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Clovis Unified celebrates season of giving



Photo special to CUSD Today.
Students at Reagan Elementary collected jackets of all kinds during their Coats for Kids drive in December

■ Many schools collect donations of food, toys

By Patti J. Lippert
CUSD Today

Dried beans, blankets, toys and songs provided lessons in giving and kindness throughout Clovis Unified School District in recent months.

From donating spare change for a local shelter to writing cards and drawing pictures for service men and women, students at all schools have had opportunities to participate in a variety of giving-related efforts.

At Clark Intermediate, students brought cans of peas, soup and pasta sauce as part of a Canned Food Drive that benefited local families. But the food drive did more than

just supply food.

“It allowed our students to understand the importance of giving and helping out those who are in need of an extra hand,” said teacher Kendal Kubo. “This small act, helps them realize that any act of kindness can create a movement for a better and more selfless community.”

Said Clovis East FFA student Macie Kulikov of helping put gift boxes together for children containing school supplies, toiletries and toys, “Everyone deserves something that makes them happy.”

Clovis High Activities Director Stacy Lazarri said she saw classes, clubs and sports teams make their own giving goals to support the many activities at school. Some committed to collecting coats and others to buying toys.

“[We] have the opportunity and responsibility to care

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A World of Dance



Students from throughout Clovis Unified participated in “Our World Through Dance,” a celebration of cultural dances presented by the district’s Visual and Performing Arts Department at the Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall in December. Clockwise, from above: “Greetings from the Lion,” by the Buchanan High Chinese Club. “Veracruz-La Bruja,” by the Clovis East Folklorico. “Zoo Nkauj,” by the Clovis East Wolfpack Dance Repertory. “Hologoblin,” by the Buchanan High Korean Club.

Photos special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.



Online look at district’s performance data updated

■ State releases new Dashboard; CUSD showing gains

CUSD Today

California’s updated School Dashboard is now available online, delivering a wide variety of school assessment and performance data to the public in one place. Launched this spring, the Dashboard provides a variety of data on California schools.

From graduation rates to mathematics results, data is available at the district and school level delivered in a color-coded, report-card style format.

According to State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, the Dashboard is designed to be helpful to parents, teachers and communities because it helps identify areas that are going well, and areas needing attention, and to focus resources where they are most needed.

“It also highlights the performance of student groups, making disparities or achievement gaps impossible to ignore,” Torlakson said in his public announcement of the Dashboard’s release.

A series of colored pie charts in five state performance areas indicate how schools are doing in their efforts to continually improve in areas including math and English/language arts, English Learner progress, suspension rates and graduation rates.

Measurements for chronic absenteeism and college readiness are still being developed by the state and will be reported in future versions of the dashboard.

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27 to receive Clovis Unified’s Crystals

By Patti J. Lippert
CUSD Today

Learning sign language, starting a year-round wrestling club or creating a reading lounge are just a sampling of what Clovis Unified’s 2017 Crystal Award recipients are doing in order to make a difference in the lives of students.

Twenty-seven employees were selected by a panel of judges to receive the district’s highest award

that celebrates those who are going far beyond their job descriptions in their innovation, commitment and passion for education.

Among the recipients are teachers, custodians, support staff, medical aides and bus drivers.

“Every employee who works for Clovis Unified is part of the educational team that collectively strives to provide the best for all of our 43,000-plus students,” said Superintendent Eimear O’Farrell,

Ed.D. “These 27 amazing men and women stand out as absolutely exemplary in the many ways they extend themselves and pursue excellence for our students. Quite simply, they are inspiring yet often humble individuals who tend to respond by saying they are just doing their job. However, they are doing so, so much more.”

The recipients were nominated by their peers and found by a panel of judges comprised of

CUSD employees to be the best among the best in terms of modeling Clovis Unified’s core values and aims.

Throughout December the winners were surprised at their work site with the celebratory news as co-workers and family offered cheers, flowers, balloons and hugs.

Each winner will receive a \$500 grant that can be used for some-

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Photo special to CUSD Today by P.J. Lippert.
Clovis Online Teacher Toni Shelby learns she has been selected as a Crystal Award winner.

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Students join in tree planting

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VISION

Cultural proficiency offers hope, understanding

I have hope that we can make a positive change, and what better vehicle to start that change than the transformational power of education. *Page 5*

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► ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the Clovis Unified team!

■ Certificated Job Fair in January

Clovis Unified School District will hold a Teacher/Certificated Job Fair on Jan. 24 at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. Pre-registration is required in order to secure a personal interview time.



For more information about the job fair or to pre-register, visit www.cusd.com.

Parent Academy workshop Jan. 24

Clovis Unified's Parent Academy offers free, monthly workshops in the evening on topics that are designed to help parents become more engaged in their child's education.

On Jan. 24, the Parent Academy will offer a workshop on "College and Career Readiness."

Seating is limited. Those interested in attending may RSVP with Kreig Cirrincione in the Supplemental Services Department at 327-9566 or kreigc@cusd.com. For assistance in Spanish, contact Ana Macias at 327-9564; in Hmong, contact Anna Vang, 327-9561.

Upcoming Parent Academy Modules are "CUSD Wellness Project: Safe Talk – Suicide Alertness Training," Feb. 6;

"Homework without Tears: Assisting Your Child with Math and Language Arts for Grades K-12," March 20; "CUSD Wellness Project: Behavioral Supports & Behavior 101," April 12; and "Drug, Alcohol & Gang Awareness," May 16. All workshops will be held in the CUSD Professional Learning Center, 362 N. Clovis Ave. in Clovis on the corner of Clovis and Herndon avenues.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Clovis Unified schools and district office will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 15.

'Bye Bye Birdie' performed by CHS

Clovis High will perform "Bye Bye Birdie" in January at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre.

The lively musical will transport the audience to 1958 where the teens of Sweet Apple, Ohio, are in a frenzy during a wild visit from celebrity heartthrob Conrad Birdie, a rebellious rock star who's been drafted into the army and is here to bestow one last kiss on an adoring fan, Kim MacAfee.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults.



'Anne of Green Gables' by Clovis East

Clovis East High will perform "Anne of Green Gables" later this month and next at the Dan Pessano Theater.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 to 27 and Feb. 1 to 3. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The following upcoming workshops will be offered by the Special Education Department's Family Resource Center. For more information or to inquire about an interpreter, please call 327-8455.

"Autism Spectrum Disorders from A to Z (Assessment to Zany Conversation)," 6:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 16, Professional Development Building, Room 1, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis. Issues and interventions will be discussed, as well as some of the current trends in both science and advocacy regarding this unique disorder. Presented by the Diagnostic Center of Central California. Free. RSVP with Eventbrite at <http://tinyurl.com/ASD1-16> or call the Family Resource Center at 327-8455.

"Social and Emotional Development in Early Intervention," 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 20, Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis, with presentation by author Mona Delahooke, Ph.D. Staff, administrators of preschools, day care providers, teachers, parents and community members are invited. Free. RSVP with Eventbrite at <http://tinyurl.com/EarlyInterventionCon1-18> or call 327-8455.

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- Proof of Family Size for all children in your household counted in your family size. (i.e. Birth certificates, Court orders regarding child custody, Adoption documents, Records of Foster Care placements, School or medical records, County welfare department records, etc.)

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Photo special to CUSD Today.

Tarpey Elementary's quarterback Logan Sanchez, second from left, is a big fan of Buchanan running back Kendall Milton, left. After many games this fall, he would ask Kendall if he could have his gloves as a keepsake. At the end of the season, Kendall surprised Logan and after a game went to the stands and gave them to him (pictured below). Administrators heard about the kind gesture and decided to make it even more special by putting them in a shadowbox and presenting them to Logan at Tarpey with his family present (pictured above.)

Bears' RB shares his gloves

The hard work of one persistent fan of Buchanan Bears' running back Kendall Milton paid off. After Tarpey Elementary sixth-grader Logan Sanchez made numerous requests for Kendall's football gloves after games this fall, Logan's wish came true.

Kendall – who is coming off a successful season and as a sophomore is already being contacted by several college teams interested in him playing for their schools – went to the stadium bleachers after a game and gave a pair of his gloves to Logan.

Buchanan Area calls itself Bear Nation; all six elementary schools, its intermediate school and its high school see themselves as one team, one nation. Turns out that Logan is part of Bear Nation and plays quarterback for Tarpey Elementary, which Kendall did not know.

When school officials learned of the kind deed Kendall had done, they decided to take it a step further. To help preserve the special keepsake for Logan, they got the gloves back, had Kendall sign them and a photo, and



put the mementos in a shadow box for Logan.

Kendall presented the shadow box to Logan during lunch at Tarpey Elementary. During the presentation Logan was asked why he was

so persistent. "I knew he would give them to me and I wanted them before it's too late," Logan said. Logan's parents and sister were also in attendance and were grateful of the kind gesture.

Boxing champ visits Kastner

Boxing Champion Jose Ramirez shared an inspiring message with students in the Latino Club at Kastner Intermediate on Dec. 11. Students packed the school library to listen to the 25-year-old boxing lightweight superstar from Avenal who, as an amateur was the U.S. National Lightweight Champion and competed for Team USA in the Olympics. Professionally, Ramirez is undefeated and just learned he will be fighting for the vacant Junior Welterweight World Title March 17 at Madison Square Garden in NY, which will be aired on ESPN.

He spoke to club members about believing in themselves and following their dreams. Who would have thought a kid from Avenal could win a national title or be an Olympian, he asked. But he said, he was focused on being the best he could be in the sport of boxing because he knew that was his passion.

"You have to believe in yourself and have faith that you will do something great," he told students, encouraging



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Clovis Unified Officer Jesse Ceron, who is the Kastner Intermediate Latino Club advisor, brought welterweight boxing champion Jose Ramirez to share his story with students.

them to pursue their education and their dreams.

"Sacrificing, respecting time and remaining optimistic are keys to success," he said.

Afterwards, Ramirez signed autographs and posed for pictures with students. Kastner has one of the largest

Latino Clubs in all of Clovis Unified and the club advisor CUSD Police Officer Jesse Ceron says the club continues to gain in membership. His goal is to continue to place individuals in front of students that can share real life examples of hope and inspiration.

Two BHS runners best in state



Buchanan High School Girls Cross Country Team placed second in the California Interscholastic Federation State Cross Country Championships, with sophomore Corie Smith and junior Meagen Lowe finishing first- and second-place individually. Smith ran a time of 17:16.7 and Lowe a 17:19.8.

The team qualified for nationals and competed at the Nike Cross Nationals in December, earning 12th place in the nation. Smith and Lowe were named All-Americans and the fastest sophomore and junior girls cross country racer west of the Mississippi.

Four ways to go LEAN in 2018

By Cassie Kandarian, Dietetic Intern and Nancy Whalen, Registered Dietitian
CUSD Campus Catering

Every year many people set goals for a New Year's resolution but only 8 percent of these resolutions are achieved. Accomplishing these goals requires small and intentional actions. If goals are realistic, one can work hard to achieve one small change at a time.

Here are some goals that may help those wanting to go LEAN in 2018:

■ **Limit** high fat, sugar and sodium. Choose more natural, whole foods and less highly processed items.

■ **Exercise** – recommendations for children is 60 minutes/day and for adults is 150 minutes per week. The amount of

minutes is cumulative throughout the day and can be broken into segments.

Examples include going for a short walk, using the stairs whenever possible, trying a "walk and talk" meeting instead of sitting, walking the dog, and walking/biking to work.

■ **Aim** to make half of your plate fruits and vegetables.

■ **Nourish** your body with lean protein, whole grains and low fat dairy.

Intentionality is key when making lifestyle changes. Make a list of goals and review them daily. Habits can take two to three months to create. Realistic changes will yield beneficial results with time and a conscious effort.

For more nutrition and exercise related information, see www.choosemyplate.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

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Cultural proficiency work offers hope, understanding

By Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

THE world is not perfect. Just turn on your TV, look at your phone or tablet, and you will see a litany of news stories focused on what isn't working so well around our world, nation, state and even local community. It's not perfect, but each of us has a responsibility to work toward making our little corner of the world a better place, and what I appreciate about the month of January is that it is filled with the emotion that is necessary to do just that ... hope.



Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.

Hope is inspirational. Hope is motivational. Hope is what turns discouragement into action. Why? Because, without hope for what could be, it is often our human nature to let what is remain our expectation and reality. Certainly, hope exists throughout the year, but I have found that January is often the month that is most filled with this valuable sentiment. It's a new year, and with a new year comes the opportunity to consider new possibilities and a different status quo.

It's also the emotion that I find abundant in our schools. I have said before that education is transformational, and through it we can affect change in ways that few other pursuits can match. It will likely be no surprise to you, therefore, that this month I am hopeful, and that much of that hope is driven by what I see happening in our Clovis Unified community.

I am particularly speaking of the extensive, recent work around our school district and with a large cross section of the community to thoroughly examine and evaluate issues of cultural proficiency. Clovis Unified has had in place for more than two decades an Intercultural and Diversity Advisory Committee (IDAC) process that includes district and site-based meetings. This recent in-depth review of our IDAC format has involved multiple conversations at every one of our schools and among our district-level support departments. It has allowed us to hear many different viewpoints and opinions about what is working

well (and what isn't) in Clovis Unified schools regarding the issues of cultural proficiency.

"What is cultural proficiency?" some might ask. When you hear someone in Clovis Unified referring to cultural proficiency, we are referencing our work to build an educational system that is:

- Effective at meeting the needs of ALL students;
- Respects the value and contributions of the many different cultures and races that make up our community and school district;

and

- Promotes a campus climate that, through education, contributes to every student feeling welcome and supported by our employees and by other students.

Some people may point to recent race related incidents in our schools and community, and assume that

"I have hope that we can make a positive change, and what better vehicle to start that change than the transformational power of education."

Eimear O'Farrell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

we are "reacting," or as I've had some say to me, "over reacting" to isolated incidents that reflect a national issue much too big for one school district to overcome.

Based on the two sentiments I expressed at the start, I disagree. I have hope that we can make a positive change, and what better vehicle to start that change than the transformational power of education?

Over time, IDAC and our work to build a culturally proficient system has been evaluated and revised periodically. Events over the past

12 months in our district have emphasized the importance of this work and have driven our own self-reflection. Much in our world has changed over the past two-and-a-half decades.

For instance, while we have long taught our students about being good citizens, treating each other with mutual respect and showing good character, our current IDAC system did not have a well-developed component around digital citizenship or how to translate these skills into online behavior and interactions. Twenty-five years ago, "digital citizenship" wasn't even part of our consciousness.

Our students, parents, employees and the greater community representing a cross section of cultures and races, are valuable in guiding this work, and I would like to thank the hundreds of people who have sat down with us to this point to have courageous conversations. This month, we'll be sharing with our Governing Board the results of our IDAC review, which examined the following areas:

- Curriculum
- Hiring
- Parents/Community Involvement
- School Environment
- Staff Training

In each of these areas, like in the case of digital citizenship, we have identified intentional steps that we can take to improve upon the systems and efforts already in place.

As we have conducted this review, I have been encouraged by the large number of people in every corner of our district who have contributed. It is clear that this is a topic in which our community has great interest, and I'm hopeful and excited about what our future holds as we work together to ensure that our schools maximize the power of education to build a stronger, more unified community.

We are committed to this work, and we are committed to keeping our community informed throughout. We welcome input from our community, and I encourage you to be an active participant through involvement in your local school community. Just as a single strand is easily broken, but a cord of many strands remains strong, so too, we are better and stronger together. Thank you for being our partner and may your New Year also be filled with hope and purpose.



Photo special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

HELEN KELLER AMERICAN AUTHOR

A pediatrician's guide to a healthy media diet

By Clarisse G. Casilang, M.D.

Graduate, UCSF Fresno Pediatrics Residency Program and Global Health Fellow, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

TV. Movies. Videos. Internet. Snapchat. Instagram. Facebook. Music. Video games. Phone apps.

It can be a daunting task deciding which types of digital media are appropriate for your child's age, health and development. The same goes for screen time. How much is too much? Parents play a huge role in helping their children and teens navigate the media environment, just as they help them learn how to behave in other environments such as at home or at school.



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which is the nation's largest group of pediatricians, has developed recommendations and resources to help families maintain a healthy media diet. Although there is little in the way of specific time limits for media use in school-aged children, the idea is to access more quality and educational programming and to balance media use with other healthy behaviors such as sports, reading and spending time with

friends and family.

Discussions with kids and teens about what they see and hear on TV, online and via other media sources are teachable moments and important opportunities to share family values, help them make sense of what they are exposed to and how to distinguish real life from fiction.

Here are a few of the AAP's evidence-based tips:

■ **Stay consistent:** For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media and the types of media they access. It is important to make sure media does not take the place of or interfere with adequate sleep, physical activity and other healthy behaviors such as spending quality time with family. To develop your family's media plan, visit <http://www.HealthyChildren.org/MediaUsePlan>

■ **Designate screen-free times and zones:** As part of the daily routine, make devices like TVs, phones, computers, games or other electronics off limits at specific times. Dinnertime and before bedtime are important ones. Having areas of your home remain media-free such as bedrooms is also important.

■ **Choose media that is worth your time:** More than 80,000 apps are advertised as educational, but generally,



their quality is untested. For help, look to reviews about age-appropriate apps, games and programs from trusted sources like Common Sense Media to guide you in making the best choices for your children.

■ **Stay safe:** Ensure your children access media safely. Review privacy settings on all sites with your children. Teach them to keep personal information private. Instruct them to never give out personal information and remind them to never share personal photos online. Importantly, model healthy behaviors for your

kids and teens to follow by not using a phone or texting while crossing the street or driving. Advise them not to befriend, chat with or virtually game with someone without a parent's permission.

Perhaps, the best advice is to make time for you and your kids to be offline. Media and digital devices are a big part of our world today. If used in moderation and appropriately, the benefits of these devices can be incredible. However, research has shown that face-to-face time with family, friends, teachers and real-life interaction plays an even more important role in promoting children's learning and healthy development. Make face-to-face time with your children a priority and don't let it get lost behind a screen.

— ABOUT US —

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

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CUSD educator takes part in life-long learning

Editor's note: Six Clovis Unified schools started the 2017-18 school year with new leadership. Buchanan, Clovis and Clovis West high schools and Freedom, Miramonte and Riverview elementary schools all have new principals. The principals are: Joe Aiello, Buchanan High; Stephanie Hanks, Clovis High; Richard Sarkisian, Clovis West High; Kristen Belknap, Freedom Elementary; Laura Hart, Miramonte Elementary; and Marci Panoo, Riverview Elementary.



elementary education.

Years worked for Clovis Unified School District: 12

What was your very first job?

I answered the phones for Papa John's Pizza

What led you to a career in education?

I worked as a summer camp counselor and loved getting to watch kids learn and grow.

Growing up, who was your favorite teacher and why?

My fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Sobel, was the best teacher I ever had. In her class, we grew a garden and had kindergarten buddies. She made every student feel valued and important.

What do you think is the role of a school principal?

The role of a principal is to guide and support staff and students to reach their highest potentials in mind, body and spirit, all while maintaining a safe and nurturing environment.

What would you like to accomplish this year at your new school?

Miramonte is a great school with a long history of excellence. My number one goal is to integrate myself into the culture and continue the traditions already in place.

What book are you reading right now? I haven't read much recently but I really love podcasts. Lately, I've been listening to "This American Life," "Revisionist History" and "Ted Talks Daily."

What is your all-time favorite children's book?

My boys and I love reading all of the Elephant and Piggie books.

What is a favorite quote or saying?

"When you learn, teach. When you get, give." – Maya Angelou

What do you like to do in your free time?

Cheer on the Florida Gators, Nerf gun battles with my boys, and wander the aisles of Target.

What is your favorite thing for dinner?

Sushi.

In three words, how would you describe yourself?

Mother, teacher and learner.



Photo special to CUSD Today. Clovis Area Superintendent Sylvia Borges gives a hug to Clovis High Guidance and Learning Specialist Stephanie Frazier who is among this year's Crystal Award winners.

Crystals:

FROM PAGE ONE

thing of their choosing at there school or work site. They will also have their name added on a brick in the Employee Walk of Fame located in the courtyard by the Governing Boardroom.

"It's a wonderful way to recognize the tremendous work being done throughout the district," O'Farrell said.

The Crystal Award Gala will be held Feb. 28 at the Performing Arts Center and is open to the public. A reception begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program starting in the Shaghoian Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Congratulations to the following Crystal Award recipients!

■ **Debby Bagdasarian**, Office Supervisor, Fancher Creek Elementary School

■ **Frances Bishop**, Fifth/Sixth Grade Teacher, Dry Creek Elementary School

■ **Ray A. Blanco**, Plant Supervisor I, Boris Elementary School

■ **Chris Blaufuss**, Third Grade Teacher, Cedarwood Elementary School

■ **Kristy Brinkley**, Nurse, Nursing Services, Garfield and Century Elementary Schools

■ **Thomas Brocklebank**, Learning Director, Clovis West High School

■ **Patti Carpenter**, Activities Secretary, Clovis High School

■ **Laura Collins**, Teacher Librarian, Clovis North Educational Center

■ **Tiffany Cooper**, Office Supervisor, Cedarwood Elementary School

■ **Larry Crayne**, Bus Driver, Transportation Department

■ **Cindy Dailey**, Sixth Grade Teacher, Century Elementary School

■ **Denise DenHartog**, Math Teacher, Clovis West High School

■ **Ray Espinoza**, Instructional Assistant II, Mountain View Elementary School

■ **Stephanie Frazier**, Guidance and Learning Specialist, Clovis High School

■ **Kendia Herrington**, CTE Chemistry Teacher, Buchanan High School

■ **Jeff Hodges**, Guidance Learning Director, Buchanan

High School

■ **Andrea "DeeDee" Jett**, Third Grade Teacher, Tarpey Elementary School

■ **Karen L. Johnson**, Guidance Learning Specialist, Clovis North Educational Center

■ **Donna Kawana**, Health Services Assistant I, Nursing Services, Fort Washington Elementary School

■ **Judy Kobayashi**, Third Grade Teacher, Cedarwood Elementary School

■ **Laurette Lee**, Student Activities Specialist I, Riverview Elementary School

■ **Sharon Magill**, Speech-Language Specialist, Valley Oak Elementary School

■ **Denise Sandifer**, Guidance Learning Specialist, Gateway High School, Clovis Community Day School

■ **Monica Schneider**, Campus Club Program Supervisor, Child Development

■ **Toni Shelby**, Teacher, Clovis Online School

■ **Janis Tatum**, School Secretary II, Clovis North Educational Center

■ **Kent Younglund**, Sixth Grade Teacher, Fugman Elementary School

Laura Hart, 35 Principal, Miramonte Elementary School

Family:

Two pretty cool sons, one in kindergarten and one in second grade.



Education: Fresno State, master's degree; University of South Florida, bachelor's degree in

EMPLOYEE BRIEFS

District health center readies for opening in February

Hours of operation and a new website have been announced for the Clovis Unified Health Center that is scheduled to open in February for employees, retirees and their dependents who participate in CUSD's Health Plan.

Advantages of using the center for basic services include limited or no wait times, limited paperwork and no co-pays. The center will be managed by miCare and will have dedicated physicians on staff. Routine medical care, such as treatment of sore throats, ear aches, cold symptoms, sinus problems, immunizations and physicals, will be available.

The center is in the district's Professional Learning Center on the southwest corner of Clovis and Herndon avenues, just east of Freeway 168.

A website with information about services and usage was recently launched, and the center is scheduled to open in February for patients. Users will make their appointments online, and spots will be limited each day to prevent long waits.

According to Steve Ward, who oversees Clovis Unified's health plan, the center is not meant to replace an existing primary care physician. It is meant to enhance the overall wellness of covered employees and their dependents, many, who according to survey results, do not have a primary physician and use urgent care or emergency rooms for treatment of routine illnesses which can be costly and involve long wait times.

Preliminary operating hours are expected to be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Extended early lab services

would be from 6:30 to 8 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Visit www.cusd.com for more information.

Two CUSD employees finalists in state education contest

Two Clovis Unified teachers were winners of the California League of School's Region 7 "Educator of the Year" award and they will now be finalists in the league's state contest for California Educator of the Year.



Nicole Lack



Gabrielle Worden

They are, for elementary school, Nicole Lack, a fourth/fifth grade teacher at Nelson Elementary; and for intermediate school, Gabrielle Worden, an RSP teacher at Kastner Intermediate. Region7 stretches from Bakersfield to Merced.

The winners will be announced at the California League of Schools State Conference in Sacramento in March.

Other finalists for the CLS Region 7 from Clovis Unified were:

For elementary schools, Jeremy Amon, Tarpey Elementary; Andrea Gregory, Valley Oak Elementary; Jill Martin, Freedom Elementary; and Maria Puopolo, Copper Hills Elementary.

For middle schools, Sharon Ferguson, Alta Sierra Intermediate; Sara Silva, Granite Ridge Intermediate; and Sara Higgins, Reyburn Intermediate.

For high schools, Andrea Castro, Clovis North High; Denise DenHartog, Clovis West High; Michael Khus, Clovis East High; and Jennifer O'Meara, Buchanan High.

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Students join honor society

Several Clovis Unified School District students were inducted into the Sikh Honor and Service Society in December. The national program promotes and honors service, leadership and academic excellence among high school students.

CUSD inductees are, from Buchanan, Ajay Singh, Bhavit Singh, Guneet Kaur, Priya Kaur, Rajan Singh, Shagan Singh, Udham Singh and Vinay Singh; from Clovis East, Abhayjit Singh, Anmol Kaur, Anuvir Kaur, Avi Gupta, Bismambir Singh, Harleen Kaur and Navneet Kaur; and from Clovis North, Jasreet Kaur, Karen Kaur, Nikkie Kaur and Sukhreet Kaur.

Clovis West's new club Eagle's Perch offers technology opportunities

A new club at Clovis West – the Eagle's Perch Maker Space – is giving students a place to design, create, build and explore the world of technology. It was co-founded by technology coaches Steven Rocheford and Jason Berg



with three purposes. It provides students a place to go when they do not have class or are waiting to leave for CART or ROP classes. Second, it involves ROP Education students in helping create STEM/STEAM Trunks. These are boxes that can be sent out to elementary school sites where the younger students can be exposed and enriched by trying to solve or create solutions to challenges that align to state or national standards. Finally, they hope to



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Dry Creek Student Council members help plant new trees on their campus. Students learned about the care of trees from Clovis Unified's grounds team.

Students join in tree planting

Dry Creek Elementary students had a lesson outdoors as they helped plant trees along the school's parent-pick up fence and playing field. The 16 October Glory Maple trees are part of the district's solar-project tree replacement in which 200 new trees will be planted at campuses in the upcoming months.

At Dry Creek, Robert Falls, with the district's Grounds and Landscaping Services, explained to students how to plant and care for the new trees. Members of the Student Council then took turns with shovels and helped with getting the trees into the ground. The trees may reach heights of between 40 and 50 feet tall with a 25 to 35-foot canopy spread.

open the Eagles Perch one night a week for the community to come in, and as a family, design, create and unlock their inner explorer.

The club meets weekly but is open to students at any time to use the computers. Other equipment available includes 3D printers, 3Doodler pens, sewing machines, leather working tools, electronics gear to build and disassemble, robotics kits, and the opportunity to learn how to

code. There is also a computer repair center being formed where students will be able to take apart and repair broken computers. Some of the materials available to students are different fabrics, leather, spools for the 3D printer, recyclable materials, etc.

Said club member Ajay Davis, "I have personally been able to use the 3D printers and learn more than I ever could have by just researching online." The school received a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for Clovis Schools to start the club. – Submitted by Eagles Perch member Bradley Kennedy

Holiday help at Clovis East

At Clovis East High, elves from the Intensive Autism Special Day Class helped do the holiday shopping for staff. The program allowed students to practice vocational skills while providing a service to teachers. Those who participated gave an order of items to be purchased at Target along with the funds. Students from the Special Day Class then had the practical experiences of looking for the items, asking employees as needed for help, and making the purchase. The students even wrapped gift items and presented the packages to the teachers.

Valley Oak in the Dog House



Photo special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.

Valley Oak Elementary students had courtside seats at a recent Fresno State basketball game. The students attending not only represented the school, but also the basketball team and SPECTRUM (Students and Principal Embrace Cultures Together, Reaching for Understanding and Meaning). SPECTRUM was created on the Valley Oak campus to educate students on the rich diversity that exists on the campus and in the community.

Dashboard: New way to look at online results

FROM PAGE ONE

In Clovis Unified, the district rated in the top two performance band (blue and green) in English Learner Progress, Graduation Rate, English Language Arts, and Mathematics.

Suspension Rate data fell

in the "orange" category. Educators are closely studying the data in this area to determine steps that can be taken to reduce suspensions while continuing to balance the district's standards for student behavior and the need to create a secure learn-

ing environment on campus for students and staff.

Subgroup data in each of these areas is also available, and enables educators in Clovis Unified to pinpoint areas for needed improvement. "We use the California School Dashboard to ensure ALL

students are performing at high levels," said Administrator of Assessment Allison Hernandez. "Clovis Unified teachers and administrators work hard to meet the needs of all students. The dashboard is one way to look at the results of their efforts."

The Dashboard replaces the state's former accountability system, the Academic Performance Index (API), which relied exclusively on standardized test results and gave schools a single score. It uses numerous data points to measure status (how each

school or district fared last year), and change (how much they improved or declined over time) to measure performance.

More information about Dashboard is available online at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/Home>.

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CUSD's Clovis Hybrid Autism Program makes a difference

By Ryan Elison
Program Specialist/Special Education

Autism has not only become a world-wide concern but also a personal fight for many touched by autism as neighbors, friends, and through our own children and grandchildren have been affected. The Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research (STAR) curriculum says, "A significant part of the child's day should be spent learning language and play within a functional context."

Impairments in social skills are a large part of what makes autism so devastating. Expressing emotion, reading non-verbal cues, weak eye contact, lack of imaginary play, lack of initiating pretend play, social reciprocity, struggle with peer interactions, unaware of social codes of conduct, little sense of personal boundaries, inappropriate social responses and unable to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements with others are just some of the challenges.

Clovis Unified School District recognized this need and did something about it.

Nearly 15 years ago the Clovis Hybrid Autism Program (CHAPS) was created to provide behavioral services for our young CUSD students who demonstrate autistic-like behaviors. Toddlers 18 months of age and school-aged students up to age 7 may receive Applied Behavior



Photo special to CUSD Today.
Students with the Clovis Hybrid Autism Program (CHAPS) enjoy learning about reptiles at the Discovery Center.

Analysis (ABA) services in their homes. Parents are partners in the behavioral therapy process and learn how to implement their children's programs.

All of the CHAPS kids will one day enter into Clovis Unified School District, filling various programs both at the preschool and kindergarten level. These children with autism come to school with or without early intervention. It has been our experience, supported by research, that with the ABA approach and extensive opportunities for speech, facilitated and independent play, these children can progress down a life-changing path in the opposite direction of our Intensive Autism Serv-

ices. This is our goal. To actually see a portion of our students no longer require intensive and restrictive environments to learn and develop.

In addition to in-home services provided by CHAPS, our clients greatly benefit from going out into the community and attending social events that the whole family can enjoy. This need for community outings has resulted in CHAPS forming relationships with various organizations and businesses in the area.

These partnerships have resulted in allowing our families to go on field trips, participate in activities, and receive donations in support of Autism Awareness Month and our various social events. The local support and generosity that CHAPS has benefited from is overwhelming. It is so powerful for our parents and staff to see groups in the community accept those with autism and to

welcome them on both their good days and bad days.

Most recently the Fresno Discovery Center, opened its doors to our CHAPS families by generously giving them the entire facility all to themselves to explore. Our staff, students and parents enjoyed seeing and playing with the giant dinosaurs, fire truck, play structures, hands-on activities, space shuttle, grizzly bear, fish, snakes, lizards, turtles and the many science experiments to name a few. The range of activities goes on and on.

The children were entertained as they learned and parents were pleased with the set-up of the Discovery Center as it was a child-focused, safe and an inviting environment for learning and "discovery."

Lastly, we extend an invitation for all those looking to enter the field of autism to apply and join the CHAPS team. There is a great need for individuals to work in this labor of love. This job comes with great challenges, but also incredible moments of triumph and celebration. One will learn and develop a unique set of skills that will serve in many ways as one enters this career of teaching and serving children with special needs.

If you are looking for work and want to make a difference in the life of a child, please consider applying for a position as an Instructional Assistant for Clovis Unified School District <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/921195>.

For additional information about working as an Instructional Assistant for the Clovis Hybrid Autism Program please email ryanelison@cusd.com.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Celebrating Clovis FFA's meats evaluation team's Reserve National Champions in Indianapolis are, from left, Clovis East Principal Kevin Kerney, Clovis East Area Superintendent Corrine Folmer, Clovis East Ag Teacher/FFA Coach Ken Dias, team members Samantha Gambriel, Eleanor Cummings, Mary Merritt and Evan Pence, and Clovis East Agriculture Learning Director Tony Sanchez.

Clovis FFA meats team are Reserve National Champions

By Anthony Cortez
Clovis FFA member

The Clovis FFA meats evaluation team is one of the organization's most regularly successful activities for students. This career-development event (CDE) allows members to gain usable knowledge about the meats industry.

Coached by Reagan Educational Center teacher Ken Dias, students learn beef carcass evaluation, identification of meats cuts, knowledge for a general test, and much more in preparation for competitions that take place all over California during the spring.

Members of the CDE team spend several hours a week in Dias' classroom or in a local meat locker honing their skills for competition.

In 2017 the highly competitive A-team consisted of Mary Merritt, Evan Pence, Eleanor Cummings and Samantha Gambriel. Through the judging season this meat evaluation team was a force to be reckoned with, winning multiple state-level field days

and making it apparent they had a good chance of winning the Cal Poly state finals and representing California at the national level in Indianapolis.

As foreseen this team won state finals and began preparation for national competition, which included more frequent practices during the rest of the school year and practices three to four days a week during summer.

When October brought an approximated 64,000 FFA members to Indianapolis, Indiana, four among them were from Clovis FFA's well prepared meats evaluation team. The group was eager to demonstrate their years of dedication.

When the time came to compete Mary Merritt placed fourth, Evan Pence placed fifth, and Eleanor Cummings placed 11th out of close to 126 students and together the team was Reserve National Champions out of 42 teams.

Clovis FFA is unbelievably proud of these individuals and all the hard work they have devoted.

CUSD Today 2 MINUTES Today

Trending topics in education for students, parents and community.

Editor's note: Clovis Unified School District believes that education doesn't end at the classroom door. It's why our founding Superintendent Dr. Floyd B. Buchanan emphasized helping students "to be the best they can be in mind, body and spirit." We look into the "body" component of Doc's charge in this month's "2 Minutes Today," the video blog complement to CUSD Today that is emailed directly to parents.

Mind, Body and Spirit

When we talk about "Body," we include athletics, nutrition and other co-curricular activities like band, folkloric dance and photography. Essentially, these are the activities that help students become engaged in the world around them. Developing the body might include a student working on building a robot to compete at the world robotics championships, while at the same time it might for another student mean practicing their jump shot.

Great things happen when kids get out from behind their desks. Kendal Kubo, a volleyball coach and AB teacher at Clark Intermediate School, believes students learn valuable life lessons that sometimes you can't be taught in a class. "They learn how to connect with people, how to work together with people, how to collaborate with one another. It ultimately helps them succeed and helps them carry that over into the classroom."

Trying activities is essential for growth. Kelli Brown from Fugman Elementary says, "kids don't realize their abilities unless they are given the opportunity to try."

Buchanan High Principal, Joe Aiello also sees the benefit of engaging the body. "Our students are able to get out there, they are able to be part of a team because that's something that they are going to be able to use later in life," he said.

For the complete video, see <http://www.cusd.com/communications-homepage/2-minutes-today/>.



A Bounty of Bicycles

Third-graders at Miramonte Elementary were stunned during an assembly when they learned all 91 of them would receive a new bicycle and helmet thanks to the generosity of Celebration Church, Clovis Police Department and Fire Department. Cheers, hugs, tears and high-fives filled the room. "We are very blessed to have a community that supports us," said Principal Laura Hart. She said she hopes students will remember this day forever and not only because of getting a bike, but also remembering how a community can pull together in acts of kindness, love and generosity.



Photos special to CUSD Today by Ron Webb.

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Board names new president, other officers

By Kelly Avants
Chief Communication Officer

Dec. 6

The Clovis Unified Governing Board elected member Jim Van Volkinburg, D.D.S., to the position of board president at the start of the Dec. 6 Organizational Meeting. Van Volkinburg will serve in this capacity until December 2018. In addition to the president position, Betsy Sandoval was elected vice-president, and Ginny Hovsepian was appointed clerk.

Board members also discussed representation on standing topical subcommittees for Budget, Curriculum and Instruction, and Facilities, deciding to maintain current membership on these monthly subcommittees. Sandoval will continue to serve as the board's representative on the Center for Advanced Research and

Technology (CART) Board, along with newly appointed public sector representative Todd Cook.

Sandoval will also continue to serve on the California School Board Association's Delegate Assembly, representing the Central Valley region along with Board Member Brian Heryford. Heryford and Sandoval also continue service on the joint Clovis City Council and Clovis Unified Board Joint Subcommittee, and as a voting member (Sandoval) and alternate (Heryford) to the Fresno County Committee on School District Organization.

After completing its annual organization, the board heard singers from the Clovis North Women's Chorale perform a set of music the choir will present at the invitation-only Western Division Choral Directors Association

► BOARD BRIEFS

this spring. The group, under the direction of Heather Bishop, is one of only a handful of high school choirs from the entire Western U.S. to receive an invitation to the prestigious event.

The board also heard the mid-year report from members of the Inter School Council (ISC), student representatives from all five comprehensive high schools who work to build a strong sense of community across the district's student population. Members of the ISC shared with the Governing Board a summary of their annual Leadership Conference held last August at the Sierra Outdoor School, and issued an invitation to the Governing Board members to attend any of the group's upcoming

events.

In other action, the board:
 ■ Approved a Provisional Internship Permit and a Variable Term Waiver request to provide additional time for two teachers to complete specialized credentialing and certification.

■ Accepted the annual third party audit report, in which the district once again received zero findings. This is the fourth consecutive year that the district received no audit findings in any of its budgets.

■ Accepted the annual first quarter financial report and J-251 first interim report certifying that the district will be able to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year.
 ■ Approved an annual

agreement with School Services of California to provide legislative advocacy services for the district.

■ Approved the placement of three Special Education students in non-public schools to receive specialized services identified in their Individualized Education Plans.

■ Authorized the Associate Superintendent of Administrative Services, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and the Director of Budget and Finance to sign check and payroll registers, and accept financial mail on behalf of the district.

■ Approved participation of students from the five comprehensive high schools in the Concurrent Public Higher Education Program for the 2017-18 school year.

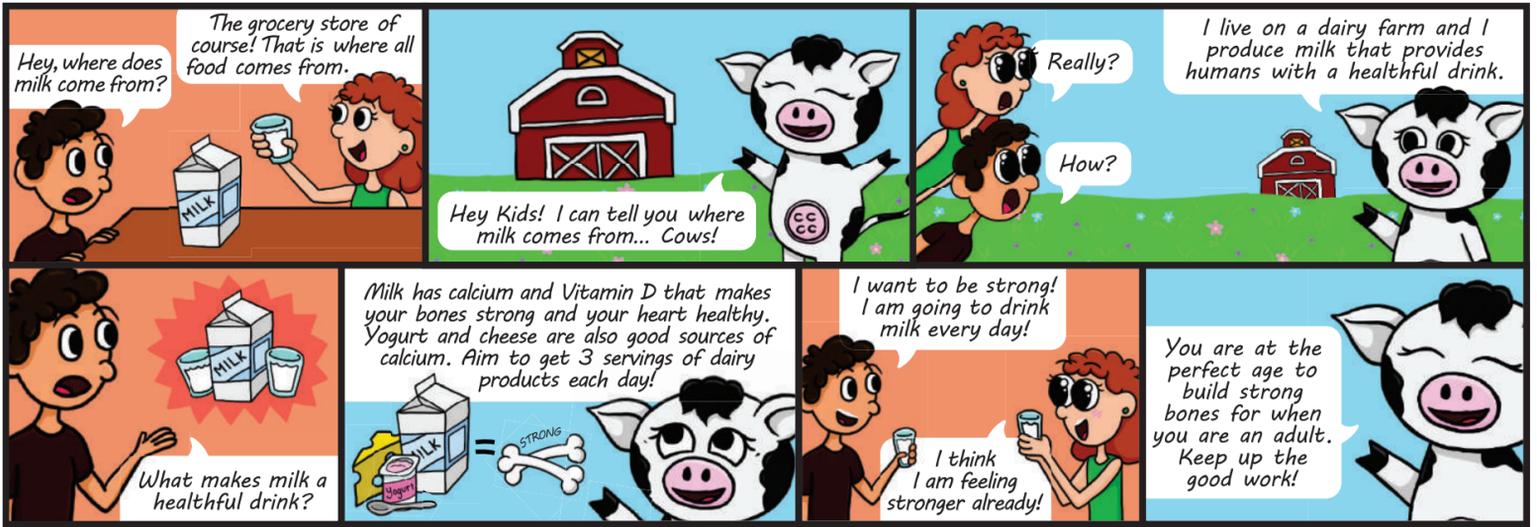
■ Accepted the 2016-17 Developer Fee Findings and Public Information Report

that provides an accounting report of income and expenditures of the Developer Fee Fund.

■ Authorized the district to participate in the Triennial Fresno County Plan for Providing Educational Services to Expelled Youth. The plan was developed by a multi-agency committee and is currently being reviewed by the State Department of Education. Once completed, the plan will be in effect from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

► Complete minutes and agendas of all meetings of the Governing Board are available online at www.cusd.com. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled for Jan. 17 at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way in Clovis. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

WHATCHA MUNCHIN? | Illustrated by Brittney Banta - Multimedia Student at CART High School



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Giving: Caring, generosity evident among CUSD students

FROM PAGE ONE:

for each other and those in our community," she said. "It is absolutely amazing to see the generosity of our students, staff, and community."

The following are some of the happenings that occurred or are still occurring:

Alta Sierra Intermediate: The Alta Sierra Bruins took part in a season of "Caring and Sharing," which kicked off with the annual Turkey Trot spearheaded by the P.E. Department. Students were rewarded for their run times with a turkey. The Math Department gathered donations from students for the annual Coats for Kids drive. The coats and sweatshirts were washed and prepared for distribution by the Teen Living Class. Students in Leadership and Peer Counseling classes collected items to create food baskets for ASI families. Students and staff donated gifts of toys and clothing to children in need in the Buchanan Area. A school-wide Canned Food Drive also led by the P.E. department collected items for distribution to families in conjunction with the Clovis Rotary Club and Clovis Police Department.

Boris Elementary: The giving spirit at Boris Elementary meant a Student Body Canned Food Drive, with the Student Council collecting donations of canned goods from each classroom. The goal was to collect 1,000 cans to donate to the Community Food Bank. "I think that it is going to help a lot of people that don't have food for the winter," said Spirit Commissioner Brooklyn Washington, a fifth-grader.

Buchanan High: Students and staff at Buchanan had many ways to show kindness. A Canned Food Drive collected more than 2,000 items that were donated to the Pinedale Good Neighbor Center. Staff partnered with Woods Elementary with a Giving Tree drive that collected presents for students at Tarpey Elementary.

Candy canes and notes were given out during lunch from members of the Random Acts of Kindness club. Founder and president of the Random Acts of Kindness club, senior Shaye Dubberke said, "We wanted to give a little note of encouragement to the student body because we know finals can be stressful. One student told me it was the highlight of her day. And I got the opportunity to talk with other students that I don't normally interact with."

The RAK club made Christmas cards and gave them to residents at the Sunrise of Fresno. The students also visited with the men and women living in the senior resident community and sang Christmas carols to them.

Buchanan's Chamber Singers also shared their voices. They visited and performed at Clovis Community Medical Center, Valley Children's Hospital and at the Holiday Spectacular.

The 10th Annual Books from Bears book drive was set to collect 10,000 books, bringing the 10-year total to more than 100,000 books. Century and Garfield Elementary Schools joined in the effort that is run through Buchanan's Bear Necessities Student Store. The new and gently used books benefited CUSD schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Catholic Charities and Reading Heart.

Students also helped raise nearly \$4,000 for a Buchanan senior and Make-A-Wish recipient whose wish is to visit Universal Studios in Orlando. Money was collected by Leadership Students on campus and at a football game.

Bud Rank Elementary: Students at Bud Rank Elementary will continue the spirit of giving into the new year. They

are planning to hold a sock and blanket drive in February to benefit the local homeless and those in need. The event will be organized by the Student Council and Student Ambassadors.

Cedarwood Elementary: Cedarwood Elementary students joined in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots collection drive, donating a variety of gifts. They also contributed to the school's Canned Food Drive.

Century Elementary: Century teamed up with Copper Hills Elementary to provide toys and clothing for students at Birney Elementary and Century. "It's a great way to start our holiday season," said Principal Brion Warren, "as we give back to others in need." Students also participated in the annual Coats for Kids Drive. More than 300 coats were collected and distributed with the help of the Clovis Kiwanis Club. Five students at Century were recipients of new bicycles thanks to the Clovis Police Department.

Clark Intermediate: Clark Intermediate held "Team Caring" in which canned food and non-perishable items were collected in a large bin in the cafeteria which grew fuller each day. Working with the Clovis Kiwanis Club, the food was distributed to more than 500 families in the Clovis Area. "The students realize that a simple act of bringing in a can, can change the life of one person," said teacher Kendal Kubo.

Clovis Community Day School: At Clovis Community Day School, canned soups, chili beans, peas and corn were among items donated in the Canned Food Drive. Some students donated an unwrapped gift at the Toys for Tots Dinner, at which there were students who volunteered to help serve. Students also helped with making and handing out food baskets at P&R Farms.

Clovis Elementary: Student generosity will stretch into February as the school holds Pennies for Patients. The fund-raising drive that collects spare change has raised more than \$6,900 over the past three years.

Clovis High: The student body at Clovis High generously supported three events put on by the Interact Club, which included:

Thanksgiving Meals – Complete Thanksgiving meals were provided to 85+ families in the CHS area.

Canned Food Drive – Creamed corn, green beans and tomato sauce were among the thousands of cans donated in collection bins outside the school's Counseling Center. With the goal of gathering 8,000 cans, the Interact Club, along with Clovis Rotary, Clovis Police Officers Association, Salvation Army and other organizations, were to identify and help families in need during the holiday season.

Holiday Gift Drive – More than 120 gifts were donated and given to children attending one of the eight Clovis Area feeder elementary schools. Clovis High students could participate by getting a "star" that had the age and gender of the receiving child and bringing a gift for that child.

The Leo Club participated in a Shoe Collection, raising money for the Red Cross disaster relief efforts and providing gifts for families.

The Veteran Support Club held a fund drive, Pennies for Patriots, raising more than \$500 given to the Blue Star Mom's to use for packaging 400 boxes of food items sent to sons and daughters all over the world who are serving in the military. In addition, 800 handmade cards were provided from Clovis High and its feeder schools to send as well.

A NICU Baby Blanket Drive started in November and

continues till Jan. 22 with the goal of donating 1,000 blankets to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Valley Children's Hospital and Saint Agnes Medical Center. Either newly made or purchased blankets are donated. Said Trevor Stinecipher, a Peer Counseling member who is helping lead the drive, "Having a baby in the NICU in and around the holidays is that much more difficult. It's a time when most families are at home together but you're visiting a little one in the hospital. As peer counselors, we wanted to make it a little brighter for those parents."

Clovis North Educational Center: The Broncos held a canned food drive that benefitted not only families within the Clovis North Area, but also made donations to Clovis Rotary and Interact Club that created food baskets given to those in need in the community. More than 2,000 cans were collected.

The French class had Coats for Kids in their classroom and the AASU collected items for needy families. A blood drive was held Dec. 12.

The school leadership also made sure to spread holiday cheer on the campus, with Holiday Grams – containing a handwritten encouraging note and candy cane – given to each student and staff member at the intermediate school and high school. Leadership students from both Granite Ridge and Clovis North wrote the approximately 4,000 notes.

Clovis West High: Clovis West hosted a two week canned food drive prior to Thanksgiving Break, collecting 4,395 units of food for the Pinedale Good Neighbor Center. A toy drive was held during December, hosted by the Interact Club. Students donated everything from games and balls to puzzles and dolls.

Cole Elementary: The Parent Teacher Club at Cole Elementary is partnered with Faith Community Church to provide meals to families in need.

Copper Hills Elementary: The Copper Hills families filled two large food bins with items that were then distributed by Clovis Rotary to families in need. Canned food donations were collected at the school and at Dry Creek's annual Snow Day, a pastries and parents special event. The Miners also took part in a Giving Tree, providing gifts for more than 200 students at a local elementary school.

Dry Creek Elementary: The Student Council at Dry Creek Elementary organized a Pajama Drive to benefit Kindness 4 Kids. The organization provides pajamas to children ages 0 to 18 in Fresno County who are in foster care, homeless shelters or children who had to leave their homes due to a tragic event. The Panthers collected 199 pairs of new pajamas.

Fancher Creek Elementary: Families in need at Fancher Creek Elementary were the beneficiaries of kind donations from the community. The school community also helps out and for the second year had a Holiday Giving Tree. Generic descriptions of Fancher Creek students in need were placed as ornaments on a Giving Tree. Staff and families came to the office, selected ornaments, and brought the packages in time for an evening package pick-up before Winter Break. The school sponsored 55 students the first year and 90 students this year. "We hope to make this a Fancher Creek tradition," said Principal Erin Parker.

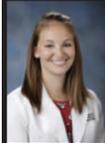
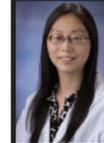
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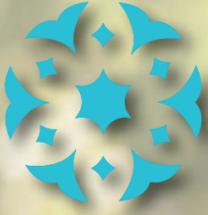


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Generosity: Cards, coats, soup and toys among donations

FROM PAGE 10

Fort Washington Elementary: The student body at Fort Washington donated 1,275 cans of food for the Clovis West Canned Food Drive. The Parent Teacher Club hosted a Toys for Tots Movie Night. Participating students donated more than 100 new toys for local children.

Freedom Elementary: The giving spirit will continue into January when Freedom Elementary students will participate in a Canned Food Drive. The items will be donated to the Fresno Rescue Mission.

Fugman Elementary: Students at Fugman Elementary brought books, puzzles, dolls, games and more as they participated in Toys for Tots, which is run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The toys were distributed to children whose families could not afford to purchase gifts for the holidays.

Garfield Elementary: For the 19th year, Garfield Elementary held a Giving Tree, which provided clothes and toys to students at Sierra Vista Elementary. This year 122 students received gifts thanks to the generosity of the Garfield families and Parent Teacher Club.

Gateway High School: Each year the Odd Fellows provides scholarships to four Gateway seniors. As a way to celebrate the organization, Gateway students help with the Clovis Odd Fellows Toys for Tots Dinner. Students help prepare and serve the dinner and sing Christmas carols.

Gettysburg Elementary: The Gettysburg Patriots filled an 8-by-12-foot trailer with 2,700 food items in its annual Food Drive. The items were donated to the Poverello House. "I love how much the Gettysburg community shows love and empathy to others. We are blessed to have so many generous families here," said Elizabeth Gueringer, advisor for the Student Council that sponsors the event.

Jefferson Elementary: Jefferson Elementary's Student Voice worked with Habitat for Humanity with decorating household items for qualifying families. Students and staff also made a donation to the Make a Wish Foundation, benefitting Clovis High students and the Bluejays gave gifts to Toys for Tots.

Kastner Intermediate: The Kastner Leadership Team held a Canned Food Drive, collecting 800 cans that were donated to the Pinedale Good Neighbor Center. The school's Random Acts of Kindness club collected donations and filled 22 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which sends gift boxes all over the world to children in need. Thanks to the generosity of Harvest Bible Church, 40 coats were donated to kids in need, and the Clovis Police Department donated four bicycles to help students who do not have transportation.

Liberty Elementary: Students at Liberty Elementary had two giving campaigns. They brought in canned food the first part of December to support Clovis West's Canned Food Drive Campaign. They also participated in a Stuffed Animal Drive in which students could donate gently used stuffed animals in collection bins.

Lincoln Elementary: Lincoln Elementary students, teachers and the Parent Teacher Club donated items and distributed 20 holiday food baskets.

Maple Creek Elementary: Maple Creek again held its Red Bucket Campaign, in which collected food items are given to families who might otherwise not enjoy a holiday dinner. Each class was challenged to bring one specific item, such as canned green beans or boxed mashed potatoes. Teachers used the opportunity to discuss the importance of a community helping one another, civic responsibility and social awareness. Students were also asked to donate \$1 for grocery store gift cards. The event was coordinated by the Parent Teacher Club, which supplements the cost of the gift cards.

Mickey Cox Elementary: Staff, students and families donated items to help provide food baskets to families in need.

Miramonte Elementary: Students joined in donating items for the annual Toys for Tots Drive at Miramonte Elementary. The PALS class also worked with Together We Rise to raise money for duffle bags for children in foster care. The bag gives foster kids something to carry their possessions in when moving, rather than having to use a large trash bag. More than \$650 was collected to use toward the duffle bags that students then decorated. PALS teacher Lianne Felix spearheaded the effort.

Mountain View Elementary: The Mountain View community got into the holiday spirit with the 3rd Annual Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the school's Parent Teacher Club. Parents and students enjoyed pancakes, shopped and had their pictures taken with Santa. "It's a great community event to spend with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season," said Principal Monica Everson. The school also participated in donating coats, pajamas and toys for children in need. They supported the Clovis North Transitions Team with donations of food for food baskets, clothes and toys.

Nelson Elementary: The Student Council coordinated a food basket drive for neighborhood families in need. Twenty-five families received turkeys and two boxes of canned foods. The Parent Teacher Club held a Giving Tree that provided gifts for 67 students in need. Fourth-graders in Taryn Kalman's class sent holiday cheer to Make-A-Wish by making cards and writing letters. Additionally, a former Nelson family continued their tradition of taking two current Nelson families on a shopping spree. "It's a family tradition to give back," said Principal Kendra Matson.

Oraze Elementary: Oraze students collected 1,570 items of canned fruit, vegetables, soups, pasta sauce and dried goods. The school partnered with Clovis Rotary to supply more than 500 families with food. The school also joined Clovis East's football team and collected 50 coats for the teams Coats for Kids Drive.

Pinedale Elementary: Pinedale Elementary's Destination Imagination team held a Canned Food Drive and donated the items to the Pinedale Community Fellowship Church, which serves many families in need in the Pinedale area.

Reagan Educational Center - Clovis East High and Reyburn Intermediate: At the REC, Clovis East and Reyburn joined forces to support several events. The Annual REC Canned Food Drive was attempting to meet or exceed last year's 39,000 units of food, with several clubs setting individual collection goals. The food was donated to families in the Clovis East Area and also the Community Food Bank. Students also created cards and letters that were sent to veterans at the Fresno VA Hospital. Other items were collected and sent as well such as blankets, board games, toiletries and snacks. Clovis East Peer Counselors hosted Letters to Active Troops; students from the REC sent more than 1,000 letters.

Clovis East FFA held Operation Christmas Child and from donations created 60 shoe boxes of gifts. The boxes included hygiene items, school supplies and toys. Similar items were also donated to the Marjaree Mason Center.

Clovis East also held Operation Make a Difference, in which donations were made for Toys for Tots and Coats for Kids, with more than 200 coats collected. The Clovis East Catholic Club collected toys for students in the Clovis East Area. The Interact Club helped make and distribute food boxes.

The CE Foreign Exchange/New Student Club drew Disney holiday pictures for patients at Valley Children's Hospital to brighten up the children's holidays.

Through partnerships with Loma Vista Community Church, Clovis Elks Lodge and the I-MPACT Transition Team, 25 Clovis East Area families were provided holiday gifts and food baskets. The Clovis Police Department also provided nine bicycles to students.

At Thanksgiving, the I-MPACT Transition Team provided 48 families in the Clovis East Area with food baskets in partnership with Loma Vista Community Church. Six families received dinner by Ruth's Chris Steak House. A generous donation by the Clovis Elks Lodge allowed for 30 additional baskets for families.

Reagan Elementary: Students aimed to collect 100 coats to donate to Coats for Kids. Jackets were dropped off throughout December and the Student Council held a special day at the drop off/pickup area where coats could be donated at the curb.

Red Bank Elementary: At Red Bank Elementary, first graders wrote letters and Christmas cards to be given to service men and women in the Army and Navy. They also made ornaments for the troops. Students, through "Operation Spreading Kindness," discussed in class that it is better to give than receive. They decided to collect items for the Marjaree Mason Center, a shelter for women and children.

Riverview Elementary: The Riverview Rams were on their way to surpassing their goal to collect 250 toys for the annual Toy Drive sponsored by the Student Council. Said Kelli Muirhead, Student Council advisor, "It's been great to watch the Riverview community support the community." Students also participated in the annual Clovis Rotary/Clovis Police Department Food Drive.

Sierra Vista Elementary: Children at Sierra Vista will carry the giving into the new year, holding a Food Drive the first part of 2018 that will benefit the Salvation Army. The goal will be to collect more than 400 non-perishable items.

Tarpey Elementary: The spirit of giving was taught during Tarpey's Annual Holiday Boutique. Generous vendors made available items at reduced prices allowing students to select gifts for their families. Vendors, volunteers and staff donated money to help some of the Spartans pay for their holiday shopping.

Temperance-Kutner Elementary: Teachers and staff had the opportunity to participate in the Star Giving Tree, adopting a "star" representing a selected student in need, and providing a gift for that child's parents to give to that child. Around 40 students were sponsored.

Valley Oak Elementary: Kindergartners in Cindy Mortensen's class at Valley Oak Elementary spent time during their Winter Party to make scarves. The heartfelt creations were donated to veterans. Students were also making Blessing Bags; items donated included toiletries, candy, socks, scarves, pens, paper, clothes and bottled water.

Weldon Elementary: As part of an ongoing Kindness Project, students were challenged to do an act of kindness over winter break. Some of those will then be shared during morning announcements. Students also continued their Kindness Rock Project Garden, which promotes kindness on campus. Students take a rock from the garden with a saying on it to enjoy or give it to someone who might need a kind word. Also, instead of making cards this year, classes wrote thank you notes to staff members.

Woods Elementary: Woods students participated in a Giving Tree that provided gifts and clothes to children in need within the district. A Canned Food Drive was also held and, along with Buchanan High, the items were distributed to 82 families.

Sixth-graders at Woods Elementary wrote letters to veterans expressing their gratitude for their years of service and dedication to the country. More than 100 letters were sent to veterans known in the Woods community and also to the VA Hospital.

Said one veteran who received a note, "It was with surprise and great delight that I opened my mail and found enclosed letters thanking me for my military service. It is quite humbling to receive such an honor."

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