



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

March/April 2013 - Volume II - No 2



Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

Springing Into Action with the Community

Spring has arrived and there is a heightened air of activity throughout the District. **On March 7th, I presented the "State of the District" address at the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce held at the Sheraton Cerritos.** Civic leaders, business members and community representatives



Superintendent's Community Form held at Fedde Middle School

attended to hear about the state of the ABC Unified School District. I provided those in attendance the Annual Report of our Strategic Plan for 2012-13 highlighting many of the wonderful accomplishments and activities throughout this year. The Annual Report was also disseminated widely in the District and to key stakeholders in the communities we serve.

Students have been very active in the community as well. Secondary students have participated in numerous competitions offered by local service clubs such as the Cerritos Optimists and the Cerritos-Artesia Rotary Club. Many have done well in these competitions that promote writing and public speaking. Students district-wide have also been involved with the Reflections Contest offered by the PTA.

On March 23, the 17th Annual Parent Leadership Conference (PLC) was held at the Sheraton Cerritos with over 400 parents and family members representing every school in the District. The PLC is a multi-collaborative effort with Adult School, the PTAs, and the District. This year, the theme of the Conference was "World Class Education: Parents-Schools-Community". A panel of parents, who were also former students in the District provided snapshots of their world class education and experiences in ABC. The participants were able to choose various break-out sessions to learn more about the District and how they can better engage with the schools and students. Some of the session topics included the new common core standards, keeping children safe in the cyber-world, having fun with nutrition, parenting without stress and career pathways for high school students.

Promoting community and family engagement is at the heart of the work in ABC. It has been a delight to see spring return with all the activities that surround our District. We welcome your support and continuous participation! ▶

In This Issue

- News from our Schools 2-3
- Elementary District
- Spelling Bee Contest 2
- Elementary Reading
- Olympics at Kennedy 2
- Cerritos HS Model
- United Nations (MUN) 2
- History Day -
- Fedde MS and Haskell MS. 3
- Southeast ROP High School
- Senior Auto Tech Competition . . . 3
- ABC Adult School's Medical
- Assistant Students Volunteer 3
- Community Involvement 4
- World Class Education - 17th Annual
- Parent Leadership Conference. . . . 4
- ABCUSD Host Chamber of
- Commerce Mixer 4
- Cerritos Optimist
- Oratorical Contest 4
- News Around the District. . . 5-7
- Common Core State
- Standards Update 5
- New Statewide Test to
- Begin Soon 5
- The ABC Google Apps Pilot 6
- Special Education Teachers
- Earn Autism Authorization. 7
- Employee Spotlight 7



Rotary Club Oratorical Contest winner Mindy Kim with Dr. Kumar, Rotary Club President, Dr. Mary Sieu, and Maha Rayan, President Elect

News from our Schools

Elementary District Spelling Bee Contest

On Feb. 26th, the Elementary District Spelling Bee Contest was held at Cerritos HS, Brewer Theater. **All 19 elementary schools participated with their School Bee champions. The winner this year is Kearne Permalino, a 6th grader at Juarez ES.** The runner-up is Skye Garcia, 5th grader at Wittmann ES. Kearne Permalino advances to the County level Spelling Bee Contest which will be conducted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. ▶



*Kearne Permalino and his parents
with Dr. Mary Sieu*

Elementary Reading Olympics at Kennedy

On March 2, the first Elementary Reading Olympics was held at Kennedy ES. **Niemes ES and Kennedy ES competed for the title of Extreme Reader.** The event consisted of a team, no more than 12 students, from each school reading 25 books prior to the competition. At the competition, there were three rounds held with 20 questions per round based on the books read. The team had to use iPads to submit answers to the judges.

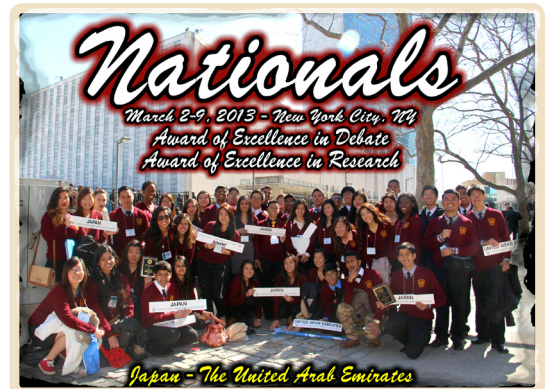
Ribbons were awarded to each student based on the team's correct responses. A trophy was awarded to the school whose team answered the most questions correctly. **Niemes scored 38 points and Kennedy scored 40 points.** This was a close competition throughout each round. Teachers Gabbie Ibarra from Niemes ES and Amber Pike from Kennedy ES are to be commended for this new effort. ▶



Kennedy ES students win first Elementary Reading Olympics

Cerritos HS Model United Nations (MUN)

On March 3-9, the Cerritos HS MUN attended the National MUN Conference in New York. The team was one of approximately 150 teams at the conference where over 3,000 delegates from 20 countries were present. Our students were able to meet students from Italy, Taiwan, Nigeria, Columbia, as well as domestic schools from states such as South Carolina, Illinois, Georgia, and many more. **In the end, the Cerritos HS MUN students were recognized with the Award of Excellence in Debate and the Award of Excellence in Research and Preparation and were one of three schools to be awarded two delegation awards.** The students did an amazing job representing our school as Japan and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, our delegates from the United Arab Emirates visited the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and were able to have a meeting with Abdulkaldek Bin-Dhaaer Al-Yafei, the Deputy Permanent Representative, one of eight diplomats to the United Nations. On the same weekend the Cerritos HS MUN Team was in New York, the **MUN Berkeley Team won the Best School Award.** ▶



Fedde MS History Day Winners

History Day - Fedde MS and Haskell MS

On Saturday, March 9th the twenty-three members of the History Day Team competed against schools throughout Los Angeles County at Azusa Pacific University. The six Fedde groups participated in the performance, documentary, and exhibit categories. We commend these students for their commitment, as they spent months in creating history through research, writing, building, and rehearsing. **Fedde's rich tradition of success continues as one team took first place and will go the state-level competition in Sacramento, April 26-28.** The winning team created an exhibit on Galileo. Also at the History Day L.A. competition, **one of Haskell's 8th graders, Kennedy Miller was selected to go on to the state-level competition in Sacramento.** ▶



Haskell MS History Day Winner

Southeast Regional Occupational Program High School Senior Auto Tech Competition

Southeast ROP sent two teams to compete at the 14th Annual Los Angeles County Auto Tech Phase II Competition held at Cerritos College. Southland Motor Car Dealers Association (SMCDA) and the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association (GLANCA) sponsor this yearly competition. The two Southeast ROP's teams are the Artesia High School and the ACI team (Auto Careers Institute), an after-school program for juniors and seniors from both NLMUSD and ABCUSD.

Congratulations to the Artesia High team of Maelianne Washington and Jose Luna who won second place overall in the SMCDA division! In addition, they each won 1st place in the Job Interview component held at the same event.



Pictured from left to right, are ACI team members Anthony Martinez, Cerritos High School and Effdharvie Amores wishing good luck to Artesia High team members Jose Luna and Maelianne Washington.

Winning 4th place at the same competition was the ACI Team of Effdharvie Amores and Anthony Martinez, Cerritos High and El Camino High, respectively. This skills portion of the competition is a test of skills and knowledge, as well as ability to work in a team. Two-student teams rotate through various work stations and the Interview component.

Ford Asset Program and Snap On donated gifts for all participants! Snap On has committed some spectacular prize packages for the First, Second and Third place winners of the overall competition. ▶



Executive Director Todd Leutheuser of the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association presents Maelianne and Jose with their 1st Place Prize of \$100 gift certificates.

Congratulations to ROP instructor Marty Supple and the competitors!

Jose Luna and Maelianne Washington from the ROP Auto program at Artesia High, ROP Auto Instructor Marty Supple, the ACI team of Effdharvie Amores and Anthony Martinez, Cerritos High School.



ABC Adult School's Medical Assistant Students Volunteer



Ms. Karen Dennis and Medical Assistant students at His Lai Temple Health Fair

The ABC Adult School Medical Assistant Clinical class had the honor of volunteering on Sunday, March 3 at the Hsi Lai Temple Health Fair. The Health Fair, held at the Buddhist temple in Hacienda Heights, served over 300 people, providing basic health care screening, education and referrals. **Most patients were Chinese speaking**

but Karen Dennis, LVN, the instructor and her students worked with interpreters to perform around 175 EKG's, 175 visual acuity tests, and 225 hemoglobin tests. Our student volunteers included adults and Artesia HS students in our ABC Career Academy. Students made vital industry contacts as well as learned to work across cultures.

Ms. Dennis has made it a habit of instilling a spirit of volunteerism in her students. She and her students usually volunteer at several health fairs each throughout Southern California. ▶



Pictured from left to right, ACI team members Anthony Martinez, Cerritos High School, ROP Instructor Marty Supple and Effdharvie Amores

Community Involvement

World Class Education - 17th Annual Parent Leadership Conference

The ABC Unified School District, ABC Council PTA and the ABC Adult School, hosted the 17th Annual Parent Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel. **This award winning conference had more than 400 parents, educators and elected officials representing the cities of Cerritos, Artesia, Hawaiian Gardens, and Lakewood in attendance.** Mrs. Celia Spitzer, President of the ABCUSD Board of Education and Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of the ABC Unified School District gave the welcome messages. Entertainment was provided by a group of parents from Fedde and Melbourne schools who offered a wonderful and lively Zumba presentation. Beautiful centerpieces, created by students, teachers, and parents from Stowers Elementary School, adorned the tables.



This year, guests enjoyed hearing from a panel of six distinguished ABCUSD alumni. The members of the panel shared about their "World Class Education" in ABC schools and how it has helped them in their life and career. This panel of successful leaders from a variety of fields inspired all who attended. The panelist included Captain Keith Swensson, Cerritos Sheriff's Department, Silvestre Vasquez, Artesia HS PTA President, Ethan Robinson, Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney, Lynda Johnson, Board Member, Kristen Hayashida, UCLA Autism Research, and Susan Brannen, Whitney HS Teacher. This year's conference offered ten workshops focusing on a variety of topics such as: "Common Core - Pathway to a World Class Education", "World Class Families: Empower Yourself and Inspire Your Child", "Raising World Class Kids: Positive Discipline", "Keeping Your Child Safe in the Cyber World", "Parent Leadership Changes the World", "The Brave New World of Technology", "Play With Your Food: World Class Nutrition", "World Class Parenting Without the Stress", and "Watch Out World, Here We Come! Career Pathways for High School Students".

Interpreters for Chinese, Korean, and Spanish languages were available for all workshops in an effort to serve the diverse ethnic community. ▶

ABCUSD Hosts Chamber of Commerce Mixer

Our first Networking Mixer with the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce was held in the evening on February 28th in the District Office hallways.



*Scott Smith, Chamber Executive Director,
Dr. Mary Sieu, and Paul Monteko*

*Geof Bolt,
Lee Pfeiffer,
Larry Cabellaro,
and Celia Spitzer*



We had 10 magnet schools showcase their schools along with the Adult School, the ABC Education Foundation and our School-Community Partnerships Office. It was a huge success with positive feedback from our local businesses and service organizations who attended. Ann Griffo, Coordinator of our Career Technical Education and Partnerships Office organized the event. ▶



*ABCUSD Education Foundation
Board Members Mark Anthony
Ruiz and Heather Summers*

Cerritos Optimist Oratorical Contest

Ross Middle School Girls Team competed against Whitney and Carmenita in the Optimist Oratorical Contest held on Thursday, February 28th. Lauren Remigio, Ross eighth grader, won 1st place and a check for \$500. She will compete at the next level for a chance at \$1,000.

The Boys Oratorical Contest was on Thursday, March 7th. Congratulations Faisal Alif and Marc Subol, who took 2nd place and 3rd place in the Optimist Oratorical Speech Contest!

Ross Speech and Debate Teacher Pam Richard has coached Ross students for the past 10 years and have always had a winner in this Speech contest. ▶

News Around the District

Common Core State Standards Update *Instructional Shifts*

Common Core State Standards have brought about instructional shifts that educators are beginning to implement in their classroom practices and curricular materials. When educators attend to three main shifts in English language arts and literacy as well as in mathematics, teaching and learning will be clear, consistent, and tightly aligned to the goals of the standards.

Instructional Shifts in English Language Arts and Literacy Standards

Shift#1 Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction

- Students read a balance of informational and literary texts.
- More emphasis on students building knowledge about the world through reading text independently.

Shift#2 Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence

- Students have the ability to read closely to determine what a text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.
- Students write and speak using evidence from the text to inform or make an argument.

Shift #3 Regular practice with complex text and academic language

- Students read a staircase of increasing text complexity from elementary through high school.
- Students focus on building vocabulary that is shared across many types of complex texts and many content areas.



2nd grade teacher, takes notes on the iPad regarding the Instructional Shifts in ELA at a recent teacher professional learning day.

Instructional Shifts in Mathematics Standards

Shift#1 Focus strongly where the standards focus

- Students cover mathematical concepts in a significantly narrow and deep way to gain strong foundations.
- Students have a solid conceptual understanding, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply math to the real world.

Shift#2 Coherence: think across grades and link to major topics within grades

- Students connect the learning within and across grades so that new understanding is built upon previous years.
- Students gain solid conceptual understanding, realizing that each standard is an extension of previous learning.

Shift#3 Rigor in major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application

- Conceptual understanding: students access concepts from a number of perspectives so that they are able to see math as more than a set of mnemonic devices or discrete procedures.
- Procedural skill and fluency: students practice core functions for speed and accuracy.
- Application: students apply math in context, as well as in other subject areas, particularly science, to ensure meaningful usage. ▶

New Statewide Test to Begin Soon

Smarter Balanced Pilot Test Program

This spring eleven ABC schools will participate in the State sponsored Smarter Balanced Assessment Pilot program. The Smarter Balanced Assessment begins statewide in 2014-2015 and replaces the current California Standards Test (STAR).

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is based upon the new national standards called the Common Core Standards.

The Common Core was recently adopted by the State of California for Math and English Language Arts. Students are required to take the new assessment using a computer. The objective of the Smarter Balanced pilot is to provide students and teachers an early experience with the new computer based assessment, and help the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium gather data about the new online test system, test items, quality, and test procedures. The pilot assessment tests students in selected areas of English Language Arts in grades 3-11 in reading, writing, listening, and mathematics.

Students will not receive scores on their pilot performance, however, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium will use the results for future test design. ABC faculty and students will gain valuable experience and information as they prepare for the forthcoming technology-based assessment scheduled to be statewide in 2014-2015. ▶

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The ABC Google Apps Pilot

The IT Department recently extended an invitation to all ABC staff to participate in a Google Apps pilot that began on February 19th. **The pilot's objective is to validate Google Apps as a future replacement to the district's GroupWise email system.**

The Google Apps pilot allows ABC staff to test Google Apps' email, contacts and calendar functions and collect informed judgments regarding Google Apps in ABC.

What is Google Apps?

We believe Google Apps is a logical choice to meet the demands of a 21st century work place. **Google Apps includes email (Gmail), contacts, calendar, and a variety of features that range from collaborative document authoring and sharing (Google Docs) to powerful online file storage (Google Drive).**

Google Apps is "in the cloud." This means ABC Unified will not physically house Google's email system on its property. Instead, Google Apps access is via the Internet where it physically exists offsite somewhere associated with Google, and thus "in the cloud." ABC benefits from not needing to purchase and support expensive email hardware and software. ABC can expect more reliable service with Google Apps.

Google Apps allows all staff to "stay connected." Staff save email and work files in the cloud allowing them access to email, calendar, and documents anywhere with an Internet connection. ▶



Meet Irene Orozco: Interim IT Support Technician, District Email Administrator and Google Apps Trainer



Google Apps



Special Education Teachers Earn Autism Authorization

Beginning in September 2013, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) will require all special education teachers who serve students with autism to possess appropriate authorization in Autism Spectrum Disorders.



Ken Denman, Dr. Carol Hansen, Youmi Chung, Ray Gaer, and Leslie Fagan

In collaboration with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the ABCUSD Human Resources department provided a three course program on Autism Spectrum Disorders for 26 elementary and 35 secondary special education teachers in ABCUSD, allowing teachers to earn the state required Autism Spectrum Disorders authorization.

The courses were offered over three years and provided a comprehensive overview of autism for the participants. The teachers learned strategies that helped them be more effective when working with students on the autism spectrum, such as the use of structured teaching and visual supports. Fagan, ABCUSD's Supervisor-Special Education served as one of the key instructors in the program. ▶

Visit our website to learn about ABC USD's outstanding Magnet Schools!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Crechena Wise, Principal at Tetzlaff MS has been selected to take part in the 2013 National SpringBoard Advisory Council sponsored by the College Board in New York. Tetzlaff MS has been nominated as a National Demonstration School for SpringBoard.

Sergio Garcia, Principal-Artesia HS has been selected as the Secondary Principal Administrator of the Year by ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Region XIV this year. He will be honored at the ACSA Awards Dinner held on Wednesday, April 17th at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach.

Bill Hundley, Coordinator-Child Welfare & Attendance recently graduated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Clergy Academy. As a volunteer clergy leader, Pastor Hundley will assist and support the community, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lakewood Station to intercede with spiritual guidance in crisis situations.

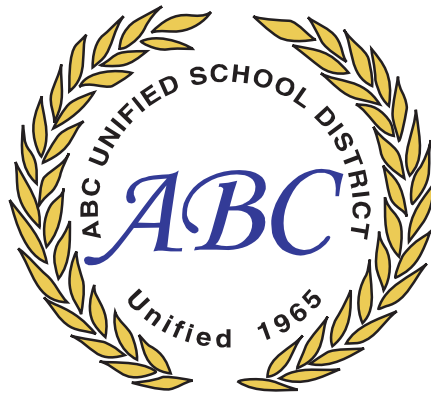
Los Angeles County Bilingual Directors' Association will be honoring the following administrators and parent volunteers in ABCUSD on April 20th at the Doubletree Hotel in Commerce:

Mayra A. Lozano, Outstanding Administrator of the Year, is the principal at Furgeson Elementary in the ABC Unified School District. Mayra has been an educator for the past 17 years and a principal since 2008.

Mike McCoy, Outstanding Administrator of the Year, is the Director, Child Development and Special Programs, for ABCUSD. He oversees the English Learner programs and Title III requirements for the K-12 district. He was formerly principal at Stowers Elementary and Aloha Elementary Schools. Mike has been in education for 35 years, having taught regular and special education students from preschool through high school.

Sara Gutierrez, Outstanding Parent Volunteer, currently serves as ABC Unified School District DELAC Secretary and Niemes Elementary PTA Secretary.

Raquel Moreno, Outstanding Parent Volunteer, was born in Michoacán, México and came to the United States at age 16. She is an active member of the school PTA and fundraising events and is currently a vice-chairperson of the DELAC. ▶



Board Members

Celia Spitzer - President
Sophia Tse - Vice President
Lynda Johnson - Clerk
Olympia Chen - Member
James Kang - Member
Maynard Law - Member
Armin Reyes - 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.