



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

March/April 2014 - Volume III - No 2



Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
Twitter: @abcsupt

“Developing a Local Control Accountability Plan”

In June 2013, the Legislature and Governor Brown signed a 2013-2014 State Budget and a new formula for the allocation of funds to school districts known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The enactment of the LCFF is a fundamental change in the way school districts are funded. The key elements in the LCFF are the demographics of a district’s student population, specifically the percentage of students who qualify for supplemental and concentration grants. In addition, each school district is required to adopt a new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by July 1, 2014. The LCAP is intended to be a comprehensive planning tool over the course of the next three years. The LCAP must address the State’s eight priorities. The State Board has grouped the eight priorities into three major areas: a) Conditions for learning; b) Pupil outcomes; and c) Engagement.

The LCAP will include a description of the annual goals and expected progress toward meeting the goals. Each year, the LCAP will be reviewed based on the identified metric. The District will be working with all the school sites to identify the goals for specific sub-groups, including pupils with disabilities, both at the District level and where applicable, at the school site level. The District is currently working on facilitating alignment between the LCAP and school plans. The LCAP will be shared with School Site Councils, English Learner Advisory Committee Members, and various District Advisory Committees.

The District will be engaging with key stakeholder groups including parents, students, teachers, unions, community members, English learner parents, and other key stakeholders in the development and review of the LCAP. This includes conducting parents meetings both at the District and school sites, disseminating e-surveys, working with Board advisory committees, working with the PTA District Council, and meeting with labor groups.

For more information on the LCAP, please check our website at www.abcsud.k12.ca.us. ▸

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Dr. Mary Sieu presented the State of the District Address on March 6 at the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce.

News From Our Schools

Gahr High School

The Gahr High School Winter Drumline performed on March 15 at the Marina High School ADLA Competition and won 1st Place in the Scholastic B Division. Based on their performance, Gahr was also promoted to the Scholastic A Division.

The Gahr High School Winter Guard also competed at the WGASC South Hills Contest and won 1st place in their division. ▶



Gahr HS Winter Guard 1st Place

A screenshot of the ABC Unified School District website. The header includes the district name and navigation links for About ABC, Community, Departments, Employees, Our Schools, Parents, School Board, Students, and Teachers. The main content area features a "Superintendent's Corner" with a photo of the superintendent and a short message, and an "About ABC School District" section with a brief description of the district's mission and history.

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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Gahr Concert Band Earns 'Unanimous Superior' at SCSBOA Festival!

On March 28th, the Gahr HS Concert Band participated in the SCSBOA (Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association) Festival hosted at Bellflower HS and earned Unanimous Superior! This is the highest rating possible and means that all three judges gave the group a "Superior" rating! Congratulations to the students on their hard work and on this incredible achievement!! ▶



Gahr HS Concert Band at the SCSBOA Festival

Fedde Middle School

Fedde MS History Day L.A. Team, under the direction of teacher Chad Laines, competed on Saturday, March 1, at Azusa Pacific University, where one of the entries placed as a runner-up, and three won in their categories. The three winners will now go on to the State Finals in Riverside, California in April.

2014 History Day Team • Teacher: Mr. Chad Laines

Group Exhibits

“Telemachus: A Courageous Stand for Human Rights” - Valeria Quezada and Aleeza Valdez

History DAY L.A. Winner and State Finalist

“Executive Order 9066: Rights Denied Over Race” - Anita Khammann, Kalifa Battiste, Jenine Cadlaon, Joseph Licas, Odessa Lobarbio

Group Performance

History Day L.A. Winner and State Finalist - “Native American Prisoners on the Rock Stripping the Hopi of Their Fundamental Right to Tradition and Culture” - Gerardo Carrillo, Roman Hernandez, Sebastian Guerrero, and Daniel Lopez

Individual Performances

History Day L.A. Winner and State Finalist - “Si Se Puede: Cesar Chavez’s Fight Equal Rights and Justice” - Luis De La Paz

History Day L.A. Runner-Up - “Grito De Dolores Father Hidalgo” - Jesus Orbe ▶



History Day L.A. Winner & State Finalist Team for "Executive Order 9066: Rights Denied Over Race"



Internment Exhibit



Fedde MS History Day L.A. Team and Teacher Chad Laines

News From Our Schools - CONTINUED

Whitney High School - Connecting Seniors Through Technology

This school year Whitney High School has been hosting classes dedicated to teaching senior citizens how to use new technology. The class is taught by the Whitney students who are members of the iPad Tech Team. According to Dr. Buss, the Principal of Whitney High School, the goal is to break barriers that may be hindering the senior citizens in the surrounding communities from adopting new technology. “We would like to thank the Shah family, who own MS International, Incorporated, for their sponsorship and we are so proud that our iPad Tech Team is doing an amazing job running this wonderful program. **iPad lessons are just the beginning as we continue to utilize our technology resources to benefit senior citizens in our community.**”

Each class is taught by a main student teacher, while a group of students provide personal help to each senior participant. “We are so glad to have the opportunity to connect with the generation of our grandparents through technology,” said Sharon Wang, Director of the iPad Tech Team. **“We have developed a wonderful relationship with our seniors, and shared our understanding of technology which will help them better connect with their family, friends, and communities.”** The next session began in March. For more information, contact Director Sharon Wang: sharonwglobal@gmail.com, Whitney High: www.whitneyhs.org, or visit www.facebook.com/technior.org to stay connected. ▶



iPad Tech Team Director Sharon Wang and Two Senior Students



iPad Tech Team and Senior Citizen Technology Class

District Spelling Bee

ABC Unified School District held its 9th annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 20th. One student per school site was represented in the Bee, for a total of 19 fourth through sixth graders. Within the hour, Lena Pattamadilok, a 5th grader from Melbourne Elementary was announced the winner. The winning word was troika. For the last nine years, a different school has won the Bee, clearly showing how dedicated and committed to academic excellence all of our ABC students are district wide! Lena participated in the LA County Bee in Alhambra on Wednesday, March 26th. ▸



Lena Pattamadilok, Winner of the 9th Spelling Bee

Reading Olympics



Kennedy ES 6th grader, Tess Prajakvinaibodee, was team captain of her winning team with Principal Melissa Valentine.

Third Grade Math Bee

On March 12th, Burbank, Carver, and Elliott elementary students competed in the 2nd Annual Third Grade Math Bee. The Math Bee is presented by Swun Math, LLC and was held at Artesia High School. The principals, teachers, students, and parents were joined by ABC Board member Mrs. Olympia Chen.

Students were quizzed on basic facts, multi-digit multiplication, problem solving using more than one operation, and equations with missing numbers using more than one operation. **Parents and teachers were holding their breath, and then clapping with pride as the students answered question after question.**

In the end, the winners came from all three elementary schools. John De Los Santos from Burbank finished first; Rahul Joshi from Elliott finished second; and Kirsten Chan from Carver finished third. ▸



Congratulations to all our Math Bee contestants!



Thank you to the Board and the City of Hawaiian Gardens for being at the ABC Reading Olympics for 4-6th graders.



Congratulations to Kennedy ES for being the 2014 Reading Olympics Champion after competing with 5 teams from ABC.

News From Our Schools - CONTINUED

Cerritos Optimist Essay Contest February 6, 2014

Annually, ABC Unified School District high school students are invited to participate in the Optimist International Essay Contest sponsored by the Cerritos Optimist Club. The purpose of the essay contest is to give young people room to develop their views around a central idea. In addition to the opportunity for written expression, participants have the chance to win a college scholarship.



Cerritos Optimist Club Members, Essay Winners, and District Staff

Approximately 200 ABC students entered the essay contest and each student wrote a 700-800 word essay on the official topic, "How Dreams Lead to Success." The first place winner of a \$300 scholarship was Michelle Whang, a junior from Whitney High School. Michelle's first place essay will move on to the next level of competition. The second place winner of a \$200 scholarship was Bria Overs a senior from Artesia High School. The third place winner of a \$100 scholarship was Hannah Morris, a senior from Cerritos High School. Thank you to the following contest coordinators at the schools: Ms. Rosi Gomes, Artesia High School; Ms. Denise Weuve, Cerritos High School; Ms. Yvette Habrun, Gahr High School; Ms. Genalyn Kaminsky, Tracy High School; and Mrs. RoseEllen Shea, Whitney High School. Thank you to all of the high school principals for their support of this contest. Finally, a special thank you to all of the Optimist Club members for supporting and recognizing ABC's outstanding high school students! ▶

Haskell STEM SmartLab

Haskell Middle School held its Grand Opening for their STEM SmartLab on March 27th. This has been a yearlong effort to get the STEM Lab off the ground as part of Haskell's new magnet program. It is a state-of-the-art STEM Lab and is a new 21st century learning environment for the students. Congratulations Haskell MS! ▶



Under the leadership of Principal Camille Lewis, a new STEM SmartLab is available to all 7-8 graders at Haskell MS.



Haskell MS students with Board President Sophia Tse and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu at the STEM SmartLab Grand Opening



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

News Around the District

ABC Team Invited to Present at National Labor-Management Conference

A team from ABC Unified School District was invited to present at the National Labor Management Conference held in St. Louis, MO on February 27-28, 2014. The team included Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent; Celia Spitzer, Board Member; Ray Gaer, President-ABCFT; Valencia Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent-Academic Services; Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Director of Schools; and Rich Saldana, Teacher-Artesia HS and PAL (Partnership with Administration and Labor) Coordinator.

The Conference was sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education, National Education Association, National School Boards Association, American Association of School Administrators, Council of the Great City Schools, Council of Chief State School Offices, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, and the American Federation of Teachers. This was the third joint conference on labor-management sponsored by these organizations. The theme of the conference was "On the Same Page: Effective Implementation of College-and Career Ready Standards through Labor Management Collaboration."



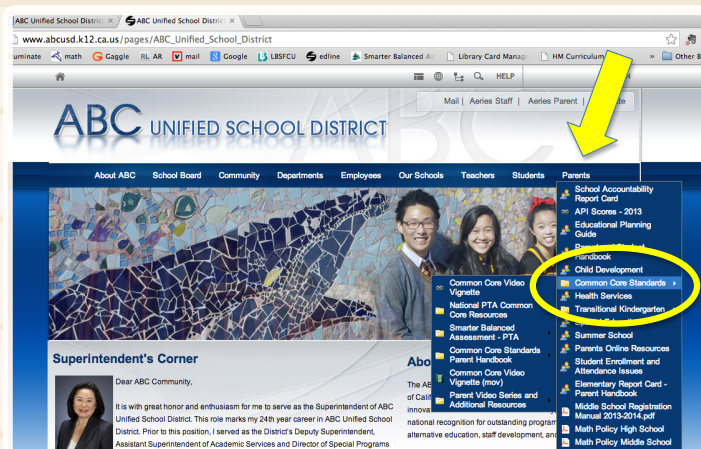
Director of Schools Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Assistant Superintendent Valencia Mayfield, Board Member Celia Spitzer, Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, and ABCFT President Ray Gaer.

The ABC team was invited based on their strong labor-management collaborative efforts during the past 15 years. They were one of only two school districts presenting during the Plenary Session of the Conference. ABCUSD was highlighted as an example of a school district where teachers and administrators are actively engaged in successfully implementing college and career ready standards. Over 300 people attended the Conference to also work on plans to continue collaboration among labor and management partners.

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan supported the work of the conference attendees and challenged the group to continue the conversation and action plans developed. ▶

Community Outreach towards the Common Core

Academic Services has recently updated the Parent Resources section available on the ABC USD website regarding the Common Core State Standards. When parents visit www.abcusd.k12.ca.us and click on the Parents tab, they will find a Common Core Standards folder that includes a variety of resources. The resources include links to the Common Core State Standards, the National PTA website for parent resources, and information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment. In addition, the folder entitled Parent Video Series and Additional Resources provides excellent digital and print resources to assist parents as they guide their students with the transition to these standards Common Core State Standards.



The topics of the video series include English Language Arts and Math standards, digital resources (such as apps and websites) that parents can use at home, as well as helpful tips and clues on how parents can support the standards. For example, the video entitled "Parent Resources - Mathematical Practices" gives parents an overview of the new standards along with reference resources. Some of the videos also highlight the work the District has done to prepare for the implementation of Common Core State Standards in 2014-15. For example, the video entitled "District Support - Course Planners" discusses the work that ABC teachers have done to align curriculum to the Common Core State Standards. ▶

Check out the great classes offered by ABC Adult School
www.abcadulthoodschool.edu



Curriculum and Professional Learning

Update from Curriculum and Professional Learning

There are three exciting pieces of information from the office of Curriculum. First, **ABCUSD has partnered with the Orange County Department of Education to provide specialized Common Core training for the Special Education teachers throughout our district.** This one day training is occurring in three cohorts through March. This training specifically guides Special Education teachers on how to appropriately address IEP goals using the new Common Core standards. Second, **the Units of Study curriculum guides for English Language Arts are rolling out to the school sites by the end of the month.** In February, Principals met with their Course Planners and Union representatives to preview these guides. These curriculum guides align the English Language Arts adopted materials in ABC with the new Common Core standards. ABC is proud to say that this is the collective work of about 100 teachers across grade levels and schools that came together to collaborate on this project. The work is ongoing as this first release is just a preview of the full guide that will go to school sites in the Fall of 2014. Finally, **the State Department of Education approved an instructional materials list for Math in January.** ABC Unified will begin the work of previewing these materials as they align to the Common Core standards and Mathematical practices in preparation for Mathematics textbook adoption. The Math Common Core Committee will be reconvened in March in order to begin this process. ▶

Partnership with Administration and Labor with CSEA (PAL2)

PAL 2 Staff Development Update

In March, **ABC Permanent Paraeducators participated in an informational workshop entitled, Getting to the Core-Introduction to Common Core.** Danielle Saldavia, Program Specialist, was the featured presenter from the Academic Services Office of Curriculum and Professional Development. Paraeducators had the opportunity to become familiar with the instructional shifts associated with the Common Core standards for English/Language Arts. **They used iPads to review the new Smarter Balanced Assessments.** Carol Castro, Supervisor of Curriculum and Professional Development, also presented two additional workshops on Common Core. It was a great learning opportunity for the Paraeducators. ▶

Community Involvement

Parent Leadership Conference

The 18th Annual Parent Leadership Conference was held on Saturday, March 22, 2014, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Cerritos Sheraton Hotel. The award winning conference, sponsored by ABCUSD, ABC Council PTA, and ABC Adult School celebrated the theme of "Parent Power." The conference was attended by over 350 people including parent representatives from every school and program in the District, ABCUSD Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, School Board Members, Principals, Administrators, and many Community Leaders.

The morning began with the General Session. A panel of three "Power Parent" duos from throughout the District shared their parenting experiences, successes, and challenges in the Keynote Address. Attendees also enjoyed entertainment provided by the Cerritos HS Drum Line and Cheerleaders, a delicious breakfast, and an inspiring video presentation created by Conference Moderator Mae Lovgren. Guests also had the opportunity to win one of many wonderful raffle prizes.

The General Session was followed by vendor viewing and two workshop sessions each offering five informative and inspirational workshop presentations for parents to choose from. Workshop topics included: *What Parents Need to Know About Smarter Balanced Assessments, School Safety, College and Career Readiness, The Power of Positive Messages, Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Harnessing the Power of the Public Library, Language and the Benefits of being Bilingual, Connecting Positive Discipline and Academic Achievement, and even one called, "Help, I'm Overwhelmed!"*

As always, the goal of this popular annual event was to inform and inspire parents to be involved in their own children's education as well as in their schools and community, in other words, to be "Power Parents!" ▶



18th Annual Parent Leadership Conference, "Power Parent"

ABC Schools Selected on Honor Roll by California Business for Education Excellence

Superintendent of ABC Unified School District, Dr. Mary Sieu is pleased to announce that the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) has named 16 schools in ABC to the 2013 Honor Roll. The 2013 Honor Roll includes public elementary, middle and high schools recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student achievement, improvement in achievement over time and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes measures of college readiness.

The 2013 Honor Roll Program is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, Macy's, Edison International, Wells Fargo, Southern California Auto Club, Enterprise, Chevron, the California Business Roundtable, and several private foundations.

The 10 STAR Schools, that include higher number of low income students yet attained higher academic achievement in ABC include: Artesia HS, Bragg ES, Stowers ES, Melbourne ES, Kennedy ES, Burbank ES, Tetzlaff MS, Nixon ES, Furgeson ES and Elliott ES.

The 6 Scholar Schools include: Carmenita MS, Cerritos ES, Leal ES, Whitney HS, Wittmann ES and Gonsalves ES. A total of 16, schools in ABC were recognized on the Honor Roll by the California Business for Education Excellence. Each school will receive an Honor Roll banner from CBEE to display in their school and recognized by the Board of Education in May.

According to Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, "The Honor Roll Schools are overcoming challenges and obstacles every day for all students and are especially succeeding with kids who have been historically underserved students. I'm pleased that CBEE highlights their results and provides a voice to these outstanding educators so that their success can be emulated in other places." ▶



ABC Adult School offers Great Summer Classes!

Check out the Summer Catalog at www.abcadultschool.edu

SUMMER FUN AT ABC ADULT SCHOOL

High School Students 16 & Older welcome in most classes.

REGISTER ONLINE!
www.abcadultschool.edu
Online Registration Begins: Friday, May 2 9 am
Walk-in Registration Begins: Friday, May 16 8 am

ABC ADULT SCHOOL
Learning for Life

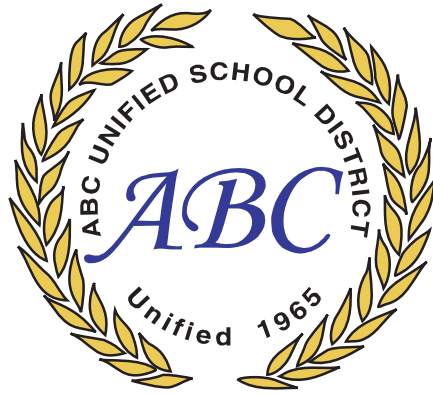
July 1 - July 25, 2014

Contact an ABC Adult School Campus Near You for More Information:

Cuesta Campus 12254 Cuesta Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 926-6734	Cabrillo Lane Adult Center 20122 Cabrillo Lane, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 809-9011
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www.abcadultschool.edu • (562) 926-6734

*Choose your classes carefully! There will be a charge of \$5 to transfer or \$10 processing fee to drop before the first day of class. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE FIRST CLASS MEETING.



Board Members

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



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published
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Call 562-926-5566 to join the District's email list.