

FAIRPLEX LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2024

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER & THE LEARNING CENTERS MERGER

In 2024, following thoughtful discussions and careful consideration between the Child Development Center at Fairplex (CDC) and The Learning Centers at Fairplex (TLC), the two organizations merged to form a single, non-profit entity. This new organization, Fairplex Learning and Development Center, will continue to provide comprehensive educational programming, from cradle to career, for children, youth, and families throughout Pomona and the surrounding region.

In November, we held a dinner to honor the past service and dedication of former board members from both CDC and TLC. Their vision and commitment made it possible to support the learning and development of children and youth across the area.



ALEX XYDIAS MEMORIAL

Hot Rod pioneer Alex Xydias, namesake of our Alex Xydias Center for Automotive Arts (AXC), passed away in August at the age of 102. AXC, which opened in 2011, offers a free, hands-on two-year program in automotive diagnosis, service, fabrication, and restoration, preparing students for careers in the automotive industry and beyond.

Alex's legacy extends far beyond the classroom. A trailblazer in early auto racing, he founded the iconic So-Cal Speed Shop in 1946 and earned numerous speed records and industry accolades. Alex was a steadfast supporter of AXC, frequently attending Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) graduations and celebrating student achievements.

In recognition of his contributions and friendship, AXC also honors the late hot rod builder Pete Chapouris in its official name. In November, a private memorial service for Alex was held at the National Hot Rod Association Museum at Fairplex. His enduring impact on the automotive world and education will never be forgotten.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER (CTEC)

CTEC wrapped up a productive and inspiring fall semester with 105 students enrolled. From innovative workshops to hands-on learning opportunities, Fall 2024 was packed with activities that supported student growth, skill-building, and career readiness.

Green Utilities Pathway Launch

This fall, we introduced the Green Utilities Pathway, equipping students with essential skills for careers in energy efficiency and renewable resources. The program has already sparked student interest in sustainable practices and provided hands-on training for a greener future.

Airgas Education Initiative

CTEC's Welding Pathway was awarded a generous \$5,000 grant from Airgas, helping to fund essential new equipment and tools to support the program's growing student enrollment.



Career Readiness at CTEC

This fall, CTEC students participated in Essential Skills and Career Readiness workshops. These sessions covered key topics such as time management, developing a strong work ethic, taking responsibility, career/education planning through self-assessments, resume building, job interview lessons, and mock interviews. These workshops are an integral part of our mission to equip students with the skills and confidence to thrive in their future careers.

Below are photos from the mock interviews held in December, where our valued partners volunteered to provide students with a hands-on experience of what a professional interview entails.



ATHENS SERVICES OPEN HOUSE AT CTEC

CTEC was excited to host the Athens Services Open House, an engaging event that welcomed students, parents, and staff to explore the vital work Athens Services does for our community. The event offered valuable insights into the company's operations, career pathways, and their commitment to sustainability.



Athens Services representatives shared an overview of their role in waste management and sustainability efforts, highlighting how their services help create cleaner, greener communities. Attendees gained a deeper appreciation for the essential work Athens does and how they contribute to environmental stewardship.



CDC MACY'S DAY PARADE

In November, the Child Development Center hosted a heartwarming parade that brought joy to families and the community. Each class, alongside their teachers, embraced creative themes, showcasing a variety of delightful costumes and decorations. From tiny superheroes to whimsical characters, the children proudly paraded their imaginative outfits, spreading happiness and excitement throughout the event.



The CDC staff did an incredible job organizing the parade, ensuring a memorable experience for all. Families played a key role in the celebration, cheering on the little ones and fostering a strong sense of connection. Events like this highlight the importance of parent and family engagement, creating meaningful moments that strengthen the bond between school, home, and community. The dedication of the CDC team in fostering joyful, enriching experiences ensures that children and their families feel supported and involved in their early learning journey.



FALL IN THE FARM 2024: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, LEARNING, AND HARVEST

On November 23, 2024, in partnership with Fairplex, our team proudly hosted the Fall in The Farm event, with about 2,000 attendees, a celebration that brought together families, students, and community members for a day of learning, fun, and connection.



Fall in The Farm showcased our ongoing commitment to blending education with community engagement. Visitors of all ages explored hands-on exhibits, learning about sustainable farming practices, nutrition, and the importance of agriculture in everyday life. Activities included seed planting, cooking demonstrations, and interactive displays on how food travels from farm to table.

The event also served as a platform to spotlight local businesses and organizations, fostering partnerships and creating awareness about the importance of sustainable agriculture and food systems. The Farm team worked closely with schools and community groups, reinforcing the



importance of connecting youth to the environment and local food sources. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers, staff, and community partners, and sponsors who made Fall in The Farm a resounding success. Your dedication helps make events like this possible and ensures their lasting impact on our community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



FAIRKIDS

May 8, 9, 16 | 9am-11am

Registration is now open for the FairKids Field Trip Program, inviting students to explore the World's Largest Classroom!

FairKids offers an interactive and engaging educational experience—what we like to call “A Day of Learning Cleverly Disguised as Fun!”

FAIRSTARS

May 15 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

FairStars provides individuals with special needs or physical disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the LA County Fair in a calm and crowd-free environment.

To register, contact FairKids@fairplex.com. After the Fair opens, a quieter atmosphere will be maintained until 1:00 PM for our second annual Thoughtful Thursday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

JUNE 21, 2025

Tickets will be available starting April.



If interested in sponsoring an event, please contact our Development Coordinator:
Phone: 909 865-4638
Email: development@fairplex.com
Proceeds benefit the education programming of the Fairplex Learning and Development Center a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization.



-February 13:
Grandfriends Night
-March 2nd- 6th:
Read Across America



THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO
DONATED DURING OUR
GIVING SEASON
CAMPAIGNS

✉ development@fairplex.com

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🌐 <https://fairplex.com/tlcfairplex/>

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