

# MISSION VIEJO SCHOOL HONORS GRANDPARENTS

By Cindy Williams

Teaching children to value and honor the generations before them is at the heart of Grandparents Day at Mission Viejo Christian School (MVCS). The annual event is a favorite on campus, with grandparents traveling from near and far to attend.

Grandparents Oscar Espinoza and Margarita Figueroa took the prize for the farthest distance traveled, coming all the way from Chile. Meanwhile, Marietta Burdge was the hands-down winner for having the most grandchildren, with 34 grand and great-grandchildren to love. She impressed everyone when she was able to name them all.

The memories made during Grandparents Day are precious. Principal Bob Sladek explained, "For us, the day is about honoring our grandparents while also cherishing and cultivating the unique bond that exists between them and their grandchildren. We want our grandparents to know how important they are."

Grandparent Oscar Espinoza said, "This celebration made us feel like we are part of the school family and that we are not forgotten." Even though they must travel a great distance, he and his wife hope to attend every year.

The festivities began in the school's chapel where grandparents were prayed over and enjoyed musical performances by their grandchildren and their classes. Next, students were thrilled to have their grandparents visit their classrooms where they showed off their work and introduced them to teachers and friends. They also worked on craft projects together and participated in activities such as completing surveys highlighting the difference of school and life today

compared to generations ago

John and Maria Brock and Mike and Diana Ely, grandparents to third grader Ava and first grader Georgia, were among many who commented, "We really enjoyed the creative songs the students sang and appreciate the emphasis that was put on the importance of grandparents' roles in a child's life."

Sladek added, "Character development, patriotism, and traditional values – these are fundamental areas where grandparents often lead by example and their influence can make a significant impact in the lives of their grandchildren."

Due to the popularity of Grandparents Day and increased enrollment at the school, MVCS expanded the event to a two-day celebration this year. Students in the school's sixth through eighth grade classes hosted their grandparents on Thursday, February 28th, and students in kindergarten through fifth grade classes hosted their honored guests on Friday, March 1st. The event had a sports theme, and many in attendance were proudly dressed in their favorite sports team's attire. Over 850 grandparents and special guests were in attendance, the school's largest Grandparents Day celebration to date.

MVCS is a private Christian school celebrating their 25th year serving families in Mission Viejo and surrounding communities. They offer classes for students from kindergarten through eighth grade. In recent years the school has grown to record enrollment, exceeding 425 students. More information about MVCS is available on the school's website ([missionviejochristian.com](http://missionviejochristian.com)) or by calling 949-465-1950.



Each class performed before their grandparents during one of the four chapels held over the two-day event.



The junior high grandchildren may be as tall or taller than their grandparents, but they never outgrow their love.



Grandparents enjoyed time in their grandchildren's classrooms, learning what it is like to be a student today.



Grandparents Margarita Figueroa (left) and Oscar Espinoza (right) traveled the farthest of anyone, from Chile, to attend Grandparents Day with their daughter and granddaughter (center).



John and Maria Brock (left) and Mike and Diana Ely (right), dressed in matching "Team Grandparent" t-shirts, in support of their two granddaughters (center) who attend MVCS.