



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

May/June 2019 - Volume VIII - No 5

A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

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Reflecting on the 2018-19 School Year

This has been an extraordinary year for ABC Unified School District. As we draw to a close of another school year, it's important to reflect on this year and acknowledge the work of our students, staff, families, and communities.

We are deeply grateful to the community for supporting Measure BB, a bond measure that passed in November 2018. This will be dedicated to improving our school facility needs as outlined in our Facility Master Plan. A Citizens' Oversight Committee has been established to ensure that the funds are going toward its intended purpose. Our Board of Education has been following legal guidelines during the past few months to assure the community of our efforts. We will be communicating regularly with the families and communities we serve of our ongoing efforts with the projects funded from the bond measure.

ABC Unified School District was honored by the California Department of Education at the California School Recognition Program Award Ceremony on April 5, 2019, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. Three high schools were recognized by the California Department of Education. This included Cerritos High School and Whitney High School as 2019 California Distinguished Schools. Tracy High School was honored as a 2019 Model Continuation High School. It was an evening of celebrating the wonderful work in all three of our high schools.

Additionally, Tracy High School was recognized as a 2019 Model Continuation High School by the California Continuation Education Association at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on April 26, 2019. Only 31 continuation high schools were honored that evening.

Ross MS Academy was redesignated as a 2019-2022 School to Watch by the California Department of Education in Sacramento. On June 28, 2019, they will be honored at the National Forum's 15th Annual Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, DC.

Two exemplary programs in the District won the Golden Bell Awards by the California School Boards Association (CSBA). This included the Yellow Bus Tech Tour and the Watch D.O.G.S. Program at Nixon ES Academy. They were honored on November 29, 2018, by CSBA in San Francisco. On May 21, 2019, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) honored all the school districts that earned the Golden Bell Award. Both of our award winning programs were showcased at their Board Meeting and presented with a beautiful award from LACOE.

A revised Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 was reviewed by the Board of Education and approved on May 21, 2019. We are grateful to the Strategic Planning Board Advisory Committee comprised of community members and staff for the revisions to the District's Strategic Plan. We recognize that there is still much work to be done in the next several years and our Strategic Plan focuses on the areas for improvement in five major directions. The Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 is available on the District's website for the public to view.

Our talented and extraordinary students make us proud of what we do every day in and outside the classroom. We have an engaging family and community supporting us every year. We are very fortunate to have many partners who we work with that elevates our mission. To all our stakeholders in ABC Unified School District including our Board of Education, outstanding teachers, support staff, amazing families, and the communities we serve, a huge thank you for this wonderful school year!

Congratulations to the Class of 2019! We wish you the best in your postsecondary option! ▀



In This Issue

News From Our Schools and
Around The District. 2-5

Community Involvement 6-7



News From Our Schools and Around The District

Sixth Annual ABCUSD Elementary STEM Olympics

ABC Unified School District held its 6th Annual Elementary STEM Olympics at Artesia HS on Saturday May 11, 2019. Over 200 fifth and sixth grade students representing 17 elementary schools competed in four events testing their engineering skills. The 5th grade events are Bombs Away and Recycled Racers. In Bombs Away, school teams design parachutes to carry a payload of 8 pennies. They are dropped from 20 feet in the air. The parachute which spends the longest time in the air wins! The Recycled Racers made from recycled materials such as CDs and water bottles are designed by school teams, then raced down a six-foot high, 32-foot long track and the fastest racer wins.



Grand Champion Team Hawaiian ES

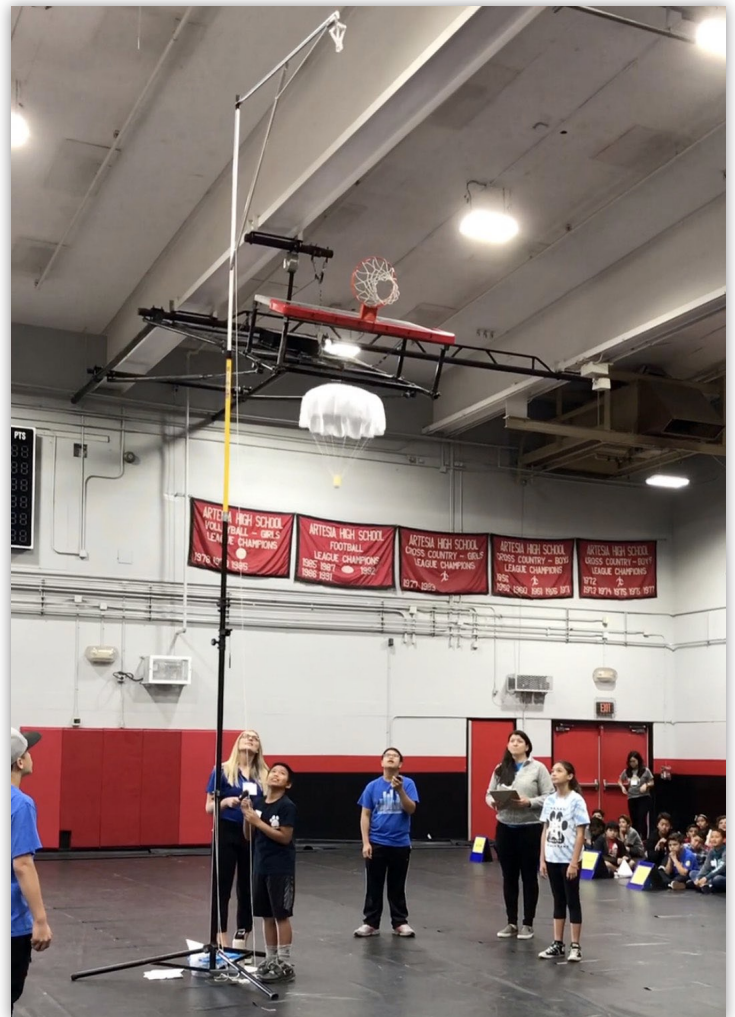
The 6th grade events are Sunny Side Up and Keepin' It Comfy. Student teams design solar cookers for Sunny Side Up, using a shoebox and a variety of insulating and reflecting materials. The solar cooker is placed under a heat source and the team with the highest temperature increase in their oven wins.

For Keepin' It Comfy, teams design an insulated home using a cake box and a variety of insulation materials to see which box can retain its temperature when exposed to a chill pack for 30 minutes. The insulated home with the smallest temperature change wins!

Students were awarded medals and ribbons for 1st through 5th places. Our 5th grade gold medal winners for Bombs Away are Marcello Vallefuoco, Brayden Ouchi, and Andre Sandoval representing Stowers ES; and the gold medal winners for Recycled Racers representing Hawaiian ES are Andrea Chavez, Jennifer Jimenez, and Cristian Marin. For the 6th grade events, the team from Willow ES, Susan Ung, Alina Corcoles, and Bella Harmon, won gold medals for Sunny Side Up; and the team from Juarez ES, Stanley Kim, Lance Gregorio, Lorenzo Urena, and Rojine Nobi, earned the gold medal for Keepin' It Comfy. The elementary school earning the most points during the competition was awarded a Grand Champion trophy given to honor our Science Curriculum Specialist Paul Killian for his 46 years of service to the students in ABCUSD. He is retiring in June. The winner of the Paul Killian Innovation in Science trophy was awarded to Hawaiian ES.

President Ernie Nishii said "Science and technology is the future and this future belongs to all of us."

This annual event is cosponsored by the Cerritos Optimist Club and the ABCUSD Elementary Curriculum division with support from middle school science teachers and students. ▀



Bombs Away Event

4th Annual 3rd Grade Math Bee



3rd Grade Math Bee Champion: Matthew Flowerhill, Cerritos ES

On April 11, 2019, the Elementary Curriculum and Professional Learning Department held the 4th Annual 3rd Grade Math Bee at the Artesia HS Fine Arts Center. This competition is held annually to promote the importance of math fluency. We had representatives from all 19 elementary schools who qualified for the competition by winning their school competitions. This year's format consisted of five rounds, with ten questions in each round. Students received a point for each question answered correctly. All 19 school champions participated in completing all 50 questions. Students were awarded ribbons based on their final point total. Five students received a blue ribbon for top scores in the competition. The blue ribbon recipients were Mikaela Limbaring from Aloha ES, Ethan Chan from Stowers ES, Adithya Anand from Elliott ES, and Kaleb Duag from Nixon ES. In addition to receiving a blue ribbon, the top scorer of the competition received a trophy to be recognized as the event champion. The 2019 3rd Grade Math Bee Champion was Matthew Flowerhill from Cerritos ES. Matthew received a perfect score, answering 50 out of 50 questions correctly. Congratulations to all of our school champions who participated in this wonderful event. ▶

ABC Council of PTAs 44th Safari

Artesia, Cerritos, Gahr, Tracy, and Whitney High School students attended the ABC Council of PTAs 44th Sacramento Safari in Sacramento, California, April 23-24, 2019. Students participated in educational and advocacy training through scheduled visits to the Legislature and learned about how the legislative system works, advocacy, and pending legislation. ▶



ABCUSD Teacher Interview Event (TIE) 2019

On April 11, 2019, over 40 principals, co-administrators, district administrators, and Human Resources staff hosted over 120 candidates at our district office for potential teaching positions in ABC. Selected candidates were placed in our highly qualified eligibility pool and will be called upon for site interviews as teaching positions become available. Candidates also had an opportunity to meet representatives from ABCFT, the Teacher Induction Program, our Summer School Program, LBS Financial, and Schools First Federal Credit Union. ▶



17th Annual Art Competition

Charlotte Park of Whitney HS won the Grand Prize in Congresswoman Linda Sanchez's 17th Annual Art Competition. She will be going to Washington DC in late June and her artwork will be displayed at the Capitol. Charlotte Park also won 1st Place at the LA County Science Fair!

Kaithelyn Jauregui of Cerritos HS won 2nd Place in her category! ▶



*Art Contest Winner -
Charlotte Park and
Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu*



*Art Contest Winner -
Kaithelyn Jauregui and
Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu*

News From Our Schools and Around The District

LACOE Math Field Day

On April 27, math teams from Wittmann ES and Cerritos ES represented ABC Unified at the 2019 Los Angeles County Office of Education Math Field Day. Both schools performed well competing against 30 other school districts and earned a total of four silver medals. The hard work and dedication of coaches Alan Gabriel and Erica Cook was reflected in the success of both teams. Thank you to all of the students and parents who attended the competition. ▶



US News and World Report

Whitney HS has been acknowledged by US News and World Report as the #1 High School in California! According to their ranking system, which expanded to include more schools this year, Whitney HS placed as follows for 2019:

- **#14 in National Rankings** (17,000+ schools were ranked out of 23,000+ high schools across the nation)
- **#1 in California High Schools** (1,579 high schools in California made the rankings)
- **#15 in STEM High Schools** (This was determined by taking the top 500 high schools and comparing their students' AP science and math scores)

Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, and Gahr HS were also listed in the ranking system. ▶

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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Southern Section Rodeo Team

The Transportation Department received 2nd Place in "Best Represented" at the Southern Section Rodeo. The score is based on sportsmanship, uniforms, equipment, attendance of district administrators, etc. ABC was only one point behind the 1st Place winners. Manuel Concepcion placed 3rd in "Open Class" and Luanne Duus placed 2nd in "Professional Class".

The Transportation Department had the largest team out there representing ABC Unified! Go Team! The State Championship was held on May 26th in the Sacramento area where they bring the best from the North and South to compete. The top driver is then sent to the Nationals. ▶



From left to right: Eddie Solis, Alex Torres, Tennie Pierce, Manuel Concepcion, Bridgette Vega, Phillip Matthews, Luanne Duus (Supervisor), Jesse Sigala, Rosemary Ornelas (Rodeo Team Captain), Maria Sanchez, Mary Galvin, Danny Fernandez

Career Technical Education (CTE) Department Grants

Career Technical Education (CTE) Department Grants - The CTE Department is the proud recipient of two grants. The first grant is the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) program, which is funded by the California Department of Education (CDE). ABCUSD will receive \$600,800 in CTEIG funding for the 2019-20 school year to provide access for student pre-apprenticeships, internships, and other Work Based Learning (WBL) opportunities. Additionally, this funding will be utilized to update our CTE equipment and give students more opportunities to attain an industry-recognized certification and/or credentials that qualify them for entry-level employment. This grant comes with a two dollar (\$2) requirement from ABCUSD for every one dollar (\$1) received from the CDE.

The second grant was based out of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office and part of the K12 Strong Workforce program. ABCUSD will receive \$189,252 for our Systems Diagnostics and Repair pathway to align with 21st Century standards and the California Community College system. ABCUSD has 2.5 years to expend this money. The grant's focus is on advanced transportation and alternative fuels courses. Several businesses and colleges are included in this grant as partners for implementation. These partners are: Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, Cerritos Acura, Cerritos Lexus, Cerritos Auto Square, Boeing, Metro LA, Cerritos/Artesia Chambers of Commerce, and the California Energy Commission. This grant comes with a two dollar (\$2) requirement from ABCUSD, which can be an in-kind donation from our partners, for every one dollar (\$1) received from the K12 Strong Workforce program. ▶

Community Involvement

Ross Academy MS Redesignated as a “School to Watch”

On May 13, 2019, Mayor Tony Lima and the Artesia City Council honored Ross MS Academy for being selected as a School to Watch. ▶



The City of Lakewood Celebrates its 65th Anniversary



From left to right: Lakewood Vice Mayor Jeff Wood, Dr. Valencia Mayfield II, Dr. Mary Sieu, and Joshua Castellanos, Executive Director of Public Affairs & Marketing



ABC Adult School
offers great
classes and
programs!

Check out our website
at www.abcadultschool.edu



Korean National University for Education

The District Office, Gonsalves ES, Niemes ES, Stowers ES, Willow ES, Carmenita MS, Tetzlaff MS, Artesia HS, Cerritos HS, Whitney HS, and the Adult School graciously hosted educators from the Korean National University for Education. By the questions and interactions, as well as comments from the organizers and translators, the visitors were quite impressed and enjoyed their visits. They appreciated the time all staff members took to speak to them as well as organizing their visits. A special thank you to District Program Specialist Sandi Hayase for organizing the visits. ▶



Holiday Inn, Buena Park



Carmenita MS



Stowers ES



Artesia HS



Niemes ES



Board Members

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

Superintendent

Dr. Mary Sieu



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

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