



The Latest Buzz in Curriculum & Educational Services



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Achieving Student Success & Excellence Together

April 23, 2010

Notes from Ryan Holman

While our state's budget and the challenges surrounding the funding of education are justifiably monopolizing headlines, the development and implementation of the national Common Core Standards is a topic gaining momentum and something for all of us to watch. California is committed to the creation of state academic content standards in English/language arts and mathematics that are aligned with the Common Core Standards. Legislation was passed at the beginning of this year requiring a minimum of 85% of the state standards to consist of the proposed federal standards, which must be approved or rejected by the State Board of Education by **August 2, 2010**.

What are the implications for our district? Timelines are tight and changes could come rapidly. The draft versions of the Common Core Standards are available at www.corestandards.org and have been released for the review and comment period. Indications from initial reviews by state officials is that aligning California's English/language arts standards should be relatively easy. Opinions seem to differ regarding mathematics, where less alignment seems to exist and the issue of eighth grade algebra is of concern.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the Common Core Standards. As information from the soon-to-be-appointed state review commission is made available, it will be shared. Thanks for your ongoing commitment to increasing student success and let us know how we can support your good work.

Testing Information

- There were 64% of our 11th grade students who completed the 2010 STAR Early Assessment Program (EAP) essay which was administered on **March 11**. The EAP is a voluntary assessment that assesses students for college readiness.
- The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) 2010 testing dates are: High Schools – **April 26-30**, Elementary and Middle Schools – **May 3-7**.

- The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will be administered to 10th grade students who were absent during the March administration, and to 11th & 12th grade students who have not yet passed. The exam will be held on **May 11** for ELA and **May 12** for mathematics.

Projects Update

33 Young Artists were honored at the Board meeting held on **April 13**. Their artwork will soon be available to view on the district website. Click on the "Parents Resources" page and look for Young Artists.

Young Authors is coming up on **May 7** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Womack Auditorium at Pinon Mesa Middle School. This year we will be honoring 140 student authors. We are pleased to have Julianna Cruz as our visiting author this year. She is best known for her book, The Tale of Tommy & Teresa Trout—A Learning Journey from Egg to Fry.

Students in 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade will be taking the California Healthy Kids Survey in **May**. Staff members will also participate by taking an online school climate survey.

GATE screening is just about complete and results will go out to parents and sites by **May 5**.

EL Connection

There has been a GREAT response to the parent survey! Most sites have had a large percentage of parents return surveys. That information is being collected and will be presented to the School Board on **May 25**.

Reminder: Last DELAC this year will be held on **May 11** at noon in the CELDT office.

We will soon begin scheduling summer CELDT. In addition to testing at the CELDT office, we will also be testing at Vista Verde Elementary School so parents out in the areas of Baldy Mesa, Quail Valley and Vista Verde will have a shorter drive. More information on this will be coming out soon.

Staff Development News

RtI² Collaborative Visits

The RtI² Planning Team that includes expert resources like Vonnie DiCecco, Sheri Wilkins, and Cynthia Gutierrez visited sites to support the RtI² process at each elementary school site. On **Thursday, April 22**, the team visited Wrightwood, Heritage, and Pinon Hills. On **Friday, April 23**, the team visited Phelan, Baldy Mesa, and Vista Verde. At each site, our planning team met with the principal, coach, and a 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade-level leader. As they were available, the SLP's and SAI teachers participated. Upcoming staff development will be tailored to include the needs that are specifically identified by the sites through this collaborative process.

Pre-K Math Workshop

Pre-K teachers will be participating in a workshop on developing early number concepts and number sense on **Thursday, April 29 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

Reading & Writing Workshop

The last Reading & Writing Workshop of the school year will be on **Thursday, May 13 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.** in the Staff Development Center. The workshop will focus on thinking ahead to next year.

RtI² Staff Development for Third, Fourth, Fifth Grade Teachers

The RtI² coaches have done a fantastic job of implementing RtI² in the upper grades. Collaboratively, we will provide differentiated training for all third-fifth grade teachers to allow us to make even more progress in working toward student success and sustainability. The table below shows the training schedule.

Date	Time	Sites (* indicates location)
Thursday, May 10	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Baldy Mesa & Vista Verde*
Wednesday, May 19	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Pinon Hills & Phelan*
Monday, May 24	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Wrightwood & Heritage*