



Fall 2018 - Volume 8, Issue 1

**News and Information from Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin
for employees of the Tustin Unified School District**

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Superintendent's Message: TUSD Employees Have the Right Stuff for Student Success

Tustin Unified School District's secret sauce is our people! Each year, the TUSD Board of Education sets goals and priorities that advance student learning and the organization. These advances are made because of the hard-working, creative, and passionate employees of the District. Eighty-four percent of the District's operating budget is spent on our people, and we invest heavily in their development.

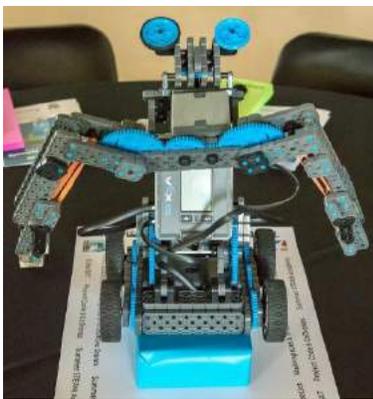
This past summer held excellent training opportunities for certificated and classified staff. Over 1,500 employees participated in a variety of seminars and trainings that furthered their ability to engage students and meet their needs. They include:

- Intentional Energetic Presence – impacting students, parents, and colleagues with positive intentions
- Inclusion strategies for special-needs students
- Summer Learning Lab
- Digital Storytelling
- Readers and Writers workshops
- Social-emotional learning
- GATE Summer Scholars
- Apple classroom training
- Next Generation Science Standards strategies
- Mathematical Standards of Practice
- Cognitively Guided Instruction in mathematics
- Coaches training
- Workplace safety
- Technical training in roofing, electrical, and painting trade



Many of these trainings were led by Tustin Unified staff who enthusiastically shared their expertise. The most effective strategy for student success is a highly trained and engaged staff. That means it should be another outstanding year in TUSD!

Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.



Clockwise, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin provides an overview of the District’s achievements; crowd gathers in the Foothill Event Center; a robot centerpiece; and TUSD Board Member Jonathan Abelow, TPSF Board Member Laurie Abelow, a staff member, and students show their “TUSD Thrives” pride.
Photos courtesy of John Garrett

State of the Schools Breakfast: Superintendent Highlights Accomplishments and Successes

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District held their seventh annual State of the Schools Breakfast on September 17 at Foothill High School. Over 300 community members, business owners, and school district staff gathered at the Foothill Event Center to learn more about Tustin Unified and its accomplishments, challenges, and plans for student success.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin presented the keynote address, “#TUSD Thrives.” His topics included advanced math and science programs, digital storytelling, educational technology, magnet programs, robotics and computer science, connected classrooms, student wellness, and facility needs.



In addition, the District’s new video, “Dark Fiber: Future-Proofing the District’s Internet Access,” was shown and entertainment was provided by the Foothill High Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Chelsea Dehn and Tim Thomas, respectively.

TUSD Dedicates Gerry Aust Activity Center at Hewes School

The Tustin Unified School District will dedicate the Gerry Aust Activity Center at Hewes Middle School at 3:30 p.m. on October 2. The building is being named in honor and celebration of Aust's long-lasting contributions to the Tustin Unified community. The public is invited to the event.

The TUSD Board of Education approved the naming of the Hewes activity center at a Board meeting last spring.

Aust, who passed away last year, worked in public education for 39 years – 37 of those in the Tustin school district. He served as a teacher, activities director, assistant principal, and principal in Tustin Unified. He retired in 2000, but never really stopped working. Aust served as an interim principal or assistant principal at almost every school in Tustin Unified.



Among his many community service activities, Aust served on the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) Board of Directors for 17 years. Aust and his wife, Diane, were involved in the Dinosaur Dash 2K/5K/10K race since it began 28 years ago and served as co-chairs of the annual event for two years.

Aust also served as master of ceremonies for the annual TPSF Teacher of the Year Dinner for 16 years and was Honorary Superintendent of the Foundation's Summer Academy program for elementary and middle school students.

For 22 years, the Austs voluntarily led Tustin middle school students to Washington, D.C., shepherding over 2,500 students and making history and democracy come alive for them. Aust's passion for his country is well-known; he was known as "Mr. Red, White, and Blue."



Aust was a longtime member of the Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club serving twice as its president and coordinating the club's high school scholarships program for many years. He served on the Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts' Encore Group supporting the arts in the community, was a board member for the Assessment and Treatment Services Center, served on the Tustin Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, and was involved in the Tustin Chili Cook-Off and Tustin Tiller Days.

Aust received several honors over the years, including Tustin Area Man of the Year in 2005, Tustin School Management Association's Community Service Award in 2000 and 2009 for his contributions to the education of TUSD students, and Orange County Retired Administrator of the Year in 2012 by the Association of California School Administrators, Region 17, for his volunteer work in education and the community.

"Gerry always focused on the students and what better way to pay tribute and honor this TUSD icon," School Board President Tammie Bullard said. "His memory will live on for decades to come for the students, staff, parents, and the community."

Above, Gerry Aust welcomes the new Activity Center when it opened in 2012 at Hewes School.



Left photo, Principal Cindy Agopian and assistant principals Jaclyn Spangler and Mai Huynh welcome new students on opening day; and right photo, Orchard Hills teacher Nancy Chung's fourth- and fifth-grade students enjoy their new classroom.

Orchard Hills School Welcomes Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

It's official! Orchard Hills is now a K-8 school! ASB students, administrators, and teachers greeted K-4 students along with the existing grades 5-8 on the first day of school with a photo booth, posters and a tunnel of welcoming high fives.

In this K-8 learning environment, students have the opportunity to engage in age-appropriate activities and events during elementary and middle school years. Orchard Hills School, a 2018 California Distinguished School, CBEE Honor Roll School and Gold Ribbon School, has an established tradition of excellence as a middle school, helping students achieve high levels of learning and engagement. The staff and community looks forward to inspiring this new group of elementary learners as they grow their K-8 learning community.



TUSD Teachers of the Year to be Honored by OCDE

The Tustin Unified School District's 2018 Teachers of the Year – Carrie Murillo, fourth-grade teacher at W.R. Nelson Elementary School, and Joanna Vandal, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher at Tustin High School – will be honored by the Orange County Department of Education at its annual Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner on Friday, November 2, at 6 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel. Both teachers represented the District in the 2018-19 Orange County Teachers of the Year program. They were also selected as two of 15 semifinalists in the program.



Clockwise, guests tour a classroom; new school entrance; new two-story classroom building; and Heideman Principal Sean Lindsay, TUSD Board Members Francine Scinto, Jonathan Ablove, and Lynn Davis, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, and student Alexandra Avila participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
Photos courtesy of John Garrett

TUSD Holds Ribbon Cutting for New Building at Heideman School

The Tustin Unified School District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new classroom building at Robert Heideman Elementary School on September 6. School board members, community leaders, District administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students attended the ceremony.

The two-story building is approximately 19,000 square feet and includes 12 state-of-the-art classrooms, a staff workroom, restrooms, stairs, and an elevator. The building was designed by HMC Architects and built by Balfour Beatty Construction. The project cost \$8 million and was funded through the Measure L modernization program, special reserves and developer fees.

Additional work was done to enhance the front entrance of the campus, which includes a new facade and landscaping, student drop-off area, parking lot, and kindergarten playground area. The designer and builder were Westgroup Designs and Horizons Construction, respectively.

“The students, teachers, and staff are very excited about the new classroom building and school entrance,” Heideman Principal Sean Lindsay said. “The entire community feels tremendous pride and gratitude in Heideman’s new look.”



Technology: New iPads Have Launched in TUSD

Tustin Unified School District students in grades TK-8 have hit the ground running with the successful deployment of over 10,400 new 6th Generation iPads. With the success of the Tustin Connect Initiative over the last five years, it was imperative that TUSD provided devices that allowed teachers and students the ability to continue the growth that has been built and maintained during the initial deployment. Focusing on 21st Century learning principles, District teachers and students can use these devices to continue growth in the core areas of math, physical science, social science, and language arts.

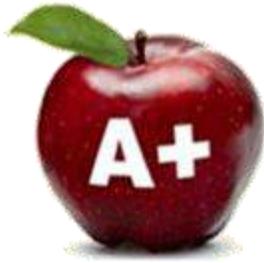


Additionally, with the flexibility of the device, teachers can continue the pursuit of the four C's (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity) in their lesson planning and delivery. With this deployment, District teachers will continue to raise the bar in TUSD with access to the latest and greatest technology available.



OLA staff poses at Veeh School, front row, from left, Adriana Bárcenas, Patricia Odette Aguilar, Monica Payan, and Mercedes Baeza; and back row: Mario Martinez, Gabriela Lewis, and Rigo Magaña.

Educational Services: EL Center Changes Name to Office of Language Acquisition



The Tustin Unified School District's English Learner Center has changed its name to the Office of Language Acquisition (OLA). Under the TUSD Educational Services Department, OLA oversees services and provides instructional support services for all of the District's Language Learner students.

The services include:

- Assessment – OLA administers the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessment California (ELPAC) to new students year-round and assists with the Summative ELPAC testing during the assessment window from February through May. Students enrolled in the Dual Immersion Program at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School are tested using the LAS Links Spanish acquisition assessment twice a year.

- Translations – OLA provides written translations for all schools, the Special Education Department and District Office, as well as other departments throughout the District to increase communication districtwide.

- Interpreting – OLA manages the scheduling of 11 interpreters who travel to various TUSD schools to serve as a bridge of communication between parents and school administrators, teachers, and staff.

Language learners are also supported by the Elementary Language Mentor Team, which is comprised of 12 elementary teachers. These selected teachers support and promote culturally responsive instruction and exemplary teaching practices in language development, and lead professional development on effective communication strategies and content area integration.

The TUSD Language Academy is an additional professional growth opportunity for secondary teachers. Approximately 25 classroom teachers and 10 coaches are participating in this first cohort of the two-year program. Teachers are learning research-based instructional strategies that support language learners and earn them a certificate in Culturally Responsive Instruction. OLA is looking forward to an exciting year supporting the unique learning needs of TUSD's language learners.

Personnel Services: TUSD Hosts Eighth Annual Employee Health Fair

The Tustin Unified School District will hold its eighth annual Employee Health Fair on Wednesday, October 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the courtyard at the District Office. The fair, hosted by TUSD and sponsored by Burnham Benefits, includes flu shots (funded from one-time Anthem wellness monies), interactive and informational booths, as well as opportunities for biometric screenings (which measures blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, etc.), and a healthy lunch served by TUSD Nutrition Services.



TUSD employees will be able to talk to over 30 vendors – health experts and representatives from local fitness centers, physical therapy centers, vision and health insurance companies, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, and more. Additionally, there will be lots of raffle prizes – gift cards, donations from vendors, and bicycles.

Tustin Unified employees are encouraged to come by and take advantage of this wonderful opportunity organized by TUSD Personnel Services.



Business Services: Budget Update – Caution in the Wind

For many students, the start of another school year begins with a feeling of apprehension and uncertainty. Making new friends, attending new schools, and bonding with new teachers are events that can be a traumatic experience for any student. For parents, starting the school year begins by restarting the routine of preparing lunches, transporting their child, attending school activities, and dealing with their child's emotions – situations that may also bring anxiety.

In the area of school business, the start of the school year signals the start of the new fiscal year for developing the District's education budget. This year, there is some caution in the wind with regard to finances. However, the "good news" is that the agreement between the governor and the state legislature in the development of the education budget generated a \$2.8 billion increase for K-12 education.

The "anxiety" for TUSD and K-12 education is that the increase in education funding is the last significant increase expected for the foreseeable future and is not sufficient to absorb increases in ongoing core operational costs. Under the current funding model, state target levels of education funding will have been reached by the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. The concern is that the state target is based on 2007-08 funding levels and does not restore education's purchasing power. Yet since 2007-08, schools have had to absorb the impact of increased costs for pensions, health care, utilities, insurance, books and supplies, and escalating costs for programs, such as special education and transportation.

Many school districts like TUSD are beginning to experience a structural deficit where ongoing expenditures are exceeding ongoing revenues. In fact, in 2017-18, the District deficit spent (i.e., spent more than it received) for the first time since 2009-10 and is projected to do so in the next three fiscal years. Such a scenario is a concern of returning to the days when schools experienced significant budget reductions at the start of the last recession in 2007-08. The District is in the planning stages to bring future budgets into balance.



That's the Ticket!

Tsubasa Oyama, a student in teacher Maddie Keller's fourth-grade class at Hicks Canyon Elementary School, finds a Golden Ticket inside his violin case. The Golden Ticket program is a support strategy for fourth- and fifth-grade violin classes which encourages students to take good care of their fragile instruments.

Each week before class begins, a Golden Ticket is hidden inside a violin case randomly selected by their music teacher. Only violins that have been put away correctly are eligible for the special honor. Golden Ticket perks include "Beethoven Bucks" redeemed at the student store, being a disc jockey at lunchtime, and other special prizes. On top of that, the students enjoy that connection to opening up a world-famous Wonka Bar. All nine TUSD elementary music teachers are using the new ticket program this year. Take a bow and B-sharp, everyone!



Cafeteria managers and cooks display certificates for their participation in school nutrition management training. They are: front row, from left: Ruvicelia Ruvalcaba, Foothill; Debbie Montejano, Beckman; Briana Chago, Jennifer Ruiz, and Alice Sanchez, all from Pioneer; and Teresa Durate, Columbus Tustin; and back row: Tony Becerra and Jacob Kranich, both from Orchard Hills; and Nick Lazaruk, Beckman.

Nutrition Services: Continuing Education and Training for Staff

To kick off the school year, TUSD Nutrition Services conducted its back-to-school training for all cafeteria staff. Over 120 staff members participated in the annual training. This year, the activities included team-building activities and training that focused school food operations. The highlight of the training was the Marshmallow challenge – groups worked in teams of five to build the tallest freestanding structure out of spaghetti noodles, string, tape, and marshmallows. Teams learned to work together to build a standing structure.

During the summer, nine cafeteria managers and cooks attended a weeklong orientation to School Nutrition Management Training conducted by the Institute of Child Nutrition. The session provided an overview of the management components of school nutrition programs. Training covered a wide variety of topics such as program accountability, food production and operation management, USDA foods, federal regulations, food safety essentials, workplace safety, and emergency preparedness. Staff members received a certificate for their work.

Tomb with a View

Columbus Tustin Middle School GATE & STEAM Magnet sixth- and seventh-grade students recently explored the “King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh” exhibit at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. The students are learning about ancient civilizations and, during the museum visit, viewed priceless artifacts dating back to the second millennium BC, read museum text, and integrated the exhibit’s visual information, such as maps, pictures, videos, and charts, with their classroom lessons.

Columbus Tustin Magnet students delved deeply into their research and treasured the experience. On the right, Monica Kem, Kayla Ortiz, Ella Ng, Alyssa Martinez, and Sophia Iberri discover King Tut in a glass case. The students really dug the exhibit! For more information about the school’s magnet program, visit www.tustin.k12.ca.us/CT.





New solar parking structure is a welcome addition at Pioneer Middle School.

Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities: Construction Projects Update

The TUSD Facilities staff worked on more than 100 maintenance and construction projects across 29 schools this summer. Each respective project varied in scope and complexity and ranged from a few hundred dollars to about \$1 million for improvements at Heideman School. In addition to the large-scale projects at Heideman School (new classroom building, carpet replacement, and entry enhancements), Columbus Tustin Middle School had multiple projects going simultaneously. Improvements at the site included a parking lot expansion, landscaping renovation, staff lounge remodel, and a revamped student courtyard.

Planning and design work is currently underway on the following improvements: solar carports/shade structures at various school sites (all District sites will have a structure at the conclusion of the next phase), classroom additions at Tustin Connect online school, Red Hill Elementary School, and Hewes Middle School; and lab modernization at Utt Middle School. Additionally, the new Tustin Legacy Magnet School project is on track for bidding this fall.



Tustin Memorial Academy Principal Sharon Maeda, far left, teachers, staff, and Dash Dino wear their running gear and participate in a Pep Rally to promote the annual Dinosaur Dash.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation: Dinosaur Dash is Just Around the Corner

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation has announced its special event dates for the 2018-19 school year. The 28th annual Dinosaur Dash will be held Sunday, November 4, at the Tustin Market Place. A new half-marathon (13.1-mile) event will debut at the Dino Dash, which is TPSF's biggest fundraiser each year. The run, walk, and bike event benefits all schools in the Tustin Unified School District. For more information, visit www.DinosaurDash.net.

Spring 2019 will bring another important fundraiser for Tustin Unified schools and students – the TPSF Golf Classic at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club on Thursday, April 4. It will be followed by the Teacher of the Year Dinner on Friday, May 17, when the education community gathers at the Irvine Marriott to celebrate the inspiring teachers in TUSD. Before we know it, another school year will end and it will be time for the Summer Academy on the campus of Orchard Hills School, June 10 through July 5.

Funds raised at TPSF events are used to underwrite classroom grants for schools and innovative grants for teachers, books for all school libraries, programs such as middle-school sports and Tustin Summer Academy, scholarships for graduating seniors, TUSD Robotics competitions, and more. To learn more about TPSF events and programs, visit www.tpsf.net.

Follow Superintendent Franklin and TUSD on Twitter!

During the year, get the latest news and information! You can always follow Superintendent Gregory Franklin and the Tustin Unified School District on Twitter: @SuptFranklin and @TUSDschools. "Like" us on Facebook: TUSDschools. Stay in touch with us!



The Franklin Almanac is produced by the TUSD Communications Office.

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