

**Clovis Unified School District** 

1450 Herndon Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611



Volume 25, No. 11 Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

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# SMILF because it happened

This is it! Our final CUSD Today edition for the 2022-23 school year, and one that is especially near to my heart given that it also marks the conclusion of my career in Clovis Unified as I prepare to retire on June 30.

Over the past month, our schools have celebrated the graduating Class of 2023 with beautiful ceremonies; we hosted two State CIF



Championships that drew crowds from around the Western U.S.; our Governing Board took time in their May meeting to honor and congratulate hundreds of students for achieving county, state or national recognition for academic and arts competitions, while also visiting every site and department to thank employees and mark years of service milestones; and we have conducted our annual recognition of retiring employees - all 130 of them.

In a nutshell, we have been busy celebrating meaningful and hardwon moments that will be remembered for lifetimes.

Behind every one of these moments and every accomplishment is a team of people who empower our students and who pave the way for them to achieve their best.

In the pages of this issue of CUSD

*Today*, you will find excerpts from our Class of 2023 graduation speakers, and as I write these words, the Theodor Geisel quote, "Don't cry that it's over, but smile that it happened" shared by one of our speakers, holds special poignancy. While saying farewell may feel sad, it is my hope that our students, our staff and our families will join me to reflect with smiles now and far into the future on the beautiful time we have had and all the moments that made it special.

Eimear O' Brien, Ed. D.

Superintendent



### Annual information update

#### **July 24 to Aug. 11**

Parents and guardians of all returning Clovis **Unified students must** update student records with current contact and emergency information prior to the start of the 2023-24 school year.

> For instructions, see Page 3.

### **NEW SCHOOL YEAR** — What to know —

- First Day: Clovis Unified begins the 2023-24 school year Aug. 21.
- Bell Schedule: Updated school starting and ending times are online.
- Meals: No-cost breakfast and lunch will be available to all students.
- Buses: Updated schedules, routes and stops will be available in August.
- Dress Code: Review online before going back-to-school shopping.
- Keep informed this summer on these and more: cusd.com/2023-24schoolyear.

Check your school's website for school-specific information about schedules, sports, clubs, supply lists and teachers.

### **Civic-minded** students!





**Maple Creek Elementary** is the top scoring elementary school in the state to earn the California Civic Learning Award. Three other CUSD schools are also recipients.

► See Page 3

# Clovis Community College

**Fall Semester starts** Monday, August 7, 2023 A ONE-STOP SHOP to complete your enrollment.

### **IN-PERSON SESSIONS**

Friday, July 28 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Saturday, July 29 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The in-person events will take place at the Clovis Community College campus in Academic Center Building 1, Open Computer Lab (AC1-OCL).

### **VIRTUAL SESSION**

Wednesday, June 28 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Join the meeting or call in to Zoom by dialing 1-669-444-9171 or 1-719-359-4580

Meeting ID: 991 2011 8762 Passcode: 2015

New students or students who have not attended SCCCD in the last two semesters should complete the application at cloviscollege.edu/apply at least two days prior to the event.



### Why attend Extreme Registration?

- Meet with a counselor for express academic advising
- Register for classes
- Learn about financial aid opportunities

### **ENROLL NOW FOR FALL CLASSES** • cloviscollege.edu/extreme

# **RIDE FRESNO FAX BUS #3 TO CLOVIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Clovis Community College

Clovis Community College is the college of choice for academic excellence, innovation, and student achievement.

Clovis Community College 10309 North Willow Avenue | Fresno, CA 93730 (559) 325-5200 | www.cloviscollege.edu

STATE CENTER

#### Page 3

### > Announcements

#### 'The Heat' joining **Clovis Unified family**

The future Satoshi Hirayama Elementary School will have "The Heat" as the school's mascot and its colors will be red, Vegas gold and white. The Governing Board approved the items in May for what will be the district's 35th elementary school, currently under construction at Fowler and McKinley avenues in Fresno.

Hirayama Principal Laura Reynolds gathered ideas and feedback from the family of the school's namesake - former Japanese American, MLB player and Clovis Unified educator and administrator Satoshi Hirayama - the community, students and employees about the selection. Reynolds said there was a desire to honor the heritage of Hirayama; affiliate with something significant about the Central Valley; ignite passion in mind, body and spirit; and be, in the words of one student, "fierce."

In her presentation to the board, Reynolds shared a quote by William Yates that she hopes to see reflected in the school's culture: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

#### Annual student information update starts in July

Clovis Unified School District requires parents or guardians every year to review the address, contact phone numbers, emergency and health information for their

student that is contained in Parent Connect and to review the district's policies and procedures.

This year, the up-

date process will occur online between July 24 to Aug. 11. Per Clovis Unified policy and student safety, this information must be reviewed and updated before the new school year begins. Students will not receive their schedule or teacher assignments until the forms are completed.

The following provides helpful information:

Parent Connect accounts are tied to the parent's e-mail address. Parents should log into their account prior to verify your email address and password are correct. If a password has been forgotten, click on the "Forgotten Password" link to establish a new one.

 Annual Information Update will open for all parents from July 24 to Aug. 11.

Complete the information update for all of your CUSD students at one time.

Intermediate and high school parents must complete the updates by walk-through registration.

■ Elementary parents, please complete the updates by Aug. 11.

■ Use the Parent Connect website: https://qweb.clovisusd.k12.ca.us/ParentPortal.

■ If you are using a cell phone, please download the Q Parent Connection App available at the IOS app store or the Google Play Store.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Maple Creek Elementary's "Kindness Crew" welcomes students at drop off, one of many student-driven ideas turned to action that involves civic duty and community service. The school has been recognized for its efforts with a state award.

### Maple Creek earns top civic award

kindness project and civic education cam- paigns, voting and an oath ceremony in paign, Clovis Unified's Maple Creek Ele- front of the student body. The council acmentary is the top scoring elementary tively discusses current school topics, deschool in the annual California Civic Learn- velops plans around various issues that ing program, earning an Award of Excellence students communicate and implement proand a visit from California Chief Justice grams. Patricia Guerrero in September to formally make the presentation.

Instruction Tony Thurmond and Chief Jus- ing drop-off with signs, pompoms and tice Guerrero announced this year's 18 smiles; and a "share a good word" campaign California Civic Learning award public to create positivity on campus. school recipients who were selected for their schools' efforts to engage students in weekly in the "Positivity Project" that civic learning. Three other Clovis Unified focuses on creating an other-people-matter schools were among the recipients, with mindset and developing 24 character Garfield Elementary and Dry Creek Ele- strengths; and supplemental social studies mentary receiving an Award of Merit, and education for grades 4-6 that makes con-Red Bank Elementary an Honorable Men- nection to civic responsibility. tion

lence, was given to only one California elementary school, intermediate school and taking and a civic process," Kismet said. high school.

Gina Kismet.

The school's Student Council closely various topics with their peers."

With efforts like an eyeglasses drive, a follows the democratic process with cam-

Examples include an eyeglass campaign to benefit those needing them; a kindness In May, State Superintendent of Public effort with students greeting peers at morn-

There is also instruction for all students

"We are reinforcing students' rights to The highest honor, an Award of Excel- be informed, have opinions, and appropriately share. It facilitates perspective-"All of these programs and instruction help This award affirms who we are and us teach and instill the necessary skills our what we value," said Maple Creek Principal students need to read, think critically, discuss, and have productive discourse around

agencies and school districts, including Clovis Unified, to raise awareness about the potentially lethal drug. Illegal fentanyl is sold on apps targeting kids and is often disguised as candy. In the last five years, 288 people in the county have lost their lives to the drug. For resources and information, and a message from Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp with six facts every parent should know, visit: cusd.com/substanceusesupport.

#### Key dates for new year!

Clovis Unified's 2023-24 Student Calendar is available online and indicates holidays, grading periods and end of quarters/semesters for the upcoming, new school year. Here are a few key dates:

- Aug. 21, School starts
- Nov. 20 to 24, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 22 to Jan. 8, Winter Break
- March 25 to April 1, Spring Break ■ June 7, School ends

For the complete calendar, see cusd.com/calendars.aspx.



#### Join the Club!

We have a new name and a new look! Clovis Unified's 2023-24 before- and afterschool care program for students in grades TK through sixth is now called the Expanded Learning Club. The Club combines the benefits of the district's former three enrichment childcare programs - Campus Club, A.S.E.S. and E.L.O.P. – all into one. From art projects to music to outdoor play, it offers curriculum and creative experiences for children's social, academic, physical and emotional development.

The Expanded Learning Club will be available this fall at all CUSD elementary schools. Space is limited. To learn more or register, visit: cusd.com/ExpandedLearning.

#### Summer public swim

Clovis West High will be the designated site this summer to provide public swim time. The pool will be open from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays through July 19.

There is a fee of \$4 for adults and \$2 for children ages 12 and younger. Children must be 13 years old to use the pool without an attending adult (18 or older).

New student, employment-based enrollment

Registration is open for the 2023-24 school year for students who are new to the district.



July 13 at not be available due to summer holidays Fancher June 19 or July 4. For updates, times, and more details:

son, Lincoln, cusd.com/campuscatering.aspx. Pinedale, CUSD summer hours

Clovis Unified School District's office at 1450 Herndon Ave., Clovis, will be on a summer schedule through Aug. 4, with busihours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ness



Completion of the Annual Information Update is mandatory for all parents

Clovis Unified's Technology Department will have a Parent Connect Help Desk available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday beginning July 24. The phone number is 327-0789.

#### Free summer meals

Clovis Unified's Campus Catering will provide breakfast and lunch at no cost this summer through the Seamless Summer Feeding Program. Meals will be offered to all students from ages 1-18 years old. No identification is required.

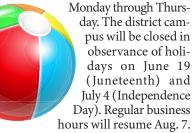
■ Elementary Sites: Meals will be available Mondays through Thursdays, June 20 to

elementary schools from 8 to 8:30 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 -11 a.m. for lunch.

■ Secondary Sites: Meals will be available Mondays through Thursdays, June 20 to July 27 at Clovis High, Kastner Intermediate and Clovis Community Day schools from 8:30 to 9 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 to 11 a.m. for lunch. Clovis Community Day School will offer meals through July 20.

Students attending Clovis Unified summer school will be offered meals before school and lunch during the school day at their site.

Meals must be consumed in the cafeteria from where they are received. Meals will



days on June 19 (Juneteenth) and July 4 (Independence Day). Regular business hours will resume Aug. 7.

Fighting for our kids

Parents are encouraged to stay alert to the dangers of fentanyl use among youth this summer, in an ongoing partnership between several Fresno County law enforcement Additionally, employment-based en-

rollment is available for students whose parent or guardian works within the Clovis Unified boundaries but does not live within the boundaries.

Instructions and online pre-registration forms for enrollment from preschool to 12th grade are available at cusd.com/enroll ment.aspx.





# **SPORTS**

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CUSD Today

CUSD swimmers makes State splash

June 2023



### Elementary **Spring Champs**

Young student athletes from around the dis-



trict played in the Elementary Championships for spring sports. Congratulations to the winning teams:

**ŠOFTBALL:** Fugman Elementary, 1st Place; Woods Elementary, 2nd; Century and Reagan Elementary, 3rd; Other participating teams included Young, Red Bank, Liberty and Copper Hills elementary schools.



VOLLEYBALL: Oraze Elementary, 1st Place; Weldon Elementary, 2nd; Lincoln and Woods Elementary, 3rd; Other participating teams included Riverview, Dry Creek, Fugman and Liberty elementary schools.



schools won their games against Freedom, Red Bank and Liberty elementary schools. GIRLS TRACK &

FIELD: Dry Creek, 1st Place; Mickey Cox, 2nd; Century, 3rd.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD: Cedarwood, 1st Place; Fugman, 2nd; Bud Rank, 3rd.



Swimmers from all across California gathered in May at Clovis Unified's Olympic Swim Complex at Clovis West High for the 2023 CIF State Swim & Dive Championships. Several Clovis Unified swimmers qualified for the meet and Clovis West's Nathaniel Grabowski won the state title for the Class Team, 10th 2 Boys 50 Freestyle Paralympic!

The following Clovis Unified athletes Buchanan High, 4th finished in the State's Top 10: Girls 200 Medley Relay - Clovis West Clovis North, 9th

High Team, 8th Place; Clovis North High







■ Girls 500 Freestyle – Olivia Sundgren,

■ Boys 500 Freestyle – Hayden Lambert, Clovis North, 4th Girls 200 Freestyle Relay - Clovis West Team, 7th

West Team, 10th

Girls 100 Breaststroke – Hannah Marinovich, Clovis West, 2nd; Ellie Fitzgerald,

■ Girls 400 Freestyle Relay – Clovis

### Track stars shine, too!

Two Clovis Unified students became CIF 3rd State Track and Field champions in May at the state finals held at CUSD's Veterans Memorial Stadium. They are Sydnie Vanek from Clovis High in long jump, and Hilton Green from Buchanan High in pole vault. The Buchanan Boys Team won the bronze medal for their overall team score of 30 points

The following CUSD track and field athletes placed in state's Top 10:

■ Girls 1600 Meter Run – Elle Lomeli, Buchanan, 6th Place; Grace Hutchison, Buchanan, 7th

Girls 3200 Meter Run – Grace Hutchison, Buchanan, 8th

■ Girls 4x400 Meter Relay – Clovis North High, 6th

■ Girls 4x800 Meter Relay – Buchanan, 4th

■ Girls Pole Vault – Jordan Leveque, Buchanan, 2nd

■ Girls Long Jump – Sydnie Vanek, Clovis High, State Champion

Girls Discus Throw – Loie Madsen, cus Throw Clovis North, 3rd

Flynn and Ameya Anderson, Clovis East High, Buchanan, 3rd place

■ Boys 100 Meter Dash – Nickolas Miller, Clovis North, 5th

Boys 200 Meter Dash – Nickolas Miller, Clovis North, 3rd

■ Boys 800 Meter Run - Noah Ray, Buchanan, 3rd; Zach Weaver, Buchanan, 7th

■ Boys 4x400 Meter Relay – Clovis, 5th ■ Boys 4x800 Meter Relay – Buchanan High, 3rd

Boys Pole Vault – Hilton Green, Buchanan, State Champion Boys Triple Jump – Josh Dunu, Buchanan, 10th Boys Shot

Put – McKay Madsen, Clovis North, 7th Boys Dis-

McKay Madsen, Girls 100 Meter Dash Unified - Sydney Clovis North High, 2nd; Derek Smith,

Build Something Out of the Ordinary with Jonathan Louis.





Pair your favorite sofa or sectional with your choice of fabric and watch your furniture come to life! Take it a step further and fully customize your home with your style. Your statement. Every piece a memento. Explore your options at Fashion Furniture, your exclusive home for Jonathan Louis collection.



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June 2023

# Clovis Unified's Class of 2023 looks to future

#### **Buchanan High**

#### Nicholas Chew

"Every day is an opportunity to learn something new, meet someone new, and make a difference in the world. I challenge you to seize the day. Don't wait for tomorrow to do something amazing. Don't wait for the perfect moment to take a chance. Because the truth is, there's never going to be a time when everything will be perfect. So, take that leap of faith. Try something new. Take a chance. Because you never know where that might lead you."

#### **Clovis Adult Education**

#### Maria Sanchez

"I searched for a school that would help me complete my next step, and I discovered Clovis Adult Education. It was here I met a wonderful counselor Mrs. Rodriguez and three amazing teachers. Mrs. Penner taught me how to speak and write proper English. Mrs. Reitz showed me how to face my fears in math, and I'll be honest, at some point it turned out I actually ended up understanding. And Mrs. Begley taught me how to work hard until I made it to where I am now. ... I am currently enrolled in Clovis Community College and plan to become an accountant, so I can run my own business as a tire technician. It is amazing how earning your diploma can make you feel: Like you can accomplish anything in life no matter what you fear or the obstacles in your path."

#### Clovis East High

#### Hana Tilksew

"Seated in this stadium, we may look like we're just regular, ordinary students, but I confidently say that this is a graduating class like no other. We survived years of lockdowns and came out on the other side with all sorts of achievements to show for it. Our athletes have won Valley Championships, our performing arts groups have continued to push the limits of artistic ability, and our agricultural program remains one of the best in California."

#### **Clovis High**

*Editor's note:* Clovis Unified graduated 3,424 students in the Class of 2023. The following excerpts are from senior class speeches.



Nicholas Chew Buchanan High



Maria Sanchez Clovis Adult Education



Hana Tilksew Clovis East High



Kayla Ly Clovis High



Emma Sedehi Clovis High



Andrew Limon Clovis North High



Jaida Vue Clovis North High



Sofia DiCicco Clovis North High



Elyse Calvero Clovis Online





Serena Zaniab Rana Clovis Online



Georgia Jones Clovis West High



Kaleb Brandsen Gateway High



Aaliyah Nolan Young Gateway High



to my educational and career goals. ... I am very proud to be attending UC Berkeley this fall, majoring in Film and Media Studies. ... I want to leave all of my fellow students with the following quote from Winston Churchill who said, "Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts."

#### Serena Zaniab Rana

"At Clovis Online, I was able to manage my time in a way that allowed me to meet my book [publishing] deadlines while completing my education and maintaining hobbies that brought me joy. Without Clovis Online, I could only imagine how the stress from a traditional high school would have delayed my progress professionally and personally.... Clovis Online was made for the innovators, the responsible, the brave, the bold, and most importantly: This school was created for strong, independent individuals who are ready to take the reins of their future."

#### **Clovis West High**

#### Georgia Jones

"Breathing. A simple task that we as humans do 20,000 times a day on average. A simple task that we do without thinking, yet most of the time it goes unnoticed. It's the simple things that are the big things. It's showing up to practice when you don't feel like it; it's staying up for 30 more minutes to ace the test you've been dreading all week; it's putting a smile on your face even on your worst days. We tend to focus on the big things we accomplish, but it's the little things that got us here."

#### **Gateway High**

#### Kaleb Brandsen

"I was always told that Gateway wasn't the place you wanted to go to, and if you go to Gateway you're not going to go anywhere - but, when I tell you all of the teachers and staff here made me feel welcomed and happy to be here, I'm not lying. ... Now I'm moving to Tennessee to become a police officer, go to college, and explore the next part of my life. I don't think I would have been able to be here graduating if it wasn't for the Gateway teachers and staff. Thank you to for making school feel safe, fun and for helping me grow and become smarter. I

#### Kayla Ly & Emma Sedehi

"Our futures are bright, for our struggles were just stepping stones towards bigger and better achievements. We are not only entering

our futures, we are creating them. We are saying goodbye to the end of this chapter in our story, but the corner will remain folded in our book because we will always remember our time at Clovis High School."

#### **Clovis North High**

#### Andrew Limon, Jaida Vue & Sofia DiCicco

"SOFIA: We've come so far! This is the time to come together and celebrate all we've been given and all we have accomplished. [Graduation] is simply a dream come true.

ANDREW: After six years on campus, we have come to the end of our [Clovis North Educational Center] journey. Let this be the time where we can all resonate and connect with one another for the very last time.

JAIDA: Class of 2023, take a moment. ... Let's all take the time to take it all in. Our time here at CNEC was special because of the strong friendships we made, because of the connections with our teachers and because of the support of our family. Thank you to everyone who helped make this dream possible."



Jacob Menz Clovis Online

#### **Clovis Online**

#### Elyse Calvero

"What I've learned about life is that it's not easy, but it's all about how you choose to live it. 'Strength is what we gain from the madness we survive.' You can rise up from anything; you can completely recreate yourself because nothing is permanent. All that matters is that you decide today to never look back. You learn how to move on and most importantly, you learn how to find salvation in all the things you once believed to be your downfall. It's almost like if you focus on the hurt, you will continue to suffer. But if you focus on the lesson, you'll continue to grow."

#### Jacob Menz

"Being a student at Clovis Online has been an amazing experience for me. While I still struggle with my disability, the ability to work when I feel well and not work as much when I am struggling has made all the difference. ... Clovis Online has allowed me to pursue my passion for videography at Buchanan because they honored the fact that it is crucial

– About Us —



Aliitasi Nelu Sini Gateway High can't wait to see what life has planned."

#### Aaliyah Nolan Young

"I was extremely motivated and supported at Gateway, and I want to thank the principal, Mr. Pagani,

who was a great role model; Ms. Temple, who was very supportive and caring as well; Ms. Chance, who was very comforting, and who made me feel loved and cared for. I can't name all the people, but I do want to acknowledge the teachers who were always making sure I understood my work and always checked up on me when I was struggling on some days. Also, the Access Team was a huge resource and has amazing people who were 100% there for me."

#### Aliitasi Nelu Sini

"My journey as a mother and a student has not been easy, but it has been rewarding. It has taught me the power of perseverance, the value of hard work, and the importance of family and community support. ... And to my fellow classmates ... You have the power to shape your own future and make a difference in the world. I encourage you to pursue your passions, to take risks, and to always keep learning. Remember that failure is not the opposite of success, but rather part of the journey. Don't be afraid to fail, because it is through failure that we learn and grow."

*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.

#### **CUSD Today Staff**

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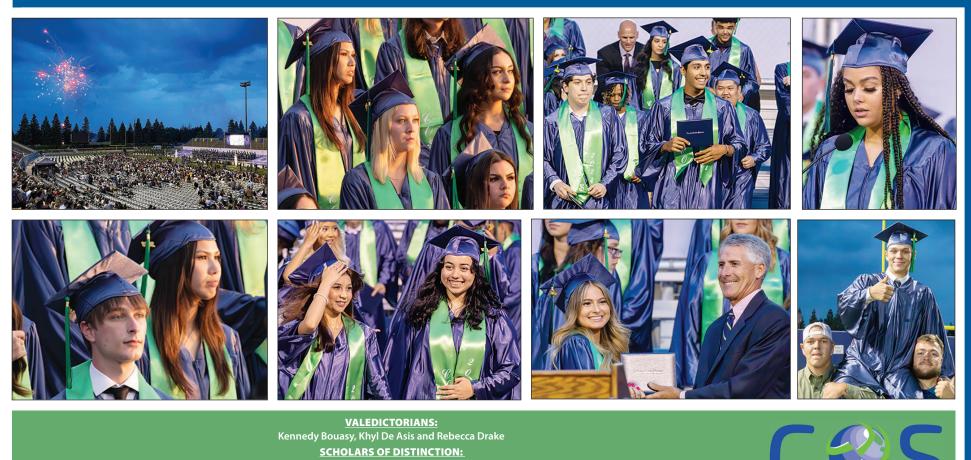


Photos special to CUSD Today by Joey Elswick

More photos at http://clovisunified.zenfolio.com/CUSDgraduations2023

JUNE 6, 2023 | 257 GRADUATES

# Clovis Online/Enterprise Schools



Ryan Knittle, Thad Lango, eremiah Maloney, Jacob Menz, Aaron Moore, Michael Moten, Alysandra Palacios, Sannidhi Srikanth Rao, Quentin Richards, Mandeep Sandhu, Betzaida Santillanes, Emily Smit, Mia Stevens, Garrett Taylor, Liam Topalian, Priscilla Vasquez, Vunnisa N Vu, Donovan Tue Vue, Angelina Wilson, Rachel Zaranyika, Allison Zaro

Photos special to CUSD Today by Rob Lambert | More photos at http://clovisunified.zenfolio.com/CUSDgraduations2023



Tou Lee

Kayla Ly

**Taylor Murphy** 

Lauren Nitta

Jeana Pechardo

Emma Ruvalcaba

**Grace Schaefer** 

Samantha Schilling

Sukhpal Singh

**Genevieve Tamondong** 

Leona Thach

Anika Torres

Leila Toy

Olivia Vasquzez







#### VALEDICTORIANS

Aleja Anderson Carlos Benitez Madison Bonilla Alissa Broussard Kendall Carr Katherine Collins Nathan Crabill Jazlynn Gardner Kayli Gibbons Kyndall Graham Rayne Hardy Megan Haubelt Ranya Hemaidan

#### **SALUTATORIANS**

Sophia Brown Juliana Gonzales Brayden Lotspeich Charisma Ly Kayden Ochs Janae Penner Mikaela Perez Leah Regehr Vienna Russo Emmeline Smith Emma Swenson Gavyn Tapp Keira Weireter

#### ADVANCED STUDIES SCHOLARS OF DISTINCTION

Aleja Anderson Carlos Benitez Alissa Broussard Sophia Brown Kendall Carr Yadira Chavez Medrano Andrew Covey Kaden Fedele Addison Franz Jazlynn Gardner Naisha Ge Joanna Gonzalez Jack Hammerstrom Rayne Hardy Payton Heister Jacob Kasten Keaton Lord Brayden Lotspeich Charisma Ly Kayla Ly Brody McAvoy Viviana Medina Phone Mouanouatoua Lauren Nitta Kayden Ochs Jeana Pechardo Alexander Perez Tyler Prieb Leah Regehr Emely Reyes Chavez Emma Ruvalcaba Meriel Ryan Elliott Salcido Grace Schaefer Samantha Schilling Faith Schneider Sukhpal Singh Ethan Sinquin Anika Torres Olivia Vazquez Perla Vazquez Estrada Grace Veiga Keira Weireter Addison Williams James Willis

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David-Anthony Navarro Schools: Clovis West, Clovis Online, Enterprise, Gateway 559-325-5267 david.navarro@cloviscollege.edu



Dulce Guerrero Schools: Clovis East, Buchanan, and Clovis High 559-325-5357 dulce.guerrero@cloviscollege.edu



Amy Yocupicio School: Clovis North 559-325-5035 amy.yocupicio@cloviscollege.edu

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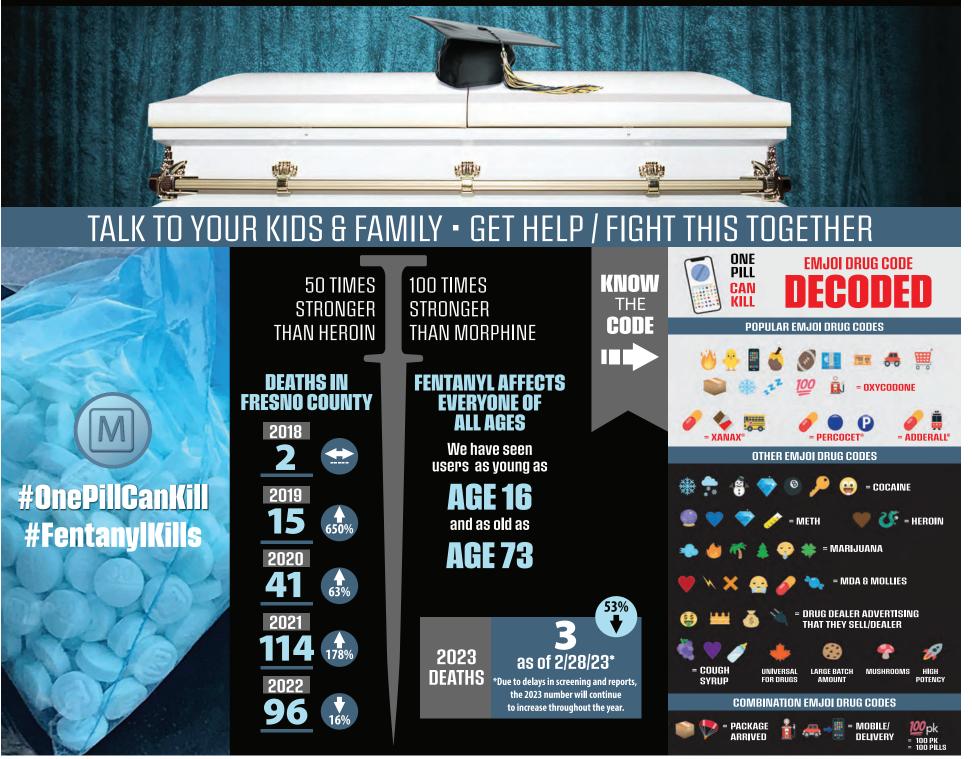


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# **AROUND THE DISTRICT**

June 2023

CUSD Today

# **Danny Awards honor theater**

It was a red-carpet affair at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre when drama cast and crew from all five Clovis Unified high schools gathered for the 50th Annual Danny Awards at the end of the school year.



The awards ceremony, named after local theater icon Dan Pessano, celebrates the high school plays and musicals that were performed this year. Students arrive wearing "Hollywood" style gowns and suits, and enter the theater on a red-carpet walk, complete with an announcer, interviews and a crowd of

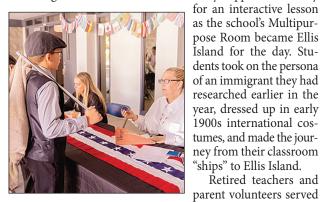
adoring fans. During the awards show, each school performs one musical number from their main stage production.

Congratulations to the casts of "Sister Act" by Clovis West High that won Best Musical and "Puffs" by Buchanan High that won Best Play.

Additional awards are Best Actor, Leo Van Bindsbergen, Clovis East; Best Actress, Eva Petrossian, Clovis North; Best Actor in a Musical, Leo Van Bindsbergen, Clovis East; Best Actress in a Musical: Lalaina Rabetsimba, Clovis West; Best Supporting Actor, Thomas Cargin, Clovis West, and Nathan Lopez, Clovis North; Best Supporting Actress, Jadia Jacobie, Clovis High; Best Supporting Actor in a Musical, Kalos Cluff, Buchanan; Best Supporting Actress

#### Ellis Island at Cedarwood

Fifth graders at Cedarwood Elementary stepped into history



as the school's Multipurpose Room became Ellis Island for the day. Students took on the persona of an immigrant they had researched earlier in the year, dressed up in early 1900s international costumes, and made the journey from their classroom "ships" to Ellis Island. Retired teachers and

parent volunteers served

as immigration officials who took students through the entire process, from registration to fingerprinting to a citizenship test. The "immigrants" also shared the belongings they packed for their journey, and wrote in their journals about their experience coming to America. It's an experience the students remember even years after they leave the school.

"Not only is this event an opportunity to learn about American history and family culture," said fifth grade teacher Katelyn Arnold, "but it also teaches kids about diversity and being emphatic towards everyone who is different than us!"

#### Lemonade war at SV



After reading "The Lemonade War," a book about two siblings running competing lemonade stands, third graders at Sierra Vista Elementary decided to have a "war" of their own. Students split into small groups to operate their stands, with each group starting with \$5 in play money to "purchase" lemonade and cups. They set their prices



in a Musical, Audrey Allen, Clovis West; Best Featured Actor, Kalos Cluff, Buchanan; Best Featured Actress, Mariah Medina, Clovis East; Best Featured Actor in a Musical, Colin Cameron, Clovis West; Best Featured Actress in a Musical, Gianna Howell, Clovis West; Technical Awards, Kate Peck, Clovis High, Z Marcaban, Clovis East, and Sarah Reed, Buchanan.

#### Tortillas, chop sticks at VO

It was a day of cultural celebration at Valley Oak Elementary, when some students learned about the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo and others about the Japanese holiday Kodomo no hi, or "Children's Day."

Kindergarten teacher Cindy Mortensen taught her class about Cinco de Mayo and led them through a tortilla-making lesson, a tradition she's carried on with kindergarten classes for 20 years. "Cultural understanding is important to share. I enjoy seeing the excitement that making tortillas brings to my students' faces because what is normal to me is exciting to others," said Mortensen.

In Jacey Domoto's and Kristi Vincent's fourth-grade classes, students learned about the Japanese cultural importance of celebrating children and practiced using chopsticks to pick up foods like gummy candies and grains of rice. They also learned about Japanese foods and tried raspberry mochi made by Domoto. "I enjoy learning about Japanese art, language, food, and activities and wanted to share my culture and memories with my students," said Domoto.

#### CHS students build a win



Three Clovis High CTE construction pathway students earned first place in a competition for their construction skills. Mason Her, Cole McNeal and Austin Price participated in the local CTE Career Skills challenge, hosted by Fresno City College and Fresno County Superintendent of Schools CTE/ROP. In the building trades and construction competition, there

was a timed event that included: framing a wall from a set of blueprints, calculating and cutting a rafter from a blue print, and a Construction estimating math test.



"The competition is thought of as the Valley championships for CTE," said the boys' Clovis High construction teacher Jay Eichmann. "It's a big deal to take first place!"

#### Amazing artists in CUSD



This summer, visitors can check out the hallways by Clovis Unified's Governing Boardroom to find a "Lizard Warrior" and a ceramic head of cabbage with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" on it. That's just part of the many outstanding pieces of student art on display from the Clovis Unified Secondary School Art Show with works from intermediate and high school

artists.

Art teachers from each CUSD secondary school selected up to 10 works to enter per category – from photography to pottery, and drawing to digital design. The artwork was judged by three local art professors and displayed prior to a reception announcing the awards. A similar contest for elementary students is held in the fall.

The display will be available to see Mondays through Thursdays in the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis.

Congratulations to the "Best in Show" artists in their respective categories:

■ Intermediate 2D Art: Eliana Anguiano – "Frenchie" – Kastner Intermediate

■ Intermediate 3D Art: Arantxa Chavarria – "Heart Ablaze" Clark Intermediate

■ Intermediate Ceramics: Kailin Withrow – "Japanese Lantern #5366" - Reyburn Intermediate

■ High School Sculpture: Sophia Chevy – "Life After Death" - Clovis North High

■ High School Pottery: Sarah Richards – "Cabbage Heads and The Very Hungry Caterpillar" - Clovis East High

■ High School Photography, Classic: Corrine Atkinson – "New Perspective" – Clovis East High

High School Photography, Altered: Angelyn Yang -'Hope" – Clovis East High

■ High School Painting: Jaymee Rodriguez – "Wabaki" – Clovis East High

■ High School Drawing: Josh Donaghy – "Dying Wish" – Buchanan High

■ High School 2D Media: Camryn Toomer – "Brian en blanc et noir" – Clovis North High (pictured above)

High School 3D Media: Trance Thao – "Lizard Warrior" - Clovis East High

#### Healthy habits for Chieftans

At Clark Intermediate, students participated in an interactive lesson about the negative impacts of smoking and vaping when Fresno County Office of Education representatives visited the campus for Teen Health Days. The goal was to educate students on the ingredients in cigarettes and vape pens, how they impact the body and mind and how companies selling these products are targeting young adults using colorful, youthful marketing.

"It's definitely motivated me to live a healthy life, and help others that are struggling," said eighth-grader Krista Hopkins. "Seeing the ingredients was really shocking to me. I probably wouldn't have known if I didn't learn about this."

Students, led by counselors and teachers, broke into smaller groups to discuss what they were learning. Then, students were presented with various things like cell phones and computers and asked to identify those items as wants, needs or addictions. Students appreciated the structure of the conversation and requested similar presentations take place in the future focused on other addictive substances.

and decided on marketing strategies used in the book to promote their lemonade, like coloring the lemonade so it was different from other stands. First and second graders shopped for drinks, and if stands ran out, third graders had to use their earnings to purchase more product to sell. The war concluded with groups counting their money to see what they had earned.

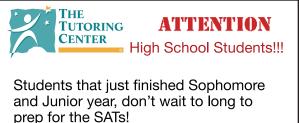
"All students involved had a blast," said third-grade teacher Tammy Adrian, "and Sierra Vista is looking forward to making this a yearly tradition!"

#### **Honoring Old Glory**

Weldon Elementary students received lessons on Flag Etiquette during lunchtime recently when the school's 35-yearold U.S. and California flags were to be retired. The flags had become tattered over time, and they were given an official retirement ceremony from the Clovis Veterans Memorial District for students and families to attend. New flags for the school's MPR were donated by PTC president Leslie Collins. "This was a wonderful learning opportunity for our students and school community," said GIS Letty Lewis.

Photo special to CUSD Today

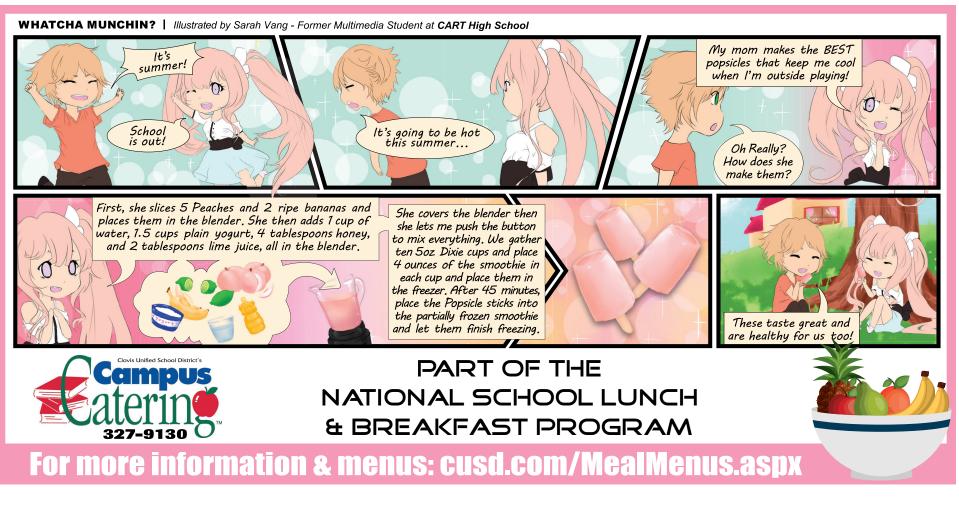
The Woods Elementary Choir recently visited Solstice Senior Living, where 86 young singers performed songs they learned throughout the year to the senior residents. Students also handed out cards they had made and spent time talking with the seniors. "The residents all left with smiles on their faces," said Woods choir director Morgan Lari. "I hope my students learned the power of acts of service and saw the difference they made for the residents that day."





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#### Work on CW blood drive honored

Congratulations to Clovis West High's Harriet Huggins on winning the Larry Frederick Award for community commitment. Over the last 20 years, Huggins has rallied the Clovis West High students and community to donate blood or offer support to the Central California Blood Center. Her efforts started on her 40th birthday, when she encouraged family and friends to join her in donating blood. Her drive expanded to the school the following year and kept growing.

"I am just one part of a big team that pulls this off," Huggins said. "It takes all of us and my hope would be that an award like this helps keep the kids encouraged and proud of the work they do."

### **Clovis Unified in Boston**

This spring, three Clovis Unified teachers completed the 127th Boston Marathon. Granite Ridge Intermediate track and cross country coach Joanna Vitale, Clovis Elementary Special Education Instructional Assistant Lydia Samuelson and Cedarwood Elementary third-grade teacher Gayle Pellizzer were among the 30,000 participants on the famous 26-mile 385-yard course that started in Hopkinton, Mass., and ended on the finish line on Boylston Street in Boston.

### Celebrating 50 years in the classroom community

She is the longest-standing Clovis Unified School District employee celebrating her 50th year, and earlier in June, Red Bank Elementary School surprised beloved kindergarten teacher Sharon Lamb by dedicating the school yearbook in her honor.

The ceremony in the Bobcats' amphitheater had the entire student body gathered as Principal Amanda Torres read the secret news and former colleagues and friends of Lamb came from a nearby classroom to join in the celebration.

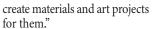
Lamb was hired by founding CUSD Superintendent Floyd "Doc" Buchanan in 1973 as a third-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary, and 10 years later she began teaching kindergarten. She moved to open then new school Red Bank in 1991, where she continues to teach kindergarten to this day. She has no current plans to retire.

"I was hired back in the day when teachers were required to wear stockings, high heels, dresses or a suit," said Lamb at an employee appreciation event in May of her tenure. "My goodness things have changed since then!"



At the appreciation – an annual tradition in Clovis Unified that includes governing board members visiting all schools and departments to thank them for their service and to recognize milestone years - Lamb specifically requested CUSD Governing Board Member Hugh Awtrey to be present as he was a third-grader in her very first class at Jefferson. "I was so excited to be asked," Awtrey said in sharing the district's gratitude for Lamb's many years of making a difference in young students' lives.

Lamb said her favorite part of her job is the children. "They say such funny things in kindergarten," she said. "I also love to



Principal Torres said Lamb's care and dedication go beyond the classroom. "She is known as the Cake Walk Queen," Torres said of Lamb's years running the carnival cake walk. "She is also known for her knitting and community outreach projects working with the senior center and celebrating the holidays throughout the year by delivering handmade gifts to the residents made by her kindergarten class."

Asked about plans to stay in the classroom, she said absolutely. "There are always new accomplishments and goals to meet. That is part of the fun!"



## **Board hears** student, feedback

By Kelly Avants CUSD Chief **Communications** Officer

#### **May 24**

The Clovis Unified Governing Board heard from Inter-School Council (ISC) students

who report- > **BOARD** ed on activ-BRIEFS ities conducted by

the council, gave student feedback on the dress code, and community feedback on the senior off-campus privilege

The board announced the appointment of current learning director at the Reagan Educational Center Andrew Manuelian to the position of principal at Temperance Kutner Elementary effective July 1.

In other action, the board:

Held three public hearings for input on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) proposal for the dis-trict and Clovis Online School; the Special Education Annual Service Plan and Annual Budget Plan; and the 2023-24 Annual Budget, District Reserves and the Annual Education

■ Adopted textbooks for use during the 2023-24 school year, a list of which are available online in the

Approved new job descriptions for Elementary Counselor, and Administrator, Student Services and

■ Approved the 2023-24 school starting and ending times. This administrative regulation outlining each schools' starting and ending time is available online at

The board announced current Temperance-Kutner Elementary Principal Kelli Hinojos to the position of Deputy Principal at the Reagan Educational Center, and current Nurse on Special Assignment Marie Thuringer to the Director of Nursing,

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