



Education Report

Tuesday, 16th June, 2016

To: Board of Directors of AVCA

From: Vandana Kadam, Education Chair

Subject: Year End information

In San Jose Unified School District

Robotics competition – April 25

Four of SJUSD's high schools were contenders in the 18th annual Silicon Valley Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held at SJSU's Event Center. Leland, Pioneer, San Jose High and Willow Glen High created their robots to compete in a medieval-themed quest where teams needed to create alliances and strategies with other teams in order to win. The teams had just 6 weeks to strategize, design, build and test their robots to compete in this fast-moving game. They all did a fantastic job!

All teacher award – April 26

One of our own, Scott Krijnen, a teacher at Castellero Middle School is a finalist for the CSN Bay Area All Star Teacher award. Scott is being recognized for his accomplishments and achievements with the school's visual and performing arts program. If Scott wins, Castellero Middle School will receive \$20,000.

Grant for the library – May 19

Bret Harte Middle school received a grant from bestselling author James Patterson to help support its school library. Scholastic Reading Club also matched each dollar with bonus points that teachers used to acquire books and other materials for their classroom. Bret Harte was one of 467 schools selected from 27,924 applications.

San José Unified Board Member to Be Honored by Senator Jim Beall

Teresa Castellanos, one of San José Unified School District's Board trustees, will be recognized by Senator Jim Beall as one of the Woman of the Year for the senator's district. The Senator's announcement noted: "Every year, each state Senate District selects a Woman of the Year in recognition of her work to make our community a better place. Here in Silicon Valley, there are so many remarkable women in all walks of life that I find it impossible to single out only one person. So this year, I am breaking with tradition by selecting five women for their contributions to our region."

In observance of Women's History Month and to honor Mrs. Castellanos and four other women from the Silicon Valley, the Senator will host a reception on Wednesday, March 23rd from 4:00p to 6:00p in Campbell.

SJUSD Announces New Partnership with San Jose Public Library

Emily Lowell, Teen Services Librarian from San Jose Public Library, visited Ryan Alpers' eleventh grade English language arts class at Lincoln High School on Tuesday, March 29th to present students with their own public library Teen Card. She shared the benefits of the new Teen Card recently created to expedite student access to an array of library services. These services include library book checkout, electronic research databases, homework help from Tutor.com, code writing from Treehouse.com, and much more! SJUSD is excited to begin a new partnership with San Jose Public Library for the purpose of advancing our district mission and providing students with the resources and support they need to achieve the finest 21st century education.

Senator Wieckowski to honor Lincoln High Donation Pantry co-founder

California Senator Bob Wieckowski announced Kelly Philipps the co-founder of the Spirit of Giving Donation Pantry at Lincoln High School along with the executive director of SAVE (Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments) as Women of the Year in Senate District 10.

"These are two phenomenal women who devote their time to helping people who are escaping violence or going without basic resources," Wieckowski said. "They are providing assistance when it is most needed to families in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties."

Phillips, who also serves as the activities director at Lincoln High, helped turn Lincoln's Spirit of Giving donation drive into a year-round donation pantry for underprivileged students. Phillips had heard about a similar pantry in North Carolina.

Lincoln has a large number of students from low-income families, but the pantry is for any student in need. A student can go to the pantry and receive a toothbrush, gift card or other items for free.

State of California Education News

State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Reports New Record High School Graduation Rate and Sixth Consecutive Year of an Increase

SACRAMENTO, May 17 — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson today reported **California's cohort graduation rate climbed for the sixth year in a row in 2015 to a record high, with the biggest jump taking place among English Learners and migrant students.**

Among students who started high school in 2011–12, 82.3 percent graduated with their class in 2015, up 1.3 percentage points from the year before. (See Table 1.) This increase means that 2,900 more students received their high school diploma last year than the year before. The state's graduation rate has increased substantially since the class of 2010 posted a 74.7 percent rate.

State Schools Superintendent Tom Torlakson Announces Status of Teacher Recruitment and Training Bills at State Capitol

Sacramento, June 8 – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced today that legislation is advancing at the state Capitol to help address a growing shortage of teachers in California.

Several bills moved forward last week as the Legislature faced a bill deadline. Torlakson spoke in favor of the legislation at a Capitol news conference earlier in the year, when legislators introduced new measures to recruit more educators and help them earn teaching credentials.

"I will continue to work with all members of the Legislature who want to help talented and committed people enter this rewarding profession," said Torlakson, who started his career as a science teacher and coach. "I am spreading the message when I speak at the state Capitol and at schools and events all around the state: California needs more teachers. Teaching is a wonderful profession with challenges—but also great rewards. Teachers have the opportunity to have a profound positive impact in a young person's life."

Enrollment in California's teacher preparation programs fell from more than 40,000 students during the 2008–09 school year to less than 20,000 in 2012–13.

In 2014–15, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing issued 15,000 credentials, while the California Department of Education (CDE) projected the need for California schools to hire 22,000 teachers.

The Legislature last week had a "house of origin" deadline, which means legislation introduced in the Senate in 2016 had to pass to the Assembly, and Assembly bills needed to pass to the Senate.

The Legislature has until August 31 to pass any bills in the 2015–16 session, and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. must sign or veto bills by September 30.

Bills that Torlakson supports include SB 915 by Senator Carol Liu, D-La Canada Flintridge. This bill re-establishes the California Center on Teaching Careers (Cal Teach) to recruit qualified individuals into the teaching profession. The program boosted teacher recruitment through outreach campaigns in the 1990s but was discontinued due to state budget cuts. SB 915 passed the Senate 28-8 and is pending in the Assembly. SB 933 by Senator Ben Allen, D-Santa Monica, would create a California Teacher Corps program that provides matching grants to local school districts to create or expand teacher residency programs. SB 933 passed the Senate 37-0 and is also pending in the Assembly.

Torlakson also sponsored SB 62, by Senator Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, to reinstate and improve a phased-out state program to provide student loan forgiveness to new teachers. Under the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE), a new teacher would teach for four years at a school with large numbers of disadvantaged students or at a rural school. This bill was introduced last year and is pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Torlakson also supports several other bills to expand and increase funding for teacher training. Information is available at the Legislative Information website. In addition, those seeking more information about how to become a teacher can find it at Teach California.