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CUSD Today

Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
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Clovis Unified School District — WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS!



November 2020

Volume 23, No. 4

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Students begin returning to class

Online model, new hybrid instructional model to be in place in January

CUSD Today

Students are back in the classrooms at some Clovis Unified schools, and more are returning now through January.

Health and safety guidelines are firmly in place – including daily health screenings, temperature checks, mandatory masks and 6-feet of social distancing – that make it possible for students' healthy return to campus.

In October, as Fresno County COVID case numbers moved into an allowable level for schools to bring kids back, Clovis Unified elementary school parents were surveyed about their choice for their child's instructional model. They could continue in an all online format or choose a new hybrid instructional model that combined some live instruction time at school and some independent work time at home. There was also a question about whether a return should be in November or January.

STAY INFORMED:

■ For more information, visit your child's school website or cUSD.com

Staff, too, were surveyed for input as were teacher and classified association groups.

"There are many pieces to this puzzle," said Superintendent Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.

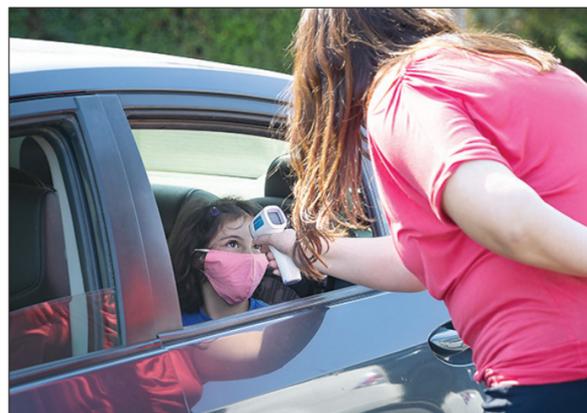
As district and school site administrators poured over the information, the results became clear: Different school communities had different needs.

"What we found was that there was not a 'one-size-fits-all' solution for the district. Instead, as we have always recognized and valued, we saw that our local neighborhood schools have unique needs to their student and parent community," O'Farrell said. "That is why, while all hybrid instruction models are to be in place by January, we have allowed schools to develop their own schedules and ways to phase in on-site learning as is appropriate starting now.

"Each individual school site is developing plans to transition back those students whose families want in-person instruction, by educating students and parents on safety protocols, and by practicing those same protocols with small groups through a phased back process, culminating in a complete and successful return at the semester."

Already, small cohorts of students have been attending school first for intervention and most recently for instructional programs. Teachers at schools around the district are piloting methods like simultaneous teaching or a flipped classroom model in which teachers record lessons that are paired with in-person and independent lessons for students. Still, other schools are bringing one or two grade levels back at a time and adding a new one each week.

"The exciting news is that for those who want their children back with in-person instruction, we are finding



Valley Oak Elementary kindergarten teacher Cindy Mortensen reads to her students who have started to return to in-person instruction in small pods. Per health and safety guidelines by the state and Fresno County, students and staff are following protocols such as wearing masks, having daily temperature checks, social distancing and using hand sanitizer when entering or leaving a classroom. Other schools in the district are in the process of bringing students back to campus for those whose families have elected the new hybrid instructional model.

Photo special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.

► Please see *Return*, Page 6

Three members of Clovis Unified's educational team are finalists for Fresno County honors.

See Page 3

Alta Sierra, Granite Ridge students earn NATIONAL awards!



See Page 7

Foundation for Clovis Schools awards \$151k for Classroom Grant program

Foundation for Clovis Schools

Financial literacy curriculum, farming tools, 3D print technology and elementary robotics



sets are some of the projects underway across Clovis Unified campuses thanks to \$151,000 in grants from the Foundation for Clovis Schools. The Foundation is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers who raise money for supplemental teacher and student programs.

In October, the Foundation awarded 20 Classroom and six Social Emotional Wellness for innovative projects related to emotional wellness, STEM, physical fitness, mentorship, performing arts, language arts, technology and other endeavors that enhance

learning in creative and motivational ways.

"These unique times are challenging for us all, and now more than ever, we as a Foundation are here to support Clovis Unified," said Foundation Chairperson Michael Fennacy, who is a partner at Darden Architects.

One project will provide curriculum to teach financial principles to students enrolled in Teen Living and special education math courses. Students will learn valuable skills including ways to pay cash for their first car, tips on graduating from college debt-free, the importance of giving in generous and meaningful ways, and more.

Alta Sierra Intermediate teachers Marcy Zurich is excited for what the grant will provide.

"Students in our Teen Living, Math Strategies and DI courses

“ These unique times are challenging for us all, and now more than ever, we as a Foundation are here to support Clovis Unified. ”

Michael Fennacy
Foundation for Clovis Schools
Chairperson

will get a first-hand exposure to financial literacy," she said. "The curriculum will empower our students to make smart financial decisions. It will provide knowledge and the skills they need to manage

► Please see *Grants*, Page 8

INSIDE:

ACADEMICS

College financial aid window opens

Seniors planning on attending college in the fall of 2021 can submit their applications for financial aid online. *Page 3*

LEADERSHIP

Principal Q&A

Get to know Nelson Elementary's new leader, Principal Tom Brocklebank. He has worked for Clovis Unified for 20 years. *Page 6*

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Principles of leadership guide CUSD

One size doesn't fit all ... and I am impressed by how our school leaders and their educational teams are innovatively rising to this challenge. *Page 5*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



George Petersen



Derrick Davis



Jesse Ceron

Clovis Unified educators among county's best

Award ceremony to be televised Nov. 22

Clovis Unified's nominees for the annual Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Educator of the Year Awards are top-three finalists in their respective categories, and

the winners of each category will be announced Nov. 22 on ABC30 at 6:30 p.m.

- The CUSD finalists and their categories are:
- Liberty Elementary Principal George Petersen – Administrator of the Year
 - Clovis East High Teacher Derrick Davis – Teacher of the Year

■ Kastner Intermediate Resource Officer Jesse Ceron – Employee of the Year

FCSS usually holds an awards gala, but due to COVID restrictions, it has made the move to broadcasting the event in a half-hour segment. Join us in watching and congratulating these outstanding educators who make a tremendous impact on both students and staff.

College financial aid application window opens

Seniors planning on attending college in the fall of 2021 can submit their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. The application window opened in October. Through these forms, students can learn if they are eligible for financial aid. These will also be used for scholarship information.

The FAFSA is not just for low income students and should be completed by all students planning to attend a community college for either a career certificate or transfer degree and by all students planning to attend a four-year university.

Students can find our more through their school's counseling center or can access the application at fafsa.ed.gov.

Free meals for kids

Grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals are available at no cost weekdays as part of a program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Egg and cheese biscuit sandwiches, breakfast pizza, orange chicken, hamburgers and more are some of the items CUSD's Campus Catering has recently served.

Children ages 1 to 18 may receive

the free meals every school day, except holidays. Daily menus and nutritional information can be viewed on participating school websites.

When elementary schools return students to campus in a.m./p.m. hybrid schedules, the meals will be available at those sites when students leave campus. For online students and community members, meals can be picked up from 7 to 9 a.m. at several intermediate and high schools.

For participating sites and more information, visit cUSD.com/campuscatering.



about Clovis Unified schools by downloading the Clovis Unified app, available through iOS and Android app stores. The app also conveniently accesses attendance reporting, lunch menus, school flyers, student grades and more.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The following upcoming free online webinar will be offered by the CUSD Special Education Department's Family Resource Center.

For more information or to inquire about an interpreter, please call 327-8455.

- "Special Education 101 – My Child has an IEP," 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 17 online. Free. Participants will learn an overview of special education, ways to prepare for an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meeting, and ways to create successful partnerships with member of the IEP team.

This workshop is for parents and caregivers who work with students ages 3 to 22 with an IEP. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/FRCsped101>.

For questions or to request interpreting services, call 327-8455.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools will be closed the week of Nov. 23 through 27 for Thanksgiving Break; and Dec. 21 through Jan. 5 for Winter Break.

The CUSD District Office at Herndon and Sunnyside avenues will be closed Nov. 26 and 27, Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1.

Download the app!

Keep connected with all the latest updates and news

PEACHWOOD

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Brad Sumrell, MD
Leta Hering, RN, CPNP
324-6202

Jesse Alifano, DO
Amy E. Evans, MD
William van Beever, DO
324-6203

ADULT MEDICINE

Amitasha Mann, MD
Robert Guzoujian, MD
324-6205

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SAT.-SUN.
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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324-6201

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324-6206

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"RECESSION" DOES NOT EQUAL "HOUSING CRISIS"

-19.7%

Home prices have appreciated during 3 of the last 5 recessions

Source: CoreLogic National Home Price Index

More often than not, home prices have increased during a financial recession. The 2008 housing crash and recession were unprecedented in that unscrupulous lending practices were rampant – it was impossible to not get a loan. This led to a complete mortgage market meltdown. The Central Valley and other fast growing markets like Phoenix and Las Vegas were hit the hardest. These markets had historically tracked in unison with the national median home price point, but during the 2002-2006 bubble had become over-valued. Nonetheless, those markets have all rebounded and are on solid ground.

Even though the economy has been placed on pause, it appears home prices will remain steady throughout the pandemic.

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Diamonds

SPARKLING GEMS IN THE DISTRICT

Clovis Unified's 60th anniversary year is unlike any other with the challenges resulting from the COVID pandemic. But in this, our Diamond Anniversary year, there are many ways students, staff and families are shining brighter than ever as they make the best out of difficult situations. We salute these diamonds that illustrate the strength and character of Clovis Unified.

T-RRIFIC EFFORT! Sierra Vista Elementary SDC Preschool Teacher LeeAnn McDonald wanted to help one of her young students feel comfortable when he was stopping by campus. Knowing he loves dinosaurs, Teacher LeeAnn got into her inflatable dinosaur costume to greet him. Her amazing effort was a roaring success.



word, and it means to confuse!



TWINKLE TOES MAKES NEW FRIENDS: The Teddy Bear Picnic is a beloved tradition in many of our kindergarten classrooms, and conducting class online was not going to stop Freedom Elementary teacher Samantha Moua – and many others across the district – from holding the anticipated event. Moua brought her own teddy bear, Twinkle Toes, to school, spread out her picnic blanket on the playground and Zoomed with her 23 students. “Mrs. Moua’s outside!” said one surprised student.

about the wonderful attributes of being curious. The man – also known as Oraz as school resource liaison Nathan Anderson – shared stories of his monkey friend and read to the children the book, “Curious George.”



DOING HIS PART: During quarantine, Clovis North High senior Blake Folland held a collection drive for local Syrian refugees. His hard work resulted in 140 families receiving care packages of toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Blake is a great example how one person can make a difference.

LINCOLN FROG? It’s a little wacky at Lincoln Elementary. Well, it is at least one day a week when the staff lets out their own wiggles and has some fun on Wacky Wednesdays. They’ve had various themes to bring some smiles and social-emotional support to the staff and students viewing online that range from ‘80s Dance Party to Disney Day to Yoga. For that, Principal Matt Verhalen, wearing pink tights to show support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, led his team in moves that included Downward Dog, Corpse and Frog!



DRY CREEK HAS THE MOVES, TOO: Speaking of moving, second graders at Dry Creek showed off their moves when Fresno State’s mascot Time Out stopped by in their zoom class. He made sure that all the kids joined him in a Dance Party.



LINCOLN AGAIN. Yep! Just couldn’t resist throwing in this photo of the school’s Prom Day of teachers in their throwback prom wear. Anyone else remember those powder blue tuxedos?

◆◆◆
■ Do you have a “Diamond” you’d like to share? Submissions will be considered for publication in CUSD Today or CUSD’s digital/ social media. Email your gem to cusdtoday@cusd.com and put “Diamonds” on the subject line. Include full names, school names, grade level, a quote or brief description of your uplifting experience. If sending photos, please do not copy and paste, but attach the file in its original or largest size and be sure to include identifying caption information.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Speaking of dinosaurs, that was the Sign Language word of the day recently on Cubs News Network. Hosted daily by Garfield Elementary Principal Jennifer Bump and GIS Jonathan Slater, the recorded Garfield news segment keeps all the Cubs informed of school happenings, along with sharing a word of the day and a Sign word of the day that students can learn together.

◆◆◆
BUMFUZZLE: Other schools have taken advantage of the online situation by also making video announcements. At Reyburn Intermediate, it’s the students who put together the Pack Pride News and include a staff interview, student interview, simple cooking ideas (the strawberry smoothie made us drool!) and more – including a word of the week. In the segment we caught, the word was “bumfuzzle.” Yep, it’s a real

Following a weeklong unit on bears and the color brown, the planned picnic was a chance for the young friends to socialize in a more relaxed setting and to bring their own teddy bears to the event. Kids had the chance on Zoom to say hi to each other and share their bear’s name. “Students were so excited,” she said.
CURIOUS KINDERGARTNERS: The Man in the Yellow Hat joined Oraz Elementary kindergarten teacher Nou Thao and her class on Zoom to talk



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Long-followed philosophies guide CUSD, Measure A

By Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

WHEN I was a high school principal, about once every other month I would get a visit from Clovis Unified's founding Superintendent Floyd "Doc" Buchanan. At the time he was long-retired from his role as superintendent, but his passion for our students and community, and the care and concern he had for the district's success after 31 years of serving as its leader, kept him connected to our schools.



Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.

My afternoons with Doc were always enlightening. He pulled no punches with me about what he felt I was doing well in leading my school, and ways he thought I might improve. While I doubt Doc, back in the mid-2000s could have foreseen the COVID pandemic's impact on Clovis Unified, in our conversations he imparted to me principles of leadership into which I have leaned on regularly over the past seven months.

Philosophies such as "authority with responsibility" are driving our district's current return plan model of allowing each of our neighborhood schools to develop its own plan that meets the unique needs of individual communities. Giving our school leaders the goal to respond to the needs articulated by their communities and staff, to provide the resources those leaders need to do so, and then stepping out of their way to allow them the authority to own and accomplish the goal, is empowering our schools to best serve their students.

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to a school district spanning almost 200 square miles and multiple cities, and I am impressed by how our school leaders and their educational teams are innovatively rising to this challenge.

Doc also regularly reminded me

that the schools belong to the community, and that educational leaders must be good stewards of the community's resources. These philosophies drove my recommendation to

the CUSD Governing Board to place Measure A, a facility bond, back on the ballot after it failed in March to gain approval.

Protecting and preserving our

school facilities for our students now and in the future, even as we have been kept from using them to their fullest, compelled the need for Measure A. It was a future-focused effort,

often partially eclipsed by the immediate challenges presented by the COVID pandemic.

As we send this issue of *CUSD Today* off to print, initial election results show 59.4% of our community supporting Measure A. While there are still votes to be counted, it appears well down the road to success.

With passage of Measure A, we will be able to make important upgrades to our ventilation and security systems at every school, make repairs to and modernize older campuses to maintain older schools, and build new schools to meet the demands of growing enrollment.

I am grateful to every citizen who cast a yes vote for Measure A, as well as everyone who shared information with their neighborhood and social circle. Their willingness to invest in our local schools will make the difference for our students now and into the future.

I want to also thank the campaign volunteers who worked tirelessly to raise awareness and encourage support of Measure A. They are heroes for our students.

Clovis Unified has a strong history of responsible management of bond funds, timely completion of all projects, and accountability to our local community – more philosophies imparted by Doc in his time as superintendent.

I am proud to continue that history, and our business team is poised to begin work immediately to fulfill our Measure A commitments.

Over the past seven months, we have been on a journey launched by the COVID pandemic. Together as a community, we have remained unrelentingly focused on finding ways to first and foremost support our students and to find ways to deliver high quality learning in the most unusual of circumstances. And now, we are navigating a healthy path back to campus for students returning to in-person instruction.

It's a team effort, one founded in long-established philosophies that preserve the unique place that is Clovis Unified. And, like Measure A, one in which I know we can succeed.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Photo special to *CUSD Today* by Ron Webb.

Students at Liberty Elementary recently enjoyed a drive-thru Disney Day at the school and were delighted when they spotted their teachers who were dressed in elaborate costumes.

“Children see magic because they look for it.”

CHRISTOPHER MOORE, WRITER

Online format allows for guests from far away

Warriors' coach inspires Gateway class, offers life lessons

By Randi Steele
Gateway High

MY ENGLISH class at Gateway High welcomed a guest Zoom speaker in September.

Coach Ron Adams and my father, Frank Carbajal were both assistant coaches at Fresno State when I was in high school. Coach Adams is now an assistant of the three-time World Champion Golden State Warriors. When you are a coach's kid, many of your life mentors are the other coaches that fill your home. Your life lessons are those that you hear them share.



When I found myself teaching a lesson that aligned with what I learned from Coach Adams, I knew I had to include him.

My class at Gateway starts with a 5-minute "warm up" from Shawn Achor's "Happiness Advantage." He explains that research shows:

- Waiting to be happy limits our brain's potential for success.
- Positive psychology and neuroscience has proven the relationship between success and happiness.
- HAPPINESS FUELS PERFORMANCE.

That's great for happy kids in happy situations. We already know they have an advantage. But when fires are raging across the state and we are facing a pandemic and students are stuck in their rooms staring at screens trying to simulate classroom learning – it's not so easy to be POSITIVE and HAPPY.

Achor shares strategies that help build a strong, positive defense against negative environment. Hence, a positive and

happy advantage.

Strategy No. 1 is "Spot the Positive." I shared with my Gateway students that when I was their age, my mom left our family. My dad was recruited for Fresno State and was gone, many times, around the country. I had to care for my three younger siblings.

A young coach, Ron Adams would drop in to check on us, and on one particularly dismal dinner, sat with us and suggested that we each share something positive from our day. We thought it was impossible but, it changed our attitude and became a family practice.

That memory prompted me to ask Coach Adams to join my class Zoom recently. The students were impressed with his NBA coaching career but eager to hear about the players.

Oscar asked, "What's Steph Curry like on and off the court?"

Coach responded, "On the court it is pretty evident who he is, a very special player who has changed the game of basketball and influenced many young players. Off court he is a very giving person, involved in many great projects. He has many special gifts, he is a man of faith, and he ministers to many kids who have little time left on earth due to illness. He is kind of a Pied Piper in that way."

Students also took notes on a shared Google document while he spoke with lessons they were learning.

- Never give up.
- Choose your friends wisely.
- Beware of social media.
- Get back up when you fail and fall.
- Falling down is part of life. It's up to you to get back up.
- Failure makes you stronger.



There will always be people talking negatively about you.

- Watch out for each other and have respect toward one another.
- Make what you have worth it.
- Record your journey in a journal or in poetry.
- You are being shaped into yourself. Choose people who will help you. (Teachers). Be grateful and appreciative.
- Pick positive friends who lift you up.
- No matter how hard things get, keep going because you are strong.
- Adjust your attitude with adversity
- Surround yourself with good friends.
- Your attitude is YOUR choice.
- No one can affect your attitude but YOU.

Coach read through and answered by email each student question. I'd need a follow up article to share it all.

Nathan asked, "How did you overcome some of your challenges and keep going when you had nothing left?"

Yuliana wanted to know what's it like being friends with famous people.

Alena wondered, "Was being an NBA coach your dream job?"

Each answer was thoughtful and rich with life lessons. I can share that Coach's "half time" talk meant something. Student performance has turned around.

Just as I'd hoped, my students got a glimpse of the same mentoring that I received at the dinner table 45 years ago, and the assistant coach of the Golden State Warriors met my warriors who face so many different battles every day.

We all need a little inspiration to become the champions of our own lives.

Thank you, Coach.

— ABOUT US —

CUSD Today, Clovis Unified's good news publication, is sent directly to the homes of all CUSD parents and staff, as well as district supporters. In an effort to unify the CUSD community, the newspaper highlights the achievements of Clovis Unified students and staff; profiles new and updated Governing Board policies; and shares general news and information happening within the district.

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Story submissions: Please submit all ideas to the Site Coordinator at your school. Please contact your school to find out who your Site Coordinator is. Editorial deadlines are two weeks before the publication date. We do our best to include as many submissions in each issue as our editorial space will allow.

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Five Clovis Unified schools get to know new principals

Editor's note: Five Clovis Unified schools started the 2020-21 school year with new principals at the helm. Monica Castillo, Clovis Community Day School; May Moua, Kastner Intermediate; Tom Brocklebank, Nelson Elementary; Ryan Eisele, Reagan Educational Center (Clovis East High and Reyburn Intermediate); and Kacey Gibson at the just-opened Janet Young Elementary are now leading the way at their respective sites.



recent position?
20 years, was an LD at Clovis West High
Q: What was your very first job?
A: Paperboy
Q: What led you to a career in education?



Up until then, I had never had an adult male take any interest in me.
Q: What do you see as the role of a school principal?

A: As with all things in life, show up and compete. Hug your family. Ask for help when you need it. Be an advocate for your needs. Be prepared.
Q: What is a favorite quote or saying that inspires you?

Over the next editions of CUSD Today, we will get to know these dynamic Clovis Unified leaders through a Question-and-Answer segment.

In this edition we hear from Tom Brocklebank.

Tom Brocklebank, 44

Principal, Nelson Elementary
Family: Single, one dog
Education: Fresno State, bachelor's and master's degree
Years working for CUSD, and most

A: Taking care of my brother while he was in kindergarten and I was in fifth grade. My mom was a single, working mom and we were a low-income household. My brother struggled in school. I liked helping him and seeing his self-confidence improve.
Q: Growing up, who was your favorite teacher?
A: My sixth-grade teacher, Mr. Hart. He was an adult male who took interest in me.

A: A principal removes barriers for teachers and families, helps and serves.
Q: With the school year starting online, how will you connect with your school?

A: Visibly and with communication. We'll create relationships with the community any way possible – videos, text, Global Connect, getting out and saying hi to anyone and everyone that comes anywhere near our campus! We will create a family and help anyone who needs it.
Q: What message do you have for your students during online learning?

A: Hands down, the most inspirational thing is when I read this quote in Doc's Charge: "We want you to get them off their duffs and get them back in the fight. Don't you let them give up." It feels like my childhood.
Q: What book are you reading right now?

A: "Where the Crawdads Sing," by Delia Owens.
Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Gym and read emails.
Q: What is your favorite thing for dinner?
A: Tacos!

Return: Masks, screenings part of safety protocols in place at schools

FROM PAGE ONE
ways to do that," O'Farrell said. "It's a challenging situation for sure, but our educational team is exploring innovative ways to navigate the constraints to reach our kids both academic and emotionally."

Valley Oak Elementary is one school that has been bringing students back to campus. "After much thought, we decided kindergarten is the perfect place to start since they have never experienced school and so much of what they learn is hands-on," said Principal Julie Duwe.

VO kindergarten teacher Cindy Mortensen described the first days: "It was so fun to see the children hop out of their cars and happily run up to the class with no hesitation. Fortunately, there was enough prior Zoom time for the children to get to know and feel comfortable with each

other, and me as their teacher."

Duwe said students have done a great job keeping their masks on, staying socially distanced and using hand sanitizer before they enter class and when they leave.

As of the start of November, all of the district's Special Day Class programs for students with special needs K-12 are back five days a week for full in-person instruction. Secondary parents and staff completed instructional model commitment surveys at the end of October. Schools will be contacting parents who did not submit surveys and building master schedules in advance of the start of the second semester. Small in-person instructional groups will continue and expand to include specialized classes, labs and some career technical education classes.

For more information about school reopenings:

■ Visit cUSD.com for Clovis Unified's Return to School Health and Safety Plan developed with the Fresno County Department of Pub-

lic Health and Frequently Asked Questions about technology needs, transportation, meals, co-curricular activities, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, personal protective equipment re-

quirements, contact tracing and more.

■ Contact your child's school for specific return to campus plans for those who have elected the hybrid instructional model.

Watch for updates and information from emails from your school principal and your child's teacher, attend online meetings and check the school website regularly.

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Photo special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.

A construction project of a tiny house started by Clovis High students is being finished and to be used by fire victims.

CHS class builds shelter for fire victims

In response to families displaced by the Creek Fire in September, a tiny house construction project at Clovis High was put back into motion as way to provide some help. When COVID shutdown the school in March, the students in Clovis High's construction class were well into their build of a tiny house trailer but it was unfinished. Flash forward to recent events and instructor Jay Eichmann who rallied a local contractor, JZ Construction of Clovis, to help finish the trailer and make it available to families or first responders displaced by the wildfires.

"It's great to be able to let students know their work is being finished, and even better, know that it is going to be used," Eichmann said. "This is exactly what we want to teach our high schoolers: work hard, set goals, finish things and help others."

The Clovis High Construction Careers Pathway is a four-year pathway giving students opportunities to learn basic construction, basic metal fabrication and welding, computer aided drafting and 3D modeling, electrical and electronics, advanced construction and an off-campus construction internship for seniors. Approximately 250 students participate in one of the many classes offered in the Clovis High pathway with graduates going on to direct entry into industry, apprenticeship programs and advanced construction/engineering degree programs at Fresno State and Fresno City College.

Gettysburg students make Patriots Day cards

Clovis Fire Station No. 4 received several messages of appreciation on Patriots Day thanks to the efforts of nearby Gettysburg Elementary. Students were challenged to write letters, make cards or draw pictures honoring first responders. The school held a no-contact, drive-thru drop off for families to bring these message of appreciation. More than 150 were delivered.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Jillian Leslie, Paige Metzler and Adrienne Paderna – Alta Sierra Intermediate students when they entered and now freshmen at Buchanan High – won second place in the National History Day competition.

ASI National, State History Day winners

Congratulations to Jillian Leslie, Paige Metzler and Adrienne Paderna of Alta Sierra Intermediate School whose team won 2nd Place in the National History Day competition this summer. Their Junior Group Performance project, "Freewheeling for Feminism: Breaking Barriers on the Bicycle," placed ahead of 90 other projects from across the United States and international territories!

The girls' thesis statement reads in part: "...this began to change in the 1880s when women gained a new sense of freedom after the 'safety' bicycle was introduced. The new mode of transportation fostered greater independence as women had more control over where they went and when. The eventual acceptance of women in the public sphere, caused by the bicycle, helped women break clothing, gender, and suffrage barriers that continue to influence today's modern feminist movement."

"We were surprised to find out that something as simple as a bicycle could have such a large impact on women's suffrage, rights and clothing," Paige said. She and her teammates have worked together on History Day projects for two years. "NHD has been very rewarding, and I recommend this program to those looking for an extracurricular activity."

This year's National History Day Competition was held virtually. The top student projects from around the nation were invited to compete, having won local and state competitions to qualify.

"To make it to the National Contest in a normal year is a remarkable achievement," said NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "Given the added challenges

facing students because of the coronavirus and nationwide school closures, I am even more impressed by what they have done this year. They have shown an incredible level of perseverance amid adversity, and I am confident we will continue to see great things from all of these students."



At the State History Day Competition held virtually earlier in the year, Jillian, Paige and Adrienne earned champions for their category and also won the Catalina Pacheco Memorial Award.

Other winners from Alta Sierra at the state level were:

Kyle Mrkaich, champion Individual Performance for "John Brown: Breaking the Barrier of Turning Rhetoric into Action;" Giselle Gruver, Hope Pehrson and Brooke Sharp, honorable mention Group Website for "Rosie the Riveter: How a Symbol Broke Barriers in the Workplace During World War II;" and Dillon Custer, the Herbert Kikirk Visual Art in History Award in Individual Website for "Brancusi v. US: Breaking Barriers, Redefining Art." Finishing in the state's Top 16 were Camryn Smoak and Rachel Williams, Group Documentary for "Breaking Barriers in Healthcare for the Omaha People;" and Isaac Perry and Kyle Zheng, Group Exhibit for "The Manhattan Project: Breaking Barriers in WWII."

Granite Ridge science student wins national award

Last year Granite Ridge Intermediate student Pauline Estrada was the first ever in Fresno County to be a Top 30 finalist in the Broadcom MASTERS National Science Fair held in Washington, D.C., and this year, she not only qualified again for the MASTERS, but she won a 2nd-place award.

The eighth grader earned her STEM Technology Award in the finals in October for her project, "Real-Time Detection of Drought Stress in Plants Using Custom-Built Infrared Sensing Rover." The project advances her work from the previous year and explores the real time detection of drought stress in plants using a custom-built infrared sensing rover, also known as the "Infra-Rover."

"I wanted to find a solution to help farmers predict drought stress quickly and manage their water uses more efficiently," Pauline said. This year she built her own infrared camera to attach to the small remote vehicle. The camera can capture pixel temperature and data used to develop values and drought stress predictions. Her project unexpectedly took on another benefit in light of the COVID pandemic as the "Infra-Rover" can be a tool used by farmers to practice social distancing.

"Farmers can work remotely from their home or office to evaluate their crop water status. Unnecessary irrigation and in-person

contact can be avoided thereby safeguarding the farmers' health while precious water is being conserved," she said.

Unlike last year, this year's competition was held virtually as were the qualifying science fairs that led Pauline to the MASTERS. "Despite the absence of physical contact, I think that the program was just as good [as last year's] and was able to achieve its goal of bringing out the best from all of us, 'the 30 finalists,'" Pauline said.

The Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars), a program of the Society for Science & the Public, inspires middle school students to follow their personal passions to exciting college and career paths. More than 3,400 entries from across the United States qualified for consideration to participate. Judges made up of scientists, engineers and educators determined the Top 300, and from that, the top 10 percent – or 30 – were invited to finals.

"These 30 finalists are scientific and engineering trailblazers. Our future is in good hands," said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of the Society for Science & the Public and publisher of Science News.

Pauline received a \$500 cash prize for making the Top 30, a \$2,500 cash prize to be used for a science summer camp as her technology award and an iPad Pro. Granite

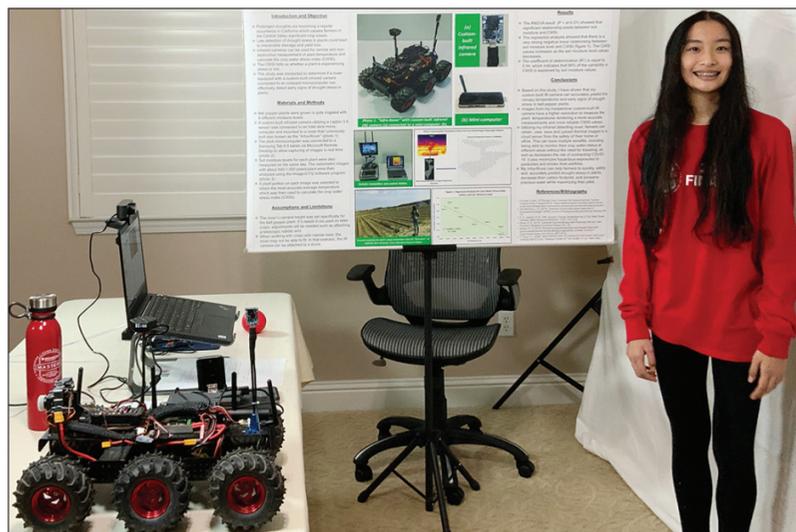


Photo special to CUSD Today.

Granite Ridge Intermediate student Pauline Estrada won second place in the Broadcom MASTERS National Science Fair that was held virtually.

Ridge also received a \$1,000 cash award to be used for its science program.

Pauline plans to make science her career and is considering becoming an oncologist. She participates in several co-curricular activities, including Science Bowl and Math Counts, and she is a member of the Teen

Alliance, which raises funds for needs such as the Community Food Bank and victims of the Creek Fire.

Two additional Clovis Unified students were named in the Broadcom MASTERS Top 300: Roma Kundu, Granite Ridge, and Ena Wang, Valley Oak Elementary.

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FROM PAGE ONE money effectively so that they will be able to reach their financial goals and financial stability in their future.”

Descriptions of the Classroom and School grants follow. Descriptions of Social/Emotional Wellness grants (funded in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and Community Medical Centers) and Patriots Character and Civic Education grants (funded in partnership with Clovis Veterans Memorial District), will be published in an upcoming edition of *CUSD Today*.

All elementary schools

Literacy Resource Library: This project expands the Campus Club Kindergarten Literacy program by providing materials such as high-quality picture books, chapter books and educational materials that support shared reading, writing and language skill acquisition, in support of classroom instruction.

All high schools and Community Education

PAC Virtual Ensemble Editing Computer – Provides a high-tech computer with advanced editing software to allow performing arts students to participate in Virtual Ensemble performances during online instruction, distance learning, and beyond.

Alta Sierra Intermediate

Foundations in Personal Finance – Provides curriculum to teach financial principles to students enrolled in Teen Living and special education math courses. Students will learn valuable skills including ways to pay cash for their first car, tips on graduating from college debt-free, the importance of giving in generous and

meaningful ways, and more.

Alta Sierra Intermediate and Buchanan High
NoRedInk Premium – Provides English and AB classes with full access to engaging, flexible and comprehensive writing and grammar curriculum lessons on noredink.com, allowing students to work toward mastery.

Bud Rank Elementary Short Throw Projector – Provides a short throw projector for Bud Rank Elementary Room 12, so that students may more easily view visual lessons.

Clovis High and Clovis West High

Museum Visit for AP Art History Students – Provides charter bus rental for AP Art History students to visit Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. Allows for the course to meet the College Board requirement that AP Art History students see works of art and architecture in person.

Clovis North High

New Technology Will Help Take the Distance Out of Distance Learning – Provides new technology, including a drawing tablet and accessories, to assist in teaching chemistry to students.

Clovis West High

New and Improved Show – Provides short throw projectors for the World Languages department to improve utilization of available seating space in portable classrooms.

Clovis West High

Implementing the Sport of Tchoukball to Our P.E. Curriculum – Introduces the fast, no-contact game of Tchoukball into Clovis West High PE curriculum. The sport emphasizes strategy and validates important PE principles.

Fugman, Riverview,

Mountain View, and Bud Rank

3D Print Technology and Special Education: Building Language and Community – Provides 3D print technology to provide students with visual impairments with customized tools to build learning concepts and increase independence/mobility.

Gateway High

21st Century Learning Environment – Provides seating for an innovative learning environment designed to improve student engagement for alternative education students at Gateway High School.

Granite Ridge Intermediate and Clovis North High

Gas Kiln at Clovis North – Enhances the Ceramics Program at Clovis North by providing a gas kiln, making it possible to conduct a wider range of firings and allowing for larger ceramics projects.

Janet L. Young Elementary

Robots for YES AutoPilots – Provides students at Young Elementary with the materials needed to learn and practice 21st century skills through engineering and computer programming with Lego Mindstorm EV3 Robotic sets.

Jefferson Elementary

STEM Garden – Establishes a garden at Jefferson Elementary, which will facilitate STEM learning.

Kastner Intermediate

Kastner Kan Jam – Introduces a new recreational sport, Kan Jam, into the physical education curriculum at Kastner Intermediate to enhance students' knowledge of lifelong fitness activities.

Reyburn Intermediate

Short Throw 6,000 Lumen Projector and Indoor/Outdoor Screen – Al-

lows visual and performing arts performances and sporting events to be viewed by families on a large outdoor screen, giving our families the opportunity to see their children perform/compete even while social distanced. The projector and screen will also be used for various school activities.

Reyburn Intermediate and Clovis East High

Precision Agriculture-GPS/Laser Controlled Scraper – This grant provides materials, supplies and technology to design and fabricate a scraper for use in the open row crop areas of the McFarlane Coffman

Ag Center. The scraper, hydraulics and laser system – to be designed and built by students in Agriculture ROP Welding & Fabrication courses – will utilize hydraulics, GPS and lasers to level and manipulate the surface shape and land.

Sierra Outdoor School

Accessible Astronomy – Provides an accessible star lab experience for CUSD sixth grade students who are differently abled. This would replace an older star dome that requires students to enter by crawling on their hands and knees through a tube.

SPED Preschool Program

Spot Vision Screener for Early Intervention Students Assessed for SPED Preschool – Provides a spot vision screener to detect vision issues in 2 1/2 to 4-year-old children who are being assessed for special education preschools.

Weldon Elementary

Diversify Your Mind With a Rainbow of Books – Provides Weldon students with a variety of books and resources in order to broaden their knowledge of cultures, backgrounds and languages.

► BOARD BRIEFS

By Kelly Avants, A.P.R.
 Chief Communications Officer

Oct. 21

During a staff report at their Oct. 21 meeting, the Clovis Unified Governing Board heard an update on plans to continue a phased return to campuses of students opting for in-person hybrid instruction. All students, grades K-12, choosing in-person, hybrid instruction will be on campus for the start of the second semester, with any necessary teacher changes aligning with the academic break afforded at the start of a new semester.

For elementary-aged students the second

semester begins on Jan. 19 and for secondary students grade 7-12, the semester begins on Jan. 5.

Between now and the end of the first semester, school leaders will be working with their parents and staff to create opportunities for those wanting to start in-person instruction prior to the semester. For some that will come in the form of pilot programs testing simultaneous teaching of students online and in person. For others, it will be an expansion of small group instructional groups for students needing additional academic support.

► Please see *Board*, Page 9

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- Which assets are taken into consideration when the U. S. Department of Education calculates your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Ways to bail out of these college specific savings plans by understanding all your options, and possible exit strategies.
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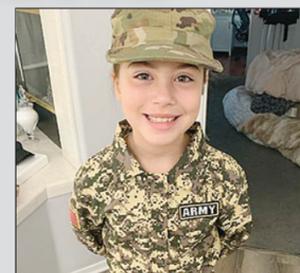
Liam, Fancher Creek
"Falcons are Drug Free"



Mannat, Freedom
"Put Drugs to Rest"



Noah, Fort Washington
"Crazy Hair Day"



Hayden, Garfield
"Career Dress Up Day"



Clay, Mountain View
"Disney Day"



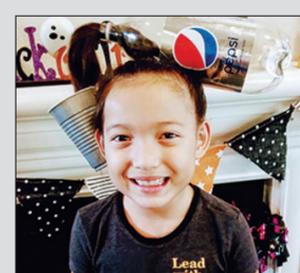
Amelia, Nelson
"Team Up against Drugs"



Eli and Liam, Reagan, "I Mus-
tache You to Say No to Drugs"



Madison, Red Bank
"Drugs are Crazy"



Abrielle, Red Bank
"Drugs are Crazy"



Mr. Williamson, Sierra Vista
"Disney Day"



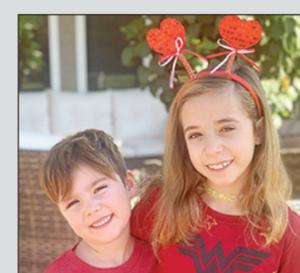
Mrs. Xiong, Tarpey
"Crazy Hair Day"



Alyssa, Woods
"Wear Red Day"



Mia and Evie, Woods
"Wear Red Day"



Lucas and Gabriella, Woods
"Wear Red Day"

Thanks to all who responded to our Facebook request for Red Ribbon Week photos!

Board: District psychologist team recognized, board policies updated

FROM PAGE 8

This site-specific approach allows the district to continue to apply CUSD's long-standing and well-proven philosophy that local schools know best how to meet the needs of their local communities.

Secondary families and teachers were to receive their instructional choice surveys

the end of October.

In other action, the board:

- Held a study session for the student policy series during a special meeting that occurred immediately prior to the regular board meeting. The board is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of the entire set of board policies.
- Scheduled a public

hearing for the district and the Clovis Online Charter School's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) budget overview to take place during the Nov. 18 Governing Board meeting.

- Approved the participation of students from Buchanan, Clovis, Clovis East, Clovis North and Clovis West high schools in the

concurrent public education program for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

- Authorized the placement of a student with special needs in a non-public school setting as identified in their individualized educational program.
- Adopted amended and new board policies in the

4000 – Personnel policy set, and repealed several board policies no longer necessary given approved updates to the 4000 policy set.

- Awarded a construction bid for the DO West chiller replacement.
- Approved a resolution recognizing the dedicated work of the district's team of school psychologists.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is Nov. 18. The public portion of the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at 1680 David E. Cook Way and live-streamed. Complete minutes, agendas and recordings of meetings are available online at cUSD.com.



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Thursday, Nov. 19th	5 p.m. – 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 23rd	1 p.m. - 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

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David-Anthony Navarro

Schools: Clovis East, Clovis West, Clovis Online, Enterprise, Community Day School & Gateway
Phone: 559-325-5267
Email: david.navarro@cloviscollege.edu
Appointments are available per request.



Isaac Reyna

Schools: Clovis High, Clovis North, Buchanan
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The Foundation for Clovis Schools thanks its sponsors for supporting the 2020 CUSD State of the District. The annual Superintendent's Breakfast was all virtual this year, with Dr. O'Farrell sharing a brief snapshot of the launch of the school year, plans to return to in-person instruction and current opportunities and challenges ahead.

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