

## **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!

A message sent to us from Ms Chun: Thank you. Please, please let the board know I truly appreciate their efforts to honor me. It does mean a lot and I truly meant to be there tonight.

## **Superintendent report for 10/28/21:**

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

### **Effective Instruction and Leadership:**

- I'd like to once again thank our community for providing their input on the qualities and characteristics needed in our next school site leader at Vasquez HS. VHS Principal Stakeholder Input Survey. The survey responses helped us build the profile and characteristics to support the recruitment of the ideal candidate for VHS.

The top five leadership qualities that the principal of Vasquez High School should possess:

- Good communicator
- Proactive
- Empowers teachers and staff
- High expectations
- Extensive Leadership experience

I am truly confident that we have identified the ideal candidate in Dr. Michael Murphy. At this time, I would like to introduce Dr. Michael Murphy. Pending board approval this evening, Dr. Murphy will bring over 20 years of school site administrative experience, particularly at the secondary level where he will continue to build on the excellent foundation that is Vasquez High School.

In addition, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Paula Chamberlain who graciously served Vasquez HS as their interim principals for the past 6 weeks.

Dr. Chamberlain worked together with teachers and staff to support learning opportunities for our students. Your support to the Vasquez HS community has been greatly appreciated.

- I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Assistant Superintendent of Ed Services, Ms. Kimberlee Shaw for her mindful approach to accelerated learning. Her and her TOSA team (teachers on special assignment) have been working diligently behind the

scenes planning, developing robust instructional supports in ELA and Math. Tonight I'd like to highlight one such endeavor facilitated by TOSA, Mrs. Candice Palacios.

Mrs. Candice Palacios

A TOSA for Leveled Learning, she pushes in support at Meadowlark

For grades 1st-4th

It is so exciting to see our students making progress and gaining skills!

A little bit of Background Info:

Our Sonday Curriculum (reading intervention curriculum for elementary) is organized as follows:

-5 Pre-Reading Levels that focus on alphabet knowledge, rhyming and more

-36 Reading Levels which cover various phonics skills and high frequency words.

As groups master all skills in the current level they are moved up to the next level within the curriculum.

All groups have shown measurable growth in just a few weeks by either gaining skills within their current level or moving ahead to the next level. We are incredibly proud of our SOAR students for their hard work!

### **Community Engagement:**

- Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District is in the process of bringing together a group of teachers, students, parents, and community advocates to be part of our "Showcase Shadow Days" Collaborative.

Recruitment for the "Showcase Shadow Days" is underway. The introductory and recruitment letter pushed out as of last week.

The purpose of this group will be to bring forward ideas and create an on-going plan to showcase the multitude of programs offered within our district. Our first endeavor through the Collaborative will showcase our wonderful Athletic programs.

“Showcase Shadow Days” will immerse students and their families to experience life on a school campus as district “V.I.P.’s”! Immersive experiences will include athletic competitions, academic enrichment experiences, and other signature programs offered throughout the district.

We are tentatively scheduling our first meeting for early November. Collaborative participants will be allowed to attend meetings virtually.

Placement on the Collaborative is limited to approx. 8-10 individuals. So far we have only a few additional seats available. If interested, please email Ms. McCauley at [ymccauley@aadusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ymccauley@aadusd.k12.ca.us), as soon as possible.

### **Student Connectedness**

- Thank you to our wonderful families, students, community members, and alumni for their support at last Friday’s Homecoming game where our Mustangs held victory with a final score of 30 to 26. Kudos to our student athletes, coaches and Athletic director, Coach Sparks. At halftime, Vasquez showcased their Homecoming floats and celebrated the Senior Homecoming Court. Thank you to Ms. Alexa Lepp and ASB students for their diligence and hard work in ensuring successful Homecoming activities.

("It was a fantastic night for the Mustangs. Students past and present watched as the football team won an exciting game and earned their first victory of the season. Gabe Aguilar, Tyler Cobra, Chris Durando, and the rest of the team played their hearts out. It was one of the most exciting games I have seen in the past four years. With a season that has seen so much frustration due to COVID, it was awesome to see the team have success." - Athletic Director Sheldon Sparks)

- On a similar congratulatory note, VHS’s Girls cross country team won the league championship! They move up to CIF. Congratulations to:

Haley Rudd - 11th - Captain

Leilani McClaws - 10th

Marie Pape - 10th

Marina Costan - 10th

Isabella Galvez - 10th

Emily Hounanian - 9<sup>th</sup>

Dillon Anderson, congratulations for qualifying for CIF preliminary as an individual runner.

Congratulations are in order for our Mustangs!

In addition, congratulations are in order for our High Desert Boys Cross country. The H.D. Boys Cross Country Team just won the school's first every Boy's Cross Country Silver League Championship!

They are coached by Molly Zorba & Gisella Rivas and helped by parent volunteer Mari McLaws. Thank you for all that you do.

We are so very proud of our athletics and student athletes! Thank you, this concludes my report for tonight.

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### **COVID Report:**

- I'd like to provide an up to date COVID report, data pulled from LACDPH. 679 news cases as reported to LACDPH for October 25<sup>th</sup> as compared to 742 new cases for October 15<sup>th</sup> as reported at our last board meeting.

The testing positivity rate a 7-day average for the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> is .82% as compared to the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> which came in at .93% .

The percentage of individuals tested with a diagnostic COVID test since the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> comes in at 145,254 compared to the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> comes in at 142,722.

- I'd like to share an infographic on the screen that was pushed out to all families last week to help outline the COVID exposure timeline and parameters. Thank you Nurse Cari Wright for the following information. Some of the highlights include:

## Does this student meet the criteria of a close contact?

- *The student was within 6 feet of someone with Covid-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.*
- *The person had unprotected contact with bodily fluids and/or secretions. (Shared eating utensils, kissed, coughed on, sneezed on, provided care to someone with C19 without proper protective equipment).*
- *A person is considered to be infectious and able to spread the virus to others from 2 days before symptoms first started until the isolation period ends (i.e. 10 days have passed since symptoms first started AND no fever for at least 24 hours AND symptoms improve); OR, if symptoms never develop, from 2 days before their positive test was taken until 10 days after that test was taken.*

## If the student tested positive within the past 90-days

- *The student may return to school immediately, no testing required.*

## If the student is Vaccinated

- *Asymptomatic*
  - *The student may return to school immediately. It is recommended the student test for Covid-19 on day 6.*
- *Symptomatic*
  - *The student tests for Covid-19.*
    - *Negative – Student returns to school once they are symptom free for 24 hours without medication.*
    - *Positive – Student may return on day 11 if symptoms have not been present for 24 hours without medication.*

## Unvaccinated students

(do not meet criteria of box 1 or 2)

### Begin Quarantine

- Asymptomatic
  - Recommended to test for Covid-19
    - Student does not test
      - Students remain home for 10-days and may return if symptoms did not develop during quarantine.
    - Student is tested on Day 6
      - Negative – may return to class on day 8 if student remained asymptomatic.
      - Positive – Student begins their isolation period.
- Symptomatic
  - Recommended the student get tested right away and then again on day 6 to determine if symptoms are related to Covid-19.

This infographic can also be found on our district's website when you click on the "COVID 19 Update" link.

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