



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

November/December 2015 - Volume V - No 2



A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

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“Changes in How Schools Are Rated”

For over a decade, public schools in California were rated and ranked according to the State Testing And Reporting (STAR) system. The Academic Performance Index (API) provided a single score for each school as well as ranked and compared them with similar schools throughout the State. The score was based on the results of the California Standards Tests. Many parents, community members and real estate agents used the API to compare the schools' academic achievement. The test results were also used to determine whether the schools receiving Title I funds met their federal benchmark goals called Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Schools that did not meet these federal goals were identified as failing or needing improvement and sanctions were applied. Congress has been deliberating on reauthorizing the Elementary Secondary Schools Act (formerly known as No Child Left Behind) for seven years now. The AYP is still scheduled to be released at the end of this year. These dual systems of accountability were often viewed as complex and confusing especially to the parents and the community at large.

There is a significant change underway in determining how schools will be rated in the future. The familiar API has been suspended by the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education since the 2014-15 school year. The State is in the process of developing a more comprehensive accountability system based on multiple measures rather than a single index as in the past. The new system would be designed to focus on multiple indicators, such as graduation data and student preparedness for college and career and not only on test scores. One of the State's top priorities is to develop an accountability system that meets California's needs by looking at a broad range of measures defining student and school success, rather than relying on just one test.

Last spring, ABC Unified School District administered the California Assessment of Student Progress and Performance (CAASPP) tests. The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics were administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven. The science assessments were given in grades five, eight, and ten along with the California Modified Assessment and California Alternate Performance Assessment. The results for the computer-based Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment were provided to teachers and parents and are available on the District's website (“Local Control Accountability Plan-Report for Pupil Achievement”). They are used as a baseline year and should not be compared with the results of the California Standards Test from the previous years.

Unlike the past, there will not be an API calculated and posted during the 2015-16 school year. The term API may no longer even be used. The California Department of Education and State Board of Education are still working on the development of a new state accountability system that complements the Local Control Funding Formula state priorities and will focus on a broader set of outcomes than in the past. The transition to the new state accountability system will be a long term process. The earliest the State will be able to produce a new state accountability report may be in the fall of 2016.

In the meantime, we will keep the readers and communities informed as we move forward with the changes in the new accountability system for schools. For more information, please check out the District's website at: www.abcsud.k12.ca.us. Look for “CAASPP-Parent Guide to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments” and “Understanding the CAASPP Individual Student Score Report.” These are available in English and Spanish. ▶

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Burbank Bulldogs and Principal Laura Makely

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Gahr HS 50th Anniversary Celebration Rally

The 50th Anniversary Celebration and Student Rally at Gahr HS was held on Friday, Oct. 16. It was a lively and spirited event that included messages from civic leaders and alumni of Gahr HS. It was equally as fun at the Gahr HS Homecoming Game where the 50th Anniversary continued with fireworks during half-time. Congratulations again to Gahr HS on their 50th Anniversary! ▶



State Senator Tony Mendoza celebrated with Maynard Law, Dr. Mary Sieu and Olympia Chen

Gahr HS Marching Gladiators

The Gahr High School Marching Gladiators competed at the Newport Beach Open Field Tournament and won 1st place in the top 5A division! ▶



Gahr HS Marching Gladiators

Juarez Academy Around the World and Beyond

Imagine starting your day at the Coliseum in Rome, then standing atop the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, swimming in the Pacific with whales and sharks, observing gorillas in the Congo, studying science at the South Pole and ending your day on Mars! That's what the students at Juarez Academy of Engineering & Technology did on October 28 with the help of Google! Third through sixth grade students and their teachers participated in a one-day Beta Testing of Google's Expeditions Pioneer Program. Expeditions is a new product that allows teachers to take their classes on virtual field trips. The Product immerses students in experiences that bring abstract concepts to life and give them a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom.

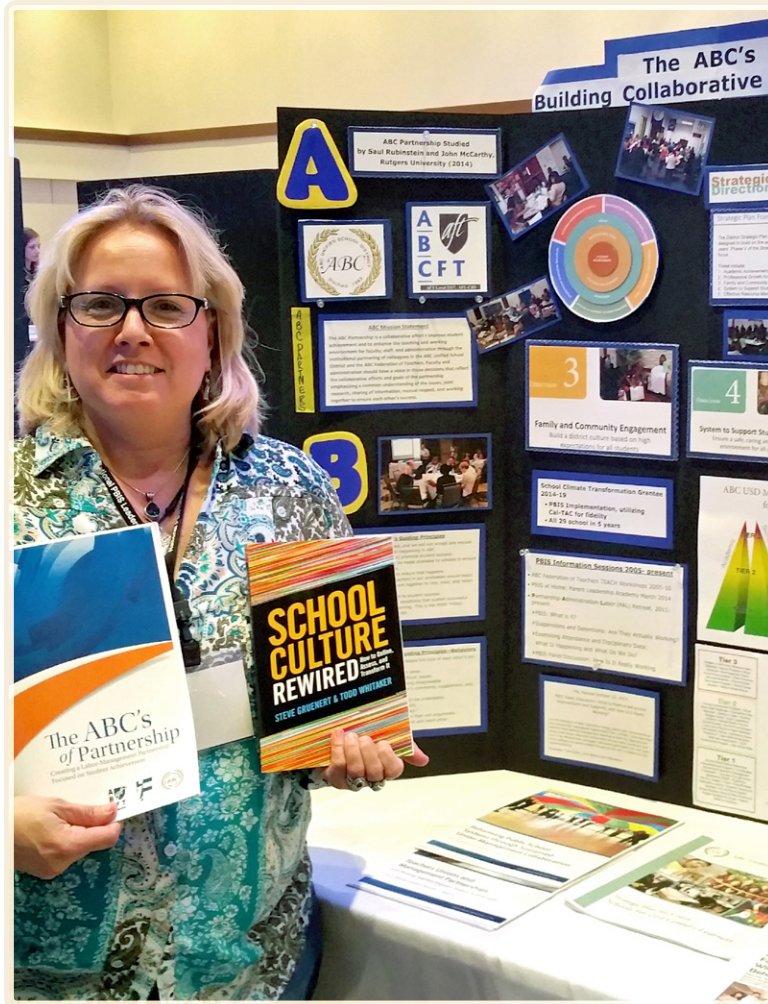


Google' Expeditions Pioneer Program

Expeditions teams visited selected schools around the world, starting with the United States, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Brazil. Juarez Academy was one of five locations in the US that were given the chance to participate and provide feedback on this new and exciting product. Students and teachers alike were awe-struck! They described the experience as "amazing" and "innovative." After the Expedition, students submitted a reflection about the experience to their teachers and administrator through Google Classroom. As one student stated, "[This] is really good for learning... you can go almost anywhere in the world!" See more about the Juarez Expeditions experience on YouTube! ▶

The ABC's of Building Collaborative Partnerships

National PBIS Leadership Forum
October 22-23, 2015



Rachel Santos, ABC PBIS District Coach

The Annual National Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Leadership Forum in Chicago featured over 60 poster sessions, where practitioners whose proposals were accepted displayed evidence-based practices and proven implementation outcomes. Rachel Santos, PBIS District Coach, represented ABCUSD as one of the accepted posters, entitled "The ABC's of Building Collaborative Partnerships," which highlighted the history and data on the ABC Partnership. Her display drew together the data and measurement drawn from both PBIS Assessments and Evaluation, current ABC school PBIS implementations, the PAL Retreat, and Dr. Saul Rubenstein's research findings (Rutgers University). The display demonstrated that the existing culture of partnership had been systematized and included specific behavioral practices that allowed for collaboration, both tenants of PBIS implementation. This pre-existing culture allowed schools to move to and through PBIS implementation with greater ease than without the partnership. Attendees were enlightened hearing the history and research conducted about ABC's Partnership, including PBIS researcher Dr. George Sugai. ▶

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Tier 1

The PBIS Teams at Bragg ES, Furgeson ES, Juarez ES, Palms ES, Willow ES, Carmenita MS, and Ross MS finished their Tier 1 training in 2014-2015 and implemented in September 2015. The teams at each school have been working diligently to ensure that they are providing their staff with the tools and knowledge they need to support positive student behavior. The schools rolled out their behavioral expectations to all their students by teaching the expected positive behaviors and providing acknowledgement (rewards) for any who demonstrate them. Teachers are excited because the positive behaviors their schools prioritized for intervention and support are being demonstrated by the students and these areas are showing vast improvement over previous years. These schools began the next steps of implementation with Tier 2 in October, which delved into supports for students who need more in depth interventions. The Tier 2 training will continue throughout the 2015-16 school year, with implementation of that learning in 2016-17.

The Cohort 2 PBIS Teams at Aloha ES, Carver ES, Hawaiian ES, Kennedy ES, Leal ES, Melbourne ES, Niemes ES, Wittman ES, Fedde MS, Tetzlaff MS, and Cerritos HS began their Tier 1 of training on October 7, following in the same footsteps of their colleagues in Cohort 1. A key component of implementing PBIS is our PBIS District Coach, Rachel Santos. Rachel is currently serving as a full time Teacher on Special Assignment to support our schools as they put PBIS into action. The implementation of Positive Interventions and Supports at our schools is supported by the School Climate Transformation Grant (SCTG) and LCFF Supplemental and Concentration grant funds. PBIS supports the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals related to School Climate. ▶

Cerritos High School Regiment of Gold

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, Cerritos HS "Regiment of Gold" Marching Band competed in the 2015 WBA State Marching Band Championships with their production "Conquer." After enjoying an undefeated season, the CHS "Regiment of Gold" Marching Band was crowned the 2015 Class 2A State Champions. Cerritos HS has been able to hold this title for three years now. Besides winning the Class 2A Title, CHS swept all caption awards which included High General Effect, High Music, High Visual, High Auxiliary, and High Percussion. ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Tetzlaff MS

Crechena Wise, Principal at Tetzlaff MS was honored by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) as the State Middle School Administrator of the Year. Mrs. Wise was recognized at the ACSA Awards Dinner held on Friday, November 6 in Sacramento at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. ▶



(left to right) Randy Delling, Lisa Gonzales, Dr. Gina Zietlow, Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Dr. Mary Sieu, Crechena Wise, Tuesday Stoffers, Dr. Rhonda Buss, and Tom Armelino

Partnership with Administration and Labor Conferences

On October 20, we held our 4th Annual CSEA-ABC PAL2 Workshop at the Artesia DES Hall. The focus was on “Empowering Conversations.” On October 21, ABC and ABCFT hosted the 8th Annual West Coast Labor Management Institute (WCLMI) with over 115 guest educators from throughout the country. On October 22, we held the 15th Annual Partnership with Administration and Labor (PAL) Retreat with our teams of principals and the site union reps along with our guests from the WCLMI. ▶



Hedy Chang, Director of Attendance Works presents at the PAL Retreat to share how attendance matters.

ABC Adult School

ABC Adult School is excited to announce receiving its six year accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education (COE). COE is recognized by the US Department of Education as a premiere national accreditation body in Career Technical Education. This means that ABC Adult School adds COE accreditation to its WASC accreditation to provide a full breadth of Academic and Career Technical accredited courses. This was a three year process culminating in an extensive self-study document, as well as a visiting team with representatives from Tennessee, Florida, and Georgia. The team evaluated the school's ten nationally certified career pathways along with completion and job placement rates before awarding accreditation. ▶



ABC Adult School offers Great Classes!

Check out the Spring Catalog at www.abcadulthood.edu



ABC School District Wins Two Golden Bell Awards

ABC Unified School District was honored for two exemplary programs in the Golden Bell Awards Program sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA). The highly respected Golden Bell Awards were presented at a special lunch ceremony during CSBA's Awards Luncheon at the Marquis Marriott Hotel in San Diego on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

The first award was won in the High School category for the Youth Leadership Summit. The Youth Leadership Summit is a collaborative effort of the ABC Unified School District, Kaiser Permanente, and the USC School of Social Work since 2010. Each year, over 200 secondary students are expected to share the workshop information with their classmates and to encourage school participation in their service projects.

The second award was won in the Wellness category for the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). The MTSS is a continuum of evidence based system-wide best practices to support students' socio-emotional needs. The MTSS provides support in classrooms teaching socio-emotional skills as well as early intervention services for students and families. A Community Resource Team comprised of a network of 20 local agencies collaborates with the District to provide early mental health services for students and their families.

This will be the 14th and 15th Golden Bell Award that ABC Unified School District will receive from CSBA since 2002. According to Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of ABCUSD, "CSBA selects approximately 45 school districts and county offices in California each year for this prestigious award. By receiving recognition for these outstanding programs that highlights best practices in education is an honor. I congratulate everyone involved in ABC for these winning programs." ▸



California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Suspension

Senate Bill (SB) 172 (Liu) was signed by Governor Brown on October 7, 2015. This law suspends the administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and the requirement that students completing grade twelve successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years. The law also requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to grant a diploma to any student who completed grade twelve in the 2003–04 school year, or a subsequent school year, and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than passage of the high school exit examination. The law will not take effect until January 1, 2016, at which time LEAs shall be permitted to issue diplomas to eligible students. Because this was urgency legislation, the law took effect immediately upon being enacted. ▸

CyberSmart Month

October was the District's CyberSmart Month. The District has organized the prepackaged grade level appropriate curriculum for teachers to share with students. Teachers delivered four ten-minute lessons followed by a quiz to students over the course of October. Some of the grade level topics include: How to Use the Internet Safely; Online Protection and Cyber Predators; Piracy, Copyright, and Plagiarism; Acceptable Use, Cyber Bullying, and Netiquette; and Sexting and Cyber Bullying.

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

About ABC School Board Community Departments Employees Our Scho

CyberSmart Month

Welcome! ABC CyberSmart Month This site is intended for all ABC schools and teachers to access ABC's CyberSmart lessons and instructions. In addition, all students and parents are encouraged to review these materials and engage in discussions at home!

The site contains CyberSmart lessons that target grades K-3, 4-8, and 9-12. ABC schools will deliver these lessons across the district during the month of October.

Cyber safety instruction is a Federal requirement for 2015-16. ABC developed CyberSmart Month because it makes good sense to educate our children about the digital world in which we live. Students regularly communicate, create, and collaborate using technology. They are digital natives, hardly knowing a time without mobile phones, digital media, social networking venues, or the ability to search the World Wide Web.

Growing up with these devices and resources does not mean students necessarily have the knowledge and skills to make responsible, respectful, and safe choices about how they access and use these digital tools. ABC is committed to helping our students become conscientious digital citizens!

A district web page provides teachers easy access to their CyberSmart teaching materials. The website provides grade level presentations, daily scripts, and a variety of teaching resources. ABC's CyberSmart month complies with State and Federal requirements to provide students cyber safety instruction in public schools. Each school decides how to deliver the packaged CyberSmart lessons (classroom, homeroom, assembly, or the computer lab). Schools may also choose to show the ABC CyberSmart videos as an innovative and fun-to-watch content at school or online. Students are given an associated CyberSmart quiz after they receive instruction. The quiz helps schools determine the effectiveness of their programs and is administered using technology for easy distribution and grading online. ABC parents and the general public are encouraged to review the ABC CyberSmart lessons available on the ABC website: www.abcusd.k12.ca.us >Teachers >CyberSmart Month >Select grade level (upper right corner). Using these freely accessible CyberSmart materials parents are encouraged to reinforce the CyberSmart content with their students at home. ▸

Community Involvement

Kakamigahara MS Visit

On Thursday, October 29, ABC welcomed thirty middle school students from the City of Kakamigahara, Japan. This is the 15th year of the Japanese Exchange Program with the City of Kakamigahara. The welcome reception included the host families who were with the students until November 3. During their stay, they visited Haskell MS, Tetzlaff MS, and Whitney HS. On Monday, November 2, the Mayor of Kakamigahara joined the students and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu at lunchtime at Whitney HS. ▶



The Japanese middle school students perform a popular dance for the host families in ABC and District guests.

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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About ABC Community Departments Employees Our Schools Parents School Board Students Teachers

Superintendent's Corner
Dear ABC Community,
It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I serve as the new Superintendent of ABC Unified School District. This role marks my 23rd year career in the District. Prior to this position, I served as the District's Deputy Superintendent.

About ABC School District
The ABC Unified School District is known throughout the State of California as a leader in educational planning and innovation. The District has received county, state, and national recognition for outstanding programs in counseling, alternative education, staff development, and labor relations.

Calendar
09/25/12 Tue Back to School Night (4th - 6th):
Furgerson ES
5:30pm - 7:15pm
09/25/12 Tue Back to School Night (K & 6th):
Kennedy ES
5:30pm - 6:15pm
09/25/12 Tue Back to School Night (1st):
Melbourne ES
6:00pm - 7:30pm

News
Transitional Kindergarten
Registration now available
2012-13 Board of Education Meeting Dates
Board of Education approves meetings dates for 2012-13
2011 Honor Roll Schools Selected
Eleven Schools in ABC Selected for the 2011 Honor Roll This year, the 2011 Honor Roll sponsored by the California Business for Education...

ABC Strategic Plan
ABC Education Foundation
CyberSmart Month - October
ABC Online Libraries
Board Advisory Committees
Employment

Visit our website for ABC USD schools' addresses, contact info, enrollment boundaries and more!
www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Miss CA Teen 2015 Visits Leal Elementary Students

Miss CA Teen 2015 Melanie Mitchell shares how to deal with cybersafety, antibullying, and the importance of education. ▶



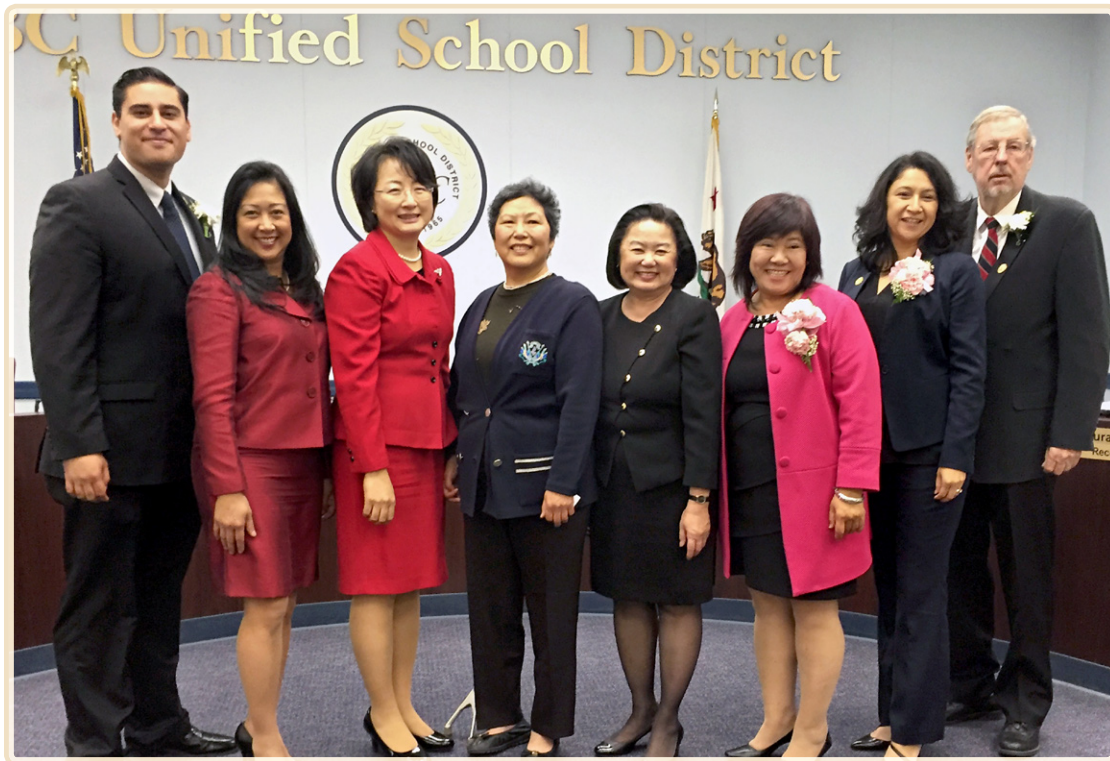
Gahr HS 50th Anniversary



State Senator Tony Mendoza provided a Senate Resolution for Gahr HS 50th Anniversary celebration. ▶



ABC's New Governance Team



(left to right) Chris Apodaca - Vice President, Lynda Johnson - Member, Soo Yoo - Clerk, Olympia Chen - President, Dr. Mary Sieu - Superintendent, Sophia Tse - Member, Leticia Mendoza - Member, Maynard Law - Member

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.