SEQUOIA NEWS

SEQUITUR FEBRUARY 2018

Superintendent's Message
Mensaje del Superintendente

Dear Sequoia Union High School District Family:

Together with all Americans, we join in mourning the students and staff who lost their lives in this month's senseless shooting at Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. As parents and as educators, we struggle to help our children and students understand how such tragedies can happen at a school, which should be a haven of safety.

Please know that we place the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority and the events in Florida have doubled our resolve to make sure our schools are safe.

As a district, we follow the Big Five Emergency Protocols and conduct drills regularly facilitated by the San Mateo County of Education. Please know we will revisit these steps and make sure that everyone in our schools knows what to do if and when an emergency occurs.

Our district staff has also participated in the county-wide Student Threat Assessment training as part of the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, so we can do our best to implement protocols for early intervention and support of students who may demonstrate threatening behavior.

We are fully aware of the role that trauma plays in a child's development and healthy development. As a district, we are exploring ways to integrate trauma-based curriculum into our schools and participate in our school-based Mental Health Collaborative supported by the Sequoia Healthcare District.

We are fortunate to report that nearly 8,000 respondents from the Panorama Survey expressed positive responses from our students and staff regarding safety and school climate. Next month we are excited to share more of the themes of this survey and community conversations.

Sincerely,
Mary Streshly, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dr. Streshly possesses 26 years of service in public education. She holds a B.A from UC Berkeley, an M.A. from San Diego State University and a Doctorate from San Francisco State University.

Estimada familia de *Sequoia Union High School District*:

Junto con todo estadounidense, nos unimos en luto de los estudiantes y personal que perdieron sus vidas en el tiroteo son sentido de este mes en *Douglas High School* en *Parkland*, Florida. Como padres y educadores, luchamos para ayudar a nuestros niños y estudiantes a entender cómo pueden ocurrir tales tragedias en una escuela, lo cual debería ser un refugio de seguridad.

Por favor sepa que ponemos la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes y personal como nuestra prioridad más alta y los eventos en Florida han duplicado nuestra determinación de asegurar que nuestras escuelas estén seguras. Como distrito, seguimos los Protocolos de Emergencia los Cinco Grandes y realizamos simulacros con regularidad facilitados por la Oficina de Educación del Condado de San Mateo. Por favor sepa que reconsideraremos estos pasos y aseguraremos que todos en nuestras escuelas sepan que hacer siempre y cuando una emergencia ocurra.

El personal de nuestro distrito también ha participado en la capacitación de Evaluación de Amenaza Estudiante en todo el condado como parte de la Coalición para Escuelas y Comunidades Seguras, para que podamos hace todo lo posible por implementar protocolos para la intervención temprana y apoyo a estudiantes que puedan demostrar comportamiento amenazante. Estamos plenamente conscientes del papel que el trauma desempeña en el desarrollo y desarrollo saludable de un niño. Como distrito, estamos explorando maneras de integrar un plan de estudios basado en el trauma en nuestras escuelas y participar en nuestro Colaborativo de Salud Mental en la escuela apoyado por el Distrito del Cuidado de la Salud de Sequoia.

Tenemos la suerte de informar que casi 8,000 encuestados de la Encuesta Panorama expresó respuestas positivas de nuestros estudiantes y personal con respecto a la seguridad y ambiente escolar. Estamos emocionados de compartir más temas el próximo mes sobre esta encuesta y las conversaciones comunitarias.

Atentamente,
Mary Streshly, Ed.D.
Superintendente

La *Dra. Streshly llega a Sequoia con 26 años de servicio en educación pública sirviendo a estudiantes de preparatoria. Ella tiene un B.A de UC Berkeley, una M.A. de San Diego State University y un Doctorado de San Francisco State University.*

Board of Trustees:
President Christopher Thomsen
Vice President Georgia Jack
Clerk Allen Weiner
Member Alan Sarver
Member Carrie DuBois
Student Trustee Ria Calcagno

New Board of Trustees Election System to Begin

Nuevo Sistema de Eleción Y Ciclo de la Junta Directiva del Distrito

Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) approved to change District elections from an "at-large" Board of Trustees elections system to a "by-district" election system. The school board informed the voters of its intentions to proceed with a by-trustee area election system and sought to obtain public input regarding proposed map options. Based on public input, in April of 2017, the school board voted to convert the method of electing members to a trustee area system by which the residents of East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks would have their own trustee area and could elect a board member. Other areas of the school district would elect their own members by area also. The District will begin electing its members by this method in November 2018.

Why change to a by-district election system?

School board members of the Sequoia Union High School District are currently elected using a system in which all voters in the District elect all the board members. This system of electing school board members is subject to challenge under the California Voting Rights Act of 2001 if it has the effect of precluding minority representation on the school board. An election in which the District is divided into five "trustee areas" (in which one candidate residing in each trustee area is elected only by voters who reside in that trustee area) is not vulnerable to this law.

Transparency

SUHSD Board of Trustees asked the school district's demographer to create trustee area boundaries in which incumbency would not be taken into account and in which each school attendance zone would be included in more than one trustee area.

What District Area do I belong to?

SUHSD residents can visit this map and type in their address to learn which Trustee Area will represent them on the SUHSD Board of Trustees.

Who is my current District Area representative?

- Trustee Area A: Alan Sarver
- Trustee Area B: Carrie Du Bois
- Trustee Area C: Georgia Jack and Allen Weiner
- Trustee Area D: Chris Thomsen
- Trustee Area E: To be elected in November 2020 election

New Even Year Election Cycles:

In addition to adopting the map with the five new trustee areas, the Board also set the election cycle to even year elections. Current members of the SUHSD Board of Trustees will continue to serve out the remainder of their terms. Under the school district's new elections system, two trustee areas, A and D will be up for election in November of 2018 – and every four years thereafter—and three trustee areas, B, C and E will be up for election in 2020 – and every four years thereafter.

Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) aprobó cambiar las elecciones de la junta directiva del Distrito de un sistema "en general" a un sistema de elección de "por distrito". La junta escolar informó a los votantes de su intención de proceder con un sistema de elección de área del miembro y solicitó aporte del público con respecto a las opciones de mapa propuestas. Basado en el aporte del público en abril de 2017, la junta escolar votó cambiar su método de elegir miembros a un sistema de área por la cual los residentes de East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park y North Fair Oaks tendrán su propia área de miembro y podrán elegir un miembro a la junta. Otras areas del distrito escolar también elegirían sus propios miembros por área. El distrito empezará a elegir sus miembros por este método en noviembre de 2018.

¿Por qué cambiar a un sistema de elección por distrito?

Los miembros de la junta escolar de *Sequoia Union High School District* son actualmente elegidos usando un sistema en el cual todos los votantes en el Distrito eligen a todos los miembros de la junta. Este sistema de elección de miembros de la junta escolar está sujeto a impugnación bajo la Ley de Derechos al Voto de California de 2001 si tiene el efecto de impedir la representación de minorías en la junta escolar. Una elección en la que el Distrito se divide en cinco "áreas de miembros" (en la que un candidato que reside en cada área es elegido únicamente por los votantes que residen en esa área del miembro) no es vulnerable a esta ley.

Transparencia

La Junta Directiva de SUHSD le pidió al demógrafo del distrito escolar que creara los límites del área de los miembros en los cuales no se tomaría en cuenta la incumbencia y en los cuales cada zona de asistencia escolar se incluiría en más de un área del miembro.

A qué área del distrito pertenezco?

Los residentes de SUHSD pueden visitar este map y escribir su dirección para saber qué Área de Miembro los representará en la Junta de Directiva de SUHSD.

¿Quién es mi representante actual del área del distrito?

- Área de Miembro A: Alan Sarver
- Área de Miembro B: Carrie Du Bois
- Área de Miembro C: Georgia Jack y Allen Weiner
- Área de Miembro D: Chris Thomsen
- Área de Miembro E: a ser elegido en las elecciones de noviembre de 2020

Nuevo Ciclo de Elecciones de año Par:

Además de adoptar el mapa con las cinco nuevas áreas de miembros, la junta también estableció el ciclo de elección a elecciones de años par. Los miembros actuales de la Junta Directiva RCSD continuarán cumpliendo el resto de su término. Bajo el nuevo sistema de elección del distrito, dos áreas de miembro, A y D, se elegirán en noviembre de 2018 – y cada cuatro años a partir de ahí – B, C, y E serán elegidos en 2020 – y cada cuatro años a partir de ahí.

CARLMONT HS

Our Girls Varsity Basketball team is in the Semi-finals for CCS. They are playing MA this Wednesday night.

Sojourn to the Past happened over the mid-winter break. We had the most students ever participate.

Our Heritage Fair assembly is this Thursday. (https://scotscoop.com/heritage-fair-brings-attention-to-carlmonts-diversity/)

Open House is Thursday, March 15th.

MENLO-ATHERTON

M-A hosted its 4th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fundraiser and Showcase, an opportunity for students to pay homage to King's legacy and interpret their personal dreams through the arts. This year's theme, *Defend the Dream*, was a collaboration with our Black Student Union and All Allied Up club to support scholarships for DACA students.

Students reciting their original poetry at the MLK fundraiser

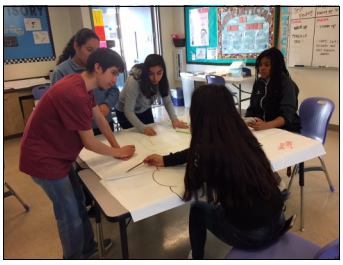
Led by Science teacher **Rachel Richards**, the school hosted its second annual Science Fair, sponsored by the WOMBATS (Women of Medicine, Business, and Technology) club in collaboration with AVID, highlighting STEM careers! Read more HERE!

The M-A Girl's Wrestling team placed 4th overall in the State Championships. Student **Fola Akinola** placed 2nd, **Lauren McDonnell** placed 5th and **Abby Ericson** placed 6th. Congratulations! Read about it HERE.

EAST PALO ALTO ACADEMY

EPAA is proud of our Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula's 2018 Youth of the Year: **Berenise Contreras**, **Neil Prakash**, **Alysia Demery** and **LaJae Harmon**.

EPAA Boys Soccer celebrated another successful season.



EPAA is honored as one of six California schools to receive an Award of Distinction for Civic Learning.

SEQUOIA ADULT SCHOOL

This month, students at Sequoia Adult School attended sessions by partner programs to help them understand their rights during a time that many are challenged by the rising cost of housing and/or feel threatened by the politics of immigration.

Project Sentinel presented a Fair Housing Workshop for Tenants to about 20 students in which they discussed the "rights of the tenants to control their home" vs the rights of their landlords. The International Institute of the Bay Area presented a series of workshops titled Know Your Rights in which students learned what rights they have if questioned or detained by immigration authorities.

SEQUOIA

Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams enjoyed stellar seasons which included a PAL Championship for the Boys (Sequoia's first in 41 years) and a CCS playoff run for the Girls. Girls Soccer also made it to the second round of the CCS tournament for the second year in a row. Congrats to coaches **Fine Lauese**, **Steve Picchi**, and **Melissa Schmidt**.

Alumni, students, staff, and families were on hand for the dedication and ribbon cutting of Sequoia's newly renovated performing arts wing. **Othello Jefferson** and members of the Sequoia Choir provided a stirring rendition of the Alma Mater with longtime music director **Jay Selby** looking on.

Students from Sequoia's Health Careers Academy represented Sequoia to advocate for the position of Community Outreach Program Coordinator who served as the liaison with Redwood City Fire and CERT and is the reason we are able to certify our students as emergency first responders.

WOODSIDE

Photography teacher **Aaron Campbell** received a $400 grant for supplies for California Retired Teacher Association.

In front of peers and family, six WHS seniors signed their intent to play college athletics. Thanks to the WHS village that supported this life-long dream, trading Wildcats for…

- **Victor Aguila Lopez**, soccer at Cal State Easy Bay University Pioneers
- **Paige Blackwell**, softball at Pomona College Sagehens
- **Alex Caceres**, soccer at Oberlin College Yeomen
- **Isabelle Couch**, swimming at Lewis And Clark Pioneers
- **Mark LaForce,** crew at Georgetown University Hoyas
- **Shannon Perry**, track and field at Lewis and Clark College

WHS is partnering with Redwood City 2020 to host two evening sessions on the health impact of marijuana use.

District Joins Amicus Brief In Support of Injunction

El Distrito se une al *Amicus Brief en Apoyo de la Orden Judicial*

What does the Executive Order entitled *Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States* do?

On January 25, 2017, President Donald Trump issued an executive order 13768, *Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States*, impacting state and local enforcement of immigration laws. The order set out to:

- End funding for jurisdictions, known as sanctuary jurisdictions, that adopt policies of noncooperation with federal immigration authorities;
- Prioritize the removal of individuals residing in the country without legal permission who are involved in criminal activities;
- Reinstate the Secure Communities program, an initiative facilitating cooperation between state and local law enforcement and the federal government to enforce federal immigration law.

What was California's response?

On April 25, 2017, in response to a joint motion filed by San Francisco and Santa Clara County, U.S. District Judge William Orrick issued a nationwide injunction blocking the enforcement of the executive order while legal challenges to the order are considered in court. As of April 2017, 35 other cities and counties had supported the lawsuit by filing *amicus curiae* briefs.

What is an *amicus curiae* brief?

According to Merriam-Webster, an *amicus curiae* is one (as an individual or organization) that is not a party to a particular lawsuit but is allowed to advise the court regarding a point of law or fact directly concerning the lawsuit. Along with other public school districts in the Educational Amici, SUSHD respectfully joined an amicus curiae brief in opposition to Appellant's appeal of the district court's nationwide permanent injunction against the executive order. In doing so, the District hopes to signal its ongoing support of vulnerable populations and uphold its mission in serving all its students, regardless of immigration status.

What is the Educational Amici?

The Educational Amici include 14 California public schools, 19 California public school districts, three superintendents, and seven California associations. Amici schools and districts enroll approximately 1,183,994 K-12 California students. Given their unique position, the Educational Amici are particularly aware of the Executive Order's impact on the educational system, as California reported that 12.3% of its K-12 students had at least one undocumented parent in 2014.

¿Qué hace la Orden Ejecutiva titulada Mejorando la Seguridad Pública en el Interior de los Estados Unidos?

El 25 de enero de 2017, el presidente Donald Trump emitió una orden ejecutiva, Mejorando la Seguridad Pública en el Interior de los Estados Unidos, que afecta la aplicación estatal y local de las leyes de inmigración. La orden se estableció para:

- Eliminar fondos para jurisdicciones, conocidas como jurisdicciones santuario, que adoptan políticas de no cooperación con las autoridades federales de inmigración;
- Priorizar la eliminación de individuos residiendo en el país sin permiso legal que han estado involucrados en actividades criminales;
- Restablecer el programa de Comunidades Seguras, una iniciativa que facilita la cooperación entre las autoridades policiales locales y el gobierno federal para hacer cumplir la ley federal de inmigración.

¿Cuál fue la respuesta de California?

El 25 de abril de 2017, en respuesta a una moción conjunta presentada por el Condado de San Francisco y Santa Clara, el juez de distrito de EE.UU William Orrick emitió un mandato judicial nacional que impidió la ejecución de la orden ejecutiva mientras que las impugnaciones legales a la orden se consideran en los tribunales. A partir de abril de 2017, otras 35 ciudades y condados habían respaldado la demanda presentada por *amicus curiae* briefs.

¿Qué es un *amicus curiae brief?*

De acuerdo al diccionario Merriam-Webster, un amicus curiae es (como individuo u organización) uno que no es parte de una demanda particular pero que tiene permitido informar al tribunal sobre un punto de la ley o hecho directamente relacionado con la demanda. Junto con otros distritos escolares públicos en el Amici Educativo, SUSHD se unió respetuosamente en oposición a la apelación del apelante del mandato permanente a nivel nacional del tribunal de distrito contra la orden ejecutiva. Al hacerlo, el Distrito espera indicar su apoyo continuo de poblaciones vulnerables y mantener su misión de servir a todos los estudiantes, sin importar su estado migratorio.

¿Qué es un *Amici Educativo?*

El Amici Educativo incluye 14 escuelas públicas en California, 19 distritos escolares públicos en California, tres superintendentes y siete asociaciones de California. Las escuelas y distritos de Amici inscriben aproximadamente 1,183,994 estudiantes K-12 en California. Dada su posición única, los Amici Educativos son particularmente conscientes del impacto de la Orden Ejecutiva en el sistema educativo, dado que California reportó que 12.3% de sus estudiantes K-12 tenían por lo menos un padre indocumentado en 2014.