Federal Grant Funds Career Magnet Programs

A new marketing effort is underway to promote Fresno Unified’s specialty magnet programs, including career pathway options that provide opportunities for students to explore careers and prepare them for success after graduation.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Education Magnet Schools Assistance Program is funding the effort to promote the Fresno Unified School District’s magnet schools and programs in phases. The district’s variety and depth of options is the most comprehensive in the central San Joaquin Valley, providing students with enriched learning opportunities in areas such as environmental studies, health, banking and the arts.

The project will also enhance the district’s Career Technical Education (CTE) website, www.fresnounified.org/cte, which highlights magnet and career pathway programs. Researchers have found that strong CTE programs engage students in learning, support higher student achievement and decrease the number of students who drop out. Students benefit from a hands-on, real-life learning approach, often demonstrate academic improvement in classes beyond the career courses, and have fewer discipline problems.

The district has sharpened its focus on ensuring students not only

>>See MAGNET PROGRAMS on PAGE 5

New Program Expands Students’ Career Options
Hands-on Lessons Teach that Learning Awareness Now Can Lead to a Rewarding Future

Fourth graders from Fremont Elementary School learned in a visit to an electrician training center that the math they are learning in the classroom could be their ticket to a great job in the future. Students in the Fresno Unified School District are connecting their classroom work with the real world of work through career awareness activities the district is piloting in selected elementary grades and through high school. Through Career Technical Education (CTE), FUSD is preparing students to be career ready and to have all possible options available to them when they graduate, whether it's moving on to college, technical job training, or directly into the workforce.

Through Career Technical Education (CTE), FUSD is preparing students to be career ready and to have all possible options available to them when they graduate, whether it's moving on to college, technical job training, or directly into the workforce. Dec. 14, Fremont students visited the Fresno Area Electrical Training Center and learned about various aspects of electrical trades through interactive activities led by professional electricians.

At one station, students learned how to use a tool to bend metal and to measure the angle of the bend with a protractor. Jeremy Longoria, a fifth-year apprentice electrician, explained the importance of math skills to being an electrician. “Now, when you’re in class learning math, you want to pay special attention,” Longoria said. “In this job, you want to learn a lot of math. Math is going to earn you a lot of money.”

Later, Christina Medina, a Fremont fourth-grader, said she learned at the field trip that she could be an electrician if “you work hard and learn your math.” Chuck Stanton, the training director at the center, told the students that they would need to take math every year in school and have at least one year of algebra: “You have to work hard in school so that when you get older, you’re qualified to do this.”

The Fresno Area Electrical Training Center is one of several organizations and businesses the district partners with to integrate core academic learning with hands-on technical career preparation. Career-readiness activities include:

-- Third grade: Industry partners visit classrooms and provide hands-on activities.
-- Fourth grade: Students tour local businesses and gain insight into the real world of work.
-- Sixth grade: Students visit local community colleges and trades schools to investigate the wide array of options available upon graduation.
-- Eighth grade: Students visit California colleges and universities to learn about various education programs in career themes, admission

>>See CAREER on PAGE 5

Measure Q: Making a Difference
Construction and improvements continue on many campuses.

Read this article on PG. 4

Parent University has Lessons for All
Parents discover that school isn’t just for kids.

Read this article on PG. 8

Southeast Elementary School Breaks Ground
New school to be named in January and open in August 2012.

Read this article on PG. 9
Kids’ Marathon

Join EECU’s 2nd annual California Classic Kids’ Marathon innovative fitness building running/walking program designed specifically for children first through sixth grade.

Here’s how it works…
1. Kids will run the distance of a full marathon (26.2 miles) over the course of the program with the LAST HALF MILE run on Saturday morning May 19 inside of Chukchansi Park.
2. The first 25.7 miles can be run in ¼ mile, ½ mile, ¾ mile or 1 mile increments prior to race day. Parents or teachers will be supplied with incentives to encourage the children and a running log for tracking and to verify the miles.
3. REGISTER NOW! Participation is limited to the first 500 children and registration is required prior to receiving the child’s incentives, running log and further notifications of where and when to bring your child for the big final half mile!

www.CaliforniaClassicWeekend.com

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Registration is easy and the fee is only $10
• On-line www.CaliforniaClassicWeekend.com
• Pickup a registration form at Sierra Running Company, Friant and Fort Washington.
• Call 322-9371 leave your address and phone number and a registration form will be mailed.

Plus, each child completing the program on May 19th will receive a custom finisher’s medallion, T-shirt, personalized race number, lunch and a goody bag!

www.CaliforniaClassicWeekend.com

The SaveAround Coupon Book has helped: Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Band, Cheer, FFA, Boy Scouts, Soccer, Baseball, Football, Dance Studios, Choir, Civic Groups, Non-Profit Organizations, Etc...

No matter what the size of the group we can help meet your fundraising goals!
SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE
Parenting: No one said this would be easy

As the superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District, I am challenged and inspired every day. As a parent, I join all our moms, dads and guardians in facing the challenges of parenting every day.

No one said this was easy. Being a parent or guardian is one of the hardest jobs in the world. Our current economic environment has made all jobs increasingly more challenging - as we are asked to do more at home and in school with less. This will not deter us from meeting the needs of our students and families through education. That’s why during this winter break, I wanted to inform you of the work our Parent University is leading.

Last year, more than 2,600 parents participated in Parent University and in partnership programs like Parent Institute for Quality Education. We are looking to quadruple that to more than 10,000 parents this year. The goal of Parent University is to “empower, engage and connect families to support student achievement.” How do we do this? For starters, we can lay a solid foundation of knowledge for parents through an eight-week class module. Parents gain insight into the district’s instructional and learning environment, school resources and funding; spend time in their student’s classroom observing; and also learn about the importance of accountability systems such as state testing. We conclude the module series with a ninth session that brings all that parents have learned full circle. During the last session, parents design their own action plan to be more involved in their student’s education.

Parent University also offers what we call stand-alone classes for parents to dig deeper into specific programs and services the district offers. For example, we offer a class on how to help your elementary-age child with math homework. A curriculum committee, as well as parent input, is helping us identify additional subject areas.

Through Parent University, we are encouraging our families to pursue further education through the Adult School. On Dec. 10, the district held its first Parent University Summit for graduates of Parent University to learn more about topics such as obtaining a high school diploma and GED, or accessing workforce readiness and vocational training. By pursuing their own education, parents set an example for their children and by their actions reinforce that education is a priority.

You will read more about Parent University graduate Araceli Almazan de Bautista in a Building Futures story in this edition. But let me just say that I am extremely proud of the opportunity Parent University provided Ms. Almazan. She is now far better equipped to encourage and guide her children through school and onto college. These stories inspire and remind me that together we are truly doing our community’s most important work. We still have much work to do, but I am encouraged every day by the outstanding work of our staff, leaders and parents. Our students and our community deserve nothing less.

More about PARENT UNIVERSITY on PAGE 8

2011/2012 Academic Calendar

- WINTER BREAK DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 16
- SPRING BREAK APRIL 2 - 9, 2012
- LAST DAY of SCHOOL JUNE 15, 2012

To view the calendar in its entirety please visit our website at www.fresnounified.org
Measure Q Funds Support District Improvements

Construction on New 12-Classroom Building at Roosevelt High School Underway

Construction is underway on a new 12-classroom building at Roosevelt High School as part of extensive work around the district made possible by the community’s overwhelming passage of the $280 million Measure Q school bond last year.

The state-of-the-art building will be constructed on the east side of the campus and will replace 16 portable classrooms, which were demolished over the Thanksgiving break.

“These new classrooms will expand our teaching and learning capabilities in so many ways,” said Principal Bryan Wells. “Students will have access to more science labs, we will be able to offer specially designed classrooms for our special-needs students.”

Roosevelt’s new building is part of nearly $100 million worth of Measure Q projects either underway or on the verge. These projects translate into a boost to the local economy and reinvestment in Fresno neighborhoods. Measure Q, backed by 76 percent of voters in the November 2010 election, was one of the most successful local school bond measures in the state in that election.

Measure Q work is tied to the district’s Facilities Master Plan, adopted by the FUSD Board of Education to guide facilities work in the district over the next 15 years. A long-range facilities master plan for Roosevelt High, approved by the Fresno Unified Board of Education in March, outlines a series of improvements and new buildings at the campus. Roosevelt’s first project will include:

- Earth science and physics classrooms with roof-top solar panels allowing students to monitor the school’s ability to generate “green” energy and save the district money on its energy bill.
- Classrooms specifically designed for students with disabilities, including easily accessible loading and unloading areas.
- Rooms that can adjoin to allow teachers to collaborate and combine classes.
- A Business Academy student store where students can sell clothing created in partnership with the Regional Occupation Program (ROP). A silk-screening business center equipped with the latest technology will provide real-world experience in the emerging field of digital art.
- Green space in front of classrooms and throughout the east side of campus through the removal of 16 portable classrooms.
- A new staff parking lot built on the back side of the new building.

A worker hoses down the demolition site at Roosevelt High School, where 16 portables were torn down to make way for a new 12-classroom building. The new building is part of $100 million worth of Measure Q projects underway or about to begin.

The next phase of Measure Q...

work at Roosevelt will focus on developing a quad area, pedestrian circulation improvements throughout the campus, more attractive security fencing and a pedestrian school sign at the prominent Cedar/ Tulare avenues corner.

Along with the Roosevelt building, Measure Q will fund dozens of projects in every corner of the district, including new classroom buildings already under construction to replace portables at Mayfair, Rowell and Wilson elementary schools. Mayfair’s eight-classroom building is expected to be completed this month. Other projects include:

- Winchell Elementary School: Construction will begin in January on a new classroom building to replace portables.
- Aynesworth and Easterby elementary schools: New classrooms are planned to replace portables with construction starting in 2012.
- Edison High School: Construction is underway on a new two-story, 27-classroom building with career technical education labs to replace portable and outdated classrooms.
- Fresno High School: Two new two-story buildings containing classrooms, a library, career center and administration space are planned that will complement historic Royce Hall and replace portables.
- Hamilton K-8 and Sequoia Middle School: Modernization projects are planned.

A Knight to Remember

Bullard High School’s pool (shown above at the dedication Sept. 16) was named the Mark Ruble Memorial Pool by a unanimous Board of Education vote Nov. 16. Ruble was a 1977 Bullard High graduate and All American swimmer who later returned to teach and coach at his alma mater. While serving as head coach, the girls swimming team won four straight Valley titles in the 1990s. He also established the girls water polo team. Ruble died in 1998 at the age of 40.
New Vaccine for Incoming Seventh Graders

New California Law: All students currently in 6th grade will need proof of having received a Pertussis (Whooping Cough) booster vaccine to start 7th grade.

To meet this requirement a child will need to have one dose of a pertussis vaccine on or after the seventh birthday. The law allows parents to choose exemptions to immunization requirements based on their personal beliefs or for medical reasons verified by the child’s health care provider.

Check your child’s immunization record with the chart below or call your health care provider to determine if your child has met the requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Name</th>
<th>Age Requirement</th>
<th>Meets 7th grade Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tdap Adacel Boostrix</td>
<td>Must be given on or after 7th Birthday</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTaP</td>
<td>DTP given before 7th Birthday</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTaP or DTP</td>
<td>History of Whooping Cough (Pertussis disease)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you can do NOW: Please send a copy of your child's immunization record to the school office as soon as possible, so the school nurse can update your child’s immunization status. If our records indicate that your child has NOT met this new vaccine requirement, a note will be included on your child's report card. Adults are also advised to get a pertussis (Tdap) booster to protect themselves and their families.

If your child needs this vaccine, a pertussis (Tdap) booster may be obtained from:
• Your Private Health Care Provider
• Clinica Sierra Vista (For clinic locations visit www.clinicasierravista.org)
• Fresno Unified School District (Visit website for Tdap Clinic locations)
• Fresno County Health Department 1221 Fulton Mall 1st Floor, Immunization 445-3550

If you need a copy of your child’s immunization record or have questions, please contact your child’s school nurse.

CAREER
(continued from Page 1)
requirements, financial aid and campus life.

In Fresno Unified, a career ready graduate has a strong academic foundation, has completed required courses and has acquired the workplace skills and competencies necessary for success after high school. Beginning in middle school, students have the opportunity to explore career pathways that expand students’ understanding of the world of work and identify specific occupations within career pathways.

“We’re really wanting to make sure students are aware of all the options that are available to them,” said AJ Johnston, CTE manager.

Trips like the one that the Fremont students took to the Fresno Area Electrical Training Center help students to envision themselves working in that field and to connect classroom studies – like math – to a real job, Johnston said.

And it makes a strong impression on students when the professionals they interact with through CTE activities are graduates of Fresno Unified, Johnston said. When professionals speak with students, they go beyond just describing their fields of work, said Kathy Chambas, a teacher on special assignment working in CTE.

“I think it’s important for the students to not just know what they do, but how they learned to do it,” Chambas said.

Fremont student Aliciana Briseno said the visit to the electrician training center was more interesting than she anticipated: “At first I thought it was going to be boring but then we got to learn about solar panels. I was interested in it.”

MAGNET PROGRAMS
(continued from Page 1)
have the opportunity for high academic achievement, but learn about a variety of college and career options to help make classroom learning relevant to their future beyond graduation. Specialty schools and programs and CTE courses cater to students’ interests and abilities and enhance the learning process.

CTE courses benefit the community by preparing students to enter the workforce with enhanced skills and contribute to improving the region’s economic stability. The district is refining middle school career pathway and magnet programs, but elementary and high school offerings are:

Elementary
• Bullard TALENT K-8 – Visual and performing arts (lottery)
• Hamilton K-8 – Global Studies through the Arts

High School
• Yokomi – Hands-on science (children of downtown employees have lottery priority)
• Bullard – Business Pathway; Law and Social Justice Pathway; and Multimedia Pathway
• Design Science – Accelerated academics and early college experience in conjunction with Fresno City College
• Duncan Polytechnical – Agriculture Pathway; Business Pathway; Construction Pathway; Education and Child Development Pathway; Engineering Pathway; Health Careers Pathway; and Transportation Pathway
• Edison Computech – rigorous offerings in science, math and technology (academic admissions criteria); Engineering and Design Pathway; Fashion Design Pathway; and Green Energy Technology Academy

• Fresno High – International Baccalaureate (college prep/global studies); Manufacturing Electronics Pathway; Marketing Academy; and Multimedia Pathway
• Hoover – A.C.E. (architecture, construction and engineering)
• McLane – Medical Education and Research Academy; ArtVenture Academy; Business and Banking Pathway
• Roosevelt – School of the Arts (visual, graphic and performing arts); Health Academy; Business Academy; and Multimedia Pathway
• Sunnyside – Doctors Academy (academic admissions criteria); AVID; Public and Human Services Academy; Video Production Academy; Architecture Pathway; Construction Pathway; and Culinary Arts Pathway

Reuse, Recycle... Reward!
Environmental Studies Coordinator Marianne Kast, student body President Autumn Ridgeway and Principal Tim Liles show off the Mayor’s Recycling Award awarded to Ahwahnee Middle School last month. Students and staff at Ahwahnee recycle 49 percent (by weight) of lunchtime leftovers and also use four composters and a rainwater recapturing system. The school was honored Nov. 17 at the Fresno City Council meeting by Mayor Ashley Swearengin. On Nov. 18, TV personality Mike Scott, CBS47, visited to recognize the campus as the “Cool School of the Week.”
Students at Viking Elementary School are enjoying a refurbished library -- featuring 2,000 new books -- that will make reading more fun and lead to increased literacy for students and their families.

Viking was one of 42 elementary school libraries from around the country transformed this year as part of the Target School Makeover Program in partnership with the Heart of America Foundation.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Nov. 4 to celebrate the renovation and showcase the new furniture, carpet, shelves and complete technology upgrade, including 18 new computers and 10 new iPads. Every student and their siblings received seven books to take home.

“It was truly exciting because one of the messages I’m always trying to send out is the importance of kids reading and parents reading to their kids,” said Principal Ron Bohigian. “We hope that it’s going to promote literacy in the home because a lot of parents don’t or can’t get to a public library, but this is right in the neighborhood.”

The library is open from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Thursday to encourage families to check out books together.

The makeover project involved the efforts of 130 volunteers, including Target employees, retirees and their families and friends, who spent four weeks redesigning the library.

Viking met the criteria for a makeover because of the large number of students who struggle with reading proficiency and poverty, and because the school demonstrated that it was committed to lifting the reading skills of its students. The goal of the makeover program is to help all students reach proficiency in reading by the end of third grade.

“Having this new library, it’s a beautiful place to come. It’s going to be a jewel in our community,” Bohigian said.

Festival of Fun

The annual Kids First Festival provides an opportunity for students to showcase their talents on stage and in the “World's Shortest Parade.” It is also a chance for clubs and organizations to raise money and awareness through food and activity booths. In addition, the blood mobile was on hand for people to donate blood and the district’s mobile health unit administered flu shots to students and employees. This year’s festival was held on Oct. 30 in front of Fresno High School.
High school students from throughout Fresno Unified School District solved the nation’s deficit problem, and they did it in four hours!

About 100 advanced placement (AP) students from Bullard, Hoover, McLane, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools attended a Principles and Priorities workshop, put on by the Concord Coalition in partnership with the Political Science Department at California State University, Fresno. The Concord Coalition is a non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public about the causes and consequences of federal budget deficits.

The Nov. 8 workshop generated spirited debate among the students as they simulated committees in Congress charged with reducing the projected 10-year federal deficit of $4.7 trillion.

Students came away with a deeper knowledge of how policy decisions affect the budget and what priorities the government should place at the forefront of fiscal decision-making. Congressman Jim Costa was a guest speaker.

“I think it was a really good experience,” said Hoover senior Ben Akioyame. “It was interesting to see what high school students suggested that Congress hasn’t even come up with.”

Sunnyside senior Timothy Robertson said the workshop was an opportunity to take what they had learned in the classroom and apply it in a real-world situation.

The workshop was moderated by David Schecter, an associate professor of political science at Fresno State, who told the students: “You really are those leaders who will be making important choices in the future.”

FUSD’s AP Students Tackle Nation’s Deficit Problem

Marching to the Sounds of Christmas

The Roosevelt High School band performs in the Fresno Christmas Parade. The band – under the direction of Taylor Ledak – was voted best band/musical entry in the parade, an annual holiday tradition in downtown Fresno.
In Fresno County, a study revealed that 70% of individuals 12- and 13-year olds, prescription drugs are now the drug of choice. Prescription drugs are abused by more Fresno County high schools than any illicit street drug. Painkiller use among Fresno County 9th graders is higher than the state average. Among 12- and 13-year olds, prescription drugs are now the drug of choice.

In 2008, 2.9 million American teens reported abusing prescription drugs.

People who abuse prescription drugs admit they do so because these medications are readily available in their own homes or in homes of people they know. In fact, a study in Fresno County revealed that 70% of individuals 12-years and older who abuse prescription drugs get their drugs from the homes of family, relatives and friends.

The United States Postal Service generously donated 12 USPS mailboxes for the proper disposal of your prescription medicine. These mailboxes were painted and branded with each community’s corresponding law enforcement agency logos. The following is a list of safe drop-off locations to dispose of your unused, expired, or unwanted prescription drugs — no questions asked.

**Lock it up!**

**Clean it out!**

**Drop it off!**

- Prescription drugs are abused by more Fresno County high schools than any illicit street drug.
- Painkiller use among Fresno County 9th graders is higher than the state average.
- Among 12- and 13-year olds, prescription drugs are now the drug of choice.
- In 2008, 2.9 million American teens reported abusing prescription drugs.

**Did you know:**

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**Clovis Police Department**
1233 5th Street
Clovis CA 93612
(559) 324-2400

**Fresno County Jail**
1225 M Street
Fresno CA 93721
(559) 488-2590

**Fresno County Sheriff’s Office**
2200 Fresno Street
Fresno CA 93721
(559) 488-3939

**Fresno State University Police Department**
2311 E. Barstow Avenue
Fresno CA 93740

**Fresno Unified Parent Summit, an opportunity for Parent University graduates to learn about Fresno Adult School programs and services, such as courses for obtaining a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate.**

When was the last time you thought to lock up your prescription drugs? Unless your medicine cabinet already has a lock, it’s not secure.

Source: Women’s Initiative – a program of United Way of Fresno County
Two-Story Elementary School in Southeast Fresno Now Under Construction
School Set to Open in August

Construction is underway at a new elementary school for southeast Fresno families following a festive groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 5 at the 8.4-acre site at Cedar and Heaton avenues.

The campus, which will open in August, is just north of Sequoia Middle School and will accommodate 850 students. The school will have two stories to best utilize the site.

The principal is Teresa Calderon, who said the campus will serve as a “place of pride and educational commitment and excellence for the community, students and parents.”

“It will be a place where the incoming students and all future students will be proud to say that they attended. This new school will build a strong academic foundation for our future generations.”

The groundbreaking ceremony included the band, cheer squad and folklorico dancers from Sequoia as well as students from the temporary Southeast Elementary School leading the flag salute. The Junior ROTC from Fresno High School posted the colors at the event, which was attended by parents, district employees and community members. Superintendent Michael Hanson, members of the Board of Education and future students turned dirt with ceremonial shovels.

The naming process for the school is underway, with a decision by the Board of Education expected in January.

The school is among extensive facilities projects underway throughout the district to ease overcrowding, eliminate the need for portable classrooms and create better kindergarten through high school feeder patterns.

“To deliver high-quality facilities to support the learning environment and enhance neighborhoods is absolutely essential to our district’s continued pursuit of academic excellence and the prosperity of our city,” Hanson said at the groundbreaking.

The new school will be the first built since the completion of Olmos and Williams elementary schools in 2007.

Community Invited to Participate in Southwest Middle School Naming

As excitement builds for the new middle school planned for southwest Fresno, the district will initiate the naming process in January in partnership with the community, students and staff.

The district encourages those interested in nominating a possible name for the campus to use the online naming process, which is expected to be available Jan. 17 at www.fresnounified.org.

Following the close of the nomination period, a committee made up of community and district members will forward a recommendation to the Board of Education for selecting a name under the district’s naming process. The board is expected to vote on a name in the spring.

With preliminary site work underway, construction is expected to start next year for an August 2013 opening. The campus, to accommodate 1,000 students, is being built on a 22-acre site, an expansion of the current Carver Academy site.

The campus will serve Addams, Columbia, King, Kirk and Lincoln elementary schools and provide the first comprehensive neighborhood middle school for the area since Irwin Junior High closed in 1979. Students have been bused to various district middle schools since then.

Completion of the new middle school will significantly improve academic opportunities for students and create a strong K-12 feeder system for the Edison High School area. The middle school will offer career technical education programs that feed directly into Edison’s career pathways, early opportunity for A-G courses necessary for admission to University of California and California State University campuses, and a full offering of extracurricular activities and sports.
Chief Technology officer highlighted in publication

Fresno Unified’s chief technology officer, Kurt Madden, has been named one of the top 50 technology innovators throughout K-12 and colleges in the Converge Magazine Yearbook for having “paved the way toward progress.” FUSD, once labeled as having the worst technology in California by the state’s Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, has since emerged as a leader in bringing cutting-edge technology to students because of innovative partnerships.

Ayer teacher is recognized as KSEE24 Educator of the Week

Ayer Elementary School sixth grade teacher Julie Rodriguez was recognized by KSEE24 on October 25 as its “Educator of the Week” and was highlighted on news segments. Rodriguez also won a $124 gift certificate to GW School Supply, and will have her name engraved on a brick in the Teacher and Friends Education Honor Wall at the Kremen School of Education at California State University, Fresno.

Plant operations employee gives back to community with pumpkins

Ray Mata, a grounds maintenance employee in the Plant Operations Department, generously donated 80 pumpkins for Ewing Elementary School’s pumpkin giveaway as well as 20 pumpkins for the Kids First Festival pumpkin patch in the fall. Many of these children would not have been able to enjoy a Halloween pumpkin if Mata had not kindly stepped forward. Mata also operates Rayz Pumpkin Patch.

Roy Verduzco donates $25,000 to Bullard

Roy Verduzco, Bullard High School Law Magnet coordinator and boys volleyball coach, donated $25,000 on Oct. 19 to Bullard High School after winning Discover’s Everyday Giveaway sweepstakes. Verduzco also received a $25,000 check for himself as a monthly winner. Discover matches $25,000 prizes with another $25,000 to the winner’s school of choice.

Jefferson teacher is Office Max contest winner

Jefferson Elementary School first-grade teacher Adriana Garcia was selected by Office Max as “A Day Made Better” contest winner and received $1,000 in materials for her classroom. Office Max representatives paid a surprise visit to Garcia on Oct. 4. Jefferson Principal Kali Isom-Acosta said Garcia is an exemplary teacher who “consistently focuses on the needs of her students and goes the extra mile to ensure that all students are learning.”

Making Musical Connections Across Generations

Roosevelt High School’s mariachi band performs in October for residents of the Valley Adult Day Health Care Center as part of a tour of senior homes and community centers in the Roosevelt area. Residents enjoyed the performance, especially Rogelio Lugo, who joined the band up front and jammed on his harmonica. The mariachi band has not only brought pleasure to senior citizens, but it has been a rewarding experience for students as well to visit the centers.

To advertise in Building Futures, please call: Susan Bedi (559) 457-3733 or Tricia Bowlby (559) 287-2799
As part of exciting work strengthening neighborhood schools in the Bullard region, elementary students from the area gathered earlier this month for a leadership conference led by Bullard High student leaders.

The first-ever Bullard Region Elementary Student Leadership Conference was held on Dec. 13 at Bullard High School for the elementary schools that traditionally feed into Bullard High. About 100 students from Figarden, Forkner, Gibson, Kratt, Malloch and Starr elementary schools as well as Bullard Talent and Lawless K-8 schools and Baird 5-8 school attended, along with academic counselors.

"The conference was an excellent opportunity for our elementary students to learn about leadership qualities and the importance of being leaders at the school sites and in the community," said Sue Fuentes, principal at Bullard TALENT.

The Educational Employees Credit Union provided T-shirts and supplies for the conference.

Student workshops engaged the elementary student in leadership skill-building through games and activities. The Focus on Self Discovery session helped students recognize different personality traits and leadership styles; Focus on Teamwork developed skills in working as a team; and Focus on Communication emphasized the importance of listening, following directions and speaking clearly and purposefully.

The conference is part of a new initiative in the Bullard area to create an academic pipeline from kindergarten through 12th grade and build an identity in the Bullard area.

The work has included new academic programs this year with a focus on technology, journalism, foreign languages, arts/music and science. Along with the leadership conference, Bullard feeder schools are also collaborating on Science Olympiad and a regional newspaper.

The region this year also implemented a new writing curriculum, Write Tools, in the elementary and middle schools requiring a substantial increase in student writing.

The work in the Bullard area will serve as a pilot to strengthen the feeder patterns and regional identities in all of the district's high school areas.

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**Students Score Big with Monsters Hockey Players**

Players from the Fresno Monsters hockey team take on students at Tioga Middle School during a visit Dec. 1 to Tioga P.E. classes. The hockey players provided hockey tips and encouraged physical fitness during the visit, which was part of the district's continued efforts to engage students in school and learning through connections and experiences with the community.

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**Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!**

Students at Walters Elementary School enjoy snow brought to the school on Dec. 21 by Fresno businessman Jerry Steward, who also provided gifts for all students, cookies and punch and Target gift cards for the teachers. Steward, with the help of his employees, every year selects a school or group to honor during the holiday season. For some of the students, this was the first time they had seen snow.

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**Investing in Bullard High School’s Future: Students Leaders Assist Younger Peers**

As part of exciting work strengthening neighborhood schools in the Bullard region, elementary students from the area gathered earlier this month for a leadership conference led by Bullard High student leaders.

The first-ever Bullard Region Elementary Student Leadership Conference was held on Dec. 13 at Bullard High School for the elementary schools that traditionally feed into Bullard High. About 100 students from Figarden, Forkner, Gibson, Kratt, Malloch and Starr elementary schools as well as Bullard Talent and Lawless K-8 schools and Baird 5-8 school attended, along with academic counselors.

“The conference was an excellent opportunity for our elementary students to learn about leadership qualities and the importance of being leaders at the school sites and in the community,” said Sue Fuentes, principal at Bullard TALENT.

The Educational Employees Credit Union provided T-shirts and supplies for the conference.

Student workshops engaged the elementary student in leadership skill-building through games and activities. The Focus on Self Discovery session helped students recognize different personality traits and leadership styles; Focus on Teamwork developed skills in working as a team; and Focus on Communication emphasized the importance of listening, following directions and speaking clearly and purposefully.

The conference is part of a new initiative in the Bullard area to create an academic pipeline from kindergarten through 12th grade and build an identity in the Bullard area.

The work has included new academic programs this year with a focus on technology, journalism, foreign languages, arts/music and science. Along with the leadership conference, Bullard feeder schools are also collaborating on Science Olympiad and a regional newspaper.

The region this year also implemented a new writing curriculum, Write Tools, in the elementary and middle schools requiring a substantial increase in student writing.

The work in the Bullard area will serve as a pilot to strengthen the feeder patterns and regional identities in all of the district’s high school areas.
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