



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

May/June 2016 - Volume V - No 5



A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

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“Reflecting on the 2015-16 School Year”

It's hard to imagine that our school year in the ABC Unified School District is soon ending on June 15, 2016. There were many highlights during the 2015-16 school year including the celebration of nine elementary schools selected as California Gold Ribbon Schools, the designation of the District as an “Honor Roll District” with fifteen Honor Roll Schools by the Educational Results Partnership and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, the selection of Ross MS Academy as a “CA School to Watch/National Model Middle School”, Whitney HS selected as the #1 high school in California by U.S. News & World Report, winning two Golden Bell Awards from the California School Boards Association and the recognition by the National School Boards Association for our Multi-Tiered System of Support.

Our District's graduation rate increased from 93.5% to 94.4% with a decline in the dropout rate from 2.3% to 1.7%. The District has not had any expulsions for four years.

Like all districts in California, the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) was the driving force behind many of the services and programs in the District to address the State's and District priorities. Here is a recap of some of the efforts during the 2015-16 school year:

- We purchased new math instructional materials that were aligned to the California State Standards for elementary and secondary schools.
- Professional development was provided for 2039 TK-12th grade teachers in the new math materials. Training focused on problem based learning and math practice standards. Secondary teachers were trained in the Expository Reading and Writing Course as well as the Next Generation Science Standards.
- The LCAP Parent Committee was formed to include parents of English learners, Title I and non-Title I schools representing all schools in the District. The District's Parent Leadership Academy was reorganized to provide monthly modules related to the LCAP goals.



Dr. Mary Sieu with Willow ES Gold Medalists at the Elementary STEM Olympics

- We provided the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program for all secondary schools to prepare students for college readiness. We increased access to Advanced Placement Courses as well as increased support to schools with English Learners through the Imagine Learning Program and Reading Plus Program. We provided Edmentum, an online program to support credit recovery.
- We increased the use of school wide positive behavioral support systems across the district including the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program, PeaceBuilders and Restorative Justice Program to improve school climate.
- We added 12 Wellness Coordinators for all elementary and middle schools to support students with social-emotional behavioral issues.
- Naviance, an online college and career readiness exploration program was available to all middle and high school students.
- We convened the first College and Career Forum with higher education and industry sectors. We launched an Education Business RoundTable with our local Chamber of Commerce partners.
- Class sizes were reduced to 26:1 in K-3 classrooms.
- We expanded the Science, Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Program and activities to 13 elementary schools through a Boeing Grant.
- District benchmarks were developed and implemented to monitor students' progress towards proficiency in English Language Arts and Math Standards.

We recognize that the LCAP is a planning document that will be revised and modified over the next few years. We thank all those involved with providing input towards the LCAP at the District and at the school site level. The LCAP is available on the District's website at: www.abcusd.k12.ca.us. Your feedback is always welcomed. The ABC Board of Education will be voting on the LCAP for 2016-17 at the June 21 Board Meeting.

The Board of Education recently created a new Ad Hoc Board Advisory Facilities Committee comprised of community members and district staff. They will be reviewing the facilities needs of the District and provide progress reports to the Board throughout the 2016-17 school year.

Finally, congratulations to all our graduates in the Class of 2016! We wish them the best of luck in their postsecondary options.

We wish everyone a safe and memorable summer!

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News From Our Schools and Around The District

Carmenita Middle School Model United Nations



It looks like our delegates changed the world!

Cerritos High School Varsity Swim Teams



*2016 California CIF Southern Section Division IV Champions.
Three years in a row.*



*2016 California CIF Southern Section Division IV Champions.
Four years in a row.*

LACOE Math Field Day



Wittmann ES Silver Medal Winners



Fedde MS Bronze Medal Winners

ABC teams won three medals at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Math Field Day. Two Silvers medals were presented to Wittmann ES and one Bronze medal was presented to Fedde MS. This is a huge accomplishment for our ABC students as they competed against 33 school districts in LA County. The competitors almost filled the entire auditorium at Glendale H.S. It was a great experience for our students and the first time Wittmann ES participated in the event. ▶



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www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Niemes Elementary School

It was a special night for Niemes ES where we celebrated their 25 years of the Dual Language Immersion Program (Spanish/English). The community came out to watch student performances and hear from those who have been a part of the history of the Dual Language Immersion Program. State Senator Tony Mendoza presented a Proclamation for Niemes. Board President Chen, Board Member Leticia Mendoza, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu also presented special recognitions to Niemes ES. It was also exciting to announce that the CA Dept. of Education selected Niemes ES as a 2016 Gold Ribbon School! Congratulations. ▶



Board recognition of the Dual Language Immersion teachers



Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu presents a certificate of recognition to Principal Meg Jimenez



State Senator Tony Mendoza honors the Niemes Staff

Elementary STEM Olympics Year Two

This is the 2nd year that both the Boeing Company and the Cerritos Optimist Club have supported Elementary STEM Olympics in ABCUSD. The events were based on training that 5th and 6th grade teachers received from the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Program. Last year, eight schools were involved at an event held at Carmenita MS. This year, thirteen schools were involved. The Olympics were held at Carmenita MS on Saturday, May 7 and Tetzlaff MS on Saturday, May 14. The events were based on engineering units from the Engineering is Elementary Program (engineering: parachutes, recycled racers, insulated homes, and solar cookers). Engineering is an important component of the Next Generation Science Standards. The events were coordinated by Paul Killian, Science Program Specialist and the science departments at both Carmenita and Tetzlaff Middle Schools. The schools participating at Carmenita MS were Burbank, Cerritos, Gonsalves, Juarez, Kennedy, Stowers, and Wittmann elementary schools. The schools at Tetzlaff MS were Carver, Bragg, Hawaiian, Leal, Melbourne, and Willow elementary schools. ▶



Recycled Racers



Insulated Homes



Elementary STEM Olympics at Tetzlaff MS

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Middle School STEM Olympics

The 18th Annual Middle School STEM Olympics was held at Carmenita MS on Saturday, April 16. This event is co-sponsored by the Cerritos Optimist Club. Board Clerk Yoo and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, along with the President of the Cerritos Optimist Club, Gary McHatton awarded the winning teams Bronze, Silver, and/or Gold medallions at the STEM Olympics. ▶



Middle School STEM Olympics, April 16, 2016 at Carmenita MS

Ad Hoc Board Advisory Committee-Facilities

At the April 19, 2016 meeting, the ABC Unified School District Board of Education approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Board Advisory Committee on Facilities. The purpose of the Committee is to evaluate capital improvement needs of the District and to provide recommendations to the Board of Education on long-range facilities planning. The Committee will review, amend, revise, update, and prioritize the current Facilities Master Plan.

The 19 member Committee, made up of community members, parents, teachers, support staff, and students, held its first meeting on June 1, 2016 at the District Office. The Committee plans to meet at least once a month, with additional meetings scheduled as needed, to carry out its work. The Committee will consider, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Current and projected school enrollment for each grade level, based on residential housing growth patterns in accordance with city/county general plans and other demographic factors
2. The District's educational goals, including the District Strategic Plan and Local Control Accountability Plan
3. Current and projected educational program requirements to ensure that our schools are physically equipped to deliver the instructional programs
4. Student safety and welfare
5. An evaluation of existing buildings and needs for modernization and renovation
6. State planning standards and local zoning requirements
7. The community's social, economic and political characteristics
8. Estimated costs associated with meeting the District's facility needs
9. Facility equity – A global assessment of the equity of facilities among District campuses
10. Review funding options to support the needs of facilities

The Committee will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 16700 Norwalk Blvd, Cerritos, on the following dates: (Additional meeting dates may be scheduled as needed): Thursdays, June 16, 2016; July 14, 2016; August 11, 2016; September 8, 2016; October 13, 2016; November 10, 2016; December 8, 2016; January 12, 2017; February 9, 2017; March 9, 2017; April 13, 2017; May 11, 2017; and June 8, 2017.

For more information, please visit the District's website at: www.abcusd.k12.ca.us ▶

Nine ABC Elementary Schools Selected as 2016 Gold Ribbon Schools

The California Department of Education announced that nine elementary schools in ABC Unified School District have been selected for the 2016 Gold Ribbon Schools Award. The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems. Statewide, 768 elementary schools were selected for this Award.

The nine schools in ABC Unified School District selected for the Gold Ribbon Schools Award include Carver ES, Cerritos ES, Elliott ES, Kennedy ES, Leal ES, Niemes ES, Palms ES, Stowers ES, and Wittmann ES. The nine schools are located in three cities including Artesia, Cerritos, and Lakewood. *“We are proud of all our award winning schools for developing model programs focusing on collaboration, data analysis, and raising student achievement. The teachers, support staffs, students, parents, and community members are to be commended for their outstanding efforts”* said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu.

The schools applied for the award based on a model program their school adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other school districts. In addition, the Gold Ribbon Awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the California Standards for English Language Arts and Math, English Language Development Standards, and the Next Generation Science Standards. The award recognized middle and high schools in 2015.

In addition to the nine Gold Ribbon Schools Award, Cerritos ES and Leal ES also received the Civic Learning Award of Merit for engaging students in opportunities that incorporate research-based, proven practices in civic learning. The Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County honored both schools with a Civic Learning Award Certificate.

The nine schools in ABCUSD were recognized at a Regional Ceremony held by the California Department of Education on May 24, 2016 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Los Angeles. State Superintendent Tom Torlakson honored each school with a plaque and banner prior at the Awards Luncheon. ▶



All Title I Schools received the Title I Achievement Award like Carver Academy.



Palms ES is one of 9 Gold Ribbon Schools.



State Superintendent Tom Torlakson honors Wittmann Elementary School.



Exhibit: Little Rock Nine "Exploring Educational Opportunity, Encountering Racism" Presented by: Aylin Borja, Angela Lopez, Darla Ortiz, and Omar Gonzalez. ▶

Fedde MS Academy

Fedde Academy MS teacher Chad Laines is proud to announce that Fedde Academy is home to two California State Champions! History was made as all three Fedde History Day teams made it to the finals of California History Day in Rocklin, California.

At the awards ceremony, Fedde's documentary and exhibit teams were named State Champions. They will now represent the State of California in the National History Day Competition held at the University of Maryland in June, 2016.

Documentary: Edward Dwight "An Encounter with Racism Halts One Man's Dream to Explore" Presented by: Santiago Hermosillo and Victor Esquivias

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Region XIV ACSA

At the Region XIV ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Awards Dinner at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach on April 27, we recognized and honored Dr. Gina Zietlow, Principal of Gahr HS, as the Region and State's Administrator of the Year-Secondary Principal. Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu had the honor of introducing Dr. Zietlow on behalf of all of us from the District. She will also be honored at the State level in November as part of ACSA's Annual Conference. During the evening, Crechena Wise, Principal of Tetzlaff MS, was recognized as the California Finalist for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. ▶



Gahr HS team joins in honoring Dr. Gina Zietlow



Crechena Wise, National Association of Secondary School Principals Finalist and Dr. Gina Zietlow, ACSA State Administrator of the Year-Secondary School.

Teacher Interview Event a Success!

The ABC Unified School District Teacher Interview Event was held on April 20, 2016. Our ABC Principals and Co-Administrators interviewed 191 candidates at both the elementary and secondary levels. The most qualified candidates were invited to the site level interviews as the vacancies occur throughout the end of the school year and during the summer. We had many outstanding candidates this year! Thank you to our administrators who participated in the TIE event. A special thank you to Laurie Esquer, the Coordinator of our TIE event and the Human Resources staff for their hard work and support. ▶



Karen Pierce and Tamara Arizaga welcome new candidates.



Stacey Hamagiwa, Teacher Induction Coordinator and Dr. Susan Hixson, Assistant Superintendent of HR



Martha Munoz welcomes the interviewees.

Community Involvement

Artesia Chamber of Commerce

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu thanks the community members who attended the State of the District presentation at the Artesia Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held at the Wok N Tandoor. "I'm always pleased that people are more aware of how our District is doing to serve the community." ▶



President of the Artesia Chamber of Commerce Dr. PaoLing Guo presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Mary Sieu for her State of the District Address



Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Artesia Mayor Pro Tem Ali Taj, and Niemes Principal Meg Jimenez

City of Lakewood Celebrates



Principal of Artesia HS Sergio Garcia recognized for "Making a Difference".



Artesia HS administrative team and teachers recognized for "Making a Difference".

ABC Run/Walk & Wellness Fair A Fundraiser for ABC Schools!



Saturday, June 18, 2016
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Los Cerritos Center (mall)

239 Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos

5K begins at 7:45 a.m. • 2K at 9:00 a.m. • Kids' Run at 9:30 a.m.
Wellness Fair from 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Register Today!

www.abcsummerfunrun.org



Register Early
& Save!

Date of Purchase	Kids' Run (Ages 3-10)	2K Run/ Walk (Ages 5-Adult)	5K Run/ Walk (Youth 5-17)	5K Run/ Walk (Adult 18+)
2/1/16-4/3/16	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$25
4/4/16-5/8/16	\$12	\$18	\$18	\$28
5/9/16-6/15/16	\$18	\$22	\$22	\$32
Late Registration	\$20	\$30	\$30	\$40
On-site Registration	\$20	\$30	\$30	\$40

Community Involvement

Kaiser Youth Work Preparation Certificate Program

Over 100 students applied for and interviewed for a spot in the Kaiser Youth Work Preparation Certificate Program. Only 30 students were accepted. Two students were from Artesia High School and two students from Gahr High School. The program aims to serve high school students in the LA area. Students who are a part of this program complete a seven week work prep program where they learn valuable job skills such as interviewing, resume writing, people skills, etc. They are also introduced to various health care fields beyond that of a doctor or nurse. Students who successfully complete the program are then placed in a Kaiser Permanente facility where they are paid to work over the summer, while being paired with a health care mentor.



Arielle Whitacre, AP Biology Teacher at Artesia High School was very proud to be in attendance at this graduation ceremony with the two students from Artesia High School, Megh Jariwala and Andy Amaya-Razo. They and the two Gahr High School Students, Omar Scott and Mahnoor Uraizee, represented ABC Unified School District very well. ▸

ABC Business Education RoundTable



Kicking off the Business Education RoundTable



Artesia Chamber of Commerce

On June 1st, the Career Technical Education Department hosted a Business and Education RoundTable discussion. After a warm welcome from CTE Coordinator Ann Griffio, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu shared the purpose of the RoundTable event, which was to share ideas that help us work together to better prepare students for the workplace and raise awareness of opportunities employers can provide for our students. Thirty-three business representatives and 19 ABC administrators/counselors ate breakfast, collaborated, and crossed the divide that often exists between businesses and educational institutions. Director of Secondary Schools Dr. Rhonda Buss presented the benefits of work-based learning opportunities that included career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities for students. The presentation opened the door for employers and educators to discuss next steps in working together to offer more work-based learning opportunities for students. At the end, each table shared ideas they gained from the RoundTable discussions. Several table groups discussed the importance of learning “soft skills” such as effective communication, professional dress, and the ability to problem-solve at the workplace. Each employer who participated in ABC’s Business and Education RoundTable discussion completed an interest card indicating their willingness to partner with ABC to provide work-based learning opportunities. ▸



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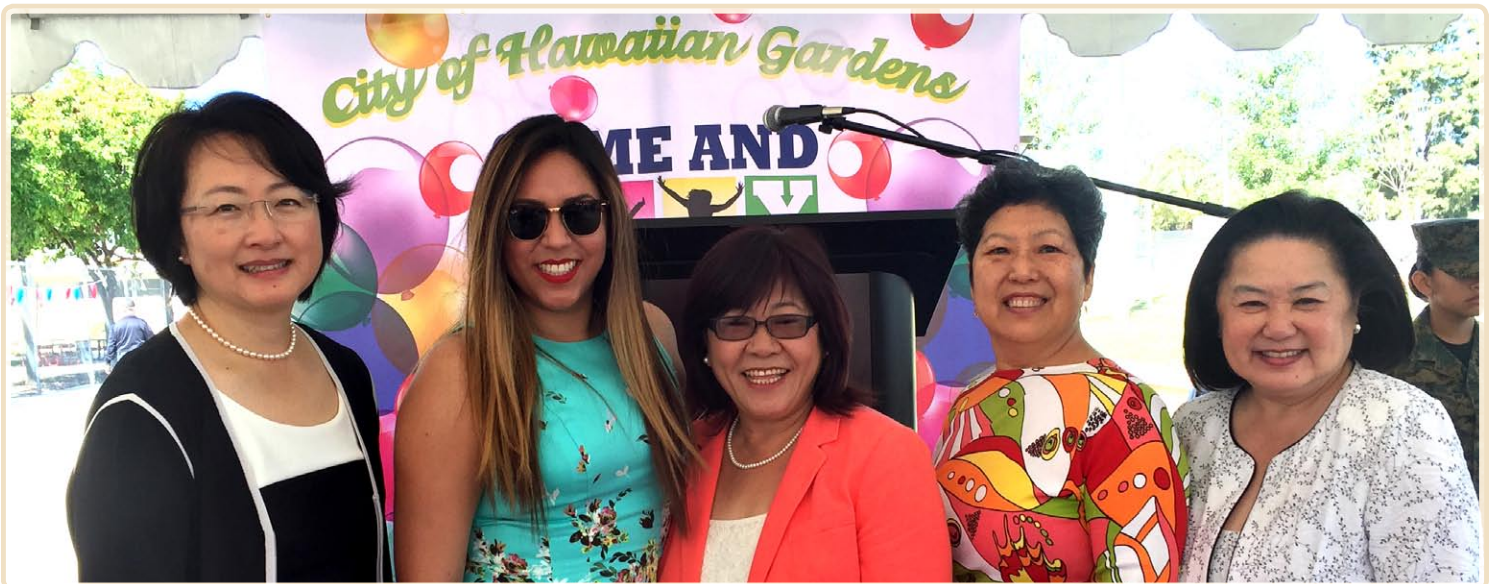
Grand Opening of the Wesley Health Center at Fedde MS

The official Grand Opening of the Wesley Health Center at Fedde MS was held on Friday, April 15 with the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce conducting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. LA Supervisor Don Knabe, City of Hawaiian Gardens Council Members Reynaldo Rodriguez and Myra Maravilla, CEO of the Wesley Health Center Al Ballesteros, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu delivered congratulatory messages at the Grand Opening. This was followed by a tour of the Health Center at Fedde MS. Field representatives from our local elected officials presented proclamations to the Wesley Health Center. We were joined by many local community agencies who have partnered with us in ABC for many years. This included Kaiser Permanente, Helpline Youth Counseling, and Masada Homes. The Wesley Health Center provides primary care and pediatric care to families in Hawaiian Gardens, Artesia, and Lakewood. No family will be turned away who is unable to pay for these services. ▶



Wesley Health Center Grand Opening, April 15, 2016 at Fedde MS

City of Hawaiian Gardens 52nd Anniversary



*Celebrating at the City of Hawaiian Gardens 52nd Anniversary, April 16, 2016
Board Clerk Soo Yoo, City Councilmember Mayra Maravilla, Board Member Sophia Tse,
Board President Olympia Chen and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu*



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.