



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

March/April 2016 - Volume V - No 4



In This Issue

News From Our Schools
and Around The District 2-6
Community Involvement 7

A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

Follow me on Twitter: @abcsupt

“Woman of the Year”

I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the 32nd Senate District 2016 Woman of the Year in the area of Education. On March 4, 2016, State Senator Tony Mendoza recognized eight prominent women who made outstanding contributions in their fields and are community leaders in the 32nd Senate District. The other women recognized included Ani Samuelian, Vinita Vineet, Rebecca Cline, Carmen Miller, Sergeant Maria Ingram, Brenda Sandoval, and Dr. Nina Smart. The keynote speaker for the event was Congresswoman Janice Hahn from District 44. I was grateful to have been accompanied by my son Kam, daughter-in-law Bethel, President of the Board of Education Olympia Chen, Board Clerk Soo Yoo, Board Member Letty Mendoza, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Director of Secondary Schools, Ann Griffio, Coordinator of Career Technical Education, Laura Lowe, Executive Administrative Assistant, and Danielle Weseman, Administrative Assistant.



Ann Griffio, Coordinator of Career Technical Education, Laura Lowe, Executive Administrative Assistant, Board Member Letty Mendoza, President of the Board of Education Olympia Chen, Senator Tony Mendoza, Dr. Mary Sieu, ABCUSD Superintendent, Dr. Rhonda Buss, Director of Secondary Schools, Board Clerk Soo Yoo, and Danielle Weseman, Administrative Assistant

The 2016 Woman of the Year Awards Luncheon was held at the Cerritos Library-Skyline Room. This event was to celebrate Women’s History Month that began in the State Capitol in 1987. According to State Senator Tony Mendoza, “Each honoree has contributed to her community in significant ways and was chosen based on her continued service. It is with a sense of respect and celebration that we set aside today to recognize and pay tribute to these amazing women.”

This recognition can only be accepted on behalf of all of us who make up the ABC Unified School District. This includes the extraordinary 30,737 Pre-K to Adult School students we serve each day throughout the District. I have the great honor of working with a Governance Team that is committed to our 3,473 employees who work hard to provide the best educational experiences for our students and families. I know the important role that parents and community members play in our success. I am honored to lead one of the finest school districts in California and this recognition represents the fine work surrounding me each day, in every class.

Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Artesia High School - MESA Day

Artesia High School sent the largest team to Senior Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Day preliminaries at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) with 48 students and three teachers. This year's competition was the largest attended with over 600 students competing from 12 area schools. Artesia HS competed in seven events which included: The National Engineering Design Competition Prosthetic Arm, Airplane, Mousetrap Car, Egg Drop, Civil Structure Bridge, Speak Out, and Mathematics.

The team of Jason Lopez, Luis Ong, Andrew Song, and Andres Vasquez won 1st place for National Engineering Design Competition Prosthetic Arm Challenge 2.0. The team won 1st place for object relocation, dexterity, and distance. They also passed the performance task. The team of Luis Ong, Andrew Song, and Andres Vasquez won 1st place for Team Math Quest. The team of Gladys Ceja and Jasmine Robles won 2nd place for Civil Structures (Bridge) for Strength and 2nd place for Design. The team of Karen Badajoz and Oscar Barragan won 3rd place for Civil Structures (Bridge) Strength. Jennifer Lopez won 1st place for Mousetrap Car going up a 30 degree ramp. She also won 3rd place for Design in the 11th/12th grade category. Benjamin Ramirez won 3rd place for Mousetrap Car Design in the 9th/10th grade category. The team of Valeria Lopez and Jorge Gutierrez won 1st place for Bridge Design and 3rd place for Mousetrap Car Design.

These students will represent CSULB and compete against UCLA, USC, and CSLA on April 9th. Artesia HS has been competing for 17 years in the MESA Day competitions under the direction of Sharon Pollock and has won Gold Medals every year. Mariane Youssef and Catherine Pascual have been MESA advisers for four years. Many MESA students have gone to college and majored in engineering, math, and science. ▸



Fedde Middle School - Great News from History Day L.A.

Fedde MS History teacher Chad Laines sent six teams this year to History Day L.A. and three are now California History Day finalists. The teams headed to the finals are: Junior Group Documentary-Santiago Hermosillo and Victor Esquivias; Junior Group Performance-Abigail Perez, Madisun McNair, Alana Morrow-Brown, Yunehe Rodriguez, and Ashley Robles; Junior Group Exhibit-Angela Lopez, Omar Gonzalez, Aylin Borja, Darla Ortiz, and Angela Lopez. ▸



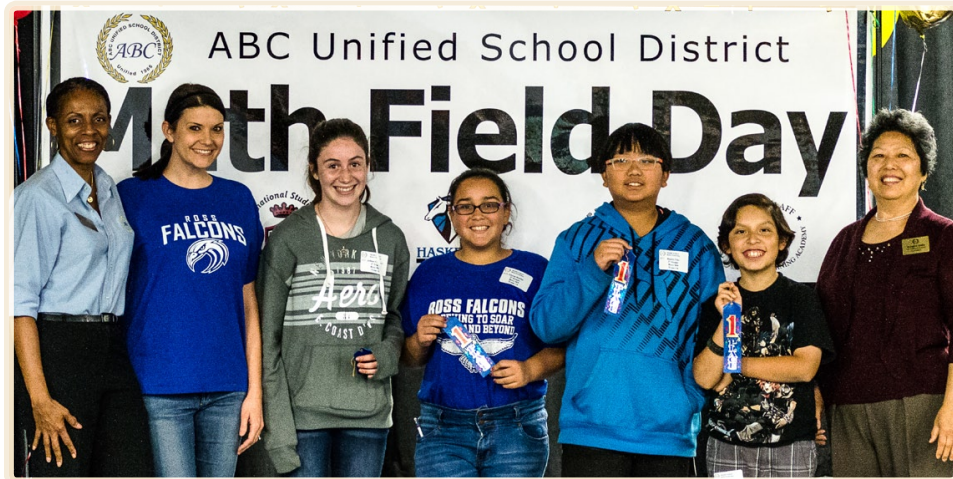
*Junior Group Performance: "Who Really Discovered America?"
Yunehe Rodriguez, Abigail Perez, Ashley Robles, Alana Morrow-Brown,
Madisun McNair with Teacher Chad Laines*

2016 Schools to Watch Ross MS Academy

On February 25-27 at the Schools to Watch Awards Luncheon and California Middle Grades Alliance Conference, Ross MS Academy was honored as one of the 11 new Schools to Watch/Model Middle Schools. Board Vice President Apodaca and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu along with Principal Ricardo Brown and four Ross teachers were honored at these events. State Senator Tony Mendoza introduced and recognized the ABC team at the State Senate Session held at the Capitol on Thursday morning prior to the Awards Luncheon with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson. ▶



Ross Teachers Jim Keating, Luisa Nunes, Erica Aguirre, Vice President Chris Apodaca, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Principal Ricardo Brown, Director Dr. Irving Howard, Teacher Bill Mead, and Co-Director Carol Carlson



*Ross MS 7th Graders Win Math Field Day Competition
Assistant Superintendent-Academic Services Valencia Mayfield,
Teacher Amanda Silvas, Students Jillian Crockett, Ginna Rocha, Harry Cho, R. Quirarte,
and Board President Olympia Chen*



*Fedde MS 8th Graders Win Math Field Day Competition
Fedde MS Principal Ricardo Lois, Teacher Gilbert Arellano,
Students Diego Lopez, Kevin Feng, Johan Tamayo, Casey Merida,
Board President Olympia Chen, and Assistant Superintendent-Academic Services Valencia Mayfield*

Academic Services Secondary Curriculum Department

On February 27, the District held its 1st Annual ABC USD Math Field Day district wide. Students participated from Carmenita, Fedde, Haskell, and Ross Middle Schools. Each school sent a seventh and eighth grade team to compete in three events at their respective grade levels. Two of the three events consist of team problems in the areas of conceptual understanding and problem solving, while the third event is an individual event with problems focused more on procedural skills. Team scores consist of a graded team answer and group interaction and collaboration score. For the individual event, an average of individual student scores comprises the third event score. An awards ceremony closed out the event where parents, teachers/coaches, principals, and district administration attended. Teams were awarded 1st through 4th place ribbons based on overall team scores. Our two first place teams were Ross Middle School (7th grade) and Fedde Middle School (8th grade). These two teams will move on to represent ABCUSD at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Math Field Day on April 30, 2016 at Glendale High School. ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

First District 3rd Grade Math Bee

Congratulations to Rebecca Liu, Leal ES for winning 1st place at the District Third Grade Math Bee Competition held on March 10, 2016 at Artesia HS Fine Arts Center. The second place winner was Lilian Li from Juarez ES and third place winner was Jadelyn Macaraeg from Palms ES. The program was moderated by Dr. Beth Bray, Supervisor of Elementary Curriculum and Professional Development Office and coordinated by Eric Vieira, Program Specialist in Academic Services. All 19 elementary schools participated with their school champions for the District 3rd Grade Math Bee. The principals and teachers attended with the parents at this first district wide competition supported by Swun Math. ▶



First District 3rd Grade Math Bee Winners and District Staff

11th Annual District Spelling Bee

On Thursday, February 25th ABC hosted its 11th Annual District Spelling Bee at Cerritos High School. 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students representing each of our 19 elementary schools participated in the event. Nikhil Lingineni, a 6th grade student from Leal Elementary was awarded 1st place. Nikhil went on to represent ABC as our District Champion at the County Spelling Bee on March 30th in Downey. ▶



Dr. Beth Bray, Supervisor - Elementary Curriculum & Professional Development, Nikhil Lingineni, 6th grade Leal ES student, Board President Olympia Chen, and Board Member Lynda Johnson

ABCUSD 4th Annual Reading Olympics

Congratulations Furgeson ES for winning the 2016 Reading Olympics! This event has two goals: to foster a love of reading; and to teach cooperation and teamwork. Melissa Valentine, Principal at Kennedy ES, organized the event and the ABCUSD Education Foundation sponsored the event.

This year seven schools, Kennedy, Niemes, Palms, Hawaiian, Stowers, Melbourne, and Furgeson elementary schools competed on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the Hawaiian Gardens Community Center. Each school had a team of 12 students (plus 2 alternates) from grades 4, 5, and 6. Each team collectively read all 20 books on the official book list. There were three rounds of questions in which team members collaborated on the answers and submitted their answers via electronic device to the judges. At the end of the competition, ribbons were awarded to each member of the teams based on the teams' total points, red, blue, or green. The top scoring school received the "Reading Olympics Grand Champion" trophy to be displayed at their school site. ▶



Furgeson ES - Winners of the 4th Annual Reading Olympics

ABC Female Wrestlers

ABC Unified School District had three young ladies qualify for State. Ophelia Lara of Gahr HS took first place, Priscilla Surjopolos of Gahr HS took 5th place, and Saira Labrim of Cerritos HS also took 5th place. ▶



Career Technical Education Grant

ABCUSD has been approved for the new CTE Incentive Grant of \$1,451,488. The grant will provide support and develop 21st century career and college readiness programs for the District. Thank you to Dr. Rhonda Buss, Ann Griffo, and all our high school principals for the development of the CTE Incentive Grant. ▶

National School Boards Association (NSBA)

ABCUSD has received an Honorable Mention by the National School Boards Association for districts with over 20,000 students in the District. The Honorable Mention recognition by the National School Boards Association is for ABC's Youth Leadership Summit. It was highlighted in the April issue of the American School Board Journal. ABC will be formally recognized on Saturday, April 9 at the Best Practices for School Leaders Luncheon which is part of NSBA's 76th Annual Conference in Boston. Vice President Chris Apodaca, Board Clerk Soo Yoo, Board Members Maynard Law, and Sophia Tse and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu will be attending the Awards Luncheon. ▶

ABC District Council PTA Wins Spotlight Award

ABC District Council PTA won the Spotlight Award for Communication by the State PTA. They will be honored at the State PTA Convention in San Diego in May. ▶

Cheri Luo Selected for Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's Woman of the Year

Cheri Luo, President of the ABC District Council PTA was selected for Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's Woman of the Year for the City of Cerritos. She was honored at an Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 18 at the SoCalGas Company Energy Resource Center in Downey. President Chen, along with Dr. PaoLing Guo and Dr. Mary Sieu were invited to attend the Awards Luncheon with her family and friends. ▶



Child Development

Artesia High School Children's Center (AHSCC) held their annual Kindergarten Roundup event on Thursday evening, March 3rd. Parents of all children who will be transitioning from Preschool into Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten were invited to attend. Ms. Arlene Riddick and Ms. Reema Suleiman took turns explaining the transition process. A fan of Disneyland, Ms. Arlene wore several "hats" during the roundup meeting. Her conductor hat led the audience on a virtual tour of the documents and procedures needed to enter school.



While wearing her Princess Leah hat, Ms. Arlene introduced Ms. Dulce Barnum, TK teacher at Burbank Elementary School. Ms. Reema spoke on the Schools of Choice process. This was especially interesting to families as students from all around the district attend AHSCC. After school programs were also introduced by Ms. Danielle Saldavia who shared information about the Extended Day Program and ASES/EXTRA programs. Ms. Dulce shared a teacher's perspective of what incoming children will need and how parents can help prepare their children. Finally, did you know that Disneyland and The City of Cerritos are both turning 60? Ms. Arlene wore her 60th Anniversary Mickey hat for her class of parents. Many families had questions answered, and they left with information regarding their home school and how to enroll in school. With the help of Ms. Arlene and Ms. Reema, ABC will have a new "flock" of incoming Kindergarteners for the 2016-17 school year. ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

State of the District

On March 10, 2016, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu presented the “State of the District” at the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. It was a sold out crowd of over 160 participants at the Luncheon. The “State of the District” address is an opportunity to share with our community the progress made during the past year on our District’s Strategic Plan as well as the Local Control Accountability Plan. ▶



Scott Smith, Cerritos Chamber - Executive Director, Board Member Sophia Tse, Board President Olympia Chen, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Board Clerk Soo Yoo, and Board Member Maynard Law

20th Annual Parent Leadership Conference

On March 19, the District held its 20th Annual Parent Leadership Conference (PLC) at the Sheraton Cerritos Hotel. Over 400 participants representing all the schools in the District participated. The PLC is a collaborative program with ABCUSD, Adult School, and ABC-PTA. ▶



Community Involvement

Migrant Education Program

The ABC Migrant Education Program has built strong partnerships with our community leaders. Recently, City National Bank collaborated with Barnes & Noble to share the joy of reading with our students! They received a generous book donation over the holidays, allowing them to provide every Migrant Education student with books for the holidays. The donations continue as they just received a check for \$19,025, which is redeemable for more books for our students! We want to thank both City National and Barnes & Noble for sharing the joy of reading with us! ▶



Martha Navarro, Parent Liaison; Cecilia Perez, Recruiter; Delise Wyrick, Manager/Barnes & Noble-Community Business Development; Charles Mariano, Vice President/Branch Manager-City National Bank; Carolyn Rodriguez, Vice President/Program Administrator Marketing City National Bank; Angela Fernandez, Program Specialist; Helia Carlos, Recruiter

Aloha Elementary School



Board Member Johnson, and City of Lakewood Mayor Wood visit Aloha ES

Board Member Johnson, Principal Julie Yabumoto, and Mayor Wood

Palms Elementary School



Board Member Lynda Johnson, City of Lakewood Mayor Jeff Wood, and Principal Eveline Huh at the Palms ES Garden



Board Members

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