

90TH ANNUAL CAPITOL TREE LIGHTING



ABOUT HADI

Age: 6 years old

Hometown: Dublin, CA

School: John Green Elementary School

Personality:
Determined, vibrant

Happy Place:
The beach

Favorite Songs:
Get Back Up Again (Trolls)
You're Welcome (Moana)

Favorite Cartoons:
Walrus Songs
Hana & Omar

Favorite Holidays:
Eid al-Fitr, Christmas
& Halloween

Favorite Holiday Tradition:
Dressing up and eating
Afghan foods

HADIYYAH (HADI) ESMAT 2021 Tree Lighter

Six-year-old Hadiyyah (Hadi) Esmat, a first grader from Dublin, was selected by the Regional Center of the East Bay and the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to help Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom light this year's California State Capitol Tree in Sacramento.

Hadi represents more than 360,000 Californians who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and receive services from the state's 21 nonprofit regional centers and facilities operated by DDS. Hadi began receiving Early Start services through the regional center when she was 18 months old. Later diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, she now receives specialized supports through the Lanterman Developmental Disability Services Act.

This independent and determined first-grader receives Special Education and related services at her local public school. Her favorite activities include being outside in nature, going for walks and playing in the park. She loves spending time with her mother, Halai Akbari, and her extended family.

CONTACTS:

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Halai Akbari & Hadi

