



Board Update

From the Desk of Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

March 8, 2013

Teaching and Learning

Kit Carson Teachers Make Presentation at Statewide Conference

English teachers from Kit Carson Middle School presented a workshop on “Middle School English and the Road to College” for educators participating in the California League of Middle Schools conference last Saturday (March 2). Peter Batkin, Shawn D'Alesandro, Robert Martine and Connie deBlaquire presented a series of strategies and a system of teaching middle school language arts centered on expository reading and writing curriculum.

The workshop focused on teamwork, instruction and lesson planning. The audience in attendance asked questions and responded enthusiastically to the team’s ideas. The work of these teachers will provide an important springboard for Kit Carson’s transition to Common Core State Standards and International Baccalaureate programming.

WASC Teams Visit Kennedy, Rosemont

Teams of educators working with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges visited John F. Kennedy and Rosemont high schools this week. WASC is one of six regional accrediting associations in the United States and serves more than 4,500 public schools in California, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and East Asia.

Before the WASC visitors arrived, teams from Kennedy and Rosemont conducted self-studies, as required by the process. The visitors reviewed the self-studies and conducted tours of the school looking for evidence of areas of strength and challenges identified by campus staff. The cycle of self-study, visit and follow-up is normally repeated every six years. To support and encourage continual school improvement, WASC communicates with schools during the cycle through written reports and short visits.

The Met and George Washington Carver School of Arts and Science will be visited by WASC teams next month.

Operations

Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools Donates to SCUSD

Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools, an initiative created to support First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! anti-obesity drive, is donating another 17 salad bars to SCUSD. The salad bars should arrive next week. Funding for 15 of the salad bars is provided by the Whole Foods Foundation. The remaining two are sponsored by Del Monte Fresh Produce North America and The Fresh Produce and Floral Council. All SCUSD schools have salad bars and the new additions will either replace those that need replacing or be added to the cafeterias at our large schools. Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools is an initiative of the Food Family Farming Foundation, National Fruit and Vegetable Alliance, United Fresh Produce Association Foundation and Whole Foods Markets. The goal of Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools is to fund and award 6,000 salad bars by the end of 2013.

Franz Wins CASEL Award

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has selected Koua Franz, former Chief Officer of Family and Community Engagement, to receive the Mary Utne O'Brien Award for Excellence in Expanding the Evidence-Based Practice of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

Franz will be honored along with seven other SEL champions from the CASEL/NoVo Collaborating Districts at the 2013 CASEL Forum in Chicago May 14-15.

The Mary Utne O'Brien Award is the most important award that CASEL gives. Utne O'Brien was an inspirational leader at CASEL for more than 10 years who passed away from breast cancer in 2010. She worked strategically as an action researcher to expand evidence-based SEL practice and policy. The CASEL Board of Directors established this award to honor her memory and also to honor those who work "tirelessly and effectively to promote students' social, emotional, and academic learning." Congratulations!

Community Engagement

SCUSD Partners with the Sacramento Tree Foundation for Arbor Day

SCUSD partnered with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and Greenwise Joint Venture for an Arbor Day celebration at Pacific Elementary School on Thursday. The event was part of the "30k Trees" campaign, an effort to plant 30,000 trees in one year throughout the Sacramento region. Mayor Kevin Johnson attended the celebration with Ray Tretheway, executive director of the Tree Foundation, and representatives of SMUD, PG&E, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Congresswoman Doris Matsui's office and Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg's office.

Students and staff at Pacific planted 22 trees and each classroom has pledged to adopt and care for a tree over the next three years, a critical development phase in a tree's life.

Over a 20-year period, 30,000 trees could collect 8.5 million tons of carbon, capture 11 million gallons of storm water, and remove 110,000 pounds of pollutants from the air.

School Transition Work Continues

The first School Transition Information Clinics were held this week at C.P. Huntington, Joseph Bonnheim and Maple elementary schools. The clinics provided information on new school boundaries, Open Enrollment, Special Education services, before- and after-school programs and Child Development preschool programs. Translators were available at each. Drop-in clinics will be held at the remaining schools next week on the following dates:

- C.B. Wire Elementary School: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11
- Fruit Ridge Elementary School: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 11
- Washington Elementary School: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13
- Mark Hopkins Elementary School: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14

Also next week, the district will schedule the first Community Stakeholder Transition Team meeting with partners and community members. This team is in addition to the District Operational Transition Support Team formed to address all facets necessary to ensure a smooth transition for the students, parents and staffs at each school site. The areas of focus for all of the district's transition work remain:

- Transportation/Safety
- Parent/Family Engagement
- Open Enrollment
- Staffing
- Programs Specifics
- Special Education
- Child Development programs
- Afterschool programs
- Facilities, Inventory, Materials/Equipment and Operations
- Blending Activities