



ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Digest

May/June 2015 - Volume IV - No 5



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A Message from the Superintendent - Dr. Mary Sieu
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Reflecting on the 2014-15 School Year

It's difficult to imagine that our school year is coming to an end on June 17, 2015. There were many highlights during the 2014-15 school year including the celebration of our 50th Anniversary as a unified school district, the administration of a new State online assessment, the implementation of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the Local Control Funding Formula. Some of these moments brought many challenges and new opportunities as we moved forward as a District. The LCAP was the driving force behind many of the new activities and programs in the District to address the State's eight priorities. Here are some of the new efforts in the LCAP this year:



Dr. Mary Sieu reads to Jillian Marquez's 3rd grade class at Furgeson ES.

- We purchased new math instructional materials that were aligned to the California State Standards for elementary and secondary schools.
- Professional development was provided for K-12 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. The District's Parent Leadership Academy was reorganized to provide monthly modules related to the LCAP goals.
- We provided Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for all secondary schools. 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.
- Counseling services were restored at the high schools as well as a new School Resource Officer at Gahr HS/Tracy HS. 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.
- Naviance, a one stop shop for college and career readiness program was offered to all middle and high school students.
- Class sizes were reduced to 26:1 in K-3 classrooms.
- 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 document that will be revised and modified over the next three years. We thank all those involved with providing input towards the LCAP. The preliminary LCAP is available on the District's website.

We wish all those graduating from our high schools the best in their postsecondary options. To all our returning students in ABC Unified School District, please note that the first day of school for the next school year will be Monday, August 31, 2015.

Have a safe and memorable summer! ▶

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Fedde History Day

Fedde International Academy's History Day Team participated in the history day state finals in Rocklin, Sacramento in May. The L.A. County champions in the junior group performance category, Emily Rubalcava and Alana Morrow-Brown, made it the final round of judging. Their performance on Leonardo da Vinci, was an audience favorite that led them to a top eight finish in the entire state! ▶



California History Day finalist are Fedde International Academy students Emily Rubalcava and Alana Morrow-Brown.

STEM Olympics

Science • Technology • Engineering • Mathematics

Middle School

This year marked the 17th Annual ABC Unified Middle School STEM Olympics. The event is cosponsored by the Cerritos Optimist Club and was held at Tetzlaff Middle School on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Each middle school in ABC sends a team of students to participate in exciting events such as Mouse Trap Cars, Crime Solvers, and Packaged Egg Catapult. The objective of the day is to expose students to science through the world of STEM while having fun at the same time.



Elementary School

This year marked the 2nd Annual Elementary Invitational STEM Olympics hosted by the Carmenita Middle School Science Department and sponsored by Boeing. It was held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 and participating elementary schools compete in the following events: Speedy Can Can, Bombs Away, Recycled Racers and Sunny Side Up.

These events were made possible by the support of our community and we hope to continue to expand these science based experiences for our students! ▶



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

www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

Tetzlaff MS Advanced Band

Tetzlaff MS Advanced Band received a Gold Rating at the Point Loma University Festival and Outstanding Percussion! ▶



Tetzlaff MS Advanced Band Members

Middle School Track Meet

On Saturday, May 16, the District Middle School Track Meet was held at Gahr HS. Congratulations to all the winning teams and especially Carmenita MS for their 9th year winning the Grand Trophy. Thanks to the Cerritos Optimist Club for co-sponsoring this event for 37 years! ▶



Carmenita Middle School Track Team

News From Our Schools and Around The District

Gahr HS Winter Guard

Gahr High School Winter Guard competed in the 2015 Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) AAA Championships and won 2nd Place and a Silver Medal!! This is only the second year Gahr has had a competitive color guard program. The 16-member team has worked incredibly hard, earning top marks throughout the year! ▶



Gahr HS Winter Guard Wins 2nd Place at 2015 WGASC Championships!

ABC Schools Selected for Honor Roll by Campaign for Business for Education Excellence

Superintendent of ABC Unified School District, Dr. Mary Sieu is pleased to announce that the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) has named a record number of schools in ABC to the 2014 Honor Roll. The 2014 Honor Roll includes public elementary, middle, and high schools recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes measures of college readiness.

The Honor Roll Program for 2014 is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, Macy's, Edison International, Wells Fargo, Southern California Auto Club, Enterprise, Chevron, the California Business Roundtable, and several private foundations.

The 12 STAR Schools, that include higher number of low income students yet attained higher academic achievement in ABC include the following schools: Artesia HS; Bragg ES; Burbank ES; Carver ES; Elliott ES; Gahr HS; Kennedy ES; Nixon ES; Palms ES; Ross MS; Stowers ES; and Tetzlaff MS.

The 7 Scholar Schools include: Carmenita MS, Cerritos ES, Cerritos HS, Gonsalves ES, Leal ES, Whitney HS, and Wittmann ES. A total of 19 schools in ABC were recognized on the Honor Roll by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence. This is the largest number of schools recognized in ABC in a single year. Each school will receive an Honor Roll banner from CBEE to display in their school.

According to Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent of ABCUSD, "We are very proud to be recognized by California's business community. Our teachers and administrators work tirelessly to keep the focus on raising student achievement and to continuously improve our practices. This hard work and dedication is paying off for all our students regardless of their background." ▶

Cerritos High School 'Boys' and 'Girls' Swim Team



Cerritos High School "Boys" and "Girls" Swim Team won CIF Division IV Champions.

District Recognitions

ABC Team Lauded at the Spring California Labor Management Symposium

On May 8-9, 2015 over fifty school districts participated in a groundbreaking new initiative designed to foster improved labor management collaboration. The effort was cosponsored by the California Department of Education (CDE) as part of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's plan to transform education through greater teamwork at all levels. The first Symposium held in San Diego marked the launch of the California Labor Management Institute Initiative, a project that will support the collaboration efforts of local districts. The co-sponsor of the event included the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation along with the Association of California School Administrators, California Federation of Teachers, California School Boards Association, California School Employees Association, and the California Teachers Association.



(l-r) Ray Gaer, President of ABCFT; Maynard Law, President of the ABC Board of Education; Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. Mary Sieu, Superintendent-ABC Unified School District; Rebecca Michel-Macias, President of ABC-CSEA.

Opening the Symposium with a panel presentation was a team from ABC Unified School District that included President of the Board Maynard Law, Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, President of ABC Federation of Teachers Ray Gaer and President of ABC CSEA Rebecca Michel-Macias. The ABC team shared the history of their labor management partnership efforts during the past 15 years and current structures and systems in place that support their collaboration. Superintendent Tom Torlakson lauded ABC as a model school district that others could learn from. Over 100 school districts applied to participate in the spring symposium but it was narrowed down to 50 districts. Each district team was composed of the superintendent, president of the board, president of the teachers union and president of the classified union. Attendees believed that fostering local labor management partnerships is a highly effective strategy to create shared responsibility and accountability for district performance and improve student outcomes. ▸

ABC Administrator Wins State Middle School Principal of the Year

On May 6, 2015 the Association of California School Administrators Region XIV held their Awards Ceremony at the Grand Event Center in Long Beach. Crechena Wise, Principal of Tetzlaff Academy in the ABC Unified School District was selected as the Middle School Principal of the Year. Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu introduced and presented the Award to Crechena Wise at the Ceremony. Mrs. Wise has been Principal of Tetzlaff Academy since 2008 and has transformed the school to become one of the most popular magnet schools in the District. Under Mrs. Wise's leadership, Tetzlaff's Accelerated Learning Academy with a Pre-Advanced Placement Program has earned the Golden Bell Award, the California Distinguished School Award, National Model Middle School and became a Demonstration School by the College Board.

Dr. Sieu said "Her promotion of success for all students, collaboration with families and community members, efficient management of resources at the school and building leadership capacity are all qualities that warrant Crechena Wise being recognized as the Middle School Principal of the Year." She was joined by her family along with many members of the Tetzlaff staff and ABC district administrators. Later in the evening, it was announced that Crechena Wise was also selected as the State Middle School Principal of the Year. She will be recognized at the November ACSA Awards Ceremony held in Sacramento. ▸



(l-r) Tom Woodward, Tetzlaff Assistant Principal; Dr. Mary Sieu, ABCUSD Superintendent; Crechena Wise, Tetzlaff Principal; Dr. Cheryl Bodger, Director of Schools; Tuesday Hancock-Stoffer, Dean, Tetzlaff MS.

Five ABC Schools Honored by State Department

On Friday, May 22, 2015 five schools in ABC Unified School District were honored by the California Department of Education in the California School Recognition Program held in San Diego. The four schools selected for the 2015 California Gold Ribbon Awards included Haskell MS, Artesia HS, Cerritos HS and Gahr HS. In addition, Whitney HS also was recognized for being a 2014-15 National Blue Ribbon School for the fifth time.

Each school team including the principal and teachers participated in the Awards Ceremony and Banquet held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. President of the ABC School Board, Maynard Law, Superintendent of ABC, Dr. Mary Sieu and Director of Human Resources, Dr. Susan Hixson also attended the Awards Ceremony with the school teams. There were 193 middle schools and 180 high schools that were honored under the new Awards Program. This temporarily takes the place of the California Distinguished Schools Program which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu said, "This Award is a direct reflection of the dedication and hard work of our students, teachers, support staff, and parents at each of the five schools recognized. The community should feel proud that all four comprehensive high schools in the District were recognized for the highest honor in the State." ▸



2015 CA Gold Ribbon Award Ceremony with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson.

*Schools in right column (from top): Cerritos High School, Artesia High School, Whitney High School, Haskell Middle School
School above: Gahr High School*

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offers Great Classes!**

**Check out the Summer Brochure
at www.abcadulthoodschool.edu**



Technology Update

Gaining Valuable Experience

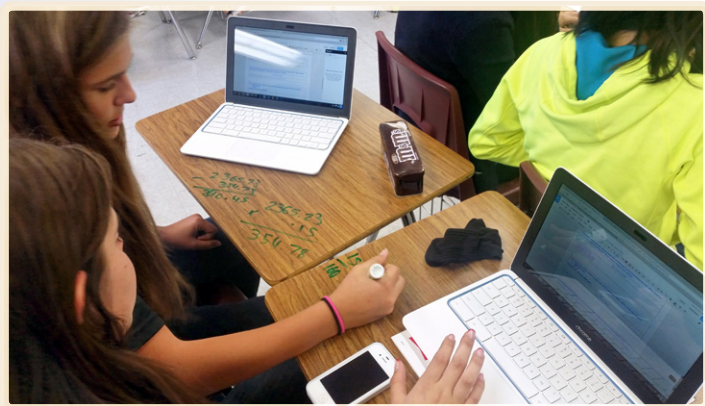
ABC Unified is completing a third year of district sponsored 1:1 computing pilot classrooms where every student has access to their own device. This year seven schools participated with pilots that span grades 2-12. The pilots involve small school teams of 2-4 teachers committed to having students use mobile devices on a daily basis. The pilot objective is to build capacity within our schools, and the district, to support the eventual expansion of technology to all students.

The pilot efforts have expanded our teachers' ability to use 1:1 technology within their classrooms. Our I.T. Department has also learned how to support large numbers of mobile devices that continue to grow in numbers within our schools.

The ABC 1:1 Pilot Schools

The following seven schools have 1:1 pilot programs in our district:

- Burbank ES, 5th-6th grade / iPads,
- Juarez ES, 5th-6th grade, and (I) 2nd grade / iPads / STEM Engineering
- Palms ES, 3rd grade, iPads / Accelerated Learning Magnet
- Neimes ES, 5th-6th grade / iPads / Science
- Nixon ES, 5th-6th grade / iPads
- Tetzlaff MS, 7th grade / Chromebooks / Math
- Tracy HS, 9th-12th grade / iPads / Math



*Tetzlaff Middle School: Teacher Mark Reagan / Math Department
Students using 1:1 Chromebooks*

The Pilot Design

All ABC 1:1 pilot schools share a basic design. First, schools determined their technology team of teachers who agreed to use 1:1 technology on a daily basis. Each teacher committed to a regimen of professional development experiences planned throughout the year. The teachers worked collaboratively each week with their grade level peers. The pilot teachers agreed to be their school's first wave of new technology experts, available to help next year's teachers who are ready to integrate technology into their own classrooms.

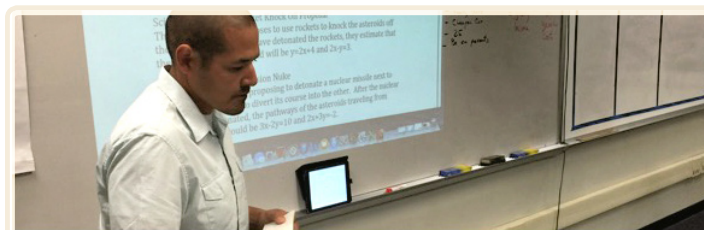
Pilot teachers have become proficient in managing classrooms with students that have their own devices, and how to integrate technology into lesson plans, and how to develop Problem Based Learning projects that simulate real life experiences for students.



*Juarez Elementary School: Teacher Leader Jennifer Holmes
1:1 iPad Pilot*

Within each teacher team, one teacher was designated as the team's Leader, or Coach. This teacher lead their school's pilot activities, and provided the team ongoing coaching and support.

Each schools' pilot team collaborated to plan and design technology enhanced lessons, and to give and receive support throughout the year. This professional collaboration is responsible for the tremendous growth experienced by all of our 1:1 pilot schools this year.



*Tracy High School: Math Teachers Anthony Ota, Clifton Aska,
Steven Mahkorn
Math Department, Students Grades 9-12 using 1:1 iPads*

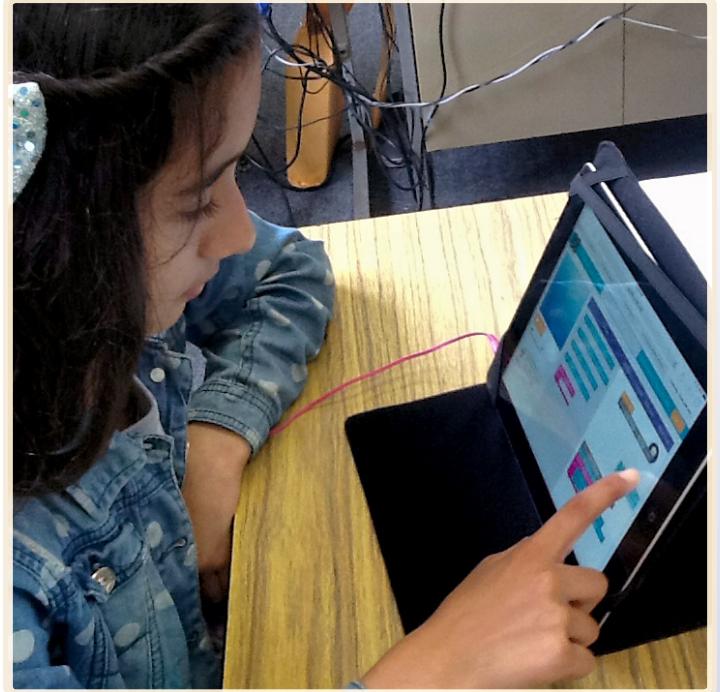
What we've gained from piloting

Critical experiences were this at each pilot school. Teachers attended a Summer Tech Camp to kickoff the school year, and the district provided the additional infrastructure needed to support each pilot classroom. Each pilot school received additional technology support from the IT Department. Pilot activities included numerous field trips to 1:1 demonstration schools in Southern California, attendance at Apple Professional Development, Google Apps for Education Summits, and Problem Based Learning seminars. The district provided personal one on one coaching and mentoring to each pilot team, and has hosted a variety of district and site based trainings that cover the district's use of the Google Ecosystem where our students and staff communicate and collaborate online.

iPad pilot schools attended Mobile Device Management trainings that allows teachers to manage the apps that reside on their students' iPads.



*Juarez Elementary School: Teacher Natalia Avila
2nd Grade Students using 1:1 iPads*



*Burbank Elementary School: Teacher Wendy Huang
3rd-6th grade students learn computer coding using 1:1 iPads*

We appreciate the extra efforts each pilot teacher, school administrator, support and district staff have given of themselves. Our pilot schools have helped ABC Unified strategically take the small steps necessary in order to make the big leap of technology access possible for every ABC classroom in the not so distant future. ▶



*Palms Elementary School: Teacher Charla Irish
3rd Grade using 1:1 iPads*

Day of the Employee Celebration



Celebrating the Day of the Employee with the District Office Team!

Employee Recognition Dinner



Congratulations to all ABC employees for their Years of Service in ABC.



The best of luck and best wishes to the retirees in the Class of 2015! (Suzan and Steve Highland)



Rafael Waites celebrated 15 Years of Services with the District. Pictured with Mr. Waites are his Mom and Dr. Mary Sieu.

Outstanding Service Award

Tim Catlin was recognized as the recipient of the **Outstanding Service Award** from the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA) for the Southern Section. The Southern Section consists of child welfare and attendance personnel in counties from Kern County to Imperial County. Tim is also the current Southern Section President. The award was presented at the recent CASCWA State Conference in Napa. **Congratulations to Tim Catlin and the ABC Unified School District. ▶**



Board Members

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



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

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