

**NEWS UPDATE**  
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## **April CUCPTSA News Update**

### **Welcome Back from Spring Break and a Look Ahead**

Wow! Only 38 days of school remain in the 2018-19 school year!

I'm certain our students are counting down the last school days in excited anticipation for summer break. Soon, testing will be complete, grades will be finalized, and the end of another year will be here before we know it. I don't know about you, but every year seems to go faster than the one before.

In June, we will celebrate the graduation of nearly 4,000 students. In August, we will welcome brand new kindergartners into our full-day kinder program, our middle schoolers into their new classrooms or campuses, and our freshman onto their new campuses. No matter their grade or their age, our priority is giving our students an outstanding education and opportunities to pursue a variety of options for their life after high school.

I hope that all of you, our students and families, enjoy the rest of this school year and that you have the opportunity to take in all the memories and activities this time of year brings. We are grateful for the opportunity to teach your children and we look forward to many more school years together.

### **CUSD Music Education Program Receives National Recognition**

CUSD has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Designations are given to districts that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and consistent access to music education. This year, 623 districts were recognized nationwide, including 18 within California.

The award recognizes the commitment and dedication of Capistrano Unified to music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children, and signifies that the district is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Read the full Press Release [here](#).

## **Districtwide Robotics Team Qualifies for World Championship**

Our Districtwide robotics team (Robot Dolphins from Outer Space) won first place at the 2019 LA Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in the end of March!

The annual competition is held by the not-for-profit FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), whose mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders. Over the course of two days, over 50 high school teams competed at the FIRST Robotics Competition held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The event combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, engaging students in creative problem solving, teamwork and strategic thinking skills.

During the competition, alliances made up of three teams compete on a special playing field with robots they have engineered, built and programmed against like-minded competitors. Students worked alongside professional engineers who volunteered their time and professional talents to guide each team.

The Robot Dolphins from Outer Space team is made up of students from Aliso Niguel High School, Capistrano Valley High School, Dana Hills High School, San Clemente High School, San Juan Hills High School, Tesoro High School and Laguna Beach High School.

The team will now move on to world championships held at the end of April in Houston, Texas.

Read the full Press Release [here](#).

## **CUSD Placed on The College Board 9th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll**

CUSD was recently placed on The College Board 9th Annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll.

In 2018, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2016 to 2018, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

To qualify, Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts
- Increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native,

Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and

- Improved or maintained performance levels when comparing the 2018 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2016 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher

We are extremely proud to be included as one of 373 school districts in the U.S. and Canada as a leader in making access to, and success in, AP courses a priority.

### **Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo Community Polling**

We will begin this phase of polling in late April (to avoid any strong feelings in regards to Tax Day). Results will be shared publicly and will determine next steps on a facilities bond for this region for March of 2020 or later.

### **Four CUSD Schools Receive National Recognition for School Counseling Programs**

Four CUSD schools were notified that their efforts over the last two and a half years have been recognized by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) as a “Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP)”. The RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary comprehensive school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, a framework for a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling.

Prior to this year, only eleven schools in California had earned the RAMP designation. This year, seven schools in California were recognized. The four Capistrano Unified schools being honored are Ambuehl Elementary School, Hidden Hills Elementary School, Las Flores Middle School, and Capistrano Valley High School. Capistrano Unified made history this year by having the most schools with the RAMP designation, and is the first district to have at least one RAMP school at all levels – elementary, middle, and high school.

Both schools will be honored at a recognition ceremony at ASCA’s annual conference in Boston, Mass. on Monday, July 1, 2019.

### **CUSD Sexual Health Curriculum Middle School Parent Information Nights**

Middle School Parent Nights will be held from 5:30-7:00 on the dates below. Spanish translation will be available at these meetings.

- Don Juan Avila MS - April 17th
- Ladera Ranch MS - April 15th
- Marco Forster MS - April 18th

Parent Nights have already taken place on the following dates:

- Aliso Viejo MS - April 11th
- Arroyo Vista MS - (Held at Las Flores MS) on April 11th
- Bernice Ayers MS - April 8th
- Carl Hankey K-8 - Held at Newhart MS on April 8th
- Las Flores MS - April 11th
- Newhart MS - April 8th
- Niguel Hills MS - April 11th
- Shorecliffs MS - April 10th
- Vista Del Mar MS - April 8th

The Comprehensive Sexual Health Curriculum website can be viewed [here](#).

### **Superintendent's Roadshow Update**

Our Superintendent and members of Executive Cabinet are working on a goal to visit every CUSD school site this year to meet with parents and families as well as teachers and staff.

Since our last meeting on March 4, the Superintendent and Staff have visited the following:

- Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce 3/5
- Shorecliffs Middle Staff 3/7
- Hidden Hills Elementary PTA 3/12
- Ladera Ranch Elementary PTA 3/13
- Aliso Viejo Chamber of Commerce 3/13
- Wagon Wheel Elementary PTA 3/14
- Kinoshita Elementary PTA 3/26
- Ladera Ranch Elementary Staff 3/29
- Moulton Elementary Staff 4/8
- Mission Viejo Kiwanis Club 4/9
- San Clemente Kiwanis Club 4/10
- Mayors Roundtable Meeting 4/10
- Laguna Niguel Elementary Staff 4/10
- RH Dana Elementary PTA 4/11
- Las Flores Middle PTA 4/11
- RH Dana ENF PTA 4/12
- Tijeras Creek Elementary PTA 4/12
- Kinoshita Elementary Staff 4/12

Upcoming Roadshow Visits:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Rotary Club 4/17
- Canyon Vista Elementary Staff 4/17
- Esencia Staff 4/17
- Benedict Elementary Staff 4/18

- Marblehead Elementary Staff 4/22
- Dana Hills High PTA 4/23
- Vista del Mar Elementary Staff 4/23
- Bathgate Elementary PTA 4/24
- San Juan Elementary Staff 4/24
- Dana Hills High School Staff 4/24
- RH Dana Elementary Staff 4/25
- Marco Forster Middle PTA 4/26
- Viejo Elementary PTA 4/26
- Laguna Hills/Saddleback Kiwanis Club 4/29
- Viejo Elementary Staff 4/30
- Ambuehl Elementary PTA 5/1
- Ladera Ranch Middle Staff 5/1

### **Upcoming Events**

- San Juan Hills High School Solar Ribbon Cutting: Monday, April 22, 2019 at 9 a.m.
- Sunshine Awards: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
- Transportation Appreciation Day: Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.
- Board Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Classified Employee of the Year Celebration at Capistrano Valley High School: May 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- CUSD Angels Baseball Family Night: May 17, 2019

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