February 10, 2012

Teaching and Learning

CKM Summer Bridge Follow-Up

SCUSD’s Youth Engagement Services team on February 1 and 2 hosted a two day follow-up with C.K. McClatchy High School freshmen who participated in the 2011 Summer Bridge Program. The follow-up was held in collaboration with Linked Learning Cohort 8, Target Excellence, UC Davis, Junior Rise, The Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project, the City of Sacramento and Panacea Services.

In mid-August, 117 incoming ninth-grade McClatchy students participated in a one-week freshmen bridge and orientation at CKM to acclimate students to their new campus, inform them of graduation and A-G requirements and expose them to institutions of higher learning. An essential component of the program was the mid-year follow-up, which took place in a two-day seminar format that served as an academic check-in and reaffirmation of school connectedness and college awareness. Students engaged in four workshops hosted by the collaborative partners with topics including academic success, stress management, individual strength assessment and successful pathways to college and careers. A family engagement night hosted by The Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project concluded the two-day seminar.

SCUSD’s ‘Coolest’ Teacher Selected for Antarctica Expedition

Washington Elementary School sixth-grade teacher Kim Williams has been selected to participate in the 2041 International Antarctic Expedition from February 27 through March 12. A 15-year classroom veteran, Williams was selected through the “Coolest Teacher in the World” search, sponsored by the US Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Center for Green Schools – which is also funding her participation. She is only one of two teachers chosen; the other is Cate Arnold from Boston Latin School. The expedition will be led by explorer Robert Swan, the first person ever to have walked to the North and South Poles.

According to the USGBC, Williams was selected “Coolest” for her collaboration with California State University, Sacramento, and UC Davis, which brings “the creativity and expertise of science, engineering and math graduate students and faculty into her classroom.” She also started the school’s garden with a registered 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program. Congratulations, Kim!

Big Picture Learning ‘Innovations Award 2011’

Big Picture Learning (BPL), of which SCUSD’s The Met Sacramento is a part, awarded Superintendent Raymond its Big Picture Learning Innovations Award at its 2012 Principals
Conference in San Diego today. The Superintendent was recognized for his support of The Met and its students and staff over the years. The awards ceremony culminated the conference, themed “The Idea Exchange.” The Met is one of 114 BPL schools in the US and four other countries.

Operations

SCUSD/SCTA Bargaining Update

District representatives and representatives of the Sacramento City Teachers Association held their first official bargaining session this week. The meeting was productive and four future meetings are planned. The dates are: Tuesday, February 21; Friday, March 2; Thursday, March 8; and Friday, March 9.

Meetings with other bargaining groups are scheduled to follow.

Community Engagement

Kit Carson Design Team Meets with Neighbors

The Kit Carson Design Team met Monday evening with direct neighbors of the school. The meeting allowed team members to share their work to date and to ask for ideas and input from neighbors. The discussions focused on the Headline Statements (vision) of the school, and the programs and grade level configurations that are being discussed. Some sample comments about each area follow:

Headline Statements

- “Statements seem balanced and well-rounded for students of all levels.”
- “Statements should include respect for neighbors and teachers.”

Programs

- “Consider woodshop, band, choir.”
- “Look at a “green” school where kids can walk or bike to school; many kids don’t get licenses until 18 now.”
- “My son is entering elementary school soon – I would be interested in a theme school, perhaps a 6-8 or 7-12.”
- “Survey the parents in the area to see what they want in a program; would they attend the school?”

Grade Level Configurations

- “Neighborhood has a history of opposing comprehensive 9-12 school.”
- “Traffic and parking are already heavy, even with low enrollment at Kit Carson currently.”
- “Feels like a repeat of Sac High.”
- “Reality is we’ve gotten used to life with Kit Carson being under-enrolled, so any increase in enrollment – no matter the age - will be hard.”
General Feedback

- “Would be nice for the neighborhood if the school lights could stay on at night.”
- “Should add a neighbor to the team.”
- “Consider the crime in the area, due to 65th Street corridor.”

The next Design Team meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27.

**Pro Bono Law Clinic at CKM**

The C.K. McClatchy Law and Public Policy Academy in partnership with the law firm DLA Piper will host a free legal clinic for students and their families on February 16. The clinic is an opportunity for the CKM community to talk confidentially with a lawyer about legal issues. The six lawyers who will be on hand may or may not take on specific cases, but will provide information and advice on where participants can seek more help. Legal issues to be addressed are:

- Family Law
- Immigration
- Landlord/Tenant
- Bankruptcy
- Government Benefits