

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

The recipients were selected based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by consistently and actively helping to promote effective group interaction and opinions in ways that are sensitive to the feelings or knowledge base of others.
- Uses effective techniques to clearly communicate a positive District image to the community in a highly creative and insightful manner.
- Consistently and effectively disseminates written information in a positive manner that is timely, clear and concise.

### **ANDERSON ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Sezcov Rivera – School Psychologist***

Sezcov is absolutely a positive contributor to Anderson and, especially, the support staff. He is clear in what the school goals are, supports teachers, staff, and families with a clear understanding of what is happening and the path ahead, and he is an incredible problem solver and an amazing collaborator. He works to create a strong academic environment of support, care, and progress. Anderson is so lucky to have him!

### **BALDWIN ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Lisa Weller – School Secretary***

I highly recommend Lisa Weller for the Communication Vision Award. Lisa exemplifies what it means to consistently and effectively communicate information in a timely, clear and concise way. She is the master of ParentSquare and ensures that all of our Baldwin Community is well informed. Lisa helps keep our school running in a smooth and effective way through her communication avenues. Whether it is through email, text or phone, Lisa is consistently communicating in a clear and concise way. It is with great honor that I recommend her for the Communication Vision Award.

### **BERNAL INTERMEDIATE**

#### ***Jennie Becker – Special Education Teacher***

Jennie has been a wonderful addition to the Bernal SPED team since transferring to Bernal from Christopher two years ago. She is the ultimate collaborator with fellow teachers and ultimate advocate and cheerleader for her students. Her calm presence and demeanor always promote safety, trust, and a spirit of partnership and collaboration for teachers, students, and parents. She is a model staff member that represents the District's core values to the highest degree. We are proud to celebrate her with this award.

### **CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL**

#### ***Mike Brittain – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Teacher***

Mike Brittain is someone who will consistently go out of his way to connect with the staff, students and community so that they feel connected, inspired and supported. He is always someone you can depend on to ensure he shares a positive message and be a model of the way to handle things. He is sensitive to other people's needs and is able to effectively move a group forward through his positive and inspirational discussions.

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

### **DAVIS INTERMEDIATE**

#### ***Erika Alvarez – School Counselor***

Erika speaks to teachers, parents, and staff members on a regular basis. She also reaches out and keeps all parties informed via email communications and phone calls. She has created systems that make communication run smoothly in our Davis Community. Mrs. Alvarez works with our community agencies and makes appropriate counseling referrals as needed. She is able to get more information from students and families to match their needs with what they may need support in. She has created an inviting website for our incoming 7th graders and is innovative and passionate about supporting all. We are happy to have Erika on our Davis staff.

#### ***Julia Carrasco – School Counselor***

Julia works hard to communicate with our teachers, students, and parents. She works with our various community agencies to make appropriate counseling referrals and outreach. She works closely with our Hispanic Parent group to provide them Spanish bilingual and biliterate access to information and resources. She is mindful of our parents and students' needs and communicates and advocates for them in a positive manner.

### **DEL ROBLE ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Jenny Chan – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher***

Ms. Chan demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by consistently and actively helping to promote effective group collaboration among staff members. She is always ready to support others, asks clarifying questions, and is not shy to share her opinion while staying very positive. Ms. Chan uses ParentSquare and engages in team meetings to effectively and clearly communicate a positive site and District image to the community in a highly creative and concise manner.

### **EDENVALE ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Paula Sahagun – Community Liaison***

Paula demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by advocating for the needs of Edenvale students and families. She has done so for over 10 years, and tirelessly ensures that all students receive access to high quality education. From serving as a translator in a wide variety of meetings, to making frequent home visits, Ms. Sahagun maintains high standards for student achievement. At the same time, she is very thorough in determining barriers for families to access educational opportunities. She has been a notable equity warrior during the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic by consistently and effectively disseminating information to Edenvale families around helpful resources and services. Edenvale is blessed to have Paula Sahagun as its Community Liaison!

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

#### ***Denise Cook – Administrative Secretary***

Denise consistently demonstrates exceptional communication skills in her role as administrative secretary in Educational Services. In her role she collaborates with staff in various departments, school sites, parents and outside agencies alike. This fall, Denise was instrumental in effectively executing the scheduling process for interpreters at Goal Setting Conferences. She handled the added complexity of transitioning this process to ParentSquare with grace and flexibility. She proactively checked in with stakeholders to insure smooth Goal Setting Conferences for our families needing interpretation services. Throughout the execution of this new process, Denise maintained a positive attitude and provided clear direction, as needed, to provide all stakeholders the necessary information to support our families and teachers at this very important conference.

#### ***Luz Maria Panuco – Biliterate Administrative Secretary***

#### ***Cecily Vu – Biliterate Executive Secretary***

Cecily and Luz are integral in coordinating District translators and interpreters in support of our families who need communication support in their home language. They act as conduits between the sites and our students' families to ensure equity in information. Their work behind the scenes with scheduling, setting up contracts, paying invoices and timecards and connecting with District interpreters allows families who speak 50+ languages across Oak Grove to get equitable communication to support their children.

#### ***Sarah Griffiths – English Learner Teaching Partner***

#### ***Eva Marcoida – English Learner Teaching Partner***

#### ***Karin Vieira – English Learner Teaching Partner***

Sarah, Eva, and Karin, are the training team for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). This team trains our testers on how to administer and score the ELPAC twice a year. This year, this process necessitated training and coaching all testers on the technology necessary to administer the test remotely. Their exceptional communication skills insured that our testers felt validated and supported as they went through this learning process. They are clear, concise and always have others' perspectives in mind as skilled facilitators do. They are exceptional listeners and make sure to acknowledge and reach out with empathy and grace. Their centered and easy way certainly made a difference to all of our testers.

### **FROST ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Patricia Boskovich – Kinder Teacher***

Pat created many ways to connect with her students and families during distance learning. This was so important and made a difference for her Kinder families. She involved herself in professional development to increase her knowledge of technology. Congratulations to Pat for this District Vision Award!

#### ***Heather Turner – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher***

Heather stepped up to help parents (not only in our school but in the District) during remote teaching. She created and shared ways to connect families to Distance Learning computer platforms. Her creativity is appreciated by all. Frost congratulates Heather in her receiving the Communication Vision Award!

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

### **HAYES ELEMENTARY**

*Joan Fossum – Kinder Teacher*

*Seana Lanoie – TK Teacher*

*Megan McGrady – Kinder Teacher*

*Natalie Viera – Kinder Teacher*

The Hayes Kinder Team has shown flexibility, ingenuity, perseverance and patience in the face of educating our youngest students in long distance mode. They have planned amazing creative whole class lessons, diligently worked with small groups, educated a whole generation of first time Kinder parents in technology and how to understand and teach grade level standards the common core way! They all have communicated relentlessly with families through ParentSquare and taught other staff members how to use the many helpful features ParentSquare has to offer during whole staff professional development. The TK and Kinder attendance rates have never been so high! Their families love driving through the materials pick up line to see all the Kinder Team outside in matching spirit shirts! They are simply like unstoppable superheroes who work together, train others (there are two student teachers working virtually alongside them) and manage to do everything with a smile on their face and a spring to their step. Hayes Elementary is so proud to have these dynamic teachers on their Husky Team!

### **HERMAN INTERMEDIATE AND ADVENTURE PROGRAM**

*Teresa Estavillo – AP Secretary*

Teresa is a ray of sunshine in the front office of Herman and AdVENTURE! She demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by consistently and actively helping students, staff and parents with patience and a positive attitude. Teresa clearly communicates a positive District image in a highly creative and insightful manner because she is solution-oriented and can think outside of the box when helping others with a problem.

*Lakisha White – School Counselor*

Lakisha demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by consistently and actively helping to promote positive interactions and opinions in ways that are sensitive to the feelings or knowledge base of others. She consistently and effectively disseminates written information in a positive manner that is timely, clear and concise. Lakisha is patient and a true active listener whether she is working with students, staff or parents.

### **INDIGO PROGRAM**

*Tania Vong – PTA Secretary*

Tania Vong collects and organizes community information from multiple community members every week to put together in our weekly newsletters. During distance learning, communication is so important, and Tania takes on this herculean task of sending weekly reminders, formatting the community messages, making revisions and edits where necessary, and redistributing the information to class coordinators so that these robust newsletters can go out to each community member every Sunday morning. While the level of communication put out by Indigo is a team effort, Tania is a key player in that effort!

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

### **IT DEPARTMENT**

*Steve Harmon – Ed Tech Specialist*

*Bruce Neff – Ed Tech Specialist*

*Sergio Rizzi – Ed Tech Specialist*

Steve, Bruce, Sergio and the rest of EdTech have been invaluable to ensure all of the Distance Learning information is properly communicated to everyone in the District and the community.

*Rakesh Lad – IT Manager*

Rakesh has demonstrated effective interpersonal skills by working closely with staff across the District to ensure the IT Cabling Project at schools has been well monitored and the schools are well taken care.

### **OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY**

*Vivian Valentin – Noon Duty*

Vivian is currently the Head Noon Duty at Oak Ridge School. When schools remained closed in the fall due to COVID-19 and open via Distance Learning, Vivian stepped it up to support the students, staff and teachers at Oak Ridge. Vivian supported the staff with material pick up days and supported our Spanish speaking families transition to online learning in being interrupting as needed on campus. In addition, when there was not much work for her in the front office, Vivian took the initiative to communicate with all the classroom teachers about how she could assist them. Over the last few months, Vivian has supported with copying, additional materials and book distribution days, creating manipulative bags, making books and so much more! Oak Ridge is proud to nominate Ms. Vivian as the Communication Vision Award Winner!

### **PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY**

*Cindy Bish – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher*

Parkview's 6th grade teacher, Cindy Bish, strives to always deliver communication in the most clear and respectful manner, whether it is in a ParentSquare message, or in a direct conversation. She makes every effort to reflect on her choice of words to ensure she is sensitive to the feelings and knowledge of others. She is honest and caring and this approach creates a safe and trusting environment for her students and families. Her thoughtful communication is both respected and appreciated. It is an honor to recognize Mrs. Bish with the Oak Grove School District Vision Award for Communication.

### **TAYLOR ELEMENTARY**

*Monica Lun – TK Teacher*

Ms. Monica Lun works patiently and tirelessly with her TK students and their families to provide the best possible distance learning experience for them. She communicates clearly and regularly with her parent population via ParentSquare, and she records videos and demonstrations for students to access as needed. She sets a tone that promotes student excitement and engagement by communicating in child-friendly ways, both orally and in writing. She has a plethora of resources such as a passwords page with concise information and graphics, available for students and parents in her Google Classroom, that simplify distance learning. Thank you, Ms. Lun!

## COMMUNICATION VISION AWARDS 2020

### **TAYLOR ELEMENTARY**

#### ***Sarah Nolan – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher***

Mrs. Sarah Nolan has made effective communication a huge priority during distance learning. She communicates with families regularly and often via ParentSquare, and she promptly replies to all responses. If a child leaves a Google Meet and does not return, Mrs. Nolan will text their parent or guardian immediately to see if everything is OK. This often results in having the child log back in. Mrs. Nolan records videos of herself explaining concepts and procedures so that students can revisit her explanations during asynchronous work time. She also encourages active communication between classmates by having them work collaboratively in break out rooms in small groups. She has demonstrated this feature of Google Meet to our staff so that other students might benefit as well. Thank you, Mrs. Nolan!

### **TWO WAY BILINIGUAL PROGRAM**

#### ***Alejandra Martinez – Kinder Teacher***

Maestra Martinez demonstrates effective interpersonal skills by consistently and actively helping to promote effective group collaboration among staff members. She takes into account people's feeling and needs. Maestra Martinez always seeks to stay positive and work together to resolve any misunderstanding or concerns. Maestra Martinez uses Youtube, ParentSquare and team meetings to effectively and clearly communicate a positive District image to the community in a highly creative and insightful manner.