

The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

September 2015, Volume 2

Superintendent's Corner

Welcome to the second volume of *The Connection*, the District's new 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 2015-16 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.

Our baseline CAASPP scores have arrived. Most SBPSD grade levels scored higher than the State average in ELA. **Every** SBPSD grade level scored higher than the State average in Math. We still have a lot of work to do, but we have a great starting place! In addition to implementing Eureka Math and Writing Workshop, our focus will be instructional strategies that foster critical thinking, problem solving, using technology as a learning tool, writing across the content areas, 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 and to be College or Career Ready! You will be receiving your child's scores in the mail during the month of October. You may also go to your site's webpage to see a CDE document that fully explains the scoresheet you will receive and watch a three minute video that explains it as well. Ms. Harper will explain more about the CAASPP results in her section of the CONNECTION.

September 22 was an important day for our district. 27 people came together from across our community and district (students, teachers, classified personnel, Union leadership, administrators, community members, & parents) to collaborate and work together, under guidance of facilitator Marilyn Snider, to create our Mission Statement and develop a three year Strategic Plan which will be our umbrella encompassing our LCAP, site Single Plans and goals.

The day began by brainstorming a list of GREAT strengths and accomplishments of our district in the



past year and then brainstorming and sharing current internal weaknesses and challenges from the past year. When those two pieces were complete, we discussed external factors and trends (political, educational, technological, social, demographic, and environmental) that could have an impact on our district over the next three years both positively and negatively. The group then went through a powerful process to develop a draft Mission Statement that is one sentence stating WHY San Bruno Park School District exists, and FOR WHOM! What was particularly powerful was to see how EACH person present had a voice in the process, including our students from Parkside. **The mission statement draft is as follows:**

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

Following that process, the group identified a list of possible goals in small groups. Each person then identified their top four priorities for district goals. We put them together to see which four raised to the top as group priorities. Four were easily identified as top priority for the group, and subsequently, our district! Again, it was very powerful for each member present to have a voice in the process. We then were broken into 4 small groups, each group being tasked to create three objectives/action steps for one goal. We came back together to share with the whole group the objectives/action steps each group developed. The next step was to look at the LCAP goals to see if our goals and objectives fit with the LCAP and they all DID! Lastly, we determined our next steps and set a date for our update session (March 9). Over the next six months we will keep track of our progress toward our four goals to continue moving our district forward and upward! Each board meeting will include an update on each goal, as will parent letters and district newsletters. **We also invite feedback from staff and**

community members who were not able to participate so that we can take that information to our next meeting in March.

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

We thank the team of individuals who participated in the process and we look forward to our continuous work to meet and exceed our goals.

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! Allen has 70 students signed up already and John Muir has 90 students. Take advantage of this opportunity. Also, don't forget their "LEGOS at the Library" on Saturdays! What fun!

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

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!



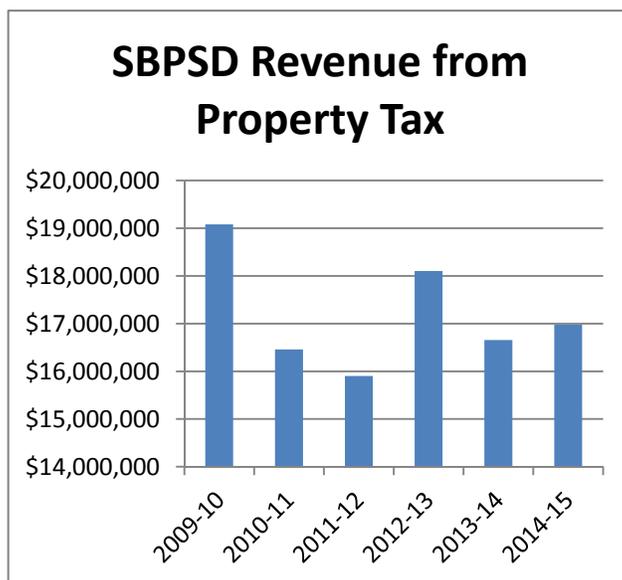
Dollars and Sense!



One very important challenge a school district must contend with is maintaining salaries and benefit costs that keep up with inflation. As we know, inflation is the cost of supply and service increases every year. The counter to inflation for a school district is an equal increase in revenue, or "cost of living adjustment", otherwise known as the COLA. Revenues need to increase every year by COLA (Inflation) to keep up with inflation.

For a school district, many factors impact the cost of maintaining salary and benefits, which is necessary to maintain a competitive salary to keep and attract staff. A few of the challenges associated with salary and benefit inflation include the following:

- Neighboring school districts' compensation packages
- Health benefit increases beyond the district's cap allowance
- Recurring revenues not keeping up with inflation.



Over the past five years, **recurring revenues not keeping up with inflation** have plagued The San Bruno Park School District. The increases in recurring revenues as needed to keep up with inflation have not occurred as Property Tax revenues were decreasing.

At the same time property tax revenues were dropping, the State's "Fair Share Policy" was added to the law. The law was designed to force the "Basic Aid" school districts, such as ours, to "Bail Out" the State of California during the economic crisis. The "Bail Out" continues to this day and will cost SBPSD over \$8 Million by 2021. The result of both, the decrease of Property tax revenue and the "Fair Share" State of California "Bail Out", has significantly contributed to our district's inability to keep up with Salary and Benefit inflation and both have contributed to the significant general fund losses over the last four years.

The “sudden” optimism in San Bruno Park School district’s three year budget outlook has much to do with the efforts of the school community making careful decisions about the one time and uncertain revenues over the last four years, the improved economic outlook for the State of California, and the ability for SBPSD to utilize the property taxes, in combination with the new Local Control funding formula. We can now begin the work of reestablishing the Cost of living Base line in relation to SBPSD revenues. **Sean McGinn, CBO**

From the Classroom



We have a lot going on in our District this year and every year! Some of the highlights for this year include the **Lucy Calkins Writing Workshop program, the Lucy Calkins Reading Workshop program, Positive Behavior Support and Intervention Systems (PBIS), and the California Reading and Literature Project, (CRLP)**. These programs are happening on different campuses and were selected by staff at each site to meet a need identified by the staff or in some cases, the individual teacher. 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.

There are many programs in place that are contributing to student success that are not mentioned here, but these are the newest program additions that were supported at our first professional development day this past August.

Smarter Balance Assessment

Last Spring, students in grades 3-8 were given the Smarter Balanced assessment instead of the old California Standards Test (CST). 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 were 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

This year’s test results will serve as a baseline for measurement of student growth over future years. Our district results are below. We are in pace with the State for the first year administration of this assessment and will be digging deeper into the student results so as to adapt and improve student results in the future.

Grade	ELA: Average Scale Score	ELA: Percent Met & Exceeded Standard	Math: Average Scale Score	Math: Percent Met & Exceeded Standard
Grade 3	2427	47%	2445	57%
Grade 4	2447	42%	2443	31%
Grade 5	2488	45%	2493	38%
Grade 6	2507	42%	2516	36%
Grade 7	2545	52%	2534	38%
Grade 8	2535	36%	2536	35%

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.**

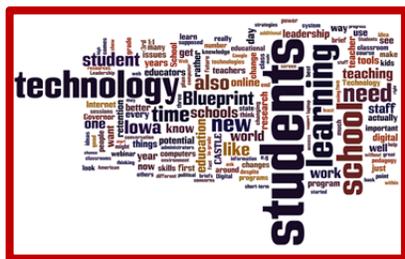
Tech as a Learning Tool

Life in the technology department is very busy! We are doing our best to meet staff and student needs in the following ways:

- Creating and setting up accounts for new and existing staff, which includes, but is not limited to, Active Directory(network), GAFE (gmail, drive, sites), Powerschool, Reading Counts, School Loop, Phone & Voicemail, Blackboard Connect, ECT along with computer configuration.
- Creating and setting up accounts for new and existing students, which includes Reading Counts, GAFE (chromebook access), computer and mobile device configuration, and App installation.
- Working with staff to clean up the database in our student information system (Powerschool) so PreID for CELDT and CalPads data is correct
- Posting regular updates to the district website and social media
- Piloting video streaming of school board meetings to a district YouTube channel
- Communicating with San Bruno Cable to get the video feed moved from Crestmoor to Parkside.
- Maintaining and supporting our IT Helpdesk to ensure staff has working devices and technology tools needed to support instruction in their classrooms.
- Fixing issues and problems with devices, providing maintenance service and keeping the district network secure

These are just a few of the things our technology department is focusing attention on this month.

Don Hopkins, IT Director



Student Nutrition

SBPSD SNS team rocked it in September!



Parkside students can enjoy new foods this year including **Chef Salad, Spicy Sichuan Chicken with Chow Mein** and **colorful fruit salads.**

Breakfast returned with a

brand new item-**Yogurt Parfait!**

The Parfait is a delicious complete breakfast layered with Greek yogurt, fruit and granola and is the perfect grab-

and-go breakfast for students who arrive just before school starts. This parfait will also be available to adults as an A la Carte item.

Student feedback about quality of food served has been extremely positive, and our lunch count has increased by 12% compared to last year and waste in the trash bins significantly decreased!

In October more new foods will come! We will introduce Pork Carnitas Sandwiches, Mini Chicken Sliders, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches with Turkey Bacon, and Sourdough Grilled Cheese sandwiches. In addition, we also will be serving a new variety of pizzas (French Bread Pepperoni, Calzone).



Elementary students celebrated back to school with ABC chicken nuggets and dinosaur crackers! They also



loved the topping on the French Toast which was frozen blueberries and fresh strawberries! All schools make a special effort every day to make the serving lines look beautiful!



Preschoolers at Belle Air are now receiving breakfast, lunch and

afternoon snacks.

They are so proud to move their tray through the serving line!



October will be **Halloween month!** Get ready for our special menu with Bat Chicken Nuggets, Creepy Sweet Potatoes Fingers, Cinnamon Troll Crackers and a special treat! We also will celebrate **Nation School Lunch Program Week** starting October 12.

We look forward to seeing you all in the lunch line, and always look forward to hearing your feedback!

SBPSD Student Nutrition Team

Student Services



Intra District and Inter District Transfers are for the most part completed. There are still a few requests coming in to be processed, but for the most part classes are set. This year has been exceptionally difficult with the late negotiated agreement for smaller class sizes in kindergarten through 3rd grade, followed quickly by summer break for many school and district office staff members. I extend my thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding.

The state grand jury published their findings about how well schools are meeting the mental health needs of students. All districts were required to submit descriptions of their current programs as well as plans for improvement. San Bruno Park is continuing work this year with the help of a coordinator from the County Office of Education and Edgewood staff, with the goal of having a full continuum of behavioral and mental health services, staffed and run by the district, to be in place no later than September 2016. This program should enable District to meet the needs of more students within District in lieu of using outside placements.

Special Education was hit hard, as were all areas of education this year by a statewide shortage of teachers. We are still actively looking for a Resource Specialist and Special Day Class Teacher, Adapted P. E. Teacher, and Physical Therapist. We have posted the positions, and accessed agencies and universities. At the end of the first semester we are hoping to have a new pool of college graduates to interview. In the meantime, we have had excellent substitute teachers working with and our fabulous and talented para professionals, with support from other specialists to meet the needs of our students.

A new Wellness Committee is beginning under our LCAP. The committee will focus on mental health and behavioral programs, breakfast and food service programs, feasibility of staffing a school nurse, improving attendance, and reducing expulsion and suspension rates. The committee will meet 8 or 9 times this year and will be facilitated by the Director of Student Services. Members include classroom teachers, district psychologists, and the District Wellness Coordinator

and Food Services Director. There is an opportunity for 2 parents to join the Wellness Committee. If you are interested, please come. Our first meeting is Wednesday October 7 from 3:15-5:15 in the Special Education Department of the District Office. If more than 2 parents arrive, they will vote as to which 2 will be voting members. However, the meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Lastly, San Bruno Park School District is hosting a presentation by Karen Breslow, Program Coordinator for San Mateo County Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA), Saturday October 24, 2015 from 8:30 to noon at the District Office, 500 Acacia Avenue. The topic will be an introduction to the IEP Process, and is of particular interest to parents new to the IEP process or those considering having their child assessed for a possible disability. Flyers advertising the event will be sent home next week. Parents are requested to RSVP to Georgia Schiefer, Program Secretary for the Special Education Department, at 624-3114.

Ellen Merritt, Director of Student Services & Special Education

Human Resources

The Human Resources Departments, both Certificated and Classified, have been busy over the summer and fall hiring new employees. To date, Certificated Human Resources has hired 28 employees. Classified Human Resources has filled 33 vacancies consisting of new hires and existing personnel. It's been an exciting time! **Jennifer Peponis & Cecille**

Back to School



Don't forget, **Monday evening, October 12, The League of Women Voters is providing a panel discussion with our four SBPSD Governing Board Candidates.** The time will be 7:00-8:15 PM. The final location will be announced next week, as we may be able to hold it at the Senior Center instead of Belle Air School so it can be aired live instead of aired afterward.





Also, be sure to check out the PATCH link below to see some of the pictures of the amazing painting project provided graciously by the community and staff members of SBPSD! Paint was generously donated by [HOUSE OF COLOR](#), Advice and support donated by painter, [Mike Friedland](#), food for the painters was donated by [Extreme Pizza](#), [Starbucks](#), and [Mr. Pickles](#).

<http://patch.com/california/sanbruno/san-bruno-ca-painting-san-bruno-ca-school-district-office>

35-40 different people helped with the project over the three days. Come see the transformation! We had City Council members, Robert Riechel from the Patch, Board members, students from the Interact Club at Capuchino High School, many parents, teachers, and classified staff who gave their time and energy this past weekend to support this beautiful service project gift. Teachers **Julie Calleja and Suzi Green** organized it and spent countless hours preparing and procuring the donations. What an incredible love gift. Thank you.



Have a wonderful October. Look for the next edition of THE CONNECTION in November.

