



Tiger Tales

October 23, 2017

We have 138 days to develop competent readers, writers, and mathematicians; cultivate scientists, explorers, innovators and communicators of learning; and foster compassion and empathy for others.



Mesa Union School hosted the Mesa Supporting the Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Parents. The six- part series facilitated by Cynthia Hanson, Educational Therapist/Gifted and Talented Education Specialist, will provide parents an opportunity to review current educational literature as well as learn and share their experiences around issues students are facing today. The first meeting focused on Student Motivation: Homework, Chores, and Unpreferred Tasks. Participants explored two questions: What motivates me? and What do I avoid at all costs, until I can't? Through shared experiences the group was able to gain a stronger understanding of what motivates our students and tasks that our students avoid. **The second session is scheduled for October 25** when the group will study extrinsic and intrinsic motivation and the process children go through to engage their internal dialogue.

Learning Wednesdays deliver big dividends in teacher growth! K-5 teachers worked on developing performance tasks in English language arts and mathematics. These assessments mirror the same complexity as state assessments students will be administered in the spring. This essential work is part of our goal to develop a K-8 systematic assessment model that will provide relevant and meaningful data to inform instruction and guide school and district educational activities. Middle school teachers began the work of unpacking YouthTruth Survey results. In conjunction with the work of the Middle School Task Force, Dr. Bluestein and middle school teachers will begin developing actionable steps to address incidents of bullying, student connectedness, and overall school climate. I rotated among the three sessions and observed and participated in rich dialogue that is requiring deep reflection and challenging staff to change instructional practices.

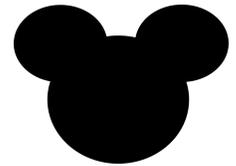


Mesa Union's commitment to improving students achievement for English Learners as K-5 teachers participated in English Language Development professional development provided by Anna Belitski, Content Specialist from the Ventura County Office of Education. Anna's work is an extension of the English language development standards and curriculum work that teachers have been focused on for the previous two years. This ongoing training support is essential to the successful implementation of new English Language Development textbooks being used in 2017-2018.



Mesa Union teachers: Kelsey White, Adele Reyes, Robin Webster, Olivia Ford, Kim Kuklenski, Sara Hocamp and Brianna Poole, put in extra hours this week by participating in Gifted and Talented certification training provided by Pleasant Valley School District. Thanks to these teachers completion of their training, Mesa Union will have a GATE certified teacher represented at every grade level K-7. I am so proud of our staff for dedicating their time to learn how to better meet the needs of their students.

Mesa has partnered with the California Mouse Squad! Through this partnership middle school students will have access to technology project/inquiry based learning activities. Mrs. Sonenshine and Mr. Turner are piloting the program in their middle school core class.



On Friday, parents and students from Ms. Williams' class joined Cruz, Pepe and myself to refurbish the planter boxes alongside the third grade classrooms. The group installed metal wiring to control pests from burrowing underneath the planter, added amendment to the soil, and added plastic fencing to protect plants from grazing rabbits. It was a great morning of partnership and learning.

Mesa Union is hosting Red Ribbon Week (RRW) beginning Monday October 23 and wrapping up on October 27, 2017. Thank for your support of the resolution coming to Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting in support of Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. At Mesa, we will be doing the following activities the week of October 23rd:



√ Monday, teachers talk about RRW and pass out RRW pencils in class after students pledge to be alcohol, tobacco, and drug free.

√ Tuesday, students will have 'Wear Red Spirit Day.' At lunch today, the students will sign their pledge, and students that sign their pledge will get a bracelet.

√ Wednesday, the pledge that all students signed will be hung in the cafeteria for all to see.

√ Friday, we will conclude the week by trading our red wear for the Mesa spirit blue day.

Thanks to the wonderful Mesa PFO for providing the pencils, bracelets, and other materials for our students for Red Ribbon Week.

Kindergarten classes were treated to a visit by fire company #152 from the Ventura County Fire Department, Camarillo. The visit was coordinated by Mesa kindergarten parent and firefighter, Mrs. Katy Palloto. All four of the firefighters that visited were female, which was a nice treat for our students.



Trustees celebrated Mesa Union’s Golden Gear and STEM Champions Awards presented to Anthony Oliveras, Adelle Steele, and Mesa Union School by Ventura County STEM. The award affirms Mesa is leading the way in STEM education.



Mesa Union’s rate of students that met or exceeded standards on California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) continues to outpace county and state averages. This is good

news; however, there is still much work ahead as we transition to new standards, curriculum, and methods of assessing student growth and achievement. In closing, Trustee support and guidance, as the District worked to come to an appropriate resolution for both the District and former lead maintenance worker, is very much appreciated. The District can move forward with retooling and filling the position.

Webb's Depth of Knowledge	
<p>DOK Level 1 (Factual)</p> <p>Verbs: arrange, calculate, define, draw, identify, list, label, illustrate, match, memorize, recognize, tell, ...</p> <p>Focus: on specific facts, definitions, details, or procedures</p> <p>Note: there's one correct answer, and a combination of Level 1s does not make it a Level 2</p>	<p>DOK Level 2 (Skill / Concept)</p> <p>Verbs: categorize, cause/effect, classify, compare, distinguish, estimate, graph, interpret, modify, predict, relate, show, summarize, ...</p> <p>Focus: on applying skills and concepts ☞ explaining how or why</p> <p>Note: there's one correct answer</p>
<p>DOK Level 3 (Strategic Thinking)</p> <p>Verbs: assess, cite evidence, compare, conclude, construct, critique, develop logical argument, differentiate, formulate, hypothesize, investigate, revise, ...</p> <p>Focus: on reasoning and planning in order to respond ☞ complex and abstract thinking required ☞ defending reasoning or conclusions</p> <p>Note: multiple answers or approaches</p>	<p>DOK Level 4 (Extended Thinking)</p> <p>Verbs: apply concepts, analyze, connect, create, critique, design, prove, ...</p> <p>Focus: on complex reasoning, planning, and thinking ☞ make real-world applications in new situations</p> <p>Note: has multiple answers or approaches ☞ often requires extended periods of time with multiple steps</p>

Depth and Complexity! Expanding the mindset of educators beyond standards driven instruction to consider the implications of education claims, targets and depth of knowledge when designing lessons. The chart to the left is one tool available to teachers to design lesson activities and/or questioning strategies that assure students are pushed to DOK levels 3 and 4, which mirror the demands of state assessments. New learning this month revolved around two new depth and complexity icons and patterns.



Ben from Home Depot delivered materials for Mrs. Webster and Ms. Williams' garden project. In addition to refurbishing existing raised garden beds and student benches, I am helping them construct a trellis for pole beans. I really enjoy watching our students learn about gardening and growing their own food.

All school districts in the state of California have to demonstrate how they are using local measures to evaluate their progress in implementing Local Control Accountability Plan State Priorities. Mesa has met the criteria in all required areas.

Priority Area	State Indicator	Local Indicator
Basic Services or Basic Condition at schools Priority 1		Basics Conditions at School
Implementation of State Academic Standards Priority 2		Implementation of State Academic Standards
Parental Engagement Priority 3		Parent Engagement
Student Achievement Priority 4	Academic Indicator English Learner Progress Indicator	
Student Engagement Priority 5	Chronic Absence Indicator Graduation Rate Indicator*	
School Climate Priority 6	Suspension Rate Indicator	Local Climate Survey
Access to a Broad Course of Study Priority 7	College/Career Indicator*	
Outcomes in a Broad Course of Study Priority 8	College/Career Indicator*	
Coordination of Services for Expelled Students Priority 9		Coordination of Services for Expelled Students**
Coordination of Services for Expelled Students Priority 10		Coordination of Services for Foster Youth**



Mesa Union Parent Faculty Organization hosted its annual fall carnival. As always, the activities were over the top and attendance was incredible.

