



Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Sylvia Méndez

- ◆ C & I has been working with the Directors of Services to English Learners and Extended Learning to ensure alignment of our efforts. The October 31 SBC day was a collaborative effort with Services to ELs. A matrix has been developed that identifies the regular and extended day materials to ensure alignment of the interventions provided to our students.
- ◆ SB472 professional development in math has provided support to close to 100 elementary classroom teachers.
- ◆ The January 12, 2009 SBC day will be site based with a focus on time to do more work with data analysis to improve our student achievement results.
- ◆ We are still awaiting the arrival of the Spanish Math textbooks from HM. The timeline for the new Teachers' Editions and student textbooks is the middle of December. We should be receiving the balance of the free materials by the middle of January in time for the second semester. This has been a long, drawn out process that is controlled by the CDE.
- ◆ We have received applications for our ELA/ELD Adoption Task force and are still in need of K-2 classroom teachers and teacher representatives from the North Zone. Please contact your Curriculum Council representative for applications or you can call Caroline Calero at ext. 2565.

Mathematics

Melissa Christie, Math Coordinator

Melissa Christie and Math Coaches Suzannah Young and Tammy Mullin collaborate with classroom teachers to improve student achievement in mathematics.

K-8 Curriculum Maps:

- ◆ Our goal for 2009-2010 is to implement grade-level curriculum maps organized around big ideas.
- ◆ The first phase for creating curriculum maps is being initiated at SB 472 trainings.
- ◆ We would appreciate any input or work you have completed regarding 2009-2010 curriculum maps. Please email Melissa at melissa_christie@pvusd.net.

Benchmark Exams:

- ◆ Grades 6-8 take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarter benchmarks.
- ◆ Grades K-5 take 1st and 2nd Trimester benchmarks.
- ◆ See the district assessment calendar for test dates.

SuccessMaker:

- ◆ Tech. Services is offering four different SuccessMaker trainings: 1/21, 1/29, 2/12, and 2/19 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. For more information, visit www.pvusd.net/staffdev.
- ◆ Don't forget to run reports regularly to properly implement the program and address student needs!

Math Resources:

- ◆ Looking for fantastic math resources, including Problems of the Month and MARS tasks? Check out the Silicon Valley Math Initiative website: www.noycefdn.org/math
- ◆ The login is **macmember** and the password is **BigMac9!**
- ◆ **MARS tasks cannot be sent home with students.**

English Language Arts

Caroline Calero, ELA Coordinator

Benchmark Exams:

- ◆ CA Summative Exams were delivered this week. Please check the assessment window for the specifics of your grade.
- ◆ Reading Lions Assessments were delivered for the year early in the fall. The K-3 classrooms at Amesti, Freedom, Hall District, Landmark, MacQuiddy, Mintie White, Ohlone, Radcliff, and Starlight use these as they are Reading First classrooms
- ◆ Fall Writing Assessments windows are either open or completed for all grades except first.
- ◆ Writing assessment data needs to be scanned into Data Director on a separate answer key. Please refer to the writing assessment binder that your site received in October for details or contact caroline_calero@pvusd.net if you have questions

ELA Data Reports:

- ◆ Two pre-built reports in the exams tab useful to analyze grade level data for benchmark exams, including writing: Classroom Performance Summary Report
Class Exam Report
- ◆ Please contact caroline_calero@pvusd.net if you have any questions

Writing Survey:

- ◆ Curriculum Council reps. will be surveying grade levels on the status of writing assessments and progress toward long range goals for writing in PVUSD

Gifted and Talented Education

Lyn Olson, www.pvusdgate.net

- ◆ We had two very successful and well-attended **Parent Workshops**, at which we reviewed the criteria and process for GATE identification, & differentiated curriculum. Guest speaker Marté Matthews, MFT, spoke about some of the social and emotional issues facing gifted children and their families.
- ◆ The first of several **GATE Advisory Council (GAC)** meetings was held in November; attended by teachers, parents and Board President Kim Turley. Our next GAC meeting will be Thursday, February 19, 2009, 6:30–8:00 pm, DO Board Room.
- ◆ **GATE Teacher Talks** have been held at many elementary schools sites (and are scheduled for the rest), at which we discuss individual GATE student needs, and how we can support classroom teachers in meeting those needs.
- ◆ **GATE Student Workshops** are ongoing at elementary; in which we teach students about what it means to be gifted, learning theory (“Grow those dendrites!”), and how to be successful students.
- ◆ The **GATE Liaisons** recently participated in a 4-hour training. Most of our elementary schools and one middle school have GATE Liaisons. Ask your GATE Liaison for more information.
- ◆ **Differentiation coaching and support** for classroom teachers is ongoing. Call or email us!
- ◆ We’re assisting teachers with **Integrated Thematic Units (ITUs)** and extension activities for Houghton Mifflin ELA, grades 4–6. They are on our website.
- ◆ We are also collecting and disseminating similar **HM Extension Activities** developed by other districts for **grades 1–5**. Look for a binder at your school—coming soon!
- ◆ **10 Science Fair Coordinators** have been recruited. GATE is providing material and coaching support to several schools’ science fair efforts.
- ◆ We have distributed math challenge problems and are offering coaching support to teachers working with students to prepare them for the annual **Santa Cruz County Math Contest**. Contact us if you are interested! **Grades 5-8**
- ◆ **K–2 teachers**: Please refer students whom you feel may be gifted. Look for the pink referral forms in the GATE mailbox at your school.
- ◆ **Lists of secondary GATE students** will be distributed as soon as technical issues with our SIS databases are resolved.
- ◆ We will be offering our annual **Parent Support Group Workshop Series**, “SENG: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted,” during the months of February–April, 2009.

cont’d. – with current orders. The textbook form can be accessed on our web page.

Curriculum & Instruction

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Textbooks

Rich Arellano & Marla Almaraz

- ◆ We will be distributing an updated order form that will allow ordering of new materials, as well as communicating issues