The Rutherford B. Gaston Sr. Middle School opens its doors to students for the first time with the launch of the new school year Aug. 18, signaling a new academic era for students and their families in southwest Fresno.

For the first time in more than 35 years, the Edison High School region will have its own middle school, providing a rigorous, aligned curriculum preparing students to move with confidence into high school. Courses will provide ample opportunities for career and project-based learning in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as prepare students to complete the A-G requirements necessary for admission to University of California and California State University campuses.

The campus, at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Church Avenue, will initially enroll about 850 students in state-of-the-art facilities on approximately 21.5 acres. It also features the district’s first school-based Health and Wellness Center.

“What excites me the most about the opening of Gaston Middle School is bringing a group of students together, giving them opportunities and options to prepare them to be successful at Edison High School,” said Felicia Quarles Treadwell, co-principal with Steve Gonzalez.

Gonzalez and Quarles Treadwell are longtime Fresno Unified educators working together to ensure that all academic aspects of the school match the state-of-the-art structure and will surpass expectations for students, staff and the well deserving community it will serve. Funding for Gaston Middle School was provided by Measure K and Measure Q, local bond measures passed by the Fresno community.

The southwest Fresno community has been without a traditional middle school following the closure of Irwin Junior High School in 1979 as part of the district’s desegregation plan. Over the years, most students have had to leave the neighborhood and travel by bus to other district middle schools.

Completion of Gaston Middle School provides the critical missing piece to allow for a smoother transition from kindergarten through 12th grade for students in the area and for parents to have a clear understanding of their students’ academic path. The completion of Gaston is already encouraging regional pride, spirit and ownership to flourish, and establishing an elementary through high school academic talent pipeline in the Edison region.
Battle of Barstow is Beloved Tradition
Focus on Goal 2: Arts, Activities and Athletics

Bullard and Hoover high schools will launch the 2014 football season on Aug. 29 with the annual Battle of Barstow, a favorite Fresno Unified athletic tradition that encourages a friendly rivalry between the two campuses and ignites school spirit.

Students will be out at 5 a.m. to begin decorating their respective stretches of Barstow Avenue: Hoover students with Hoover green from Blackstone Avenue east to their campus and Bullard students with Bullard blue from Blackstone west to their campus. Each group will hang banners on the Highway 41 overpass fences, declaring the big game for commuters that day.

The Battle of Barstow tradition dates back officially to 1991, when a plaque was first created for the winner to proudly carry back to campus and display – until the next Battle of Barstow.

“Few people know more about the battle than Dan Robinson, a retired administrator and coach who worked at both schools over nearly four decades and continues to attend the big game. “This game, for the bragging rights of Barstow, has stood the test of time for the excitement that it creates,” Robinson said. “This game has meant a lot to both schools and obviously to the players and the community. The pride that comes out of the rooting sections for that particular game has always been outstanding.”

The two schools added a new component to the rivalry game last year with the inaugural Dan Robinson Spirit Award, given to an exemplary student athlete from each team at the annual Battle of Barstow breakfast on the Thursday before the game. All players from both teams attend, along with coaches, administrators, board members and members of the community.

“To have this sportsmanship award in your honor was a great feeling,” Robinson said. “For me, it balances the idea that athletic and academic excellence and being a good person on and off the field can go hand in hand.”

Through the years, a number of outstanding football players have competed in the Battle of Barstow, including from Bullard: Curtis Williams (University of Washington), Nick Howell (University of Southern California), and Anthony McCoy (USC/Seattle Seahawks), and from Hoover: Michael Kendricks (University of California at Berkeley/Philadelphia Eagles), Eric Kendricks (University of California at Los Angeles), Warren Fortier and Haji Lane (Fresno State), and Kevin Robinson (Utah State/Kansas City Chiefs).

2014 Football Schedule

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<td>• Varsity 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>• JV 5 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Game Times – Friday</strong></td>
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<td>• Varsity 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>• JV 5 p.m.</td>
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HOMECOMING – Games in Bold

Game Times – Thursday
• JV 4:30 p.m.
• Varsity 7 p.m.

Game Times – Friday
• JV 5 p.m.
• Varsity 7:30 p.m.
Building Futures | August/September Edition 2014

Fresno Unified School District

Board

Valerie F. Davis Area 3
President
Valerie.Davis@fresnounified.org

Lindsay Cal Johnson Area 1
Clerk
Cal.Johnson@fresnounified.org

Michelle A. Asadoorian Area 7
Michelle.Asadoorian@fresnounified.org

Christopher De La Cerda Area 4
Christopher.Delacerda@fresnounified.org

Carol Mills, J.D., Area 5
Carolmills@fresnounified.org

Luis Chavez Area 2
Luis.Chavez@fresnounified.org

Janet Ryan Area 6
Janet.Ryan@fresnounified.org

Administration

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Building Futures

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Justin Grayson Communications Analyst
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Message From The Mayor

The back-to-school season is coming and with it are new opportunities to teach and learn and classrooms humming with the lessons of today that hold the promise of tomorrow – it will all be here before we know it!

Part of starting a new school year is making plans that will encompass every aspect of the education experience: learning objectives, maintenance projects, policy changes, and more. That’s exactly what the City of Fresno has been going through as we review the final draft of our 2035 General Plan, which is available for public review.

It’s been 12 years since the city has updated its General Plan. Since then, we’ve gone through some tremendous changes, faced significant challenges, and celebrated some important victories. We’ve learned we can’t continue to “wing it” when it comes to planning for the future of our community. We need a blueprint.

Fresno’s 2035 General Plan is just such a blueprint. Five years in the making, the plan includes literally thousands of comments from the community. It’s a balanced strategy that seeks to preserve neighborhood character, protect property values, and promote investment in Fresno over the next 20 years.

A focal point for the General Plan has been our neighborhood schools. Just as Fresno Unified schools continue to improve each year, the City of Fresno wants its neighborhoods to improve right alongside. The two go hand in hand. Education experts tell us there is a direct correlation between the quality of the neighborhood in which a child walks to school every day and the academic performance of that school. The stronger the neighborhood, the stronger the school, and vice versa.

With your help, we can adopt a General Plan that places as much emphasis on improving our existing neighborhoods as it does planning for new neighborhoods. I invite you to take part in the final review of the 2035 General Plan. Copies of the document are available at Room 3043 at City Hall, at Fresno County Library’s Central Branch and online at www.fresno.gov/newplan. Help us plan a city that supports our neighborhood schools!
Board Sustainability Committee’s Message

Read a Book to a Child

One of the most important responsibilities of the Board of Education is to ensure that every student graduates college and career ready. In the summer of 2008, the Fresno Unified Board of Education adopted the school accountability and data dashboard policies. These policies outline the key performance metrics that the district uses to assess overall performance. The basic objective is simple—those metrics improve, so does the number of students who graduate college and career ready.

The primary metrics of the district’s dashboard include third, fifth and eighth grade reading and math results, graduation rates, standardized testing outcomes, suspensions, expulsions, student and parent survey responses, A-G completion, advanced placement course taking and passing rates, fiscal and operational metrics, and human capital measures. The simple use of the dashboard is to provide an overview of strategic measures to ensure that the district is making consistent and steady progress.

That said, the board has realized that this framework, while broad, does not completely integrate all of the key variables that drive student success.

Thus the Board of Education along with the other members of the California Office to Reform Education (CORE) last year supported the creation of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver accountability system, which includes the five domains of Academic Performance and Growth, Academic Completion and Retention, Social Emotional, and Culture and Climate. These indicators integrate the equity and access theory of action and address long-standing barriers to student success. The accountability system includes many of the initial district dashboard measures and additional measures that allow school leaders to target specific students more effectively.

It is important to note that the local Fresno community has been engaged in a regional success conversation as well. This work culminated in the April 2014 launch of a community scorecard. The Fresno Community Scorecard process was co-led by the Fresno Business Council and ValleyPBS, a partnership formed to raise awareness about important leading indicators for building a healthy, prosperous and sustainable community. The indicators cover a broad range of strategic focus areas including education, safe community, housing, equity, etc.

From an education perspective, two Fresno Community Scorecard measures stand out. In 2012, the share of Fresno County adults having earned a bachelor’s degree was estimated at 12.8%, while the estimated share of the county population having earned a graduate degree was 5.8%. At the other end of the spectrum, during the 2012-13 school year in Fresno County, the share of children entering kindergarten who were considered “ready to go” was 36.8%.

Obviously, there are many milestones between preschool and college but there is an increasing understanding that early learning may be one of the most critical gateways to long-term academic success. For example, by age 3, children from families with low levels of education have heard 30 million fewer words than children of working class or professional parents. Correspondingly, there has been an increased focus on early learning spending at the federal, state and local levels. For instance, next year’s California state budget includes $264 million for early childhood education and Fresno Unified has approximately $7 million set aside for preschool age children as well.

Thus, while there are many important academic milestone metrics to measure including A-G completion, algebra success, and SAT scores, perhaps one of the most significant measures is early literacy. This is one measure that everyone can impact through actions large and small.

The small act of reading a book to a preschool age child has the potential for large impact, particularly if we do this collectively as a community. Sometimes, the simplest acts have the largest rewards.

So, take this call to action and find ways to routinely read books to a preschool aged child, whether it is one of your own children, a relative, a friend or any child in your circle of relationships.

The Board Sustainability Sub-Committee engages civic partners, provides an “on boarding” process for potential board members, and identifies additional board policy work to accelerate student achievement and engage community stakeholders.

EduText Kicks Off Again in September

In response to recommendations made by the Graduation Task Force, EduText was created in an effort to reduce the number of students with D’s and F’s. The texting tool also offers parents/guardians an additional opportunity to engage daily in their student’s academic progress while allowing time to seek assistance if needed. With the positive response from parents and school sites,

See EduText Kicks, Pg. 9

EduText Inician Nuevamente en Septiembre

Antes de Terminar el año escolar 2013-14, el Distrito Unificado de Fresno presentó EduText, una nueva herramienta tecnológica de texto. Esta herramienta proporciona mensajes de texto diarios a los padres o tutores de estudiantes del 3ro al 12vo grado, enfocándose en las calificaciones y la asistencia de sus niños.

En respuesta a las recomendaciones hechas por el Equipo de Trabajo para Graduación, EduText fue creada como un esfuerzo para reducir el número de estudiantes con D’s y F’s. La herramienta de texto también ofrece a los padres o tutores una oportunidad adicional de involucrarse en el progreso académico al mismo tiempo.
Teacher Academy Develops Outstanding Future Educators

Aspiring teacher Jessica Sepulveda is just starting her senior year at Duncan Polytechnical High School, but over the summer helped teach kindergartners -- and got paid for the invaluable experience.

Jessica was among 13 Fresno Unified seniors and recent graduates who had the opportunity to work side-by-side with exemplary teachers in summer school through a new internship program added to the district’s Teacher Academy.

Her experience helping to teach at Pyle Elementary School confirmed her love for working with children.

“It’s just a great career to take on,” Jessica said.

The program not only gives students a head-start on a teaching career, but is helping Fresno Unified develop a pipeline of highly qualified teacher candidates from among its own students. This fall, McLane and Roosevelt high schools will launch Teacher Academy programs, joining the existing programs at Duncan Polytechnical and Sunnyside high schools.

“The Teacher Academy exposes students to a career in education by offering real-world learning opportunities that allow students to learn through meaningful work-based experiences,” said Kristen Boroski, Career Readiness director. “This program outlines the steps to becoming a successful educator and provides a clear bridge to employment in Fresno Unified School District.”

Jessica Sepulveda, senior at Duncan Polytechnical High School, works with Brianna Soto, left, and Dominick Rivera as a Teacher Academy intern at Pyle Elementary School’s Extended Learning summer program.

Teaching Common Core Through Video

Teachers in the Fresno Unified School District over the past two years have learned a great deal about the “what” and “why” of the new Common Core State Standards, but many were still seeking ways to apply the new knowledge and wanted to see what Common Core instruction looked like in their own backyard.

Last fall, district leaders in the areas of Curriculum and Professional Learning moved quickly to create a plan for developing exemplar videos of Common Core instruction, featuring Fresno Unified teachers.

In May, the district launched the new online Common Core Video Library, which now features over 20 videos. Each video consists of either a teaching practice or a lesson idea and includes downloadable materials, questions to consider, and a means for sharing and discussing the contents.

Viewers can even get in touch with the featured teacher to get more information. Videos are cataloged and searchable by subject, grade level, and topic on a platform provided through the district’s partnership with Teaching Channel.

These videos provide teachers with lesson ideas and a variety of instructional practices, with a focus on one of the most challenging aspects of Common Core: increasing complex talk and complex tasks through reading, writing, listening and speaking in complex text.

In one example, an elementary teacher shares specific ideas that foster student collaboration and discussion. In another example, a middle school teacher shows how complexity and rigor can be increased by using multiple resources across various forms of media, and then asks students to analyze and compare them.

And in another video, a high school teacher demonstrates how students complete a culminating task at the end of a unit by collaborating in teams and tapping into previously learned concepts to solve a real-world problem. In addition to providing great examples of instruction, these videos also contain teacher interviews that provide further insight into the purpose, preparation and delivery of the lessons.

To see an example of these videos, visit go.fresnou.org/commoncore and learn how a middle school teacher uses a practice known as the “Socratic Seminar” to foster discussions around the theme of Anne Frank. Moving into the new school year, the district plans to create more teaching videos and use them in an even more structured professional learning process to support the implementation of Common Core.

Teacher Susan McCloskey, overseeing intern Kazoua Thao, said she was amazed at the teaching skills Kazoua, as a high school senior, already has: “I’m floored. She’s so prepared to work with kids.”

The Teacher Academy is a collaboration between the district’s Human Resources, Teacher Development, and College and Career Readiness departments, and was initially launched by Human Resources as a strategy for Fresno Unified to “grow its own” outstanding teachers. About 160 students from Duncan and Sunnyside high schools were involved in the program last year.

Once students graduate from Fresno Unified, they have the opportunity to join the Teaching Fellows program, part of the district’s Transition to Teaching (T2T). The Teaching Fellows program at California State University, Fresno is one of several pipelines that provides additional support and early fieldwork experiences for future teachers.

Teacher Academy graduates can also choose to pursue jobs assisting in classrooms as a paraprofessional for Fresno Unified through the Paraprofessional Academy, another T2T program. Recruitment for Teacher Academy is on-going and students interested are encouraged to speak with their counselor.
Cambridge Teacher Never Gives up on Students

Elva Carlos -- science teacher, campus culture director, instructional lead teacher, and Academic Decathlon coach -- will begin her eighth year at Cambridge High School this academic year. Carlos was selected as the High School Teacher of the Year during the past school year as part of Fresno Unified’s Excellence in Education awards.

What is your background and how did you come to be a teacher?

I was born and raised in Salinas. My parents were strawberry growers and I was raised in the fields. After earning my bachelor’s degree, I worked as a physical therapy aide where I realized, it wasn’t what I had hoped. After substituting in several schools, I realized I liked working with high school students and then worked on getting my teaching credential and master’s degree. I never thought becoming a teacher would be so rewarding. I really enjoy going to work every morning to see my students. It was the best decision in my life.

What do you enjoy about teaching at Cambridge?

I really enjoy making connections with students. At Cambridge, it seems many students just want a second chance and need someone to support them. That is where I come in. They do put in a lot of time and effort to earn credits. They don’t give up and that is what I like about Cambridge. They really work hard and it is wonderful to see them graduate. It is more meaningful to them and to know I was a part of their accomplishment is what makes teaching at Cambridge enjoyable.

What are your strategies for encouraging your students?

Show you care and never give up, even if you think your student has given up. I am always walking around asking students if they need help or if they did not understand the lesson. I don’t want for them to ask me. I also do my best to give them positive feedback. This goes a long way.

In regards to instructional strategies, I have the students take a questionnaire on their learning style and do my best to modify my lessons to meet their needs. I try to incorporate every modality in my units so the students will enjoy completing assignments as well as learn the content.

What are the biggest obstacles your students face?

Credits, credits, credits. My students need credits. In order to recover the credits they need to graduate, my students take their regular classes at Cambridge, sixth period (extra class), night school, Saturday school and even summer school. It seems they are in school for two years straight, but it is worth it at the end. They appreciate the opportunities Cambridge gave them to recover their credits.

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What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be to go for a month to Spain and travel around the country. I love the culture, food and even the lifestyle. I would love to learn how to dance Flamenco, watch a bullfight and learn to make tapas. I would also love to see the work of Pablo Picasso and see many of his famous art pieces.

Greenberg Paraeducator Fills Her Students’ Cups

Beverly Eastman is a paraeducator working with students with autism at Greenberg Elementary School and in the after-school program. She receives high praise from Greenberg Principal Bonifacio Sanchez: “Beverly is a teammate who works well with individuals on campus. Her passion and attitude are contagious and encourages everyone to be successful.”

How did you become a paraeducator?

I was working in group homes before I was a paraeducator. My sister said that kids benefited from the love I gave them and there are many in Fresno Unified who needed that. When I started working in special education classrooms I could see that this was the place I needed to be. I have worked with many children and each one has impacted my life.

Have you always worked with children with autism, and what is that like?

I started working with kids who are orthopedically impaired at Sunnyside High School. Then I transferred to Greenberg and started working with children with autism. At first I was in a Special Day Class working with kids who were on the more severe side of the spectrum. Then Mrs. Jeannine Butler and Mrs. Katie Russell saw something in me and encouraged me to come to the Inclusion Program.

Working with students who have autism has opened my eyes to see things in a new way. I am amazed at the abilities that these students have. One of my students will explain something to me and I learn from what they have to teach me. They are funny, caring, smart, and I feel like they enjoy being with me, and I with them.

What are your biggest challenges?

My biggest challenge is not having enough time in the day to feel like I have been successful in meeting each of my student’s individual needs.

What are your biggest rewards?

I have an amazing boss, Mrs. Janine Wilkinson, and we have an amazing team. We all respect one another and we push each other to do our best and meet our students’ needs. When we see the growth that our students have made, that is such an amazing reward.

When you go to work each day, what do you hope to accomplish?

I hope to fill each student’s “cup” as high as I can fill it. Working in inclusion, I also work closely with typically developing students, and I try to fill their “cups” as well. I try to fill them with love, confidence, and help them feel accomplished.

Tell us something most people don’t know about you.

I am a very good cook. I love to cook for my family. When I see people enjoying the food I have prepared for them, it gives me a feeling of joy and makes me happy. I had planned to become a chef when I was younger, but God had other plans.
**Yokomi Estate Bestows Gift on Namesake School**

From left, Yokomi Elementary School students Isabella Gallegos, Ashley Franco, Angelina Servantes, Antonio Mijangos, Diego Ramirez, Tamara Franco, Aileen Navarrete, Graciela De La Cerda, Sergio Romero, and Ehren Graff celebrate the Yokomi estate’s gift to the school June 25. In the back, from left, is trustee Christopher De la Cerda, Principal Bruce Thele, and Ernie Doizaki.

While he was alive, Central Fish Co. owner Akira Yokomi resisted suggestions that he move his store out of Fresno’s Chinatown, preferring to support the city’s core communities and efforts to rebuild downtown.

Eighteen years after his untimely death, Yokomi’s support for Fresno’s inner-city lives on with a gift of $409,776 to Yokomi Elementary School, the downtown campus named for him. The couple’s nephew, Ernie Doizaki, presented a check from the estate of Mr. Yokomi and his wife, Nofuko, on June 25 during an emotional gathering at Yokomi Elementary School. On hand were students, staff, family and friends of the Yokomis, and employees from Central Fish.

“I know my aunt and uncle would be extremely proud of what [the staff] has created,” Doizaki said.

The school opened on Aug. 22, 2005, honoring Yokomi’s legacy as a respected businessman, longtime community leader and advocate for education. Nofuko Yokomi, also well known in the community, passed away in October 2013. The gift comes to Yokomi Elementary following the settlement of the Yokomi estate.

“This generous and thoughtful gift to our school certainly reflects the appreciation the Yokomi family has for naming a school in honor of a beloved family member and respected member of the downtown community,” said Yokomi Principal Bruce Thele.

He said the school will engage the family, staff, and community in generating ideas for how to use the Yokomis’ gift on “opportunities for students they wouldn’t normally have.”

“This truly is a gift that keeps on giving for years to come,” Thele said.

Yokomi is a magnet school with an emphasis on technology and science and a partnership with nearby Community Regional Medical Center to support student learning. The campus has flourished as both a neighborhood school and a popular choice of families from throughout Fresno.

“The mission, the vision of the school is coming through and it’s quite exciting,” Thele said. “This endowment, incredibly generous endowment, still has our heads spinning.

“This will just propel us faster, further and way into the future in terms of what we want for our students.”

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**Why is High-Quality Preschool Important?**

Numerous studies indicate that children who receive a high-quality preschool education are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Fresno Unified’s Early Learning Department provides a comprehensive pre-kindergarten (preschool) program for children turning 4 on or before September 1, 2014.

Children attend a daily, three-hour program designed to develop the academic and social-emotional skills needed for success, with numerous opportunities for children to engage with peers and adults. For many children, preschool is their first experience in a structured setting with teachers and other children.

Fresno Unified has made a commitment to placing a greater focus on preschool education by expanding the number of spaces available to Fresno children. All families are encouraged to enroll their child in all programs are not income-based. Income verification is part of the enrollment process but does not determine whether a child will be enrolled. Currently, there are over 2,800 seats available for the 2014-15 academic year at approximately 59 elementary school sites.

Families will discover that preschool offers an opportunity to learn how to follow instructions, to share, and to begin building a strong foundation for learning.

Preschool promotes language and cognitive skills: Preschool-age children’s language skills are nurtured in a “language-rich” environment. Between the ages of 3 and 5, a child’s vocabulary grows from 900 to 2,500 words, and their sentences become longer and more complex. In the preschool learning environment, teachers help children stretch their language skills by asking thought-provoking questions and introducing new vocabulary during science, art, snack time, and other activities. Children have many opportunities to sing, talk about favorite read-aloud books, and act out stories.

Preschool activities boost pre-math and early literacy skills: Young children show growing interest in pre-math and pre-literacy skills. They are curious and observant, and they want to be competent in the skills that their families and society value — such as reading the instructions for assembling a toy, or selecting the correct bills or coins to pay for a purchase. To prepare children for the academic demands of kindergarten, teachers offer a wide variety of games and activities that help children acquire the pre-math and early literacy skills.

Preschool promotes social and emotional development: In order to learn, young children need to feel cared for and secure with a teacher or caregiver. In a high-quality preschool setting, a 4-year-old child is able to spend time away from parents and build trusting relationships with adults outside of the family. High-quality preschool programs nurture warm relationships among children, teachers and families.

Preschool helps develop motor skills: Children in preschool are in motion for a good part of the day. High-quality preschool programs provide various opportunities for children to run, climb, and play active games. To help children develop fine motor skills, a variety of activities to build their hand-eye coordination and balance are included daily, such as threading beads or cutting with scissors.

Preschool teachers nurture a child’s curiosity: Teachers observe, ask questions and listen to children’s ideas during these activities. “Correct” answers are not the goal. To nurture their curiosity and motivation to learn, teachers use children’s interests and ideas to create activities.

Preschoolers learn to make choices and interact with others: Children have several choices of activities that are of interest to him or her. Teachers are alert to a child who can’t figure out how to enter other children’s play and may offer him suggestions on ways to join the group. Throughout their school years, much of children’s learning will take place in the company of their peers. In a high-quality preschool program, children are introduced to the behaviors required to function successfully in a kindergarten classroom. For example, during group activities such as “circle time,” children learn to focus attention on the teacher, listen while others are speaking, and wait their turn to talk.

There is no deadline for preschool enrollment. Space is available to all Fresno children until filled. Interested families can contact Fresno Unified’s Early Learning Department at (559) 457-3410 or (559) 457-3684.
Students Awarded $68,000 in Fresno Unified Scholarships

Sunriside High School graduate Lisa Yang is congratulated by Board President Valerie Davis and Superintendent Michael Hanson May 28 as a Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund recipient, with Dee Dee Thao from Edison High School in the background.

Thirty-eight of Fresno Unified’s most deserving graduates head off to college this fall with the support of $68,000 in scholarships from the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. The scholarships, which range from $1,000 to $3,000, were awarded to students from 12 district high schools. This year’s amount surpasses the $42,000 in scholarships awarded in 2013-14. The scholarship fund is generously supported by Fresno Unified employees and members of the community.

The Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund first awarded scholarships in 2009 and has over the past six years awarded more than $140,000 in scholarships. To give to the fund, call (559) 248-7463.

The 2014 scholarship winners were:

**Bullard High School:**
- Ayasha Hunley, $2,500; Lucy Ramirez, $2,500; Crystal Enriquez, $1,000; Cecilia Lizrth Reeyes-Almarez, $1,000

**Cambridge High School:**
- Charlie Guzman, $1,000

**Design Science:**
- Jessica Morales, $2,500; Giovanni E. Pacheco, $1,000

**DeWolf High School:**
- Paul Cisneros, $1,000

**Duncan High School:**
- Albert Agabekyan, $2,500; Nancy Rodriguez, $1,000

**Edison High School:**
- Dee Dee Thao, $3,000; Maijoua Vang, $2,500; Rosario Ramirez, $2,500; Khryi Brown, $1,000; Zoua Vang, $1,000

**Fresno High School:**
- Brown, $1,000; Zoua Vang, $1,000

**Fresno High School:**
- Victoria Vu, $2,500; Luis Wiley, $2,500; Connie Silva, $1,000; Maria Mendoza, $1,000

**Hoover High School:**
- Christi Xiong, $2,500; Thomas Mertens, $2,500; Octavio Garcia Farfan, $1,000; Breanna Deleon, $1,000

**J.E. Young Education Center:**
- Seth-Michael Duran, $1,000

**McLane High School:**
- Mai Thao Lee, $2,500; Andy Vang, $2,500; Vincent Contreras, $1,000; Stephanie Thai, $1,000

**Roosevelt High School:**
- Jasmin Ledesma, $2,500; Jacquelyn Morelos, $2,500; DeShawn Wright, $1,000; Angel Andres Garcia, $1,000

**Sunriside High School:**
- Imari Jahiya Reynolds, $3,000; Lisa Yang, $3,000; Delia Sharon Marie Hill, $2,500; Linda Moua, $2,500; Pa Kov Chang, $1,000; Pedro Gomez, $1,000

First Group of Steve’s Scholars Heads to High School

With the start of the new academic year, approximately 60 students from Tehipite Middle School will continue on to Fresno Unified high schools as part of Steve’s Scholars, a college incentive project launched through the generosity of a Fresno couple.

Several Steve’s Scholars shared with board members at the June 18 meeting that the program has pushed them to excel. As members of the program’s first cohort promoted to high school, they represent a milestone in the program.

“We have been inspired and motivated for a better future,” said Azucena Ramirez, who will be a freshman at Sunriside High School.

Murray and Francine Farber launched the project in 2012, gifting the district with a $1 million endowment fund for a scholarship program in memory of their son, Steven.

To be eligible for the Steve’s Scholars program students need to be enrolled for the majority of their middle school years at Tehipite and promoted from Tehipite, maintain a 95% attendance rate, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA, take A-G college entrance courses, and complete required community service hours. In high school, they must continue to meet all the requirements and be on track to graduate.

The scholars, who provided over 30 service hours each to the Tehipite community, spent Mondays tending the Steve’s Scholar’s Community Garden, growing vegetables that reflected the different cultures of the neighborhood and sharing vegetables with the afterschool cooking classes and school families. Many of the scholars also joined with school staff and Rotary members in planting more than 175 plants on campus.

In addition to increasing school and community engagement, the Steve’s Scholars program placed an increased emphasis on academics and heightening students’ awareness of good attendance, said Tehipite Principal Yvonne Zysling. The year-end cumulative attendance data for Tehipite was 94.2%, just shy of meeting the district attendance goal of 95%. Zysling said attendance, called out daily, increased 3% over the previous year. One student improved from 3.17 GPA in the seventh grade to a 3.94 GPA in the eighth grade.

Continued on Page 9
Guillermo Serna was a self-described “lazy” student when he arrived at Cambridge High School during the last school year, seeking an alternative to regular high school and an avenue to recover credits and get back on track to graduate.

He expects to reach his goals this academic year, and credits part of his success to getting involved in the school’s Cambridge Inks T-shirt screen printing studio. Students taking Cambridge’s small business management and marketing classes practice the skills they are learning by operating Cambridge Inks, Fresno Unified’s only licensed screen printing studio.

The studio takes orders from other Fresno Unified schools and departments as well as from customers in the community.

“They learn how to run their own business, what it takes, how to set it up, and they get hands-on experience,” said teacher Carren McDaniel. “My goal is to not only teach them a trade but the skills and attitude it takes to maintain a job in the real world.”

Guillermo, 17, is learning the skills he will need to achieve his dream of someday operating his own mechanic shop.

“It’s helping me understand situations in the real workplace. I like coming to school. This is the reason,” he said.

Cambridge Inks is about to start its third year in operation but has big plans for this coming academic year. Students will learn to use an embroidery machine, adding that capability to the existing screen printing and “blinging” design options. The school will also be increasing its marketing efforts.

Profits from Cambridge Inks go right back into the school for its rewards program, field trips and other needs.

Cambridge High is an alternative high school focused on providing students who have dropped out of school or fallen behind in credits an opportunity to recover credits and earn their high school diploma and prepare for college and career. The staff has developed highly effective ways to support students, including encouraging activities outside the classroom, such as Academic Decathlon.

Cambridge Principal Pete Pulos said the screen-printing program provides students with experiences beyond a regular class setting: “It’s designed to give students exposure to all aspects necessary for running a small business.”

Shirt Screen Printing Business Fits Cambridge High to a “T”

Transfers Office and Student Records Have Moved

The Transfers and School Choice Office has moved to the southeast corner of First Street and East Hampton Way, and Student Records has moved to the first floor of the Education Center at Tulare and M streets.

For the Transfers Office, the new phone number is (559) 248-7538 and the mailing address is 4120 N. First St., Fresno, CA 93726. The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The Transfers Office provides magnet, intra-district and inter-district transfers for students not living within the attendance boundaries of the school or district they wish to attend. Parents may visit the office to request a transfer outside of their student’s attendance area.

For Student Records, the phone number remains (559) 457-3362. The mailing address is 2309 Tulare St., Fresno, CA 93721. For in-person requests, a Student Records window is located next to the Payroll Office in the lobby area of the Education Center. The window is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Class is in Session. Are you in?

BRENT COOK
Preparator for Fresno City College

Alfredo Vasquez of Sunnyside High School gears up for the coming football season during the summer passing league.
Work is underway at Bullard High School in preparation for a two-story academic building with 24 classrooms, the start of a project that will bring dramatic changes to the campus.

The classroom building will be located on the south side of the campus adjacent to the Barstow Avenue parking lot.

The Bullard High project is part of $130 million in Measure Q projects completed or underway throughout the district following the community’s overwhelming support for the bond measure in November 2010. Measure Q projects are providing better teaching and learning environments, a boost to the local economy, and reinvestment in Fresno neighborhoods.

“We could not be more excited about these improvements to our campus,” said Principal Brian Beck. “When this project is complete, we will have brand-new, state-of-the-art classrooms for our students and staff, and a clean, modern look for the entrance to our campus that is inviting and projects success.”

The first phase of the three-phase Bullard project includes the construction of the new classroom building targeted for completion in late 2015. During Phase 2, the octagon-shaped Walker Building off Palm Avenue will be demolished, as well as the existing administration and counseling buildings to accommodate construction of a new administration building and library expansion. The modern building, with a raised relief mascot sculpture and signage, will create a clean, contemporary entrance.

Also during Phase 2, four portable classroom buildings and a portion of the former shop area will be demolished to make way for the north academic building with 15 classrooms, including three career technology education classrooms.

During Phase 3, all portable classrooms off Barstow will be removed and a new parking lot and plant operations/maintenance building constructed. All phases are expected to be done by the spring/summer of 2017.

The project will also include construction of a new quad area and visitor parking lot off of Palm at the front of the school, and upgrades to existing and installing of new surveillance systems and devices to enhance site security.

All classroom buildings will be solar ready and designed to utilize as much natural light as possible. The project also incorporates and consolidates the site’s low voltage systems to simplify future upgrades in technology.

Other Measure Q projects around the district recently completed, under construction, or soon to begin construction include:

* Baird Middle School: Construction on gym underway; planning underway for a classroom building.
* DeWolf/Design Science campus: Construction is underway for a new classroom building and renovation of multipurpose building.
* Hoover High School: Construction of new pool targeted to start late fall 2014.
* McLane High School: Construction underway on a new classroom building.
* Sequoia Middle School: School-wide modernization is underway.
Breathing Easier this School Year

As we embark on another school year, most children are excited to meet new teachers, reunite with old friends and learn new classroom material. For others, the start of the school year can be filled with difficulty and distractions—especially for those children who struggle to breathe each day.

Coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and tightening of the chest are just some of the problems faced by children with asthma.

Asthma is one of the most serious chronic diseases facing children today. Here in Fresno County, nearly 20% of children are battling this disease, much higher than anywhere else in the state. Nationally, asthma continues to be a leading public health concern, accounting for more than 15 million physician office visits a year and nearly 2 million visits to the emergency room.

As a pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente Fresno, I encounter children everyday who are dealing with this chronic condition. For some, the disease can drastically impact their quality of life if not managed well. Some children can’t play sports. Others have difficulty sleeping. A few suffer from severe asthma attacks requiring frequent visits to the doctor or even the emergency room.

Kaiser Permanente Fresno is committed to helping those with asthma manage their disease. Last year, we provided a $50,000 grant to Fresno Unified for an asthma management program, which included educating asthmatics and their parents at eight middle schools, covering the cost of some nurses, and providing 2,200 spacer devices to help children who use inhalers better manage the disease at home.

As an organization, Kaiser Permanente Fresno hopes to continue partnering with Fresno Unified on finding ways to help students better manage this serious disease and improve the overall health of our community.

Asthma occurs when the immune system is overactive in the lungs. The swelling and inflammation that occurs in the airways makes it difficult to breathe. When asthma flares up, the airways become narrower keeping the air from passing through easily. This is what makes it difficult for children to breathe.

These flare-ups are commonly called asthma attacks.

Asthma affects everyone differently. Some children may grow out of it, but for others, it can be a lifelong battle. For some, it can be a distraction in the classroom. Others with more frequent attacks can have multiple absences and miss valuable classroom time.

Preventing asthma flare-ups or an attack is not easy. But there are some ways to manage your child’s asthma. It’s important to be aware of those triggers that can make your child’s asthma worse.

These triggers can include:

- Irritants in the air, such as cigarette smoke or other air pollution. Do not expose your child to tobacco smoke.
- Things your child is allergic to, such as pet dander, dust mites, cockroaches or pollen. Taking allergy medicines may help your child.
- Exercise. Ask your doctor about using an inhaler before exercise if this is a trigger for your child’s asthma.
- Other irritants such as dry, cold air; a respiratory infection; or some medicines, including aspirin. Try not to have your child exercise outside when it is cold and dry. Talk to your doctor about how to prevent some common infections. And ask about what medicines your child should avoid.

One of the best ways to help your child with asthma is to educate yourself and your child about this disease. Learning how to manage asthma, taking the medicines a doctor prescribes and knowing the triggers of this disease can help your child breathe easier this school year.

For more information regarding asthma and proper ways to use inhalers, please visit my website at http://mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/ncal/provider/aimeesimbre

By Aimee Simbre, MD, Pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente Fresno

“Thank you for your selfless service during these unprecedented times. We,(children and adults) are grateful for your efforts, but we also need to walk away carrying hope for the future and confidence to persevere,” said Superintendent Michael Hanson.

The district will strengthen its efforts to better serve students and families.

• Increased social/emotional counselors at middle schools and child welfare specialists at elementary schools

Through additional funding provided by the Local Control Funding Formula, the district has increased support to English learners, foster students, and low-income students. The district will strengthen its efforts to increase graduation rates for all students.

Additionally, the district will expand restorative discipline practices at several schools, begin restorative practices at several school sites, and increase bilingual school site staff to better serve students and families.

Important Dates
2014-15 Academic Year

First day of school: Aug. 18, 2014
Thanksgiving break: Nov. 24-28, 2014
Winter break: Dec. 22-Jan. 9, 2015
Spring break: March 30-April 6, 2015
Last day of school: June 11, 2015
McLane Teacher Attends C-SPAN Conference

William Mitchell, a social studies teacher at McLane High School, was one of 32 educators from across the country selected to attend C-SPAN Classroom’s 2014 Educators’ Conference in Washington, D.C. July 10-11. Mitchell said he came away with a number of tools to make learning more relevant for students, including how to search, create and archive clips for the classroom using C-SPAN’s entire catalog of video footage—everything it has aired since 1987. He also learned more about C-SPAN’s annual student documentary contest, which could be an incredible opportunity for students. Mitchell competed against applicants from around the nation for the all-expense paid conference, geared toward helping teachers provide a clearer understanding of how the federal government works, the history of the United States, and current events.

Edison Coach Selected as The Bee’s Track Coach of the Year

Edison High School’s Danny Alberty was selected in June by The Fresno Bee as its Track and Field Coach of the Year after his boys team won its fourth Central Section title in 11 years and placed fourth in the state.

Manchester GATE Student Performs at Carnegie Hall

Hasina Torres, a recent sixth-grader at Manchester GATE School now headed to Computech Middle School, was among the approximately 150 students selected through a rigorous process to play at Carnegie Hall for the 2014 Middle School Honors Performance Series June 25-28. Hasina was seated fifth among 14 cellists based on her preparation. The Carnegie series showcased the most talented student performers in grades 6-8 from across the United States, Canada, and select international schools. Hasina maintains a 4.0 GPA, participates in school sports and plays saxophone in the school jazz band.

Burroughs Wins Recycling Reward

Burroughs Elementary School received more than $2,000 in July for collecting 18,000 Capri Sun drink pouches to be recycled in TerraCycle’s Drink Pouch Brigade contest. The Drink Pouch Brigade program rewards participants for collecting and sending waste to TerraCycle for recycling. Participants can win prizes like park benches, recycling bins or even a playground through the program, which began in September 2013.

Roosevelt, Tioga Earn Afterschool Program Awards

The afterschool programs at Roosevelt High School and Tioga Middle School were among six Central Valley afterschool programs the Learning in Afterschool & Summer Project recognized for creating quality learning environments for students. To qualify, programs voluntarily submitted documents to a review committee and agreed to host an observation team of youth and adults. The observation teams examined whether learning opportunities were active, collaborative, meaningful, supported mastery, and expanded the horizons of the participants. Roosevelt’s program was deemed exemplar in four areas and Tioga’s program exemplar in three areas. They were awarded “digital badges” that can be shared easily through social media and raise awareness of program features.

Fresh Fruit Provided to Students

Nearly 50 Fresno Unified schools were awarded grants through the California Department of Education’s Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, for a total of $157,945 in funding. Funds will be used to provide students with a variety of free fresh fruit and vegetable snacks during the day as a supplement to the school breakfast and lunch programs and to teach students about good nutrition.
Farmers Market Greek Salad

Makes 4 servings

- 1 lb. tomatoes, cut into bite-size pieces
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 small cucumber, peeled and thinly sliced
- 16 kalamata olives, pitted and halved
- 2 oz. crumbled feta cheese
- 12 fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces
- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 1 large clove of garlic; minced, then mashed with a little salt in a small bowl

Put the tomatoes, red onion, cucumber, and olives into a large bowl. Top with feta and basil. Whisk the olive oil and vinegar into the garlic paste. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper to taste. Pour dressing over salad, toss, and serve.

Visit our Fresno Medical Center Farmers Market
7300 N. Fresno St., Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

kp.org/fresno  KAISER PERMANENTE.  thrive

SUPT’S MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

great school. It is truly remarkable.

Like the other dramatic projects you have seen recently at our high schools, you will without a doubt be proud of what we are accomplishing together.

We’ve also been hard at work building our technology infrastructure. In fact, we’ve stepped into a new era of technology here in Fresno Unified. As you know, we outfitted all of our schools with brand new laptop/tablets to keep our students at the head of the pack when it comes to technology, and this will be the first year that we’re starting the school year with laptops in every classroom. We also improved upon our ATLAS parent portal, and launched some fascinating new technology, called EduText, to keep parents and guardians more involved in their children’s education by sending them daily text messages containing grades and attendance data.

I strongly encourage you to sign up to receive EduText message updates about your student’s progress. To do so, please log in and make sure your contact information is updated in Parent Portal. Trust me when I tell you, it will change the school-related conversations in your home.

I have no doubt that things will be moving fast at the beginning of the school year. Things may even get overwhelming at times. Just remember that you have a dedicated group of teachers, counselors, administrators, and other staff who are there to make this time of year as comfortable and successful as possible.

Throughout the school year, we all must vow to remain committed to academic excellence. This is our core purpose as we grow as a school district, and it is reflected through the unwavering efforts of our excellent staff who work with our students and families every day.

So, to all of our parents and guardians, students, staff and community members: welcome back! We all have an important role to play in the success of our students and I look forward to working closely with you throughout the 2014-15 school year! Let’s make it the best one yet!
Paréceme como si hubiera sido la semana pasada cuando estuviésemos dando por terminado el año escolar, producto y exitoso, a ustedes, a nuestro distrito escolar, y a los estudiantes que han trabajado tan duro para alcanzar este logro. Aprendamos de este año para hacer lo mejor en el nuevo año.

El primer trimestre del año pasado fue un año de cambio y reorientación para el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Los maestros y administradores han estado asistiendo a talleres y conferencias trabajando en aquellos temas que marcan las oportunidades. Además hemos estado trabajando duro para preparar una cuantía de voluntarios para que sean parte del equipo de un nuevo año escolar.

Primero, estoy orgulloso de anunciar la apertura de la Escuela Secundaria Katwaw, que servirá a su comunidad durante este año escolar 2014-15. La escuela secundaria está dirigida a un grupo específico – Estoy muy entusiasmado con el futuro de esta escuela. La apertura de la Escuela Secundaria Katwaw es un gran logro para el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno. Todos somos parte de una nueva era de oportunidades para nuestros estudiantes. Los maestros y administradores están realizando todo lo que pueden para hacer que este año sea el mejor hasta ahora.

El comienzo del año escolar de 2014-15, nos invita a que los completemos lo más pronto posible, de lo que tendrán que llenar y firmar, por lo tanto, los estudiantes deben estar preparados. Los padres, por favor estén al pendiente de la reunión de la Mesa de Educación. Todos haremos la diferencia con la fundación de una nueva escuela secundaria.

En cuanto empecemos el año escolar 2014-15, es tiempo de ser mejor estudiante o padre de lo que fuiste el año pasado. El comienzo del año escolar de 2014-15 es el mejor año hasta ahora. Es parte del aprendizaje que cada estudiante y padre debe hacer.

La Escuela Secundaria Katwaw es la más reciente escuela moderna que nuestro distrito abre, e incluye la mejor tecnología que se puede ofrecer a la comunidad y cada uno de los que estuvieron involucrados en la construcción de esta gran escuela. Es verdaderamente remarkable.

Al igual que los otros emocionantes proyectos que hemos visto en nuestras escuelas recientes, los estudiantes y sus familias seguirán teniendo las mismas oportunidades que tienen en la escuela. El comienzo del año escolar de 2014-15 es el mejor año hasta ahora. Es parte del aprendizaje que cada estudiante y padre debe hacer.

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**Healthy Minute**

Preventive Care & Immunizations

How healthy you’ll be in coming years can be predicted by your number of risk factors for disease. Having one risk factor doesn’t necessarily doom you to poor health, but your odds increase dramatically when several risks are combined. For example, high cholesterol increases the likelihood of developing heart disease. People who smoke, have high cholesterol and high blood pressure dramatically increase their risk for heart attack.

Your disease risk is determined by factors that fall into these three categories: 1) Medical indicators, 2) Lifestyle behaviors, and 3) Environmental conditions. No matter how many years you’ve practiced bad habits and no matter your age, you can make a fresh start and improve your health.

- Information from Claremont EAP Personal Advantage.

$0 Preventive Health Services Available to You & Your Family

Your health is your most important gift and your most important asset. The Joint Health Management Board (JHMB) is committed to making sure you have resources and information to stay healthy and take the steps necessary to protect your most valuable resource.

Under the Affordable Care Act, there are numerous annual screenings, immunizations, and counseling services that you can receive for free – as long as the services are delivered by a network provider. That means no deductible, no copay, and no coinsurance.

These free preventive care services include annual physical exams, eye exams, family planning counseling, hearing exams, immunizations, prenatal care exams, STD prevention counseling, TB tests, well-women and well-child exams, and much more. For more information, visit JHMBHealthConnect.com/preventive-care-services.

Sign Up For a Flu Shot This Fall

This fall, the WellPATH program is partnering with Kaiser Permanente to offer free flu shot clinics at sites throughout the District. The vaccine is free and available for employees with district medical insurance, covered spouses, dependent children age 18+, domestic partners, early retirees (defined as a retired individual under age 65 and not eligible for Medicare), and retirees (age 65+). Registrants must present district-issued medical ID card.

Spots fill up quickly, so schedule your appointment soon. For more information and to schedule your appointment this fall, visit the District’s Joint Health Management Board website at JHMBHealthConnect.com.

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- Information from Claremont EAP Personal Advantage.

**Computer Loans**

as low as 3% APR*

Start the School Year Right with a New Computer!

- Payments as low as $20 per month
- Loan amount between $500 and $2,500
- Convenient payment options
- Ideal for students

*Special rate effective 8/1/14 - 12/31/14. Rates are subject to change without notice. Must qualify for membership. Payment example: a 60-month loan at 3% APR would have an estimated monthly payment of $17.97 per $1,000 borrowed.