

Notes
Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee
January 7, 2014

Community Announcements:

Beach 2 Mountain: Mr. Ed Wehan shared news regarding the partnership formed between the Beach 2 Mountain Marathon and the Ventura Education Partnership. This year, Beach 2 Mountain will hold various fundraisers and funds will go directly to towards VEP Grants. The first fundraising event will be held at the Souplantation (flyer distributed to parents). Beach 2 Mountain event is a 26.2 miles of mountain and beachfront scenery held in Ojai and scheduled on May 25, 2014.

Quick Start Tennis Program: VEP President Kay Giles introduced Mr. Philippe Gache coordinator of the United State Tennis Association (USTA) Quick Start Tennis Program. Last year, Mr. Gache was able to secure a Grant from the USTA that provided six VUSD elementary schools the opportunity to bring tennis to students during PE instruction. The program was a great success, but unfortunately grant funds have been spent and no new USTA grant funds available this year. Mr. Gache noted that program through USTA costs about \$1,000 per school, they work with entire student population, schedule 30 to 35 students per group instruction, sessions are 35 to 40 minutes during a four week period. Mr. Gache presented today in hopes that PTA/PTO organizations or schools might be interested in raising funds to support basic tennis instruction at their sites. Contact: **Philippe Gache**, QuickStart Tennis Coordinator, City of Ojai Recreation Department ojaiquickstart@gmail.com (310) 651-0405.

PAC Representative noted that the Ventura PTA organization has Grant opportunities for programs like this under their Healthy Lifestyle Grant. However, deadline to apply for this year has expired.

VCKidsFYI: Mrs. Nancy Maxson, Health Coordinator distributed information regarding the VCKidsFYI Text News to Parents Campaign sponsored by the Ventura County Behavioral Health. There is no charge to sign-up to receive free text messages about teens, drugs and alcohol. However she noted that message and data rates may apply depending on the type of plan you have on your phone. To sign- up, text 83936, type VCKidsFYI. If you want to cancel, text STOP to 83936.

Schools of Choice:

Dr. Kyunghae Schwartz, Director Student Support Services noted that the application period for School of Choice begins January 17. All applications must be received on January 31 by 4 p.m. Education Code & Board Policy require that districts offer school of choice program at schools that have the capacity to accept additional students. Parents and guardians currently residing in the Ventura Unified School District boundary can apply for school of choice. A reminder that this is a lottery process and not based on first-come first served basis. Each school has the discretion to first secure an estimate of spots needed for students living within their neighborhood school, and then open up space based on overall enrollment capacity. If capacity numbers allow, it has been VUSD practice to do its best to accommodate siblings.

Elementary Schools with current capacity:

- Blanche Reynolds
- Juanamaria
- Junipero Serra
- Poinsettia
- Homestead (K-8)
- Open Classroom at Blanche Reynolds (K-8)
- Sunset (K-8).

Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) Federally Funded:

- Academy of Technology and Leadership at Saticoy
- E.P. Foster Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- Montalvo Arts and Two-Way Immersion
- Mound Science and Global Citizenship
- Sheridan Way International Language & Biliteracy
- Will Rogers School of Environmental Science & Two-Way Immersion.

Middle & High Schools:

- Anacapa (Two-Way Immersion)
- De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts
- Buena
 - Based on enrollment capacity and numbers balanced between VHS
- Ventura (Two-Way Immersion)
 - Based on enrollment capacity and numbers balanced between BHS
- Foothill Technology High School
 - Information regarding athletics on the school website
- El Camino High School
 - In order to be considered for ECHS parents must attend an information night meeting in January.
 - Students must meet school requirements for admission.

Application Process:

To enter the lottery, a family must complete and return the application during the Schools of Choice window which opens on January 17, 2014 and closes January 31, 2014. All applications must be received by 4 p.m. on January 31.

Applications Available January 17:

- District website: www.venturausd.org
- All VUSD school sites
- Education Service Center: 255 W. Stanley Ave.

Notification:

Parents/Guardians will be notified by mail at the beginning of March 2014.

Celebrating Students' Multilingual Skills:

Dr. Jennifer Robles, Director of Bilingual Education Introduced team of supporting staff: Teresa Nunez, Teacher Specialist-Bilingual Education, Maria Villarreal, Migrant Education Coordinator, and Joann Wakelee, Teacher Specialist-Dual Immersion.



Mrs. Wakelee reviewed and distributed information regarding the VUSD Multilingual Recognition Seal and the California State Seal of Biliteracy with parents. She noted that part of her responsibility is to visit high schools to make certain that students are informed. Application filing begins February 3 and due on March 28, 2014. Mrs. Wakelee noted that the requirements of the California State Seal of Biliteracy issued to seniors have become more rigorous. Students that qualify for prestigious recognition will have seals placed on diplomas and also given a teal cord tassel to wear on graduation day.

Comparison numbers of VUSD Multilingual Seals issued:

Year	Number of Students
2009	77
2013	185

Comparison numbers of California State Biliteracy Seals issued:

Year	Number of Students
2012 (1 st offered)	90
Last Year	164

Students have been awarded seals in following Languages: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Korean, Cantonese, & Hindi.

Parents expressed interest regarding curriculum enrichment class of Spanish for English speaking students other than Two-Way Immersion Program. Response: District would welcomes opportunity, but budget an issue that prevents development of such program.

Parents interest in opportunity for Spanish classes. Spanish classes offered at the Ventura Adult Continuing Education for educators and community. <http://www.vace.com/> or call (805) 289-7925.

Ventura Education Partnership:

Kay Giles, President shared that the Festival of Talent show is scheduled for February 22, 2014, Ventura High School, preshow events begins at 5:30 p.m. and show at 7:00 p.m.

Auditions:

- Friday, January 17 from 3:30 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, January 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Festival of Talent is the major fundraising event for Ventura Education Partnership who awards grants to district schools. Last year over \$48,000 was raised.

Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium:

Ms. Kathy Asher, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services noted that Districts are nearing full implementation year of 2014-15. She asked Dr. Nancy Baker, Curriculum and Instruction Director to share updates on what district is doing to train and prepare teachers for change.

Introduced Dr. Nancy Barker, Director Curriculum and Instruction.

What are the Common Core State Standards? Common Core are educational standards that determine what students in grade K-12 should know and be able to do in English Arts and Math. They are designed to increase the rigor and provide clarity to prepare every student for success in college and workforce.

What has VUSD done so far?

The Awareness Phase:

- Introduction to Common Core State Standards
 - Ventura County Office of Education provided workshop for principals & teachers.
- Initial planning of systems
 - Developed steering committee to help unfold information. Committee members include; teacher specialist, directors, assistant superintendent, principals.
- Establishment of collaborations
 - Implementation team meetings sharing of information; principals, assistant principals, teachers. Ongoing communication to support teachers.

The Transition Phase:

- Building resources & sharing of resources across districts
 - EdModo – A social networking platform for teachers. Sharing of best practices and lesson plans.
- Implementing needs assessments
 - Surveyed teachers in regards to needs & professional development.
- Piloting & field testing SBAC
 - Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC).
 - New assessment system
 - Get to know system, familiarize
- Expanding collaboration between all stakeholders

Where is Ventura now?

The Implementation Phase 2013-15

- Expanding professional learning support
 - Teacher Specialist in Language Arts and Math providing professional development training to teachers.
 - Important for all teachers to support shift in change.
- Continuing to align curriculum, instruction and assessment
 - Understanding the rigors.

- What does it look like? How to get students to the next level?
- Assessments and strategies
 - In regards to reading: Asking students more open end questions in order to prepare students for CCSS change.
 - More writing practices
- Integrating Common Core State Standards across other content areas
 - Social Sciences and Science and how to teach literacy in those areas
- Ongoing communication with stakeholders

Language Arts Common Core Professional Development.

- As of October 2013 thru May 2014 - Elementary School preparation
- January 2014 – Middle School
- February & March 2014 – High School

Topics include: Deconstructing the English Language Arts CCSS. Exploring the new CA ELD standards. Digging deeper into the Smarter Balanced Assessments. In the professional development sessions, teachers are asked to bring their curriculum in order to open dialog and find resources to help one another revise curriculum to meet new standards.

Natalie Albrizzio, Math Specialist talked about Professional Development Opportunities:

Elementary K-5 teachers

- *Understanding the practice and content standards*
- *Maximizing our current curriculum*
- *Assessment – current and future*
- *Developing students' mathematical communication skills*
- *Strategies for engaging students in rich, multi-step, math tasks that can have multiple solution-pathways and require students to explain their thinking*

Secondary Professional Development:

- *Middle School – November & December, 2013*
- *High School & Adult Ed. – January & February, 2014*
- *Topics*
 - *Shifts in mathematics*
 - *Content standards & Practice standards*
 - *Smarter Balanced Assessments*
- *6th & 7th – review curriculum alignment*
- *8th & high school – work through standards*
- *Websites, blogs and other resources available for teachers*

Question: *Do the state standards talk about homework?* **Response:** *No, standards speak more about the content and how it is taught. Homework is a decision to be made at the local level.*

Dr. Barker noted that professional development has been provided to teachers over the past two years to talk about new shifts in teaching. A teacher representative from each site attended meetings and shared

information with other teachers at their sites. Also held teacher collaborations, provided tools and resources to prevent teachers from falling through the cracks. Goal is to support and help teachers understand what new testing will look like.

Social Studies Common Core

- *Staying informed about latest developments with SBAC, Achieve The Core, CA History/ Social Studies Standards*
- *Developing students' critical reading, writing, and communication skills.*
- *Working collaboratively with other core subjects and create integrated lessons, especially with English Language Arts*
- *Sharing resources and expertise*
- *Developing curriculum and assessments*

Next Generation Science Starts (NGSS)

- *California adopted Next Generation Science Standards September 2013*
- *New Science Frameworks scheduled to be approved 2016; Instructional materials will follow*

Please visit VUSD ELA, Mathematics, Social Science, and Technology Resource Webpages
<http://www.venturausd.org/ci/commoncore/>

Also Dr. Barker distributed brochures with to PAC parents in regards to Common State Standards.

Ms. Kathy Asher, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services noted that grades 3rd – 5th, 6th - 8th and 11th grades will begin to take field assessment practice testing in Language Arts and Mathematics. The window of testing begins April and runs through May 2014. Technology is in the process of preparing a testing date schedule for sites so that not all schools on computers at the same time. Technology has also taken inventory of site needs and are in the process of getting technology equipment to all schools for testing and instruction. These are practice test and not about students' ability and will not be counted towards grades. Parents nor teachers will not receive outcome of test. This is a practice.

The Ventura County Office of Education will have Common Core Instructional materials available at the County office. Administration and teachers will have the opportunity to review and make careful decisions on selecting materials and textbooks. County also working on increasing bandwidth during the testing period to accommodate schools.

What about NCLB? At this time there is no current accountability with No Child Left Behind and schools that are in program improvement status will remain until news is received.

Grading with Common Core will look different. The good news is that the District has recently implemented new grading policy and change has begun that will tie in nicely with the new CCSS. The new grading modules include acceptance of late work and second chance.

Future meeting: February 4, March 4, April 8, May 6 (MPR).