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CUSD Today

December 2018

Clovis Unified School District — WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS!

Volume 21, No. 5

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Sounds of CUSD



All 10 Clovis Unified intermediate and high school marching bands came together at CUSD Band Night in November. They collectively took to the field and played the National Anthem to open the event. Each band then took turns with dazzling performances at Veterans Memorial Stadium to the delight of parents and music enthusiasts.

Music education is an integral part of Clovis Unified, with all students at some point in their educational career taking part in music curriculum. CUSD recently received the Best Communities for Music Education Award. For more about this prestigious award and a Q&A with Clovis Unified's Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Daniel Bishop, see Page 3.



Photos special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb



Principal named for new school

CUSD Today

A principal has been named for the new elementary school that will open August 2020 at the northeast corner of Shields and Locan avenues.

Kacey Gibson, current principal of nearby Reagan Elementary, will begin her official role in July 2019. In the upcoming months, she will, however be a part of recommending a name, mascot and colors for the new school with the help of the community. She will also add input as the facility is constructed, providing insights on what will work best for her future teachers and students.



Kacey Gibson

"I'm looking forward to building a new school culture with the Clovis East Area community," said Gibson, who has worked all of her 14 years with the district in the Clovis East Area, at Temperance-Kutner, the Reagan Educational Center and Reagan Elementary.

"Change is hard and I will be with the parents and students every step of the way to make sure this transition is as seamless as possible. My heart is in the Clovis East Area and we will be working together to make this the eighth elementary school in our area to build future Timberwolves for the Reagan Educational Center."

The new school is needed to keep pace with rapidly growing residential development in the area. It will be constructed on 25 acres and be modeled after Boris Elementary, the district's most recent state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2016, using a slightly modified design plan from Boris. It will have three wings with 28 classrooms, an administration building, a multi-purpose room, amphitheater and playfields.

Similar to Boris, it will feature an energy-efficient design, drought tolerant landscaping

➤ Please see *Principal*, Page 3

CUSD inclusionary preschool wins 2018 Golden Bell Award

CUSD Today

Clovis Unified School District's Preschool Inclusion Program received the state's leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award, Nov. 29 in San Francisco. It was one of 51 public school recipients – recognized with the honor at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) conference – for innovation, sustainability and best practices that facilitate positive student outcomes.

CUSD's Preschool Inclusion Program blends the needs of students in both general education and special education through a collaborative effort. The program is staffed with special education teachers, general education teachers and instructional assistants. In addition, there are speech and language pathologists, school nurses and school psychologists assigned to support the program as well as recreation, occupational and physical therapy consultation.

Co-Teaching or Team Teaching models are used while employing Second Step as the framework for promoting social-emotional learning. The benefit of inclusion preschool lies in the depth of social-emotional growth and in the cognitive development of all the children learning together. Teachers and parents alike have witnessed the heightened self-confidence, astounding first words, bonds of empathy and friendship – results pointing to an impassioned and truly dedicated staff.

"In Clovis we are committed to being life-long learners and instilling the love for learning in our children. Preschool Inclusion does that. It embraces

a model of continuous learning, researching and doing what is best for our kids," said Child Development Director Janet Samuelian. "The Preschool Inclusion Framework was developed by passionate educators to ensure that our programs will remain in the future, expand and grow so that ALL students will benefit from a strong foundation for their education. We are committed to give every child, whatever their background or needs, the best education and the best possible opportunities for success."

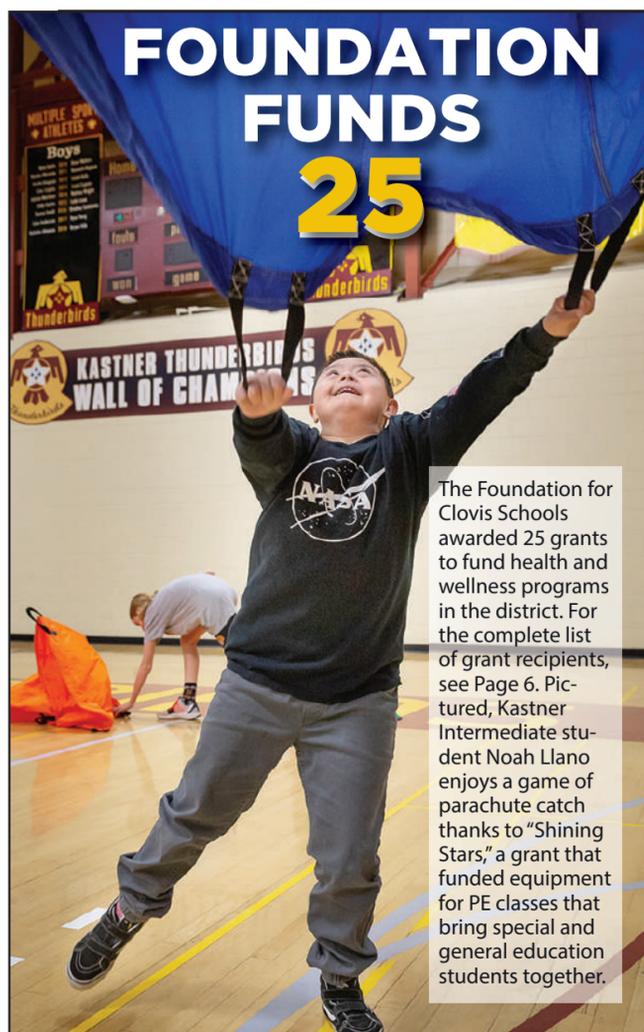
The Golden Bell Award is decided by a 17-member judging panel made up of experts from school districts and county offices of education throughout California.

The panel reviewed written entries and made the initial recommendations for the awards. On-site validators then assessed the programs in action before the recipients were announced.

This year's awards are presented to school districts and county offices of education helping students achieve through after-school programs, mentoring, instructional interventions, use of data and other innovations.

"The Golden Bell recipients exemplify the spirit of innovation and excellence for which all of California's public schools strive," said CSBA CEO and Executive Director Vernon Billy. "The Golden Bell Awards reflect the depth and breadth of outstanding education offerings in our state, and demonstrate the tenacity, vision and dedication of school leaders across California."

Details: <https://gb.csba.org/>.



The Foundation for Clovis Schools awarded 25 grants to fund health and wellness programs in the district. For the complete list of grant recipients, see Page 6. Pictured, Kastner Intermediate student Noah Llano enjoys a game of parachute catch thanks to "Shining Stars," a grant that funded equipment for PE classes that bring special and general education students together.

Happy Holidays from Clovis Unified



2018 fall sports league champions

Hundreds of Clovis Unified student athletes joined in fall school sports, including football, water polo, volleyball, golf, cross country and tennis.

Athletes wrapped up their final league games in November and the champions emerged.

High School

Tri-River Athletic Conference winners for varsity high school sports were Buchanan, boys cross country; Buchanan, girls cross country; Buchanan, girls volleyball; Clovis North, girls tennis; Clovis, girls water polo; Buchanan, boys water polo; Clovis West, girls golf. Central High won league football.

Intermediate School

In the Clovis Intermediate Athletic League, or CIAL, top varsity team finishers were Clark, 7th-grade football;

Clark, 8th-grade football; Clark, 7th-grade girls volleyball; Granite Ridge and Kastner (tie), 8th-grade girls volleyball; Alta Sierra, 7th-grade boys water polo; Clark, 8th-grade boys water polo; Clark and Granite Ridge (tie), 7th-grade girls water polo; Kastner, 8th-grade girls water polo; Reyburn, boys cross country; Reyburn, girls cross country; Kastner, girls golf; and Granite Ridge, girls tennis.

Elementary School

The Clovis Unified Elementary Athletic Championships featured top season finishers along with a few wild card teams.

The championships were held at Veterans Memorial Stadium with football, volleyball and cross country all occurring simultaneously in different locations. Athletes took to the fields by running through their high school

area's inflatable mascot tunnel.

Football – Bowl Series Champions were Reagan, Dry Creek and Cedarwood elementary school teams, with Fort Washington, Maple Creek and Mountain View also participating.

Girls Volleyball – Freedom Elementary took home the top prize of the eight-top-team tournament; Dry Creek was the second-place finisher.

Cross Country – All elementary school teams had their top runners participate in the championships, which had the last segment of the race enter in the stadium and finish on the track. Fugman's girls team and Fort Washington's boys team finished first in the fifth/sixth-grade competitions. In the fourth-grade race, Dry Creek's boys team and Fort Washington's girls team were the victors.

Clovis Unified athletes sign letters of intent

Fifty senior student-athletes in Clovis Unified schools signed Letters of Intent at ceremonies Nov. 14, including standout swimmers Abby Samansky and Averee Preble to University of Tennessee and Auburn University, respectively, and basketball player Madison Campbell committing to USC.

Buchanan High had a record-number 21 athletes signing, with wrestlers heading to University of Nebraska and Fresno State, and two of its leading water polo players both signing to play at Harvard University.

Wearing their future-college's apparel, athletes were celebrated at events on their high school campuses with proud parents, coaches and friends cheering them on.

The following are the students identified by school:

Buchanan High

Mikayla Weiss – Fresno State, volleyball
Ashley Dittmann – UC Riverside, volleyball
Tori Carlos – CSU Monterey Bay, volleyball
Tyler Deen – University of Nebraska, wrestling
Matthew Olguin – Fresno State, wrestling
Kaleb Archer – Harvard University, water polo
Gabe Putnam – Harvard University, water polo
Zach Zetz – Fresno Pacific University, water polo

Conner Schink – Fresno Pacific University, water polo

Sierra May – CSU Long Beach, water polo
Christian Johnson – University of Texas, track and field

Maren Butler – Tulane University, track and field

TJ Fondtain – San Diego State, baseball
Jacob King – UC Riverside, baseball
JD Ortiz – UC Santa Barbara, baseball

Miguel Ortiz – Cal State Fullerton, baseball
Madilyn Hernandez – Fresno Pacific University, soccer

Mattie Millwee – Colorado State Pueblo, golf
Michelle Kroell – Friends University, softball

Rachel Kessler – Colorado School of Mines, softball

Nathan Schwantes – Biola University, swimming

Clovis High

Darian Miller – University of New Mexico, baseball

Jacob Good – Arizona State University, wrestling
Maxwell Anderson – Cal Poly San Luis Obispo University, wrestling

Brandon Paulson – Cal Baptist University, wrestling

Jackson Lake – Oregon State University, golf
Abby Mammen – Cal Baptist, water polo



Isabella Sonkoly – Fresno State, water polo
Makena Ogas – Fresno Pacific University, volleyball

Averee Preble – Auburn University, swimming

Clovis East High

Michelle Berry – Fresno Pacific University, basketball

Jasmine Megerdichian – Geneva College, softball

Taja Felder – University of Louisville, softball

Clovis North High

Taylor Pilot – CSU Stanislaus, basketball
Sierra Alvarez – Sonoma State University, soccer

Brady Crow – Fresno Pacific University, baseball

Curtis Vidinoff – Fresno Pacific University, water polo

Trevor Lott – McPherson College, baseball
Andrew Penrose – McPherson College, baseball

Mattie Herzog – Azusa Pacific University, water polo

Ben Forbes – Northwestern University, swimming

Theo Tuggle – McKendree University, swimming

Clovis West High

Madison Campbell – University of Southern California, basketball

Jordan Diaz – Youngstown State University, soccer

Hannah Lambert – Augustana University, swim

Champney Pulliam – University of Idaho, basketball

Abby Samansky – University of Tennessee, swim

Aari'Yanna Sanders – Academy of Art University, basketball

Jessica Schab – Dixie State University, swim

Claire Shubin – Dominican University, golf

CUSD students raced to victory in BMX State Finals

Several Clovis Unified students throughout the district participated in the Nor Cal BMX State Finals in Santa Clara this fall and earned prestigious state titles.

They are:

Buchanan High sophomore Joshua Lored, intermediate class, state ranking No. 1

Kastner Intermediate seventh-grader Brady Tarango, expert, No. 3

Clovis North High freshman Andrew Bernabe, intermediate, No. 1

Reyburn Intermediate seventh-grader

Emma Ryan, girls, No. 3

Gettysburg Elementary fourth-grader Krista Hopkins, girls, No. 1

Boris Elementary third-grader Joel Vawter, intermediate, No. 4

Boris Elementary first-grader Jace McGovern, intermediate, No. 5

Jefferson Elementary kindergartner Dylan Braden, intermediate, No. 7.

BMX is an organized bike racing sport on a dirt and asphalt track. Riders spend many hours training and competing.

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District receives Best Music Education award

■ Clovis Unified hits the high note

CUSD Today

Clovis Unified has received the Best Communities for Music Education designation from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.



Dan Bishop

The competitive award of the National Association of Music Merchants recognizes school districts that show outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To be considered, Clovis Unified answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

“This is a tremendous honor,” said Clovis Unified Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Dan Bishop, noting the award validates the ongoing hard work of the district’s many teachers and directors to expose children to music.

In Clovis Unified, students encounter music education starting in early elementary school and many opportunities are available to continue with music education at the intermediate and high school levels.

The following is a Q&A with Bishop about music education in Clovis Unified.

Q. Why is music important in education?

A. There was a time in music education when it was felt “smart kids” were attracted to taking music classes. Now the educational research and study of brain development suggests that music study makes kids smarter. In CUSD every student moves, sings or plays an instrument in first through sixth grade, with many of them continuing in these programs at the secondary level.

Q. How does it benefit students?

A. Music and musical performances help young students with self-discipline and time management skills. Playing in groups fosters collaboration and team building much like a sport. Students have to constantly work together to achieve something beyond the measure of their individual skill on an instrument or with their voices.

Q. How is music valued in Clovis Unified?

A. Music (and all the Visual and Performing Arts) are part of the three core principles of the district – Mind, Body and Spirit. Music is one of the components that enriches our students’ lives and truly enhances the “spirit” part of our core principles in CUSD.

Q. What is the goal in providing music classes at the elementary age?

A. Music is a fun part of

each student’s week – something to look forward to and different from core instruction in classrooms. Music and the arts foster brain activity that uses both hemispheres of a student’s brain (analytical/scientific and the creative), and helps them to use these skills in other disciplines and study as they get older.

Q. What music options does CUSD have that are not necessarily found in other districts?

A. We have a comprehensive music program and unified curriculum for first through sixth grade.

In first to third grade, all 33 elementary sites use “Spotlight on Music,” a comprehensive curriculum aligned with all California and National standards for music education, for 30 minutes per week.

All fourth-grade classrooms receive an introduction to instrumental music (recorders) class, and many of the schools offer a beginning choir section, for two 30-minute classes per week. We hope soon to see this class in all 33 elementary sites.

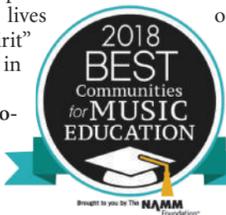
This year all fifth- through sixth-grade students will participate in either band, strings or choir for 90 minutes per week.

At the secondary sites we offer concert band, marching band, winter percussion and color guard, jazz bands, pep bands, orchestras, small wind and string ensembles, choirs, show choirs, vocal jazz ensembles, musical theater, dance, drama, a full range of visual arts – drawing, painting, photography and ceramics – and AP music theory and audio recording classes. These are all



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Clovis High music instructor Christopher Watson leads his class.



taught by some of the most sought-after music professionals in California. Our secondary programs are second to none and would hold their own compared to any district in America.

By the numbers...

All CUSD students have participated in

► Please see *Music*, Page 9

Principal: Input welcomed in attendance boundary process

FROM PAGE ONE

and have a theme that combines agriculture and technology. Each classroom will include touch technology within it, short-throw projector systems, walltalker display response boards and more. There will be flex-furniture for the classrooms and portable book shelves in the library.

“We received very positive feedback from the administration, staff, students and parents regarding Boris, and anticipate our new school community will feel similar,” said CUSD Assistant

Superintendent of Facilities Kevin Peterson. By re-using the plans with some adjustments, the district is able to save time and money. The facility is being paid for by developer fees.

Elementary attendance boundaries

The Clovis East Area held a forum Dec. 5 to discuss the process of creating elementary attendance boundaries for the new school and adjusting current elementary boundary lines in the area. “Parents’ voices are im-

portant in these decision-making processes,” said Clovis East Area Superintendent Corrine Folmer. “While we recognize that elementary school boundary changes can be difficult, our entire team in the Clovis East Area is eager to work with families to build another excellent educational experience for students at this new school.”

The district has formed a Boundary Change Steering Committee made up of CUSD employees, including principals, classified staff, plant operations, food service, transportation, special

► Details:

Full details on the attendance boundary process can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CE-boundaries>.

education, business services and others. The committee has five guiding principles to follow in developing a proposal. They are: utilize existing school design capacity whenever possible; keep neighborhoods together; create long-lasting boundaries; create contiguous boundaries that mini-

mize gerrymandering; and where possible, reduce operational costs (e.g. busing).

The committee will continue this month to gather parent input and develop options and in January present a proposed plan for the public to review and offer comments. The goal is to have a final recommendation to present to the Governing Board in February.

“By making these decisions more than a full year ahead of the school’s opening, the new school community can come together and build relationships even

before the doors open,” Peterson said.

It has been determined that students who are scheduled to enter the new school in their sixth-grade year at the start of the 2020-21 school year will be allowed to remain at their current school. Families wishing to access this enrollment option should watch for additional information available next spring.

Details on the boundary process and upcoming information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CE-boundaries>.

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CW junior writes book about grieving > ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Proceeds donated to Hinds Hospice

By Carol Lawson-Swezey
Special to CUSD Today

When she was quite young, Maddy Bauer lost her beloved grandfather, Richard Pease, at age 63 to lung disease.

"I was only 4 years old when my Poppy died and I had a hard time understanding death and that I would not see or talk to him ever again," Maddy said. "Soon after his death, I got some balloons at a birthday party. When I got home, I went into my backyard and released the balloons into the sky for my Poppy."

A dozen years later, the Clovis West High junior wrote an essay on her grief for the school's literary magazine, *The Torch*, which ultimately became the inspiration to write a book, "Balloons for Poppy."

Her children's book about grieving took months of writing, editing, researching other books and collaborating with illustrator, Marie Alizee, who works at Maddy's father's law office.

The book follows the path of fictional character Molly, who struggles with losing her grandfather but finds that lost loved ones live on in memories. Molly mirrors Maddy's loss.

"My Poppy was a musician, an entertainer, the life of the party. He taught me



Photo special to CUSD Today.

From left, Hinds Hospice's Kathy Beatty, Clovis West student and author Maddy Bauer, Circle of Friends facilitator Kathy Phillips and Clovis West student and Circle volunteer A.J. Granera.

to love life and to be myself – that I am no better than anyone else, but no one's better than me," Maddy said.

Clovis West hosted a book signing for Maddy in November and she donated the proceeds to Hinds Hospice and its Circle of Friends program. The program is a 12-week children's grief support group that has student volunteers assisting. Thousands of children in the Valley have been helped by Circle of Friends, and Maddy has friends at Clovis West who volunteer for the program.

"Children express their thoughts and feelings through play. Adults talk, babies cry, children – especially in the 3- to 12-year-old-age group

– play," said Circle of Friends co-facilitator Kathy Phillips. "Our volunteer mentors, between the ages of 14 and 24, are trained to help children express themselves through art, games, play and activities."

Maddy's Clovis West Mock Trial teammates Gabby Olivas and A.J. Granera are current volunteers for the fall session of Circle.

"A lot of adults think that young kids don't understand death and what it means, but we do," Gabby said. "Kids just don't have the proper coping mechanisms adults have and that's why I was so eager to be a part of Circle. It gives kids the chance to open up about their losses

instead of bottling it up because they don't know how to release it."

A.J. was a participant in the grief group when he was in elementary school following the death of his father. "My favorite part was making a memory collage for my dad with pictures of race cars, footballs and cologne, things that reminded me of him. At the end of every session, all the friends gather into a circle and share, and someone blows out the candle. I remember hating that moment because it meant I wouldn't see my special friend for another week."

Maddy said she hopes her book will also be a help to children experiencing the loss of a loved one.

"Poppy's death left a big hole," she said. "Even though I was so young, I spent a lot of time with him. Through pictures, videos and lots of conversations, I continue to learn about Poppy and keep my memories of him alive. I can still hear him say, 'Who loves you?'"

"My purpose in writing the book was to help children understand the importance of keeping the memories of their loved ones alive and that we can still live their legacy."

At Clovis West, Maddy is active in leadership, plays varsity volleyball and is a member of the varsity mock trial team. She hopes to attend Boston College and follow in her dad's law footsteps. Writing her book, she said, has been a healing process for her.

"Just like Poppy taught me, life is about lifting others," she said. "This process has taught me that we are all connected, and the things we do can positively impact others."

"Balloons for Poppy" is available on amazon.com.

For more information about Circle of Friends: 248-8579.

Alarming trend seen with e-cig, vaping

According to a recent study, usage of e-cigs and vaping has increased by 80 percent among high school students and 50 percent among middle schoolers in the last year. This alarming trend is the topic of Clovis Unified's recently issued Parent Bulletin that was distributed through emails and Peachjar. It also is the topic of the district's monthly video blog "Two Minutes Today" in December. Parents and students are encouraged to become more informed about the health risks and dangers these pose. Many are surprised to learn that an e-cig can contain liquid nicotine that equates to the amount found in two packs of cigarettes. Marijuana oil is also being used in these devices that are sometimes unrecognizable as they appear like everyday objects such as a pen or USB flash drive. For conversation starters with your student or for more information, see the Parent Bulletin on www.cusd.com.

Download the app!

Keep connected with all the latest news about Clovis Unified schools by downloading the Clovis Unified app, available through iOS and Android app stores. Available through mobile devices, the app conveniently accesses attendance reporting, lunch menus, school flyers, student grades and more.

Parent academies help students

Clovis Unified will offer four Parent Academy workshops throughout the 2018-19 school year at no cost to attendees. The workshops are designed to inform and empower parents with information, understanding and resources to support their student at home and at school. Dinner and childcare are offered for each event. All workshops are held at the Clovis Unified Professional Learning Center, 362 N. Clovis Ave., #101, in Clovis. (Southwest corner of Herndon and Clovis avenues, behind In-N-Out). The workshops are 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and include the following:

- "Communicating with Your Child," Jan. 15
- "Technology in the Classroom," March 19
- "Social Media Awareness," May 21

For more information contact Krista Cortez in CUSD Supplemental Services at 327-0667 or kristacortez@cusd.com.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The following upcoming workshop will be offered by the CUSD Special Education Department's Family Resource Center. For more information please call 327-8455.

■ "Looking at Behavior through a New Lens," 6 to 8:30 p.m., Jan. 24, Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis. Free. Presented by the Diagnostic Center of Central California, this is an early intervention, preschool and day care conference open to the community. The intended audience includes educators, day care providers, social workers, nurses, para-educators and parents. The workshop will address difficult behavior. The conference is sponsored by CUSD Special Education Family Resource Center. RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/Earlyedconf1-19>.

■ Nominations are being accepted for the Special Education Exceptional Person of the 2018-19 school year. Families, staff, students and volunteers who have been exceptional in helping students with special needs may be nominated through March 1. The nomination form can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/ExPerson2019>.

Board makes four new leadership appointments

By Kelly Avants
Chief Communications Officer

Nov. 14

Sounds of the '80s kicked off the Nov. 14 meeting of the Clovis Unified Governing Board meeting as cast members from the Clovis North production of "The Wedding Singer" performed for attendees.

The Nov. 14 meeting marked the last meeting of Governing Board Members Jim Van Volkinburg, D.D.S. and Sandy Bengel, both of whom have served on the board for the past 25 years, and whose terms are at an end. Principals from every school, along with classified and certificated leaders from throughout the district were on hand to publicly thank the two for their service to the students, employees and community. Both were commended for putting students first in their decision-making, placing a priority on the well-being of the entire community and devoting thousands of hours to serving as role models of good government.

During the meeting, the board announced the appointments of four new administrators to open positions in the district. These appointments include:

■ Maiya Yang to the position of general legal counsel (the board later approved a

> BOARD BRIEFS

contract with Yang during the action portion of the meeting). She will join the district in January from the Fresno County Office of Education where she currently serves as general legal counsel.

■ May Moua, from the position of learning director at the Reagan Educational Center to deputy principal at Clovis West High. Moua will begin the role full time for the second semester of the current school year, and until then will split her time between the two schools.

■ Jennifer Thomas, from the position of principal at Fugman Elementary to deputy principal at the Reagan Educational Center, effective July 1.

■ Kacey Gibson, current principal at Reagan Elementary, to the position of principal at the new Shields and Locan elementary school to be opened in 2020. This transfer will be effective July 1.

In other action, the board:

■ Accepted a staff report summarizing the results of the California School Dashboard local indicators. This report, along with other student assessment data, will be studied in greater depth at a

January workshop.

■ Approved a revision to Board Policy No. 6503 – Health and Welfare Benefits to reflect current practices and existing law related to health benefit qualifications.

■ Approved an agreement with TerraVerde for maintenance and management of the district's solar energy system.

■ Authorized the submission of an application to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to participate in the New Alternative Fuel Vehicle grant program.

■ Approved the 2019 Summer School calendar and programs to be offered during Summer 2019.

■ Authorized an agreement with Code 3 Corporation Security, Inc. for after-hours security services for district facilities.

■ Approved the placement of a special education student at Creative Alternatives to receive services identified in the Individualized Education Plan.

Oct. 24

The new school opening near Shields and Locan avenues in southeast Clovis, prompted the start of efforts to develop new attendance boundaries in the Clovis East area, according to a report

> Please see Board, Page 6

BREAKFAST WITH Santa AND FRIENDS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 8 TO 10 AM

Meet Santa at No Surrender Adventure Park and enjoy a pancake breakfast.

Tickets on sale at the Customer Service Booth. Seating is limited. Cost: Adults, \$10; Children ages 3-12, \$7; Children ages 2 and under are free. Sponsored by No Surrender Laser Tag Adventure Park, the Clovis Lions Club and the Clovis P.D.

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Make holiday memories at Santa's Village, Center Court

DECEMBER 1-24* Dec. 1: 10am-5pm; Dec. 2: 11am-6pm Dec. 3-24: Monday-Sunday, 10am-8pm

Bring your pets to have their photo taken with Santa. Owners are welcome to have their photo taken at Santa's Village, Center Court. PET NIGHTS WITH SANTA Sundays, December 9 & 16 • 6-8pm Sponsored by Animal Rescue of Fresno

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Last minute deals and steals for the perfect gift

10am: Free donuts and coffee, while supplies last
11am: Cash Cube, Cash Cube requires purchases of \$150 or more from any retailer on property; purchases must be made on 12/22/18. Must be 18 or older to participate.



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* DECEMBER 1: PHOTOS END AT 5PM FOR SANTA'S CHILDREN'S ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS PARADE APPEARANCE IN DOWNTOWN CLOVIS; DECEMBER 2: SANTA CARES: SENSORY SENSITIVE PHOTOS, 9-11AM; DECEMBER 24: PHOTOS END AT 6PM.

CERTIFICATED TEACHER

Job Fair 2019

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019
8 a.m.-12 p.m. • 2:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
CUSD Professional Development Building
1680 David E. Cook Way • Clovis

Visit www.cusd.com beginning Jan. 7 to register for an interview time.

We're hiring now for the 2019-20 school year.

CUSD is looking for the best and the brightest current and aspiring teachers, school psychologists, and language speech pathologists to join our team of outstanding educators. Decreasing class sizes and increasing student enrollment has created a demand for high quality educators in Clovis Unified School District.



As parents, we learn together ways to help our kids

By Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PARENTING is hard work! As the parent of two daughters, one of whom is poised to graduate from college and one who will graduate from high school this year, I know firsthand the anxieties that come along with raising kids, as well as the many joys that seeing our children grow and flourish can bring.



Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.

Walking this parenting journey myself is one of the many reasons I greatly appreciate the opportunities I have to sit down with other parents of Clovis Unified students. While our conversations typically cover school policies and procedures or broad community-based issues, they always at some point also turn to the shared challenges and distractions of raising kids in today's world.

Invariably, as a group we all agree that the pace of change in society today often buries us under waves of new technologies, trends and pop cultures. Not only is it hard to stay up to date with our kids' friends, interests and hobbies, it's also difficult to stay aware of all of the things we "don't know we don't know."

Case in point: the risks posed to teens by the vaping and e-cig industry. During a meeting last month with about a dozen parents from around the district, the subject turned to the relatively recent trend of teenage vaping – the use of e-cigs that contain liquid nicotine (sometimes as much as two packs of cigarettes' worth in one pod) or marijuana oil.

As a room, we were all aghast at the statistics shared by a parent who works in the healthcare industry: An 80 percent increase in vaping among high schoolers and a 50 percent increase among middle schoolers in just the past 12 months. One in 11 students having used

marijuana oils in e-cigs, and the fact that we are seeing a higher and higher number of students who are using vape pens in classrooms and homes because their USB flash drive or stylus-like appearance is so easy to hide.

You can be sure that following this discussion I did two things: talked to my own child about this

topic, and talked with our school sites to get a sense of how great of a problem vaping has become in our own schools. I was saddened to learn that our schools, like others around the nation, have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students caught with vaping or other e-cig materials at school. For whatever reason (maybe an effective

and unregulated marketing effort by e-cig manufacturers), our students are failing to connect the use of these devices to their general distaste for smoking that has been carefully developed through extensive anti-smoking and tobacco-cessation efforts over the years.

So, what can we do as parents, and as a school system that cares

about kids and families, when we run into these rapidly developing fads that threaten to overwhelm us? First and foremost, we can work together as partners. That's why we have committed to specific ways we are working to keep parents informed and resourced around emerging trends in youth culture.

In this issue of *CUSD Today* you will see a column on new technology hitting Snapchat users. Written by the producers of *Screenagers: Raising Kids in the Digital Age*, the documentary about screen use shared with our community last year, this series will appear in coming issues of *CUSD Today* as well. It's our hope that this resource can help parents remain aware of some of the technology trends in which kids are engaged in and start healthy conversations at home around managing technology. Each edition of *CUSD Today* also includes parenting resources designed to empower families.

In the same way, *2 Minutes Today*, a video segment we produce and email to families each month (and which lives on our website as well) focuses on helping parents navigate the K-12 years. Topics like emotional wellness, homework help, boosting reading and math skills, and technology management are just some of what's been covered in these pieces. Just as the title says, each edition is just two minutes long out of sensitivity to the time challenges that exist in our busy schedules.

Another tool we use to provide resources on hot topic trends we are seeing among students is our parent bulletins. These one page e-newsletters are developed when we see an immediate need for alerting parents to a trending topic that impacts kids. These pieces have been issued around school safety, emotional wellness and the "13 Reasons Why" series, and just recently, tackled the topic of e-cigs and vaping.

Parenting is hard, no doubt about it, but it's our hope as educators that we can be a powerful partner and support to families by sharing knowledge and resources that start healthy conversations at home.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Clovis North High drama teacher Joel Abels, right, held a Dining in the Dark experience for his drama class so his students could have a better understanding of classmate Heaven Vallejos, who is blind. Says Heaven, "I can still do things, but I just have to do them a little differently." Heaven has performed in a school play, run in cross country, and navigated city buses. "She inspires us daily," Abels said.

"Shut your eyes and see."

JAMES JOYCE, AUTHOR

How teens track one other on popular app Snap Map

Editor's note: "Screenagers – Growing Up in the Digital Age" is a documentary created and directed by Delaney Ruston, a physician and film director, that examines what it is to grow up in a tech-saturated time and how balance might be achieved between screen time and screen-free time. Clovis Unified has brought this film and follow-up conversations to its high schools. Starting with this edition of CUSD Today, further discussion from Dr. Ruston will be offered on important topics impacting children today. Taken from her weekly blog "Tech Talk Tuesday," the article highlights a current tech trend and can be used by parents as a conversation starter to help their students smartly navigate the virtual world. To sign up for "Tech Talk Tuesday," visit www.screenagersmovie.com.

By Delaney Ruston, M.D.
Screenagers moviemaker



Last year Snapchat introduced Snap Map, a cartoon-looking map with Bitmojis of users positioned at their real-life locations. At first, I thought this would not catch on because kids would know that sharing their location widely is not safe. I was wrong. The Snap Map function is used by most teens who use the app.

It goes one step further than just showing where the kid is, it also can virtually show what they are actually doing. A Bitmoji is selected by Snapchat to represent what the user is doing. If they are at a concert or listening to music, the Bitmoji might have headphones on. If they are at the gym or exercising, their Bitmoji might have exercise clothes and sneakers. If they are asleep, it shows them with little zzz's or in a bed. There's also a function called Map Explore that allows you to scroll through the map to see where



your friends are headed. These updates are generated by Snapchat users moving around rather than typing in their locations. You can actually watch as your friend moves from one place to another.

The positive way to look at this is that some kids use the map to find their friends to meet up with them in real life, and encouraging real-life interaction is often a good thing.

But, in no uncertain terms, I want to say that I am concerned that so many of our kids and teens are pinpointing people's exact location, including home addresses and street names. This raises a lot of red flags. As we know, the word "friend" can mean anything from a true bestie to a complete stranger.

Keeping our kids safe online is no easy task and Snap Map makes it even harder. It not only compromises the

privacy and security of the kids using it, but it can also exacerbate feelings of being left out. Imagine you are at home using Snapchat and you see a group of your friends at someone else's house on Snap Map. "Why wasn't I invited?" you think. Whether it was intentional or not, the feeling of being left out is an immediate blow.

When you first activate Snap Map, you are asked if you want to share your location with all of your friends, some of your friends or remain private in Ghost Mode. If they have already started using Snap Map, they can change their privacy setting to Ghost Mode by going to the photo taking mode and pinching their screen to get to Snap Map. Once there, they click on the settings wheel and select Ghost Mode to turn off location sharing. They will be able to see where other people are but no one will see them.

I firmly believe that Snap Map has more downsides than upsides. The challenge is that many youths do use it. Therefore, when talking with your kids and teens about this, I suggest entering the conversation from a place of curiosity rather than a place of heavy-handedness. This will increase the chance that they come to understand that the downsides outweigh any upsides. It might be that you create a rule specifying Ghost Mode even if they disagree with it. They might not be happy at the moment, but chances are someday they will be thankful for the decision.

Conversation starters

- Here are some questions to get you started:
 - What positives do think there are with Snap Map?
 - What negatives do you think there are?
 - How is safety compromised if someone can see where you are and what you are doing? If someone can determine your home address?
 - Many kids and teens do indeed use the Ghost Mode (my two teens do) and do you think this makes sense for you? Even if they do not understand it at this point, you can tell them that you want the rule to be that they are in Ghost Mode.

— 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.

Circulation: 33,000.
Funding: All costs associated with producing, printing and mailing *CUSD Today* are entirely funded by our advertisers. To show your appreciation of their support, we ask you to consider patronizing these businesses and services as the need arises.

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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Foundation funds 25 wellness, fitness projects to benefit 28,700 students

CUSD Today

A student mileage club, a TLC room and metal buckets to be filled with notes of encouragement are just some of the many new activities and items being made possible this school year thanks to grants funded by the Foundation for Clovis Schools.



The foundation awarded 25 health and fitness projects and social/emotional-wellness projects for a total of \$132,310. An estimated 28,700 students in the district will be impacted, according to the grant applications.

Foundation treasurer and fundraising chairperson Adam Holt said the grants were made possible because of generous donations by Kaiser Permanente, Community Medical Center and Valley Children's Hospital.

"Our community partners care deeply about children and are an integral part of the financial resources we are able to provide schools for programs that encourage physical, social and emotional health," Holt said. "We are very grateful for their ongoing support."

The following are the 2018 project recipients:

District Wide

■ **The Effects of Garden-Based Learning on Prosocial Behavior** – A designated garden area that helps to provide positive interpersonal communication opportunities, as well as integrated approaches to mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry, history, geography and literature.

■ **CSI SAP Curriculum** – Expands the Clovis Support and Intervention (CSI) program to enable additional and more specific support to students who have experienced an event or life challenge that has affected their personal and/or academic success. The model supports self-management, self-awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.

Clovis Community Day

■ **Active Healthy Living** – The purchase of specialized equipment to increase the activity level and participation of students. The purchase of items like triple shot disc golf, megafite kickball, soccer, bounce blast, ultimania, tipping point, team launch volleyball and a variety of others will help students learn to play and work cooperatively, minimize aggression through physical activity, and promote critical thinking.

■ **Project Smart Mentoring Program** – Provides a school-based one-to-one mentoring relationship for at-risk students in grades 4 – 8 in order to offer support and guidance, improve academic achievement, foster interpersonal relationships, reduce drop-out rates and reduce levels of juvenile delinquency.

Buchanan High

■ **Unified and Special Olympic Sports** – To assist in the purchase of uniforms and equipment for the Unified and Special Olympics sports teams that will help to promote a sense of pride and community, as well as acceptance from the campus community and beyond.

■ **KNOW MORE** – A domestic violence education and intervention program for teens with the goal of educating youth of the devastating and long-lasting effects of adolescent dating violence. The program utilizes drama, music, real-life situations and statistics. The program trains a willing group of students over a two-day period at the Marjaree Mason Center. The students in turn will rehearse and perfect their own presentation to be presented to peer groups in a classroom setting.

Clovis East High

■ **KNOW MORE** – A domestic violence education and intervention program for teens with the goal of educating youth on the devastating and long-lasting effects of adolescent dating violence. The program utilizes drama, music, real-life situations and statistics. The program trains a willing group of students over a two-day period at the Marjaree Mason Center. The students in turn will rehearse and perfect their own



Photo special to CUSD Today

The Foundation for Clovis Schools funded "Shining Stars," a grant at Kastner Intermediate to buy equipment that brings together special and general education students during PE.

presentation to be presented to peer groups in a classroom setting.

■ **"CharacterStrong"** – Provides curricula and trainings for schools that help educators infuse character and social-emotional learning into the daily fabric of classrooms and campuses. The program focuses on character development which helps students cultivate social-emotional skills, grow their emotional intelligence and assist with the development of a stronger identity and purpose.

Clovis North High and Granite Ridge Intermediate

■ **Physical Education Lifetime Activities** – Will implement new units into the PE curriculum, such as disc golf and bocce ball to help students learn how to stay physically active outside of school and enjoy exercise.

Clovis West High

■ **KNOW MORE** – A domestic violence education and intervention program for teens with the goal of educating youth on the devastating and long-lasting effects of adolescent dating violence. The program utilizes drama, music, real-life situations and statistics. The program trains a willing group of students over a two-day period at the Marjaree Mason Center. The students in turn will rehearse and perfect their own presentation to be presented to peer groups in a classroom setting.

Clovis High and Clark Intermediate

■ **Calming Corner** – Areas will be established at both Clovis High and Clark Intermediate to provide a safe place away from stimuli that can compound a heightened emotional status. Students have the opportunity to be proactive in emotionally charged situations.

Alta Sierra Intermediate

■ **Overcoming the Odds** – Building on an already successful videography program, short documentaries of students and staff will be shared during morning announce-

ments to provide deeper connections. Likewise, PSA's will be created to build awareness of existing opportunities that help students persevere, stay connected and overcome false beliefs.

Clark Intermediate

■ **The Zen Den** – Classroom space specifically designed to help students of trauma who have difficulty self-regulating and de-escalating. The Second Step Social Emotional Learning Curriculum will be utilized, as well as specific furniture, lighting and sensory objects.

Kastner Intermediate

■ **Shining Stars** – To provide opportunities for adaptive PE students to participate more fully in activities. Specific equipment will be purchased to enhance current units of study along with the training of general education students to assist.

Clovis Elementary

■ **The Second-Step Program, Moving Students Through Social and Emotional Stability** – A K-6 research based program that all teachers will implement into their classrooms to teach and reinforce appropriate social-emotional skills in an inclusive and supportive setting.

Freedom Elementary

■ **Sensory Materials** – The purchase of sensory materials for the intensive autism program, Program of Acquisition of Language of Social Skills (PALS), for students ages 3 – 6. This will allow for emotional development, sensory stimulation, communication, behavior intervention and peer interaction.

Garfield Elementary

■ **In Sickness and in Health Kids Matter** – To modernize the health office with updated equipment in order to better serve students and staff. Will allow staff to administer medication, assess students more quickly and efficiently and get them back to class.

Jefferson Elementary

■ **Track and Field Equipment Overhaul** – To replace worn and dated equipment, to invest in training tools that are safer and more effective, to give students a better experience in the track program and to grow in overall physical wellness.

■ **School-Wide Educational Makerspace** – An area where students gather to create, invent and learn. The space is highly engaging and develops problem-solving through hands-on design, construction and iteration. It encourages curiosity, tinkering and iterative learning.

Mickey Cox Elementary

■ **The First Tee National School Program** – Introduces youth to the sport of golf, promotes physical activity and reinforces positive character traits. Students learn the basic skills that will be incorporated into the current PE program.

Miramonte Elementary

■ **School Counseling Room** – With a goal to improve student wellness and to equip students with coping strategies to manage their emotions, the school resource room will have a variety of games, books and activities to support the social and emotional needs of students.

Miramonte and Pinedale Elementary

■ **Bucket Fillers** – How full is your bucket? – A series of eight lessons for third-grade students that focus on the social/emotional aspect of learning: bullying, self-worth, empathy, conflict resolution, etc. Students and staff have the opportunity to fill the class bucket with comments to support one another, as well as a journal.

Red Bank Elementary

■ **Red Bank Recess Friends** – Will recruit, train, and provide students with the skills to develop meaningful and positive relationships at recess with students who have identified social/emotional needs. This will help to develop a culture of connectedness, provide peer support, decrease anxiety and expand classroom connections.

Riverview Elementary

■ **Top Toes Mileage Club** – An all-inclusive walk/run program that offers knowledge, support and tools to easily track students' mileage, while also motivating and rewarding effort and success. The program will promote active and healthy lifestyles, increase cardiovascular fitness and reduce obesity in students and teachers.

Weldon Elementary

■ **TLC Room; Fostering Resilient Learners** – Funds an innovative, research-based approach to effectively respond to childhood trauma. The TLC room will have flexible seating and sensory furniture, sensory related items, games and art projects, and an online Trauma Academy for staff and parents.

For more information about the Foundation for Clovis Schools, visit www.foundationforclovischools.com.

Board: School psychologists recognized

FROM PAGE 4

delivered to the board by Assistant Superintendent of Facility Services Kevin Peterson. The school is needed to keep pace with rapidly growing residential development in the area, and Peterson's presentation at the Oct. 24 meeting outlined the processes that will be used to develop a school housing plan proposal for the new school along with timing of the selection of a name, mascot, principal and colors for the school.

This month marks the start of a process designed to gather parent input, develop options for possible school boundaries, and ultimately make a recom-

mendation on new school attendance lines to the Governing Board in February 2019.

Information about the work to open the new school will also be available in the coming weeks online.

The 70-plus school psychologists who support students across the district were present at the board meeting to be thanked for the important role they play in creating effective learning environments.

After expressing their appreciation, members of the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution declaring Nov. 12-16 National School Psychology Awareness Week in Clovis Uni-

fied.

In other action, the board:

■ 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 2018-19 school year.

■ Authorized two research projects to be conducted during the current fiscal year with Fairbank, Maslin, Maulin, Metz (FM3) & Associates. The projects will be used to inform decision-making about the potential need and timing of a future bond measure, and the district's communication tools.

■ Awarded bids for supplies

and equipment for specialty food items and fleet vehicle replacements.

■ Adopted the annual organizational charts describing the reporting structure of various departments and schools within the district. These charts are available online as an Exhibit to Board Policy No. 1201.

□ The next meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 12, with the public portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at 1680 David E. Cook Way in Clovis. Complete minutes and agendas, along with videos, of meetings of the Board are available online at www.cusd.com.

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High school news in brief

■ At the Sierra Cup Classic, the Buchanan High Marching Band placed second in the AAAA (4A) Division, winning Best Percussion and “all captions” during prelims. Students at Buchanan held the 20th annual Harmony Diversity Talent Show, consisting of performances by multi-cultural clubs and special needs students.

■ Clovis High has a new collaborative mentoring class in which students work together to support Special Education to build community relations and spirit on campus. The Clovis High Marching Band took first place in November at the Kingsburg Band Competition.

■ In recent weeks, Clovis East High’s marching band and color guard have taken numerous first-place awards including Best Music, Best Marching, Best General Effect and Best Percussion. The Wolfpack’s varsity football team attending a band competition to support the band who has supported the football team all season. The entire Reagan Educational Center took part in Unity Week that embraced cultures and diversity. The campus displayed many countries’ flags, held lunchtime awareness activities and gave students and staff the opportunity to share their cultures.

■ Clovis North High’s marching band took first place at the Golden State Marching Band tournament. In Bronco drama teacher Joel Abels’ room, a blind luncheon took place that gave students a “Dining in the Dark” experience. Students were blindfolded, guided into the darkened room and ate a meal in order to better understand and support a classmate who is blind.

■ Clovis West High’s competition pep and cheer placed first in Divisions 2 and 3 at the USA Regionals held in November. The school held its annual college week that featured collaboration from the Counseling Department, AVID program, and Activities Office to assist with college applications, FAFSA completion, and engagement in the post-secondary planning process.



The Gettysburg Elementary Student Council show the new Buddy Bench that has been added to the campus this year. It has been an ongoing project of the council’s to raise money for the bench that is designed for students to make new friends.

Gettysburg unveils Buddy Bench

This school year, Gettysburg Elementary introduced the addition of its new Buddy Bench to the playground area.

In 2015, the Gettysburg Student Council decided to purchase and install a Buddy Bench on campus to help students make new friends and socialize with others. Each fundraiser held since then by the Student Council has been dedicated to the purchase of the bench. With enough funds raised, the bench arrived and was installed

this summer.

The idea behind the Buddy Bench is simple. If a student is looking for someone to play with at recess, they sit down on the Buddy Bench. When other students see someone sitting on the Buddy Bench, they go ask the Buddy to come play with them.

Students will be taught kindness, consideration and empathy for others and it will help all of the Gettysburg Generals feel loved and included on campus.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Bryson Bales, with Boy Scout Troop 60, presents a lost and found rolling closet to Lincoln Elementary Principal Matt Verhalen.

Former Lincoln student gives back

Clovis West High freshman Bryson Bales recently presented a lost and found rolling closet to Lincoln Elementary as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Bryson, a Boy Scout in Troop 60, began his scouting career as a Cub Scout while he attended Lincoln Elementary.

Bryson spoke with Lincoln Principal Matt Verhalen to see what he could give back to his alma mater, and ended up leading a team of fellow scouts, friend and family members to conceptualize, design and build the rolling cart.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

The Building Bridges Club at Maple Creek teaches students about inclusion and diversity.

Building Bridges Club at Maple Creek

Maple Creek Elementary began the club, Building Bridges, with more than 80 students staying after school to participate. The goal of the club is to help promote inclusion of ALL students both in the classroom and on the playground.

During meetings, students are taken through activities that will help break down barriers, encourage collaboration, promote problem solving, establish a climate of mutual respect and appreciation for differences. In addition, students are taught Sign Language as part of their disability awareness instruction. Throughout the year, they will have guest speakers and volunteers to help teach about diversity. Club members will participate in a community per-

formance of Sign Language. Teacher Rebecca Parmer has coordinated the Building Bridges club for the last four years at Maple Creek and this year, she and Speech Pathologist, Marya Livingston, lead the group together.

Parmer, who has watched the club grow, said: “It teaches kids through direct experiences the benefits of not only learning about others who may have a different journey, but also embracing it. Building Bridges has continued to evolve based on student responses. They are hungry to learn about these differences. I can’t wait to see how our club continues to evolve.”

Flashlight Friday at MV

Mountain View Elementary students in Vanessa Avitabile’s sixth-grade class enjoyed a reward of “Flashlight Friday.” There were glow sticks, head lamps, book lamps and flashlights that were being used to read in the dark. The class earned the reward as a “Preferred Activity” for being able to complete tasks in a timely manner. The class accumulates time saved throughout the week each time they accomplish tasks faster than expected. Preferred Activity Time is a classroom management tool the Mountain View teachers learned at the Fred Jones, “Tools for Teaching” professional development that was held on the Mountain View campus the week before school started.

Freedom: Champions for Tomorrow



Photo special to CUSD Today.

NFL player Clarence Lee took part in an assembly at Freedom Elementary.

Freedom Elementary held a special assembly that featured Clarence Lee, a national champion football player from Florida State University who played in the NFL for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was the strongest player in the history of the university and demonstrated that he still has that strength by lifting two students at once, doing pushups with a teacher on his back, and broke a solid wooden bat across his back!

Lee is part of a team of speakers who work with Champions for Tomorrow, a non-profit group that strives to make a difference in the lives of kids by giving them a firm foundation of principles that instill character-building and healthy, sound decision-making.

He came to Freedom Elementary and used quick chants like: Produce, Persevere, Participate and PUSH (Push Until

Success Happens).

“I thought it was great the way he incorporated real life events and got the kids so interested in his message of character-building and healthy decision-making” was another comment from sixth-grade teacher, Lauren Stewart.

Robotics begins at Clark

Clark Intermediate is excited to offer robotics for the first time this year. The robotics team is coached by Audrey Perryman and Susan SharpLehr, with a team of 10 students meeting weekly to take on this year’s challenge “Into Orbit.” Students are researching a real-world problem such as food safety, recycling, energy, etc., and are challenged to develop a solution. They also must design, build, program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS, and compete on a table-top playing field.

Several schools throughout Clovis Unified have robotic teams, with student interest so high that many have multiple teams. Ongoing competitions help prepare for qualifying tournaments that start in December and can advance students to compete at the county, state or even national level.

Festival of Lights



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Miramonte Elementary students learned about Diwali, India’s biggest holiday of the year, and participated in making Rangoli sand art, which is part of the celebration. Using colored sand, rice and chalk, they created flowers, patterns and other artwork on the blacktop. They listened to traditional Indian music and were led by Miramonte IA Vaneet Bajwa, who dressed in traditional attire, and Guidance Counselor Stacy Graves. Pictured are Graves, Nakayla McFarlin, Abby Martin, Bajwa and Crystal Rico.



PEACHWOOD

MEDICAL GROUP

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STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Clovis West students in AP Environmental Sciences have partnered with PG&E to make solar units the size of a suitcase that can provide energy to light up a room.

Clovis West students build solar suitcases

CUSD Today

Clovis West students in Todd Kennedy's AP Environmental Science class and his Environmental Club have partnered with PG&E to build solar suitcases.

The all-in-one cases are portable solar photovoltaics that have enough power to light up a small room. When completed, the suitcases are shipped to areas in need of power such as areas affected by a natural disaster or underdeveloped areas. In November, the Clovis West students finished building their first kit and it was shipped to Kenya, where it was to be given to a school for orphaned children.

"Students often remark that much of the world they see around them is in decline and that they feel helpless in trying to fix the problems of the world. This innovative solar program not only teaches students how to harness sunlight to power lightbulbs, cellphones and other electrical devices, but also it teaches them that they can make a difference in the lives of others," Kennedy said.

"Knowing they can make a difference in the world gives students a big boost. Knowing what they're doing touches the lives of others has a long-lasting effect on their lives. If you give students a solution, or if you give them the opportunity to derive solutions on their own, they just jump all over it and they accomplish amazing things."

Music:

FROM PAGE 3

music instruction. In any given week, approximately 30,000-plus students are participating in some kind of Visual and Performing Arts instruction, with the highest number of these kids in a music class.

Q. What does this award mean to you?

A. Our VAPA office has worked really hard these past two years to change how we are doing business in our el-

ementary music classrooms. These changes and enhancements, paired with the excellence of our secondary programs, have allowed us to be the recipient of this National Music Education recognition. It's a very good thing to be the VAPA Coordinator in a place like CUSD.

Music is so supported by our governing board, our district administration, and our community and highly valued by all.

A multi-cultural delight ...



Clovis Adult Education English-learner students, many of whom are newer to the United States, recently held a multi-cultural fair to share traditions, tastes and customs of their home countries. Students created information boards highlighting facts about their homelands and many also made an array of native food for participants to sample. Several wore traditional clothing and took part in a demonstration of traditional dances.

Photos special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb



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100% of the proceeds of tickets purchased directly from the Foundation for Clovis Schools benefit Clovis Unified students.

WHATCHA MUNCHIN? | Illustrated by Joyce Voraphonghibul - CART Student

You gave me the wrong name tag!

HELLO my name is Yam

HELLO my name is Yam

But...you look like a yam!

My name is actually SWEET POTATO!

Yam and I come from different plant families.

Like the yam, I am a good source of vitamin C, potassium, and fiber.

However, I am also a great source of vitamin A, which helps with eyes and skin health!

(Yam gets jealous about that.)

Nice to meet you sweet potato! Welcome to the dinner table!

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Young enters Hall of Fame

Retired Clovis Unified Superintendent Dr. Janet Young was inducted into the Clovis Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Clovis Exchange Club. The Hall of Fame honors leadership in the history of the city of Clovis, recognizing those whose commitment and abilities positively shaped the community.

Young retired in 2017 as the district's superintendent after a 39-year career with Clovis Unified. She began as a first-grade teacher and went



on to be a learning director, principal and associate superintendent, among other

roles. During her time, she worked at Tarpey, Nelson, Miramonte, Kastner, Clovis West and Fort Washington.

During Young's tenure, the district experienced increases in academic achievement, graduation rates, enrollment and support, and resources for students and families.

The Clovis Hall of Fame dates back to 1975 and a display of past inductees can be viewed at the Clovis Chamber of Commerce.

California League of Schools honor CUSD regional finalists

Clovis Unified has several Region 7 finalists for the California League of Schools Educator of the Year award. Congratulations to:

Elementary finalists

- Jodi Anderson – Sierra Vista Elementary
- Shelley Arakelian – Garfield
- Sally Kirchner – Jefferson
- Rod Marvin – Red Bank
- Renee Mullins – Clovis
- Kristi Sagospa – Copper Hills
- Chris Simon – Mickey Cox

Intermediate finalists

- Tamara Chambless -

Clark

- Paul Rigby – Kastner
- Lori Salazar – Alta Sierra

High School finalists

- Derrick Davis – Clovis East
- Jay Eichman – Clovis West
- Tricia Funk – Clovis West

■ Marcos Martinez – Buchanan

Reyburn Intermediate Academic Block teacher Mica Tan and Buchanan English teacher Marcos Martinez were announced as regional winners advancing to the state competition. The elementary winner had not yet been announced by press time.

CUSD employees honored at Educator of the Year gala



Three Clovis Unified employees were honored at the Fresno County Educator of the Year gala held in November at the Saroyan Theater in Fresno. Clovis West math teacher Denise DenHartog was a nominee for Educator of the Year; school bus driver Larry Crayne who transports special needs students was a finalist for the Employee of the Year; and Sierra Outdoor School Director Michael Olenchalk was a finalist for the Administrator of the Year. Pictured, from left: Denise DenHartog, Larry Crayne and Michael Olenchalk.



Mica Tan

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