

# The Connection

San Bruno Park School District

December 2016, Volume 4

## Superintendent's Corner

CBO Cynthia Shieh and I are in the midst of holding multiple community and staff information meetings regarding our current budget issue. We continue working hand in hand with School Services and San Mateo County Office of Education to solve this deficit once and for all. We have deeply appreciated the teachers, staff, community members, and parents who have participated in these initial meetings. We will begin holding additional meetings in December through February as we begin developing our three year plan. We will be seeking input and suggestions from all stakeholders so we can be on solid footing and provide appropriate compensation for our teachers and staffs. Each month we are conducting special Study Sessions for the Board as well, and you are all invited to participate and learn with us.

### The dates and purpose of upcoming Study Sessions:

**TUESDAY, December 20 at 6:30 pm at the District Office. The purpose will be to go over all our expenditures for the District and sites.**

**WEDNESDAY, January 11 at 6:30 pm at the District Office. The purpose will be to begin discussing our plan moving forward.**

We welcome and invite your thoughts and suggestions. We will also review the survey results from several years prior for additional suggestions and ideas.

On November 3, the **Chamber of Commerce** sponsored the most amazing event to honor our teachers! They solicited support and donations from many businesses and individuals to celebrate the dedication of our teaching staff! The event was an incredibly beautiful display of appreciation. They entitled it **"Teachers' Cash for Class"** and the Chamber has been planning it since last February. The focus of the event was on recognizing teachers for the efforts they put into classroom projects, often times spending using their own cash. The Chamber solicited donations from merchants and community leaders for classroom



supplies, enough to fill 60 bags, as well as getting donors to present \$100 bills to teachers at the event to help purchase additional supplies throughout the year. Nearly 80 of our teachers attended the late afternoon event held at **Nueve in Bayhill**. The first 60 to arrive received a bag of generous supplies **donated by Office Depot, Walmart, CVS, Recology San Bruno, Mollie Stone's, Lunardi's, and Costa's Just Things**. Teachers attending had their names entered into a drawing at the event that resulted in over 50 them receiving a \$100 bill from community leaders, businesses, and organizations that included from the **Chamber, Skyline College, the Mayor, City Manager, Fire and Police associations, auto repair, restaurants, real estate and the like. Google hosted the food and beverages. Nueve donated the venue and staff.** The donated value of the event for teachers was \$10,000 with over \$5500 given out in \$100 gifts. A great success for the Chamber and a wonderful afternoon for our teachers.

Our Parkside middle school students had an amazing opportunity this past month! Teacher Julie Calleja was able to procure Opera a la Carte to come work with interested students and then present an opera to the entire school! The students did a fabulous job and it was a tremendous experience for our students! Because the school is a Title I school, the company provided the entire experience FREE to the school. Wow. 😊

STEM activities are alive and well in our district and are spreading rapidly! An example is Portola. Many classrooms engaged in STEM projects and activities in the last 6 weeks. Students are highly engaged, thinking critically, working in teams to design, plan, create, revise, and evaluate the outcome! It is amazing to

watch! Come check out our schools and all they are doing with our students.

With that, I wish for you and your family a wonderful holiday season as you celebrate what is near and dear to you. I am proud to be part of this warm, dedicated, hard-working community, and I am grateful for each student and family entrusted to us.

*Cheryl Olson*

### **SBPSD Mission Statement:**

**“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 21<sup>st</sup> century learning strategies and methodologies**
- **Achieve and maintain fiscal solvency**
- **Develop, expand and implement quality programs and courses to enable academic success for all students**
- **Engage and promote parents as partners with our schools**

## ***Dollars and Sense***



First Off, I would like to thank you for meeting with Cheryl & me at the various community and staff meetings these past few weeks related to our fiscal realities. Many people asked what the next steps are.

We are thankful for SMCOE's continuous support. The joint meetings between the SMCOE and SBPSD have occurred and we will continue to meet every two weeks. The objectives of the meetings are to address the Lack of Going Concern, to develop a process to enhance the fiscal strengths of the District and to prevent the SBPSD from being taken over by the State. We have rescheduled a series of Board budget

study sessions and we extend the invitation to you all. I strongly believe the power of collaboration. Let's work together to create synergy; Let's work together to foster flexibility and responsiveness, especially the ability to respond to change.

I send my warmest wishes for a joy-filled and bountiful season to you and your family.

***Sincerely,***  
***Cynthia Shieh, Associate Superintendent, Business Services***

## ***Student Nutrition***

Starting in January, Jerry, Student Nutrition Services manager, will conduct visits at our dining spaces to observe meal services and do some taste testing with students for potential new menu items.

Also, we are encouraging support from staff and the community for families to sign up with the SNS program using our 2016-17 meal applications. We have seen a steady stream of applications returned this past month, but still down from last year. It's not only for our nutrition department, but the entire district benefits if we have more applications filled out each year. Also, students that qualify for free or reduced status not only get their meals at a free or reduced cost, but their household can get up to 10% off of their San Bruno cable TV bill.

Thank you, Jerry Waki, Director of Food Services

## ***Tech as a Learning Tool***

**Technology Use Among Teachers Strong and Growing**

The vast majority of teachers are using technology daily with their students, and most say their use of technology will increase even more next year, according to a new study involving 2,500 K-12 teachers.

The study, conducted by adaptive learning provider Front Row Education, found that 75 percent of teachers use technology with students on a daily basis.

"We continue to hear from teachers that technology has shifted from a one-off lesson in the computer lab, to a tool that's incorporated seamlessly into everyday curriculum," said Sidharth Kakkar, co-founder and CEO of Front Row, in a prepared statement. "The results of

our survey confirm this. Teachers are seeing a positive impact through their use of technology, which is translating into it becoming an essential part of their classrooms."

In terms of devices, the study found that 60 percent of teachers have access to Chromebooks, up 15 percent from last year; 64 percent have access to iPads, down 5 percent from last year. iPads tend to be the tool of choice in lower grades (75 percent in K-2), while Chromebooks dominate the middle school years (66 percent). Interestingly, Front Row noted, Chromebooks are more prevalent on the West Coast than in the East, where iPads rule. In the West, 67 percent of teachers have access to Chromebooks (versus 57 percent who have access to iPads), while in the East, 71 percent have access to iPads, with 62 percent saying they have access to Chromebooks. (The percentages do not add up to 100 because some teachers have access to both.)

"Technology continues to be a powerful tool for teachers, specifically when it comes to helping them learn more about their students," according to Front Row. "Determining their students skill level more efficiently was the top cited way technology has changed the way those surveyed teach, followed by determining their skill level more deeply. Other benefits include giving teachers the opportunity to try more creative and unique lessons, and freeing up time to provide more individual attention to students."

**In SBPSD we are finding the same results! Our teachers are becoming more and more comfortable with the use of technology as a learning tool, which translates into greater benefits for our students and their learning!**

Thanks,  
Don Hopkins  
Network Manager

**Technology  
& Learning**



From our District to your families and homes, we wish for you all a beautiful Holiday Season, celebrating what is near to your heart.

