

# *The Escondido Express*

Superintendent's Quarterly Update

## **A Smooth Start to 2010-2011**

Thank you to our Escondido's finest employees for a positive start to this school year! Even with the heat wave that came right along with the ringing of school bells, everyone worked hard to make a positive impact for our students and their families. Although employees were challenged with a few glitches along the way, a "can do" attitude prevailed and we survived the trials and tribulations.

## **Summer Projects Completed**

EUSD's Maintenance Department and Custodial Staff were hard at work in July and August, their busiest time of the year. In addition to the deep cleaning at all schools, projects included new shade structures at Mission, Juniper, and Orange Glen, restroom remodels at Nicolaysen Community Day School, a new ramp, drinking fountain, and windscreen for North Broadway, re-roofing at many sites, complete school painting at Central, L.R. Green, and Orange Glen, an electronic marquee for Rincon, an obstacle course and ball walls at Felicita, many carpet replacements, asphalt pavement installations for parking lots, and restroom fixture retrofits (for energy savings). Thank you for making our schools shine. Many projects will continue on into the school year. A second phase of on-site surveillance video camera installations is set to move forward, as part of the long-term plan to assist with the security of facilities and employee safety. In addition to Rincon, Mission, Juniper, and Pioneer, who piloted video cameras last year, schools receiving video cameras this year include Glen View, Oak Hill, L. R. Green, Bear Valley, Lincoln, and Central Schools.

## **2009-2010 District Focus Goals**

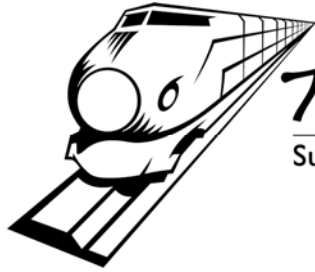
District focus goals, established by the EUSD school board in Spring 2009, after input from parents, students, classified staff, and certificated staff, continue this year. They include:

- Development of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments
- Equal student access to a personalized, balanced, and challenging curriculum
- Increase district's visibility in the community
- Personnel to work in high-performing teams
- Continue student achievement goals
- Ensure predictable funding for technology
- Restructure employee health benefits
- Explore operational efficiencies
- Expand communication of district wellness policy
- Increase opportunities for board and administration to communicate with employees

In the Spring of 2011, a final evaluation report for these goals will be given to the school board. At the same time, input will be gathered once again from all stakeholders to establish a new set of two-year school district focus goals.

## **EUSD's Summer Energy Savings**

For the first time this summer, the district was largely "dark" for the month of July in the hopes of saving energy and maximizing the work environment for summer projects. Albeit we experienced a more mild summer climate this summer compared to last summer, the district did reduce our expenses by \$24,084 on our summer 2010 SDG&E electric bill compared to last summer's electric consumption. Even with summer school in session on several campuses, we reduced our energy consumption by more than 126,000-kilowatt hours. Thank you to all for your cooperation in accomplishing this.



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## Student Achievement Progress

The state's 2009-10 Accountability Progress Report (APR) released September 13 showed student achievement improvement at many EUSD schools, and with many individual students. Thank you to the tremendous efforts of teachers and administrators. Eight of the district's 23 schools showed gains in student achievement from the previous year as measured by the API. These schools included Felicita, Lincoln, North Broadway, Orange Glen, Pioneer, Reidy Creek, Rose, and Mission Schools.

All school employees are to be congratulated and thanked for your individual and collective efforts. A list of each school in the district can be found at

<http://eusddata.pbworks.com/f/2010+Official+AYP+and+API.pdf> In particular, congratulations go to the former staff at Felicita School with a 13 point school gain (while under a huge amount of public scrutiny), to the Lincoln staff for pulling their school out of Program Improvement with a 38 point gain, to the Pioneer Pumas with a 42 point gain, and to Orange Glen Owls for surpassing the "800" statewide API goal for all schools.

As a district, EUSD continues to be in Program Improvement due to not yet meeting all students' benchmarks as measured by the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind. Even though last year's districtwide API decreased from 740 to 735, we believe our district direction of: (1) mastering **data dialogues**, (2) department and grade level **action plans**, and (3) a common focus on high quality **student learning tasks** will assist us in closing the achievement gap for our students. Together we can accomplish great things for our students.

## Employee Health Insurance

Our District Health Insurance Committee has been working very hard since last fall with an insurance consultant to seek better (less expensive and of high quality) alternatives to the district's current self-funded medical insurance coverage. This has not been an easy job and these volunteer classified employees, teachers, administrators, and ad hoc board members deserve our thanks. These unsung heroes include Paul Saulnier, Rosie Banuelos, Lance Barry, Ro Rota, Wendy Threatt, Pat Bavender, Abel Anda, Karen Brucks, Jim Scott, Alicia Schlehuder, Cathie Swoboda, Bob Leon, and ad hoc school board members Linda Woods, and Joan Gardner. A committee recommendation will soon be forthcoming to the school board. Negotiations for the health insurance changes will then follow with each of the respective employee associations. Insurance changes and plan enrollment will occur later this fall (tentative enrollment dates are October 27 - November 15, 2010).

Please send any **Staff and Student Recognitions** to the superintendent's office for inclusion in future *Escondido Express* editions.