

## Photos of the Month!



### Arcadia High School Class of 2014!

Congrats to all the graduates and their proud parents! A special thanks to the Santa Anita Race Track for the great venue!



### Arcadia High School ASB Students Donate \$100,000 to District!

The donation will go to the Arcadia Performing Arts Foundation and to help fund a new video scoreboard at AHS.



### Rancho High School Class of 2014!

Congrats to all the graduates and their proud parents! Commencement was held at First Avenue Middle School.

## David Vannasdall Named AUSD Superintendent



The Arcadia Unified School District Board of Education has appointed David Vannasdall as the district's next superintendent. Vannasdall succeeds Dr. Joel Shawn, who retired at the end of June after six years at the helm. July marks the first month as Superintendent for Vannasdall, who has been with AUSD for nine years. In 2005 he was named the principal of Arcadia High School, where he held the position

through 2012 before being promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services and Programs. A former middle school teacher and counselor, Vannasdall has a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership, a Masters Degree in School Counseling, and is currently earning his Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership. (Read more on Superintendent Vannasdall on page 2)



AUSD Arcadia Rotary Teacher of the Month! Congrats to Regina Ringo, who teaches Transitional Kindergarten at Holly Avenue Elementary School!



Arcadia Unified School District welcomes the Special Olympics World Games 2015! AUSD will open up its facilities for the athletes to train and practice at.

## AHS Lip Dub Video "The Spark" Goes Viral!



Arcadia High School Lip Dub 2014

arcadiaunified uploaded a video

More than 2,000 students and staff from Arcadia High School show off their energetic school spirit in an entertaining lip dub music video. The video included every sports team and academic club as the camera weaved through the campus. The students performed the lip dub to "The Spark" by Afrojack featuring Spree Wilson. The video, which was posted on June 6, already has more than 50,000 views and has been seen by people in

more than 150 countries. The celebratory video was also featured in numerous media outlets, including ABC 7, Univision, NBC 4, Los Angeles Register, and others. You can view the video at [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net).

## Get Social with AUSD!



[Facebook.com/ArcadiaUnified](https://www.facebook.com/ArcadiaUnified)



[Twitter.com/ArcadiaUnified](https://twitter.com/ArcadiaUnified)



[Instagram.com/ArcadiaUnified](https://www.instagram.com/ArcadiaUnified)



# DISTRICT DELIGHTS!

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## Update from Superintendent David Vannasdall

### Smart, Healthy, and Innovative Schools

I am honored to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the Arcadia community as the new superintendent of Arcadia Unified School District. Although as principal of Arcadia High School and as deputy superintendent I have been very much a part of the Arcadia family for the last nine years, I am excited to begin this new journey as superintendent with the many dedicated and passionate individuals who make Arcadia a great place to raise kids. I would be remiss if I did not specifically point out how privileged we were to have been led by Dr. Joel Shawn over the last six years. As superintendent for AUSD during the most difficult economic times since the Great Depression, Dr. Shawn was able to maintain focus on high levels of learning for all students as well as maintaining award-winning programs in athletics and the visual and performing arts. When most districts around the state were forgoing facility repairs and routine maintenance, AUSD was in the middle of a major facility improvement program. With this program nearing completion, I am pleased to report that Dr. Shawn, along with his leadership team, managed the program with financial prudence, bringing to fruition every project that was in the master plan. I am fortunate to take on the leadership of Arcadia Unified School District following someone of Dr. Shawn's caliber.



AUSD is a smart organization. We attract and maintain staff from the finest universities in the country. Our students consistently perform at the highest levels on federal and state standardized tests. The academic teams at Arcadia High School are consistently winning state and national competitions. Being a smart organization, however, is only the first step to compete in a 21st century world market where everyone has access to the most relevant research and latest teaching strategies. Today, schools must also be healthy organizations that can tap the collective potential of staff and students through cohesive teams and clarity of message.

A healthy organization includes minimal politics and confusion, low turnover in staff, and high degrees of morale and productivity. From the classroom to the boardroom people can no longer achieve success in isolation. Collaboration is the heart of this work. Bringing together the diverse community groups, parents, students and staff in a transparent examination of where we are today and where we want to be for our kids is the work we must accomplish together. I am proud to share that during the 2014-2015 school year all teachers in AUSD will participate in ongoing district-wide professional development during seven student minimum days designed to create and share common core curriculum and best practice strategies that include the four C's: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity. This time for teachers to collaborate will help ensure our students get a rigorous academic program that is vertically aligned and built on international standards for college and career readiness. Meeting the current and future challenges with innovative practices will serve as a model for future work.

With the recent implementation of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the new state curriculum standards (Common Core) and the new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), it has become increasingly evident that change is going to happen and it is going to happen quicker than ever before in the history of education. I am confident that AUSD has created a strong foundation and is poised to become one of the most innovative and successful school districts in the nation. Thank you for helping make Arcadia such a great city, and Arcadia Unified School District an exceptional place for our students. I look forward to the challenging and rewarding work that will continue to earn Arcadia Unified School District our well-deserved "tradition of excellence" reputation.

All my best,  
*David Vannasdall*

Please feel free to visit my Twitter page @ausd\_vannasdall or my blog at [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net).

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