Corvallis
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Update

Shared with the Corvallis School Board during the November 7, 2016 meeting.

Welcome Student Representatives

I want to thank our student representatives for their willingness to interact and participate in our school board meetings this year. Our student representatives lead busy lives, between the rigor of high school academics, extracurricular activities, family and friends, they are keeping a number of plates spinning. As you know, I believe student voice is vital at all levels of our organization and our student representatives will play an important role for our school board this year. Welcome student representatives.

Audit Update

State law requires an independent audit of the District's financial records after the close of each fiscal year. Final audit fieldwork for the 2015-16 fiscal year was completed by independent auditors Pauly Rogers & Co., P.C. on October 26. We expect a clean audit opinion. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified. There were also no issues of noncompliance to disclose, and no audit findings to report. I'd like to commend our six member Financial Services staff for their work. We appreciate their diligence in providing ongoing financial services to the entire district and preparing our annual financial report.

Expanding Facility Needs for WINGS

Next school year, there will be approximately twenty students in our WINGS 18-21 year program, currently co-located at the Harding Center with College Hill. As WINGS and College Hill programs continue to grow, we must identify additional facilities to meet these needs. It is my goal to find a space for the WINGS program that is located outside our K-12 school buildings and is highly accessible to community services. We are investigating potential facilities to prepare for the increased enrollment next fall.

World Peace Games at Linus Pauling

Last week I attended a session of the World Peace Game, in Carla Olson's 8th grade Humanities classroom at Linus Pauling Middle School. The World Peace Game is an interactive game, in which teams of students represent countries and work collaboratively to solve national and world wide crises. Students reported to me that they were learning to "think outside the box", communicate with a team and use their critical thinking skills. The World Peace Game is a great example of real-world learning embedded within the curriculum. This type of classroom activity teaches students the 21st century skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity.

District Equity Leadership Team Advisory (DELTA)
Last Thursday, the district executive team and teaching and learning coordinators held the first meeting with parents of color to discuss race and equity in our schools. Our goal is to build relationships with parents and hear about the experiences their children have had as students in Corvallis. The DELTA parent representatives will provide a critical perspective and voice in our equity work. We will continue to meet on a regular basis. One of our goals will be to continually seek their advice and recommendations on ways to improve our district equity transformation activities.

Bilingual Outreach and Recruiting
In efforts to recruit bilingual volunteers, substitutes, and employee applicants, we have planned a parent information night at Linus Pauling on November 9. We have created promotions in Spanish, Arabic, and English and all are welcome to attend. We will give a brief overview of the steps to become a volunteer, substitute, and employee with the district and will then have access to a computer lab to assist those who are interested in applying that evening. Child care will be provided.

Student Art Display and Music/Theater Highlights
Thank you to this month's student artists from Adams, Franklin, Hoover, Jefferson, Lincoln, Mt. View, and Wilson Elementary Schools and Corvallis High School. Arts integration is a meaningful way to engage all students and visual arts provide a genuine hands-on learning experience that can span across all disciplines.

I also want to note my appreciation of the excellence of our music and theater programs for middle and high school students.

Our middle school orchestra, under the direction of Kathleen Smith, has been chosen to perform at the 2017 Oregon Music Educators Association Conference. This is quite an honor given to one middle school and one high school orchestra in the state of Oregon. Middle school students will be performing in Soreng Hall in the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene, OR on Friday, January 13th with a tentative performance time of 1:00 PM. We will also have students who are also performing with the All-State Honors Orchestra on that day as well.

Last week was the opening of the production of A Wrinkle in Time, directed by CHS Theater teacher, Laura Beck-Ard and produced by our CSD Theaters manager Elizabeth Wyatt. The production includes 30 cast members (two are adults) and 6 stage crew. Many of the cast are brand new to the stage and the technical aspects of the production have already wowed their audiences. This is a blend of CV and CHS students. (Two of the three leads are CV students.) The show continues every weekend through November 20.

Thank you to our arts educators for bringing art to life in our school district.

Presented by Ryan Noss, Superintendent