

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Volume 1

Issue 6

January 13, 2017

## Upcoming events:

- ◆ Jan 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ◆ Jan 17-27 Benchmark #2
- ◆ Jan 19 DELAC & Parent Workshop
- ◆ Jan 26 Kinder Faire, 5:30-7:00 pm BPJH Gym
- ◆ Jan 31 K-8 Minimum Day



## What A Grand Opportunity

Welcome back for 2017 and *A Grand Opportunity* for BPSD's students and staff! Returning from break, I am so impressed with the spirit in which our teams entered the new year to begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. After visiting schools this week, I am proud to say that we haven't missed a beat to continue to provide the instruction and services our students and families expect.



There is much that we can be proud of, and build upon in 2017, including: improving instructional alignment to California's standards; strong PD supporting our work; K-2 students that are demonstrating dramatically increased literacy skills; growing capabilities to engage students with technology, project-based learning and social emotional supports; and continued progress to expand 1:1 student access, new classroom renovations, energy efficient lighting, and HVAC and roofing replacements.

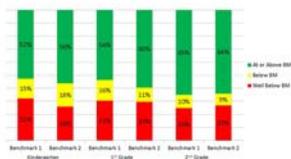
As a District team, and on each campus, there is amazing work occurring at BPSD. Kudos to all. I look forward to continuing our progress and assisting our teams to achieve the *Grand Opportunity* we have to better support our students and families in this new year.

## Early Literacy Progress Update

Just before the holidays our Literacy TOSA team completed this year's 2nd District-wide K-6 DIBELS Next assessment sweep to identify students that may be at risk for reading difficulties. As we are in the second full year of our Early Literacy initiative, DIBELS is showing us that our youngsters, many of whom have significant socioeconomic and language barriers, can acquire literacy skills on pace with the expected grade level achievement targets.



Early Literacy Metrics Grades K-2  
DIBELS Next Benchmarks 1 and 2  
2016-17



District level results show the progression of higher levels of literacy as students move from benchmark 1 to 2, and through the critically important grades Kindergarten through Grade 2 (see chart). The data tells us that BPSD staff and

students are on the move to break through student barriers and ensure that "all students read at grade level by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade."

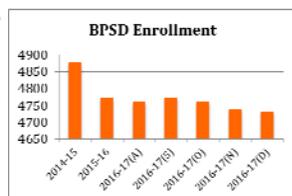
## Grades 2/3 iPads Coming

An additional 200 iPads for BPSD's 2nd and 3rd grade iPad equalization project are on order. The District's iPad equalization plan was developed to support technology equity across primary grades. This purchase compliments a 2015-16 purchase for grades K-1. iPads will be distributed to grades 2 and 3 classes in February. All iPads will be Air2 models and will come with cases, sync cables, charging bricks, headphones, and tech tubs to store/charge the devices. Our TOSA Technology Coaches will arrange to work with teachers and provide professional learning opportunities for implementing these iPads into the classroom.

## Midyear Enrollment Update

As a District with enrollment that is following the county-wide decline, BPSD's midyear enrollment reflects an improvement over projections at the beginning of the year. While original projections indicated a decline of 100 students, as of December, we have 50 fewer students than in 2015-16 school year.

Enrollment is monitored closely as it is the main source for the District's funding, and is used to plan for the subsequent years.



## BPJHS STEM Sailing Program Begins

On Wednesday after a morning of rain, the sky cleared and 28 excited BPJHS students engaged in their first US Sailing STEM lesson: "What do we know about wind?" at the Long Beach Yacht Club. During the land rotation, student teams worked with BPJHS Science teachers Ms. Bruhns, Mr. Travis and Mr. Woodward, and created anemometers to understand and experiment with wind speed measurement.



Later, students enjoyed an on-the-water sailing experience (the first boating experience for all students), under the tutelage of sailing coaches provided by LBYC, to apply concepts learned about wind energy.



Supported by the Long Beach Sailing Foundation and LBYC, the program will continue through the second semester with instruction on the BPJHS campus, and monthly sailing fieldwork opportunities at LBYC.



Congratulations to Caitlyn Alba, 6th grade student at Pendleton School! Caitlyn won 1st Place in the districtwide Spelling Bee and will continue on to the Orange County Dept. of Education.



*Thought for the day:*

*And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.* Rainer Maria Rilke

# Board Highlights

## **SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION**

The month of January is designated as School Board Appreciation month. Representatives from the California School Employees Association, Buena Park Teachers Association, BPSD Management Team and Superintendent Greg Magnuson presented the Board with token gifts and words of encouragement and appreciation for their unselfish devotion of time and service to carry on the mission and business of the Buena Park School District. Buena Park Mayor Elizabeth Swift presented the Governing Board with a proclamation signed by the entire Buena Park City Council.

## **CARL E. GILBERT SCHOOL REPORT**

Principal Russell Harrison, Administrative Intern Gilbert Kim and Gilbert teachers' Romel Salvador, Heidi Higgins, and Julianne Merys shared the process by which Gilbert School is achieving literacy success with their students. Students are challenged by the rigor and pacing of the Engage NY phonics program, writing instruction is taught across grade levels, and struggling readers are provided several intervention supports including an Early Literacy TOSA. Storyworks is an online magazine with cross-genre content available on student iPads grades 3-6; students participate in Reading Workshop and Accelerated Reader, receiving t-shirts and medals of achievement as rewards; literacy is enhanced with technology through campus-wide AppleTV, iPad centers for grades K-3, one to one iPads with keyboards for grades 4-6; and the Read Naturally application. Staff also shared statistical data supporting the growth in literacy.

## **2015-16 BPSD AUDIT REPORT**

The annual audit of the Buena Park School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 was conducted by the firm of Christy White & Associates. The Auditor has published a favorable opinion of the District's financial statements, internal controls and compliance with certain provisions of law, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters for the period of the review.

The Auditor found one reportable condition or audit exception during this review related to unduplicated Free or Reduced Price Meal Eligible (FRPM) pupil counts. One out of 120 students sampled was recorded as free or reduced when they shouldn't have. The auditors extrapolate that and, based on our student population, up to 8 students may have been improperly recorded resulting in a net revenue loss of \$6,742.00. This audit finding is a repeat finding from our 2014-15 Audit Report. While the reason for the finding differs, the end result is that we are not in compliance with requirements. Coordination meetings have been held with staff and recommendations from our external auditors have been incorporated into our protocols to rectify this issue. A comprehensive review of the free, reduced, and full pay data field contained within the CALPADS submission file vs. Child Nutrition records was conducted for the 2016-17 submission.

## **GOVERNING BOARD POLICIES**

The Governing Board approved the adoption/review/revision/deletion to the following board policies:

- ◆ BP4030 Nondiscrimination in Employment
- ◆ BP4117.13/4317.13 Early Retirement Option
- ◆ BP4119.11/4219.11/4319.11 Sexual Harassment

## **STUDENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENT(S)**

The Governing Board approved the placement of two student teachers from Biola University and National University. Master teachers are:

Emery: Leanne Crawford

Whitaker: Larry Kiefer

## **CONTRACT SERVICE AGREEMENT(S)**

The Governing Board approved the following contracts:

- ◆ Pali Institute contract increased due to the number of 6th grade students attending Outdoor Science Camp
- ◆ Fiscal Crisis & Management Team (FCMAT) will conduct an operational review to examine the food service department's process and procedures and provide recommendations to enhance operations and increase efficiency
- ◆ Christy White Associates will conduct the annual audit of financial statements for fiscal year ending 6/30/17.