



# Fontana Unified School District

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Fontana Unified Elementary School Celebrates 40th Anniversary with 1980s-Themed Ceremony

**FONTANA, CA** – Awash in a sea of red balloons, the Tokay Elementary School community showed its Tiger spirit when it celebrated the school's 40th anniversary on Oct. 14 with a lively, music-filled ceremony that brought back memories of the 1980s, with students from each grade level delighting Tokay faculty, staff, parents and special guests by performing classic songs from the era.

Tokay students entertained the crowd with stirring renditions of Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds," Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger," and U.S.A. for Africa's "We Are the World." Student council members then performed a dance medley of '80s hits by Kenny Loggins, The Bangles and Toni Basil. The Tokay Tiger Choir concluded the show by singing "Happy Birthday."

"It's my pleasure to welcome everybody to our school's 40th anniversary," Tokay Principal Rebecca Hinojosa said. "Thank you to all our wonderful parents who are here to help us celebrate and thank you to all our student council members who have been working so hard to make this day a success. I have been principal at Tokay for nine years and it really is an honor to have you all here today."

Among the special guests were Fontana Unified Board of Education president Dr. Jennifer Quezada, who attended Tokay Elementary; former Tokay principal and current FUSD Director of Secondary Education Terry Abernathy, Board of Education member Mars Serna, Almeria Middle School principal Felix Jones, and former Tokay teachers Don Spuhler, Eva Hernandez and Terri Feger.

"I have a lot of great memories here," Abernathy said. "I see a lot of familiar faces today. I've got tears in my eyes coming back to campus. I was a young kid when I came here as principal and Mr. Spuhler made sure I was on my toes every single day. You've got a wonderful principal and staff here today. I just need you to look toward the future and understand that you are going to go to college."

Spuhler was one of just nine teachers on the faculty when Tokay opened its doors on Sept. 7, 1982 as Fontana Unified's first year-round school. At the time, Tokay had 250 students, nine classrooms, and no cafeteria; the students ate lunch on picnic tables. Eventually, the student body would reach 1,200 students.

"My first year I taught kindergarten and I had 63 kids," Spuhler said. "Tokay is one of those places that has changed a lot but stayed the same. I have so many great memories here. I worked here from 1982 to 2016. I still come back occasionally to sub for the fifth-grade teacher. Coincidentally, it is the same room where I used to teach."

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Today, Tokay has updated classrooms, a new administration building, a state-of-the-art playground, and a new parking lot.

Tokay is one of eight Fontana Unified elementary schools to teach college-prep skills through the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Tokay Elementary has also partnered with Discovery Education to increase students' science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) skills, with instruction supported by a dedicated STEM room.

#### **PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

**FUSD\_TOKAY1:** Tokay Elementary School students show their Tiger spirit during the school's 40th year anniversary, held Oct. 14. Students from each grade level performed a classic song from the 1980s for the Tokay community, which included parents, students, staff, District personnel and former teachers.

**FUSD\_TOKAY2:** Tokay Elementary School students perform the song "We are The World" during the school's 40th anniversary celebration on Oct. 14. The lively, music-themed celebration brought back memories of the 1980s, with each grade level performing a classic song from that era.

**FUSD\_TOKAY3:** Former Tokay Elementary School teachers Eva Hernandez, Don Spuhler and Terri Keger take in the festivities during the school's 40th anniversary celebration, held Oct. 14. Spuhler was one of just nine teachers on the Tokay faculty when the school opened its doors on Sept. 7, 1982.

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