

LAST WEEK in BUSD:

This is the second of a report that BUSD staff can look forward to at the beginning of every week I call Last Week in BUSD. We can't capture everything, but the goal is to give you a snapshot of what's going on in the District.

Visiting Author at Jefferson for Professional Development

Author's Tea - Gennifer Choldenko shared her research and writing process for her new book, *Chasing Secrets*, set in San Francisco in the early 1900s with 4th, 5th and 6th grade teachers and library staff. This is part of the visiting author program that Becca Todd has organized in collaboration with Mrs. Dalloway's Bookstore.

Author's Tea - Gennifer Choldenko at Jefferson Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652575895989>

John Muir Community Meeting: Construction of Modular Classroom

On Monday night a second community meeting was held to discuss the modular classroom project at John Muir. BUSD's new Executive Director of Facilities Tim White accompanied the architects (Baker Vilar Architects) designing the project, and the Project Manager. The Board approved the modular classroom placement at John Muir for the 2016-17 school year. The meeting was to advise the community of the progress by the John Muir Site Committee overseeing the project, and was attended by teachers, staff, parents and neighbors.

John Muir Community Meeting: Construction of Modular Classroom Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653024984756>

Author/Illustrator Angela Dominguez visits BUSD 2nd and 3rd Graders

Author/Illustrator Angela Dominguez visited Thousand Oaks 3rd graders and Rosa Parks 2nd graders on Tuesday, reading from her books and telling the students how she creates her stories. When she asked the students if her books were in the Thousand Oaks library, all of the students pointed to the specific shelf where they live.

Author Angela Dominguez at Thousand Oaks Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653020054306>

BTSA Colloquium 2015

Every year our BTSA first and second year teachers and their mentors are brought together for this special celebration of all of their hard work. This beginning teachers support is really important for the success of our newest teachers, and when you see them together, it is obvious that it is equally important to the mentors.

BTSA Colloquium 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652668415989>

BUSD's 2nd Elementary Math Night

The second elementary math night was hosted on Tuesday by our Parent Engagement Department staff in collaboration with elementary teachers at Longfellow Middle School. The staff worked with parents to show them how they can work with their students. The students who accompanied their parents were immediately drawn to the projects laid out by the teachers.

BUSD's 2nd Elementary Math Night Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652487533179>

Cragmont's Black Parent Advocacy Group Meeting

Cragmont Elementary School has a small group of parents who meet regularly with the principal to advocate for Cragmont's students. The Black Parent Advocacy Group was established under a previous principal, and is in collaboration with Parents of Children of African American Descent (PCAD). They met at Longfellow last week before the math night event.

Cragmont's Black Parent Advocacy Group Meeting Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652682536198>

Principals Meeting

All of our principals meet every Wednesday with Director of Schools Maggie Riddle for collaboration and professional development.

Principals Meeting Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653084647531>

2x2 Quarterly Meeting

The Board and the Berkeley City Council meet quarterly in order to better collaborate on matters that impact both BUSD and the City of Berkeley. The 2x2 Committee, as they are called, is comprised of the President and Vice President of the School Board and the Mayor and Vice Mayor of the City Council, supported by the Superintendent and the City Manager and staff. They met on Thursday to discuss BSEP, LCAP, BUSD's Garden and Cooking Program and other current issues.

2x2 Meeting May 14 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653074570722>

Writers Coach Connection

The Writers Coach Connection has been working with the English teachers in our middle and high schools for over a decade. As you can see in these pictures from Berkeley High's College Career Center last week, writing mentors from throughout the community volunteer to work on classroom writing assignments with students one on one. The WCC asks their volunteers for long term commitments, and one of the successes of the program is that they work with the same students throughout the semester.

Writers Coach Connection at BHS Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157650644650683>

May Management Team Meeting

Superintendent Evans meets with the entire BUSD Management Team a few times every year to bring everyone up to date on District-wide issues. On Thursday they heard about the Governor's Budget; LCAP; BSEP, Leadership Practices, and an update from the District Nurse.

Management Team Meeting May 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157650762835493>

Mayor's Student Awards 2015

The Mayor's Student Awards honored over 200 high school students on Thursday night, in a ceremony that took place in Cal Berkeley's International House.

Mayor's Student Awards 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652776589626>

Mayor's Student Awards 2015 the Certificates Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652873762895>

Cal State East Bay Civil Rights and Social Justice Conference Panel II

Our own Teacher on Special Assignment Kathryn Mapps participated in a panel discussion in a conference at Cal State East Bay last week. The conference was titled Black Lives Matter, and her panel's topic was Identity and Race in the 21st Century. Kathryn's specific subject was Learning Time Differentials at the Intersection of Race and Class. You can hear Kathryn and the rest of the presenters in this 40 minute video.

Cal State East Bay Civil Rights and Social Justice Conference Panel II Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652892279452>

Cal State East Bay Civil Rights and Social Justice Conference Panel II Video:

<https://vimeo.com/128221877>

John Muir's May Fair 2015

The John Muir school community was out in full strength Friday night for their annual May Fair. The event highlights were a climbing wall; multiple jumpy gyms, and first rate food trucks serving families who are able to enjoy the fair instead of working the food tables, with proceeds going to the PTA.

John Muir May Fair 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157650574763414>

BHS's African American Studies Department Spring Dance 2015

On Friday night more than a hundred students fascinated an audience of 1,000 students, family and community members. You can enjoy the student's' performance photos and videos online.

They are posted on the Student Performance page on the BUSD website:

<http://www.berkeleyschools.net/2015/05/07/busd-student-production-2015/>