



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

March/April 2017 - Volume VI - No 4



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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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ABC Unified School District: Safety First

On behalf of the ABC Unified School District and its Board of Education, our thoughts and prayers go out to the students, teachers, staff, and the entire community at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino Unified School District. This was a tragedy, especially for young students who were impacted by the events. The safety of our students and staff remain our highest priority in ABC Unified School District. As a reminder, in ABC Unified School District, we regularly practice school-wide drills and perform school safety protocols. We update our school safety plans on an annual basis. We emphasize reporting of suspicious people or behaviors on campus. We are fortunate to have a strong working relationship with our local law enforcement agencies that serve our District.

During the past several years, we have enlisted early mental health professionals who are available in all our schools. They address issues of anxiety or confusion especially during these times. There are Wellness Coordinators, Social Workers, Counselors, and Support Staff who are available in our schools for students to talk with should they need additional support. These additional resources have been a part of our District's Local Control Accountability Plan for the past several years. In addition, we have worked with a Community Resource Team, comprised of over twenty local community based agencies who can provide support for students and families in our District. A District Social Worker currently works with the referrals for the Community Resource Team. Please refer to our District's website at: www.abcusd.k12.ca.us for additional information regarding these resources. ▶



Burbank ES "We Are From Everywhere"

News From Our Schools and Around The District

5th Annual Reading Olympics

On Saturday, March 10, the 5th Annual Reading Olympics was held at Artesia HS with teams representing 17 elementary schools. It was an exciting event focusing on teams that have read 20 books in the competition. Congratulations to Elliott ES, Hawaiian ES, and Wittmann ES for placing 1st Place in the 5th Annual Reading Olympics! Special thanks to Kennedy ES Principal Melissa Valentine, who started this in 2012 with only two schools! Today, it's a districtwide competition! ▶



Elementary Reading Olympics, March 11



Gahr HS Drumline

Congratulations to the Gahr HS Winter Drumline on a great debut performance of their production, "The Traveler," on March 11 at Marina High School, taking 1st place in Scholastic A! ▶



3rd Grade District Math Bee



3rd Grade Math Bee Winner Keenan Park, Gonsalves ES

ABCUSD's Award Winning Magnet Schools -

DISTINCTIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES:

- Aloha Elementary School - Health Medical Academy
- Burbank Elementary School - Visual, Performing and Folk Arts Magnet
- Carver Elementary School - Academy of Communication Arts
- Elliott Elementary School - World Navigators
- Ferguson Elementary - Academy of Communications & Technology
- Leal Elementary School - Visual and Performing Arts
- Niemes Elementary School - Environmental Science & Technology
- Nixon Elementary School - Academy of Multimedia Arts
- Palms Elementary School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Stowers Elementary School - School of International Studies
- Fedde Middle School - International Studies Academy
- Haskell Middle School - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Academy (STEM)
- Ross Middle School - Academy of Creative and Media Arts
- Tetzlaff Middle School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Artesia High School - Accelerated Learning Academy
- Gahr High School - STEAM Magnet High School (STEM plus Arts)



2nd College and Career Forum

On Wednesday, January 25, 2017, ABC Unified School District held its 2nd “College and Career Forum.” Approximately 50 Deputy Sector Navigators, community college representatives, business partners, secondary administrators, and CTE pathway teachers attended. The goal of this forum was to effectively work together to better prepare ABC students for the ever changing workplace and/or continue postsecondary education opportunities. ▶



High School Girls Wrestling Team

In commemoration of Women’s History Month, Dr. Sieu and the Board recognized the special young women in the high schools that are developing leadership in the area of girls wrestling at Artesia, Cerritos, and Gahr high schools. These young women participated in the CIF Southern Section Masters Meet and/or State Meet. President Apodaca presented Certificates of Recognition to Stephanie Perez, Daisy Garcia, and Jessica Hernandez from Artesia HS; Desiree Estrada, Amaris Pedroza, Kaycee Fittero, Megan White, and Rebekah Parker from Cerritos HS; Skylar Cerny, Priscilla Surjopolos, and Angelica Veyra from Gahr HS. Students were accompanied by Cerritos HS Coach Bryan Jernigan and Gahr HS Coaches Danny Cerny and Henry Chung. ▶



Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, and Gahr HS Girls Wrestling Teams

Innovation Lab for Professional Development

On March 8, we unveiled the opening of the Innovation Lab for Professional Development at the District Office. The Innovation Lab is located in the back of the District Office and designed to be used for future professional development workshops. Dr. Colin Sprigg, the IT Department, and Academic Services have been working for the past several years on repurposing the space in the back of the District Office for professional development. ▶



News From Our Schools and Around The District

NASA Astronaut Visit to Haskell MS

Community partner Cerritos Mayor George Ray contributed to teachers' and students' knowledge of careers in the field of engineering. Over the course of three years, ABC received approximately \$1.3 million dollars from the California Mathematics and Science Partnership (CaMSP) grant. The CaMSP grant, which ends in June, provided middle and high school science teachers the opportunity to receive professional development in the Next Generation Science Standards and to explore careers in engineering. The grant also required districts to establish a Regional Collaborative Partnership. Mayor Ray is an active member of this advisory committee and has provided two days of job-shadowing opportunities for science teachers. Science teachers toured LeFiell Manufacturing Corporation and met with Mayor Ray to learn first hand the significant role LeFiell Corporation plays in the commercial airplane, defense, and aerospace industries. Teachers also learned about the skills Mayor Ray believe are critical for students interested in future employment opportunities in this industry. Teachers commented that this learning experience was insightful and broadened their understanding of how to connect science to engineering careers.



In conjunction with ABC's newly founded Next Generation Scientist Club, Mayor Ray arranged for Astronauts Brian Duffy and Thomas Marshburn to speak to a crowded assembly of 7th and 8th grade students at Haskell Middle School, on March 21, 2017. Students heard members from the NASA Space Launch System and Orion Program speak of their upcoming exploration to Mars. What once seemed only a fairy tale, students were excited to learn of Exploration Mission-I, the first exploration that will enable humans to travel into deep space on NASA's journey to Mars. Exploration Mission-I is scheduled to launch in 2018. In the afternoon of March 21, 2017, approximately 400 students, parents, and ABC staff joined the Astronauts at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center to hear more from the visiting team.



In appreciation of his outstanding support for students and educators, Mayor Ray is a 2017 ABC Standing Ovation recipient and was recognized on April 4, 2017, by the ABC Board of Education for his contribution to supporting science education for students and teachers in ABC. ▶

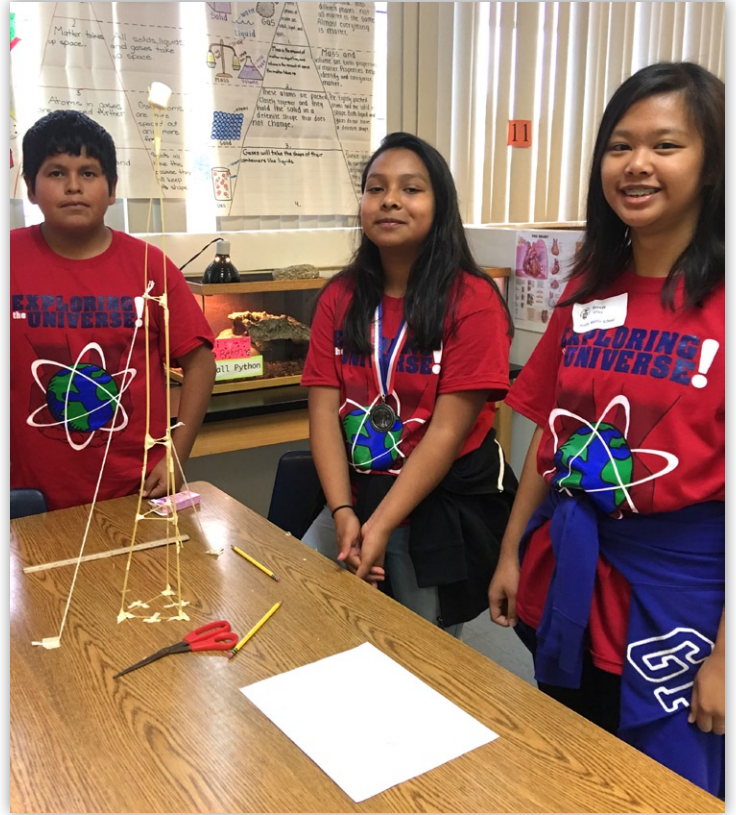


Middle School STEM Olympics

Middle School STEM Olympics held on Saturday, April 7, 2017 at Ross MS. ▶



Middle School STEM Olympics Egg Crash Test



Fedde MS students participate in the Spaghetti Tower Challenge at the Middle School STEM Olympics



Fedde MS students along with Fedde MS Counselor Thuy-Vi Nguyen participate in the Junk Box Challenge at the Middle School STEM Olympics



Board Member Maynard Law and the Cerritos Optimist Club donate \$1,500 to sponsor the Middle School STEM Olympics

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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Migrant Education Program

This year the Migrant Education Program has been very successful in providing opportunities for Parent Involvement with over 100 parent meetings, classes, and workshops held at various school sites. On Friday, March 24th, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) held their monthly meeting at Hawaiian Elementary School with over 100 parents in attendance. The parents under the guidance of Angela Fernandez, Migrant Education Program Specialist, reviewed the Migrant Education Program's District Service Agreement (DSA) and provided valuable feedback to help draft next year's plan. Also, the meeting featured a special guest speaker, Mr. Espinoza, Immigration Attorney, who discussed the current status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and key immigration issues in the educational setting. Hawaiian Elementary Principal Ms. Mayra Lozano and Melbourne Elementary Principal Ms. Karina Martir were in attendance to welcome the parents and give support. Parents and school staff commended the Migrant Education Program for offering such informative forums in our community. ▶



Adult School Open House

Adult School Open House / Career Fair was held on March 3, 2017. ▶



CSEA Paraeducator Conference

The 20th Annual CSEA Paraeducator Conference was held on March 14-16, 2017. ▶



ABC Paraeducators (L to R) Ramona Gutierrez, Barbara Ozuna, Rosa Cueva, and Veronica Lopez



ABC Paraeducators (L to R) Barbara Ozuna and Rosa Cueva

Whitney High School Model United Nation

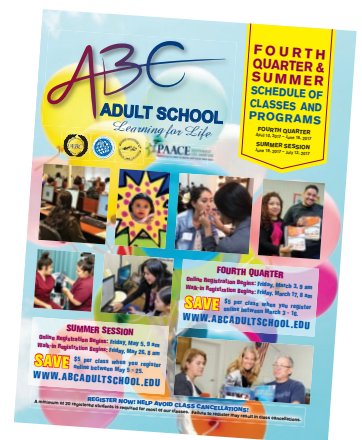
Whitney High School's Model United Nations was awarded the coveted "Distinguished School Award" at the 43rd Annual National High School Model United Nations Conference (NHSMUN) in New York City. Held from March 15 - 18, Whitney competed with over 100 schools from all over the world in the largest MUN conference held yearly. The "Distinguished School" award is the highest honor that NHSMUN bestows and is earned by just a handful of schools a year. Whitney students also had the honor of addressing the General Assembly in the United Nations building itself, representing the World Health Organization as the nation of Sri Lanka.

NHSMUN was held at the Hilton Midtown and United Nations every March. This year it attracted over 5,000 students from all over North America and Europe. There were also a sizable number of delegations from South America, Asia, and Africa. Southern California was represented by delegations from Whitney HS, Cerritos HS, and Mira Costa HS in Manhattan Beach. ▶

ABC ADULT SCHOOL

Learning for Life

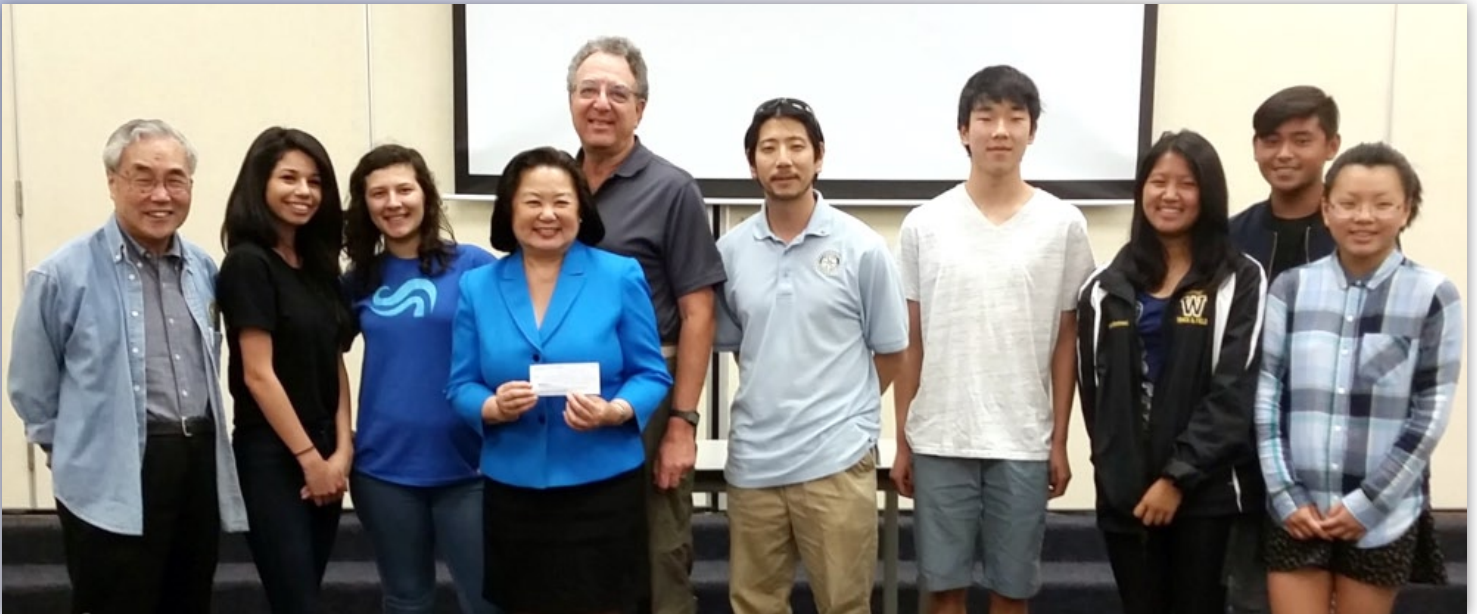
ABC Adult School offers great classes!



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

Community Involvement

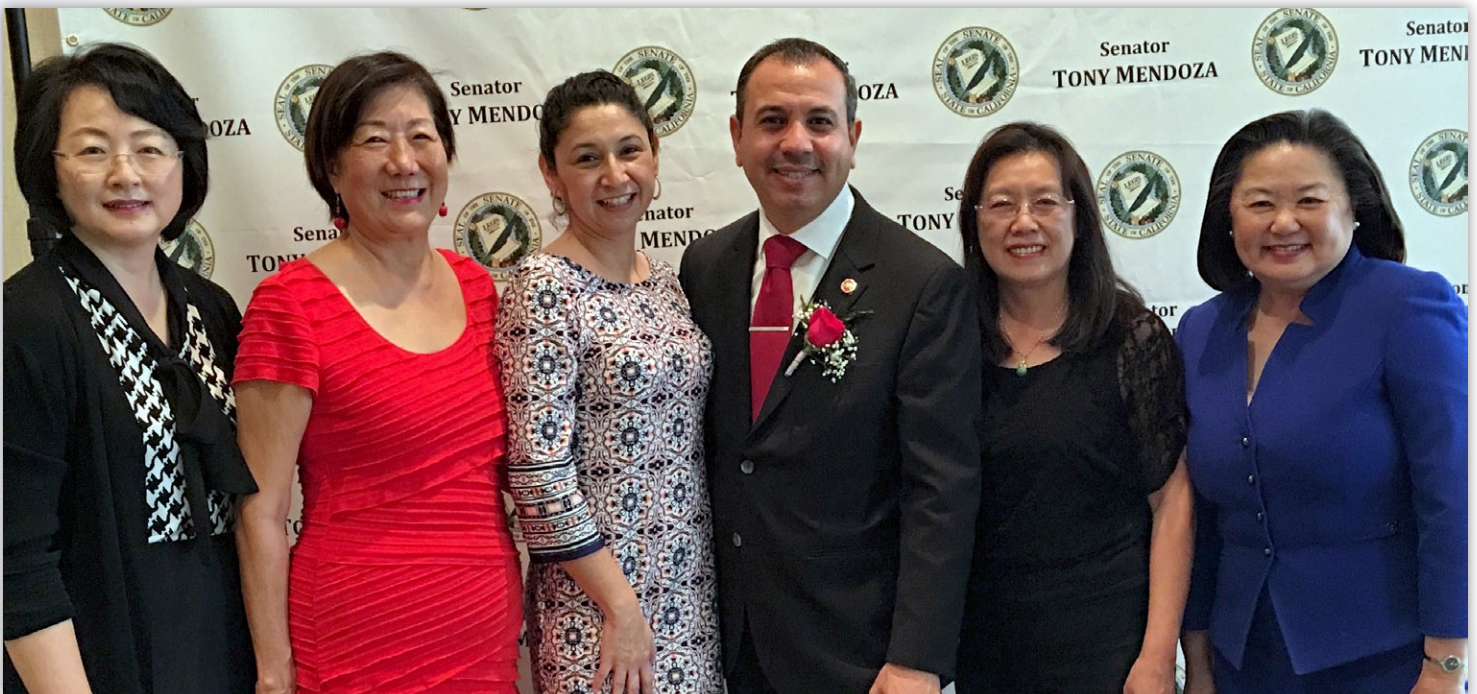
Japanese Student Exchange Program



*ABCUSD High School Students Participating in the Japanese Student Exchange Program
Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu accepting a check from the Cerritos-Artesia Rotary Club*

State Senator Mendoza Woman of the Year Luncheon

State Senator Mendoza's Woman of the Year Luncheon was on March 10, 2017. ▶



Vice President Soo Yoo, Laura Lee, Board Clerk Letty Mendoza, Senator Mendoza, Jennifer Hewitt, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu

Principal for a Day • March 15, 2017



Dr. Jose Fierro, Cerritos College President, at Hawaiian ES



Hawaiian Gardens Mayor Hank Trimble at Melbourne ES



Anil Desai, Civil Engineer, at Kennedy ES



Vice President Soo Yoo at Adult School and Grace Hu at Whitney HS



Cerritos City Councilmember Jim Edwards at Leal ES





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.