

The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

September 2016, Volume 1

Superintendent's Corner

Welcome to the first 2016 volume of **The Connection**, the District's monthly newsletter designed to keep all in the loop through better communication. We are San Bruno Park School District family and this District newsletter will provide updates from Business Services, Human Resources, Food Services, Special Education, Technology, Instructional Services, and the office of the Superintendent. If you have additional ideas for our **CONNECTION** newsletter, let me know. We are here to serve.

We have had a very positive beginning to the 2016-2017 school year. Our staffs worked very hard to prepare for their new students and to make the sites look and feel welcoming for all! We appreciate each and every staff member and administrator. We also want to thank "Hands On The Bay", an organization that organizes volunteer groups from major area corporations to volunteer time at schools. This spring and summer, 6 of our 8 campuses experienced their incredible giving and support! On a given day, 85 or more volunteers swooped down upon a campus and did everything from paint, clean, landscape, weed, and anything else that needed to be done! It was INCREDIBLE. We thank Walmart volunteers and Google volunteers for their generous donation of time, effort, sweat, and positive spirits.

Most of our CAASPP scores have arrived. Parents can anticipate receiving student results from the spring's administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment in September, once the state releases final results. Initial data indicate that SBPSD schools prepare students for the rigor of 21st century learning, while also directing to areas where we can set improvement goals. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are moving in the right direction. In addition to implementing Eureka Math and Writing Workshop, for the 2016-2017 school year we are excited to have adopted new language arts materials that is designed for students, no matter their level or language ability, to focus on critical thinking, problem solving, using technology as a learning tool, writing across the content areas, reading and comprehending



fiction and non-fiction text, and meaningful discourse to name a few things that will really help our students learn, grow, and achieve at a higher, deeper level as needed for Common Core, as well as to become College or Career Ready.

This fall we encourage you to support our San Bruno Education Foundation and your school PTO/PTA. You will hear from both your child's PTO/PTA and the District-wide San Bruno Park Education Foundation asking for your support. Take time to read the information to learn what they do to support our school community. These parent organizations form the heart of our District's inclusive and supportive community spirit by supplying volunteer and financial support for our schools.

Be sure to check out our District master Google calendar on our website and your school calendar on your school website so that you do not miss out on any events!

Mark your calendars for Back-To-School Nights!

Parkside Intermediate: August 24
Portola and Allen: September 1
John Muir and El Crystal: September 8
Rollingwood and Belle Air: September 15

Another reminder for families is to remember that now is the time to schedule medical and dental appointments for your children and review your child's immunization records to ensure they are updated. If you need assistance with health insurance, eye exams, hearing exams, or dental appointments, please call Marie Lukehart at our District Health Center located on the Belle Air campus at 650 624-624-3134. She is on

maternity leave until the end of September, but she will be very happy to assist families when she returns!

We welcome two new principals and two new vice principals to our district this year! Please join me in welcoming Kerry Dees, principal of Parkside, along with Michael Case and Don Smith, vice principals at Parkside. The team is dynamic and enthusiastic and already acclimating to the school, staff, and students! Because Rollingwood principal Leigh Schwartz will take Ellen Merritt's place as Director of Special Education and Student Services as she retires, long-time district teacher, Colleen Hennessy, has been selected as the new principal at Rollingwood. We welcome her and she is VERY excited to continue the great work being done at Rollingwood.

Note to all staff members: If you have a problem with a device or need help with something from IT, you need to use the URL below for the IT Helpdesk. You then type your username and password in and if you have trouble accessing the site please at that point email the tech department for help getting in to leave your ticket request.

<http://10.5.0.23:8080/Login.jsp>

Last, but certainly not least, I just want to remind our families and staffs that San Bruno Public Library offers amazing opportunities for kids after school. They provide tutoring and homework help to students from 3-6 pm Monday through Wednesday, and 2-6 pm on Thursdays. They are also conducting their Library Card Campaign! Sign up TODAY!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you as a collective team to give our students the very best educational experience possible.

Cheryl Olson



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

SBPSD goals are as follows, in no priority order:

- **Attract, develop and retain highly qualified staff**
- **Implement 21st century learning strategies and methodologies**
- **Become fiscally solvent**
- **Develop, expand and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students**

Student Nutrition

Application for Free and Reduced meals

Thank you to all the families that filled out an application or let us know you do not qualify for free or reduced price meals! Remember that if you qualify, even if your children do not have lunch at school, filling out an application will increase local, state, and federal funding for the District. So please make sure you return the blue paper letter/application as soon as possible! Thank you in advance!

Dollars and Sense!



You will be hearing from our new CBO this year in our monthly CONNECTION. Her name is Cynthia Shieh. She comes highly regarded and recommended from Southern California where she served as CBO for the past 5 years in a large K-12 district. We welcome Cynthia and her expertise and knowledge. We are in excellent hands!

From the Classroom



We have a lot going on in our District this year! We are thrilled to be offering our students new English language arts materials this year; *Wonders* for K-5 students and *Amplify*, a computer based program, for our 6-8 grade students. Through District support, program trainings and results are being shared across school sites and expanding across sites as teacher success and student success occurs. Not every program has been implemented on each site and in each classroom, but as teachers share their experiences, programs that meet needs of students on each site can be brought to other sites. This approach allows us to pursue innovative programs simultaneously while being responsive to unique needs of each site. It also allows us to adopt programs rapidly after we have tried them with our own teachers and adapt the programs to needs of school sites.

Smarter Balance Assessment: Last spring, students in grades 3-8 were given the Smarter Balanced assessment. The Smarter Balanced Assessment System includes computer adaptive tests that are customized to each student. During the test, difficulty of questions change based on student responses. In this way, adaptive tests provide more precise information about student achievement in less time than a “fixed-form” test in which all students see the same set of questions. Results of these assessments produce an overall achievement level in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as a performance level for the “Claims”, or subsets of English Language Arts and Math.

Individual student reports will be mailed home and include the following information:

- For English language arts and mathematics you will receive an individual scaled score and achievement level of *Standard Not Met*, *Standard Nearly Met*, *Standard Met*, *Standard Exceeded*.
- Claim performance levels of *Below Standard*, *At or Near Standard*, *Above Standard* for Reading, Writing, Listening, Research/ Inquiry, Concepts and Procedures, Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis, and Communicating Reasoning

There are many opportunities for you to get involved in child’s education this year. At the local level you can join your school’s PTA/PTO, School Site Council, or ELAC (English Learner Advisory Committee). On the District

level we have a DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Committee, and LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) Parent Advisory Committee, and a Wellness Committee. **Please see your child’s principal if you’d like more information about any of these committees.**

Tech as a Learning Tool

We are in the process of deploying many additional Chromebooks to the classrooms to support learning. Each classroom is receiving three Chromebooks for math centers. In addition, the District is making sure every school has a minimum standard of 3:1 devices.

Why Chromebooks you ask?

In 2014, Chromebooks surpassed iPads in the world of education. There are a variety of reasons for this: economic needs, more “laptop like” feel, and the ubiquity of Google Apps for Education in schools. If you find yourself the owner of a new Chromebook, you’ve probably noticed that it’s not quite a laptop, but it also isn’t a tablet. Chromebooks are actually their own unique tool outside of these categories. They are just different enough that they can require a little time to get used to.

So what exactly is a Chromebook?

Unlike iPads, there is no single manufacturer Chromebooks. In fact, you can buy them from a variety of vendors, with different specs, and prices from \$199-\$1,100. In general, a Chromebook is a laptop styled machine. Much like PCs run Windows and Macs run OSX, Chromebooks use Chrome OS. While they are designed to run primarily using an Internet connection (via Wireless or 3G/4LTE on select models), you can also use them in a limited capacity offline (data will sync and save when you connect to the web again). Because the OS is a simple system, it boots up in a matter of seconds (unlike a few minutes with computers and tablets). This lightning fast startup is a plus for those of us who grow impatient waiting for everything to start on our systems. Most Chromebooks are structurally robust, making them more resistant to damage and thus excellent tools for children that are less careful with their devices.

Our students will enjoy using these devices in class! We are excited to get them rolled out to the sites.

Thanks,
Don Hopkins
Network Manager

Student Services



Intra District and Inter District Transfer part completed. There are still a few requests coming in to be processed, but for the most part classes are set.

Leigh Schwartz will be coming on board to serve as Director of Special Education and Student Services. He has been in our district for the past several years, as principal of Rollingwood. They are sad to see him leave, but we are happy to have him remain in the district. We are very sad to see Ellen Merritt retire, but are very happy for her and wish her much happiness and adventure in retirement. She has served our district for over 30 years! THANK YOU, ELLEN.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Departments, both Certificated and Classified, have been busy over the summer and fall hiring new employees. It's been an exciting time!
Jennifer Peponis & Cecille Mendiola

Back to School

