



## **For Immediate Release**

1401 W. Valencia Avenue  
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**January 22, 2019**

### **FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT** ***Dream Catchers***

**(Fullerton, CA)** – Fullerton School District is proud to announce Dream Catchers, a new initiative to highlight students who are taking their learning beyond the classroom to make an impact in their community. This initiative is kicking off with a campaign to share what nine of our students are doing with their interests, passions and strengths.

Dream Catchers are students who are pursuing their passion and making their dreams a reality. This is a new initiative launched by the district and is a recognition program for students who are putting their dreams into action. FSD will highlight students who have shown dynamic skills in identifying and putting their dreams into tangible actions. Dream Catchers is one portion of the PATH Finder program, created by the FSD Dream Big initiative to enhance personalized learning in the District.

The inaugural group of FSD Dream Catchers includes the following students:

- Aaruv B., a primary grade student who early on discovered his passion for chess and has entered and won many chess competitions.
- Aretsi C., a primary grade student who loves life and has a passion for cooking and baking despite her special needs. She has an infectious smile that lights up the room.
- Derek D., an upper grade student who has a passion for reading and history and was the ONLY 5th grade boy to join and finish strong until the end for ACLA Speech and Debate last year.
- Kaio K., a Kindergarten student who discovered his passion for swimming and has been placed in groups with other children based on his skill level. He is almost ready for the swim team and regional competitions.
- Ashley R., a junior high school student and cellist who has won an international competition, played at Carnegie Hall, played with Brian McKnight at Disney Hall, and was recently accepted to Colburn's chamber music program. She is also an impressive ice skater who won first place during the 2018 season for US Figure Skating Regional and National synchronized skating team.

- Jeffrey T., a junior high school student who has a passion for robotics. He not only codes in Java but also in Robot C. Jeffrey has been an key member of the award winning Cyber Security Got Talent Competition and the Congressional App Challenge. His passion and knowledge have earned him a spot on the NatCar Team.
- Jude V., a junior high school student who takes initiative for the safety of children. He created signs over the summer to remind drivers to slow down and be aware of children in the neighborhoods.
- Francine V., a junior high school student who discovered her passion for writing and has established herself as a veteran contributor to a local news publication, The Fullerton Observer.
- Yuri Y., a junior high school student who has a passion for jewelry and helping others. She created her own jewelry and sells it online and at children's fairs. She donates a portion of the proceeds to cancer research in honor of a family friend that passed away.

These nine Dream Catchers will be recognized by the Fullerton School District Board of Trustees on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the regular Board Meeting. They are also featured on a poster and advertisement running at local movie theaters.

The Dream Catcher program is continuing for the 2019-2020 year. The nomination period is from January 15, 2019 to March 15, 2019. All nominees will receive Dream Catcher recognition. Of the nominees, FSD will select a small number of standout nominees who will represent the district for the year and will receive district recognition.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California and serves over 13,500 students in grades TK – 8<sup>th</sup>. The Fullerton School District includes 20 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8<sup>th</sup> grade schools, and three middle schools. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org).

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*For more information, please feel free to contact Dr. Robert Pletka/Superintendent at 714/447-7405*