Oceanside Students Tour the 'Readiness Express'

Astor added that he was encouraged by the turn in the room. "There are a lot of resources out there, but the thing is connecting them," he said, adding that the visit was a wonderful opportunity for all the students and their families.

"Just putting a group together is genius because then [the students] don't feel alone," said Shannon Milder, regional school liaison officer for the Navy Region Southwest. The support of the coordinated school visits is being made possible with the assistance of Diana Pineda, project manager, Kelli May, regional school liaison for Marine Corps Installations West, and the students and their parents.

Among the services available to students were the Marine Corps Community Services Education Center, Operation R.E.A.S.O.N., and the Navy's Family Readiness Group. The "Express" is operated by the Navy's Fleet and Family Support Division, but Schwartz and Carmichael worked with the school liaison for the Marines to bring the vehicle to the largely Marine community.

Many of the boys were especially interested in the rear camera that keeps Carmichael from backing up into anything. "She's not frustrated, but she's sad," he said, adding that he helps them with homework. "I try to do as much as I can," Carmichael said. "This is my community, and I want to help them as much as I can," he added.

The students were grateful for the break from class and the food that was provided. The students were also grateful for the break from class and the food that was provided. The "Express" is scheduled to visit two more school districts, including La Vorgna Elementary and Vintage Hills Elementary. Stay tuned for more details.