



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# District Digest

March/April 2015 - Volume IV - No 4



**A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu**

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## New Changes in Assessment and Accountability

California is in the midst of a fundamental remaking of its assessment and accountability system that has been in place for 15 years. The changes are driven by several significant reform efforts at the State level. They include the following:

- Common Core State Standards adopted by the State Board of Education in August 2010 and the Next Generation Science Standards adopted in September 2013;
- The dramatic reform of California's school finance system adopted in 2013;
- A new statewide accountability system to replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program and reform the Academic Performance Index (API).



*ABC wins 2015 Magna Award from the National School Boards Association*

In ABC Unified School District, the first administration of the new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> will occur during the window period of April 20-June 12, 2015. The Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessments are computer based English language arts/literacy (ELA) and Mathematics tests. These assessments will measure students' knowledge of the ELA and Math standards, critical thinking, analytical writing and problem solving skills.

These new tests are significantly different from the previous state assessments. As a result, the scores from the old STAR and the new CAASPP test cannot be compared. The scores from this year's test will be used to establish baseline data to measure the growth students make over time. If there is a significant change in the student's score, it does not mean that the student learned less or that schools are not academically performing. As students experience multiple years of instruction related to the new standards and develop the technological skills used during the test, the results will show improvement over time.

Parent resources are available to help: "Parents Backpack Guide to Common Core Standards" (<http://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>), and "Teaching is the Core" (<http://www.engageny.org/resources/teaching-is-the-core>). More information is also available on our District's website.

The parents and schools will receive a report of the students' performance on the Smarter Balanced assessments. However, the State Board of Education has suspended using the results this year for the API. Schools will not be given an API score or ranking in 2015. The State is moving away from a single score, which has been at the heart of the state's accountability system to one that incorporates multiple measures that assess "deeper learning" and readiness for college and career success. The State Board of Education will create guidelines or "rubrics" for determining how schools are doing in the priority areas identified in the Local Control Accountability Plan. A revised API will be released in 2016 using a new accountability system. Full implementation of the new system will be a long term process as different elements of the system will be rolled out at different times during the next several years.

This is a key year for implementation of the new testing and accountability system in ABC and throughout the State. However, it's important to recognize that it will take several years before a complete accountability system will be fully in place. We ask the public to be aware of these changes and access the resources available to learn more about these new directions. ▀

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# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Artesia High School ROP Business Students Explore Careers in Global Trade at the Port of Los Angeles

**Artesia High School ROP Business students participated in a daylong program highlighting careers in global trade at the Port of Los Angeles with instructor Gina Newton.** The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce World Trade Week Education Committee sponsored the event.



Students were enlightened as Port of LA representatives shared an in-depth presentation in the boardroom outlining the many, yet often unknown, career paths and opportunities in an industry that employs one out of eight residents in the local Southern California area. Some of those careers included: Engineering, Law Enforcement, Marketing, Banking, Computer Technology, and Aviation.

The highlight of the presentation was the one-hour harbor tour. Terms and concepts about ship specifications, operations, and origins were witnessed first-hand as students paraded by docks, cranes, ships, and cargo containers.

**This opportunity was one of many Artesia High School efforts to move their students into becoming 21<sup>st</sup> century active participants and leaders in global and international trade. »**

## Artesia High School Wrestling

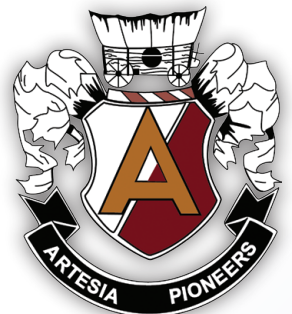
**Artesia Senior Wrestler Cristian Rodriguez is the 2015 Suburban League Champion at 128 pounds, and placed 4<sup>th</sup> at Southern California's Northern Section CIF Meet.** The top eight wrestlers from CIF qualified for the Masters Meet, held at the Citizen Bank Arena in Ontario.



Artesia HS has not qualified a wrestler for Master's in the past five years. The City of Lakewood Hall of Fame Ceremony, Cristian was awarded the McDonald's 2015 Press-On Award for his Inspirational come back from his gruesome leg injury in football. Cristian is Artesia's 2015 Wrestling Team Captain and MVP this year. »

## Artesia High School

# 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY





# Cerritos HS Wins 2015 Regional Science Olympiad

Cerritos HS placed second out of the 185 schools competing in the L.A. County Regionals Science Olympiad and qualified the team to compete in the state championship. ►



*Cerritos Science Olympiad Team with their medals and trophies.*

## ABC's 2015 L.A. County Spelling Bee Champion



*2015 Spelling Bee Winners (l-r)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Anthony Chiang, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Foothills MS, Arcadia Unified;*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Liv Bjorgum, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Sierra Madre MS, Pasadena Unified;*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place: Khang Dinh, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Leal Elementary, ABC Unified*



**ABC Adult School offers Great Summer Classes!**

**SUMMER FUN AT ABC ADULT SCHOOL**

**ABC Summer School**

**ADULT SCHOOL**  
*Learning for Life*

**REGISTER ONLINE!**  
[www.abcadultschool.edu](http://www.abcadultschool.edu)  
Online Registration Begins: Friday, May 1, 9 am  
Walk-in Registration Begins: Friday, May 15, 8 am

**June 29 - July 23, 2015**

**Contact an ABC Adult School Campus Near You for More Information:**  
Cuesta Campus: 12284 Cuesta Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 926-6734  
Cabrillo Lane Adult Center: 20723 Cabrillo Lane, Cerritos, CA 90703 (562) 809-9011

\*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.

**Check out the Summer Catalog  
at [www.abcadultschool.edu](http://www.abcadultschool.edu)**



# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## Fedde History Day

**This year, Fedde MS had two groups making it to the finals History Day Competition Exhibit Category. One performance team will be going to State.** The team includes Emily Rubalcava and Alana Morrow-Brown with their performance on Leonardo da Vinci. ▶



*Fedde MS Teacher Chad Lains and the students in the History Day Competition.*

## Teacher Interview Event (TIE)

The Teacher Interview Event (TIE) held at the District Office on April 15, 2015 drew over 187 candidates for positions in the District. The TIE is under the leadership of Dr. Carol Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. ▶



## Fedde MS and the Kaiser Hippocrates Circle

**Approximately 60 Fedde International Studies Academy students participated in Kaiser Hippocrates Circle visit to the Kaiser Downey Medical Center.**

Students met with different medical specialists and learned about the day to day operations of a hospital. Next for the Hippocrates Circle students is a visit to Western University in Pomona and their medical program. The purpose of the Hippocrates Circle is to provide youth from under represented communities and diverse backgrounds with awareness that a career as a physician is possible. The Hippocrates Circle is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. ▶



*Fedde MS students toured Kaiser Permanente Downey*



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

**[www.abcusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.abcusd.k12.ca.us)**



## Gahr HS Winter Winter Guard

The Gahr HS Winter Guard won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) Valencia HS Contest and 1<sup>st</sup> place at the WGASC Mayfair HS Contest in the Scholastic AAA division. This is the second year Gahr HS has had a competitive color guard and 11 of the 16 students are first-year members.



*Congratulations to the Gahr HS Winter Guard.*

Their 2015 show entitled, "Kites," colorfully portrays the imagery of flying kites with music set to John Adam's "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" and Rossini's finale to the "William Tell Overture." ►

## Migrant Education Parental Involvement



*Parent Advisory Council Meeting being held at the City of Hawaiian Gardens*

**This year, the Migrant Education Program has been working tirelessly to increase parent involvement.** The Migrant Education Program has a Student-Parent Center housed at Furgeson Elementary School, which offers parent workshops, English as a Second Language classes, and various meetings on a daily basis. Furthermore, their Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets monthly, with an average attendance of 80 parents. In fact, PAC's past meeting, held on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the City of Hawaiian Gardens, hosted over 200 parents. Their guest speaker was The Central American Resource Center (CARE-CEN), a non-profit organization, and Immigration Attorney Erika Pinheiro also spoke on the topic of the President's Executive Order on Immigration. **At the conclusion of this meeting, Hawaiian Garden's Council Member Mr. Victor Farfan addressed the parents, thanking them for their support and involvement. Council Member Farfan also commended the Migrant Education Program for reaching out to parents and offering these informative forums in our community.** ►

## SBAC Parent Information Nigh

Carmenita MS, Cerritos ES, Gonsalves ES, Leal ES, Stowers ES, and Wittmann ES held a Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) parent meeting on March 30, 2015. Information on the various aspects of the SBAC assessment included exposing them to the practice tests. Over 140 parents attended the Parent Night Meeting with standing room only. ►





# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Leadership Conference - March 14, 2015



*Gahr HS parents with Principal Dr. Gina Zietlow and Child Development Coordinator Fayerose Moustafa and parent.*



*Tetzlaff Academy Parents with Dean of Students, Tuesday Stouffers*



*Dr. Mary Sieu with Co-Chairs Cheri Luo, Janet Aasness and Principal of Adult School Dr. Paoling Guo.*



*Celebrating the District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Parent Leadership Conference.*



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala - March 6, 2015



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, March 6, 2015, sponsored by the ABC Education Foundation. Pictured (l-r) Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu; Lifetime Achievement Awardees: Richard Kent, Dennis Arriola, Mindy Ruiz, Julie Su, Dr. Richard T. Anderson; and Foundation Chair Cindy Yen Chen.

## 2015 Broadview Mortgage Scholarship Program

At the Gala, two ABC seniors were announced as winners of the first annual Broadview Mortgage Scholarship. Each student was awarded \$2,500 and a paid internship at the mortgage company. Chris Apodaca, Director of Business Development, presented the awards. ▶



Artesia High School Senior Willow Benton



Gahr High School Senior Luisa Paredes



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - March 28, 2015



*A Look Back in Time*

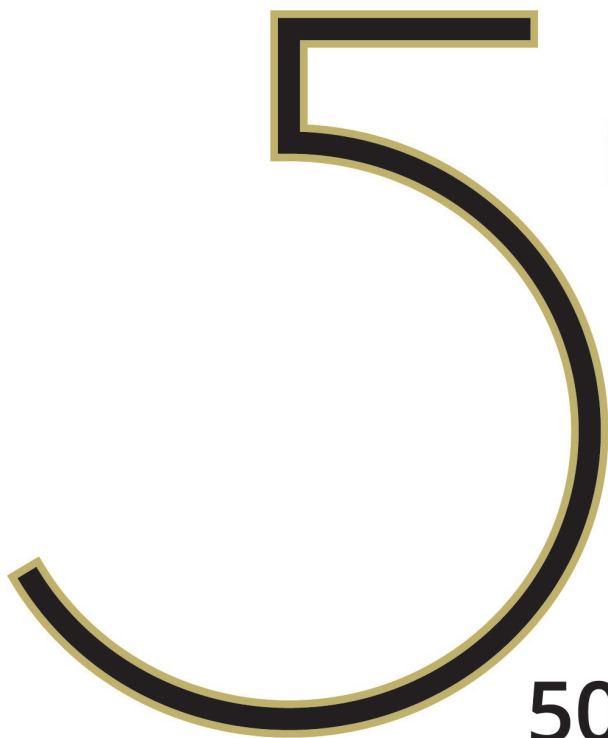


*Thank you to all our civic leaders for joining us at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*





*Historical Look Back*



**1965-2015**  
**CELEBRATING**  
**50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE**



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - March 28, 2015



*Historical Archives*



*Historical Archives*



*Artesia Historical Society Barbara Applebury and Elaine Burdick*



*State Senator Tony Mendoza*



*Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia*



*Superintendent Hisashi Kato, City of Kakamigahara, Japan*





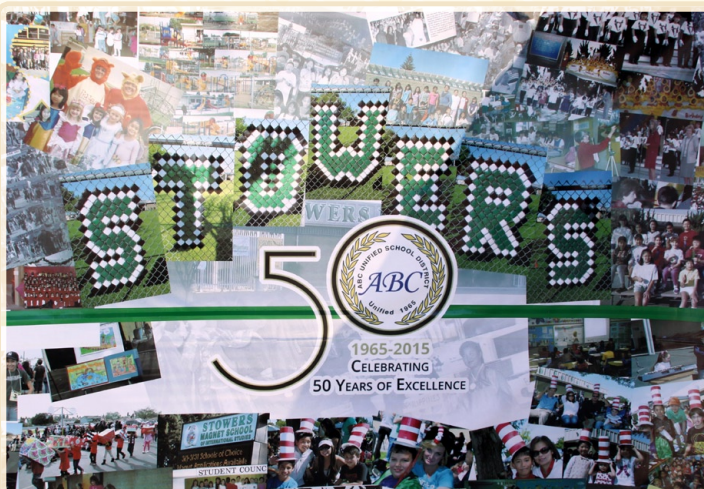
*Mr. Pharis Fedde*



*Schools hosted booths showcasing their schools.*



*Fun and games at the booths!*



*50 Years of Excellence*



*Lion Dancers Performing*



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - March 28, 2015



*Bragg ES performing Polynesian dances*



*Niemes ES performing Folklorica Dances*



*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Filomena Macedo, Dr. Mary Sieu, Rebecca Michel-Macias, Valencia Mayfield, and Linda Harbin*



*Dr. Mary welcoming former Board Member Marilyn Rubio at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*



*Burbank ES Spirit Squad and Bulldogs performing cheers*



*Leal ES "Lion Around their Booth"*



# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Crechena Wise

**ACSA Region XIV Administrator of the Year** – Crechena Wise, Principal of Tetzlaff Academy has been selected as the 2015 Middle School Administrator of the Year Award for ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Region XIV. She will be recognized at the Leadership Matters: Celebrating Our Leaders Awards Ceremony and Dinner on May 6, 2015 at The Grand in Long Beach. She has also been selected as the State ACSA Middle School Administrator of the Year for 2015. She will be recognized at the November Leadership Summit held in Sacramento. Congratulations to Crechena Wise in this well deserved recognition!

## Dr. PaoLing Guo

**58<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Woman of the Year** – Dr. PaoLing Guo, Principal of Adult School was selected as Assembly Member Cristina Garcia's "Woman of the Year". She was recognized during a special Assembly Floor Ceremony on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. Congratulations to Dr. PaoLing Guo!

## Jackie Burneson

**57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 2015 Distinguished Women of the Year** – In honor of Women's History Month, Assemblymember Ian Calderon named Gahr HS teacher Jackie Burneson as one of 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 2015 Distinguished Women of the Year. Ms. Burneson was honored during an evening ceremony on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Cerritos College. Ms. Burneson teaches Chemistry at Gahr High School and serves as Co-Chair of the Science Department. Her career in education spans 27 years at El Rancho Unified School District and ABC Unified School District, where she has taught CP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental Science. Ms. Burneson also tutors chemistry at Gahr High School, providing assistance and guidance to all students during afterschool hours. Additionally, she serves as an advisor for the California Scholarship Federation Club, helping foster the recognition and education of academically talented students. Through constant encouragement and companionship, Ms. Burneson continues to inspire and motivate students to become the best they can be. Congratulations Ms. Burneson! ▀





## 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.

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