



ALBANY AQUATIC CENTER STATE OF THE ART FACILITY



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## A Message from Superintendent Stephenson



This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of AUSD's "Community" Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it!

**Albany Unified School District  
2013 Seismic Safety Update**

**The Questions:** I have been asked a number of questions about the seismic safety of our schools in Albany, especially since Marin and Ocean View Elementary Schools have been deemed to be seismically unsafe. I have also been asked why the District passed a bond in 2004 to modernize Marin and Ocean View and didn't address the revised seismic standards into the modernization plans. **The History:** Many of you remember when those schools were built in the 1970's and know that they met all federal and state safety standards at that time.

**State Action in 1999:** In order to address these issues, we need to go back to 1999 when the State decided to look at the seismic safety of school buildings that were built before California seriously beefed up its earthquake safety standards for schools.

The state flagged structures that were built with materials that had been proven to perform poorly in earthquakes. Masonry type structures were flagged because they are structures that have been proven to perform inadequately in an earthquake. In particular the State was concerned about how walls connected to foundations and roofs. They wanted to make sure that there was sufficient reinforcement to allow the material to give and sway when an earthquake's shaking occurs. The 1999 State process only involved a cursory review of the blueprints of these schools. The State then placed the schools into two categories: 1) Those that seemed likely to perform well in an earthquake; and 2) Those that might not. Ten-thousand buildings, or 14% of school buildings across the state, were flagged as potentially unsafe.

**State Action in 2003:** In January, 2003, the State sent out a check list to school districts saying, "Let us know what happened to these buildings?" The letter accompanying the checklist stated that an in-depth review would be required to confirm whether or not the buildings were hazardous. The State did not specifically say what districts should do if their buildings were on the list, and there were no stated legal requirements for school districts to address the list at that time.

So, without specific direction from the State, Albany went forward with modernizing Marin, Ocean View and Cornell Elementary Schools without performing the structural reviews necessary to determine whether the buildings were seismically safe according to current standards.

**AUSD Action in 2012:** Seismic safety concerns tend to ebb and flow. After the big earthquake in Japan, our attention was refocused on the safety of our buildings. Albany hired a structural engineering firm to assess the seismic safety of all of our school buildings. The reports are on our web site at [www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org). The results of the study not only confirmed the State's original assessment that some of the Marin School buildings were not seismically safe, but discovered that all of Marin's buildings and all of Ocean View's building would not perform well in a major earthquake.

**AUSD's Future Planning & Financing:** Now the question becomes how much money will it take to retrofit or replace the schools and how will we pay for it? Albany Schools will answer that question by developing an Educational Facilities Master Plan. An Educational Facility Master Plan is about planning for our students' educational future within a well built and well maintained learning environment. We will plan futuristically and practically when determining whether to remodel or reconstruct. We will consider future trends in educational delivery; we will anticipate future enrollment to make sure that our buildings have the capacity to accommodate growth; we will look at any opportunities for partnerships with the City, civic groups and colleges and universities. We will seek out any State funding opportunities and create a bond referendum package beneficial to the entire community.

*Marla Stephenson, Superintendent*

# Albany Aquatic Center



It has been a very successful year since the grand opening of the **Albany Aquatic Center**. The facility opened its doors for the Albany High School Swim Team and Aquatics Staff in early February 2012 with community use beginning in mid-February 2012. We are proud that the Albany Unified School District is continuing its legacy of educating Albany students and providing a community asset for which Albany is proud. We know that the **Albany Aquatic Center** is becoming a destination point and learning center for our students, families, and community as we offer a wide variety of programs, classes and events. We will continue to provide opportunities for individuals and families to participate in learning, exercise and recreation – all in a **new and exciting atmosphere!**



The Albany Aquatic Center hosted the **USA Swimming's, Pacific Swimming 2012 Diversity Camp** on December 8, 2012. The camp featured an appearance by **UC Berkeley swimmer Alex Cushing**, stroke technique workshops, team building activities, and more.

With the **Aquatic Center's Spring Programs** in full swing and registrations for our Summer session opening soon, the **Albany Aquatic Center** has been busy. We are proud to offer programs for both our **indoor and outdoor pools**. We are excited to **provide physical education and adapted PE classes, lap swim, open exercise, water fitness, swimming lessons, camps and certifications!**



The Albany Aquatic Center is a great place to cool off this summer. Both pools will be open! We are proud to offer **swim school, private lessons, family and lap swim, open exercise** as well as a variety of camps. The Albany Aquatics Staff is excited to provide a variety of programs and activities for all ages and abilities. **Online registration will open in April.** Please register early as classes do fill up quickly.



With **Summer coming soon**, the Albany Aquatic Center is actively **seeking Lifeguards and Swim Instructors**. Desirable **candidates must be 15 years of age** or older enjoy the water, outdoors, and children and have a **current American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification**. To apply, visit [www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org), download an application, and return to Amanda Garcia, 1051 Monroe Street, Albany



The Albany Aquatic Center offers year round lap swimming and water fitness classes. In addition the Aquatic Center provides the community with a **USA Swimming Team Albany Armada Aquatics**, year round swim lessons classes, masters swimming program, clinics, camps and American Red Cross courses.

Did you know, swimming is a great way to reach health and fitness goals. Swimming and water aerobics are low-impact activities that reduce body fat while increasing flexibility, bone density, stamina and muscle tone. Whether you want to get an aerobic workout, lose body fat, tone and build muscles, swimming utilizes virtually every muscle in the body.

**Stop by the Aquatic center and get your fitness on!**



## Positive Attendance Campaign



This school year, AUSD launched a **Positive Attendance Campaign** because attendance is key to academic success. The more children are in school, the more they learn and improve their grades. **Our goal is to improve attendance across the district by just 1%.** That 1% will make a world of difference in our classrooms. With just 1% we will be able to **provide additional resources for teachers and students** that promote learning and achievement. This campaign involves students, teachers, parents and lots of school spirit.

**Thank you Albany teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community** for all the efforts to improve school attendance. Our current attendance rate is 95% for the district; our **attendance goal is to reach 98%.** Every effort made to reduce truancy makes a difference.

### Why Attendance Matters?



- Chronic Absence**
- Warning Signs**  
(<10% but >5% absence)
- Satisfactory Attendance**  
(=<5% absence)

Chronic absenteeism is a **red alert** that students are headed for academic trouble and eventually for dropping out of high school.

#### *Students Who Miss More Than 10% of School Are At Grave Risk!*

As part of the **Positive Attendance Program** the Albany Aquatic Center will be hosting **POOL PARTIES** for the **elementary** school classes with the highest attendance rates.

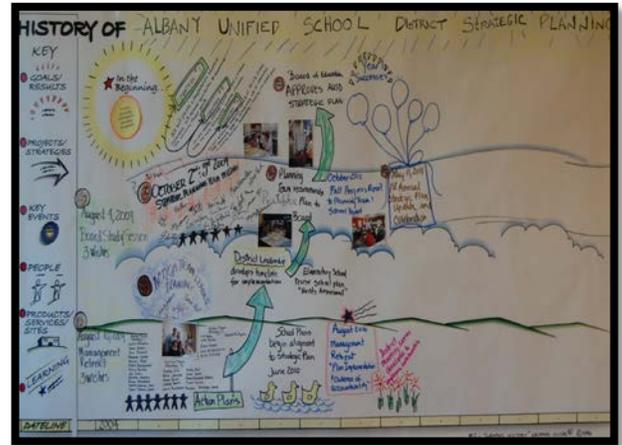


Research shows positive associations between attendance and incentives! By hosting **POOL PARTIES** for the students the Aquatic Center is hoping to **reduce student absences.**

Everyone's excitement, determination and commitment to winning a pool party will help motivate kids to encourage their parents to get them to school on a daily basis.

**Remember, every day counts!**

## AUSD's Strategic Plan



**Reminder:** In an ongoing effort towards excellence, AUSD is hosting the following on **Thurs., 2/28/13 at Cornell Elementary School Multi-purpose Room:**

1. 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - **Community Conversation on the Strategic Plan**
2. 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Board of Education Conversation on the Strategic Plan
3. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting

**Teachers, staff, administrators, and other stakeholders** gathered on **October 23 & 24, 2012** to continue reviewing and reflecting upon current research and best practices as it pertains to the sections of the Strategic Plan (**for more information, visit: [www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org)**).

**This February's community meeting is a continuation of ongoing efforts towards excellence.** Because the community's input and feedback is a valued part of the process, AUSD has communicated **information about the meeting on AUSD's website, Facebook page, e-trees, parent emails, and the Albany Patch**

### AUSD District E-tree



AUSD now has a **district e-tree for staff, parents, and the community!** If you would like to receive periodic emails that will **keep you up-to-date** on all the **latest district news and announcements**, please visit **[www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org)** and **subscribe on the home page.**

AUSD has a Facebook page! Please visit **[www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org)**



## Student Services



### Transitional Kindergarten

AUSD is currently accepting applications for **Transitional Kindergarten for the 2013-14 school year** at **Albany Children's Center** for children that will have their 5th birthday between October 2, 2013 - December 1, 2013.

To enroll, parents must complete the online registration form at: <https://aeries.ausdk12.org/air> and submit verification documents to the District office. **Enrollment is ongoing, but please encourage parents not to wait because space is limited!** For additional information, contact **Linda Williams** at **(510) 558-3762** and/or visit the website at [www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org).

### Annual Re-verification of Residency

**All Albany Families Must Annually Re-verify Their Residence.**

Information on how the process will be handled this year will be **communicated to families in a timely manner** in the following ways: 1) *Weekly newsletters for elementary schools*; 2) *High school website*; 3) *Auto-dial announcements*; 4) *AUSD website*; 5) *E-trees*; 6) *Emails to parents*; and 7) *The Albany Patch*.

Thank you for helping get the word out that **all Albany families must annually re-verify their residence.**

### Dress Barn's AUSD Teacher VIP Shopping Event



A huge thank you to the local **Dress Barn**, located in the nearby **El Cerrito Plaza**, offering all AUSD staff a **15% discount** on all purchases on **Friday, March 8, 2013** from .10:00 am – 9:00 pm.

This is the first of many events to come!

## Albany Mentor Program (AMP)



We are pleased to announce **Albany Unified School District's pilot program Albany Mentor Program (AMP)** that began in October 2012.

AMP is a new program created to address the broader needs of Albany's students. In its first year, **the AMP program is serving twelve 2nd, 3rd, and 6th grade Latino and African American boys.**

The AMP program is offering the opportunity for **quality after school tutoring** three days each week. Additionally, students have been paired with eighth and tenth grade boys from Albany Middle and High Schools and participate in fun, organized, bi-monthly **mentor/mentee group activities during the lunch period.**

**We are excited about working with AMP students this year as partners in their school success!**

## Student Services



### State Testing Begins Soon

The testing window for the State academic testing (Standardized Testing and Accountability Report, also known as **STAR**) **begins for Albany students on April 29<sup>th</sup> and ends no later than May 21<sup>st</sup>.** All students in grades 2 – 11 will be tested in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Middle and high school students will also be tested (grade level dependent) in Science and Social Science/History.

The District will receive the results from these tests (also known as the California Standards Tests) sometime this summer.

**Parents will receive a report of their child's performance in the US mail.**

## Community Educational Series



### ***Student Success & Student Stress***

Four evenings for parents and caregivers of all students, K-12, were held March – April 2012 at the Albany Community Center that covered the following topics:

#### ***"How Short Sleep Shortchanges Our Kids' Potential"***

A talk by Bryce Mander, PhD, UC Berkeley Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab.

#### ***"The Pleasure Trap: Motivating Kids to Make Good Choices"***

A talk by Abby Medcalf, PhD, of the New Bridge Foundation in Berkeley.

#### ***"One Size Does Not Fit All"***

A screening of the keynote speech on **raising successful and happy children** (Challenge Success Conference, Stanford, 2011) by Dr. Ken Ginsburg, a pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

After the screening, **School Board Member Patricia Low** facilitated a community conversation.

The **free series** was presented by the Albany Unified School District Wellness Committee and the combined Albany PTAs.



#### ***Choices, Responsibility, & Protection for Teenagers***

An important panel discussion for staff, students, parents and community members on **Choices, Responsibility, & Protection for Teenagers** was held on in November 2012 at Albany High School Little Theatre.

The panel discussion was facilitated by Mitch Radin, PsyD, Berkeley Mental Health Family Youth Services; Karen Rezendes, Attorney, Lozano-Smith; and Chrissy Brewer, Clinical Director, Crisis Support Services of Alameda County.

Topics included Appropriate Teenage Relationships; Mandated Reporter Requirements, and Responsible Community Behavior as it pertains to protecting children.

## Business Services

### **Proposed State Budget for 2013-14**

Governor Jerry Brown released his budget proposal for the 2013-14 fiscal year on January 10<sup>th</sup>. At first look, the Governor's proposal seems like a **good starting point for restoring funding to public education**, although it will take us time to analyze its impacts for our District. After five years of cuts to education, it is a relief to see that trend reversed but as the Governor stated, **it will take time to return education funding to the adequate levels that we saw in 2008**.

Thanks to the **passage of Prop 30**, the **best news** is the promise of **increased stability in funding for the next few years**. (Please note that definitive funding for education will not be known until the State adopts the Budget, which has a statutory approval **deadline of July 1, 2013**.)

Under the **proposed new Student Weighted Formula (SWF)** as we understand it now –the new funding formula is not about districts "winning or losing" but **about all students in California having equal access to the education they deserve**. We applaud the efforts of the current State Administration in moving toward adequate funding to meet the needs of all students in public schools.

**What does this mean for Albany?** The Governor's proposal, unlike those in previous years, seems to be trending toward the optimistic and **Albany is hopeful that we may see an increase in funds**. Until the Student Weighted Formula is fleshed out and approved; the **fiscal impact to Albany is unknown**. Our funding from the State could increase, but please note that it will **not come close to restoring the losses in State revenue** that we have endured over the past five years.

It is also important to understand that this is the Governor's **Proposed Budget and it is not a done deal** and the funding formula could change. The Governor will present a **Revised Budget in May**, and **the final budget** is required to be approved by the Legislature by **June 30, 2013**. **Check our website at [www.ausdk12.org](http://www.ausdk12.org) for updates.**

**AUSD's Board of Education Student Board Member and Albany High School Senior, Spencer Perry**, was appointed as California's Youth Governor. The Board presented Spencer with **Resolution No. 2011-12-16 - Recognition of Spencer Perry, California Youth Governor** upon his appointment.



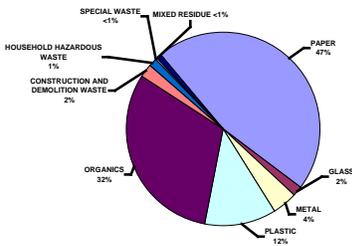


# AUSD Leads County In School Sustainability



AUSD continues to be one of Alameda County's leading districts in the realm of school sustainability. In addition to taking a leadership role in the State's Education and the Environment Initiative, AUSD has worked closely with the City of Albany and the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA) on a number of sustainability initiatives. This partnership supports AUSD's leadership role educating the next generation of sustainable citizens.

AUSD's present rate of diversion is 58%. Ocean View Elementary and MacGregor High have some of the best school diversion programs in the State. These schools are currently at 74% and 82% diversion respectively. It is estimated that by implementing a number of specific waste reduction strategies to reach 75% diversion, AUSD could realize a \$10,000 annual decrease in solid waste management costs. Reaching the goal of less than 10% waste in the garbage by 2020 will realize even greater financial benefit. The diagram below provides an estimated picture of AUSD's waste composition showing how these goals are achievable. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of materials generated by AUSD have the potential to either be composted or recycled.



# 2013-2014 ~ Calendar

The 2013-2014 calendar was approved by the Board of Education on February 1, 2013 (see below).

## ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

MONTH	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Student Days in the Month	DESCRIPTION
2013-2014								
AUG						1 2	4	Aug 23-26 Staff Development Aug 27 First Day
	5	6	7	8	9			
	12	13	14	15	16			
	19	20	21	22	23			
	26	27	28	29	30			
SEPT	2	3	4	5	6		20	Sept 2 Labor Day
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
	30							
OCT		1	2	3	4		22	Oct 11 Staff Development
	7	8	9	10	11			
	14	15	16	17	18			
	21	22	23	24	25			
	28	29	30	31				
NOV						1	17	Nov, 11 Veterans Day Nov 27, 28, 29 Thanksgiving Holidays
	4	5	6	7	8			
	11	12	13	14	15			
	18	19	20	21	22			
	25	26	27	28	29			
DEC							15	Dec 23-Jan 3 Winter Break
	2	3	4	5	6			
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
	30	31						
JAN				1	2	3	19	Jan 20 MLK, Jr Day
	6	7	8	9	10			
	13	14	15	16	17			
	20	21	22	23	24			
	27	28	29	30	31			
FEB	3	4	5	6	7		15	Feb 17-21 Mid-Winter Break
	10	11	12	13	14			
	17	18	19	20	21			
	24	25	26	27	28			
MAR	3	4	5	6	7		20	March 21 Staff Development
	10	11	12	13	14			
	17	18	19	20	21			
	24	25	26	27	28			
	31							
APR		1	2	3	4		17	April 14-18 Spring Break
	7	8	9	10	11			
	14	15	16	17	18			
	21	22	23	24	25			
	28	29	30					
MAY						1 2	21	May 28 Memorial Day
	5	6	7	8	9			
	12	13	14	15	16			
	19	20	21	22	23			
	26	27	28	29	30			
JUN	2	3	4	5	6		10	June 13 Last Day of School
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
	30							
							180 Student Days	
							4 Staff Dev. Days	
							184 Total Days	

Approved 2/12/13

## The Board of Education passed

### Resolution 2012-13-10 - Priority Partner - Stop Waste.org

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION 2012-2013-10

**A RESOLUTION TO BECOME A PRIORITY PARTNER FOR WASTE REDUCTION WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE ALAMEDA COUNTY SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD (ALSO KNOWN AS: STOPWASTE.ORG)**

**WHEREAS**, Albany Unified School District schools have an opportunity to teach students about waste reduction while meeting Math, Science, Social studies and English Language Arts standards by integrating environmental and sustainability education into the curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, Albany Unified School District schools have the opportunity to develop student leadership by providing students with opportunities to engage in curricular action projects that enhance the sustainability of their classroom, school and local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Albany Unified School District schools have many opportunities and choices to use natural resources more efficiently, to reduce, reuse, and recycle; and

**WHEREAS**, StopWaste.Org has historically provided and hopes to continue to provide free of charge a suite of environmental education services that include: assemblies, transfer station tours, custodial and teacher trainings, in-classroom support for student action projects, and support for service learning curriculum activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE ALBANY BOARD OF EDUCATION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:** that the Albany Unified School District will continue its progress toward creating sustainable school sites through improvement of the District's recycling and composting programs through the following five commitments:

- The Albany Unified School District will designate a District-wide liaison to serve as a single point of contact between our agency and your district.
- The Albany Unified School District will commit to reducing the amount of readily recyclable and compostable materials in trash sent to landfill to less than 10% by 2020.
- The Albany Unified School District will support annual assessment to track progress toward achieving commitment 2, including public access to annual assessment data. StopWaste.Org will fund professional annual assessments or support well-organized student and teacher led on-site assessments (as some schools have done already).
- The Albany Unified School District will release an Administrative Instruction establishing district procedures for reaching the less than 10% by 2020 goal, and edit it annually to maintain accuracy. The content of the instruction is flexible and at the District's discretion.
- The Albany Unified School District will commit to provide source separated recycling and organics service.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Albany Unified School District on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: 4  
NOES: 0  
ABSENT: 1  
ABSTENTIONS: 0

*Myra Stephenson*  
Clerk of the Board of Trustees  
Albany Unified School District  
Alameda County, California



1051 Monroe Street  
Albany, CA 94706  
510.558.3750 Phone  
510.559.6560 Fax  
www.ausd.k12.org

**District Administration**  
Marla Stephenson, Superintendent  
Laurie Harden, Assistant Superintendent

**Board of Education**  
Paul Black  
Jonathan Knight  
Patricia Low  
Allan Maris  
Ronald Rosenbaum