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CUSD Today

March 2022

Clovis Unified School District — WHERE CHARACTER COUNTS!

Volume 24, No. 8

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

Mask requirement lifted for students

Significant milestone for schools, education

Governor Newsom and his administration have announced the end to California's kindergarten through 12th-grade mask requirement effective March 12. Nearly two years prior, in March 2020, the governor initiated the stay at home order that is marked by many as the starting point for our journey through the COVID-19 pandemic. Much has transpired in the 24 months that followed. Here, Clovis Unified Superintendent Dr. Eimear O'Brien provides a statement in the wake of Fresno County's end to contact tracing in schools and the end of K-12 mask mandates.

"The welcome news from the Newsom Administration that COVID-19 conditions continue to improve around the state and country, and that masks will no longer be required, but highly recommended, in K-12 schools after



Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CalOSHA regulations so that at midnight March 11 employees in schools are no longer required to wear masks in schools.]

"We have carefully navigated every step of this journey adhering to health mandates and balancing two critically

important goals: protecting the health and safety of our students and staff, and prioritizing in-person education for our students. Every decision we have made has kept these two goals in mind, and whether it is our investment of millions of dollars in air quality improvements, free-standing HEPA filtration units in every classroom, PPE, testing, and cleaning and sanitizing measures, or working with our county to first implement (and in recent weeks to end) contact tracing and most testing, we are confident that our schools are ready to move into an endemic approach that returns California's schools to the fully engaged, mask-free learning environments we have long valued."

Read the full announcement from the Governor at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>, Clovis Unified will continue to monitor and respond to evolving changes to health and safety guidelines. For the most recent updates, visit cUSD.com.

Sweet SUCCESS



Photo special to CUSD Today by Kenny Gilman.

Garfield fourth-graders had a tasty victory when they put their civic lesson into action and respectfully petitioned their principal to consider having strawberry milk available in the cafeteria.

CUSD students enjoy strawberry milk following petition

■ Garfield 4th-graders gather 151 signatures, meet with principal

CUSD Today

Elementary school students across Clovis Unified sipped on pink milk just before Valentine's Day thanks to fourth-graders at Garfield Elementary School.

Students in Garfield teacher Rita Twet's class had recently read an article about a boy in Missouri who successfully campaigned to bring strawberry milk to his school's cafeteria. While the article in Scholastic's monthly newsletter was intended to enhance vocabulary and promote class discussion about evidence-based opinions, it also got the kids thirsty. They wanted strawberry

milk, too!

Garfield fourth-grader Evan Swearingen – with help from classmates Sabrina Jones, Chloe Hale and Bree Ortiz – jumped into action. They gathered 151 signatures on a petition requesting strawberry milk, wrote out why they wanted it, and made an appointment with Garfield Principal Jennifer Bump.

"I was thrilled to see our students taking an active role and affecting change for not only our school, but other schools as well," Bump said. "I was impressed with their presentation and I called Robert Schram in Campus Catering the next morning, excited to share our students' request and to invite him to be a part of the process."

► Please see *Petition*, Page 3



Students Sabrina Jones, left, and Bree Ortiz make a toast before sipping on their pink milk. The two were part of the organizers of the drive and wrote essays on why they wanted strawberry milk.

Photo special to CUSD Today by Kenny Gilman

Fancher Creek cleanup effort unites community

■ 834 pounds of trash picked up by school

CUSD Today

Just in time for Valentine's Day, volunteers from Fancher Creek Elementary School showed some love to their community as they cleaned up litter around the school and surrounding neighborhood.

New Principal Carisa Cordova worked with Beautify Fresno to hold the community cleanup Feb. 12. Beautify Fresno provided the trash bags, paper pickers, vests and gloves; the school provided the manpower, or kid power, to get the job done.

"We were blown away by the number of volunteers," Cordova said of the Saturday morning activity. "We had planned for 80 but ended up having 107 – we had to have volunteers share trash pickers because we ran out!"

Together they filled 103 garbage bags with 834 pounds of trash.

Sixth-grader Maya Gomez said she liked how so many people from not just the school but also the community joined in the action. "[They] came to help clean up OUR neighborhood because they felt it was special, and honestly, it was fun."

Cordova became the Falcons' new principal mid-year when the former principal relocated. While she was most recently in



Photo special to CUSD Today by Kenny Gilman.

Fancher Creek kindergartner Briana Vang and her parents, Brigham and Susana Vang, work together to clean up the area.

administration at Clovis East High School, Cordova began her Clovis Unified career as a teacher at Fancher Creek 18 years ago and cares about the community.

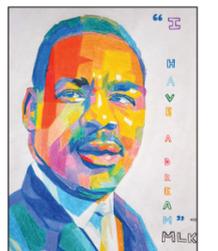
In developing the cleanup project, Cordova said her goals were to increase support of the school in the neighborhood and also teach students to take pride in their community. "Engaging in meaningful civic activities can help them develop a sense of purpose, which will promote continued civic participation as they grow up," she said.

The event is planned to become an annual tradition.

CUSD kids' art, essays earn awards in MLK contest

Annual Fresno County event sees several Clovis Unified winners.

See Page 4 for excerpts and artwork.



STATE CHAMPS!



Buchanan wrestlers win top spot for sixth year in a row. See Page 9

INSIDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS CUSD art contest

Clovis Unified Business Services is holding its 14th Annual Budget Book Cover Art Contest. The contest is open to all CUSD and CART students. Page 3

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

It's time to register for CTE classes

CUSD high school students are currently registering for next year's classes. Each high school has a designated CTE counselor. Page 11

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Time to come together

Across the world we are emerging from a two-year pandemic, celebrating improved COVID-19 conditions, and taking steps toward a return to normalcy. Page 5



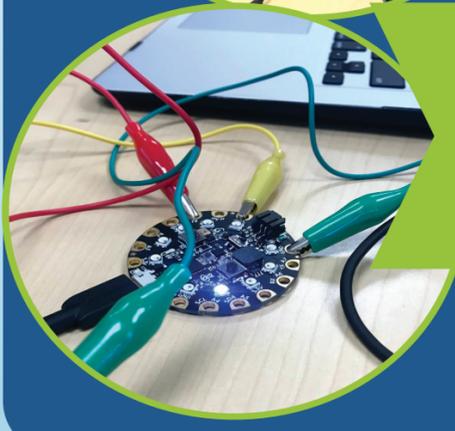
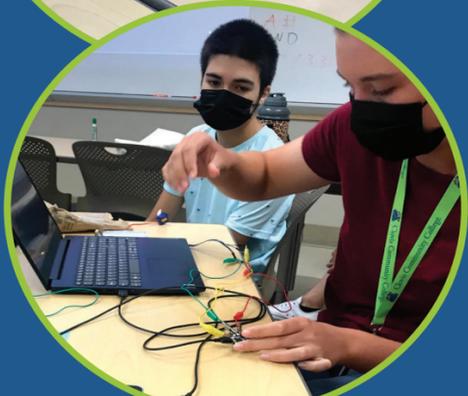
Summer at S.E.A: STEM Exploration Academy

The Summer at S.E.A: STEM Exploration Academy is brought to you by a Title V grant which is aimed at helping Latinx and low-income students succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Join us!

Summer at S.E.A is a FREE summer program geared to help students explore STEM opportunities and earn 3 college units. You will engage in a 5-week, 3-unit College Success course, INTDS-50, designed to build academic strategies for college success. Available for all Clovis Unified School District (CUSD) High Schools Students (10th grade students entering) their 11th grade year in Fall 2022

Books, supplies and T-Shirt will be provided



The course was really helpful with information about college and opportunities available. It also helped me become more organized and responsible with my time and school work. - Luis, Clovis High School

I really loved the mentors, instructors, and tutors. I enjoyed all the material that was being taught. Taking this class made me excited to experience being on a college campus and eager to learn more. I would definitely recommend this class to someone. - Kayla, Clovis Online

Questions?

Contact: Gabriella Ramirez | Student Success Coach
gabriella.ramirez@cloviscollege.edu | 559.325.5418

Verano en S.E.A: STEM Exploration Academy

El verano en S.E.A: STEM Exploration Academy es patrocinado por Title V, el cual, tiene como objetivo ayudar a los estudiantes latinos y de bajos ingresos a tener éxito en Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas (STEM).

¡Únete!

El verano en S.E.A es un programa GRATUITO diseñado para ayudar a los estudiantes a explorar oportunidades STEM y obtener 3 unidades universitarias. Participará en un curso de éxito universitario de 3 unidades y 5 semanas, INTDS-50, diseñado para desarrollar estrategias académicas para el éxito universitario. Disponible para todos los estudiantes de escuelas secundarias del Distrito Escolar de Clovis (CUSD) (estudiantes que ingresan al 10° grado) en el 11° grado en el otoño de 2022

Se proporcionarán libros, materiales y playera

El curso fue muy útil con información sobre la universidad y las oportunidades disponibles. También me ayudó a ser más organizado y responsable con mi tiempo y trabajo escolar. - Luis, Clovis High School

Estoy realmente encantado con los mentores, instructores y tutores. Disfruté todo el material cubierto. Tomar esta clase me entusiasmó para experimentar estar en un campus universitario y me animó a aprender más. Definitivamente recomendaría esta clase a alguien. - Kayla, Clovis Online



¿Dudas?

Contacto: Gabriella Ramirez | Student Success Coach
gabriella.ramirez@cloviscollege.edu | 559.325.5418



► Announcements



Photo special to CUSD Today. One of the winners from last time is this drawing by then second grader Evelyn Hanson, Valley Oak Elementary.

CUSD art contest

Clovis Unified Business Services is holding its 14th Annual Budget Book Cover Art Contest, with winning works to be published in the district's 2022-23 CUSD Budget Book. The contest is open to Clovis Unified TK-12th-grade students and CART students. Entry requirements are:

- Artwork must include photos or illustrations of students.
- Artwork should represent the demographics of the whole district
- Page layout must be landscape and printed 11" x 8 1/2". No digital entries.
- Artwork can be in color or black/white.

Five finalists will be selected to receive a Visa gift card from contest sponsor Xerox Corporation and their artwork will be featured in the Clovis Unified 2022-23 Budget Book. They will also be recognized at the April 20 CUSD Governing Board meeting.

To view last year's winning artwork, please visit: <https://www.cusd.com/BusinessServices.aspx>

An application form must be attached to each entry and is available through school offices or can be downloaded and printed from <https://www.cusd.com/BusinessServices.aspx>. Entry deadline is 5 p.m. March. 29.

Free online tutoring

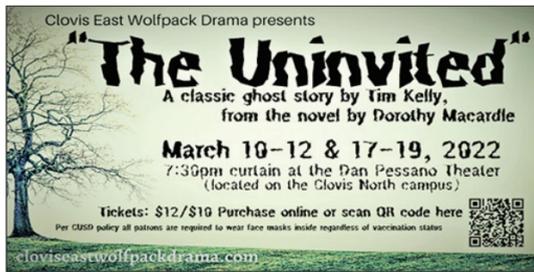
Clovis Unified intermediate and high school students can access free, online tutoring for their classes through a partnership the district has created with the Princeton Review's tutor.com. Subjects range from algebra and calculus to chemistry, English and physics. Students can access the service through their Clever account.

CUSD holiday closures

Clovis Unified schools will be closed for Spring Break April 11-18.

Class of 2023 graduation dates

Hey juniors, mark your calendars! The graduation schedule for the Class of 2023 has been announced. Graduation ceremonies will be held May 30 for Clovis West High; May 31, Buchanan High; June 1, Clovis North High; June 8, Clovis East High; and June 8, Clovis High. Clovis Adult Education will celebrate its graduates June 3; Alternative Education, June 5; and Clovis Online is tentatively June 3 or 6.



'The Uninvited' March 17-19

Clovis East High will perform "The Uninvited" in March in the Dan Pessano Theater located in the district's Performing Arts Center, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno.

The play is a thriller tale of ghosts and secrets, set at an English seaside cottage that may be haunted. Performances began earlier in March and remaining shows are at 7:30 p.m. March 17-19. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students. For more information see www.cloviseastwolfpackdrama.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 and more.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Advisory committee meeting

Clovis Unified holds regular meetings throughout the year of its Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that are open to the public. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education

Local Plan Area.

The next meeting will be held at noon, May 25 at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. A parent workshop will precede it at 11 a.m. The meeting topics will be "Annual Service Plan Review SPED Budget & Student Voices."

For information call 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.

Online webinars

The following upcoming online webinars 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 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com.

■ "All About Section 504 Plans," 6:30-8 p.m., March 29, online webinar. Free. Parents, caregivers, professionals are invited to learn about how students qualify for a 504 Plan; what are accommodations and modifications; and how is a 504 Plan different than an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Register at <https://tinyurl.com/FRC3-29-22>.

Exceptional Persons Award

CUSD Special Education Department's "Exceptional Persons Awards" is receiving nominations through March 15. The award celebrates those district employees and volunteers who are exceptional at helping students with special needs. A judging team will determine the recipients and a ceremony will be held in April. More information: CUSD Family Resource Center, 327-8455. To submit a nomination: <https://tinyurl.com/ExPers21-22>.

Petition:

FROM PAGE ONE

Schram is Clovis Unified's director of food services, and he contacted Producers Dairy, the district's milk supplier. Although the dairy stopped production of strawberry milk because of staffing, as luck would have it, they planned to produce a limited run of the pink milk the week before Valentine's Day.

Schram immediately ordered several thousand cartons to be delivered to Clovis Unified. "We probably wouldn't have thought to ask for it if it had not been for the kids' petition," Schram said.

Evan and his fourth-grade classmates are excited. Strawberry milk will be making its appearance at Garfield Elementary on Friday, Feb. 11. (Clovis Unified schools were closed Valentine's Day, Monday, Feb. 14, in honor of Lincoln's Birthday.)

"I am so proud of Room 40!" Bump said. "They showed such initiative, passion, and drive to make a difference. I hope this experience reinforces that there is so much they can do to affect positive change in the world."

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MLK contest winners

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools hosts the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Art, Essay and Speech Contest, and this year numerous Clovis Unified students participated with several earning top accolades.

Best of Show Artwork for elementary grades was won by Mountain View Elementary sixth-grader **Raya Saptorshi** and for secondary grades by Reyburn Intermediate seventh-grader **Avery Gregory**.

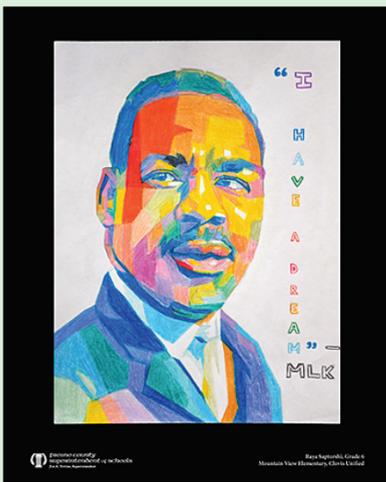
In the speech competition at the elementary level, Reagan Elementary fifth-grader **Manapreet Kaur** earned third place; at the intermediate level, Granite Ridge seventh-grader **Sania Jhagiani** won first, eighth-grader **Priya Prajapati** second, and Clovis Online eighth-grader **Ryan Ramos**, third; at the high school level, Clovis North senior **Trisha Prajapati** won first place.

The top essay winners for elementary, intermediate and high schools were, respectively, **Rex McTeer**, Fort Washington Elementary, **Izabella Brizard**, Reyburn Intermediate, and **Trisha Prajapati**, Clovis North. The essay theme was “Honoring the dream today with hope, compassion and unity for all.” Excerpts follow:



■ **Rex McTeer**, Grade 6 – “MLK and Dr. Bernice King: A Father and Daughter Story”

“... Subsequent to the efforts of Dr. King, hundreds of people, groups and organizations followed in the pursuit of his dream. But who better to follow directly in Dr. King’s footsteps than his daughter, Dr. Bernice A. King? She was only 5 years old when her father was assassinated. Inspired by him and his legacy, Dr. Bernice King became committed to changing systemic injustice by delivering many of her own speeches regarding the injustices behind racism. ...”

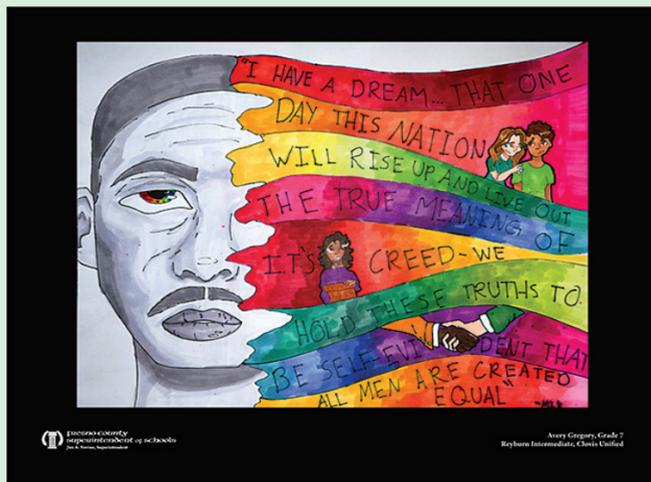


■ **Izabella Brizard**, Grade 8 – “Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere”



“...Dr. King started a national movement that will last for generations to come, and from that has risen many civil-rights activists making a difference in our country, one of those people being Rashad Robinson. Robinson works with organizations like Color of Change, and GLAAD, to end racial and social discrimination. In November 2019 Rashad worked to pass a bill ending Black hairstyle discrimination in schools, and in June 2020 Robinson, as well as organizations including Color of Change, NAACP, ADL, and others, came together in a Stop Hate for Profit campaign. ...”

Rashad worked to pass a bill ending Black hairstyle discrimination in schools, and in June 2020 Robinson, as well as organizations including Color of Change, NAACP, ADL, and others, came together in a Stop Hate for Profit campaign. ...”



■ **Trisha Prajapati**, Grade 12 – “Oprah Winfrey: Empowering the Masses with Her Message”

“...Oprah was groundbreaking. She broke barriers and opened a path for other African American women to reach for success. She emphasized individual effort and determination to lift one above their own circumstances. What can one person do to improve society? She was different in a way that she focused less on groups and more on each person alone. A unique leader in the post-civil rights era, a businesswoman and actress, Oprah’s preaching of individual empowerment led her to become a role model for both women and African Americans and helped portray Dr. King’s dream of hope, compassion, and unity for all. ...”



Nearby fieldtrip for DC

Dry Creek Elementary students were able to take a field trip that literally had them walking across the street. An old home that was scheduled to be removed to make way for new development, was first being used by the Fresno County Fire Department

for training. Dry Creek students were able to come for a tour and discussion with firefighters and see simulations that involved smoke machines. The safe demonstration allowed students to learn more about fire safety and the important work done by firefighters.

Compliments take flight!

National Compliment Day is a big deal at Clovis East, with students on campus handing out cards with encouraging messages to one another throughout the day.

But this year, part of the T-wolves’ squad — its cheer team — was returning from a competition in Texas on that day in late January. So, what to do? Hand out compliment cards in the hotel, airport and on the airplane, of course! Recipients from hotel

guests, to airport security staff, stewards, passengers and even the pilot were all smiles by the surprise burst of kindness!

We have a compliment for the team: You make us proud! Great job.

(...and btw, Clovis East’s cheer team took home the National Championship award in the Advanced Non-Building Game Performance Division!)

Broncos earn second place at Decathlon

The Clovis North High Academic Decathlon team finished in second place at the 40th Annual Fresno County Academic Decathlon in February. This year’s event featured 23 teams competing in the theme, “Water: A Most Essential Resource.”

Academic Decathlon teams are comprised

of 12 competitive students with GPAs ranging from under 1.00 to over 4.0, who compete in 10 examinations: art, music, language and literature, mathematics, economics, science, social science, speech, interview and essay.

Science Bowl win

Clovis North’s Science Bowl A-team will be heading to Washington D.C. this spring to compete in the National Science Bowl after it won first place in the Central Valley Science Bowl Regionals in February. The team is made up of students Manogna Jha, Isaac Wang, Joshua Lin, Zian Shi, and Ananya Vinay. Clovis North’s B-team earned third place and is made up of Nadia Almasri, Linda Do, Manomay Jha, Albert Kim, and Kendrick Hsu.

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We're at our best when we're together

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ACROSS the world we are emerging from a two-year pandemic, celebrating improved COVID-19 conditions, and taking significant steps toward a return to normalcy, while on our television screens and news apps we are witness to the invasion by Russia of Ukraine.



Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

It only takes a glance at news headlines to recognize that the world is a tumultuous place, and that peaceful coexistence seems at times far out of reach. The events now taking place in Europe especially tug on my Irish roots, as there are many corollaries between Ukraine's and Ireland's histories. As I hear from families and employees who have relatives personally impacted by the conflict in Eastern Europe it hits me in the heart how critically important it is that we as a community come together with trust and intentionality to develop relationships, and that we teach our children to do the same.

A poignant reminder of this truth came during our last Governing Board meeting, when we had the pleasure of hearing the beautiful voices of about 60 Maple Creek Elementary students under the direction of Gary Kliewer. The students were at the meeting to celebrate March as Music in Our Schools Month and to highlight the importance of music education here in

Clovis Unified.

Music has a way of bringing us together, and it happened again that night as an audience of disparately opinioned people there for a business meeting of our Governing Board joined together in a standing ovation for the students' performance. Mr.

Kliewer's song choices also sent a strong reminder as the children sang "Sisi Ne Moja," or in English "One Voice," and "Fly Away Home," both of which melodically called on us to come together around our common humanity.

Our kids are wise beyond their

years, and as my calendar again fills with student activities and events, I see the positive impact on our students of relationships forged around common interests and experiences. Later in that same meeting, our student representative from Buchanan High, Faith Dumore shared a long

list of activities and accomplishments from around our campuses. Musicals and plays, academic and athletic championships, school dances, rallies and student trips are all back on the calendar, and everywhere I look I am reminded about what has been a strong hallmark of Clovis Unified for decades: our relationships.

Students are all in, and so is our educational team. I see that evidenced while watching our students and coaches compete in athletics, like the state wrestling championship Feb. 26, where Buchanan High brought home its sixth consecutive championship and 25 Clovis Unified wrestlers from all of our high schools placed. I see it at recent drama performances by Clovis High and Clovis North at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, and at the Dan Pessano Black Box, and at Unified Sports, Robotics, Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and FFA competitions, and I see it as I spend time in our classrooms.

Parents, I encourage you to be all in as well. Watch for opportunities to engage with your child's school. If you haven't been to a School Assessment and Review Team (SART) parent meeting lately (or maybe never) watch for the next one and make plans to attend. Have you met your child's school principal or other members of the administration? They are active and visible in the school community and you can easily find them at student activities, that upcoming school carnival, fundraising dinner or out and about during parent pick up times at the start and end of school. Our site leaders are great people, and they are eager to build relationships, especially with those with whom they share a common bond – our students.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Special to CUSD Today

Students in Clovis East High's CTE Patient Care Pathway class visited the Central California Blood Center recently to observe and learn from healthcare workers there. Several of the Clovis East students also donated blood, for a total of 23 pints.

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

ANNE FRANK

Crystal Award winners show Clovis Unified at its best

Editor's note: Clovis Unified will celebrated 15 employees for their exceptional work conducted in the 2020-21 school year with a Crystal Award, the district's highest employee honor. These educators – ranging from teachers and principals to counselors and secretaries – were nominated by their peers, and then selected by judging panels made up of Clovis Unified employees who followed a rubric outlining the high criteria for the award.

Crystal Award winners are each, in their own way, a testament to the exceptional work employees are doing across the district daily, especially during a year where all employees had to pivot and adjust to changing learning conditions due to the pandemic.

We thank these men and women who inspire us all as they do their very best for the students of Clovis Unified.

In this issue of CUSD Today, we meet five of these honorees. (In alphabetical order, the first five were profiled in CUSD Today in February; the remaining five will be profiled in April.)

By Kathleen Coates
Special to CUSD Today

Sean Ford
Clovis North Educational Center
Guidance Learning Director



Guidance Learning Director Sean Ford is absolutely committed to the Clovis North Educational Center students under his tutelage, the transition of sixth-grade students to middle school, and the transition of students to college or careers.

Ford and others on the counseling team completed the United Way 21-day Equity Challenge in the spring, and his involvement has helped the group develop a better understanding of how issues of racism affect people's lives.

Another of his accomplishments was volunteering to spend his whole summer restructuring how the usual 40-page packet of information on post-secondary collegiate and career goals is disseminated to students. He created a Websource for resources for each grade level, digitizing the packet. While he wasn't fluent in the technology, he took the initiative to use "Websites for Dummies" and got the job done.

Ford is advisor to the African American Student Union

► *The Crystals*
A full list of this year's winners and videos from the awards presentation can be found online at cusd.com



and provides members weekly lessons covering topics such as leadership building, empowerment perspective and history. He founded the Clovis North March Madness Basketball tournament run entirely by the AASU. He has spent personal time on weekends taking his students to leadership conferences and visiting colleges.

As the NCAA eligibility coordinator, Ford helps prepare student athletes for collegiate athletics, and most recently, followed the ever-changing requirements for them to participate in sports in college despite COVID.

Ryan Gettman
Bud Rank Elementary Principal



Ryan Gettman gets it! With his outstanding organization skills, Bud Rank Elementary School Principal Gettman met the needs of his students and staff during the pandemic. His motto before COVID was "We got this," and during the pandemic, it reassuringly became: "We still got this!"

Principal Gettman was there for his students, and parents salute him as someone involved and engaged. He assuaged their concerns about the unknown virus and kept them informed during the pandemic. The Ravens' relied on him. He kept active on social media, and even convinced his grown son to put on the Raven mascot costume for videos the principal recorded for students.

Gettman staff said he makes them feel known. He cares about not only them, but he also knows about their families and life events. Bud Rank's crew fondly calls him "Our Gettman" or simply "Gettman," and view him as a superhero who takes care of them. For example, he made sure teachers found solutions to their childcare needs before returning to campus themselves.

In August 2020 when all students had to start online and he conducted parent surveys regarding future learning option preferences between online or in-person, his forethought and organization shined. He made sure to match preferences of students to correspond with teachers' preferences. This paved the way for very little changes or instruction disruptions when Bud Rank Elementary could open for in-person learning in December 2020 – the first in the district to do so!

He remained a source of calm amid the storm, said his nominators.



Kacey Gibson
Janet Young Elementary Principal

Imagine having to hire a whole new staff for a brand-new school during a pandemic? And imagine building an entirely new school culture and community without students and families on campus? Well, that's exactly what Janet Young Elementary School Principal Kacey Gibson

did, as she went above and beyond to hire, connect and create a supportive culture for the brand-new Jets!

She brought several creative tools to bear at the school. She began a club called "Junior Flight Crew," running the club with upper-grade students who helped make foundational decisions about the new school. In addition, she held "Talk with Mrs. Gibson," a monthly Zoom meeting to keep staff and the community informed. When it came deciding when to return to campus, Gibson sought parent input and based her plans on their feedback.

Principal Gibson drove to every staff members' house to deliver school swag in cardinal and blue, including a Jets crew T-shirt and aviator sunglasses. And, she would check in with them regularly. During teacher in-service days, Gibson devised socially distanced exercises for staff such as a scavenger hunt using 6-foot strings to keep them apart – while still allowing them to be together.

The Jets' culture took flight, and staff and students now on campus this year for in-person learning are soaring with school pride.

Gibson handled a wildly unprecedented first-year school opening with very creative solutions that set the Jets on a flightpath for success.

► Please see *Winners*, Page 7

— 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: 34,000.

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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IT'S PEOPLE NOT PROGRAMS

Relationships help support goals

In this edition, we focus on Clovis Unified's Transition Program that is in all six school areas. There are six directors and 16 counselors. Let's meet one of our counselors.

NAME: Brenda Acomb Forbes
JOB: Student Relations Liaison
SITES: Clovis North Educational Center

Q: What does a Transition Counselor do?

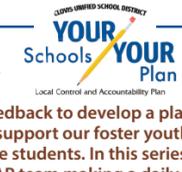
A: My role as a Transition SRL is to provide safety, connection and value for our students and families through positive relationships and resources. OK, that was a fancy mission statement, but really, it's all about building relationships. Getting to know students and their families is my goal. Knowing a student's strengths and struggles help me provide or find the support and opportunities to help them grow.

Q: What is a typical day like for you?

A: My typical day revolves around meeting with students. I currently support students from: Three of our feeder elementary schools (Copper, Riverview, Mountain View), Granite Ridge Intermediate and Clovis North High. Between meeting with students, I'm communicating with teachers, parents and counselors. One day a week I help run a Transition academic lab at Mountain View along with some awesome high school peer counselors. Three days a week after school I support our Transition high school and junior high students

ACES OF LCAP

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) uses student, parent, staff and community feedback to develop a plan in Clovis Unified that primarily support our foster youth, English learners and low-income students. In this series, we introduce people on our LCAP team making a daily difference in student lives. MORE: cUSD.com/lcap



“ I'm 187.96 centimeters tall and love most outdoor adventures.”

Brenda Acomb Forbes



getting academic support at library lab.

Q: What is your most memorable moment?

A: I can't point out any ONE event that is most memorable. I do however love seeing my students achieve their goals. It is exciting to see a student turn in a missing assignment, pass a class they didn't think they could, get involved in a club, make a friend, get the emotional support they need, become confident or graduate from high school with a plan.

Q: How does your work relate to the LCAP?

A: My role as a Transition SRL directly relates to LCAP as we support our focal students. I work to support our students and connect them with resources.

Winners:

FROM PAGE 5



Gabriel Hughes
Weldon Elementary & Clark Intermediate Student Relations Liaison

Gabriel Hughes has heart. As a student relations liaison for the Transition Team at Weldon Elementary and Clark Intermediate, he works with students who have challenges to overcome. And these challenges were often made more difficult during the pandemic – but Hughes is a powerful supporter who took care of his kids. He motivated students to stay engaged, do better in school and feel part of the community. He joins students, taking part in student activities, rallies and field trips. In short, he IS there for his kids, cheering them on and showing he believes in them.

Students and parents are in awe of the lengths Hughes will go to help them, like bringing them groceries and games, spending time with them just hanging out, and even inviting one foster child home with him for Christmas dinner. One mother summed up the sentiment expressed by many. She said: “Mr. Hughes is now part of my village. He is family.”

Hughes prides himself on finding students' potential and guiding them to build intrinsic motivation. He holds them accountable, while helping them learn from their mistakes. He sees greatness in his students and strives to help them see that in themselves.

Hughes helps plan the African American Middle School Conference and sits on the African American Advisory Board, advising district leadership on issues of race relations. He and two co-workers created a Black History Month video on why they're proud to be Black.

His nominator says, everything Hughes does is to help students succeed.



Daryl Katoch
Alta Sierra Intermediate Learning Director

Daryl Katoch, the learning director at Alta Sierra Intermediate, is the person needed in a clutch. He came to the rescue not once, but twice during the last year – first filling in for a transition coordinator who left in December 2020, then covering for the school principal in February.

These were tough times, and Katoch met the need and more with his optimistic and reassuring ways. In his primary role as learning director, he supports teachers with curriculum, instruction and data analysis. As interim transition coordinator, he created new employee training protocols and set up trainings. These efforts supported transition liaisons help students having a hard time with distance learning and address underlying causes such as lack of food or money for gas.

Said one student: “Transition helped me get through tough situations, knowing I was not alone.”

In February, when 900 students were returning for in-person classes, Katoch was quick to step up again when Alta Sierra's principal needed to be off campus for three weeks for a medical reason. Katoch guided teachers, students and the community through the campus reopening following months of online learning. Buchanan Area Assistant Superintendent Kevin Kerney said Daryl developed and implemented a “seamless return.”

Added Kerney: Katoch exemplifies the six pillars of outstanding character that are crucial to being a good leader, and in addition to those, he has a seventh – “a GIANT heart.”

Trustee map chosen, new principal named

By Kelly Avants
Chief Communications Officer

► BOARD BRIEFS

■ Appointed two learning directors to open positions at Clovis High. Congratulations to Mickey Cox Elementary Guidance Instructional Specialist Karen Majchen and Dry Creek Elementary GIS Rebecca Porcella who will take on new roles July 1.

■ Amended Board Policy No. 6146.1 – Graduation Requirements – Clovis Adult Education.

■ Approved an agreement with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District related to participating in the New Alternative Fuel Vehicle Grant program.

Feb. 16

The board began its Feb. 16 meeting congratulating

► Please see *Board*, Page 11

March 2

Joyful music filled the Clovis Unified Governing Board meeting March 2 as the Maple Creek Choir performed in celebration of Music in our Schools Month.

The board received a written report on the Newsum Administration's decision to end K-12 school masks requirements as of midnight March 11, education-based mask enforcement until that time, and the submission of letters approved by the board to more than 120 legislators related to concerns with SB871 (Pan) and SB866 (Pan and Weiner) under consideration by the state legislature.

In other action, the board:

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'My Time is Now'

Three hundred students from five school districts took part in Clovis Unified's Middle School African American Student Leadership Conference in February at the Clovis North Performing Arts Center. Keynote speaker Malik Lee told students to focus on the present and do all they can now as they pursue their future and their dreams. "Life is based on performance and not potential," he said. Students also attended three breakout sessions that included time with community mentors and professionals discussing careers and college opportunities. The day also included a performance by the Libota Mbonda Fresno Drumming Group.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CIF cheer champs

Congratulations to the following Clovis Unified teams earning championship titles from the CIF Central Section Cheer and Dance Championships:

- D1 Cheer All Female – Buchanan High
- D2 Cheer Co-Ed – Clovis High
- D2 Cheer All Female – Clovis North High
- D5 Cheer Co-Ed – Clovis East High
- D1 Dance – Clovis North High
- D2 Dance – Clovis High

Winter district, league victories

Clovis Unified's winter sports championships capped off in January for elementary schools and February for intermediate and high schools league play. Several high school teams continued competition into Valley and State.

■ At the elementary school level, Reagan Elementary boys basketball team won the title, with Fort Washington Elementary in second place. Fort Washington's girls basketball team captured the top spot in a close final game against Woods Elementary. In wrestling, Dry Creek Elementary finished first in team score, followed by Woods, Cedarwood,

Mickey Cox and Red Bank elementary school teams.

■ In intermediate school sports, the following are the CIAL champions: Reyburn 7th grade boys basketball; Granite Ridge 8th grade boys basketball; Granite Ridge and Kastner 7th grade girls basketball (co-champions); Clark and Kastner 8th grade girls basketball (co-champions); Kastner 7th grade boys soccer; Reyburn 8th grade boys soccer; Reyburn 7th grade girls soccer; Granite Ridge 8th grade girls soccer; Alta Sierra wrestling; and Granite Ridge gymnastics.

■ In high school winter sports TRAC champions are Clovis West boys basketball; Clovis West girls basketball; Clovis East soccer (co-champions with Central High); Buchanan girls soccer; Buchanan wrestling.

■ Buchanan High's wrestling team won the state title for the sixth year in a row in late February, and three wrestlers took home individual championship trophies. Winning their respective weight class titles were the Bears' Jack Gioffre, Michael Gioffre and Joseph Martin.

Clovis High's wrestling team captured third in the state, and Clovis North finished in the Top 10. The Broncos had two athletes take home individual championships: Joey Cruz and Paul Sharp.

BHS girls XC have big win

Buchanan High girls cross country team, winners of this year's state championship title, traveled to Alabama shortly after their school season ended to compete in one of the biggest cross country races in the nation. The varsity girls team won second place in the Garmin RunningLane XC Championship.

CW Coach Reid honored

The National Federation of High School Coaches Association recently announced the 2020-21 California Boys Swimming and Diving Coach of the year to be Clovis West High Coach Adam Reid.

Reid was nominated by the California Interscholastic Federation. According to NFHS, state honorees are selected based upon their coaching performance in the 2020-21 school year, lifetime community involvement, school involvement and philosophy of coaching. The NFHS relies on its member state associations to recognize those who are leading their sport, shaping their athletes and contributing to their community.

BHS Coach of the Year

Buchanan High coach Brian Weaver was recently named the 2021 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association High School Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year for California.

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It's time to register for CTE classes

By Karen M. Boone
CTE Learning Director

Clovis Unified high school students are currently registering for next year's classes, which means it is time to consider enrolling in a Career Technical Education (CTE) course. While all academic counselors can discuss CTE offerings, each high school also has a designated CTE counselor; if a student has a CTE specific question, these counselors have the answer:

- Buchanan: Mandie Engelbert
- Clovis East: Joe Flint and Kim Hamilton
- Clovis High: Todd Deck
- Clovis North: Jay Center
- Clovis West: Kendall East

While a large number of our CTE courses are two-period courses that allow for our junior and senior students to combine in-person instruction with work-based learning opportunities, Clovis Unified also offers single period courses that are open to 10th- to 12th-grade students. Some of these courses carry an Honors designation. For example, all five high schools offer Education Pathway English courses that are open to all students, carry a weighted grade and meet A – G requirements for English. Sophomores may enroll in Children's Literature and juniors can enroll in Contemporary Issues in Education. Both are honors-level courses that offer a weighted grade. Buchanan offers two honors-level single period engineering courses: Honors Engineering Design and Development and Honors Principals of Engineering. These two courses are part of the Engineering and Design Pathway and are open to 10th- to 12th-grade students who attend Buchanan.

Our Performing Arts Pathway also offers two single-period courses: Drama 2 Technical Theater and Advanced Technical Theater which are offered at both Buchanan and Clovis West. These courses allow students to learn about the production side of per-

forming arts as well as the performance component.

Students at Clovis High and Buchanan who are interested in digital photography can enroll in Introduction to Digital Photography.

Clovis East offers a significant number of single-period courses including, but not limited to, Ag Engineering, Ag Science, Biology and Sustainable Agriculture and Advanced Floral Design.

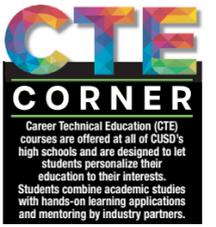
Students who attend Clovis High and are interested in manufacturing or construction can take Basic Metal Manufacturing, Construction Information Modelling, Construction Technology, and a few other single-period classes in the Residential and Commercial Construction pathway.

Clovis High and Clovis West students interested in learning more about cars can enroll in Basic Automotive while Clovis West also offers Auto 2 and 3, which are more specialized single-period courses.

Business-minded students at Clovis West can choose from Computer Applications and Personal Finance, and Clovis North students have the option to take Computer Aided Design and Engineering or the follow-up course, Innovation and Product Design.

While all CTE courses are offered to all CUSD students, the single-period courses are generally taken by students at the host campus as there is not typically time in a student's schedule to travel from one site to another for a single-period class. These single-period classes are designed to introduce concepts and careers to students and are therefore open to any interested student. Other single period courses may be available.

Contact the CTE counselor at your school to learn more.



Board:

FROM PAGE 7

Sara McAvoy as the newly appointed principal of Orazo Elementary School, effective July 1. McAvoy is currently a learning director at Clovis High and will assume the new role at Orazo Elementary when current principal Robyn Snyder becomes the district's director of Supplemental Services.

The board selected an updated trustee area map to submit to the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization to consider for approval. The update was necessary as part of rebalancing map representation following a federal census; the results of the 2020 census were delayed because of COVID and only recently provided to the district to establish parameters and work with an outside demographer. The map does not reflect student attendance boundaries but instead is about board member trustee areas.

The board appointed Tiffany Stoker Madsen president to fulfill the current term

left vacant by the departure of Susan Hatmaker from the board. David DeFrank was elected vice president and Yolanda Moore board clerk. Later a discussion was held by the board regarding the current vacancy in Trustee Area 1. The board voted to use the November 2022 general election to fill the vacancy rather than make a provisional appointment given the otherwise short duration of any appointee made this spring.

In other action, the board:

- Received a written supplemental report to the district's Local Control Accountability Plan, which is available from the Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability Office.

- Adopted Board Policy No. 5146 – Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students to reflect existing practices and procedures in the district.

The next board meeting is March 16, with the public portion to begin at 6:30 p.m. Find complete board minutes, agendas and videos at cUSD.com

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