

*We have 49 days to:*

*Develop competent readers, writers, and mathematicians*

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

*Foster compassion and empathy for others*



Nina, from Ms. Mayes class, and I worked on creating a summary of the book The Cat and the Moon! It was the highlight of my week.

I joined Dr. Bluestein and twenty parents for March's Superintendent/Principal Breakfast hosted by the Parent Faculty Organization. As indicated in a letter that was sent to all parents, staff, and Trustees, I set time aside to meet with parents on the evening of March 1 and at this week's breakfast to discuss the academic calendar and bell schedule changes for

the 2017-2018 school year. At each of these meetings, parents have been supportive of the new academic calendar and school start and end times. Parent questions have focused on logistics, such as dismissal procedures, bussing, and changes to the after-school programming. These are all issues that Dr. Bluestein and I are working through with staff. Stakeholders are appreciative of common drop-off and pick-up times. They also recognize that the early-release schedule is an investment in teachers.



The California Department of Education began field testing the new California School Dashboard on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. Information about the Dashboard release has been provided in a series of separate communications to Trustees, administration and staff. A letter was also sent home to parents today.

A team of engineers from Alliance Building Solutions accompanied Francisco and me on a facilities walk as they began assessing facility needs in relation to \$250,000 in Prop 39 funding available to Mesa Union School District.

The District hosted both the Parent English Learner and Parent Advisory Council meetings. This month's meetings provided one last opportunity to collect stakeholder feedback prior to creating a draft plan. In April stakeholders will begin evaluating the draft Local Control Accountability Plan in preparation for the public hearing and approval in June.





Teachers participated in Mesa Union’s Innovation In Education Day. The keynote speaker was Adam Welcome, the author of Kids Deserve it!

His message touched on three key ideas:

- Learn why you should call parents to praise your students
- Discover ways to promote family interactions and improve relationships
- Be inspired to take risks



Teachers also participated in a series of rich breakout sessions provided by CUE rock star teachers and technology teachers on special assignment (TOSA) from Pleasant Valley, Somis, Rio, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Mesa Union School Districts, and the Ventura County of Education.



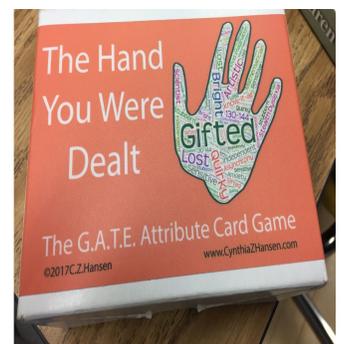
The day was an outstanding example of how Mesa Union School District is able to provide high quality professional development at a minimal cost through partnering and sharing expertise.

Congratulations to Mr. Sullivan and Mesa Moment recipients Dr. Sandhya Patel, Maribel Carino-Alvarez, Peter and Dana Lan as they were recognized for their commitment and service to Mesa Union students and families at Tuesday March 21st Board meeting. It was also a privilege to recognize Marco Troncoso who represented Mesa Union in the Ventura County Spelling Bee competition. i



Mesa Union hosted the first of three a parent workshops facilitated by Mrs. Cindy Hansen, M.Ed.,ET/P. Mrs. Hansen is the parent representative for the Pacific Region of the California Association for the Gifted and an active member in the region’s Tri-County GATE Council, as well as her professional certifying organization, the Association of Educational Therapists. Ms. Hansen’s Master’s of Education and three teaching certificates were earned at UCLA .In

addition, she earned a post-Master’s certificate in Gifted and Talented at University of California, Santa Barbara. Thursday’s workshop, which is based upon the book A Parent’s Guide to Gifted Children by James Webb, focused on communication as a way to build relationships.





Dr. Bluestein and I joined Mesa Union families at the Camarillo Academic Olympic Awards Ceremony at Monte Vista Middle School. Mesa Union students competed against a number of schools in Camarillo and earned a number of accolades as indicated below by Dr. Bluestein. Congratulations to Mrs. Michele Waggoner and the Mesa student teams!

Mesa's two teams competed in the Camarillo Academic Olympics (CAO) Super Quiz Finals last evening. They have spent the last three months studying the text *Ultimate Spy: Inside the Secret World of Espionage*. Our Division 1 Team- "The Mesa Intelligence Five:" Justin Lan, Stephanie Zager, Charlotte Weymer, Morgan Fanner, and Dhruv Patel took home the coveted Sportsmanship Award and came in 3rd place overall. Our Division 2 Team- "The Master Espionage SuperQuiz Agents:" Jake Recharte, Dylan Sclar, JF Referente, Noemy Banos, and Lily Toreja were awarded best dressed, best team name, and came in 4th overall. Our dedicated coaches in Division 1 were Mesa teacher Mrs. Christina Jahr and Mesa parent Dr. Sandhya Patel. Coaches in Division 2 were Mesa teacher Mrs. Michele Waggoner and Mesa parent Mr. Joel Toreja.

Each year the American Association of University Women (AAUW) sponsors a residential, hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) summer camp for girls who are currently in 7th grade (entering 8th grade next school year). Our local AAUW branch invites Mesa teachers to nominate up to three girls that they believe would most benefit from this week-long STEM camp experience (We did the nominations in January.) I am delighted to tell you that our three applicants were very strong and four AAUW members of the Tech Trek selection committee will be interviewing each student on Monday afternoon. The committee conducting the interviews are Mrs. Dora Prihar, Mrs. Jan Ackerman, Mrs. Joyce Studebaker, and Mrs. Bea Lutterbeck. The Mesa 7th grade girls being interviewed are Malaya Aspuria, Gia Boisselier, and Kate Lan.



You have probably seen the white drilling rig across the street, catty-corner to Mesa School. A new water well is being constructed by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District on land owned by our neighbor farmer Mr. Steve Murata. The drilling rig should take several more days of 24/7 drilling to reach the water at a depth of 1,400 feet, which is incredibly deep for a water well. As of yesterday morning, the drill is at a depth of 340'. The Conservation District is drilling this new well to provide potable and irrigation water for our community. I have arranged with Mr. Murata for Mesa's 6<sup>th</sup> grade *Introduction to Agriculture* elective class to visit the well drill site next Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. In addition to seeing the drilling up close, Mr. Murata has arranged for the hydro-engineer and geologist to be available to talk to the class. This is truly a rare and unique trip, nearly in our backyard..



It was the rare treat to have entertainer and storyteller Bill Harley come to Mesa. Students participated in two wonderful music programs, sponsored and funded by the Mesa Education Foundation. Mr. Harley has over 30 songs to his credit and has earned two Grammy awards for the Best Spoken Word Album for Children. His program was funny, engaging, entertaining, and our students ages 5 to 13 participated in and watched the program in rapt attention for the 70 minute show. Thank you to MEF's Mrs. Meredith Weymer for arranging this for our school.

