

NEWS UPDATE

March 4, 2019

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March CUCPTSA News Update

CUSD Principal for a Day

Last Friday, we hosted our annual “Principal for a Day” event, offering business and community leaders a first-hand opportunity to experience a day in the life of a public school principal. The event engages volunteers in the overall operation of our schools, academic programs, and the challenges local educators face every day in providing a quality education for all children. This year we were honored to have our very own Elizabeth Mordock and Michele Ploessel-Campbell participate!

CTE Month and Monarch Beach Rotary Annual Career Symposium

This month, we shared highlights across social media featuring our Career Technical Education program, known as CTE in celebration of CTE Month.

Sharing careers with our young people continues to be a priority for CUSD and today we have over 12,000 students enrolled college and career pathways, up from 5,000 four years ago, thanks to this Board of Trustees’ focus on Career Technical Education. We also have nearly 400 businesses who partner with us. Today, CUSD has 28 career pathways for high school students in our CTE program.

Over the last few years we have spent approximately \$8 million dollars in CTE grant funds on labs, classrooms and equipment to ensure we are meeting the workforce needs of business and industries in our communities. Thankfully, these investments will continue with a new round of CTE grant funding from the state.

Last week, College and Career Advantage in partnership with the Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club also hosted their 29th Annual Career Symposium. Our students enjoyed hearing from industry professionals who shared their own stories, knowledge and advice on career pathways, building future success, and achieving goals.

Serra High School Recognized as Model Continuation School

Serra High School was once again named a model continuation high school by the California Department of Education. We are proud of their dedication to add new opportunities and experiences each year for our students.

California Distinguished School Recognition

We are pleased to announce that Carl Hankey K-8 and Bernice Ayer Middle School were recently both named as 2019 California Distinguished Schools. We are extremely proud of these schools and their unwavering commitment to the success of our students!

Marco Forster Middle School 50th Anniversary

This month, Marco Forster Middle School celebrated 50 years of academic excellence! Thank you to Principal Pam Sawyer, staff, PTA, students and parents, and members of the community for making this event so wonderful!

Assistant Superintendent of HR Recognized by ACSA

Rich Montgomery, Assistant Superintendent of HR was named recipient of the 2019 Tracy Gaffey Administrator of the Year Award by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17. The award recognizes school leaders for their excellence in mentoring other administrators, dedication to the profession, and appreciation of the work and importance of educational leadership. We are proud to recognize Mr. Montgomery for his outstanding achievement. His recognition speaks to the hard work that all of our district leaders commit to daily, on behalf of our young people.

Orange County Academic Decathlon

Three CUSD high schools participated in the Orange County Academic Decathlon this month. Tesoro High School won first place overall in their division, third place in Super Quiz, and took home 39 individual medals. San Juan Hills High School won first place in Super Quiz, second place overall in their division, and the “Spirit of OCAD” award, which recognizes the team most committed to sportsmanship, teamwork, school spirit and kindness. They also took home 30 individual medals. Aliso Niguel High School won fifth place overall in their division and took home 32 individual medals. Congratulations to all our students!

Primary Music

The Board approved funding for primary music for all elementary schools TK-3. Staff has engaged PTA, principals, CUEA, and primary music teachers to explore various options on supporting this program in a consistent manner across the District. A priority of the District was to create equity across the elementary landscape within CUSD as well as alleviate the fundraising fatigue of many of our PTA’s who have so generously funded this program for many years.

To that end, beginning in the 2019-20 school year, each elementary school will be receiving funding for two trimesters of Primary Music for students in grades TK-3.

For most sites, two trimesters of Primary Music will either match the current amount of instruction students are receiving or will increase it. For a few sites, in which PTA is paying for a full year, this will be a decrease in instruction from previous years. Staff will work closely with these principals so we can have clear positive and thoughtful messaging. This investment on the part of the District actually frees up PTA's and Foundations from having to allocate funds to Primary Music, and instead will be able to fund other site priorities. Class size for Primary Music will remain as it is currently. Class size will be 32:1 or 45:1 (if there is a combo class added).

There are many details we will be working through, as well as questions to answer that PTA may have. We will work with principals and PTA to address their questions. We know and understand that your site PTA's are planning for next year, and it is our hope that these funds previously allocated for music, can now be used to help support your school sites with exciting new programs and equipment!

CUSD Sexual Health Curriculum

At the February 27 Board of Trustee meeting, Trustees voted on the grade 7 and 8 sexual health curriculum.

I want to thank our Sexual Health Education Task Force comprised of parents, teachers, community members, administrators, and experts. Your assistance over this last year in sharing feedback, providing guidance, and moving us forward in building a local curriculum for our District has been extraordinary. When we delayed implementation of these lessons last year and decided to write our own, we knew it was going to require a lot of time and a diversity of voices to get us to tonight. Ultimately, we followed the law and created lessons for our District with the hope that most of our families would opt-in.

For families who wish to opt out: You can opt out of the entire comprehensive sexual health instruction, or the parts of the instruction that you choose. We have committed to making this process simple and easily accessible to our families. Information for opting out of the lessons was shared as part of the Annual Notifications that were acknowledged by all families at the beginning of this school year. Parents checked a box within the parent portal indicating they were made aware of their rights. This process is required in order to complete online registration. More information on this process will be mailed to families in the spring.

The Board passed the agenda item with guidance to include the following modifications, along with additional instructions on opt out notifications, and a component on the harmful effects of pornography:

Lesson 1:

- Clearer instruction to teachers to encourage communication with parents and guardians

- Increased communication with parents and guardians by teachers regarding the topics covered in class and ways for parents and guardians to talk with their students about sexual health including a space for parent reflection

Lesson 2:

- Additional content on the importance of friendships and healthy relationships
- Additional content on communication skills

Lesson 4:

- Removal of the acronym SOGIE which was related to an activity that was previously removed from the lesson

Lesson 5:

- Update material shared from Middle School Discipline Handbook

Lesson 8:

- Additional content on recommendations for prenatal care.

Lesson 9:

- Additional content on “The Shot” including how it works
- Additional content including the success rate for usage of IUDs

Lesson 10:

- Additional content on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the human body
- Additional content on the increased risk of STI transmission with multiple partners

Lesson 11:

- Move to the end of the unit after the current Lesson 12
- Additional content on ways to have healthy, committed relationships based on mutual respect and affection

Lesson 12:

- Move in front of current Lesson 11
- Additional content on legal age of consent in California being 18 years old
- Additional content on negotiation and refusal skills

CUSD Angels Baseball Family Fun Night

We have partnered with Angels Baseball to bring a special ticket offer to to CUSD families and staff. Join us for a night of family fun on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 7:07 p.m.

Your \$17 ticket includes:

- Field Reserve Ticket
- Patriotic MLB Tote
- Postgame Fireworks Spectacular

All CUSD families, friends and staff are welcome to attend!

View the flyer [here](#). Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

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 February 4, the Superintendent and Staff have visited the following:

- San Juan Hills High PTA 2/5
- Las Flores Elementary Staff 2/6
- George White Elementary 2/7
- Bergeson Elementary PTA 2/7
- Las Palmas Elementary PTA 2/8
- San Juan Hills High Staff 2/8
- Tijeras Creek Elementary Staff 2/13
- George White Elementary PTA 2/13
- Las Flores Middle Staff 2/20
- Capo Valley High PTA 2/20
- Aliso Niguel High Staff 2/20
- Esencia PTA 2/20
- Don Juan Avila Middle 2/21
- Moulton Elementary PTA 2/21
- Concordia Elementary Staff 2/25
- Concordia Elementary PTA 2/26
- San Clemente Chamber of Commerce
- Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Roadshow Visits:

- Shorecliffs Middle Staff 3/7
- Don Juan Avila Elementary PTA 3/8
- Del Obispo Elementary Staff 3/11
- 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
- Capo Valley High Staff 3/24
- Ladera Ranch Elementary Staff 3/29
- Moulton Elementary Staff 4/8
- Mission Viejo Kiwanis 4/9
- San Clemente Kiwanis 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 Events

- Aliso Niguel High School Spring Festival of Music: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
- Secondary Honors Concert: Friday, March 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
- Board Workshop/Special Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Teacher of the Year Celebration at Soka University: Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
- Spring Recess: April 1 - 5, 2019

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