



*We have 67 days to:*

*Develop competent readers, writers, and mathematicians*

*Cultivate scientists, explorers, innovators and communicators of learning*

*Foster compassion and empathy for others*



On the morning of February 17, 2017, I joined Mrs. Jahr, 9 chaperones and 55 7th grade Oceanography students as we traveled to Catalina Island. The three-day camp provided multiple opportunities for students to learn about the ocean and its many ecosystems through classroom lab activities and real life applications. Students studied animal specimens, conducted experiments, and explored the ocean. Additional pictures can be found on the District and school's [program tab](#). As new pictures are shared, I will freshen the page.



**HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S DAY**

On Tuesday, February 14th students and staff celebrated Valentine's day with traditional activities, such as passing out valentine's cards and candies. [Follow Mesa Union Valentine's Activities on Twitter.](#)

The Parent Faculty Organization hosted our monthly Superintendent-Principal Breakfast on February 14, 2017. Dr. Bluestein discussed his work with the School Site Council as they finalize the Mesa Union Single School Plan of Student Achievement. He also unveiled a number of new student recognition strategies to improve student attendance. In closing, had the opportunity to facilitate an interactive activity on school connectivity.



The 2016-2017 Junior Lego League Season began this week with nearly 90 K-3 participants. Students practice every day from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Kindergarten quad area. The annual tournament is slated for May. Go Tigers!



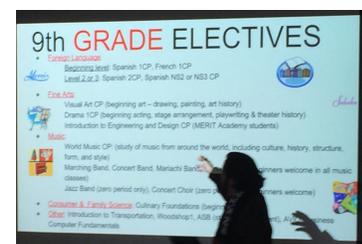
Leticia Cousino, parent liaison, and I met with the Parent English Learner Advisory Council to begin the review of Goal 3 (Creating a Safe and Welcoming School Environment) of the Local Control Accountability Plan. Parents participated in a school connectedness activity to help the District identify ways to be more inclusive of Spanish-speaking parents.

Parent Advisory Council completed similar work around Goal 3 at the February 16th meeting. In the coming weeks, we will begin putting together a rough draft of strategies for the 2018-2019 school year. The Local Control Accountability Plan development is on schedule and the Plan will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for approval in June.

Finally this week, all classes continue to work on their Tigers Care pledge of not bullying and to always try to maintain a positive behavior aligned with the pillars of our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. You may have noticed these student-made signs around campus.



Rio Mesa High School counselors' visit Mesa and present 9th grade electives and encourage students not to shy away from foreign language electives, in addition to four years of math, science, and English language arts, in anticipation of college entrance applications to the California State and University of California systems.



It was wonderful to have had so many students and families join the Board of Trustees in celebrating student academic success at Tuesday's Board meeting. The activities that were highlighted (i.e., science fair, spelling bee, and the Catalina field trip) enrich the academic programs at Mesa Union. Thank you for your leadership and support as we reached tentative agreements with both the Mesa



Union Teachers' and Mesa Union Support Team Associations. Negotiation have been very positive, collaborative, and resulted in positive changes for students. A letter communicating the change to stakeholders was mailed to Parents on February 24, 2017. The District will hold a meeting to respond to parent questions on **Wednesday, March 1, in the MPR at 6:00 p.m. and at the Superintendent/Principal Breakfast on Tuesday, March 14, in the cafeteria at 8:30 a.m.**



February 22nd's minimum day provided a variety of professional development opportunities for staff. Classified staff participated in First Aid/CPR training. The District and Mesa Union Support Team has made this a new requirement for all classified employees. K-8 ELA/ELD pilot teachers participated in a pilot materials launch training as they prepare to use and evaluate either Houghton Mifflin Collections (K-5) or Journeys (6-8) materials into the classroom on Monday. Non-pilot teachers participated in an Olweus Bullying professional development opportunity with Dr. Bluestein.



On Thursday, Mesa Union students performed at their annual fourth grade concert. Performances were held at 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. [I have attached an audio excerpt from the performance](#). It will take about 60 seconds to download. Once the audio file is downloaded, click on it and the music will begin.



Parents, next time you are on campus, please stop by the library to view the new student pottery display.

Both of these activities are a celebration of the rich offerings in Visual and Performing Arts that Mesa Union students benefit from.

school students.

On February 23rd Miss Poole accompanied students to the Engineering Challenge at NAVSEA. This had been a long-standing tradition at Mesa for years. I am grateful that Miss Poole committed to recreating this opportunity for Mesa middle