



THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

Sharing Our Progress, Accomplishments and Appreciation

FALL 2016

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful to be part of a community that values education. Thanks to you, our children have access to content-rich curriculum, state-of-the-art technology, well-equipped science centers, outdoor learning labs, and caring, quality instruction. As a result, they have many opportunities to explore and grow.

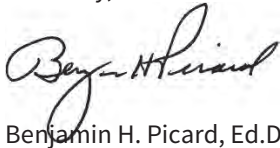
We know how fortunate we are. We are also ever mindful that we have been entrusted with an awesome responsibility — to prepare these children for future success. We therefore continually examine and refine our practices to make sure we are using our resources in the most impactful way, delivering on our promise to do our best by our children and by the community that so graciously invests in them.

We approach our work with great care. At the administrative level, that means thoughtful planning and intentional actions that strengthen our learning community. In the classroom, it means connecting with the children — listening and understanding — so we may fully address their needs.

In this edition of “The Bridge,” we share some of the ways we operate mindfully each day, ever aware that friends, neighbors, and partners underlie our every success.

Thank you for your trust and support.

Sincerely,



Benjamin H. Picard, Ed.D
Superintendent, Sunnyvale School District



OUR SCHOOLS

Bishop Elementary
Cherry Chase Elementary
Cumberland Elementary
Ellis Elementary
Fairwood Explorer
Lakewood Elementary
San Miguel Elementary
Vargas Elementary
Columbia Middle
Sunnyvale Middle

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Arnett
Jeff Clarke
Anita Herrmann
Reid Myers
Nancy Newkirk



Developing Staff to Develop Leaders

What do teachers do on a staff development day? While children are away, teachers become students at all 10 of our school sites! Through planned professional development sessions, teachers improve and refine their skills, learning research-based best practices that they can then apply in their own classrooms to improve instruction in all subject areas. As a result, students become stronger writers, readers, and mathematicians, as well as problem-solvers, critical thinkers, and effective group leaders — skills that are imperative to workforce success in the 21st-century.

Go (Instructional Technology) Team!

With computers, tablets, and the Internet in regular use in classrooms district-wide, our Instructional Technology Team is always on the job! This team advises teachers and administrators how to leverage technology to improve student learning; conducts teacher training; and ensures access, reliability, and functionality of all technology services throughout the District. To learn more about how the District uses technology as a tool for student achievement, please visit our website. Information about our 1:1 Technology Initiative can be found at <http://sesd.schoolwires.net/Page/1205>; for more on our other technology programs, visit our Educational Technology section at <http://sesd.schoolwires.net/Page/74>.



Health + Education + Recreation = Student Success

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Columbia Neighborhood Center (CNC), a collaborative effort supporting the health, education, and recreation needs of local families. Initially launched as a partnership between the City of Sunnyvale and Sunnyvale School District, the Center has had significant support from local businesses and partners with more than 18 local nonprofit organizations.

In the past year alone, families benefited from medical care, more than 6,300 hours of counseling services, 14,400 hours of community education, 47,700 hours of youth enrichment activities, and 4,000 hours of social services. All services are aimed at keeping families healthy, increasing regular school attendance, and increasing positive social behaviors and academic achievement in our District's youth. Visit the Columbia Neighborhood Center website at <http://bit.ly/2dljGb8>.



A Sea of Improvements for San Miguel Sharks

We are continuing our school renovations with the recent addition of eight new classrooms at San Miguel Elementary. Four of the new classrooms will be dedicated to our elementary school and the others to our growing preschool. San Miguel Sharks are also enjoying a renovated canopy, which provides more usable space in the sun and rain, plus new yellow and teal paint to brighten up the campus, and a preschool play structure that gives our youngest students a chance to stretch, explore, and start on the path to physical fitness. Our local school bond, Measure G, supports these and other renovations and construction projects.

San Miguel Elementary is home to our District's Juntos Dual Immersion Spanish/English Program and is nationally recognized as an Ashoka Changemaker School for prioritizing empathy, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving in its expected student outcomes. The school is also a California Gold Ribbon Award recipient. The statewide program recognizes schools for outstanding work in implementing the new content and performance standards, which are designed to ensure students are ready for college and careers.



Celebrating Shared Success

In our work, the proud smiles of our students and their families are our most cherished reward. A close second? Celebrating our successes with the community that makes them possible!

We are honored that Sunnyvale School District was recognized at City of Sunnyvale's State of the City Awards ceremony for outstanding contributions to education, the arts, and the environment. Honorees included Lakewood Elementary School's Zero-Waste Composting program, Columbia Middle School's Mr. Warren Scott (pictured here playing the piano with his music students), and San Miguel Elementary School's Ms. Colleen Lynch-Espinosa. To read about this recent recognition, visit our website <http://bit.ly/2cQA8C0>.



Votes Shape the Future

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, voters in the Sunnyvale School District will be asked to vote on Measure BB, a renewal of the \$59-per-year parcel tax that was first approved by voters in 2011. Measure BB will last for seven years, continuing to provide the School District with a reliable, local source of funds to support and maintain high academic standards for the students in our eight elementary and two middle schools. Measure BB requires two-thirds voter approval for passage.

Measure BB funds will allow the district to continue to:

- Protect district programs such as math, English, and science.
- Maintain computers and technology used by students and teachers.
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff.
- Keep class sizes small.

For more information about Measure BB, please click on *Parcel Tax* under *About Us* at www.sesd.org.





819 W. Iowa Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

www.sesd.org

Sign up for our e-news at

<http://sesd-district-digest.org/subscribe>

Our schools have earned many state and national awards including:

- California Distinguished Schools
- Blue Ribbon Schools
- Ashoka Changemaker School
- Gold Ribbon Schools
- Hoffmann Awards

Learn more about our busy days on social media at facebook.com/sunnyvaleschooldistrict or [@SunnyvaleSD](https://twitter.com/SunnyvaleSD) on Twitter.

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