

A monthly newsletter sharing school news with the community



BUSD A+ News Update

Our monthly newsletter is distributed electronically and we encourage individuals to subscribe to receive District School News emails twice monthly and the A+ News Update directly.

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www.berkeley.k12.ca.us
to subscribe.

A+ News Update is also available in limited hard copy format at our schools and in Berkeley public libraries.

BUSD Board Updates report on actions taken and highlights of Board Meetings, and are available on our website the Friday following every School Board meeting.
BUSD Board Updates Includes Video Links to Individual Board Items!

Other Highlights inside:

- ❖ BPEF's Annual Spring Luncheon
- ❖ Superintendent's Budget Update
- ❖ BUSD Honors Classified Employees
- ❖ Incoming Kindergarteners Summer Bridge Program

Graduations & Promotions

Elementary Schedules

- BAM:** June 17
10:00 a.m.
- Cragmont:** June 16
4:00 p.m.
- Emerson:** June 18
9:00 a.m. (at St. John's)
- Jefferson:** June 17
9:00 a.m.
- John Muir:** June 17
1:30 p.m.
- LeConte:** June 15
7:00 p.m.
- Malcolm X:** June 17
9:00 a.m.
- Oxford:** June 17
9:00 a.m.
- Rosa Parks:** June 18
10:00 a.m.
- Thousand Oaks:**
June 16, 7:00 p.m.
- Washington:**
June 17, 9:30 a.m.

Secondary School Programs

Middle Schools

- King:** June 11, 4:00 p.m. (at BHS)
- Willard:** June 17, 7:00 p.m. (at BHS)
- Longfellow:** June 18, 10:30 a.m.
(in Longfellow Theater)

High School

- B-Tech:** June 15, 4:30 p.m.
(at Doubletree - Berkeley Marina)
- Berkeley High:** June 18, 5:00 pm
(at UC Berkeley – Greek Theater)



Retiring Principal Jim Slemp addressed over 200 Berkeley High School Seniors at the annual Senior Awards Ceremony June 2nd. Hear Jim's "Graduation Address" at the Greek Theater June 18th.

Mayor's Awards Recognize 190 High School Students

On May 20th students and their families, dressed from school casual to their Sunday best, filled the Pauley Ballroom at UC Berkeley for the 14th Annual Mayor's Awards, recognizing the accomplishments of students from Berkeley High and B-Tech High School.

The idea for the awards was originally conceived by Salvador Murillo, a former BUSD employee and a lifelong advocate for public education. He saw merit in publicly celebrating a wide range of notable achievements and contributions of Berkeley students. Mr. Murillo was honored by Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates at the ceremony.

Award Categories

- Leadership
- Community Service
- Extraordinary Effort
- Citizenship
- Performing/Visual Arts
- Sports
- Communications

In Dulci Jubilo Foundation Awards \$60,200 in Grants to BUSD

In Dulci Jubilo (IDJ), a foundation that has awarded grants to Berkeley public schools for the past 33 years, has just announced grants for the 2010-11 school year totaling \$60,200. Prior to 2007 IDJ awarded modest grants to teachers, averaging \$500 each. That year IDJ's Board resolved to focus intensely on narrowing the achievement gap, and, thanks to the careful stewardship of IDJ's founder Ted Rosenkranz, the foundation now offers grants of up to \$10,000 to schools and community programs that support Berkeley students. A sample of the 10-11 grants include:

- | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|---------|
| • Rosa Parks: Playworks | \$10,000 | • YMCA: Outsiders Club | \$5,000 |
| • YMCA's Teen Center Roof Top Garden Project | \$10,000 | • Washington: Libros Por Todos | \$1,500 |
| • Jefferson: ULSS (Universal Learning Support System) | \$5,000 | • LeConte: Reducing Barriers | \$1,000 |
| • Malcolm X: Project Connect | \$5,000 | • BUSD Libraries: Kamishibai | \$1,000 |
| | | • BAM: Social Skills Groups | \$1,000 |
| | | • Willard: Youth Support Project | \$1,000 |

BUSD Student Performances Available Online

Did you know that many Berkeley student performances are available on YouTube and Vimeo.com? Use Search for "BUSD"

Recent Performances:
 BUSD Sixth Grade Band Performs the National Anthem for the San Francisco Giants

See it on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCIVwflBQE>

BPEF's 23rd Annual Spring Luncheon 2010



Enjoy Assemblymember Nancy Skinner's fundraising on Vimeo.com: <http://www.vimeo.com/1238987>

The Berkeley Public Education Foundation honored educators and community partners in the Berkeley schools, and managed to raise over \$50,000 in donations that will support the foundations generous funding in BUSD schools and classrooms.

Assemblymember Nancy Skinner raised about \$10,000 of those dollars, challenging individuals to pay for a bus for a field trip, a classroom projector and more.

This year's luncheon recognized four honorees. All of the presentations are available on video at Vimeo.com at the links below. Learn more about the Berkeley Public Education Foundation at: www.bpef-online.org



Distinguished Educator: Jabari Anderson

Jabari Anderson's multi-sensory approach to teaching early literacy in Spanish caught the attention of BPEF's grant committee last fall, when he submitted a request for development of student and family literacy tools for the Cragmont two-way immersion program. In his eleventh year as a teacher in 1st and 2nd grade multi-lingual classrooms, Jabari believes firmly that there are many paths into the brain, be they tactile, visual or verbal—or a combination of all three. Jabari's award was presented by Alison Kelly, BUSD K-12 English Language Development Coach. Video Link: <http://www.vimeo.com/12390305>



Distinguished Educator: Tom Prince

Vision, passion and commitment fuel the work of Tom Prince. A highly intuitive, observant and skilled educator, Tom has pieced together effective early literacy strategies that have yielded outstanding results throughout Berkeley elementary schools. Tom's award was presented by Jamie Carlson, Emerson Literacy Coach and 2008 BPEF Distinguished Educator. Video Link: <http://www.vimeo.com/12390820>



Distinguished Educator: Richard Silberg

A 'love of story' is the self-described passion that has powered Richard Silberg's thirty-year career as both a teacher and theater professional. A 20 year veteran of the BUSD, Richard first began teaching drama at King in 1995, and today at least two thirds of King's students have a class with Richard at some point during their three-year tenure. Richard's award was presented by David Spiegelman, 7th grade humanities teacher at King Middle School. Video Link: <http://www.vimeo.com/12391466>



Distinguished Community Partner: UC Berkeley Cal Corps Public Service Center

Cal Corps Public Service Center is a vital hub on the UC Berkeley campus, placing over 5,000 students each year as volunteers, interns and employees throughout our community. Its mission, to "promote leadership through service, and to foster social justice and civic engagement" is powerfully reflected in BUILD—Berkeley United in Literacy Development. Cal Corp's award was presented by Zachary Pless, BUSD Program Supervisor of Extended Learning. Video Link: <http://www.vimeo.com/12393203>

Superintendent's Budget Update

William Huyett

For the third straight year I am writing to tell you about significant cuts to Berkeley Unified, and all California public schools. Over the last two years, we trimmed \$11 million from the budget, and now more reductions are required. For the next school year the Governor's proposed reductions, coupled with our increasing costs force us to reduce the General Fund budget by \$3.1 million.

A couple of years ago, California was 47th in per student funding for education; now, after two years of severe cuts, the state ranks even lower. In many districts, kindergarten through third grade classes, once 20 students, are now 30. Average high school class sizes of 36 to 40 are becoming commonplace.

Thanks to Measure A (BSEP), we are not planning to reduce the number of classroom teachers next year or to increase class size. Berkeley grade K-3 classes will remain at an average of 20 students; grades 4-5 at an average of 26, and grades 7-12 at an average of 28.

It is with a real sense of sadness that I watch the continuing economic crisis being compounded by a lack of resolve in Sacramento to prevent the financial collapse of school districts across the state. While in Berkeley there are local resources in the form of Measure A (BSEP) and Measure BB (Facility Maintenance) to help with class size, music, library and other programs, the cuts we will have to make will severely affect the education of our students.

Compounding these difficulties, the Governor has just proposed to eliminate almost all \$3.8 million of state funding for preschool programs and some afterschool programs, such as the district's BEARS program. (The LEARNS after-school programs are not affected by this reduction.) Currently, BUSD runs a \$5.0 million pre-school program and K-3 afterschool program (BEARS) for low-income families, funded completely by the state and federal governments.

The preschool and BEARS program reductions proposed recently by the Governor come as a shock, and no local support is in place for these programs. This proposal hits our most vulnerable population: children in low-income households. We are collaborating with City of Berkeley and other preschool providers to attempt to mitigate the damage if these reductions become part of the state budget. District preschools, and other area preschools funded by these monies, provide a valuable boost to children as they prepare for kindergarten. Kindergarten readiness is a primary goal of 2020 Vision activities, aimed at eliminating the achievement gap.

I asked my staff in February to make a preliminary list of budget reductions, and this list has been reviewed by the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee which made its own recommendations to me. That committee is comprised of an equal number of employees (including all five unions) and community members. I then reviewed all the suggestions before making a recommendation to the School Board. The School Board will make all final decisions and must pass a balanced budget by the end of June. Proposed reductions sent to the Board by me include:

- Over \$1 million in non-salary items, including classroom furniture, textbook money, state school targeted funds, high school exit exam support monies; and transportation department cuts that will require changes to funding field trip and athletic team transportation
- Elimination of six positions, including a middle school vice principal
- Adult School programs cuts of \$325,000, including fewer classes, higher fees, and higher class sizes
- Elimination of \$500,000 of operating costs with the opening of our new transportation facility (half of this reduction was built into this year's budget).

Three straight years of budget reductions are extremely demoralizing for our hard-working teachers and staff, especially those who are receiving notices of possible layoff. I appreciate the community's support of teachers, staff, and administrators, so I want to continue to keep you informed about these budget reductions. You can sign up for email updates at the website, www.berkeley.net.



Superintendent Huyett has proposed a one-day furlough of all district staff in order to reduce the number of positions to be laid off. A furlough would need to be negotiated with our unions, and his proposal is for the furlough day to be on a staff development day when no students are attending school.

UPCOMING DATES

Berkeley High Graduation
Fri June 18, 2010
5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS WEDNESDAY

June 9, 2010
June 23, 2010
June 30 –tentative
August 4 – special
August 18, 2010
September 15, 2010

Note: Board meetings begin at 7:30 pm, and can be heard on Berkeley Cable Channel 33, and radio KPFB FM 89.3

BUSD Recognizes Employees' Years of Service

On May 12th the Board of Education and the Personnel Commission celebrated 174 classified employees who have reached their Five through Fifty Years of employment in the BUSD. The event kicked off with a BBQ that served beef and veggie burgers, hot dogs and delicious beefsteak tacos. Salads, garnish and an abundance of deserts filled three tables, ensuring that no one went away hungry.



Superintendent Bill Huyett holds flowers for the District's first 50 year employee Maruko Hiratzka, while she tells the crowd what a joy it has been for her to work in the Berkeley schools. She is currently at Malcolm X, and has been for 18 years.

5 Years

Mushin Abdul-Musawwir
 Alicia Barajas
 Jennette Byrd
 Ann-Marie Callegari
 Xiang Chen
 Windy Galloway
 Danielle Ganes
 Dru Howard
 Esther Jones
 Phillip Kolari
 Lorna Laeno
 Sara Leon
 Glenn Lovitt
 Alicia Mayorga
 Wanda McAfee
 Latasha Mitchell
 Rosa Munoz
 Jay Nitschke
 Michael O'Loughlin
 Karreima Sanders
 Marcus Satterwhite
 Belinda Stuckey
 Joel Swink
 Andrea Taylor
 Miles Valentino
 Melissa Villanueva
 Kenny Washington
 Tiffany Williams
 Ralan Zotigh

10 Years

Antonio Castro
 Margretha Chacona-
 Johnson
 Janaina Da Silva
 Timothy Donnelly
 Robin Jew
 Bonita Everfield
 Benjamin Goff
 Agatha Greeley
 Karon Harris-Younger
 Paula Israel
 Kathy Kramer
 Karl Lampkin
 Gloria Marroquin
 Irma Parker
 Eugene Patton
 Victor Thomas
 Claudia Waters
 Kimberly Wurcher
 Ahlam Younis

15 Years

Wiley Carter
 Antionette Cooks
 Arlene Foster
 Yolanda Gibson Faye
 Hines
 Annette Johnson-
 Banks
 Wallace Jones
 Atsushi Maki
 Barbara Vogel
 Atsushi Maki

25 Years

Cynthia Bella
 Ronald Boykin
 Cheri Dutiel
 Christine Eastman-
 Williams
 Cecelia Hudson
 Earl Jenkins
 Bonnie Powers
 Gerardo Reyes
 Raymond Young

20 Years

Lori Adams
 Johnny Billips
 Tia Claassen
 Mary Jackson
 Janice Johnson
 Romila Khanna
 Rodney Lewis
 Mark Ramia
 Ethel Wiley

30 Years

Virgie Callen
 Nancy Charlson
 Sylvia Curiel
 Barbara Jackson-
 Mellion
 Pedro Reynosa
 Pamela Sanford
 Myretta Whitaker

A+ News Update

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A Few Spots Left: Incoming Kindergarteners for Free Summer Bridge Program June 28 - July 30, 2010

Once again this summer BUSD will offer the Kindergarten Summer Bridge Program, for children entering Kindergarten in the fall who have not attended a licensed preschool. This free program helps prepare students for Kindergarten, and includes snack and lunch each day for students, workshops for parents, and a field trip for parents and their children.

Summer Bridge classes are no larger than 20 students, with two teachers (one Pre-K and one Kindergarten). Classes are held at Rosa Parks Elementary School, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Monday-Friday.

Registration Sites:

King Child Development Center
 1939 Ward Street
 (510) 644-6358

Hopkins Preschool
 1801 Hopkins Street
 (510) 644-8939

Franklin Preschool
 1460 Eighth Street
 (510) 644-6339