



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

January/February 2017 - Volume VI - No 3

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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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Coming Soon: The California School Dashboard

In March, the California Department of Education will be launching the new California School Dashboard. The Dashboard will affect all public school districts in California. In an effort to prepare for this new Dashboard, I hosted three Community Forums this past October and November to explain to the community how to interpret the performance data included in the Dashboard. As mentioned in the fall's District Digest, the California State Board of Education approved a new accountability and continuous improvement system. The new system includes the eight State priorities that define a quality education from a broader perspective than a single test score. The State will use a new accountability evaluation rubric to analyze state and local performance standards. The rubric will assist districts in identifying strengths and weaknesses.

The new California School Dashboard will provide multiple measures of student performance and a more complete picture of students' educational experience. The Dashboard will include academic indicators, progress of English learners, college and career indicators, high school graduation rate, suspension rate and chronic absenteeism. A few of these measures are still a work in progress at the State level. The academic indicator for measuring progress of student achievement is the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) in English Language Arts and Math for grades 3rd through 11th grade. The schools will continue to host meetings to inform the parents and community about the new Dashboard. We will also be discussing this at the "State of the District" events held in March and April this year.

The State will also be launching new accountability webpages on the California Department of Education Web site for the California Accountability Model and School Dashboard at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/dashboard/>. These will be available to the general public as a resource.

Finally, on a personal note, I am deeply humbled and honored to have been selected by ACSA Region XIV as the 2017 Superintendent of the Year. As with all recognitions that I have received, I accept on behalf of the extraordinary work of our students, staff, parents and community in the ABC Unified School District! ▶



*Haskell MS,
Carmenita MS, and
Tetzlaff MS honored
at the California League
of Schools in
Sacramento.*

News From Our Schools and Around The District



Aloha ES Health and Medical Academy



Gahr HS STEAM Academy

District Magnet Fair 2017 - A Well Attended Event!

Hundreds of families visited the Annual District Magnet Fair held on Feb. 2, 2017 at the District Office. Sixteen magnet schools showcased their special themes at their school booths. An Information Session was provided for families with questions about the Magnet Schools in the District. Tours of the schools will be provided throughout the next month. ▶



Tetzlaff MS Accelerated Academy



Burbank ES Visual and Folk Art Academy

Adult School Medical Assistant Program Reports Great Success

ABC Adult School's Medical Assistant Program reports great success in preparing students for certification and the job market. The 2016 National Health Career Association (NHA) Annual Review shows that students in ABC Adult School's Medical Assistant Program had an average passing rate of 83% on Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exams compared to the NHA national average of 73% and the California state average of 68%.



Instructor Karen Dennis works closely with the NHA to ensure that classes are fully aligned with NHA guidelines in order to provide students with valuable feedback as well as excellent preparation. Congratulations to all the Medical Assistant Program students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments!

For more information, visit <https://www.abcadulthoodschool.edu/medical-assistant>. ▶

Artesia HS Pharmacy Students on a Mission to Help Others



At AHS's Pharmacy Tech Program, students will be able to learn how to mix pharmaceutical preparations. They learn how to label prescriptions, manipulate syringe needles, and trade & generics. Students will then be placed at a local hospital or retail pharmacy for externship hours. After completion of the course, students will then apply for the State Board of Pharmacy to obtain the Pharmacy Technician License. Some of the students have been approached and asked what type of work they do and or what hospital do they work at. Some of the students are being confused as nurses. If you start dressing as one, then you are going to act like one. If you start thinking as one, then you're going to want to be one. It all starts with the exposure and knowledge that is passed down to students on how a medical professional person should act and dress when they put on the scrubs. This career comes with the fulfillment of assisting others. Whether you're measuring medications, manning the cash register, or just engaging in a friendly conversation with a customer, your job revolves around one thing—helping others! ▶

Artesia HS Engineering Courses Showcased at Fedde MS

Artesia HS students presented at Fedde Middle School's Career Awareness Day regarding the benefits of taking the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) engineering courses, even if engineering was not their career goal. Artesia HS students highlighted the courses and the skills students would obtain by participating in the engineering pathway. Additionally, Artesia HS students shared their experiences in PLTW Engineering and how these experiences made them stronger students. After the presentations, Artesia HS students observed the middle school students in Fedde's Engineering and 3D printing lab. Ms. Marian Youssef, Artesia HS's PLTW engineering teacher stated, "It was such a great opportunity for their students and for ours!" ▶

State Migrant Parent Conference Recognition Award Ceremony

It is a pleasure to inform you that the Migrant Education Program (MEP) at the Los Angeles County Office of Education has selected Artesia HS Assistant Principal Denise Macias to represent Region 10 as the *MEP Honor Alumnus* at the 2017 State Migrant Parent Conference. A group of 20 alumni from across California will be representing their regions at the Recognition Award Ceremony on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles. This award is presented to former MEP students who have demonstrated outstanding support of the migrant community. Her nomination described the exceptional work she has carried out to help migrant students and families succeed in school. She will be thanked publicly for her dedicated service. ▶



Artesia HS Assistant Principal Denise Macias

Cerritos HS Girl Scout Co-Hosts Luncheon

Cerritos High School student, Julia Bravo, was a co-host for the Girl Scouts "To Get Her There" luncheon in mid-November. Prior to the event, she along with the Director of Marketing for the Girl Scouts Kenya Yarbrough were interviewed on KCAL 9 Los Angeles news which can be viewed at <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video/3570440-girl-scouts-host-to-get-her-there-luncheon/>. The event allowed young women to meet with and interview industry leaders such as the Vice President of Product and Marketing for Toyota, which Julia Bravo recently did. We could not be prouder of Julia, who is just one of the shining examples of the great students who fill Cerritos High School's halls. ▶

Visit our website for ABC USD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Cerritos High School's Lady Wrestlers Year of Milestones



Left to right: Michelle Gonzalez, Megan White, Sierra Day, Desiree Estrada, Amaris Pedroza, Rebekah Parker, and Kaycee Fitero

In the competitive field of wrestling, we often forget the contribution and mastery of our female competitors. Cerritos High School's female wrestlers have spent the year reminding us why they should always be recognized and respected as top sports people.

Under the leadership of Coach Bryan Jernigan, this year, Cerritos High School has their first official girls' team recognized by the Suburban League. The team of seven ladies had an impressive season of milestones, led by Amaris Pedroza and Desiree Estrada, who are the first ever female league champions. A great many of firsts have happened for our ladies this year, including Amaris Pedroza recording the first ever pin by a lady in a match against John Glenn High School.

No champions get to the top without the help of family and friends. Mr. Jernigan wants to recognize Gahr High School's Ophelia Lara, who was undefeated last year and her coach who truly helped make the Cerritos High School Girls Wrestling Team a reality.

The ladies have been recognized for their excellence outside of the school as well. Last year one of our female wrestlers, Stephanie Herreta, went on to wrestle at Brewton Parker College in Georgia on a scholarship, and we expect this team of Champions to follow in her footsteps. ▶

Whitney HS Won Annual Model UN Conference for Third Year in a Row

The Whitney High School Model United Nations won the award for Best Small School Delegation at the Annual Surf City Model UN Conference at Huntington Beach High School in Huntington Beach on February 3-4. Over 1,000 students from all over Southern California attended this conference and debated for two days on topics such as the rights of women, nuclear terrorism, gay rights, and disarmament.

This is the third year in a row that Whitney has won a delegation award at this conference. ▶

College Readiness Block Grant Update

At the beginning of January, the College Readiness Block Grant was funded in the amount of \$509,031 to directly support student access and successful matriculation to institutions of higher education.

Each high school wrote a three-year plan regarding their activities for utilizing these funds, which included increased counseling services for students and families after school, on weekends, and during the summer. Additionally, their plans allocated money to pay for the AP exam fees of students who qualify for free and reduced price school meals.

Dr. Rhonda Buss, Director of Secondary Schools, is the administrator overseeing this grant. ▶

Strong Bonds Got Stronger with Japanese Sister School District

On Jan. 30, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu participated with Whitney HS Principal John Briquelet in the signing of an expanded agreement between Whitney HS and Kakamigahara High School in Japan. The agreement includes hosting a program for the high school students from Kakamigahara HS during the spring. The original Sister School District Agreement was signed in 2001 between ABCUSD and the City of Kakamigahara. ▶



2017 Schools to Watch Haskell MS, Carmenita MS, Tetzlaff MS

The California League of Schools (CLS), State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the California Middle Grades Alliance announced that 11 high-performing California middle schools have been newly designated as model middle grades schools in the 2016–17 Schools to Watch™—Taking Center Stage (STW™—TCS) program.

CLS also announced that the sustained progress of 19 previously chosen STW™—TCS schools will allow them to retain their designation.

These 30 schools excel at keeping students engaged and motivated during this critical juncture in a student's school career.

Haskell STEM Academy is a newly designated Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle grades school. Carmenita Middle School and Tetzlaff Accelerated Learning Academy have been re-designated Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools.



Recognized by Assemblymember Cristina Garcia on the Assembly Floor.

STW™—TCS middle grades schools are high-performing model schools that demonstrate academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents, and social equity. These schools host visitors from California and around the world who are looking to learn practices they can use to improve their middle grades schools and close the achievement gap.

The STW™—TCS program is sponsored by the California League of Schools (CLS) and the California Department of Education, in partnership with the California Middle Grades Alliance.

To earn this designation, schools must complete an extensive application that is reviewed by middle grades experts. In order to retain the designation, each school is re-evaluated every three years.

All of the schools were recognized in Sacramento at the California Middle Grades Alliance annual luncheon on February 23rd, 2017, and during the California League of Schools' Annual Conference North, February 24th–26th, 2017. All of these schools will receive their national recognition in Washington, D.C. June 21st - 24th, 2017. ▶

Congrats to ABCUSD Spelling Bee Winner

Alexander Uribe, Burbank ES 6th grader wins the District Spelling Bee on Feb. 15 at Cerritos HS. It's on to the LA County Spelling Bee! ▶



Principal Laura Makely, Board Member Olympia Chen, Alexander Uribe, Mrs. Uribe, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu

Lunar New Year Celebration at Leal ES



Celebrating Lunar New Year at Leal ES with the LEAP Foundation.

Vice President Soo Yoo, Board Member Sophia Tse, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu joined the Leal ES staff in the Lunar New Year Luncheon sponsored by the LEAP Foundation. The luncheon was sponsored by Panda Express. The students provided wonderful entertainment during the luncheon describing how the Lunar New Year is celebrated throughout the world. ▶



The LEAP Foundation honored teachers at Leal ES with a special Lunar New Year Luncheon and performances from the students representing different cultures.

Palms ES Hosted AVID Showcase

Palms ES hosted an AVID Elementary Showcase on January 10, 2017 for educators from Paramount Unified School District as well as ABCUSD principals, teachers, and Academic Services staff. In the morning, visitors had the opportunity to visit Kindergarten through 6th grade classes and an upper grade SDC class to see AVID instructional strategies in action.



Some of the strategies highlighted were: Socratic Seminar, Philosophical Chairs, STAR note-taking, leveled questions, and collaborative structures. Students were highly engaged in learning and enthusiastic about the activities. A panel of teachers, students, parents, Palms ES Counselor, and Palms Principal Julie Yabumoto highlighted the importance of AVID for themselves and their school. In the afternoon, ABCUSD Principals who are currently considering implementing AVID at their sites for the 2017-18 school year engaged in an information and planning session. ▶

Family Science Night at Wittmann ES

Wittmann ES held its 4th Annual Family Science Night on Fri., Jan. 27. It was wonderful to see all the families come out to learn about science with hands-on activities. There were 14 stations for the parents and students to participate in. This included the Virtual Reality (VR) Tours of our solar system. Trying on the VR goggle was not only fun but highly interactive with learning about our earth. “Girls Get Science” were projects that Whitney HS students facilitated with the families as well as the Whitney HS Robotics Club. Thank you to the Wittmann ES teachers and families who came out for this very engaging event this year. ▶



Head Start Program Workshops

The Head Start Program has partnered with the Community Family Guidance Center for the current school year to provide a free five week workshop series for our parents. The workshops are based on the topic “Families United Parenting Group.” Head Start parents that attend all of these workshops will receive a certificate at the end of the series. This five week workshop series on Tuesdays began on January 17th from 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and ended on Tuesday, February 14th. This weekly workshop series is held at the Head Start Kennedy Parent Center. ▶

School Services, Safe Schools, Child Welfare and Attendance National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) High School Clubs Training

On Thursday, Jan. 12, Artesia HS hosted a NAMI on high school club leadership training workshops for students at ABC high schools along with their advisors. Approximately 70 students representing Artesia, Cerritos, and Whitney high schools attended. Advisors included social workers, administrators, and wellness coordinators from these schools. Students practiced leadership skills focused on increasing awareness of mental health and wellness through activities and events. Students participated in activities and discussions about how to reduce the stigma and discrimination against mental illness while promoting mental health and wellness with their peers.

The advisor for the Artesia HS NAMI Club is Social Worker Patty Wu, who began the club last year. Artesia HS students have been asked to present at the upcoming NAMI conference in California, which will be held in August. The workshop was funded by the Project Cal Well Grant which ABC received in 2014 and supported by the California Dept. of Education, Coordinated Student Support Division. ▶

Community Resource Team News

The Community Resource Team (CRT) met on Thursday, Jan. 12, in the District Conference Room. The CRT is a partnership of local mental health agencies, the Department of Mental Health, ABC psychologists, wellness coordinators, and social workers which meets monthly to discuss issues and concerns relating to the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) here in ABC. The CRT's next steps will be to work together to continue to improve the services we provide for mental health at our schools with those provided by our partners in the community. The team will be using the Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) research and model to guide their work. The CRT is facilitated by Chris Leyva, ABC retired Psychologist and CRT Case Manager, and Kendall Fujioka, Pupil Support Services and Attendance Coordinator. ▶

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

ABC 1:1 Tech Tours

The IT Department is excited to provide the ABC Technology Integration Program (TIP) teachers a new special in-house Professional Development opportunity we call the ABC 1:1 Tech Tours! The tours or field trips were designed in the spirit of the many field trips ABC made to surrounding school districts early on in its growth to build our own institutional 1:1 program. ABC has since grown its capacities with over 400 ABC teachers enjoying 1:1 classroom environments as part of TIP! These teachers worked hard to transform teaching and learning and they have many success stories to share!



The ABC 1:1 Tech Tours will visit selected ABC schools and provide guided tours of 1:1 TIP classrooms to assist visiting ABC teachers seeking best practices and new inspirational ideas. The tours are specific to elementary and secondary teachers. The IT Department plans the ABC 1:1 Tech Tours a few times each year. The ABC 1:1 Tech Tours will highlight the brightest examples of 1:1 teaching and learning. The tours are designed to inform, excite, provide networking opportunities, and transfer the tremendous capacities existing at ABC's high performing TIP schools. Tour participants sign-up on a first come first serve basis and meet at the District Office to get on a "tour bus" together. Tour stops involve visiting three high performing selected ABC TIP schools and a relaxing lunch stop at one of the fine eateries in Cerritos. ▶

Burbank ES - A Super School!

Burbank ES was selected by Imagine Learning for the "2015-16 Imagine Nation Super School" award, nominated by Brady Bluhm, Area Partnership Manager, Imagine Learning. The following information is from the Imagine Learning website: *Winning schools were nominated by their area partnership managers and customer success managers for exceptional enthusiasm, amazing Imagine Learning innovations, or just plain good citizenship, our Super Schools are just that—super. They receive a personalized banner and plaque to display at their school. Congratulations Burbank ES!* ▶



ABC Education Foundation Donor and Mini-Grant Awards Event

Donors were recognized for their contribution to the ABC Education Foundation at the 4th Donor and Mini-Grant Awards Event held at Cerritos Park East. Later, teachers and departments who received a mini-grant from the Foundation were given an opportunity to share their projects and gratitude to the Foundation. ▶



Ken Kraus, Donor of the Year recipient was honored for his significant contribution and time on the ABC Education Foundation Board.



Long Beach Schools Financial Credit Union was honored for their contribution and time on the ABC Education Foundation Board.



Members of the ABC Education Foundation Board



ABC Adult School offers great classes!

ABC ADULT SCHOOL
Learning for Life

FOURTH QUARTER & SUMMER SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND PROGRAMS

FOURTH QUARTER
April 16, 2017 – June 16, 2017

SUMMER SESSION
June 19, 2017 – July 13, 2017

FOURTH QUARTER
Online Registration Begins: Friday, March 3, 9 am
Walk-in Registration Begins: Friday, March 17, 8 am

SAVE \$5 per class when you register online between March 3 - 16.
WWW.ABCADULTSCHOOL.EDU

SUMMER SESSION
Online Registration Begins: Friday, May 5, 9 am
Walk-in Registration Begins: Friday, May 26, 8 am

SAVE \$5 per class when you register online between May 5 - 25.
WWW.ABCADULTSCHOOL.EDU

REGISTER NOW! HELP AVOID CLASS CANCELLATIONS!
A minimum of 20 registered students is required for most of our classes. Failure to register may result in class cancellations.

Check out the Mid-Spring & Summer Catalog at
www.abcadultschool.edu

Community Involvement



Honoring Grace Hu, Community Member

Mrs. Grace Hu's Generous Donation to Whitney HS Foundation

The Board of Educations thanked community member Grace Hu for her generous donation of \$385,000 to the Whitney High School Foundation. The donation will be made in three installments. On September 28, Mrs. Hu made the first donation of \$129,000 to the Whitney HS Foundation. The second donation of \$129,000 will be made on April 15, 2017 and the final donation of \$127,000 will be made on January 18, 2018. The donations to the Whitney HS Foundation will be used to offset the remaining balance owed to the District for the Multimedia Arts Facility that was built five years ago. We thank the members of the Whitney HS Foundation for working cooperatively with Mrs. Hu and approving the donation in order to move forward with their support of the school's priorities. ▶

State of Education Address



Board Members Maynard Law, Sophia Tse, Dr. Mary Sieu, Board Member Olympia Chen and Assistant Superintendent Valencia Mayfield attended the State of Education Address by State Senator Tony Mendoza in Norwalk.

New Kaiser HEAL Grant

The ABC Unified School District has received the Kaiser Southern California Region Thriving Schools Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Grant in the amount of \$90,000 over two years. The grant will be used to support continued implementation of PlayWorks at the following 11 Kaiser Thriving Schools: Aloha, Burbank, Elliott, Furgeson, Hawaiian, Juarez, Kennedy, Melbourne, Niemes, Palms, and Willow elementary schools. The grant will provide additional training in PlayWorks implementation, equipment, and other support for noon supervisor Active Recess Coaches at each of the schools. These Active Recess Coaches will work with the principal and staff to organize the PlayWorks equipment and games. Monica Corona will serve as the District Coordinator of the grant, overseen by Director of Schools Dr. Cheryl Bodger. ▶



Board Members

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

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



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.