

# NOVEMBER *Newsletter*



## Superintendent's Message



November 1, 2019

Dear Wiseburn Families and Friends,  
It is hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the holiday season. Hopefully, you all enjoyed a happy and safe Halloween. As the calendar jumps into November, we begin to pick up steam towards our Thanksgiving Break and eventually Winter Break. In just a short time we will celebrate the end of 2019 and welcome in 2020. As we approach this time of year, it is important to reflect on the great aspects of our community that make up the Wiseburn

Unified School District. Personally, I am thankful for the advocacy of our families, dedication and expertise of our staff, and collective and unwavering commitment we share for kids. I am always reminded that the cornerstone of our jobs as educators is to ensure that all students have the tools to be successful in the classroom, beyond the classroom, and future endeavors. Seeing a sparkle in the eyes of our students during Cognitively Guided Instruction lessons, inquiry-based instruction, or collaborative groups puts a smile on my face. A student uncovering the wonders that lie between the pages of a great book inspires me. I am humbled by the students every time I see them engaged in their classrooms. For all who make that possible, I am thankful.

We are an organization that continually looks back at our areas of strength and those that pose challenges. Again, the theme of thankfulness comes to mind as we achieve so much as a cohesive unit whose individual expertise support the collective good. We have taken time to analyze our state testing results and other major state-driven metrics to identify our next steps as we strive to be the best school district possible for our families. Wiseburn continues to shine in the South Bay and our small district casts a large footprint in the area due to the signature practices occurring in our classrooms.

With so many holiday related events coming in the next months both at school and at home, I encourage our families to share in the excitement. However, balancing the stress of the holiday season and all our other commitments can be challenging for everyone. At our school sites we are keenly aware of the impact it has on our students, so I share in my hope that all of us take some time for self-care, reflection, rest, and relaxation, so that we may truly enjoy the holiday season.

I am hopeful you will all join me in appreciating the opportunities we are presented with each day. Thank you to all who make Wiseburn great!

Sincerely,



## WEF Awards over \$30,000 in Innovation Grants across Wiseburn District



Thanks to generous families and businesses who support WEF, the Wiseburn Education Foundation will again be distributing well over \$30,000 in Innovation Grants. These funds will go directly into the education setting, equipment and curricula to the great benefit of Wiseburn students across all school campuses and class levels.

### Arts Education

Elementary students in **Juan Cabrillo, Peter Burnett and Juan De Anza** will benefit from **Innovation Grant awards that enrich arts education** occurring in the classroom across visual and music curricula. In addition, **Dana Middle School** students will have the opportunity to explore new visual media through **hands-on art instruction**, as well as a visit to the Getty Villa!

### Healthy Lifestyle Programs

The impact of **Innovation Grant awards focused on healthy lifestyle programs** will largely be experienced at **Dana Middle School**, where extremely popular **cross-fit and yoga** equipment and activities will be expended in scope and impact. Similarly, this year's Innovation Grant awards in this category will help **DaVinci High School** expand its own **cross-fit and archery** offerings.

### STEM Education

**Elementary and Middle School students at Anza, Cabrillo, Burnett, Dana** will benefit from **expanded STEM Education** made possible through WEF Innovation Grants. Specific programs range from **gardening to physical sciences**, from **Robotics to space exploration**. STEM has been a **signature WEF area of funding** focus for many years. Thank you to our generous supporters who keep this tradition strong at Wiseburn!

### WEF Innovation Grants

**WEF Innovation Grant** awards are numerous this year and will impact students at every elementary school (Anza, Burnett, Cabrillo), and Dana Middle School too. These grants help our outstanding staff of professional educators **meet the evolving needs of our students and maximize uptake of new teaching tools and technologies**. The creativity and dedication of our teaching teams is evidenced through these grant requests that will directly impact students' day-to-day classroom and instruction environments. **Sincere thanks go to our immensely talented and dedicated staff across the district for all your enthusiasm and expertise.**

Wiseburn Education Foundation board leadership will be present at the WUSD School



# STAFF Spotlight

## **Amanda Steen**

**Teacher at Burnett Elementary School**

This school year will mark my 14th year teaching fifth grade at Peter Burnett Elementary in the Wiseburn Unified School District. I began teaching here before we had a unified high school. When I meet people in the South Bay, many of them didn't know about our wonderful small district. I am proud to see what all the schools in Wiseburn have accomplished in less than two decades to really "put us on the map." The last few years, I have enjoyed being part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team, and I also worked on a smaller committee last year that helped earn Burnett the Platinum Level PBIS Award. Other committees on campus that I am proud to contribute to this school year is our Guiding Coalition, the Teacher Evaluation Committee, which will help change the way teachers are evaluated by principals, and also as a campus representative on our WFA Executive Board. What brings me back to our district year after year, besides our amazing students, is the tremendous staff at our school, we are like a family! Our campus has some of the most welcoming, tolerant, and bright students I have ever worked with, and I am grateful to teach in our district.



## **What's Happening at WUSD...**

### **Maria Garcia 2019 Finalist for Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced the six outstanding mathematics and science teachers for 2019's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Read full article [here](#).

During her ten years in the WUSD, Maria Garcia has attended and presented at conferences for NCTM and ISTE, has completed rigorous training through the Loyola Marymount University Center for Math program.

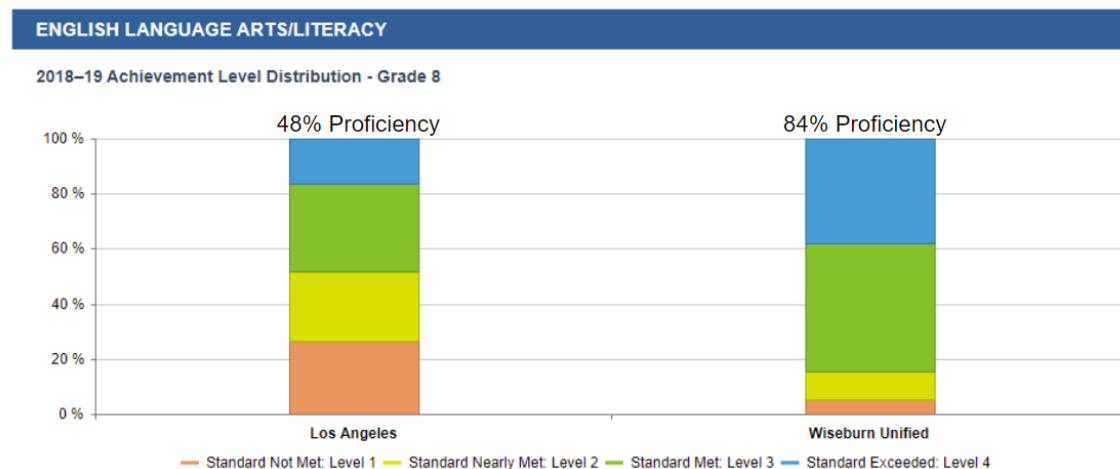


To further master her craft, Maria earned a third Masters, most recently in Mathematics and trained with the Center for Math and Science at LMU. She has used her outstanding educational background to not only coach fellow teachers but, more importantly, to take a deep dive into mathematics teaching and learning. Maria describes herself as someone who works to discover the patterns that make up the world of mathematics. She promotes this same thinking with her students asking them to see themselves as part of a world filled with math as opposed to viewing themselves as human calculators. Through her teaching, Maria has learned to study connections and the progression of a topic across a number of grade levels. In turn she has developed an in-depth understanding of the standards, how they connect, and their implications in

classrooms. She works with teachers and students to create engaging and powerful lessons that explore the “why” behind math concepts. As a result, Maria’s positive rapport with her students and peers speaks to her focus on the individual as she works to help create opportunities for middle school students to witness the beauty of “mathematics” in discovering the patterns that make up the world of mathematics. When asked about being a finalist for the PAEMST, Maria said, "I don't feel like I did anything out of the ordinary and if I am getting the recognition it is because of the amazing students that have truly blessed my life and have pushed me to be better everyday."

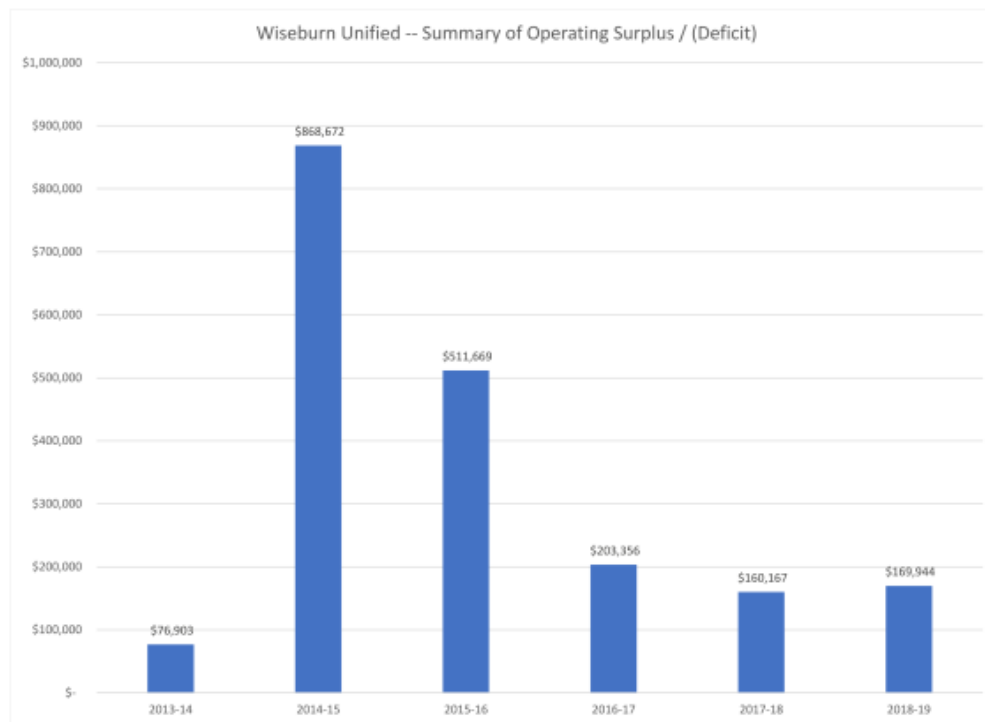
## Wiseburn Students Achieve at High Levels

### 2018–19 Overall Achievement - Grade 8



The Wiseburn Unified School District made notable gains in all areas of learning as revealed in recent CAASPP State testing results for the 2018-2019 school year. This past year, WUSD students grades 3-8 far surpassed State averages by 24 pts in English Language Arts and 21 pts in Mathematics. More importantly, our K-8 programs show an aligned model of continuous growth culminating in 8th grade where students’ proficiency in both Mathematics and English Language Arts reveal an uptick in proficiency scores. This past year, Dana Middle School graduating 8th graders outpaced local districts in both tested academic areas with a proficiency rate of 84% in English Language Arts and 65% in Mathematics. The chart above compares 8th grade outcomes for all schools in LA County with Wiseburn’s students. In Wiseburn, students graduate from 8th grade prepared for their next challenges and opportunities that come with attending outstanding schools such as the DaVinci High Schools. While CAASPP State testing results are just one means of measuring student outcomes, our best and more telling results are always in the day to day learning that takes place in all of our TK-8 classrooms. For more information on State testing results, please click [here](#).

# Wiseburn Budget



(click chart for PDF)

As we have officially closed the books on the 2018-19 school year, we wanted to be transparent by highlighting the fiscal strength of the General Fund for the last six years. As you can see in the chart below, the District and the Governing Board have made it a priority to maintain the fiscal strength of the District's General Fund. Out of the last six years, the District has operated a balanced budget with revenues slightly outpacing total expenditures. By operating a balanced budget, the District is able to offer a high quality educational program that is sustainable over time. Please note, the figures provided do not include any one-time revenues or one-time expenses as the figures provided are the District's "true" operating structure. In 2014-15, the District experienced approximately \$500K in unexpected Measure CL revenue as a lawsuit over Measure CL was found to be in the District's favor, contributing to the large surplus.

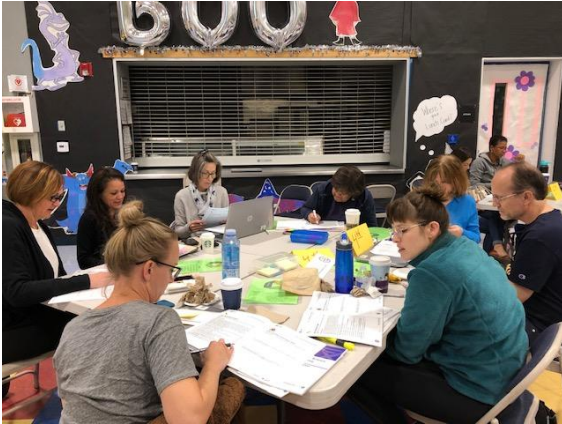
The District is also pleased to announce that in August, Moody's Investor Services upgraded the District's credit rating from an Aa3 to an Aa2. There is only one higher credit rating, Aa1. This upgrade to the District's credit rating will save our taxpayers on any future bonds issued or bonds refinanced due to lower interest rates and also exempts the District from paying insurance costs on bonds issued.

Lastly, the District held oversight committee meetings for Measure A and Measure CL on October 7. Staff detailed annual revenue and expenses for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. An update on the current high school construction project was provided as well as an update on the 2019-2020 Measure CL budget. The next oversight committee meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2020.

## District Professional Development Day

Each year WUSD educators take time to increase their own learning to best support students in all aspects of their education. November's District Professional Learning day offered varied experiences for teachers across the district. Our elementary teachers focused on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to further investigate the

structure of the NGSS Performance Expectations, the role of phenomena, and to reflect on the instructional implications State science assessments have for teaching and learning. In collaboration with the Wiseburn C.A.R.E. team, early elementary teachers focused on positive behavior supports and incorporating practices that encourage the development of empathy and self-regulation in our students. Middle school teachers spent this day of learning exploring their work as a Professional Learning Community tied to the school's 2019-2020 goals. In addition, our preschool special and general educators were provided with strategies to improve peer interactions, language development, and pro-social behaviors in preschool students. Special education instructional assistants were provided with training to support instructional strategies to assist special needs students in the general education environment. Professional learning opportunities in Wiseburn support the extraordinary work of our staff who engage in learning together for the benefit of their students.





Hello Wiseburn Family! Members of the CARE Team have been enjoying unique activities over the last month. Alongside Wiseburn staff members, we participated in the Alive and Running 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention. During this event, we remembered loved ones lost to suicide while raising funds and awareness for the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center. In the month of October, we also promoted National Communicate with Your Kids Month, Bullying Prevention Week, Mental Illness Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week. For each of these celebratory times, we provided information to parents through each elementary school's newsletter including tips on how to start meaningful conversations with children, suggestions for providing support with bullying prevention at home, and talking points about drug prevention. We also collaborated with our principals to help support events at school such as assemblies and spirit-wear days. Finally, for Mental Illness Awareness Week, we highlighted information about how teachers and staff members can take care of themselves and know when and how to help others. We are happy that we have been able to participate in community events and lessons at the school sites to help support the positive learning environment for all of our kids. We look forward to another busy month ahead!

## 5 things to ask your kids instead of "How was school"?

1. What made you smile today?
2. Who did you sit with at lunch?
3. If you could change one thing about today what would that be?
4. What was the hardest rule to follow today?
5. Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.



## Anza Elementary School



### Red Ribbon Week 2019

The national theme for Red Ribbon Week 2019 is "Send a Message - Stay Drug Free." This October the Anza community sent a message about drugs with spirit wear as well as classroom activities. Red Ribbon Week began on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, students sent their message about being drug free by wearing mismatched socks to school as well as their drug free bracelets that they received in class. Students then teamed up against drugs by wearing their favorite sports jersey to school. Classrooms discussed the importance of keeping their bodies healthy. On Wednesday, students put a cap on drugs by wearing their favorite hat to school. Students received ribbons that said "Good Characters, Good Choices and Drug and Bully Free." Classrooms held discussions around character traits and making good choices. Our futures are bright since there are no drugs in sight as students wore their neon to school on Thursday. Students shared future educational goals and received Red Ribbon Week pencils. Finally, on Friday, students wore their favorite jeans and Anza-wear to show that we are a "jean-ious" for being drug free. Students signed the Red Ribbon Week pledge to show their commitment to continue to make good choices throughout the year. Thank you for making Anza a drug free school!



## Burnett Elementary School

### Reading to a Child

Peter Burnett Elementary School partnered with Read to a Child, which partnered with Read Across LA to bring NFL stars Malcolm Mitchell and Todd Gurley to our school on October 8th.

Through Malcolm Mitchell's foundation, Read with Malcolm, each student received a hardback copy of "The Magician's Hat." To kick off this special assembly, CEO of Read to a Child, Paul Lamoureux, reinforced the importance of reading daily. When Mr. Lamoureux introduced Malcolm Mitchell and Todd Gurley, the MPR exploded with cheers. As part of the assembly, both players read aloud "The Magician's Hat" to the students. The students were filled with joy to read along with two NFL players. This event reinforced the importance of reading to your child, a practice that develops imagination and empathy, improves vocabulary and concentration, and is-most of all-fun.



## Cabrillo Elementary School



It's been a great start to autumn at Cabrillo Elementary! Our Watch D.O.G. program is officially up and running, and we were pleased to have so many parents join us for our family nights focused on literacy and technology this month. We also had our first Student Success Assemblies, giving our Cabrillo team a first chance to celebrate students who exemplify the 3 "B"s: Be respectful, Be responsible, and Be safe. Additionally, our teachers had the opportunity to spend a whole day focusing on Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math strategies with an expert. The teachers will do a second round of this important work in January, as we seek to continually grow our instructional practices. Inside the classrooms, students have been hard at work each day! Our Writer's Workshop classrooms completed their first units and celebrated their work as authors with special celebrations. October also meant a focus on safety as we practiced and reviewed our emergency protocols through the Great Shakeout event. The month culminated with a vibrant Halloween parade that showcased the vivid imaginations and playful spirits of both our students and staff. Our school library also came to life with Literacy O'Lanterns (pumpkins decorated with book characters!) created by our families. November will bring our first Family Arts Night event, which gives families a chance to explore creativity together. Our students keep growing and learning each day!



## Dana Middle School



### Spooky Season is Here!

Friends at camp, sports galore, the spooky season is here, oh joy! At Dana we welcomed our Sea Otters and the Sea Stars home as they developed friendships and learned about Hermie the Worm at this year's Sixth Grade Camp. The Dana campus is in a riveting sports season as our football, volleyball, and cross country teams begin a successful season of wins. Roaming our halls we see our students and staff transform into spooky ghosts, goblins, and witches as they celebrate Halloween. We also enjoyed the spookiest night at our PTSA's Annual Spooktacular event. Thank you to our PTSA for helping us celebrate and get our spook on!

As we look forward to the month of giving, we will be providing our parents a time of learning. Our Future Ready Advisory Committee (FRAT) is holding their first parents' night of the year in November. Parents can come learn about Dana's Learning Management System, Canvas, PowerSchool, and '*Find A Way*' in learning about tools that can help create a better connection to students and their success.



## Wiseburn Child Development Center

### Anza WCDC

#### Pre-K Nature walks

During the month of November, the Anza WCDC Pre-K students will be exploring the outdoor world around them by going

on a weekly nature walk and creating a “Nature Jour-nal”. The journal will be about what they saw, touched, heard, and smelled on their nature walk. Further, while cre-ating a “Nature Walk Journal” the Pre-K students will devel-op their language and literacy skills as they learn to express themselves through illustration, emergent writing and verbal self-expression.



## **Before and After School Program**

### Interactive Reading Club

On Mondays and Wednesdays the kinders will participate in an interactive reading club. The “Interactive Reading Club” utilizes a variety of fun and engaging reading strategies to teach reading, the process of creating books for read-ing, and expressive writing skills.

### Yoga for Kinders

This month’s Yoga theme is “On the Farm Yoga.” Kinders will learn creative farm animal poses and listen to farm animal sounds while pretending to take a journey to and around a farm.



## **Burnett WCDC**



### **Multicultural Day**

Hello Families and Friends of the WCDC! We are so excited that the Holiday Season is around the corner. It is a time to celebrate Friendships and Family. We are hosting our Annual Multicultural Day at our Peter Burnett WCDC in November. Our children will bring in foods that represent their family culture, explain a little bit about why it is important to them, and why they eat this food during the holiday season. This is such a fun day for the children share a little bit about their family history. It is such a joyful and magical event to share at the WCDC.

## **Cabrillo Preschool Program**

## Upcoming Holiday Events

Hard to believe Holidays are around the corner! October has been a fun month at the preschool program. Children have been learning about Fall and anxiously expecting the Halloween parade on October 31. Preschool students are getting ready to celebrate a traditional potluck in their classrooms with their peers to celebrate Thanksgiving. They will share a dish, and the recipe of what they traditionally eat during the holiday. We'll soon start the planning of our annual Holiday Sing Along event. It is a wonderful performance presented by our children to their families.

We also want to give a **big thanks** to all parents who participated in our garden decoration. You are the best!!



## Elementary School Halloween Parade Day



## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

#### **November 1:**

- No School-Staff Development Day

#### **November 7:**

- Cabrillo Reading and Writing Parent Night, 5:30 PM

#### **November 11:**

- No School-Veteran's Day

#### **November 13:**

- Burnett Restaurant Night, All Day at Rock & Brews, 143 Main St., El Segundo, CA (Must bring flyer before 3:00 PM, no flyer needed between 3-9:00 PM)

#### **November 14:**

- Cabrillo Family Art Night, 5:30 PM
- Wiseburn USD Board Meeting, 7:00 PM in the District Board Room

#### **November 15:**

- Cabrillo Movie Night, 6:00 PM

**November 20:**

- Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting, 6:00 PM

**November 21:**

- Cabrillo Scooter's Jungle Event, 5:00 PM at Scooter's Jungle, 606 Hawaii St, El Segundo, CA

**November 25-29:**

- No School-Thanksgiving Break

**DECEMBER**

**December 2-10:**

- 6-8 Parent Teacher Conferences

**December 2-11:**

- Dana MS Holiday Toy Drive, collecting new, unwrapped toys at morning drop-off between 8:00-8:30 AM. Donations welcome up until 12:00 PM on Wednesday, December 11.

**December 9-20:**

- K-2 Parent Teacher Conferences

**December 10:**

- Da Vinci HS Information Night for 8th Grade Families, 6:30 PM in the Dana MPR

**December 12:**

- Wiseburn USD Board Meeting, 7:00 PM in the the District Board Room

**December 14:**

- Joint Wiseburn & Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting, 8:00 AM in the District Board Room

**December 17:**

- Cabrillo Restaurant Night, 4:00 PM at Blake Pizza and Swirl Ice Cream, 5221 Rosecrans, Hawthorne, CA
- Winter Orchestra and Da Vinci Concert, 6:30 PM at Dana Middle School

**December 18:**

- Anza Kinder Only Winter Kinderland
- Winter Band, 6:30 PM at Dana Middle School
- Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting, 6:00 PM in the District Board Room

**December 19:**

- Anza Winter 1st-5th Winter Wonderland, 9 AM and 10:30 AM

**December 23-January 3:**

- No School-Winter Break

