



April 2019

### Spring at AchieveKids!

The springtime always brings joy to our campuses and this year is no different. First, I want to thank Jefferson Bradshaw, former program counselor and teacher at AchieveKids, for biking 100 miles on behalf of AchieveKids at the Bike to the Beach event. Jefferson rode for our community to help raise money for our schools and to help create awareness of the work we do. We are very appreciative of his commitment to our students!



Next, as our community is well aware, we are in the midst of our WASC Accreditation visits. The Palo Alto campus finished their visit a few weeks ago, and the comments from our visiting committee were inspiring. Some comments included, “a culture of caring and support,” “dedicated, enthusiastic professionals who clearly understand and demonstrate the mission,” and having “strong community links.” With our core values being - meeting students where they are, taking them where they need to go, and treating everyone with dignity and respect, we could not have asked for more positive comments from our accreditation team! The committee remarked in our closing meeting the joy they had interacting with our students, and what a welcoming community

we have built. By all accounts, a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen. Our San Jose team is up next at the end of April and no doubt will be just as strong.

This past month, we also were excited to take part in an international learning exchange tour. In partnership with Therapy Focus in Perth Australia, some of our team members had the opportunity to visit Perth, explore educational and related service providers, and attend an Autism conference. At the same time we hosted two professionals from Therapy Focus who attended the Stanford Autism Conference. It was an amazing learning opportunity and something that grows our perspective and approach to meeting the needs of our communities' most complex learners.

Finally, AchieveKids learned that we were 1 of 30 state wide grants for a Teacher Residency system. As the lead organization in a consortium of schools and districts, AchieveKids was accepted by the State of California to launch a teacher residency (or teacher development) model in June, 2019! In line with our goals of creating growth opportunities for our team members, and in continuing the strengthening of our schools, this grant enables us to help launch individuals careers in teaching through a strong master's and credentialing program, and through structured and tiered mentorship.

It has been a busy month and one we are extremely proud of. Together We Can Achieve!

Ryan C. Eisenberg, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

### Jane Yates Honored by Junior League of San Jose

Congratulations to Jane Yates for being honored at the Junior League of San Jose Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held on April 10th with a certificate of appreciation for all she does for AchieveKids. We were thrilled to be there to celebrate with Jane and her family and are truly grateful for her volunteer efforts for the past 30+ years.



### Annual AchieveKids Reach for the Stars BBQ

We hope you can join us for our 8th annual Reach for the Stars BBQ on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 – 9:00 at our Palo Alto school campus. Our STAR award will be presented to Doug Barton in memoriam. There will be a silent auction, classroom demonstrations, beer tasting from local craft breweries, and a delicious BBQ buffet.

For more information visit: [www.achievekids.org/events](http://www.achievekids.org/events)



For information on how you can sign up for a school tour or to learn about our program please contact:  
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