

Perris Union High School District Newsletter

THE "SUPES" ON.....



February 2016

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Did you know staff has access to
emergency information and updates?

Staff Hotline for Emergency
Announcements and Updates:
(951) 92-ALERT (922-5378)

(Please note this line is not monitored)

Emergency updates on website:
www.puhsd.org/emergency/info



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Superintendent's Message

by Dr. Jonathan L. Greenberg



By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be about a month into the new year, and into our second semester. Beginning a new year is an exciting time of the year. We get a chance to reflect on 2015, while looking forward with anticipation to 2016.

In our endeavor, public education, we are, and should continue to be optimists. There are very few occupations where you get the chance to touch, change, and see the future...our students. So, I hope, like me, you continue to be optimistic ambassadors for our students and their families.

You see, we are helping to prepare a new generation, one in which they will be expected to analyze, create, problem solve, and innovate. These skills are the ones both employers and futurists indicate that our students will need to master in order to compete for the jobs of the 21st Century.

Educators have an important role to play in making certain our students believe they can become innovators, and then teaching them the requisite skills to innovate. I am so proud that our staff teaches innovation and creativity by being innovative and creative. Whether its attending best practices workshops, being proactive at your school, team, and/or department, I applaud your efforts to make our classrooms, campuses, and District as a whole better each school year. Here is to a great 2016.

REMINDER:

- ◆ No Students - President Week
February 15th through 19th
- ◆ Daylights Savings Time Begins
March 13th
- ◆ No Students - Spring Break
March 28th through April 1st
- ◆ No Students - Memorial Day
May 27th and May 30th



The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. School personnel must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so when he or she witnesses an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. (BP, 5145.3)

HUMAN RESOURCES

by Tonya Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer



It is an exciting time in the Human Resources Department. We are dusting off our teacher recruitment materials to prepare for the upcoming recruitment fairs as we face a teacher shortage that is affecting school districts across the country. Highlighting the fact that we are on the cutting edge of instructional technology, have the best salary schedule in Riverside County, and the opportunity to work with our wonderful staff and students should give the District a definite leg up this year.

The Employee Morale committee has selected March 11th from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for our 2nd Annual Casino Night. The committee is working feverishly to bring you another great evening to relax and enjoy time with each other building a stronger District team. We are planning the theme around St. Patrick's Day and are hoping the luck of the Irish will help you win big at the tables this year!

Finally, the Department is excited for Dr. Timothy Heck to join our team on February 11th. He comes to us with some great experience and I will be bringing him to each of the sites and departments within the first few weeks that he is here. Please join me in welcoming him to the Perris Union High School District family.

I hope that you enjoy your President's week by taking some time to relax with those you love



HUMAN RESOURCES

by Steve Swartz, Assistant Superintendent



As I write this, the District is just beginning negotiations with each of our Bargaining Units. As I wrote last year at this point, while the Governor's budget continues to be very positive, we are also very aware that expectations on how the money is to be allocated are still very much an issue we all need to be cognizant of, with the overriding expectation

that any expenditures must also translate directly to student achievement. Having said this, I am very confident that working together like we did last year, we will be able to continue programs, and perhaps create new ones, that will benefit all stakeholders.

As you are aware, we are now at the mid-point of the year. Yet planning is already beginning for the 2016-17 school year. A couple of pertinent reminders for those in the certificated side of the house regarding things to be aware of that will be upon us shortly:

In the next couple of months we will conclude the evaluation process with those veteran teachers in their evaluation year, send out transfer request forms, finalize our plans for Summer School, and begin our initial staffing projections for the 2016-17 school year. If you have questions about any of these processes, please don't hesitate to contact the Human Resources office.

On a personal note, many of you are aware I will be, "returning to my roots", working directly with kids. As of

February 2nd I will be teaching Physical Education at the California Military Institute. It has been my honor to have served the district in Human Resources for the past 8-1/2 years. Through my time, I have gotten to know many of you not only professionally, but also personally. I cherish those relationships, and my sincere desire is that those continue as I move into my new role.



In closing my final contribution to the "Supe's On", let me leave you with a couple of thoughts. For those who know me, you know my love for baseball. One of my former students gave me a book entitled, "The Wisdom of Old-Time Baseball". In it are insights from a number of people associated with the game. A couple of those sum up, for me, what I have always believed and tried to adhere to in my 30+ years in education:

"Be on time. Bust your butt. Play smart. And have some laughs along the way". Whitey Herzog

"A life isn't significant except for it's impact on other lives". Jackie Robinson

Thank you to all of you for what you do everyday for the kids of this community. Based on what Mr. Robinson said, you all are leading significant lives.

Business Services

by Candace Reines, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services



EdCamp Perris - February 6, 2016

It is an exciting time to be in the field of education. Teachers and support staff seeking out rich and rewarding professional development opportunities are flocking to EdCamps. Think of an EdCamp as an unconference. If you were to attend an EdCamp, this is what you will find. There is no pre-planned agenda. The sessions are created at the beginning of the day by participants proposing ideas that interest them. There are no pre-planned presenters. Once the crowd decides on the session, the host school provides the classrooms and resources. Anybody in the room can present and facilitate. There are no tourists at EdCamps. EdCampers actively participate in each session and are not passive observers. There are no prisoners at EdCamp. Nobody is making you attend an EdCamp and nobody will make you learn. All EdCampers want to be there. They give up their time on the weekend to meet with energetic and motivated professionals. For many, this will be the first time they meet their PLN face-to-face and invariably, EdCampers will leave with more collaborators to their PLN.

Last year, PUHSD held our first EdCamp. Dedicated educators from all over the region arrived at Heritage High School and were able to collaborate, learn, and grow. A group of PUHSD teachers have been planning this year's EdCamp Perris that will be held at Pinacate Middle School on February 6th. Everyone is invited to attend; you don't have to be from PUHSD. Last year we had a mix of certificated, classified and administrators attend EdCamp Perris - We hope to see you there!



- ♦ To register for EdCamp Perris, please go to this link. goo.gl/R6dLhm
- ♦ To look at pictures from last year's EdCamp Perris, go to this link. goo.gl/S16FIL
- ♦ For a listing of EdCamps, please check this link. goo.gl/UuarLN

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**PLEASE JOIN US
FEB 6TH**

REGISTRATION & INFO:
<http://edcamperris.blogspot.com/>

#EDcampPerris

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Educational Services

by Grant Bennett, Assistant Superintendent



Specialized Academic Instruction Classes

Teenagers are not static people; they change over time. Each generation of students is different than the last. Each new generation of students is more advanced, more prepared and more sophisticated than the last generation. Students who graduated from high school in the 1950's did not leave school with the same set of skills as students who graduate from high school now. As students change over time, education and teaching must change as well.

The Special Education Department in the Perris Union High School District continues to be a leader in bringing change for students. The department continually analyzes data, student outcomes and adjusts as needed. After the implementation of Common Core, we found that more needed to be done to reach the needs of students with

More From Educational Services...

disabilities. After extensive collaboration between teachers, support staff and administration, we determined that special education students could be further served with the implementation of classes referred to as Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI). Although the California Department of Education (CDE) continues to recognize our full inclusion model as a legally compliant method of serving students, the implementation of SAI classes provides an additional continuum of services that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams can use to better place and serve special education students. We are excited to implement this new continuum of services and are confident that these courses will benefit our students.

Offered in few districts, our SAI classes are structured for 5 to 22 special education students who are assessed below grade level and are unsuccessful in a traditional, A-G, college prep class. SAI classes are not taught at a college prep level, do not meet the A-G requirement and are only offered in core, academic, graduation subjects including: English, social science, math and science. Discussion is being held to offer SAI courses in world language for the 2016-2017 school year. Special education students are placed in SAI courses at the recommendation of the student's IEP team with consent of the student's parent. Students are only enrolled in specific SAI courses as needed; no students are automatically enrolled in all SAI classes simply because they are in special education or due to past performance. Any special education student who shares that he or she wants to take a college prep class, may continue to do so. A student can be moved from an SAI class to a college prep class or from a college prep class to an SAI class during the semester if needed. It is not uncommon for a special education student to be enrolled in college prep courses like math, science and social science, yet also be enrolled in SAI English. SAI is not a "one size fits all" philosophy.



Each SAI class is taught by a special education teacher who is credentialed and highly qualified not only in special

education, but also in the specific, academic subject they are teaching. Nine additional paraeducators were hired in January to further support these new courses. Each SAI class will also have a special education paraeducator. It is rare that a special education teacher holds multiple credentials that enable them to teach both special education and subject specific classes. To support our efforts to meet this challenge, our special education teachers have been given the option to enroll in the San Diego County Office of Education's "Verification Program for Teachers in Special Settings" (VPSS). This twelve week online program allows our special education teachers to become credentialed to teach

special education students in English, social science, math or science. The teachers are automatically qualified to teach the SAI classes as soon as they enroll in VPSS. This semester 19 special education teachers volunteered to enroll in online VPSS classes.

With the new responsibility of managing a caseload, teaching a Student Organization and Resource (SOAR) class and teaching SAI classes, special education teachers need two preparation periods to manage the newly increased workloads. Special education teachers who agree to teach SAI classes are provided two preparation periods, one period to manage their caseload and one period to prepare for their SAI classes. In efforts to support teachers' enrolled in VPSS, special education teachers taking VPSS are provided one release day per week to complete their coursework.



Instructionally, our SAI teachers will cover the same standards as the college prep courses, however, they will not go as in-depth on each standard. Each SAI teacher will first assess their students, then determine

how deep and detailed to instruct the specific standard. Vocabulary, writing, detail and complexity of assignments will be differentiated to meet the students' needs. With the smaller class size and small ratio of staff to students, SAI teachers are able to be more creative, hands-on and individualized with their instructional delivery. Students who previously struggled in college prep classes with 36 students, are now finding success due to the creative assignments, individualized attention and material delivered at a level they can better understand. In addition to supporting special education students, the new SAI courses will benefit general education classes by removing students who require much individualized attention which help general education teachers, differentiate their instruction to a small span of student abilities. Throughout this semester, the special education department will analyze student results for both general education and special education students and determine the effectiveness of the new SAI classes. So far, teacher feedback is that these courses are highly successful!

SAI courses are the first of a series of new services the special education department plans to implement in the coming semesters. These courses allow us to further tap into the extensive creativity and expertise of our special education teachers as we better prepare our students for college and the workplace. The greater the continuum of services that PUHSD offers our students, the greater opportunities exist for students to succeed. As students change, our options for service delivery will change as well.