

Golden Spotlight:

The Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year: is an honors competition to spotlight teaching excellence and exemplary professionalism in public education.

The competition is the largest of its kind in the state and is part of the oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public school teachers.

The Teacher of the Year program, which features an annual luncheon recognition each September for all participants, is designed to provide much-deserved recognition for teachers. Those selected by LACOE as County Teachers of the Year—educators who have shown exemplary dedication, compelling classroom practices, positive accomplishments and professional commitment—serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 72,000 classroom colleagues countywide.

Our very own Ms. Nicole Chun was recognized and honored as a Teacher of the Year, Semi-Finalist on September 24th! Congratulations Ms. Chun. Ms. Chun has graciously served our district since 2000 as a long-term sub for 9-12 SDC. She then taught grades 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and SDC.

Nicole serves and continues to serve on many district-led committees.

She has advised the coding club and knitting club.

In addition, she is Google Certified Trainer, Leading Edge Professional Learning Leader

Not sure how she finds the time, but Nicole serves as a Seesaw Ambassador, an Edji Visionary, and serves on the CUE LA Board of Directors (CUE - Computer Using Educators).

Nicole has a very creative side- she loves flair pens, UDL (universal design for learning), exciting science labs, and play-based learning. Congratulations Nicole. Thank you for all that you do for student achievement.

Superintendent report for 12/9/21:

This evening I will be covering the following strategic initiatives: Effective Instruction and Leadership, Community Engagement, and Student Connectedness.

Effective Instruction and Leadership:

- As the resignation of our Meadowlark Elementary principal was announced during the week of 11/29, I'd like to take this time to publicly thank Ms. Paula Saavedra for her service to our district. I only wish her well and much success in her future endeavors.

With that said, we have reached out to our community to provide their input on the qualities and characteristics needed in our next school site leader at Meadowlark through a Principal Stakeholder Input Survey. The survey was made live as of yesterday and the window to respond will close on December 22nd. The survey responses will help us build the profile and characteristics to support the recruitment of the ideal candidate for Meadowlark Elementary.

I am truly confident that we will identify the ideal candidate to build on the excellent foundation that is Meadowlark Elementary.

- I'd like to provide a quick update to our progress with AVID, district-wide implementation: On November 30th, my team and I met with the AVID program manager assigned to our district, Mr. Marciano Flores. We have begun the discussion of planning, as we are in our planning year to move forward with district wide implementation of AVID for the 2022-2023 academic year. This would entail:

We are now officially in Year 1- Planning year for full implementation at all 3 schools in 2022-23.

Professional Learning opportunities will be provided to the specific site AVID teams in the upcoming spring semester as part of planning along with a summer institute professional development.

We are eager to take AVID, an in-school academic support program district wide. Thank you to our school board for their support behind this innovative program for all students.

- I'd like to thank the efforts of our Vasquez HS team and our AVC partners, Cathi Hart and Rocio Heasley, we have a robust pool of students who have applied for the first AVC class offering to kick-off at Vasquez HS on January 10th. We are thrilled to have put this together quickly so that our

current Vasquez students have an opportunity to access an AVC course this academic calendar.

Our first dual enrollment offering as you can see examines stress and stressors from a health and wellness perspective.

It is designed to enable all students to understand the role of stress in their lives.

The course focuses on the multidimensional nature of stress, the role of stress in many chronic diseases, and the development of a personal stress management plan. It is based on a holistic approach to stress management, rather than an approach that just teaches a variety of individual coping techniques.

Looking forward, we are planning on adding additional courses to the Vasquez campus in the fall of 2022. One such example will be MUSIC 107: History of Women in Rock - a very popular class.

Again, on behalf of our district, thank you AVC for your collaboration.

- Last week, I had the privilege to attend the annual CSBA conference last week, 12/1 through 12/3. The professional development opportunity provided me with best practices to possibly adopt here at our own district as far as heightening parent engagement opportunities, assessing student social emotional well-being in real time, as well as school district funding concerns and the local control funding formula, just to name a few. Like any practitioner in education, bringing the content back from a professional development opportunity is high on my radar. One such take away from the parent engagement seminar was to heighten participation rates by establishing a “Parent Ambassador” program. District Parent Ambassadors will be equipped with current knowledge of district and school site activities, to help support district communication efforts. As I work out details on this parent engagement opportunity, more information will be shared at a future board meeting.

Community Engagement:

- Thank you Acton Women’s Club Board of Directors and President, Victoria Taylor for the 2021 Special Recognition Award and Luncheon held on

November 17th. The Acton Agua Dulce Unified School District is humbled to have your support.

We are grateful for the Acton Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on providing support and scholarships to qualifying students who reside in the Acton area, and financial support to our community-based schools.

Through the AWC donations, we have been able to continue working towards our district's mission and vision of academic excellence for all students.

Our district thanks AWC for their generous donation of \$1,000 to Meadowlark ES, High Desert MS, and Vasquez HS.

In addition, a huge thank you to the Agua Dulce Women's Club Board of Directors and President, Nicole Higdon for the 2021 Parade of Tables invitation on December 4th. The Acton Agua Dulce Unified School District is honored to have your support.

We are grateful for the Agua Dulce Women's Club tireless work in support of our students as they place a special emphasis on raising money for scholarships, youth programs, and community programs.

Also, a big thank you to L.A. County's 5th District Supervisor, Kathryn Barger for donating from her office \$1000.00 to each of the following organizations:

Meadowlark PTO

High Desert Booster

Vasquez HS PTSO

Last but not least, kudos to the Vasquez HS Culinary Arts program for their efforts at the Parade of Tables.

- Each holiday season the AADUSD District Office provides transportation for the Harmonic Bronze Group to perform at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Due to the COVID restrictions, the Harmonic Bronze group made

the difficult decision to not perform this season at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

AADUSD commends the Harmonic Bronze Group under the leadership of Mr. Larry Rowland for their perseverance, dedication, and hard work! AADUSD looks forward to their Spring performance.

The 2021 Harmonic Bronze Friday Group Members & Advanced Group:

Amanda Ames, Ryan Ames, Suzy Ames, Dillon Anderson, Gus Balkcom, Maylea Bruce, Ayiana Bruce, Adam Coons, Alex Coons, Nicholas Costan, Brett Dawson, John Fawkes, Braeden Flores, Brielle Flores, Emily Goldner, Ashley Hinkel, Zachary Levin, Andrew McLaws, Leilani McLaws, Max Schneider, Myra Schneider, Jacob Van Ornum, Mackenzie Van Ornum, and Aleko Zorba.

Student Connectedness

- The Superintendent's Student Advisory kicked off our first meeting on November 29th with Vasquez HS students in attendance!

The purpose of the Superintendent's Student Advisory is to create and implement goals through student input into areas that impact student performance, safety and security, mental health, and other areas of concern.

The advisory is scheduled to meet once a month. Participating students decided to hold our meetings moving forward at Vasquez HS during their lunch period.

Each meeting, the advisory will cover a goal or area of growth that we work on as a group. Thank you to the participating students as they were articulate and thoughtful with their insight. It is my hope to introduce the advisory to the board and our community in the upcoming months.

COVID Report:

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. 941 new cases as reported to LACDPH for December 7th as compared to 1,173 new cases for November 7th as reported at our last board meeting.

The testing positivity rate, a 7-day average for the week of November 30th is at 1.24% as compared to the week of October 31st which came in at .99%.

Once again, I would like to remind our families, the importance of a self-check at home prior to students arriving on campus. Please look for symptoms such as a cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you believe your child may be experiencing these symptoms, please contact your school site for additional guidance.

In addition, we genuinely understand that some in our community are concerned about Governor Newsom's proposed mandate on October 1, requiring that students attending in-person instruction be vaccinated against COVID-19 starting the term following full FDA approval of the vaccine for their grade span. To note, the mandate for students to be vaccinated is NOT yet in effect.

The mandate has an anticipated date of July 1, 2022. Again, this is an anticipated date. While we didn't create the mandate, our job is to implement it and keep everyone safe.

School districts are currently being told that exemptions will be available for families who do not wish to have their children vaccinated. It's anticipated these exemptions will include: (pause) medical, religious, and personal belief. If an exemption waiver is submitted, the student can attend school in-person.

We will continue keeping our families up to date as new information comes through.

Thank you. This concludes my COVID report for this evening.

