



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# District Digest

May/June 2018 - Volume VII - No 5



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

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## ABCUSD Selected as a 2018 California Exemplary School District

I'm delighted to share that on Thursday, May 3, 2018, ABC Unified School District was honored as a 2018 Exemplary School District by the California Department of Education at the California School Recognition Program Award Ceremony held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. ABCUSD was selected by the Los Angeles County Office of Education among the 80 school districts in Los Angeles County for this Award. The County Offices of Education were encouraged to select only one district in their county as a California Exemplary School District Awardee for 2018. The 2018 Exemplary School District Award celebrates the achievements of districts who have implemented model practices that have had a positive impact on student outcomes. Both positive culture and climate as well as exceptional strides in student achievement were highlights of the California Exemplary School District Award for ABCUSD.

In addition to receiving the California Exemplary School District Award, four elementary schools in ABC Unified School District were honored as 2018 California Distinguished Schools. They included Cerritos ES, Elliott ES, Gonsalves ES, and Leal ES. The California Department of Education recognized elementary schools this year that have made exceptional gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education for all students. The four schools were identified by the California Department of Education based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard.

Attending the Awards Ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel were President of the Board Soo Yoo, Board Members Maynard Law and Ernie Nishii, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, and Director of School Services Dr. Cheryl Bodger. Each of the Award winning schools came with a team led by their principals including: Kevin Amburgey, Principal-Cerritos ES; Fran Barron, Principal-Elliott ES; Robert Benko, Principal-Gonsalves ES; and Paul Andre White, Principal-Leal ES.

"We're absolutely honored to be recognized as a 2018 California Exemplary School District. We applaud the great work of our students, staff, families, and community members for what we've been able to accomplish in ABCUSD!" ▀

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*(L-R) Board Member Maynard Law, Los Angeles County Office of Education Consultant Kathryn Edwards, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, President of the Board Soo Yoo, and Board Member Ernie Nishii*

# Awards and Achievements

## ABCUSD Named 2017-18 California Honor Roll District and Nineteen Schools Named 2017-18 Honor Roll Schools



The Educational Results Partnership and Campaign for Business and Education Excellence has selected ABC Unified School District as a 2017-18 California Honor Roll District. Our school district includes one of the largest percentages of Honor Roll schools of all California school districts. ABCUSD is one of only 24 to be named to the 2017-18 California Honor Roll District.

The 2017-18 Honor Roll recognizes public elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes high college readiness in students.

**Congratulations to our 2017-18 Honor Roll Schools in ABCUSD: Aloha ES, Bragg ES, Burbank ES, Carmenita MS, Carver ES, Cerritos ES, Cerritos HS, Elliott ES, Fedde MS, Gahr HS, Gonsalves ES, Haskell MS, Kennedy ES, Leal ES, Palms ES, Ross MS, Tetzlaff MS, Whitney HS, and Wittmann ES. ▶**

## Congratulation to ABCUSD's ACSA Award Recipients!

On April 25, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) held their Region XIV Administrator of the Year Awards Banquet. Dr. Valencia Mayfield II and Dr. Rhonda Buss were surrounded by a large group from ABCUSD at the Awards Ceremony. Dr. Valencia Mayfield II was honored with the 2018 Central Office Administrator of the Year



Award. Dr. Rhonda Buss was honored with the Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year Award. Dr. Buss will be honored again on November 9 in San Diego for being selected as the State Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year. Congratulations to both of them! ▶



*Dr. PaoLing Guo, Adult School Principal was surrounded by colleagues as she was honored as "Administrator of the Year" by the Los Angeles County Industrial and Technology Education Association Banquet Awards Dinner held in Buena Park on May 19, 2018.*

## Adult School Principal Selected As Administrator of the Year for 2018-2019

The Los Angeles County Industrial and Technology Education Association has recognized Dr. PaoLing Guo as Administrator of the Year for 2018! Dr. Guo has increased classes for the ABC Adult School Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) Program during the budget cut years and has pushed toward accreditation and recognition while other adult school programs were closing around the state. Dr. Guo is committed to Career Technical Education (CTE) as well as integrating CTE with Academics and ESL. The Awards Dinner was held at Knott's Berry Farm on Saturday, May 19 with staff from the Adult School participating. ▶



# ABCUSD California Distinguished Schools

## *Cerritos Elementary*



*(L-R) Director of Schools Dr. Bodger, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Cerritos ES teacher Nancy Lee, Cerritos ES Principal Kevin Amburgey, Cerritos ES Assistant Principal Ruth Stait, Board Member Maynard Law, and Board President Soo Yoo*

## *Elliott Elementary*



*(L-R) Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Director of School Services Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Elliott ES Principal Fran Barron, Elliott ES Assistant Principal/Teacher Claudia Fontoura, Elliott ES Teacher Ammie Goncalves, Board Member Maynard Law, and Board President Soo Yoo*

## *Gonsalves Elementary*



*(L-R) Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Director of School Services Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Gonsalves ES Teacher Nadia Jaser-Cendejas, Gonsalves ES Principal Robert Benko, Board Member Maynard Law, Gonsalves ES Teacher Judy Kung Quon, Board President Soo Yoo, and Gonsalves ES Teacher M. Patricia Zamorano*

## *Leal Elementary*



*(L-R) President of the Board Soo Yoo, Leal ES Teacher Tammi Ishibashi, Leal ES Teacher Jonathan Schmack, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Leal ES Principal P.A. White, Director of School Services Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Leal ES Assistant to the Principal Andy Long, and Board Member Maynard Law*



# News From Our Schools and Around The District

## ABC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Math Bee

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the Elementary Curriculum and Professional Learning Department held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Bee at the Artesia HS Fine Arts Center. We had representatives from all 19 elementary schools who had all been champions of their school competitions. For the first time in the three years of the competition, we had students complete all provided questions correctly, resulting in a three-way tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place. The three co-champions for 1<sup>st</sup> Place were: Jayden Russell from Aloha ES, Sudheera Polu from Gonsalves ES, and Charlotte Kim from Stowers ES. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner was Deven Bhakta from Cerritos ES. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner was Kassius Caputo from Palms ES. We are proud of all of these students and for an exemplary effort in the area of mathematics. 📖



*Aloha ES Math Bee Winner*



*Palms ES Math Bee Winner*



*Gonsalves ES Math Bee Winner*



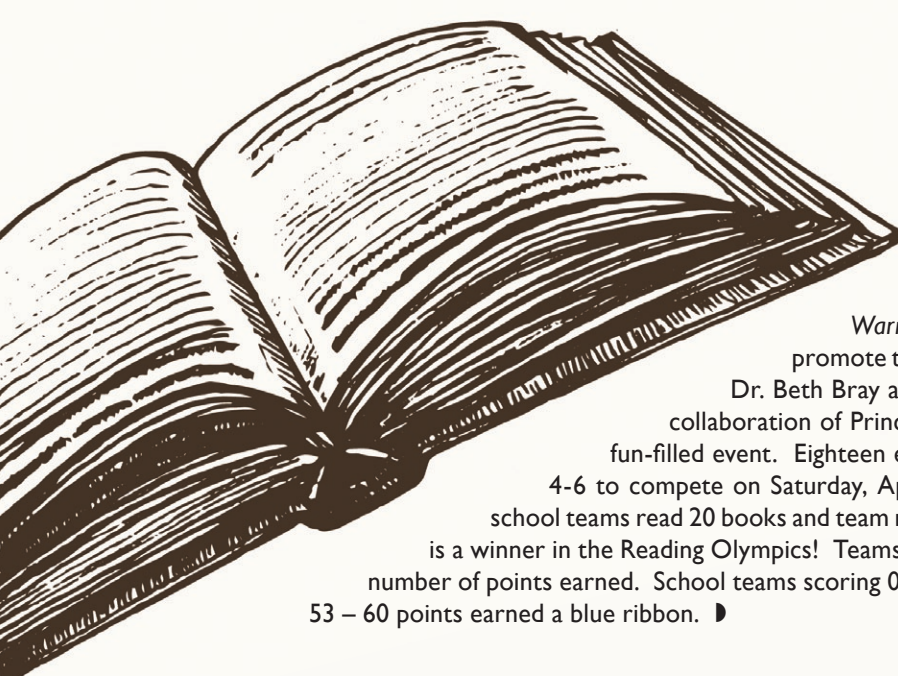
*Stowers ES Math Bee Winner*

## Enrichment Academy

The ABC Education Foundation's Enrichment Academy is offering 19 exciting courses for students 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades (incoming 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2018-2019 school year) beginning this June. Registration and course catalog is at [enrichment.abcedfoundation.org](http://enrichment.abcedfoundation.org).

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)**





# Elementary Reading Olympics

Congratulations to Gonsalves ES “Grizzly Bear Bookworms” for winning the 1<sup>st</sup> Place trophy at the Elementary Reading Olympics. In addition, the runner-ups winning Blue Ribbon Awards were: Furgeson ES “Book Explorers”, Hawaiian ES “The Mighty Eagles”, and Wittmann ES “Reading Warriors”. The Reading Olympics is a friendly competition to promote the love of reading hosted by the Elementary Curriculum Team.

Dr. Beth Bray and Program Specialists Diana Munoz and Eric Vieira with the collaboration of Principal Melissa Valentine, planned and executed an exciting and fun-filled event. Eighteen elementary schools sent teams of 12 to 14 students in grades 4-6 to compete on Saturday, April 14, 2018, in the Artesia High School Gym. Collectively, school teams read 20 books and team members collaborated and answered questions. Every student is a winner in the Reading Olympics! Teams were awarded blue, red, or green ribbons based on the total number of points earned. School teams scoring 0 – 39 earned a green ribbon; 40 – 52 earned a red ribbon; and 53 – 60 points earned a blue ribbon. ▶



*Gonsalves Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy Winner*



*Furgeson Elementary School Blue Ribbon Winners*



*Wittman Elementary School  
Blue Ribbon Winners*



*Hawaiian Elementary School Blue Ribbon Winners*





## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Elementary STEM Olympics – May 12, 2018



*Award Winners*

## 30 “Edison Scholars” Receive \$1.2 Million in STEM Scholarships

Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, has awarded 30 high school seniors a total of \$1.2 million in scholarships to support their dreams to make a difference in the world through the study of science, technology, engineering, or math — known as STEM. Three students from ABC Unified have received scholarships in the amount of \$40,000 each. They include: Justin Hogenauer, Whitney High School senior; Irisa Chang, Cerritos High School senior; and Peter Chea, Cerritos High School senior. ▶

## Wittmann ES Math Olympiad Team

The Wittmann ES Math Olympiad Team earned the designation as one of the top math teams in the nation again this year. The Math Olympiad Team was among the nearly 150,000 students worldwide to participate this year in the Math Olympiad Program. The students participated in a series of five monthly contests from November to March and weekly practice sessions under the supervision and guidance of California Educational Centers (CEC) Tutoring Coaches Alan Gabriel, Jennifer Choum, and Hooman Senaati. They taught the children to solve unusual and difficult math problems and to think creatively. The coaches developed the curriculum and lesson plans on their own in accordance to each individual's skill level and overall understanding of the content and it is safe to say that they did so successfully. They competed again on Saturday, April 28, at the Los Angeles County Office of Education's (LACOE) Math Field Day. The Wittmann ES Math Olympiad Team as a whole was named to the National Meritorious Achievement List, the National High Achievement List, and the National Math Olympiad Honor Roll with a Total Team Score of 224 – placing them as one of the Nation's top 10% Schools overall. ▶

## Outstanding Adult School Students Honored

On April 16, we honored 22 Outstanding Adult School Students at the Cabrillo Lane campus. In addition, we also recognized 24 Shining Stars in the Adult School classes. Needless to say, the biggest ovation came when Charlotte Ray, 94 years old, accepted the Shining Stars Award. She comes to school four days a week and participates in the Brazilian Stitchery Class! It's lifelong learning at its best! ▶





# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Middle School Track Meet

## Co-sponsored by the Cerritos Optimist Club – May 12, 2018



*Carmenita MS held on to their 1<sup>st</sup> Place title!*

## Annual Day of the Employee Celebration

On May 9, we celebrated “Day of the Employee” in the District. We held our Annual District Office Breakfast to honor all employees this week. Special entertainment was provided by the Tetzlaff MS Jazz Band under the leadership of Band Director Matt Gullett. Thank you to our Human Resources Office for coordinating this special breakfast for our District employees! ▶



## Annual ABC Tech Symposium

On May 2, we held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABC Tech Symposium at the Whitney HS MAC Center. Over 250 staff members including teachers, administrators, and classified staff attended this event with the theme of “Apportunity! Engage.Enhance.Extend.” Thirty-five technology sessions were provided by ABC teachers, administrators, and classified technologists. Educators from throughout the District were able to network, eat, relax, and learn new skills using technology in the classroom. Thank you to all the attendees as well as Dr. Colin Sprigg, Director of IT, and the IT Department for coordinating this special event. ▶



**ABC Adult School offers great classes!**

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



# 29<sup>th</sup> Employee Recognition and Retirement Dinner – May 24, 2018



*Retiring Director of School Services Dr. Cheryl Bodger and husband Ken Bodger*



*ABCFT President Ray Gaer and Retiring Child Development Teacher Arlene Riddick*



*Bragg ES sending off retiring Principal Annette Janeway*



*Retiring Division Assistant Carolina Rios with family and friends*



*Sponsor - ABCFT Retiree Chapter*

## Community Involvement

### Happy Birthday Hawaiian Gardens

On Saturday, April 14, we attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakfast at the City of Hawaiian Gardens held at Fedde MS. Congratulations to the City of Hawaiian Gardens for their 54 years of incorporation!





# Community Involvement

## Annual Business & Education Roundtable



On April 25, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business & Education Roundtable at Gahr HS. All our secondary schools were represented along with many local business partners. The focus of the Roundtable was to advance internship opportunities for our students. The keynote speaker was Eric Eichinger of the Boeing High School Internship Program. For many years, we have partnered with Boeing to provide internship opportunities for students from Whitney HS. He was very enthusiastic and encouraged other companies to consider the benefits of having internship opportunities for our students. ▶

## Education Roundtable with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez – May 1, 2018



*(L-R) Board Member Ernie Nishii, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, and Board Member Maynard Law*

## LACOE Math Field Day Competition

On Saturday, April 28, four of our ABC schools including: Cerritos ES, Wittmann ES, Carmenita MS, and Fedde MS competed in the Annual Los Angeles County Office of Education's (LACOE) Math Field Day at Azusa Pacific University. Thirty-one different school districts and over 160 students participated in the event. Cerritos ES earned one gold medal. Wittmann ES and Cerritos ES earned silver medals. Congratulations to our math teams and a big thank you to our coaches and parents who helped support our teams. ▶

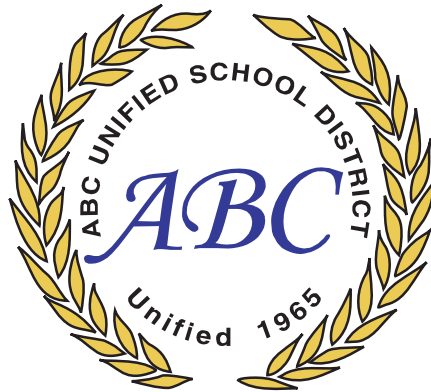
## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ABC Education Foundation Fun Run/Walk

On Saturday, May 5, almost 1,000 people participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ABC Education Foundation Fun Run/Walk. Staff from the District, school teams, community members, the PTA, and the Board of Education joined in the 5K Run/Walk. Children participated in the 2K and 1K Run/Walk. ▶



*Congratulations to Nixon ES and Long Beach Financial Credit Union for winning the Golden Shoe Awards!*





## Board Members

Soo Yoo - President  
Leticia Mendoza - Vice President  
Dr. Olga Rios - Clerk  
Chris Apodaca - Member  
Maynard Law - Member  
Ernie Nishii - Member  
Sophia Tse - Member

## Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



ABC Unified School District's **District Digest** is published  
bimonthly by the Superintendent's Office.

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