



# DISTRICT UPDATE

An update for the National School District Parents from the Superintendent

## Passing of General Obligation Bond

The National School District is 143 years old – one of the oldest school districts in San Diego County. In all of that time, the District has never tried to pass a school bond measure, until now. On November 4, 2014 voters passed Measure N, a \$26.1 million school bond that is totally dedicated to the improvement of the facilities for students in all ten of the National School District schools.

Specifically, in the first phase, the bond is being used to install, upgrade and replace outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in every classroom in the District. It is also being used to expand and improve access to classroom technology and the Internet.

## Summer Construction Projects

Four schools were slated to get air conditioning during the summer of 2015. Those schools were Central, El Toyon, Ira Harbison and Lincoln Acres. Four more will get air conditioning during the summer of 2016. Those schools are Las Palmas, Olivewood, John Otis and Kimball. All ten schools received upgraded Internet connectivity during the summer of 2015.



## A Message from the Superintendent

The new school year has begun with lots of energy and excitement. Our continued focus this year is to fully implement the new Common Core State Standards in each of our classrooms. You should begin to see shifts in the work assignments that your children are being asked to complete this year. The biggest transition will likely take place in mathematics because we have a new math adoption and units of study which will emphasize the District's priority standards in each grade level.

The new standards our new curriculum requires students to:

**Reflect** upon and explain what they are learning;

**Think** more deeply and critically about the content they learn in school across subject areas;

**Write** for a variety of purposes and in all subject areas;

**Communicate** what they have learned using vocabulary commonly used in that subject;

**Persevere** in solving complex problems. Students will be asked to keep working even when they encounter a difficult problem to solve. They will need to have the patience, perseverance and resiliency to stick with it until they find a solution.

These are all skills that students will need to be successful in college and beyond.





## Upcoming Events

- **Thanksgiving Break**  
November 23 to November 27
- **Winter Break – Construction Schools**  
December 21 to January 1
- **Winter Break – Non-Construction Schools**  
December 21 to January 8
- **Professional Growth Day**  
January 11 (No school)
- **Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
January 18
- **Holiday - Presidents' Day**  
February 12 & 15

## District Advisory Committee (DAC)

DAC meetings are held once a month on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the National City Public Library. Upcoming meeting dates are:

December 9, 2015  
January 20, 2016  
February 10, 2016  
March 9, 2016  
April 6, 2016  
May 11, 2016

## District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC)

DELAC meetings are held once a month on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the National School District Board Room. Upcoming meeting dates are:

December 17, 2015  
January 21, 2016  
February 18, 2016  
March 17, 2016  
April 14, 2016  
May 12, 2016

## REACH

The South Bay YMCA began providing before and after school services in the Recreation, Education and Academics for Children (REACH) program in 2014-2015. The new program features full-time supervisors at every site, providing consistency of supervision and education from morning to afternoon. Another feature of REACH is the enrichment program that allowed students to choose from a variety of activities such as drama, dance, music, and athletics. The REACH coaches provide homework assistance for students an hour every day, and the site supervisor works closely with the school principal to ensure activities in the REACH program align with the activities in the regular school day. The Director and Coordinator of the program established community relationships with A Reason to Survive (ARTS), the Chamber of Commerce, service clubs and Southwestern Community College. The REACH program also formed a unique partnership with After School All Stars to provide soccer tournaments for our students. Plans for the program in 2015-2016 are to capitalize on the community partnerships to provide even more opportunities for our children.



## Golden Bell



One of the most prestigious honors a school district can achieve is the California School Boards Association's Golden Bell Award. In 2014-2015, National School District was awarded a Golden Bell for its accomplishments in the Collaboration of Teachers and Artists (COTA) program. The COTA program provided training in arts integration for teachers at Olivewood, Lincoln Acres, and John Otis schools. Teaching artists modeled lessons in visual and performing arts, and worked with the classroom teachers to create lesson plans infused with art concepts and activities. Children in those schools showed marked growth in academics and arts concepts. The COTA program continues at those sites, and NSD has plans to extend the program to its other schools.

## Peachjar

Peachjar is an electronic flyer management system that is used at each of our ten school sites. School flyers are placed in Peachjar which then sends them electronically to parents of the school. They are also posted on the school's website. Parents receive the flyers in their email inbox as visually engaging images and can click to sign up for activities and events. Additionally, parents can forward flyers to friends and share them on social media.