

Heroes Poster Project is award-winning hit for Rosemead's Emma W. Shuey Elementary

Students at the school made posters honoring essential workers and their efforts during the coronavirus pandemic, and they were posted at various sites around the area.



This is one of many Heroes Posters made by Emma W. Shuey Elementary School students honoring essential workers. (Photo contributed Rosemead School District/Emma W. Shuey Elementary School))

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Forgive principal Jan Brydle for being so proud because the reason why makes it understandable. Her school — Emma W. Shuey Elementary in Rosemead — has been named a recipient of the California Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports Community Cares Award.

The award was the result of the “Heroes Poster Project,” the brainchild of second-grade teacher Brandi Matsdorf. Posters made by Shuey students of all grades honoring essential workers and their efforts were posted at local sites such as Super A Foods, the Rosemead Fire Station and the Temple City Sheriff’s office.

“The California PBIS Coalition was pleased to recognize Emma W. Shuey Elementary School for the outstanding contribution of support and care during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in disruptions to the school year,” a PBIS statement read.

“Your heroic efforts to provide support of all kinds to California’s students, families and communities did not go unnoticed.”

Brydle is beyond stoked about the award.

“We are extremely honored to be recognized by the PBIS Coalition,” she said, via email. “Although this recognition represents only one activity — the Heroes Poster Project — we at Shuey School strive to make positivity, leadership and service an everyday occurrence.

“This award validates the day-to-day hard work and dedication of the teachers, students, families and staff as we work together on developing not only students’ academic achievement, but especially their socio-emotional well-being.”

That seems to be the chord that struck Brydle.

“Each day we work on making school a positive and happy place for children to be, and during these times of distance learning, we are especially cognizant of how important it is to nurture each and every child’s socio-emotional well-being,” she said.

“This award also represents the importance of teacher leaders like Ms. Matsdorf, who go above and beyond to create and implement experiences like the Heroes Poster Project.”

Via email, Matsdorf mentioned the joy her pupils experienced with the project.



“Our students had a wonderful time making the posters and seeing them all around our community,” she said.

Their spirits might have been given a boost by their participation, Brydle intimated.

“The posters represent how young students’ voices can be heard during a crisis situation,” she said. “This activity gave our students the opportunity to feel that they were making a positive and proactive contribution during a time when many of them were experiencing feelings of isolation and helplessness.”

According to its website, the California PBIS Coalition is defined “as a framework for enhancing the adoption and implementation of a continuum of evidence-based interventions to achieve academically and behaviorally important outcomes for all students.”

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