrera  
Austin Hiscock  
Kristian Huerta  
William Lane  
Felicia Laverdiere  
Virginia Lippold  
Nicole Lumpkin  
Benjamin Mason  
Michael Mercadante  
Jessica Pena

Paul Prutzman  
Karina Reid  
Paul Rioux  
Lisa Rowin  
Tiffany Simpson  
Roberto Suarez  
Richard Van Nuis  
Gabrielle Vargas  
Cali Williams



May 1st Chicken tostada salad with cilantro lime dressing

May 2nd Shrimp stir-fry over steamed rice

May 3rd Pizza and side salad

May 6th Parmesan pork loin with creamy garlic sauce over mashed potatoes and vegetables \*

May 7th Chicken salad sandwich on croissant and ruffle chips

May 8th Spaghetti with sun dried tomato pesto and garden salad \* (VEG)

May 9th Carnitas burrito bowl

May 10th Pizza and side salad

May 13th Hot turkey sandwich on Swiss ciabatta and BBQ sauce \*

May 14th Chicken chili with cornbread

May 15th Spaghetti aglio e olio" with garlic bread and side salad \*(VEG)

May 16th BBQ pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, and coleslaw

May 17th Pizza and side salad

May 20th Alfredo penna pasta, salad, and garlic bread

May 21st Chicken chow mein

May 22nd Cajun shrimp over cauliflower rice

May 23rd Black bean burger and fries \* (VEG)

May 24th Pizza and side salad

May 27th Holiday Memorial Day

May 28th Chimichurri pork loin over mashed potatoes and roasted vegetables

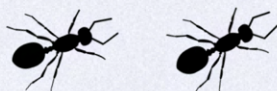
May 29th Swedish meatballs over butter noodles and vegetables

May 30th Orange chicken over rice and stir fry vegetables.

May 31st Pizza and side salad



\*New Menu Item



# Big Kudos

BY: COLEEN BAUCOM



I would like to mention some of the staff that work here and are very much appreciated by all students and staff. Wendy Martinez is our Accounting Clerk, and she keeps track of all the students' finances. She makes sure our lunches are paid for and that we have money for bowling and other outside activities where we may need cash. Another one I would like to mention is Laura Llanes, she is St. Madeleine Sophie's Center Payroll Clerk. She has a very important job of writing our paychecks! This is very important to all students. Both are hard workers and are appreciated by all, of course all staff are hard workers and appreciated!



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER

# WE'RE HIRING

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center is a day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities situated in El Cajon, CA on a beautiful campus like environment. We offer excellent working conditions, as well as competitive pay and generous benefits. Come join our team of compassionate, dedicated professionals!

## HOW TO APPLY

Please go to [www.Indeed.com](http://www.Indeed.com) or [www.recruiting.com](http://www.recruiting.com) Applicants may also go to our website at [www.stmsc.org](http://www.stmsc.org), select the contact tab and then employment. These steps will give you access to an application for employment.

## SEND YOUR RESUME TO

[crickey@stmsc.org](mailto:crickey@stmsc.org)

## TELEPHONE

619.442.5129 Ext. 107

## WEBSITE

[stmsc.org](http://stmsc.org)