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: January 31, 2018
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Public Information Officer
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Pajaro Valley Unified School District Celebrates Success in Reading Challenge and Announces New Challenge!

Watsonville, CA – January 31, 2018 – . Dr. Michelle Rodriguez is proud to announce that the District successfully read 9,959,810 of the 10 Million Words reading challenge that ended on January 17, 2018 using Paso, Creciendo Juntos, Step by Step, Growing Together, an app promoting early literacy in English and Spanish. The 10 Million Word Challenge was 5 times the originally established challenge of 2 million words, which was reached soon after the challenge was announced mid-September.

The challenge is significant in that the youngest of our community spent almost 5,000 additional hours on literacy and read 38, 110 books! "Paso a Paso, Creciendo Juntos, Step by Step, Growing together is a strategy to accomplish our PVUSD Target for Student Success, and is integral to helping every child read on grade level by 3rd grade. We are pleased to support our students and future students in becoming successful readers through Paso a Paso. Early access to literacy is key to fostering a love for reading," Superintendent Rodriguez said.

Congratulations to the following schools for being leaders in inspiring their students to use Paso a Paso, Step by Step: Child Development Department (1,395,473 words), Amesti Elementary (1,354,962 words) and HA Hyde Elementary (908,477 words).

To continue the motivation, Dr. Rodriguez has announced another challenge that would result in 2 young students winning a donated Chromebook! Omnipro of San Francisco generously donated Chromebooks to PVUSD in support for early literacy achievement through Paso a Paso, Step by Step. The challenge will be rolled out to the schools on Valentine's Day and the winners will be announced at the end of Spring recess, April 9th.

Attached is PVUSD's results sheet of Paso a Paso, Step by Step through January 18, 2018. It is a pleasure to announce that our students continue to read every day, and continue their exposure to early literacy at home and during free time at school using this valuable program.

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 Hiigh * 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

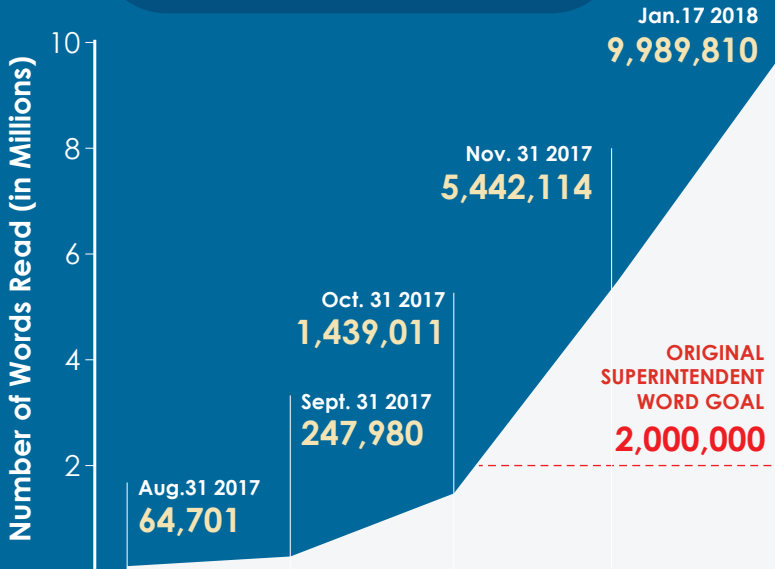# PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED CELEBRATES NEARLY 10 MILLION WORDS READ

January 18, 2018

STEP BY STEP GROWING TOGETHER SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY — PVUSD

footsteps 2 brilliance®

RESULTS OF *PASO A PASO/STEP BY STEP EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVE*

Superintendent Michelle Rodriguez is pioneering a transformative collective impact initiative to increase bilingual early literacy for children birth through grade 3 throughout her district's boundary area. Already **"Paso a Paso, Creciendo Juntos/Step by Step Growing Together"** has exceeded expectations. On January 17, 2018 children achieved 5 times the Superintendent's goal, reading nearly 10 million words. In partnership with Footsteps2Brilliance, the initiative brings together parents, community members, local businesses, teachers, and school leaders to create a community-wide commitment to the early learning success of children even before they are enrolled in school.

9,959,810 WORDS READ

Number of Words Read (in Millions)

- Aug. 31 2017: 64,701
- Sept. 31 2017: 247,980
- Oct. 31 2017: 1,439,011
- Nov. 31 2017: 5,442,114
- Jan. 17 2018: 9,989,810

ORIGINAL SUPERINTENDENT WORD GOAL: 2,000,000

DOUBLED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

- 40% WEEKNIGHTS
- 20% WEEKENDS
- 40% WEEKDAYS

4,990 TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT ON LITERACY

38,110 NUMBER OF BOOKS READ

MILLION-WORD LEADERBOARD

CHILD DEVELOPMENT	1,395,473
AMESTI ELEMENTARY	1,354,962
H.A. HYDE ELEMENTARY	908,477

WHY INVEST IN EARLY LITERACY?

Babies born today have only **2000 days** before Kindergarten

90% of critical brain development will occur during this period

By age 3, children in poverty hear **30 MILLION** fewer words than their affluent peers.
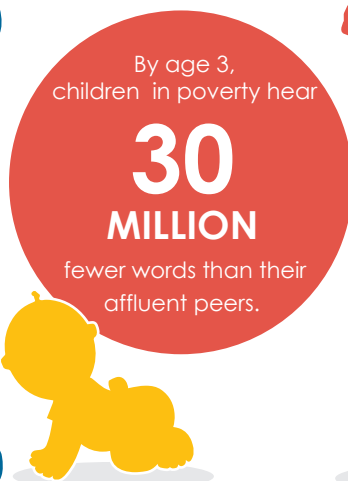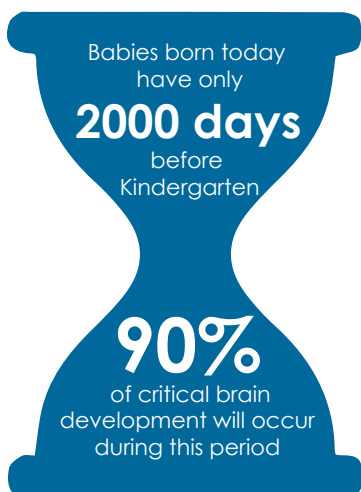
5/6 children who read well by 3rd grade will graduate from high school on time.

Pajaro Valley Unified is one of the **FIRST 50** in the nation fulfilling a promise with the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students.