



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

September/October 2014 - Volume IV - No 1



A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu

Follow Me on Twitter: @abcsupt

Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence!

In 1965, forward thinking educators unified Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita School Districts creating the ABC Unified School District. Their goal was to create world class schools among the diverse communities served in the District. Needless to say, times and technologies have changed since then but our core mission remains the same—to provide the highest quality educational experience we can envision. **As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we remain committed in our focus on raising student achievement with our 21,000 students in the District.**

I recognize that the strength of our District is our ability to leverage individual talents of our stakeholders including our remarkable Board of Education, dynamic teachers, our great support staff, amazing parents and community members. As a result, **our District has thrived throughout the past fifty years to become one of the top performing districts in the State.**

ABCUSD is fortunate to serve a number of communities that truly understand the importance of education. Our PTA members volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours each year to support our schools. Our parents and guardians support learning outside of school. We are fortunate to have incredible partners that fill critical gaps and enhance our programs, including the ABC Education Foundation, the Community Resource Team, and hundreds of business and community partners within our District. Certainly, not enough can be said about our incredible students who make us proud of what we do every day.

Looking ahead in this new school year, we know that we will continue to face opportunities and challenges as we implement the Common Core State Standards and the new State assessment called Smarter Balanced Assessment. In June, our Board approved a new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the District that requires us to address eight State priorities. The District has established goals and actions in the LCAP for the next three years. The LCAP is available to the public on the District's website.

The Board also approved in July to place a \$195.2 million bond measure for the November 4 General Election to help improve, upgrade, and renovate our school facilities in ABCUSD. Measure AA is the name of the local improvement bond measure. More information and frequently asked questions regarding Measure AA are included in this District Digest.

There is still much work that remains. I value continuous improvement and welcome input from all our key stakeholders in the District and communities we serve as we move forward.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. For more information about ABCUSD, please check out our website at: www.abcusd.k12.ca.us. I look forward to another great school year in ABCUSD! ▶

In This Issue

- Anniversary Celebration 2
- News From Our Schools 3
 - Niemes ES 3
 - Newsweek 2014 3
 - Kaiser Permanente Grant 3
 - Boeing Grant 3
 - STEM Grant Training 3
- News Around the District 4-5
 - ABC Welcomes 52 New Teachers 4
 - Academic Services & ABCFT
 - "Partnership Advance" 4
 - Naviance Training 5
 - Child Development -
 - Professional Development 5
 - Tech Camp 5
- Community Involvement 6
- ABC USD Measure AA
- Frequently Asked Questions 7



Go Big Go Red Rally at Artesia High School

SAVE THE DATE

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



1965-2015

CELEBRATING

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

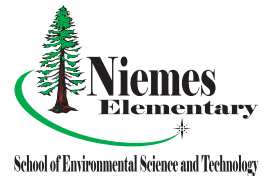
Saturday, March 28, 2015

at Cerritos High School

News From Our Schools

Niemes ES Awarded the Verizon Innovative Learning School Grant

Niemes ES was awarded, for the second year in a row, the Verizon Innovative Learning School Award of \$20,000. Only two schools who were previously awarded were selected for 2014-2015. The funds will continue to support the 1:1 iPad Program and the technology coaches. The goal will be to share what they have learned with the entire staff. Niemes teacher Gabbie M. Ibarra will serve as the iPad Tech Coach for the 5th & 6th grade and teacher Maria Perez will serve as a Tech Coach school-wide. Congratulations to Niemes ES! ▶



Newsweek 2014 Ranks Top High Schools

Newsweek magazine ranked Whitney HS #1 in California and #4 in the Nation (see <http://www.presstelegram.com/social-affairs/20140910/whitney-high-in-cerritos-ranked-no-4-in-nation-by-newsweek>). Newsweek Magazine rankings aim to identify the public high schools in the U.S. that do the best job of preparing students for college and overcoming the obstacles posed by socioeconomic inequalities. The entire school community should be proud of the work they have to done to help Whitney achieve this mark of excellence. ▶



New Kaiser Permanente Grant Funded

We're delighted to share that we have been awarded a \$100,000 grant by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Southern California Region. The Thriving School Partnership Grant: ABC/Kaiser Active Living Initiative is designed over a two year period beginning October 1, 2014 through October 1, 2016. The Grant will be used to support Playworks, a physical activity program on the playgrounds in at least 11 elementary schools. These schools volunteered and participated in the training prior to the beginning of the school year. In addition, the grant will support "Walk to School Days" with participating schools. Congratulations to Terri Villa-McDowell, Coordinator of the Safe Schools Office, who obtained the Kaiser Grant and will be responsible for coordinating these efforts. ▶

2014-15 Boeing Grant for Elementary STEM Program

The District has received approval for another Boeing Grant for 2014-15. The \$20,000 will be dedicated for resources to three elementary schools that will be trained on the "Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Program". Upper grade teachers from Kennedy ES, Juarez ES, and Willow ES will be trained to implement a STEM focus curriculum beginning this school year. The EiE Training is scheduled for October 22 in the District Office. Paul Killian, Science Program Specialist, is responsible for coordinating the Boeing Grant with the three elementary schools. ▶

STEM Grant Training at Whitney HS

During the week of July 28 - August 1, 54 secondary science teachers attended the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) grant training at Whitney High School. A major focus of the training was on the embedding of engineering practices into the teaching of science content based on the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS). These training sessions were conducted by teaching triads called cadres. Each cadre was composed of a high school science teacher and two CSULB faculty members with one from the engineering department. ▶



ABC Secondary Science teachers were trained in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) at Whitney HS in August.

News Around the District

ABC Welcomes 52 New Teachers!

On Tuesday, August 26, 2014, the Annual New Teacher Orientation was held at the ABC District Office. The fifty-two new teachers, included preschool teachers, elementary teachers, secondary school teachers, and speech pathologists.

The day began with a warm welcome from Board President Sophia Tse and Board Members Celia Spitzer and Olympia Chen. Dr. Mary Sieu, ABC Superintendent, enthusiastically greeted the teachers. Dr. Sieu commented that she looked forward to seeing the teachers in their classrooms during the school year.

Dr. Carol Hansen, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, served as the facilitator for the all-day orientation which was held in partnership with the ABC Federation of Teachers. Ray Gaer, ABCFT President, and Ruben Mancillas, ABCFT Executive Vice President, helped to kick off the event by offering their support to all new teachers.

Valencia Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services, and Rich Saldana, ABCFT PASS/PAL Coordinator, presented information regarding ABC's Implementation of the Common Core Standards. Other topics covered throughout the day included teacher information and support. The afternoon session focused on technology and included information about the ABC website, resources, and Google applications.

ABC's new teachers are enthusiastic and committed to student achievement! ▶



The District welcomes over 50 teachers to the New Teacher Orientation. Welcome to a new school year!



Tetzlaff MS Principal Crechena Wise and Board Member Olympia Chen

Academic Services and ABCFT “Partnership Advance”

A joint meeting with principals and site union representatives was held at Cabrillo Lane on August 26 to focus on some of the major new initiatives this year. The theme was “Partnership Advance—Working Together to Lead Change.” This was a collaborative effort with Academic Services and ABCFT to look at the implementation of the Common Core State Standards, Local Control Accountability Plan, and State Assessment. ▶



Thanks to the ABCFT and the entire ABC Academic Services Team for a successful day of working in partnership for the good of our schools and students!

Naviance Training

Academic Services is pleased to support all middle and high schools this year in implementing the Naviance program. Naviance is a web-based program that provides middle and high school students with tools to improve college and career planning. Students' being able to plan for college and career beginning in middle school in order to be best prepared for making important college and career choices in high school is vital to their success. This is also part of our LCAP goal 7.2; increase readiness for college and careers. ▶



Secondary school site managers created their Family Connection homepages through Naviance.



Gahr HS Principal Dr. Gina Zietlow with staff members Jose Vasquez and Alana Cooper at Naviance Training.

Child Development - Professional Development



Head Start and State Preschool/LAUP Professional Development held at the LACOE Santa Fe Springs Resource Center.

In the spirit of collaboration, Head Start and State Preschool/LAUP teaching staff held the first professional development of the year at LACOE Santa Fe Springs Resource Center. Utilizing both our own highly trained staff as well as LACOE consultant staff, our teachers and para educators spent a day deepening their knowledge of the new Creative Curriculum and effective implementation of Early Childhood Education instructional strategies. As part of the RTI (Response to Intervention) in the preschool setting, teachers also received practical training on the elements of Second Step, the intervention curriculum implemented by ABC Child Development programs. This day of collaboration was topped off with LACOE staff providing a tour of their newly enhanced Resource Library. **The library space and resources are available to our staff and parents free of charge and several teachers enthusiastically took advantage directly following the training.** ▶

Tech Camp

On August 20-21, the Pilot Tech Camp was launched with 6 schools (Burbank ES, Juarez ES, Niemes ES, Palms ES, Tetzlaff MS, Tracy HS) and Ed Tech Services. The two day Tech Camp focused on the following topics: "Choose from Beginning iPad, Advanced iPad or Chromebook"; "Practical Tips for Kicking Off Your I:I Environment for the First Time"; "Team Processes to Technology Integration"; "A Day in the Life of a I:I Classroom"; and "How to Work as a School Team of Experts for I:I Success". The Tech Camp is a two year pilot program coordinated by the Information Technology Department and utilizing the lessons learned from Niemes ES and Nixon ES. **The goal is to build capacity in the future with other schools throughout the District.** ▶



1:1 ABC Pilot School TETZLAFF MS math department and ABCs Google trainer Irene Orozco at work!

Community Involvement

City of Hawaiian Gardens Fedde MS

On Wednesday, September 17, Steve Gomez, City of Hawaiian Gardens Human Services Director, and his staff members met with Fedde International Studies Academy's Global Honor Students to provide them a workshop on job interviewing strategies. This is part of an on-going partnership between the City of Hawaiian Gardens and Fedde Middle School. In November, four of the Global Honor Students will provide local elementary students with tutoring and mentoring services, after going through a hiring process with the City of Hawaiian Gardens. ▶



Steve Gomez, Director of Human Services for the City of Hawaiian Gardens, presenting a workshop to Fedde MS Global Scholar Students.

Cerritos City Council



Cerritos City Council Honors the 2014 California Distinguished Schools- Cerritos ES, Elliott ES, and Leal ES.

Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce

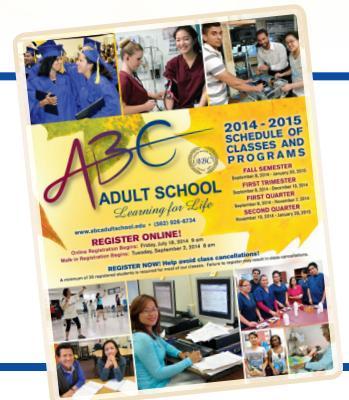


Board Members and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu joined Congresswoman Linda Sanchez at the Cerritos Chamber luncheon for updates on federal laws.



ABC Adult School offers
Great Classes!

Check out the Fall Catalog at www.abcadulthood.edu



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE AA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS MEASURE AA?

Measure AA is a local school improvement bond measure that will be on the November 4 General Election ballot. If approved by at least 55 percent of voters, Measure AA will make \$195.2 million available in order to fund major renovations, repairs and upgrades to classrooms and schools throughout our District.

WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION (G.O.) BOND?

G.O. bonds are used by school districts statewide to fund projects such as the renovation of existing classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new classrooms and facilities. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over a period of time. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, and industrial - located in the District.

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED BY MEASURE AA?

Measure AA authorizes improvements at school facilities throughout the District including:

- Renovating and equipping classrooms and school facilities
- Increasing student access to modern technology
- Expanding career technical education facilities including science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- Replacing roofs and outdated heating and air conditioning systems

WHO CAN VOTE ON MEASURE AA?

All registered voters living within the ABC Unified School District boundaries will be able to vote on Measure AA as long as they have registered by October 20, 2014.



Michaeljung/Shutterstock

CAN THESE BOND FUNDS BE TAKEN BY THE STATE?

No. By law, Measure AA funds must be spent entirely within the ABC Unified School District and cannot be taken by the State and spent elsewhere.

WHY IS MEASURE AA NEEDED?

Our schools are over 50 years old on average and our newest school is over 30 years old. While the facilities have been maintained, there are many needs for renovations and upgrades.

HOW MUCH WILL MEASURE AA COST?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year or little over \$4 a month per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Assessed valuation should not be confused with market value. Assessed valuations are the value placed on the property by the County and are typically lower than market values.

HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT MEASURE AA FUNDS WILL BE SPENT ON IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS?

If voters approve Measure AA, an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee must be established to review and audit all expenditures. In addition, Measure AA funds cannot be used for teacher or administrator salaries.



Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock



Board Members

Sophia Tse - President
Lynda Johnson - Vice President
Maynard Law - Clerk
Olympia Chen - Member
Celia Spitzer - Member
Armin Reyes - Member
Soo Yoo - Member
Dr. Mary Sieu - Superintendent



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.