



## *Community Transmittal*

1301 North A St.

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: 805-742-3320

Fax: 805-737-1703

Dear Lompoc Community,

### **Salute to Teachers**

We attended this special event on Saturday hosted at the Music Academy of the West. This gala celebrates ten teachers across Santa Barbara County. As mentioned in an earlier Bright Spot, two of the ten teachers were from LUSD! Samantha Ayala was celebrated as New Educator of the Year and Alisyn Blanton was celebrated as the Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year as well as a finalist for California's Teacher of the Year. The event was hosted by Andrew Firestone and included a beautifully catered meal. [HERE to see the photos we captured and HERE to see the livestream video.](#)

### **Superintendent's Meeting**

At this week's meeting we discussed vaccines, COVID and sports updates.

### **Vaccine Clinics**

We will be partnering with SBCPH and LVMC to provide voluntary COVID vaccine shots and flu shots at three of our elementary sites; Clarence Ruth, La Honda, and La Cañada. Consent forms will be sent home and parents will need to consent for students to receive any of the shots. Parents will also have the option of being present with their child when they receive the shot.

The community will also be able to come and get a COVID vaccine, flu shot, or COVID booster shot during the times. Flyers are being created and we will be advertising on social media, through our website, and using Parent Square.

### **Covid Clinic and LUSD Offer Free Covid Testing**

Covid Clinic and Lompoc Unified School District are partnering to offer free COVID tests to the schools and Lompoc community. To register please go to <https://schools.covidclinic.org/> Early registration is not necessary but is preferred. Please see the attached site schedule. ATTACHMENT #1

### **Interviews**

This week we held Special Education, Elementary interviews. We offered two Special Education candidate's positions and an elementary teacher. We also have Spanish teacher interviews scheduled.

### **Parent Engagement Planning Committee**

LUSD held the first Parent Engagement Planning Committee meeting on November 10 with administrators Brian Jaramillo, Paul Bommersbach, Elaine Webber, and consultant Nora Guerra. The goal of the committee is to support the efforts to improve family engagement over a three-year period in the District. Family engagement has been shown to support school staff and

improve student outcomes. Working through distance learning and the current pandemic, it will be important for the District to continue to connect with families in meaningful ways and encourage family engagement in student learning. There are many bright spots in our District in this area and assessing our current practices will be the goal for this year.

## Family Engagement

Prepared for Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD)

By Nora Guerra, Educational Consultant

### **Research/Rationale for Family Engagement:**

The research is abundant and strong in cumulative evidence from several decades that points to the benefits of family engagement for children's learning; including helping children get ready to enter school, promoting their school success, and preparing youth for college. Furthermore, family engagement can benefit all children, especially those less likely to succeed in school. *(Dr. Holly Kreider, Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), 2006)*

While Dr. Kreider's work in researching Family Engagement holds true in 2021, there are a plethora of researchers in the field; all of whom, over time, corroborate the "work": *Jeynes, 2016; Parr & Bonitz, 2015; Wang, Hill & Hofkens, 2014; Caspe & Lopez, 2006; Sheldon & Epstein, 2004; Henderson & Mapp, 2002.*

Furthermore, the evidence is consistent, positive, and convincing: families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and throughout life. Many studies found that students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, were more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs.
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits.
- Attend school regularly.
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education. *(A New Wave of Evidence Annual Synthesis, Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, 2002)*

### **Mission/Purpose of Family Engagement Project:**

The Mission and Purpose of the LUSD Family Engagement Project is for parents/families and school personnel to work together at the classroom, District, and community levels to support and improve the learning, development, and health of children and adolescents. The Family Engagement Project is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage parents/families in meaningful ways. Parents/families are committed to actively supporting their children's and adolescent's learning and development.

Parental involvement/family engagement in education is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving students' academic learning and other school activities. Parental involvement/family engagement in education helps ensure the following:

- Parents/families play an integral role in assisting their children's learning.
- Parents/families are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at school.
- Parents/families are full partners in their children's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in their children's education. *(Adapted from the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, Children's Bureau)*

**Family Engagement Project Goals – Year One:**

- 1) Establish and strengthen strong, healthy, and systematic district, school, family, and community partnerships.
- 2) Evaluate family engagement strategies/practices across multiple programs and/or funding sources, i.e., LCFF, Title I, ELD, SPSA, PBIS) for “*effective*” family engagement to support student achievement and close the achievement gap.
- 3) Synthesize and adopt district-wide definition of family engagement for staff, parents/families, and students. (Source: CDE Family Engagement Framework, 2014)

**AVID**

On Friday, October 29, LUSD employee, Katy Wallace was a guest speaker in four AVID classes at Cabrillo High School. She emphasized the importance of turning obstacles into opportunities and keeping a positive mindset. Students asked thoughtful questions and were engaged in the discussion throughout. AVID's (Advancement Via Individual Determination) mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

**Foster Youth/Homeless**

All liaisons and outreach consultants were involved in this month’s meeting and items on the agenda included:

- words/phrases that are difficult to translate or interpret have been added to a Google document for all to add to and our District translators will translate so all liaisons have the words/phrases to assist them.
- Homeless grant - we discussed the need to continue to reach out to our students experiencing homelessness to see if they need assistance and to utilize the funds from the grant to support them
- A reminder also to check in with the foster youth at their site to see how they are progressing with their grades and check on attendance and see if they need any assistance.
- SARB follow up - we have not had someone follow up after families have been to SARB so we are asking liaisons to follow up with them on their contract they signed of items for them to do.

**Attendance**

Below is the most recent of LUSD’s percentage of students who have been absent due to COVID related absences whether they were quarantined due to contact tracing, having symptoms, or tested positive.

Week 12					
11/1/2021	11/2/2021	11/3/2021	11/4/2021	11/5/2021	
197	217	231	245	231	
9182	9180	9180	9183	9185	
2.15%	2.36%	2.52%	2.67%	2.51%	

## **Safety**

Site administrators participated in this month's safety meeting. Topics included:

- Raptor Visitor Management System - we are getting really close to starting this new system of keeping track of who is visiting our campuses. Pushing the software out to the sites and installing the printer and scanner will be the last steps in this process.
- Safety survey for staff, students, and parents - all sites will be sending out a safety survey to be used in their site safety plan in the next month or so. It will provide valuable information to their safety teams on how they can keep everyone safe on campus.
- Cross walks - at our last safety meeting principals asked how they can get a flashing beacon cross walk at their site if they already don't have one. LUSD reached out to the City and found out they were provided with a grant. The City will continue to apply for this grant and principals that would like one of these new cross walks will write a letter of support for the grant.
- A debrief was discussed of our California Shake Out drill that was held last month

## **Child Nutrition Services Update**

Last week, Child Nutrition Services (CNS) served 36,349 meals.

- 9,772 Breakfasts
- 25,216 Lunches
- 1,361 After School Snacks

Staffing, food and paper shortages continue to be a challenge for CNS.

Pictured here is Jennifer and Terra, ready to serve the students their breakfast at Vandenberg Middle School.



For the Kids,

Trevor McDonald  
Superintendent of Schools