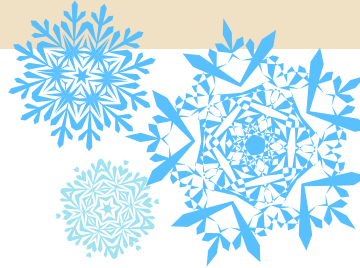




ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

January/February 2016 - Volume V - No 3



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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
Follow me on Twitter: @abcsupt

“Welcoming A New Year”

It’s hard to imagine that last year I completed my 25th year in the ABC Unified School District. The years have flown by and in the blink of an eye, I have watched our students move from one grade-span to the next and joyfully watched them graduate from high school. Last year, we celebrated the District’s 50th Anniversary as a unified school district and are now in our 51st year. We spent the year celebrating many achievements of our schools such as the four California Gold Ribbon Schools including Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, Gahr HS, and Haskell MS. The ABC Parent Leadership Conference and Academy received the 2015 National School Board Association’s Magna Grand Prize. Fedde MS was selected as a Schools to Watch Model Middle School.

We ended the year in December by celebrating our two district programs, the Multi-Tiered System of Support and the Youth Leadership Summit, for being honored with a Golden Bell Award by the California School Boards Association. As I reflect on this past year, I can’t help but think about the tremendous work that our students, staff, and families put into our schools that contribute to this outstanding District. Although we can’t recapture the moments of the past, we can still remember and relish in the memories we created together.

We’re already at the end of the first semester of the 2015-16 school year. How will we shape the next 50 years in ABC? There have already been many changes and improvements this year including new teachers and staff, new Board members elected by new Trustee Areas, Google Classroom, Technology Integration Projects, PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), a Local Control Accountability Plan, a Local Control Funding Formula, and a myriad of new education and budget related legislation.

This e-newsletter includes updates about our schools and District departments. Please take time to review it since our contributors want the school communities we serve to learn about the many things happening in ABC Unified School District. Feel free to forward it to others who are not involved with our school district so they may learn about this unique award winning District.

To remain knowledgeable, please check our District’s website at: www.abcsud.us. We provide updates and current information that the school community should be aware of. Please join us in welcoming a new year with the ABC Unified School District. With the help and support of all our community members, we can only imagine what the next 50 years will bring us!

Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent

ABC Wins Two Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association in San Diego



Christine Moreau, Gahr HS teacher, Sandi Hayase, Program Specialist, Board Member Maynard Law, Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Director of School Services, Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent, Valencia Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent, Olympia Chen, President-ABC Board, Board Member Sophia Tse, Board Clerk Soo Yoo

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Gahr HS Marching Gladiators

On Saturday, November 21, 2015 Gahr HS Marching Gladiators performed their production entitled, "Under Construction," at the 2015 California State Band Championships! After qualifying for the California State Band Championship Finals, Gahr HS won First Place in Division 5A! Gahr HS advanced to California State Grand Championships and were once again crowned the California State Band Grand Champions!! The Gahr Marching Gladiators also earned High Visual Performance, High Visual Effect, High Auxiliary, and Most Outstanding Soloist - Michael Alba, who was awarded a \$500 scholarship. ▶



Gahr HS Marching Band selected by the Southern California Judging Association (SCJA) as the 2015 California State Band Grand Champions.

Ross Academy Middle School Celebrates Selection as One of California's 2016 Schools to Watch

On Tuesday, February 9, at 1:00 pm in the Promotion Stage area located near the basketball courts, students, staff, parents, district leaders, school board members, and community members will celebrate the selection of Ross Academy Middle School as one of California's 2015-2016 Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools.

"We are thrilled to have received this recognition," said Principal, Ricardo Brown. "Our staff and students have worked very hard in an exciting and challenging middle school program to demonstrate strong student achievement. This ceremony is an affirmation of the fine work so many have done in the school, district and larger community."

The celebration will feature an address to the student body on their school's selection as a model and the presentation of a banner. Dr. Irvin Howard, Co-director of California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program, noted, "Ross Academy Middle School is a model of what an outstanding middle school can be. School leaders from across the state will now turn to Ross Academy Middle School for guidance on improving their programs to better serve their students."

Ross Academy Middle School located in the city of Artesia serves 7th and 8th grade students in the ABC Unified School District. California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle schools so that all middle schools may have models of real-world success. Ross Academy Middle School is one of just 78 model schools that have been identified statewide since 2003.

Superintendent of ABC Unified School District, Dr. Mary Sieu shared that Ross Academy Middle School is now the fourth middle school in the District to be selected as a California Schools to Watch. Carmenita MS, Tetzlaff MS, and Fedde MS received the designation during the past two years.

The program is provided by the California Middle Grades Alliance, which includes the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS; the lead agency), California Department of Education, and other statewide educational organizations who are partners in the California Middle Grades Alliance. For more information on the program, contact Dr. Irvin Howard, at (951) 318-7515 or STWCAL@gmail.com or visit www.clms.net/stw. For more information about Ross Academy MS, please contact Ricardo Brown at (562) 229-7785 or ricardo.brown@abcusd.us.



Ross MS Academy Associated Student Body Students

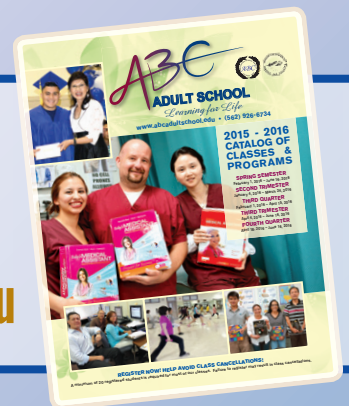


Ross MS Academy Cross Country Team



ABC Adult School offers Great Classes!

Check out the Spring Catalog at www.abcadulthoodschool.edu



News From Our Schools and Around The District

Cerritos High School

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, Cerritos HS "Regiment of Gold" Marching Band competed in the 2015 WBA State Marching Band Championships with their production "Conquer." After enjoying an undefeated season, the CHS "Regiment of Gold" Marching Band was crowned the 2015 Class 1A/2A/3A Grand State Champions. Cerritos HS has been able to hold this title for three years now. Besides winning the Class 2A Title, CHS swept all caption awards which included High General Effect, High Music, High Visual, High Auxiliary, and High Percussion. ▶



Cerritos HS Regiment of Gold 2015 Class 1A/2A/3A/ Grand State Champions

Nutrition Education Award

Congratulations to Willow ES teacher Michelle Radmanesh for being selected for the Nutrition Educator Award and Maureen Conklin as President Elect of Southern California School Nutrition Association. ▶



Angela Barnett, Willow ES teacher, Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent, Michelle Radmanesh, Willow ES teacher, and Maureen Conklin, Nutrition Services Manager

Tetzlaff MS SpringBoard National Demonstration School

Congratulations to Tetzlaff Middle School on the renewal of their recognition as a SpringBoard National Demonstration School. Tetzlaff Middle School served as a National Demonstration School from 2013-2015 and will now serve as a Demonstration School for the 2015-2017 school years. Tetzlaff serves as one of ten model schools throughout the country who exemplify key best practices necessary for a successful implementation. ▶

ABC Adult School

Kathy George, quilting instructor at ABC Adult School has been selected as the 2015 California Council for Adult Education (CCAЕ) Excellence in Teaching Award. Kathy George was honored at the CCAЕ Awards Dinner held on Nov. 13 at the Hilton Palms Springs Hotel. Kathy George has over 23 years of teaching experience in Adult Education. She has served as the Chapter Secretary for CCAЕ and has been a resource teacher, a union representative, and is currently Chair for the ABC Marketing Committee. She has served on various accreditation committees and panels as well. In addition, Kathy has spent many years as the Building Rep for ABC's local union. She has been called upon to counsel and support the Adult School staff on classroom issues. Kathy also works with various organizations to promote philanthropy. Many of the items which are created in her classroom are provided free to needy and worthy causes and organizations. Kathy says, "It's all about sharing." Congratulations to Kathy George! ▶

Health and Safety Code

Health and Safety Code 120335 requires districts to ensure that students are fully immunized prior to admission. In addition, beginning July 1, 2016, Health and Safety code 120335, as amended by SB 277 (Ch. 35, statues of 2015), requires districts to ensure that students are fully immunized against all specified diseases before advancing to grade 7.

This code further provides that students must be exempted from immunizations for any one of the following reasons: (1) a licensed physician indicates that a student should be exempted for medical reasons, (2) a parent/guardian files a letter or affidavit prior to January 1, 2016 stating his/her personal beliefs opposed to immunization (effective only until the student enters the next grade span), or (3) a student is enrolled in independent study and does not receive classroom-based instruction. ▶

New Boeing Grant

ABCUSD has been awarded \$50,000 from the Boeing Company to expand the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) program in ABC. With Boeing's support last year, we were able to provide the 5th grade and 6th grade students at Cerritos ES, Gonsalves ES, Hawaiian ES, Juarez ES, Kennedy ES, Stowers ES, Willow ES, and Wittmann ES with EiE training. Up to five additional schools will be added. A major component of the grant is to develop a connection between the science program at our middle schools and their feeder elementary schools. In addition to the Elementary STEM Olympics held at Carmenita MS last year, we plan to include two more middle schools. A very important detail is that the events in the Olympics are based on the EiE units the students have done in their classrooms. The Boeing Grant is under the leadership of Paul Killian, District Science Program Specialist. ▶

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Before Winter Break, all high school websites posted information to apprise the community about Senate Bill (SB) 172, which was signed into law on October 7, 2015. This law suspends passing the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) as a requirement to receive a diploma. The law also states that all students who have completed grade twelve in the 2003-04 school year, or a subsequent school year, and have met all applicable graduation requirements other than passage of the high school exit exam may now receive a diploma. ABC Unified School District has approximately 179 students who will be eligible to receive a diploma as a result of this new law.

If someone is eligible to receive a diploma he or she may come to Child Welfare and Attendance, show a valid drivers license or any other national or state photo identification card, and pick up their diploma. These diplomas will be available beginning January 11, 2016. All diplomas will be dated January 11, 2016, contain the current principal's (electronic) signature, and list the recipient's most current high school name. ▶

Federal Program Monitoring

California Department of Education (CDE) reviewers were at the ABCUSD office and various school sites to review and monitor the implementation of categorical programs funded by Perkins IV, Title I, II, and III December 1st through 4th. Districts are responsible for creating and maintaining programs which meet all requirements. The review included 118 components in the following: Before and After School Programs, Career Technical Education, Compensatory Education, Early Education Support, Education Equity, English Learners, and Fiscal Monitoring. In addition to the District office, reviewers visited Furgeson ES, Melbourne ES, Fedde MS, Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, Gahr HS, Tracy Infant Center, and ABC Adult School. While there were 23 findings for our district that will need to be resolved in 45 days, the reviewers were impressed with the level of student engagement, instruction, and the overall implementation of categorical programs in ABC. ▶

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



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
- Furgeson 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
- Fedde Middle School - International Studies Academy
- 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
- Gahr High School - STEAM Magnet High School (STEM plus Arts)

Mark your calendar!

**YOU ARE INVITED to
ABCUSD Magnet Schools
Recruitment Fair!**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 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!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE DISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL OFFICE: (562) 926-5566 EXT. 21075 WWW.ABCUSDMAGNETSCHOOLS.COM

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Technology Integration Project (TIP) Update

Nineteen ABC schools have initiated their Technology Integration Projects on their campuses. In February 2016, the remaining ABC schools will come on board. Each TIP school has selected specific grade level(s) or department team(s) to transform their classrooms into models of 21st Century teaching and learning. TIP classrooms use 1:1 classroom technology on a daily basis, create standards based technology infused lessons, and a commitment to professional development throughout the year. As a result of a tight supply of available substitutes, the TIP program is shifting a portion of its planned professional development from substitute based release time, to after school hourly. The TIP program requires school TIP teams to plan and collaborate together to enable a powerful synergistic forward momentum to be created among each school TIP team. The shift to hourly TIP team collaboration time will augment the opportunity each school team has to work together.



Window 2 Schools' Teacher Leaders attending a Tech Camp designed specifically to support their role as a site leader in technology.

The new hourly collaboration time will be offered after school at the District office and be a part of a monthly event called the ABC TIP Summit. TIP Summits offer teachers and TIP teams an amazing array of technology, professional development session choices, and builds in special time and support for school TIP teams to work together. The TIP Summits will begin this December and will be offered twice per month throughout the school year. After the TIP Summits are established, plans are to open attendance to ABC educators outside of the TIP program who have an interest in 1:1 classroom teaching and learning. ▀

New California Math Standards

Academic Services' Secondary Math Coach Lena Bradshaw presented an overview of the new California Math Standards to the Cerritos College math department on December 4, 2015 during the Cerritos College Math Retreat Day. The presentation is a result of the collaboration between ABCUSD and the math department at Cerritos College. Lena Bradshaw initially met with the Math Department Chairs at Cerritos College reviewing courses at both the college and ABCUSD, to help students transition and succeed with math coursework at the college. During these initial meetings, the request to present how the new standards differed from the 1997 CA math standards was necessary so that all faculty involved would have the same knowledge about the changes.



Lena Bradshaw, Academic Services' Secondary Math Coach

Lena's presentation focused on demonstrating and explaining the shifts associated with the new math standards (focus, rigor, and coherence), how students are assessed (SBAC), and the sequencing of courses (Mathematics Pathway) in ABCUSD. The Cerritos College faculty experienced the type of problems aligned to the new math standards by working on a problem demonstrating the shifts associated with focus, rigor, and coherence. In addition, Lena reviewed how student assessments have changed in terms of computer adaptive testing and performance tasks. The presentation concluded with an overview of the new Mathematics Pathway in ABCUSD and how the pathway best supports student achievement. ▀

Community Involvement

Outgoing Mayor of Artesia Miguel Canales

Board of Education Clerk Soo Yoo presents a Proclamation to outgoing Mayor of Artesia, Miguel Canales for his year of service. The new Mayor of Artesia, Victor Manalo was installed on December 14, 2015. Joining Clerk Soo Yoo were Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent, Board Member Lynda Johnson, and Board Member Maynard Law. ▶



Parent Leadership Academy at Furgeson ES - Raising Digital Kids

A workshop was provided in Spanish for parents and family members by Adult School as part of the expanded Parent Leadership Academy. The workshop was held at Furgeson ES and is part of the modules available in English and Spanish. ▶



ABC Education Foundation



The ABC Education Foundation honored Ken Kraus, Los Cerritos Center Senior Manager-Property Management, for his contribution to the Foundation.



The ABC Education Foundation honored Sheri Bathurst, Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Manager, for being the 2016 Grand Donor to the Foundation.



Board Members

Olympia Chen - President
Chris Apodaca - Vice President
Soo Yoo - Clerk
Lynda Johnson - Member
Maynard Law - Member
Leticia Mendoza - Member
Sophia Tse - 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.