FUSD PLACES $280 MILLION BOND ON BALLOT

November 2010 School Facilities Bond Will Not Increase Taxes – Extends Current Authorized Tax Rate

The Fresno Unified Board of Education voted unanimously on June 16 to place a $280 million bond on the November 2010 ballot to address the facilities needs of the Fresno Unified School District.

“Our Board’s action to move forward with a bond reflects our commitment to improving and repairing Fresno Unified schools,” said FUSD Superintendent Michael Hanson. “Even more so during these challenging times, we must press forward to ensure that all our students have access to high-quality schools.”

The ballot measure proposes to improve school campuses in every neighborhood of the district, without raising the current authorized tax rate, by:

- Upgrading and improving all Fresno Unified schools
- Supporting the work of the district to prepare career-ready graduates
- Investing in renovation and repair of all schools
- Continuing classroom technology upgrades
- Addressing the dropout issue by investing in alternative and continuing education facilities

“This bond is about investing in the basics and is an important next step in implementing the district’s Facilities Master Plan,” said Nick Yovino, a member of the community-led Facilities Ad hoc Advisory Committee (FAAC).

The bond proceeds would be used to fund priority projects as identified in the Facilities Master Plan with:

- $79 million to upgrade and improve elementary schools
- $44 million to improve middle schools
- $98 million to upgrade all high schools
- $12 million for career technical education facilities
- $16 million for school maintenance/repair and technology
- $8 million for alternative/continuing education to address the dropout issue

“We must press forward to ensure that all our students have access to high-quality schools.”

- Michael Hanson, FUSD Superintendent

Summer Food Service Program
Fresno Unified School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program.

» See Food Service, PG. 6

New FUSD Principals for 2010-2011
The Fresno Unified School District welcomes 22 new principals for the coming school year—welcome!

» See Principals, PG. 6
GIVE US YOUR INPUT!
For Future District Calendars

The Fresno Unified School District is asking for the community’s input in the development of the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic calendars. The two main objectives of the calendar are to enhance the District’s academic goals and to increase student attendance throughout the district:

1. All students will excel in reading, writing and math
2. All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics
3. All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success
4. All students will stay in school on target to graduate

To take the survey log on to our website: www.fresnounified.org

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Message from Superintendent Michael Hanson

I would like to let you know about a few of the highlights of the past year. First and foremost, because accelerating academic progress drives all that we do, we made critical strides in the most recent Academic Performance Index (API) rankings. As you probably know, the API is California’s measure of how students perform on state tests. The rankings are divided into deciles, with each decile representing 10% of schools.

- Three of our schools scored in the top 10% in the state when measured against all schools and schools with similar demographics.
- Fifteen schools showed a gain in both statewide and similar-school rankings.
- 79% of our schools moved forward in API rankings.

We remain far below where we want to be academically, but we are clearly making progress.

As we make critical improvements academically, we are supporting our students’ efforts outside the classroom with $14 million in new athletic facilities and upgrades at every high school. One of the highlights of the year in this area was opening the new pool at Fresno High School and breaking ground for the district’s first 50-meter pool at Bullard High School and a new all-weather track.

Our Board of Education’s willingness to invest in extracurricular activities paid off in a tangible way when Bullard and Edison high schools won Division I and II Valley championships this past year in football. We know that high-quality activities to complement what goes on in the classroom keeps students engaged in school and creates community pride.

I am also especially proud of the groundbreaking work our counseling team is doing to improve equity and access for our students, creating the widest range of opportunities for them when they graduate. For example, this means making sure they have taken the required classes not just to graduate, but to qualify for a California State University or University of California campus. We had a 38% increase in admissions to CSU Fresno, an 88% increase in the number of applications to UC Merced and a 21% increase in AP course enrollment.

As I pause to look back, our students had much success, and our staff and families have much to be proud of. Again, please take time to rest and reflect this summer, as we prepare to build on our successes during the upcoming school year.

As we settle into what I hope is an enjoyable summer for all of us, it seems appropriate to take time and reflect on the past school year, and take much-needed time to refuel. I find it’s usually in reflection that I can more clearly see the road ahead. In fact, one of the themes I hope our district leans on in the coming year is finding the value of perspective. That doesn’t mean we won’t still be moving forward, but we’ll take time – first – to pause and reflect.

I would encourage our families and members of the community to do the same. What worked well in this past year, and what needs a tune-up? Are there constructive changes that need to be made in family routines that will make day-to-day life easier for family members? I hope we will take time to truly examine how our children did in school, and set some goals for the coming year – first – to pause and reflect.

As I reflect on the 2009-2010 school year – my fifth as superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District – I am encouraged by the strides our students and schools are making. I hope our families were able to see significant achievements in their children during the past year, not only in their academic progress but in character development. Our district goals are that:

- All students will excel in reading, writing and math;
- All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics;
- All students will demonstrate the character and competencies for workplace success; and
- All students will stay in school on target to graduate.
four high schools in California to build an on-campus courtroom.

Students engaged in the Law Magnet Program, launched in 2008-09, get real-world, hands-on experience using the forensic lab and courtroom, which is equipped with a witness stand, judge’s bench, gallery, jury box and deliberation room.

Law Magnet students select one of four academies as their focused area of study: American Legal System, Business Law, Science and the Law and Social Justice. The academies prepare students for careers in criminal, civil and constitutional law.

Innovations in and outside of the classroom have made Bullard High a premier campus in the Valley. Finks said the investment in athletic facilities is a highly visible sign of the district’s commitment to students and families.

“I think for Bullard High School, it’s creating a sense of community pride,” Finks said. “Many people have stayed in the neighborhood and stayed in the district in the hopes of getting facilities like this. The entire board and Superintendent Hanson have put an emphasis on excellence across the district, and this is just another example of the direction we’re going.”

The Fresno Unified School District will construct a swim complex at Bullard High School that will feature the largest pool in the district and help re-establish the school as a swimming powerhouse.

District and school officials, students, members of the Bullard community and city leaders gathered on May 5 to officially break ground for the new pool and a new track, which will include a lighted playing field for varsity soccer and freshmen football. The projects will cost $5.9 million. An environmental impact report, including public hearings, addressed concerns from some neighbors about additional traffic and use.

“It’s an honor to have the first 50-meter pool in the district and it’s going to bring back and restore the tremendous swimming tradition Bullard had for many years,” said Bullard Athletic Director Doug Finks. “I’ve gotten a lot of calls from alumni and community members. People are so excited about what we’re getting back.”

The pool will provide a high-quality venue for swim, diving and water polo events and restore a “home-court” advantage to the campus. Due to the size and poor condition of the old pool—built in about 1957—Bullard athletes often traveled to other facilities for practice and the school was unable to host meets. The old pool was 25 yards long, the width of the planned new one. It will have 18 lanes, large enough to host league finals and water polo play-offs.

The new track, which will be completed in March, will have nine lanes and all-weather surfacing, a vast improvement over the old track.

The project will include competition lighting, providing a safe dusk and night venue for athletes, Finks said. Bullard’s pool and track are part of a nearly $14 million investment by Fresno Unified to upgrade athletic facilities at all of its high schools.

The district has also made a significant investment in academics at Bullard High with the opening of a 900-square-foot courtroom in November for the Law Magnet Program. Bullard is one of only four high schools in California to build an on-campus courtroom.

School & Order At The Bullard High Law Magnet Program

Students Yasmine Creece-Brown and Travis DesLaurier-Rixman will work as paid interns this summer at a local law firm as part of Bullard High School’s Law Magnet program.

The students were selected from among 17 applicants for the two-week, 40-hour internship at the Walter & Wilhelm Law Group. This is the second year the Law Magnet has selected interns.

Yasmine, who will be a senior, and Travis, who will be a junior, will have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of a law office.

“They will literally be exposed to everything from court appearances to depositions, to attending community events, as well as research and writing,” said Paul Bauer, senior counsel at Walter & Wilhelm. “It will really be a hands-on experience. They won’t be stuck filing.

The interns were chosen from students within the Law Magnet program based on grades, essays, extracurricular activities, community involvement and letters of recommendation. The selection committee also gave priority to applicants who might not otherwise be exposed to the workings of a law firm.

“We want to bring the classroom work to life, some of the concepts they’ve learned,” Bauer said. “If we can expose them in high school to some of this, it reinforces that this is the direction they want to go, or they can decide, ‘I don’t want to do that.’”

Bullard established its Law Magnet in 2008-09, one of only four similar high school programs in the state, and opened a mock courtroom and science lab in November. The courtroom features a witness stand, judge’s bench, gallery, jury box and deliberation room.

Yasmine said she has wanted to be a lawyer since she was a freshman: “I view the internship as an opportunity to get more involved and more familiar with the field.” She decided to pursue a career in law after volunteering with the Invisible Children movement, devoted to bringing peace, schools, jobs and leadership training to northern Uganda, where children are forced into fighting.

“Lawyers stand up for people and topics. It’s the kind of person I am,” said Yasmine, who is considering continuing her education at Georgetown University, Yale University, Harvard University or the University of New York.

Travis said he will pursue a career in law because he “loves to argue.” He said the Law Magnet has given him a head start on his career studies and that landing the internship was a surprise and a thrill.

“I get to work with a lawyer. That will be pretty cool,” said Travis, who is considering going to college at the University of Florida.
FUSD 2010 SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT WINNERS

Supported by the Generosity of Fresno Unified School District Employees, 14 Seniors Representing All of the District’s High Schools Were Awarded $600 Fresno Unified Scholarships This Year.

Through voluntary payroll deductions and other efforts, employees have invested $17,000 in Fresno Unified students since the scholarship program began last year. Scholarship applicants, which doubled to 175 students this year, were carefully screened by teams of district leaders and high school counselors. A winner was selected from each regular and alternative high school, along with two at-large recipients.

Winners had compelling stories of their journeys as students, and many reached high academic achievement despite considerable roadblocks. One student, Juan Espinoza from Sunnyside High School, wrote in his application: “My aspirations were always the soft pillow where my heart rested after a rigorous day of learning and battles lost.”

My aspirations were always the soft pillow where my heart rested after a rigorous day of learning and battles lost.

—Juan Espinoza
Sunnyside High School student

Fresno Unified Scholarship Student Winners

Carolyn Chang
Bullard High School
Career Goal: Pediatrician

Shanwanda Davis
Cambridge High School
Career Goal: Registered Nurse

William Lopez
Design Science High School
Career Goal: Structural Civil Engineer

Mai Zong Her
Duncan Polytechnical High School
Career Goal: Dentist

Alejandro Sanchez
Edison High School
Career Goal: Medical Researcher

Krista Tsutsui
Fresno High School
Career Goal: Elementary Teacher

April Garrett
Hoover High School
Career Goal: Marine Biologist

Edward Alex Mertens
Hoover High School
Career Goal: Fresno Unified Teacher

Karissa Torres
McLane High School
Career Goal: Business Management

Rubbie Joya
Roosevelt High School
Career Goal: Head Counselor at Roosevelt High

Juan Espinoza
Sunnyside High School
Career Goal: Newscaster

Destinie Luna
DeWolf High School
Career Goal: Lawyer

Denton Watkins
Edison High School
Career Goal: Physical Education Teacher

Shaquia Martin
J.E. Young Academic Center
Career Goal: Business Management

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—Juan Espinoza
Sunnyside High School student
Fresno Unified School District Announces the Sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program

Free meals will be available to all youth who are 18 years of age or younger. To participate, young people must come to a site listed on the right at the time stated and they will receive a free meal that must be eaten at the site. For further information, please call the Fresno Unified School District’s Food Services Department at: (559) 457-6250

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>DATES OF SERVICE</th>
<th>MEAL TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Addams Elementary</td>
<td>2117 W. McKinley 93728</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Elementary</td>
<td>1542 E. Webster 93728</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
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<td>Ayer Elementary</td>
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<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
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<td>Aynerworth Elem.</td>
<td>4765 E. Burns 93725</td>
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<td>Bakman Elementary</td>
<td>580 N. Helm 93727</td>
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<td>Balderas Elementary</td>
<td>4425 E. Florence 93725</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethune Elementary</td>
<td>1616 S. Fruit 93706</td>
<td>6/15/10 – 7/8/10</td>
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<td>Calva Elementary</td>
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<td>Centennial Elementary</td>
<td>3830 E. Saginaw 93726</td>
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<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia Elementary</td>
<td>1025 S. Trinity 93706</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<td>Del Mar Elementary</td>
<td>4122 N. Del Mar Ave. 93704</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
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<td>Ewing Elementary</td>
<td>4673 E. Olive 93727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenberg Elementary</td>
<td>5081 E. Lane 93727</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/8/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<td>Heaton Elementary</td>
<td>1533 N. San Pablo Ave. 93728</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
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<td>Hidalgo Elementary</td>
<td>3550 E. Thomas 93702</td>
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<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson Elementary</td>
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<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson Elementary</td>
<td>202 N. Mariposa 93701</td>
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<td>King Elementary</td>
<td>1001 E. Florence 93706</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/8/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<td>Kirk Elementary</td>
<td>2000 E. Belgravia 93706</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<td>Leavenworth Elem.</td>
<td>4420 E. Thomas 93702</td>
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<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Thu</td>
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<td>Lowell Elementary</td>
<td>1711 N. Poltar 93701</td>
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<td>3305 E. Home 93703</td>
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<td>Muir Elementary</td>
<td>410 E. Dennett 93728</td>
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<td>Olmos Elementary</td>
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<td>1225 W. Dakota 93705</td>
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<td>Southeast Elementary</td>
<td>5090 East Church 93725</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Fri *</td>
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<td>Turner Elementary</td>
<td>5218 E. Clay 93727</td>
<td>6/14/10 – 7/1/10</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 M-Fri *</td>
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<td>4251 N. Winery 93727</td>
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<td>Williams Elementary</td>
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<td>Winchell Elementary</td>
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<td>Computech Middle</td>
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<td>Edison High</td>
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<td>Fresno High</td>
<td>1839 N. Echo Ave. 93704</td>
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<td>Hoover High</td>
<td>5550 N. First Street 93710</td>
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<td>McLane High</td>
<td>2727 N. Cedar Ave. 93703</td>
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<td>Sunnyside High</td>
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<td>Roosevelt High</td>
<td>4250 E. Tulare Street 93702</td>
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<td>CSU Fresno</td>
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More than 3,000 students graduated from Fresno Unified School District in 2010. This is just the beginning!

CLASS ACT: 2010

BOND MEASURE (continued from pg. 1)

- Funds for special education, joint use, site acquisition, and supplemental construction costs

To anticipate and plan for the future facilities needs of Fresno Unified, the district commissioned a group of community leaders on the FAAC to create a Facilities Master Plan. The FAAC spent two years analyzing data on the district’s facilities use and condition, enrollment trends, and the educational needs of students and the district. In addition, the committee held more than 20 public meetings to gather input and guidance on the Facilities Master Plan.

Among many other issues, the Facilities Master Plan addresses major school facilities issues such as:

- The lack of clear school feeder patterns throughout the district;
- Excessive use of portable buildings;
- Wide variability in school size across the district;
- Schools not meeting facility condition and educational suitability standards; and
- The limited availability of choice programs and special education in some areas of the district.

In November 2009, the FAAC recommended to the Board of Education to consider a bond to fund priority projects in the Facilities Master Plan. While the plan identifies $940 million in facilities needs, the $280 million bond would address the top priority facility projects, while maintaining the current authorized tax rate.

“To protect our investment, we must continue to repair, upgrade, and improve our schools – this is exactly what this bond measure does, while not increasing taxes for our community,” said Chuck Manock, an FAAC member.

The last bond passed in the district was Measure K in March 2001. That bond raised $199 million to fund new school construction and facility improvements. The 10-year Measure K program included more than 1,000 facilities improvement and construction projects district-wide, designed to support student learning. As that source of funds runs out and school building needs remain, the Board acted to put a new bond before the voters; this one requiring no raise in current tax rates.

“We know that high-quality schools support a quality education for our students, which, in turn, contributes to the quality of our neighborhoods,” Hanson said.
New Buses: RIGHT ON TIME

Thirty new Compressed Natural Gas buses will arrive just in time for the 2010/11 school year. Fresno Unified received over $5 million in grant funding from the California Air Resources Board and the San Joaquin Valley Air District. The new buses will run on natural gas reducing the cost of fuel by $1 per gallon. Thirty buses will be taken out of service that were built in 1977. The new buses are equipped with lap and shoulder belts. §

Mobile Health Unit Rides Again

Having difficulty getting to a doctor’s office or clinic for immunizations for your child? The Fresno Unified School District’s Mobile Health Unit will offer immunizations while parked at Manchester Center, at Shields and Blackstone avenues, Aug. 10, 11 and 13 and Aug. 16-20. The unit will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This is an ideal opportunity for parents to get the necessary immunizations for their children for the next school year. Taking care of immunizations now will ensure your children are not delayed from starting school in the fall and are important for good health.

For physical examinations for students starting kindergarten and information on the Healthy Smiles Dental Van, call 248-7382. The district will also conduct an immunization clinic at the Millbrook Academy, at Millbrook and Shields avenues, every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Aug. 13. §

Students Helping Students

Peer tutoring developed at McLane High School has grown into a highly successful program that could serve as a model for other campuses on how students can help other students improve their grades.

Laura Paredes, a teacher on special assignment with English learners at McLane, launched the experimental program in the fall of 2004 with just 12 tutors and two teachers interested in working with student tutors. Since then, the program has tripled in size, with 45 students tutoring this past year. The program proved so successful that teacher requests exceeded the number of tutors available.

In tracking students’ improved grades this year, Paredes found a direct correlation to student tutoring.

“We’ve done more this year, affected more kids, than any group before,” Paredes said. “I felt it was time to let people know about it. The grades are coming up.”

The program focuses on peer tutoring for English learners, with student tutors this past year working with five students each. Student tutors met with Paredes every Monday at lunch for training in professionalism, learning styles, interviewing skills, instruction strategies for English learners, inquiry learning and how to motivate.

Tutors are assigned according to their academic strengths in classes such as California High School Exit Exam, (CAHSEE) English or math, English-language development, science, history, math or Sociology for Living. Peer tutors must have good attendance and behavior and a desire to help others. Good grades are not a prerequisite, but once they are selected, tutors must strive for at least a 3.0 GPA to set a good example.

Paredes said that along with improved grades, students in the program developed better attitudes toward school, were more engaged and asked more questions in class. The tutors benefited as well, she said. They were trained to lead small groups in communication skills, decision-making, goal-setting and team-building.

They also can earn tangible rewards: elective credit, work experience and letters of recommendation for college scholarships. They often mature in ways they never expected, students said. Carlos Segura, who recently graduated, said his own grades improved and he learned responsibility. Jasmine Yang, also a recent graduate, said it prompted her to “step it up.”

Samantha Ash, who will be a senior, said: “Peer tutoring has helped me realize that I am a role model and need to act like it. I have become more assertive and not scared to be an adult...”

Yer Lee, a recent graduate, said he learned that good teachers know how to motivate and lead: “It’s hard when you have discouraging students in your class, but that’s your job to motivate them and help them learn to make good decisions.” §
**Better Start For Pre-Schoolers**

The district will launch a pilot preschool program at the Duncan Polytechnical High School site in August that incorporates new strategies for better preparing early learners for kindergarten.

As the district’s first regular preschool, the Duncan program will serve as an incubator for expanding pre-kindergarten programs throughout the district. During the first year, the program will serve 40 children, with an emphasis on attracting families from the nearby Norseman Elementary School area.

The program will be housed in a self-contained area of Duncan, previously used for early education, which has its own entrance, restrooms, fencing and playground equipment. The location will also give Duncan students in the early education career pathway opportunities to observe and learn from best-practices preschool instruction.

The opening of the pre-school this fall will mark a milestone for the district as it seeks to offer challenging and comprehensive early learning to better prepare district students for kindergarten. High-quality early instruction is essential, especially for low-income students with language challenges, but only one in three students attend a quality pre-K program and more than half enter kindergarten lacking important pre-reading and learning skills.

By age 4, research has shown that impoverished children are 18 months behind the norm developmentally and many never catch up. The preschool will employ a new strategy the district has developed: Language-rich Early Education Program (LEEP). The concept is designed for grades pre-K through third.

LEEP emphasizes a language-rich base, attention to the whole child and early intervention that accelerates learning. District officials believe the initiative will significantly decrease unnecessary referrals for special education testing and restrictive interventions.

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**Fresno High School Dedicates New Pool**

Fresno High School’s new $2.6 million competition pool not only provides a high-quality venue for the campus but will enable the school to establish a pipeline of talent and community support through programs for younger swimmers.

Fresno High’s pool was dedicated in an April 16 ceremony that included school and district staff, students, community leaders and alumni. Members of the swim and water polo teams officially broke the water, followed by retiring Principal Bob Reyes.

Several of the speakers referenced Fresno High’s resurgence as a high school of choice, including the establishment of the International Baccalaureate school of choice, including the establishment of the International Baccalaureate program. Urban sprawl and the city’s changing demographics have over the years brought significant changes to Fresno High, which opened at its current location in 1922 and is the district’s oldest high school.

But in 2003 the school implemented the IB program, which has drawn students to the campus through its rigorous college-prep curriculum with an emphasis on international understanding, liberal arts and extra-curricular education.

Recent upgrades to athletic facilities will bolster renewal at Fresno High. The 35-meter pool has a fully upgraded Colorado timing system with touch pads, a 3-meter board and two 1-meter boards and tiered concrete spectator seating. It has 10 timed lanes and 14 lanes total. With the new pool, Fresno High has a venue large enough to host high school tournaments and programs for young swimmers, said Scott Braun, Fresno High water polo coach and head of aquatics.

“I'm hoping it's a shot in the arm for the program, so we can build on what we've started,” Braun said. “I'm pretty excited about it.”

The pool replaces one built in 1951 that was so small two of them could fit in the new pool.

The pool is part of a significant facelift to Fresno High athletic facilities that includes upgrades for the baseball and softball fields and the track. The pool and track were part of a nearly $14 million athletics facility improvement plan for all of the district’s high schools, approved by the Board of Education in spring 2008.

The plan was a result of the collaborative work of the Facilities Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to delineate the district’s most pressing athletic facility needs. The City of Fresno contributed $2 million to athletic facility upgrades.

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Summer School Program Expanded

While many districts have scaled back summer school because of state budget cuts to education, the Fresno Unified School District is offering an expanded, innovative program this summer for students.

Fresno Unified’s summer school will target both on-track and struggling high school students, a strategy that emerged from the district’s new focus on access and equity – making sure students across the district have equal opportunities and the widest array of options for college when they graduate.

“It’s Fresno Unified doing the right thing by our kids,” said Associate Superintendent Chris Evans. “It will give more opportunities for kids to graduate on track and meet the A-G [college] requirements and at the same time, it’s an opportunity for kids to get ahead in their classes.”

The district will hold classes at seven high school sites in two sessions: June 15-July 1 and July 6-July 22. Summer school is also offered at nearly half of the district’s elementary and middle schools for students who need extra help.

Fresno Unified expects to accommodate 10,000 students in summer school, twice the normal number, using one-time federal economic stimulus money.

As part of a new outreach to struggling students, the district sent thousands of letters to the parents of high school students with D’s or F’s in at least one semester of a class and enrolled them in summer school to make up the poor grades. Because a D is still considered passing, summer school has traditionally targeted only failing students. But as the district seeks to broaden college opportunities for its students, it has redoubled efforts at making sure students have completed the A-G requirements for admission to University of California and California State University.

UC and CSU do not credit classes in which a student earned a D. Evans said. In addition, he said, a D does not demonstrate proficiency.

“A D letter grade prevents students from meeting minimum eligibility requirements for California’s four year colleges – and in essence prevents our students from having the most career options available to them upon graduation,” Evans said. “Our summer school program is about making sure more students graduate and more students have the most career ready options after they walk the stage at graduation.”

Because of the district’s commitment to expanding students’ college options, students were only excused from summer school if their parent signed a waiver.

Hoover High School student Michael Aragon, who will be a junior, will take the first semester of English II in summer school after failing it during the regular year. He said taking it this summer will keep him on track to graduate.

“I’m going to try and get all C’s and B’s my next year,” he said.

While his plan is to go to a junior college and then the fire-fighting academy, he said he likes the idea of remaining eligible for a four-year college if his plans change.

The district is also rewarding students who are on track to graduate and meeting A-G requirements for UC and CSU with an opportunity to complete a core class in summer school. Students had about eight class options available to them upon graduation.

Students graduating after a year in summer school have the most career ready options available to them upon graduation.

Stock Market Tips, Anyone?

Students in Laura MacBride’s 5th grade class at Roeding Elementary School already know their way around stock portfolios, trading and the global market after playing the Stock Market Game this past school year and placing second out of 100 teams in the spring competition in Sacramento.

Students Eduardo Vega, Apolinar Silva and Mauricio Garcia made up the winning team, one of 10 teams that participated from MacBride’s class in the elementary competition in the Sacramento division. Jack O’Connell, superintendent of public instruction for California, spoke at the awards ceremony May 20.

“It was just a really good experience for the kids,” said MacBride, who credited the support of Roeding Principal Rob Gaertig.

The Stock Market Game is an education tool that teaches about the stock market, American economic system and the global economy and develops students’ skills in math, language arts, research and critical thinking. Students build and maintain a stock “portfolio” using a website during a 10-week simulation.

MacBride said that the game reinforced lessons on percentages and the students came to understand negative and positive integers better as they watched stock prices fluctuate. Students examined stock prices everyday in the business section of the newspaper, and looked for articles about how businesses were doing.

How does the game work? After registering, an individual or team uses a hypothetical account of $100,000 to invest in common stocks listed on the stock exchanges. A home page includes recent articles on stocks to assist students in investing and trading. Students’ “portfolios” are updated daily to let them know the value of their current holdings, brokerage commissions, return on investments, team or individual rankings and other information.

Students win prizes based on the success of their investment management strategy at the end of the 10-week session.
Student artists at McLane High School produced a 43-piece exhibit on the Valley’s water crisis during the past year, culminating in a show throughout June at Fresno City Hall.

“Water, Water Everywhere” involved 80 students and three teachers. Led by Art Department Chairman Marc Patterson, students spent a year documenting the water crisis and based their artwork on the various life zones – or biomes – that the Valley’s water passes through, from the snow pack to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Patterson said that art centered around local, current topics deeply engages students and facilitates collaboration among art teachers and their students. The water crisis show is the latest in a series of ambitious projects McLane students have tackled.

Last spring, McLane and Fresno Pacific University art students – after two years of work – produced a joint exhibit on homelessness that was displayed at Fresno Pacific. The exhibit attracted the attention of Fresno Art Museum officials, who will display “Whispers from the Streets” next year, McLane students recently learned.

Two years ago, students produced a portrait collection of famous Fresnans and last year exhibited “99 Views,” scenes from Highway 99. Four paintings from “99 Views” were accepted for a year-long exhibit at the Hall of Records by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Students are currently developing a large project around the theme “200 years of Mexican Independence” for next year, as well as “Fresno Treasures” and views at night entitled “Nocturnes.”

The centerpiece of the show is a large pump like the one that when turned on, sends water to irrigate crops on the west side of the Valley. Throughout the year, several water experts spoke to art students.

“This is a highly successful event is supported by sponsors Microsoft, Cisco, Hewlett-Packard, AT&T, Western Blue, and IVS Computer Technology, with assistance from judges and volunteers from local businesses, California State University, Fresno, CART, Fresno County and others.”

Nearly 700 middle school students, a 140% increase over last year, competed in March in the third annual Fresno Unified School District Tournament of Technology.

The event, at Hoover High School, featured competition in technology literacy and problem-solving, with Computech Middle School winning the sweepstakes award.

Kings Canyon Middle School placed second overall, and Sequoia Middle School placed third. Baird Middle School won the CTO Award and Coaches Award.

Students competed in on-the-spot and prepared-project events.

“Owls Gone Wild(er)”

Students at Tenaya Middle School recently released orphaned barn owls into the wild.

Tenaya science students and members of the Tenaya Wildlife Club are among just a few groups of students in the nation allowed to raise baby barn owls.

Baby owls orphaned after accidentally falling out of their nests were fed and cared for by the students until they were fully feathered and ready to fly. The owls were then taken to a flight cage where they learned to fly and capture live rodents. When they were fully prepared, they were released to live on their own.

Tenaya’s barn owl project is led by science teacher Bill Bruce in partnership with Fresno Wildlife Rehabilitation. This organization is permitted by the California Department of Fish and Game to care for injured and orphaned native wildlife.

The Tenaya Wildlife Club also builds and maintains nest boxes along the San Joaquin River where wood ducks can lay their eggs and hatch their ducklings.
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- Tioga (microsociety)
- Wawona (International Baccalaureate)

**High Schools**
- Bullard (law)
- Duncan Polytechnical (career pathways)
- Edison (Computech)
- Fresno High (International Baccalaureate)
- Hoover (design technology)
- Design Science (engineering)
- Roosevelt (School of the Arts)
- McLane (medical)
- Sunnyside (Doctors’ Academy)

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State law allows business owners and their employees the opportunity to enroll their students in the district where they are employed. Why Fresno Unified? Lower class sizes than neighboring districts and a School Board committed to keeping reductions away from the classroom during a statewide fiscal crisis. Read on!

* Every effort will be made to accommodate transfer requests; however, some schools may be impacted and unavailable due to popularity.