

UPDATE – APRIL 2017

Superintendent's Message

Spring is in the air. I remember as a child my mom would rally the troops for “Spring Cleaning.” We pulled toys out from under our beds, dusted cobwebs away, opened the windows to enjoy the fresh scent, and tried on last year's clothes to see what still fit and what had been outgrown. As I look back, my mom was laying the groundwork for each of us to stop, reflect, refine and prepare for each season. So how do we reflect, refine and prepare for each season in education?

Start with Reflection

The first step is to reflect on our organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (S.W.O.T). By taking the time to reflect organizationally, we can determine how we can best support the Hero's Journey toward Personalized Learning. As I said last month, our focus is not to become a hero, but rather, our focus is to continually engage in a process to become more heroic. This means looking in the mirror to assess how our leadership talents, such as attitudes, skills, knowledge, communication, motivation, trustworthiness, commitment, flexibility, and vision, are supporting the vision of Personalized Learning. Although self-assessment is not easy, it is an important organizational step to grow and stay relevant in our ever-changing world.

Strategic Abandonment

Once we have completed our S.W.O.T. analysis, we will know if there are ideas or programs that need to be abandoned. Often in organizations we add more and more to everyone's plate, but we rarely stop to consider what is not working. Discontinuing stagnate or ineffective processes is critical to the overall health of the organization.

Prepare for the Next Season

Next year's plan will include lessons we have learned collectively as well as recognition of the progress we have made. We will use research and data to determine what we should continue to do, what we should stop doing, and what we need to consider starting. Finally, we will review, review, and review to ensure the plan is set and working throughout the next season.

This year, we gathered stakeholders to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Personalized Learning. They helped us celebrate our successes and improve upon what is working. Celebrating is a critical step in the process. Often, we go straight to addressing weaknesses, missing the opportunity to acknowledge and develop our strengths. By amplifying our strengths, we can complement and enrich the many teams we are part of, both personally and professionally. Through this step, we may also find skills we can transfer over to help as we work on areas of growth.

Sharpen the Saw

Once we have celebrated our successes, we will set goals in order to continue our growth, both personally and organizationally. As leaders, it is important to take time to invest in ourselves as a

way to refine and sharpen our skills and talents. Whatever the growth goal, the objective will be to continue to improve student learning through Personalized Learning.

By this time next year, I expect that we will once again find areas of achievement to celebrate, areas that are no longer effective to abandon, and areas to stretch and improve. Spring is the season to put it all in motion. Let's make the most of it!

Sincerely,

Christina (Christy) Goennier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Twitter: [@BUSD4kids](https://twitter.com/BUSD4kids)

Board Selects Joe Macdonald as New San Dimas HS Principal

At the March 1 Board meeting, Joe Macdonald was selected to become the next principal at San Dimas High School. Macdonald brings 20 years of experience as a teacher and school administrator, focusing much of his educational career on assisting English language learners and other underserved populations achieve college/career readiness before graduating high school. Current Principal Michael Kelly retires at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

“On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to welcome Mr. Macdonald to the Bonita family,” Superintendent Dr. Christina Goennier said. “We believe Mr. Macdonald possesses and demonstrates core values and abilities to continue our collective efforts to educate students based on what the 21st Century asks of them.”

“I have high expectations for myself, and I will have the same for the staff at San Dimas High School,” Macdonald said. “I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the staff to bring technology and learning together to ensure that our students are college and career ready.”

One of his key initiatives will be to continue to build upon the strength of the vertical articulation between the elementary and middle schools that feed into San Dimas High School. “I am looking forward to conferring with principals and teachers, especially at Lone Hill Middle School, to continue to align learning and behavioral objectives so that the entire educational path in the District propels students toward achieving their goals,” Macdonald said.

Macdonald says that he has an open door policy and that he loves to laugh. “Just because we have work, doesn't mean we can't have fun while doing it,” he said. “My goal is for kids, parents, and staff to all enjoy their time on campus.”

Macdonald has been an assistant principal at Cypress High School in the Anaheim Union High School District, at Seaside Middle School in Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, and at

Rancho Cucamonga Middle School in the Cucamonga School District. He taught as an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University. During that time, he was also a social studies department chair, AVID coordinator, and history teacher at Jehue Middle School and English learner support teacher at Rialto Middle School, both in the Rialto Unified School District.

“Education is my passion, so I am happy for an opportunity to grow in my career as principal of San Dimas High School,” he said. “I want everyone to know that they will be supported by me and the District to get what they need to be successful.”



Photo 1: Joe Macdonald was selected as the new San Dimas High School principal effective July 1, 2017.

Bonita Unified District Offices Temporarily Move to Pomona

The Bonita Unified School District offices will be temporarily moving to 801 Corporate Center Drive in Pomona (near Cal Poly Pomona) while the current offices undergo construction and modernization efforts as the final phase of the 2008 voter approved Measure AB.

The following offices will move to the new location on or before July 1, 2017: the Superintendent's office, Business Services, Educational Services, Student Services, Specialized Services, and Human Resources.

Departments currently housed in ancillary buildings on the District office campus will not move: Facilities, Transportation, Computer Information Systems, Food Services, School Age Care, Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Technology. The displacement is expected to extend from 18-24 months while construction is in progress.

Notes from the La Verne / San Dimas Ed Foundation

2017 Golf Tournament

The 12th Annual Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament presented by the La Verne / San Dimas Education Foundation will be held on Friday, April 28 at the beautiful San Dimas Canyon Golf Course nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Proceeds benefit the Ed Foundation that supports teachers and students of Bonita Unified School District. All Tournament details and registration information can be found at: <http://www.lvsdefgolftournament.com/>.

Ed Foundation Mini Grants Awarded for 2017

At the March 1 Board of Education meeting, Ed Foundation President Alta Skinner with the Ed Foundation Board members awarded mini grants to teachers of the Bonita Unified School District. The mini-grants totaled over \$5,000 ranging from \$100 to \$400 intended to address specific needs identified by teachers, such as yoga mats, wobble chairs, bouncy bands, balance disks, Snap Circuits Discovery kits, geometric shapes building sets, a circle tool for woodworking, Google virtual reality cardboard viewers, and Be Nice posters for an anti-bullying program. Grants have also been used to assist in funding field trips and small programs for students.

To learn more about The Ed Foundation visit the website at <http://www.lvsdef.com> and to make a donation, please visit <http://www.lvsdef.com/www/donations/>.



Photo 2: Ed Foundation 2017 Mini Grant awardees with Ed Foundation President Alta Skinner and Board

Out with the API, in with the California School Dashboard

In February, the California Department of Education (CDE) gave school districts their first look at the new state accountability tool, the California School Dashboard. Instead of measuring only standardized test scores and ranking schools from high to low as the Academic Performance Index (API) did, the new system is based on the State's eight educational priorities and gives schools insight into how they are doing in six key areas: standardized test scores in mathematics and

English language arts, English Learner progress, suspension rate, graduation rate, and college/career preparedness.

The Dashboard is an online tool that parents, teachers, and administrators can use to see the status of performance in the areas mentioned above. Each area is measured both by “Status,” or the current school year’s score, and “Growth,” or improvement since the prior school year. A visual system of shapes and colors shows the school’s performance. Bonita Unified’s Dashboard was made available to the public March 15.

Two of the measures included in the Dashboard are student performance on standardized test scores in mathematics and English language arts. The test used for this measure, the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), is in its third year of implementation in the State. This year’s CAASPP testing window for Bonita Unified School District opens the second week of April and runs for two or three weeks at each school. The CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English language arts and mathematics as well as a new online pilot assessment for science.

For more information on the California School Dashboard, watch this video on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJ2SHzt6PPo&feature=youtu.be>.

Schools in the Spotlight

Bonita High School

Battle of the Bands

Bonita High School’s annual Battle of the Bands attracted its typical crowd of over 350 students and faculty on March 9, 2017. Seven student bands competed with the all-girl “Boy Band” winning first place.

“Battle of the Bands is an event truly unique to Bonita,” teacher and Battle of the Bands advisor Paul Eichen said. “The show attracts an audience well above 300 and is comprised of many students who do not participate in other school activities. For many, this will be the only school sponsored event they will attend in four years.”

Teacher band “In Danger of Failing” closes the show each year, with Eichen on drums. Battle of the Bands creates an opportunity for community involvement.

“This year, the prize packages include Swag Bags full of music gear and the opportunity to record a few songs, all donated by the community,” Eichen said. “The judges are community members involved in the music industry, from private music instructors to music show owners to professional DJ’s and musicians. The show is a mammoth operation, but it will be talked about for months to come, until we hold the next one.”



Photos 3 & 4: Bonita High School's Battle of the Bands rocked the campus March 9. Faculty band, "In Danger of Failing" closed the show, while "Boy Band," an all-girl band with Phoebe Melanson, Lealani Teano and Katelyn Lopez, took first place in the competition.

Bonita Cooks It Up a Notch ProStart Culinary Competition

Bonita High School's Hospitality students competed against 30 schools in the State ProStart Management and Culinary Competition March 19-20, 2017, at the Sheraton Fairplex Event Center. Senior Drake Rubalcava received a \$2000 scholarship from BJ's Restaurant Foundation and was chosen as the BJ's ProStart student of the year. Teacher Laurie Brandler was selected as BJ's Management Teacher of the Year award, and Bonita High School won the Spirit award.

Students comprising three culinary teams and one management team practiced weekends and nights to prepare for the competition. In the culinary competition, teams created an appetizer, entrée, and dessert in one hour using only two butane burners. They were judged on knife skills, safety and sanitation, communication, plate presentation, technique, and taste.

In the management competition, the team created a restaurant concept including a written business proposal with concept, décor, floor plan, menu, marketing, recipe costing, and an organizational chart. Each team presented their plans with PowerPoint and a visual display board and endured a critical thinking Q & A session with a panel of judges. Prizes include trophies and over \$2.3 million in available scholarships.

Bonita was represented by student competitors August Dobson, Adelina Montoya, Jonah McPherson, Vincent Bersane, Christian Aguilar, Miguel Rios, Sara Sahagun, Jason Schiller, Drake Rubalcava, Shianne Pelot, Timaiya Robinson, Dorian Avila, Jason Schiller, John Thomas (J.T.) Harris.

Grace Miller Elementary School

Library Expansion

Over Winter Break, Grace Miller Elementary School dismantled a wall between the computer lab and the library in order to expand the library into one gigantic flexible-space for teachers to use with students. "Since we have enough Chromebooks and iPads in the classrooms, we didn't need the computer lab as much as we needed the flex space," Principal Deanne Spencer said. "The

library shelves now span the walls of both rooms, but the center area provides seating for reading and moveable tables for creative learning spaces. Teachers can configure the room any way they want so that students can create, collaborate and problem solve.”

The room is equipped with several innovative Maker Space and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) materials that provide students opportunities to program robots, use animation cameras, build with LEGOs, use Strawbees and Code-a-pillars, as well as use Chromebooks and Osmo programs on iPads.



Photo 5: Grace Miller’s library expansion project is complete, making additional space for creative learning experiences.

Read Across America Week

During Read Across America Week, Grace Miller held many activities including our In-n-Out Family Picnic Reading Lunch on March 1, guest readers came from the District and the community, and “Read Under the Sun for Fun” in addition to other reading-focused activities!



Photo 6: Teachers and students enjoyed “Read Under the Sun for Fun” day during Read Across America Week.

Founder's Day and Talent Show

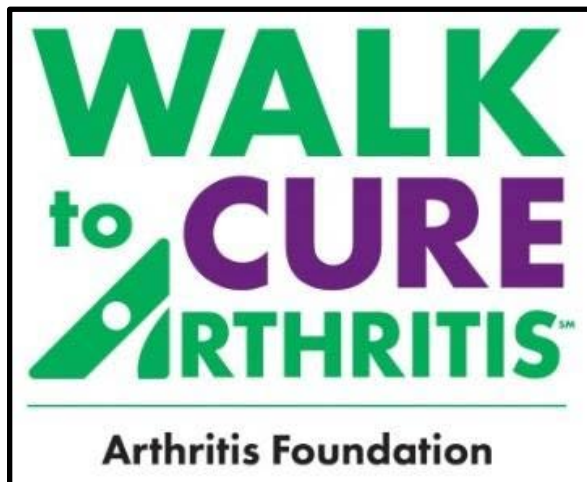
In February, Grace Miller's PTA recognized many who had contributed their time, talents and energies to helping children at the Annual Founder's Day and Talent Show Program at the Bonita Center for the Arts. The Talent Show provided entertainment with a finale by Kids Club and the staff singing a song of farewell to Principal Deanne Spencer who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Allen Avenue Elementary School

Allen Avenue is supporting one of their youngest Eagles with a penny drive to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Kindergartner Melody Tuazon was diagnosed with Juvenile Psoriatic Arthritis and Uveitis at the age of three. This year, she was selected by the Arthritis Foundation to be the 2017 Youth Honoree at the Walk to Cure Arthritis Event at Angel Stadium on Sunday, May 21. Allen Avenue is helping Team Melody raise money for continued research into this debilitating disease. The fundraiser will run from March 20-31. The classes that raise the most money will be rewarded with an ice cream party.

"We are encouraging all of our families to come out to the May event to walk with Melody," Kindergarten teacher Steve Alba said.

To donate to Team Melody, follow the link below and choose "Donate to a Team." Then select Team Melody. www.walktocurearthritis.org/ocie



Photos 7 and 8: The Allen Avenue Eagles are raising money for research to cure a form of arthritis Kindergartner Melody Tuazon was diagnosed with at age three. Donors and walkers welcome!