



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16
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BOARD AGENDA ITEM

ITEM NO: 3.8

BOARD MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

OPENING ITEM: CFSD Deep Learning Showcase (A Celebration of Quality Teaching) – Growing Gratitude at Valley View Early Learning Center

SUBMITTED BY: Julie Farbarik, Director of Community Relations

PRESENTED BY: Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

Presented for the governing board's information is the CFSD Deep Learning Showcase (A Celebration of Quality Teaching) – Growing Gratitude at Valley View Early Learning Center.

At Valley View Early Learning Center, PreK students in four classrooms are discovering the power of gratitude, kindness, and environmental stewardship through an innovative garden-based learning project. Integrated into social-emotional learning curriculum through the Slumberkins "Gifts All Around Us" unit, students plant, water, and tend vegetables like carrots and green beans while taking real responsibility for the life they're nurturing. The learning extends into the classroom through a pretend Farmer's Market, role-play activities, art projects, and an inquiry-based science approach comparing native and store-bought seeds for a future SARSEF project. Beyond gardening, Honeybear guides students in daily gratitude practices and caring tasks delivered through a magical mailbox. The project culminated in a gratitude celebration where students prepared salad from their garden to share with families. This is innovative early childhood education in action: nurturing curious minds, compassionate hearts, and capable hands, one seed at a time.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item