

THE DISTRICT BRIDGE

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RUSD high schools' scores rising

STATE, FEDERAL ACADEMIC TEST SCORES AND GRADUATION RATES INCREASE



Carter High School Co-Principals Felicia Limbrick (far left) and Christine Foote high five each other during their Football Homecoming Parade where the Lions won their game. Carter High School also celebrates the school's academic success.

Rialto Unified School District keeps soaring with data that indicates positive academic growth, a lower drop out rate and stronger graduation rates at all RUSD high schools. "We have shown an increase in our Academic Performance Index (API)

over the last four years for the high schools and the District," stated **Jennette Harper**, Senior Director of College Programs. "We have made great growth." **Carter High School** grew 83 points during four years, **Eisenhower 'Ike' High School** has grown

121 points, and **Rialto High School** grew 118 points. Each school has an annual target and all numerically significant subgroups at a school also have API targets. The data is a cross-sectional view student achievement. All RUSD sites have more than surpassed their targets which are usually 10 points per year. Over time for RUSD schools, Eisenhower and Zupanic high schools have made significant growth in reducing their drop out rates.

Harper added, "All of our sites have lower drop-out rates than the county and state which is really something to be proud of." **Ike's** API growth (see chart in story) was the highest in four years, starting from 600 in 2008 to 721 points in 2011.

"Our focus has been to emphasize the Professional Learning Communities and implement AVID strategies school-wide," replied **Ike Principal, Art Sanchez**. "We're staying focused on the programs that work for students and show proven results." "Without the invaluable support from parents at home and the teachers and administrators at our high schools, these suc-

cessful academic benchmarks for the State and Federal accountability requirements could not be reached," stated RUSD Superintendent, **Dr. Harold Cebrun**. "The Board of Education and I am extremely proud of the academic accomplishments of all 29 RUSD schools, and with the vision, guidance and support from all stakeholders, we will only get better."

API GROWTH	2008	2009	2010	2011
Carter HS	632	639	685	715
Eisenhower HS	600	633	699	721
Rialto HS	628	628	715	746
Milor HS	574	602	636	824
Zupanic HS	574	672	652	623
Rialto District	683	713	733	746

PARENT SUMMIT RECOGNIZED FOR EVENT

More than 2,500 parents, representing 29 schools in the Rialto Unified School District, along with many students, staff and administration joined the **RUSD Board of Education** and Superintendent to celebrate a day of open educational access for our parent community. The 3rd Annual Parent Summit held last month at Rialto High School was a huge success. "Good things always happen when an entire community comes together to benefit students," replied **Superintendent, Dr. Harold Cebrun**. "Parents/guardians are powerful stakeholders in their children's lives, so we must all work together to learn and grow with our youth. I commend the

Parent Summit Committee, comprised of District staff and parent volunteers for a successful event." Educational professionals offered workshops for parents, a free Kid Zone was provided for students, and various school booths offered parents an opportunity to interact with school staff. Representatives from many colleges offered information to middle and high school parents about higher education options at our College Fair. "This is just the best," smiled parent/guardian **Alisea Garcia**, as she walked into a workshop. "I don't know who else does this type of event, but it's an outstanding experience. I am glad it was free and meant for all of us."



Pictured above from left: Parent Summit volunteer leaders **Monica Del Rio, Rhonda McIver-Jackson**, and **Founder Curtis Winton** received honors for the success of the 3rd Annual Parent Summit at a RUSD Board Meeting.

SNAP SHOT OF MONTH...



Fresh off winning a cross town rival game against Rialto High School and sustaining a 7-0 record for the Lions, Carter High School Head Football Coach Alex Pierce (right) has interviewed with local and regional media entities throughout his coaching career but found himself a little perturbed when a microphone was held up by a large man dressed as a rooster. While holding the League Championship Trophy Coach Pierce answered questions. "You have to give me a break," smiled the sideline reporter/rooster. "It's a couple days before Halloween however the coverage (game was played Oct. 28, 2011) will rebroadcast on local television on the 31st." ... That explains everything...

Hughbanks, Jehue take Red Ribbon honors

Mystery judges drove through the schools in the Rialto Unified School District as a tradition to judge the annual Red Ribbon Week School Decoration contest.

Each year the RUSD participates in the National Red Ribbon Week contest, through school site decoration and essays which promote a drug-free lifestyle. This year, judges selected Hughbanks Elementary and Jehue Middle schools for displaying "the greatest message and spirit of the Red Ribbon Week."

Hughbanks Principal, Monte Stewart and Jehue Principal, Armando Urteaga jointly thanked the team work consisting of parent leaders, teachers, support staff and students who all "enthusiastically decorated."

Red Ribbon Week began in 1988. It is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. It began when an admired Police DEA Agent, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, was brutally killed by drug dealers.

Bemis Elementary, THINK Together turn Lights On for students

Bemis Elementary School participated in the Lights On program at Bemis Multi-Purpose Room, including San Bernardino County 62nd Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter, her District staff and THINK Together regional staff members.

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, 3:00 p.m., Bemis parents, staff and District administrators joined its education partner, THINK Together, an After-School Education and Safety (ASES) program.

I'm excited that our students are engaged, learning, and participating in so many activities," said Bemis Principal Chantal Anderson. "This is a great program for many of our students."

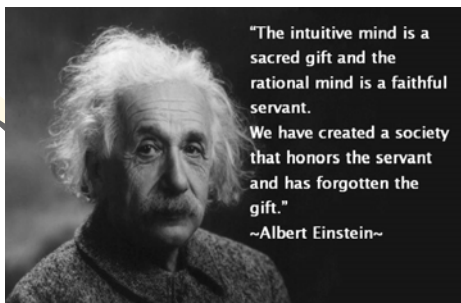
Various guests attended



Pictured above, Bemis Elementary School Principal, Chantal Anderson, addresses students with THINK Together Site Coordinator, Anabel Valle (top left). On right, Bemis Elementary 5th grade student, Cobie Stewart, helped 2nd grade student, Carlos Aguilar, with a prepared speech during the Lights On after-school program.



IN NOVEMBER: RUSD Board of Education meetings will be held Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at Dunn Elementary School and Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at the Dr. John R. Kazalunas Education Center. All public meetings begin at 7:00 p.m., and broadcast on the City of Rialto Cable Channel 3, KRTO.



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