



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

January/February 2015 - Volume IV - No 3



A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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Reflecting on Our Past

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ABC Unified School District, it provides us an opportunity to reflect on our previous accomplishments and look forward to the next 50 years. **As Superintendent of this award winning District, I am honored to be a part of its rich history of academic achievement and innovative partnerships. The District's commitment to raise academic achievement is a result of a dedicated staff, hard working students and engaged parents and community members.** Our strong collaborative partnerships with our labor groups, local businesses, PTAs, colleges and civic groups help to advance our mission.

We are proud that during the past 50 years, our schools have been selected for the National Blue Ribbon Awards by the U.S. Department of Education, California Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education, Golden Bell Awards from the California School Board Association and California Business for Educational Excellence Honor Roll. More recently, we've had three middle schools honored as "Schools to Watch" by the California Department of Education and the California League of Middle Schools. These three schools are also recognized as "National Model Middle Schools" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades.

The future of ABC Unified School District continues to be promising despite the complex changes in new curriculum and assessment. Many changes at the State level have impacted the future of all public schools in California. **Our strength as we move forward will be the building blocks we have established for the past fifty years. We thank the community for supporting us and welcome greater involvement as we move forward.**

We hope you will join us on March 28th at the 50th Anniversary Celebration held at Cerritos High School from 11 am to 3 pm. This is a community wide event that is open to the public. There will be booths representing all our schools, student entertainment performed throughout the day and a historical look at our District. **Join us as we sharpen our focus on teaching and learning to ensure that "every student, in every classroom, every day" is provided a world class education.**

For more information about ABCUSD, please check our website at: www.abcsud.k12.ca.us or follow me on Twitter: @abcsupt. ▶

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Dr. Mary Sieu congratulated Tom Torlakson on being re-elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction at his Inauguration Reception.



Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, March 28, 2015

CERRITOS HIGH SCHOOL

11:00AM-3:00PM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

OPENING CEREMONY 11:00AM

STUDENT PERFORMANCES 12:00-3:00PM

SCHOOL INFORMATION/ACTIVITY BOOTHS 12:00-3:00PM

HISTORICAL SHOWCASE: A LOOK BACK OF
50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE ON SITE!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - EVERYONE WELCOME!

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Fedde MS-International Studies Academy Selected as 2015 California's Schools to Watch

On January 15, State Superintendent Tom Torlaksen announced that Fedde MS in the ABC Unified School District is one of seven high-performing California middle schools to be designated as model middle schools in the 2015 Schools to Watch—Taking Center Stage Program. The Schools To Watch Program is sponsored by the California League of Middle Schools and the California Department of Education, in partnership with the California Middle Grades Alliance.

California's School to Watch—Taking Center Stage Program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle school schools so that all middle schools may have models of real world success. **Fedde MS is one of just 66 model schools that have been identified statewide since 2003.** To become a "Schools to Watch", schools must have met or exceeded the API schoolwide growth target for three of the five most recent years scores. Fedde MS also conducted a self-study evaluation and was reviewed by an outside team of middle grades experts.

Fedde MS will be celebrating with the entire school community on February 13, 2015 at 11 am. This is the first time that Fedde MS located in Hawaiian Gardens has been selected for the Schools to Watch Program. **"It is a true honor for Fedde MS to be recognized as a School to Watch"** said Principal Ricardo Lois. "Our staff has worked very hard in developing an exciting and challenging middle school program that supports achievement for all students. This ceremony is an affirmation of the fine work so many have done at Fedde MS-International Studies Academy." The celebration will feature an address to the student body on their school's selection as a model and the presentation of a banner by Dr. Irvin Howard, Past President of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. He noted, "Fedde MS is a model of what an outstanding middle school can be. School leaders from across the state will now turn to Fedde MS for guidance on improving their programs to better serve their students."



All the schools will be formally recognized in Sacramento at the California Middle Grades Alliance Annual Luncheon held on February 26 and during the California League of Schools Annual Conference held during February 26-March 1, 2015. Fedde MS will have an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments and network with other middle grades educators from around the State. In addition, Fedde MS will be recognized at the national level during the National Model Middle Schools Conference/Awards Ceremony held in Washington, DC on June 24-28.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu noted that last year two middle schools in ABCUSD, Carmenita MS and Tetzlaff MS were selected as 2014 Schools to Watch. **"It gives us great pride to have Fedde MS selected as a model middle school in California this year. They have done exceptional work in turning around the school under extraordinary circumstances."** ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

California State Band Grand Champions

The students of the Gahr Marching Gladiators have worked incredibly hard this season. The marching band grew to 94 members, many sections more than doubling! Over half the band - 53 students - were freshmen or first-year members of the group. This is only the second year since Gahr High School has restarted its competitive marching program.



The honor of being named the 2014 California State Band Grand Champion is a crowning milestone for Gahr High School and an achievement that is the result of the hard work and collective efforts of our students, instructors, alumni, parents, and community. ▶

7th Annual Youth Leadership Summit

The ABC Youth Leadership Summit was held on January 13 at USC. This event was co-sponsored by the Kaiser Foundation. It has served at-risk youth, or youth "in the middle" who would not otherwise aspire to go on to college for the past eight years. Kaiser Permanente Downey Community Benefits Grant program has supported this Summit since the beginning as part of its prevention of youth violence priority. This year, the Summit was joined with the ABC Achievement Via Individual Determination or AVID program. The Youth Summit was also co-sponsored by the USC School of Social Work. **The theme for the Youth Summit this year was: "Hard Work Pays Off!"** ▶



Visit our website for ABC USD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!
www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

ABC Fiber Optics Wide Area Network

A few weeks ago, Cerritos Elementary School marked the last ABC school to convert away from the district's network copper T1 lines, to the new fiber optics network. The change increases our schools' bandwidth tremendously over the limitations of the older copper technology. As schools' future bandwidth needs continue to evolve, ABC will not have to undergo similar construction projects, but rather "flip a few switches" to access appropriate bandwidth in a timely fashion.

The fiber optics project took almost a year to complete. It involved Charter Communications, Time Warner, numerous cities' building departments, construction crews, the dedicated IT staff, and the patience of our schools during the transition. ▶

Kaiser Hippocrates Circle at Fedde MS

Fedde International Studies Academy hosted 70 students and their families for a Kaiser Hippocrates Circle event last Tuesday night. Students and their parents received information about careers as medical doctors and had the opportunity to ask Kaiser Doctors questions about their medical careers in small groups. These students will have the opportunity to visit the Kaiser Downey Medical Center and a local Medical School. Parents will have the opportunity to attend a special Financial Aid Night. ▶


PAL 2 Presents: A Technology Learning Opportunity for Classified Employees

The second PAL 2 Technology Workshop for this school year titled "Creating Fillable Forms" took place on January 13th and 14th in the ABC District Office computer lab. **Sixty classified employees attended this advanced technology workshop taught by Mrs. Mary White, retired Teacher Technology Specialist. Participants learned how to create and fill-in pre-printed forms directly on their computers.** Excitement filled the air as the participants learned that they too could create their own personalized forms for their school sites and departments. The next PAL 2 workshop for ABC Student Intervention Assistants took place on January 30, 2015. ▶

ABCUSD Magnet Schools Fair

On Thursday February 5th, ABC will host the Annual Magnet Fair in the district hallway from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Fair allows parents and children to learn about the different magnet school opportunities offered in ABC. The schools set up beautiful displays to showcase the varied and innovative programs. Parents and children can watch a selection of magnet school student performances. District personnel are available to answer questions about applying for magnet schools and the ABCUSD Schools of Choice process. Handouts for visitors include brochures with detailed descriptions of the ABC magnet schools, an explanation of the application process, showcase fliers detailing each magnet schools' unique program, and a flier including tour dates and Open House dates for all 16 magnet schools. This is an energy-filled night which attracts new students to ABC each year. ▶


Send your children to one of the top school districts in California!



ABC Unified School District
ABC
United 1965
ABC Unified School District

ABCUSD's Award Winning Magnet Schools - DISTINCTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES:

- Aloha Elementary School - Health Medical Academy
- Burbank Elementary School - Visual, Performing and Folk Arts Magnet
- Carver Elementary School - Academy of Communication Arts
- Elliott Elementary School - World Navigators
- Ferguson Elementary - Academy of Communications & Technology
- Leal Elementary School - Visual and Performing Arts
- Niemes Elementary School - Environmental Science & Technology
- Nixon Elementary School - Academy of Multimedia Arts
- Palms Elementary School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Stowers Elementary School - School of International Studies
- New!** Fedde Middle School - International Studies Academy
- New!** Haskell Middle School - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Academy (STEM)
- Ross Middle School - Academy of Creative and Media Arts
- Tetzlaff Middle School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Artesia High School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- New!** Gahr High School - STEAM Magnet High School (STEM plus Arts)



Mark your calendar!

YOU ARE INVITED to ABCUSD Magnet Schools Recruitment Fair!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 FROM 6 TO 8 PM

ABCUSD District Office • 16700 Norwalk Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703

Learn more about ABCUSD's magnet schools!
Meet representatives from each school!

News From Our Schools and Around The District

ABC Parent Leadership Academy

This year ABC Adult School's Parent Leadership Academy (PLA) offered workshops on a variety of very valuable and timely topics. The first series of workshops on **"College is Coming - Are You Ready?"** took place in October. More than 100 parents from the district learned about everything from college applications to financial aid to staying balanced through the whole process! The series was taught by Whitney High School Counselor Eric Gutierrez and Adult School Career Center specialist Mary Pinedo. Forty-one parents had "perfect attendance" for the four workshops and received a \$20 gift card to ABC Adult School! The second module **"Common Core and More"** was also well attended by the school community. The presentations are free and open to all parents in our district. The Power Point presentations are now available on the Adult School website (www.abcadulthoodschool.edu) under the Parent Education tab. Information on upcoming workshops is also available on the website. In January, a four part series on **"School Resources - Ready, Set, Access"** began.



More than 100 parents from the district attended Module 1 workshops.



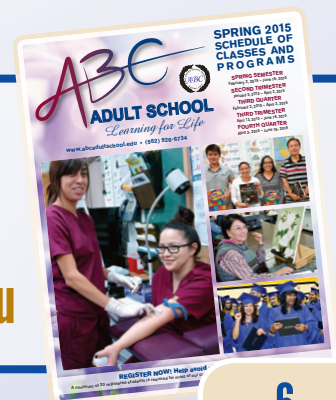
Forty-one parents had "perfect attendance" for the four workshops and received a \$20 gift card to ABC Adult School classes!

The Adult School's Parent Leadership Academy Workshops Continue with Module 3: **"School Resources - Ready, Set, Access!"** On Wednesday, January 21 the **"Alphabet Soup"** presentation gave parents information on the many programs available in the District and provided an overview of LCAP. On Wednesday, January 28, parents learned about **"Effective Communication Between Home and School."** On Wednesday, February 4, the topic will be **"Positive Discipline Techniques at School and at Home"**. The last workshop in this series, **"Computer Skills for Parents,"** will be a hands-on workshop in the Adult School Computer Lab. These workshops will take place at the Adult School Cuesta Campus, Room H12, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. They are free and open to all parents in our community. The facilitator will be Sandi Hayase, District Program Specialist. Parents may register on-line at www.abcadulthoodschool.edu under Parent Education, or in the classroom on January 21. For more information, please contact Nancy Hom or Sandy Wu at (562) 926-6734 ext. 25017. ▶



ABC Adult School offers
Great Classes!

Check out the Spring Catalog at www.abcadulthoodschool.edu



Community Involvement

ABC Education Foundation



The ABC Education Foundation Board gave out \$25,000 in mini-grants to ABC teachers. Thank you to all the community donors!

Assemblymember Christina Garcia's Education Roundtable



ABC Board Members and Dr. Mary Sieu attended Assemblymember Christina Garcia's Education Roundtable at the Pico Rivera Library.

Community Involvement

World Chinese Language Association visitors from Taiwan



ABC welcomed guest educators with the World Chinese Language Association from Taiwan. The visit included going to Gahr HS and their Mandarin Program.

STEM "TED Talk" to Students



Yale scholar Santiago Salazar provided a powerful "STEM Talk" for Gahr HS and Artesia HS students on his research work. This was sponsored by Chris Apodaca of Broadview Mortgage.

City of Hawaiian Gardens



The City of Hawaiian Gardens honored Fedde MS for being selected a 2015 Schools to Watch at the City Council Meeting on January 27, 2015.

Southeast ROP classes win Lakewood Foundation Grant Awards

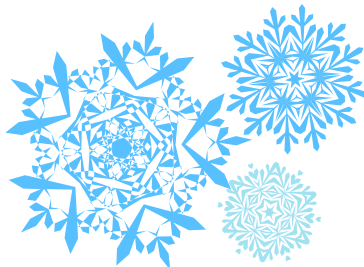


Southeast Regional Occupational Program (SEROP) teachers at Artesia High School, Teresa Campbell in Theater Performing Arts and Louis Felix in photography, each received \$500 grant awards from the Lakewood Foundation. Mr. Felix will be purchasing five point and shoot cameras for students who do not have access to any type of digital cameras. Ms. Campbell will be using the award monies to purchase wireless microphones for theater performances; hopefully in time for the upcoming student performance of "You are a Good Man, Charlie Brown."



Board Members

Maynard Law - President
Olympia Chen - Vice President
Armin Reyes - Clerk
Lynda Johnson - Member
Celia Spitzer - Member
Sophia Tse - Member
Soo Yoo - Member
Dr. Mary Sieu - Superintendent



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published
bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office.

Call 562-926-5566 to join the District's email list.