

# The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

April 2016, Volume 9

## Superintendent's Corner

Happy spring! What lovely, breezy are having.

I would like to share the results of the Strategic Planning day we had on March 9. First of all, we are extremely grateful to Skyline College for allowing us the free use of their beautiful room. We appreciate their generosity. We also thank the parents, staff members, board members, and community members for giving up a day for this very important work. We got a lot accomplished. Nineteen of our original 27 stakeholders participated. Some members had prior commitments and others could not participate due to the lack of substitutes, but the day was extremely full. We started by sharing strengths and accomplishments of the district since our last meeting, current internal challenges/weaknesses facing the district, external factors and trends that might have a positive impact on the district in the coming year, and what external factors that may have a negative impact on the district in the coming year. We then reviewed our Mission statement and our four goals. We kept them the same. Our facilitator, Marilyn Snider, took us through a process to come to consensus about district Core Values. We selected 5 in that process, from a list of 30 we had generated in the activity (see our list of selected Core Values at the end of this article). We also divided into four groups to work on each goal to create new action steps for the next 6 months and determined who would be responsible for what and by when so that action steps are accomplished. Participants left feeling heard, valued, informed, part of the process, hopeful, and energized. It was a very beneficial, productive day.

Lastly, I would like to remind you of the dates/times we have scheduled for chat times. The Chamber of Commerce graciously hosts monthly chats at the Entrepreneur Center on San Mateo Avenue.

**Our upcoming dates include:**  
Wednesday, 4/13 10:30-11:30



### SBPSD GOALS

Attract, develop, and retain highly qualified staff

Implement 21<sup>st</sup> century learning strategies & methodologies

Become fiscally solvent

Develop, expand and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students

“San Bruno Park School District educates and empowers all students to thrive academically, socially and emotionally to be contributing members of society.”

### SBPSD Core Values

*The San Bruno Park School District Values...*

The whole child

Innovation and creativity

Teamwork and collaboration

Respect

Ethical Behavior

Accountability

Thank you! Most Sincerely,

*Cheryl Olson*

## *From the Classroom*

New Language Arts materials are coming next year! We are currently piloting new English Language Arts materials at all 7 campuses. Teachers on each campus are piloting materials with their students and will come back together after the trial period to make a recommendation to the district as to which program to recommend for purchase for next year. For grades TK-5 we are piloting a series called Journeys and a second series called Wonders. At Parkside, for the students in grades 6-8, we are piloting a series called StudySync and a second series called Amplify. All four series were approved by the State of California and were chosen by our committee of teachers to be piloted.

If you would like to look at the piloting materials, you can check out their webpages with the links provided below. You can also come to the district office and ask to see the materials, which are available in our library section of the district office.

Another way for you to learn more about the materials is to attend an informational preview session I will be hosting which is open to parents, staff and community on April 12<sup>th</sup> featuring piloted materials. I will have samples there for you to peruse as well as walk you through some of the main features. These informational sessions will be offered at 3:30 pm and again at 6:30 pm and should last about an hour. Translators will be available at both sessions.

We hope to bring our recommendation to the Board at their May meeting for approval. The teachers and I are very excited about these new materials, their alignment to common core, technology features and interactivity, and supports for students below and above grade level.

### 1) Journeys

<http://www.hmhco.com/shop/education-curriculum/reading/core-reading-programs/journeys>

### 2) Wonders

<http://mhreadingwonders.com/>

### 3) Studysync



<http://www.studysync.com/>

### 4) Amplify

<http://www.amplify.com/california/ela>

**Kim Harper, Director Curriculum and Instruction**

## Student Services/Special Education

The State-Wide Testing Season is approaching, and the District is preparing teachers and students for the third year of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, otherwise known as the Smarter Balanced Test (SBAC). Last year was the first year that parents received scores for their children on this test. This year the score report will include growth results.

In the years of the paper/pencil STAR test, students receiving special education instruction were allowed test modifications depending on their level of need. The on-line SBAC has changed that dramatically, allowing numerous modifications for ALL students. Called Universal Tools, these modifications include things such as allowing students to take breaks, or to use an online calculator, dictionary, highlighter, spellcheck, digital notepad, and more.

Students with an identified disability or whose primary language proficiency is not English may be entitled to Designated Supports. These include things such as noise masking, color contrast, translated directions/glossary, magnification, scribe, or testing in a separate setting that allows for specialized lighting or furniture. These, and other Designated Supports, are supplied upon the recommendation of the teaching specialists based on the individual needs of the students. The purpose of these supports is not to give the students with special needs a "step up", but to allow them better access to the test. For students with significant disabilities, such as vision or hearing impairments, the test can be provided in Braille or with Closed Captioning.

Whatever supports your child uses for the test, more is not necessarily better, and it is important that students have an opportunity to practice those supports throughout the school year prior to testing.

There are a few important reminders for parents during the test window. Be sure your child gets enough sleep, eats breakfast, and arrives to school on time. Do not plan vacations during testing so that your child is able to participate with his/her peers. Portions of the SBAC rely

on a base of classroom group lessons and team work. Children who miss those preparatory activities will be unable to complete portions of the individualized testing. Finally, emphasize the importance that your child does his/her best work; however, be sure they also know that they are worth more than just their test scores.

If you have any questions about testing, please contact your child's classroom and/or special education teacher.

Thank you, Ellen Merritt, Director Special Education

## ***Human Resources***

We are currently posting administrative positions for El Crystal and Parkside. We look to have interviews by the beginning of May. We are conducting a wide search, seeking out the very best candidates possible for our schools. We have met with staffs from each school to solicit input regarding qualities and characteristics desired in the administration for each site. We have met with parents from El Crystal to seek their input as well. There will be a meeting on Monday, April 18 at the District Office from 6:00-7:00 PM to meet with parents from Parkside to seek their feedback regarding important qualities and characteristics desired in the administrators for Parkside.

Thank you, Jennifer Peponis & Cecille Mendiola

## ***Student Nutrition***



The most popular new foods introduced last month in elementary schools were the fresh baked tostada and the breakfast fruit pocket. It was very nice to see students starting to eat the tostada in the serving line and asking for seconds! At Parkside the Lasagna with garlic toast, The Sichuan Chow Mein and the Tamale with salsa were the biggest hits. The homemade deli



sandwiches always sell out and the different salads are still very popular. They include all the components of a reimbursable meals and help in moving the students quickly through the line.

*Sichuan Chow Mein with Cucumber and Jicama sprinkled with Tajin*



### Eat the rainbow days

Our Eat the rainbow event will take place on **April 19-20** at Belle Air and Allen, during lunch, and after school program. We will bring produce samples and educational material. Feel free to stop by! I will send more detailed information about location and time soon.

### Lunch account cut-off dates

It is already that time of the year where we need to start talking about the end of the year! In all elementary schools, **starting April 18**, students will be issued an alternate lunch if they owe more than \$3.75. From **May 16 until the end of the school year**



students will be issued an alternate lunch if their account has a negative balance. At Parkside, **starting April 1<sup>st</sup>**, will be issued an

alternate lunch if their account has a negative balance. Remember that online payments may take a few days to process.

### Seamless Summer

We will again run our Seamless Summer program offering lunch **free of charge** for children 18 year old and under. Dates and times will be communicated when next school calendar is approved.

### Breakfast Survey

Thank you to all of you who completed the survey about breakfast. Even if the deadline has passed you can still send it back to us. We really want to hear from you! Results will be communicated mid-April.

### TIPS OF THE MONTH: Making time for family dinner

These days, eating together as a family at the same time is not easy due to our hectic family schedules. Yet, as parents, it is important to know that eating together as a family gives kids comfort and confidence in their day. Creating time to sit down and have a family meal doesn't have to be a chore. Find simple recipes that are quick and easy to make. Don't be stressed or pressured to make a formal meal. The most important thing is being together as a family.

Check out the Student Nutrition Services webpage for simple suggestions to help you get started!



Thank you, Fran DeBost, Student Nutrition Services

## *Tech as a Learning Tool*

Educational technology can help students develop social and emotional learning (SEL) skills such as collaboration, communication and problem solving, which are critical factors for success in the 21st century job market, according to a new report from the World Economic Forum.

<https://www.bcgperspectives.com/content/articles/education-public-sector-how-education-technology-can-help-foster-social-emotional-skills/>

### **Smarter Balance Gets High Marks**

The seven states that have dropped the use of Smarter Balanced or PARCC tests may want to reconsider their decision. A two-year study by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute has found that the assessments developed under those two state consortia do the best at matching the content and depth goals laid out by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for English language arts/literacy and math.

[Article](#)

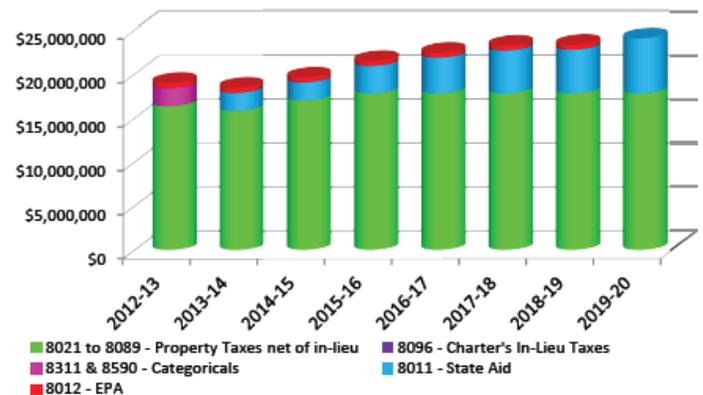
Thank you,

Don Hopkins, Network Manager



## *Dollars and Sense!*

In the next few months the San Bruno Park School District will be developing a budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year that will include improved revenues and stable funding. Next year will include the expansion of programs, professional support and community awareness. The budget will be available for public view in early June and adopted at the second board meeting in June.



Thank you, Sean McGinn, CBO

