

Last Week in BUSD

We have been including this interesting review of Last Week in BUSD to be shared with all BUSD through the PIO News. This is a report that you can look forward to at the beginning of every week. We can't capture everything, but the goal is to give you a snapshot of what's going on in the District. Submit things that I miss that are of interest to our teachers and staff.

Willard Middle School Math Videos, Nepal Fundraising, Cooking & Garden

Math teacher Robert MacCarthy shared these awesome videos from his students at Willard.

His classroom has drawn national attention, and is going to be featured by SoulPancake. I caught up with their film crew in the classroom last week. The students are working on more math music videos.

Willard Student Videos:

Black Lives Matter: <https://youtu.be/Ei-1crbxOVI>

Pi Week 2015: <https://vimeo.com/123384071>

I also stopped by to see James Pawlak's class. He alerted me that earlier this month Willard students raised \$1004 for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. The fundraising was spearheaded by the Ambassadors, a leadership class of seventh and eighth graders. Students, parents and staff accomplished this in less than seventy-two hours!

Down the hall students were enjoying a meal they'd just cooked in their cooking classroom, and you can always find some of the students hanging out in the garden. Check out these classrooms and more,

Willard Middle School May 20 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653470501531>

BHS Teacher Miriam Stahl Makes N.Y. Times Best Seller's List

Berkeley High's Miriam Stahl is known for her ingenuity and leadership in both the Arts and Humanities Academy (AHA) and the Art Department, and I found her students creating amazing multimedia digital projects. Many people know of her success with her students, but few know that she is a rock star outside of school as a professional artist in her own right, as the illustrator of the New York Times best-seller "Rad American Women from A-Z". Click [here](#) to get a peek at the book!

Technology in BHS Art Classroom Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653410111336>

BHS Spring 2015 Guitar Recital

If you've been by Berkeley High, you may have noticed Berkeley High music teacher Peter Gidlund and his merry band of guitar playing musicians in the courtyard every day this year. This is a new class that Peter created to provide musical opportunities

beyond our jazz program or band and orchestra, for students not interested in those options but want to participate in our music program.

I was able to attend their recital Tuesday night and record the first of the two nights of performances, and like the parents and friends in attendance, I was amazed at the variety and scope of all of the performances, and only regretted that I couldn't go back and catch the second group of students. Each student was required to play and sing a song before an audience for their final exam. Many of the students performed their own unique arrangement of familiar popular songs, or songs from their home culture, and songs translated into English for the recital.

BHS Spring 2015 Guitar Recital

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652756949090>

BHS Spring 2015 Guitar Recital Video: <https://vimeo.com/128401963>

Secretaries Meeting

The secretaries from throughout the District get together every month for professional development and collaboration. Last week they heard from Monica McClinton of Accounts Payable about end of year purchases, and Juliet Bonczkowski from Berkeley Research, Evaluation and Assessment (BREA). They always hear from Technology, who provide a lot of direct support to our secretaries.

BUSD Secretaries Meeting May 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652978459968>

Board Policy Sub Committee

The Board Policy Subcommittee is one of 19 committees and Board subcommittees that the board members participate in or observe. The Board subcommittees are comprised of two board members, supported by the Superintendent and staff, and their meetings are open to the public.

BUSD Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting May 22 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653369346122>

ATOD Task Force Meeting

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Task Force is comprised of BUSD and City of Berkeley representatives, parents and community members. Most of the members at last week's meeting have served on the task force since its inception.

BUSD ATOD Task Force Meeting May 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652975579538>

Classified Recognition Celebration 2015

Last Thursday the Personnel Commission hosted the Annual Classified Employee Recognition Ceremony. Everyone in Human Resources pitched in to make the event special in many ways, from the thoughtful gifts to employees celebrating from 5 to 35 years of service, to the decorations and a first class Taco Bar.

Classified Recognition Celebration 2015

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157652830552389>

You can download your photos from Flickr. Click the right side of your mouse on the photo you want to download. You will see some options on the right side of the photo. Click on the three dots which lead to more options. Click on Download All Sizes. Click on "Original Size" (right side of mouse), then click on "Download" and save to a folder on your computer.

Cesar Chavez Essay Contest 2015

As a part of the Chavez/Huerta Commemorative Period, BUSD has an annual essay contest for all K-12 students. This year over 250 students participated, and the winners were honored in a celebration before the school board meeting last Wednesday night.
Cesar Chavez Essay Contest 2015

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157650884179714>

Cesar Chavez Essay Contest 2015 Video: <https://vimeo.com/128528614>

BUSD Board Meeting May 20 2015 Chavez Essay Recognition

Video: <https://vimeo.com/128528621>

Family Engagement Department Meeting

Five Family Engagement Coordinators work in our elementary schools, helping to reach out to include and involve otherwise disenfranchised families. They work under the direction of Charity DaMarto, Supervisor of Family Engagement and Equity, and last week I found them in one of their regular collaboration meetings. We are able to bring in a variety of experts and local service providers to help develop their skills and resources.

Family Engagement Department Meeting Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653490766981>

In Dulci Jubilo Grants Awarded

In Dulci Jubilo (IDJ) is a small non-profit that provides grants up to \$5,000 for Berkeley schools, classrooms and organizations, with a focus on improving the achievement/opportunity gap. They also host the District wide Art, Poetry and Essay Contest for fourth and fifth graders in April. Last week they met to decide their annual grant recipients, and were able to fund over 80% of the requests. They will be informing the recipients this week.

IDJ Grant Distribution Board Meeting May 2015 Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/53901376@N04/sets/72157653483346105>