Fresno Unified will host its annual State of Education luncheon Oct. 27, the district’s largest single event to support the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund.

Members of the community are invited to attend the event, which will highlight the district’s progress and showcase student talent. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fresno Hotel & Convention Center, 717 “M” St. in downtown Fresno. For ticket information, go to http://stateofed.eventbrite.com.

Last spring, $68,000 in scholarships were awarded to 38 of the district’s most needy and deserving students. Many of these students struggled with homelessness, losing parents, mastering English, and countless other obstacles growing up -- yet managed to excel in their classes and be leaders among their peers.

The district’s scholarship fund has truly made a difference in the lives of Fresno Unified students striving to attain their dreams of a college education.

In addition to the State of Education effort, an “I Pledge” campaign encourages district employees to contribute to the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund. Employees are invited to go to go.fresnou.org/pledge to contribute.
GOAL 2: ARTS, ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

So Much Drama in Fresno Unified: Productions Set for Fall

The stage is set for a variety of theater productions throughout the district over the next few months that will showcase student talent and provide an opportunity for students to connect with their school communities.

“I am amazed every year at the polished and entertaining productions from our theater students and staff and I can’t wait to see the new performances,” said Allan Kristensen, visual and performing arts manager for the district.

“The work our theater departments do is so important because for many of our students, drama and music is what draws them to school every day and keeps them on the path to academic success.”

Hundreds of students delve into theater productions every year in Fresno Unified, supporting the district’s Goal 2 that “All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.” This year, productions will range from Shakespeare to a tribute to Elvis Presley to the classic “Of Mice and Men.”

At Edison High School, the Edison Tiger Theatre Company will for the first time perform under the stars, staging Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors” in the amphitheater Oct. 22-25 at 7 p.m. The event will feature pre-show entertainment and food sales starting at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets, and their own picnic dinners, said theater teacher Erin Baird.

“This will be a big new venture for us and something we hope will be great fun and something really special for our audiences,” Baird said.

Other upcoming productions throughout the district include:

**Bullard High School:**
Ken Ludwig’s “Lend Me a Tenor” Oct. 16-17 and 23-25

“Just in Time or Watch Those Hands, Mister! A Timely Tale of the Triumph of Tenacity” (an old-fashioned melodrama) Dec. 4-7

“All Shook Up” featuring the music of Elvis Presley March 12-13 and 19-21

**Bullard TALENT K-8 School:**
“Hairspray, Jr.” Jan. 27-Feb. 6

**Fresno High School:**
“The Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery” Nov. 13-15 and 20-22

**Hoover High School:**
John Cariani’s “Almost, Maine” Nov. 5-8

**Roosevelt School of the Arts:**

Stephen Sondheim’s and James Lapine’s “Into the Woods” Feb. 27-28 and March 6-7 and 13-14 and matinees March 1 and 7-8, and 14-15

Senior One Acts April 30, May 1-2 and a matinee May 2

**Sunnyside High School:**
“Of Mice and Men” Oct. 22-25

The schools can provide information on show times and ticket prices.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

(See Pg. 15 for Superintendent’s Message in Spanish and Hmong)

Message From The Mayor

As the 2014-15 school year settles in, it’s time to look at one of the most important challenges facing our city: neighborhood revitalization. No other factor in improving the quality of life for Fresno school communities is more crucial than the ongoing process of reclaiming our neighborhoods.

It’s a priority for the City of Fresno. While we’re also focused on creating more jobs and stabilizing our finances, our team is tasked daily with improving Fresno’s neighborhoods. And we feel the 2035 General Plan is the best way to achieve that success.

We’re currently in the middle of the public review process for the 2035 General Plan. The plan, which was last updated in 2002, serves as a blueprint for future land use and growth in Fresno with a significant strategic focus on neighborhood revitalization efforts, ensuring their protection and improvement.

One of the best strategies in ensuring sustainability in neighborhood revitalization is focusing efforts across sectors in struggling neighborhoods. The 2035 General Plan incorporates specific development guidelines that will enhance those neighborhoods and protect property values in communities like Lowell and Yokomi.

For instance, in Lowell, the elementary school serving the neighborhood was on the list of underperforming schools. The city focused its revitalization efforts on Lowell and as the neighborhood started its turnaround, the school’s ranking also improved.

Yokomi has also recently been selected as part of the Building Neighborhood Community Program (BNCP), a federal grant the City of Fresno, Fresno Unified and 12 other organizations are partnering in to begin organizing stakeholders to build their capacity and advocacy for their community. The team, led by the City’s Neighborhood Revitalization Team, has already begun working in Yokomi and beginning in October, residents will begin the important work of engaging neighbors to develop ideas for how they want to change their neighborhoods, and then work with local agencies to implement those ideas.

It’s exciting to see the changes already taking place in Lowell and Yokomi, but we need your help -- and your input -- in order to make it attractive to others to preserve and invest in our older neighborhoods.

Take a look at the 2035 General Plan. Copies are available in Room 3043 at City Hall and the Fresno County Library Central Branch at 2420 Mariposa St. The document may also be accessed online at www.fresno.gov/newplan. With your help, we can make a big difference in preserving and protecting our neighborhoods.

I know there are some factors that may hinder many families from enrolling their children in preschool. In the past, there were certain family volunteer requirements and other income prerequisites that had to be met, but I’m proud to say that each student enrolled in Fresno Unified’s preschool program is enrolled at no cost.

We are making things easier for our families. We understand that while there are varying income levels across the valley, your income as a parent should not affect your child. We believe that all students should have access to the best educational resources.

This is why I’m also extremely excited about our recent announcement that we will be offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students regardless of income level. We’re trying to reduce burdens on our families, and help ensure that all students are getting nutritious meals. Our children shouldn’t be hungry when they’re trying to learn.

Thanks to all of our staff who worked so hard to help implement the Community Eligibility Provision, which is a new option available to our schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

I want to thank our local community for your amazing support. Because of the vision of our Board of Education, you will continue to see outstanding things happening all over Fresno Unified.

Parents and guardians, it is extremely important to get your child thinking about their own graduation as early as possible. In fact, you want it to become norm in your household. Don’t be afraid to talk to your first grader about graduating and feel free to take it a step further and talk to them about college and careers.

The new school year provides a fresh slate for all of our students to make sure they’re on track to graduate -- and thinking about graduation isn’t just something for high school students.

For the second straight year students throughout the district participated in the I Pledge campaign, designed to get students to make a “pledge” to themselves, their teachers, and their parents and guardians to graduate.

Seeing a seventh grader proudly holding up a “Class of 2022” sign, and internalizing that date is a tremendous sight. We hope that if each student has a specific plan for graduating, they will make better academic and life decisions to ensure they reach that goal.

While students are making their verbal pledges to graduate, Fresno Unified teachers and staff continue to raise funds for the Fresno Unified Scholarship Fund -- and trying to eclipse last year’s I Pledge totals -- when we awarded more than $68,000 in scholarships to 38 graduates.

The I Pledge campaign strongly supports the high priority that Fresno Unified has placed on preparing our youngest students for a productive educational experience as they grow and progress through school.

Because of our diligence in providing the best education for all students in Fresno, Fresno Unified is offering daily, three-hour pre-kindergarten programs in the morning and in the afternoon, designed to develop the academic and social-emotional skills needed for success in traditional or transitional kindergarten and beyond.

Currently, we have over 2,800 preschool spots for the 2014-15 school year, with many spaces still available to all Fresno children until filled. Income verification is part of the enrollment process, but it does not determine whether a child can be enrolled or not.

I am always proud that each student enrolled in Fresno Unified’s preschool program is enrolled at no cost.

I would like to thank all of our staff who worked so hard to help implement the Community Eligibility Provision, which is a new option available to our schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

I want to thank our local community for your amazing support. Because of the vision of our Board of Education, you will continue to see outstanding things happening all over Fresno Unified.

Message From the Mayor

As the 2014-15 school year settles in, it’s time to look at one of the most important challenges facing our city: neighborhood revitalization. No other factor in improving the quality of life for Fresno school communities is more crucial than the ongoing process of reclaiming our neighborhoods.

It’s a priority for the City of Fresno. While we’re also focused on creating more jobs and stabilizing our finances, our team is tasked daily with improving Fresno’s neighborhoods. And we feel the 2035 General Plan is the best way to achieve that success.

We’re currently in the middle of the public review process for the 2035 General Plan. The plan, which was last updated in 2002, serves as a blueprint for future land use and growth in Fresno with a significant strategic focus on neighborhood revitalization efforts, ensuring their protection and improvement.

One of the best strategies in ensuring sustainability in neighborhood revitalization is focusing efforts across sectors in struggling neighborhoods. The 2035 General Plan incorporates specific development guidelines that will enhance those neighborhoods and protect property values in communities like Lowell and Yokomi.

For instance, in Lowell, the elementary school serving the neighborhood was on the list of underperforming schools. The city focused its revitalization efforts on Lowell and as the neighborhood started its turnaround, the school’s ranking also improved.

Yokomi has also recently been selected as part of the Building Neighborhood Community Program (BNCP), a federal grant the City of Fresno, Fresno Unified and 12 other organizations are partnering in to begin organizing stakeholders to build their capacity and advocacy for their community.

The team, led by the City’s Neighborhood Revitalization Team, has already begun working in Yokomi and beginning in October, residents will begin the important work of engaging neighbors to develop ideas for how they want to change their neighborhoods, and then work with local agencies to implement those ideas.

It’s exciting to see the changes already taking place in Lowell and Yokomi, but we need your help -- and your input -- in order to make it attractive to others to preserve and invest in our older neighborhoods.

Take a look at the 2035 General Plan. Copies are available in Room 3043 at City Hall and the Fresno County Library Central Branch at 2420 Mariposa St. The document may also be accessed online at www.fresno.gov/newplan. With your help, we can make a big difference in preserving and protecting our neighborhoods.
Convocation 2014: “We are the Drivers of What Happens in This City”

Employees from throughout the district gathered under one roof Aug. 13 for Convocation 2014, an opportunity for all employees to kick off the new academic year together, hearing a common message as they prepared to welcome students back on Aug. 18.

Superintendent Michael Hanson set the tone for the academic year, encouraging employees to embrace their role as “city builders.”

“We’re all back here today with tremendous opportunities at our fingertips,” Hanson said. “We are the drivers of what happens in this city.”

Hanson emphasized the tremendous responsibility that every Fresno Unified employee carries to educate the city’s students and “develop the whole child,” shaping their minds and character: “We are it. Nobody else is coming and I am totally comfortable with that because we are getting the work done,” Hanson said.

Keynote speaker for Convocation 2014 was Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, who delivered an inspiring speech urging employees to never give up on students because of their background and to have high expectations of every student: “Potential does not come from a zip code. It just is.”

She praised the behind-the-scenes employees -- bus drivers, food service workers, gardeners -- who provide essential support to students and staff every day. Kickbusch overcame poverty, discrimination and literacy to become the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the U.S. Army.

Fresno Unified Vigilant about Water Conservation, Education

Fresno Unified has implemented several new strategies to help conserve water and do its part during the Valley’s severe drought, now stretching into a third year.

For example, in August the district replaced distressed high-water consumption trees at McLane High School with crepe myrtles and scarlet oaks, which are low moisture trees. Wherever possible, the district has modified landscaping in favor of environmentally sound plants while remaining committed to keeping playing fields green. It has also installed water-efficient fixtures wherever possible.

“We are continually working to reduce water use across the district, from school bathrooms to athletic fields,” said Karin Temple, associate superintendent of operations and facilities for the district. “We realize the importance of complying with all water restrictions during this time of drought, and we also take very seriously the role we can play in educating our students about water conservation.”

A critical component of the district’s water conservation efforts is its attention to prompt repairs, preventive maintenance and making sure all systems run efficiently, including the district’s irrigation, plumbing and air conditioning systems.

The district is also encouraging water conservation at school and home with the city of Fresno’s water education staff to provide materials in the classroom about the importance of water conservation.

While the district strives every day to use water efficiently, should anyone in the public observe excess watering they are invited to report it by calling the district’s hotline for water conservation and graffiti at (559) 457-3600.
PARENTS

Classes Offered for Preschoolers’ Parents

The district’s Parent University has launched a new series of classes for parents of the district’s youngest learners, and is piloting courses aimed at parents of high school students.

To correspond with Fresno Unified’s preschool expansion, Parent University this fall is offering the Early Learning Module for parents of preschool students to help them successfully transition into school.

The Early Learning Module is a seven-week, interactive course that includes:

• An introduction to Fresno Unified’s pre-kindergarten programs
• How assessments are used to determine school readiness
• Positive behavior management strategies
• How to navigate the educational system
• Strategies to support all areas of student development, including language and literacy
• Introduction to the ATLAS parent portal to help them monitor and support their young learner’s school progress

Also new this year, Parent University, in collaboration with the district’s College and Career Readiness and Equity and Access departments, is piloting parent classes by grade level at all high schools. The courses align with the academic calendar and cover content counselors are addressing with students.

Parent University is also piloting an attendance intervention program at all the high schools, in partnership with the Department of Prevention and Intervention. The program includes home visits targeting truant students with the goal of improving attendance.

Since Parent University was launched in 2010, 15,493 parents have attended courses provided by Parent University and its community partners. Parent University seeks to empower parents to help educate their children by providing them with information about the resources and opportunities the district offers and connecting them to the school community and resources in the community at large.

A full catalog of courses is available at www.fresnounified.org under Parent University in the “Parents” tab.

#Keep Students Safe Using Social Media

There is no question social media is here to stay. Chances are your child is already posting to Facebook and Instagram, tweeting on Twitter, or sending photos via Snapchat. Social media can be a nice tool to use -- but it can have serious consequences. For example, a young man was arrested in September and faced felony charges for making serious threats via Twitter to the Bullard High School campus.

To help students safely navigate social media, the district will hold its annual Cyber-Safety Day on Oct. 21 and provide basic digital citizenship training. Parents are urged to work closely with their children as well to keep them safe as they explore and participate in the ever-expanding world of social media. Following are several tips for parents to help keep children safe, but also allow them to experience the advantages of being a good digital citizen.

Did you know that children must be 13 to join Facebook and most other social media sites? In order to get an account, they have to provide Facebook with a birthdate that indicates they are 13 years old or older.

The district recommends that parents use the Facebook Privacy Checkup (which is the picture of a lock at the top right of the Facebook page). Particularly for younger children, these settings restrict who can see what your child posts and who can message them. Most other social media sites have similar settings.

Create social media rules. Experts recommend parents work with their children to create reasonable social media guidelines for the amount of time they spend on a site -- and encourage them to do other activities (such as homework) and not spend all of their time on Facebook or Instagram or Tumblr.

Parents should require their children to “like” them or connect with them on whatever social media platform they use. This gives parents the opportunity to see what they post and lets them know their parents are watching.

Social media is a way for your children to explore the world around them. It can be a wonderful learning experience to explore and connect to their peers, but parents should monitor posts and the posts from others to help keep them safe.

For more information on social media for students, including cyber-safety, cyber-bullying and digital citizenship, an outstanding website that the district uses is: www.commonsensemedia.org.
Lance Anderson

Lance Anderson is an art teacher at Sunnyside High School, plays in a ska/reggae/soul band, and had an ArtHop exhibit featuring the band posters he has created.

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

I grew up in Fresno and attended Easterby, Ayer, Kings Canyon, and Roosevelt. After high school I went to Fresno City College and then graduated from Fresno Pacific University. I decided to become a teacher for a couple of reasons. The first, my mom was a teacher and I admired her for that. The second, I had many jobs growing up and in college and they all seemed to be jobs that involved teaching kids in one way or another. So it really seemed like I was on a path that led me to teaching.

What do you enjoy about teaching at Sunnyside?

I really enjoy the vibe at Sunnyside. The school has a very positive and friendly atmosphere.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy working and helping our families with children with various disabilities, connecting them with different agencies and assisting them with doctor appointments.

What is the most difficult part?

It’s working with children that have health challenges that can threaten their lives.

Tell us about the role of the Lori Ann Infant Program in preparing future Fresno Unified students to succeed?

The role of Lori Ann is to serve as the start of a student’s journey in education, beginning with early intervention.

How do you help families?

I feel that I help empower our parents to be the best advocate for their child for the future by educating them and giving them the tools and knowledge of education they need.

If you couldn’t be a paraeducator, what career would you have?

A day care provider for special needs children.

People would be surprised to know that you:

I enjoy going to the mountains and cutting fire wood with my family.

What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be sitting on the beach, listening to the waves.

RosaMaria Gonzalez-New

RosaMaria Gonzalez-New is a longtime assistant in the Lori Ann Infant Program, which supports parents of children 0 to 3 years who have disabilities. Gonzalez-New assists nine teachers, two speech therapists, and two school psychologists, helping in the classroom and with home visits and parent activities.

What is your background and how did you come to be a paraeducator in the Lora Ann Infant Program?

I started working at Lori Ann right out of high school in 1988. I had an interview one evening. By the time I got home, I had a message on my phone saying I was hired to work at Lori Ann Infant Program. From the time I was exposed to working with children with various disabilities I knew in my heart this is where I belonged.

What do you enjoy about your job?

What are your strategies for encouraging your students?

I think my best strategy for encouraging students is simply showing them I love the subject I teach and that I really do care about them as individuals.

How does art help students in succeeding academically?

I think my class gives students a chance to think a little differently. It also helps improve interpretation and reasoning skills.

What is the hardest part of your job?

Making sure each and every student is learning what I am teaching.

Tell us about the band you are in and the posters you design.

King Sugar is the name of the band that I am in and we are 10 piece ska, reggae, and soul band. I am one of the lead singers in the band. I design posters for the band’s shows as well as other bands too. It is another outlet for my creativity. I love doing them and had a chance last June to show my work at ArtHop.

What is your favorite kind of art to create?

I like creating all types of art but my favorite currently is ceramic mosaics.

If you couldn’t be a teacher, what would you do?

Something in the arts I am sure. I do not really think about it since I enjoy teaching so much.

What is your dream vacation?

My dream vacation is one we take every year to the Big Island of Hawaii. So I guess you could say I am living my dream.
Fresno Unified’s Board of Education places a high priority on early learning and has increased opportunities for students to enroll in high-quality pre-kindergarten programs at most elementary school sites.

Fresno Unified’s no cost pre-kindergarten program is open to children who turned 4 by Sept. 1. The daily, three-hour program is designed to develop the academic and social-emotional skills needed for success in traditional or transitional kindergarten and beyond.

Teachers provide a caring, structured and developmentally appropriate program focused on teaching the whole child. The district is urging parents to take advantage of this great opportunity. Spots are available to all children until filled. Income verification is part of the enrollment process but does not determine whether a child will be enrolled.

A large body of research has shown a direct correlation between student academic achievement and participation in preschool programs. Recent Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile (KSEP) data released by Fresno County overwhelmingly demonstrates that preschool attendance is a critical component of kindergarten readiness. Fresno County KSEP results show 50% of students who attended preschool were considered “ready to go” and only 21% of students who did not attend preschool were considered “ready to go.”

To enroll or learn more about the pre-kindergarten program, contact the Department of Early Learning staff at (559) 457-3410 or (559) 457-3682.

Pre-Kindergarten Spots Still Available Throughout District

Daisy Mendoza works with her preschool teacher, Carolyn Gomez, at Webster Elementary School.

### Documents Required for Enrollment:

- Birth certificate for student
- (student must be 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2014)
- Birth certificate for siblings
- Proof of income
- Proof of address
- Immunization record
- Medical examination/physical

### Where to Enroll:

Department of Early Learning, 2348 Mariposa St., Fresno, CA 93721
Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

---

### Preparing Career Ready Graduates

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EDITION 2014

www.FresnoUnified.org

---

### Cullinan Education Center

Specialists in helping students close achievement gaps for 24 years in READING • WRITING • MATH

- One-on-one instruction
- Teachers are degreed, credentialed and/or certified Academic Language Therapists
- Orton Gillingham, Lindamood Bell and Making Math Real® programs
- Consistently rated “excellent” in parent surveys
- Partnership with Fresno County Office of Education - Cyber High Online Curriculum for high school students who are behind in credits

8485 N. Fresno Street, Suite 104 • Fresno
(559) 435-3276 • (559) 635-7601
FRESNO VISALIA

www.cullinaneducation.com • jc43learn@aol.com
Cullinan Education center is NOT Lindamood-Bell Processes nor is it affiliated with, certified, endorsed, licensed, monitored or sponsored by Lindamood-Bell, Nancy Bell, Phyllis Lindamood or Pat Lindamood. Lindamood-Bell in no way endorses or monitors the services provided by Cullinan Education center.

---

### Are you pregnant or have children under 5? You may qualify for WIC!

CALIFORNIA WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN

Our no-cost services include:

- Healthy foods
- Nutrition information
- Breastfeeding support
- Referrals to other health and social services

(559) 263-1150

No appointments or referrals necessary!
Migrants welcome to apply

Five locations to serve you
Downtown Fulton Mall • Shields & First
Kings Canyon & Willow • Shaw & 9th
Ashland & West

www.FresnoEOC.org/WIC
Fresno EOC is an equal opportunity provider.

No appointments or referrals necessary!
Migrants welcome to apply

---

www.FresnoUnified.org
The district this school year is offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students regardless of income levels, a policy change that reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that all students receive nutritious meals.

If students are hungry, it makes it difficult to learn. This new practice further supports the district’s efforts to eliminate all barriers to students’ academic success.

The change is the result of the district implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a new option available to schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty schools to expand access to free school meals while reducing paperwork and streamlining meal service operation. Meal applications will no longer be required.

“The goal of the Food Services Department is to provide nutritious, appetizing meals to help students do their best in school each day, and implementing the CEP helps us meet this goal,” said Food Services Director Jose Alvarado.

While most of Fresno Unified’s schools already offered free meals to all students because of high poverty rates, 17 schools that had previously collected meal applications will no longer have to do so under the new provision. The schools are Baird, Computech, and Tenaya middle schools, Bullard, Edison and Hoover high schools, Bullard TALENT K-8 School, and Eaton, Figarden, Forkner, Gibson, Kratt, Lawless, Malloch, Manchester GATE, McCardle, and Starr elementary schools.

This is the first year districts in California have had the opportunity to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision, which was successfully piloted in numerous parts of the country.

For example, Leslie said, a key concept in the fourth grade curriculum is that exploring history and other cultures builds a greater understanding of students’ own identity. Last year, she said, students studied one period where California Native Americans lived, what they ate, and what they traded for.

“This year, we are able to go deeper into their cultures and really look at what makes each culture unique by experiencing their music, their dance, their stories, and their visual art,” Leslie said.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME
Continued from page 1

District Offers Free Meals to All Students

The district this school year is offering breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students regardless of income levels, a policy change that reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that all students receive nutritious meals.

If students are hungry, it makes it difficult to learn. This new practice further supports the district’s efforts to eliminate all barriers to students’ academic success.

The change is the result of the district implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a new option available to schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The Community Eligibility Provision allows high-poverty schools to expand access to free school meals while reducing paperwork and streamlining meal service operation. Meal applications will no longer be required.

“The goal of the Food Services Department is to provide nutritious, appetizing meals to help students do their best in school each day, and implementing the CEP helps us meet this goal,” said Food Services Director Jose Alvarado.

While most of Fresno Unified’s schools already offered free meals to all students because of high poverty rates, 17 schools that had previously collected meal applications will no longer have to do so under the new provision. The schools are Baird, Computech, and Tenaya middle schools, Bullard, Edison and Hoover high schools, Bullard TALENT K-8 School, and Eaton, Figarden, Forkner, Gibson, Kratt, Lawless, Malloch, Manchester GATE, McCardle, and Starr elementary schools.

This is the first year districts in California have had the opportunity to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision, which was successfully piloted in numerous parts of the country.

For example, Leslie said, a key concept in the fourth grade curriculum is that exploring history and other cultures builds a greater understanding of students’ own identity. Last year, she said, students studied one period where California Native Americans lived, what they ate, and what they traded for.

“This year, we are able to go deeper into their cultures and really look at what makes each culture unique by experiencing their music, their dance, their stories, and their visual art,” Leslie said.

District Adds Healthier, Local Items to Menu

School menus continue to get healthier in the Fresno Unified School District.

This school year, an additional ½ cup of fruit has been added to breakfast menus and all grains offered for breakfast and lunch must be whole grain rich -- which means at least 50% of the product is made with whole grains.

The district has also implemented the first phase of the sodium reductions of the Healthy Hungry Free Kids Act of 2010 to reduce sodium in students’ diets.

As part of the district’s continued efforts to use local food products in student meals, the Food Services Department is serving students whole-grain rich bean and cheese burritos for lunch and whole-grain rich breakfast rolled tacos for breakfast from Ruiz Foods, headquartered in Dinuba. In addition, the district is serving a whole-grain cheese ravioli with meat sauce for lunch -- a student favorite -- from Fiore Di Pasta of Fresno.

The district continues to receive funding from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant for 47 elementary schools, providing those schools with a daily variety of individually packaged local fruits and vegetables cut into child-friendly portions.

Important Dates 2014-15 Academic Year

Thanksgiving break: Nov. 24-28, 2014 | Spring break: March 30-April 6, 2015
Winter break: Dec. 22-Jan. 9, 2015 | Last day of school: June 11, 2015

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME
Continued from page 1

learn and excel. Teachers at the schools will also have an additional 80 hours of professional learning time each year.

“The extra 30 minutes a day moves teachers from having to rush through a topic into the freedom of being able to delve deeper, so that students gain a greater understanding of the material being covered,” said Fremont teacher Lorna Leslie.
Cooper Academy Gains Full International Baccalaureate Certification

Cooper Academy has been fully authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, completing a challenging two-year process.

Cooper Academy’s authorization to offer the Middle Years Program helps to strengthen the IB continuum for students within the city of Fresno. The IB program in Fresno spans three campuses and encompasses kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2013, Dailey Elementary Charter School received authorization for the IB Primary Years Program serving kindergarten through fifth grade. In the fall of 2014, Fresno High will proceed through authorization for the ninth and 10th grade component of the IB Middle Years Program to create a seamless transition to Fresno High’s authorized IB Diploma Program.

As an IB school, Cooper Academy implements a rigorous instructional program that develops critical thinking skills and an expanded understanding of the world, encouraging students to be globally competitive and productive members of society. Cooper’s heightened and broadened academic requirements include three years of foreign language, three years of arts instruction, and three years of design instruction in addition to language arts, humanities, physical and health education, science, and math.

The school received notification in August that it had successfully completed the authorization process. It joins a distinguished group of schools worldwide to carry this designation. Founded in 1968, the International Baccalaureate program is offered in 3,882 schools in 148 countries.

Donated Guitars Strike a Chord with Pyle Elementary School Students

The basketball and footballs and soccer balls come flying out at recess at Pyle Elementary School. But for some students, it’s all about playing the guitars.

Every day at recess, 10 or so students check out used guitars from Vice Principal Rob Roellke’s office and sit on the edge of the sidewalk and strum along. After-school classes began recently, taught by Pyle plant coordinator George Solorzano.

“Each day I have 10 to 12 students who would rather play guitars than have recess. They love it,” said Pyle Elementary School Vice Principal Rob Roellke.

Solorzano, whose mother taught him to play as a boy, had been volunteering his time to teach the students but Roellke has arranged for an extra-pay contract for Solorzano to teach four or five students. The fledgling guitar program dovetails with the district’s board-adopted Goal 2 that “All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.”

“There’s a hunger there,” Solorzano said. “It’s something they can take with them throughout their lives.”

He loves to see the look in the students’ eyes when they figure out that first chord. He has no doubt that the guitars will help keep some kids coming to school every day: “It will keep them interested in school and involved in school.”

The guitar program started last spring when teacher Marie McGinnis said a nephew was willing to teach lessons after school. At Principal Cherie Walters’ suggestion, Roellke put out a call for used guitars and scoured the Internet and thrift stores, gathering a small collection of worn instruments.

Roellke had to repair most of the guitars with various parts from the Internet, but a small class was launched. This year, interest has grown. The school continues to seek donations of guitars and guitar parts.

“Each day I have 10 to 12 students who would rather play guitars than have recess. They love it,” Roellke said.

Kayne Hughes, 8, is one of the school’s most frequent guitar players.

“It’s fun,” he said. “I enjoy it.”

Got a Guitar?

Pyle Elementary School needs half-size or three-fourths size guitars, digital guitar tuners, and replacement strings. It is also interested in broken guitars, guitar parts, unused cases, and any guitar accessories such as capos and straps and picks.

To donate: (559) 248-7240

Transfer Application Deadline is December 1

Fresno Unified offers a wide variety of school choice options, including popular magnet schools and specialized programs. For the 2015-16 school year, applications received before Dec. 1, 2014 will have priority in the selection process.

Families may apply for a transfer to any district school by completing an application. Learn more and print an application at http://www.fresnounified.org, call (559) 248-7538, or drop in at the new office location, 4120 N. First St. (southeast corner of First and Ashlan) for more information.
Gaston Middle School Opens Its Doors to More than 840 Students

As the sun rose and school buses headed out around the district, students arrived early at Rutherford B. Gaston Sr. Middle School on Aug. 18 for the campus’ first day of school -- ever.

Excited to be among the first to walk the halls of the new school, students were greeted by Superintendent Michael Hanson and Board Member Cal Johnson as early as 6:45 a.m. There was no doubt this first day of school was special.

“When I walked in it looked like a university to me,” said eighth-grader Realitee Young. “I thought, ‘Wow. I love this school.”

Gaston, the first neighborhood middle school in southwest Fresno in more than 35 years, welcomed more than 840 students its first day, ending decades of busing students to other district schools. The campus, named after Fresno Unified’s first African-American principal, serves as a gathering place for the community, re-establishing the stability of its surrounding neighborhoods.

On Sept. 19, the district celebrated the opening of the campus and honored its namesake with a formal dedication ceremony in the school’s amphitheater. Speakers included Superintendent Michael Hanson, Board Member Johnson, co-principal Felicia Quarles Treadwell, and members of the Gaston family.

The event also included Andrew Jones of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., who spoke about Mr. Gaston’s important role as a founding member of the Omega Psi Phi chapter at California State University, Fresno. In addition, the Gaston Middle School band and choir performed.

The opening of Gaston not only means a first-class neighborhood middle school for southwest Fresno, but provides the first school-based Health and Wellness Center, serviced by Clinica Sierra Vista. The Gaston clinic serves youth 0-19 years old and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“My son is a 5th grader and is so excited about going to this school.” Vivian Gonzalez said.

Eighth-grader Fabian Gonzalez moved from another part of the city to attend Gaston Middle School.

“It was exciting because I got to start a new chapter in my life, but I was kind of nervous. But I’ve met some awesome teachers and made some good friends,” Fabian said.

He also said the cafeteria was “amazing” because it offers more choices than his previous school.

The campus, located on approximately 21.5 acres at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Church Avenue, features state-of-the-art facilities: A 36-classroom academic wing with interactive technology, presentation room to seat 100, career technology education classrooms with roll up doors, gymnasium, outdoor courts, playing fields, an amphitheater with an outdoor performance stage, and a food court-style cafeteria.

District leaders are making sure the impressive facility is matched by a rigorous, robust curriculum. Courses will provide ample opportunities for career and project-based learning in science, technology, engineering and math as students work to complete A-G requirements and prepare to transition to Edison High School.

Local bond measures K and Q, passed by the Fresno community, provided funding for Gaston Middle School. Planning included numerous outreach meetings with community members, parents and city leaders and last spring included a series of parent meetings at its five elementary feeder schools. As a special thank you for their involvement and input for the new middle school, the Gaston community was invited to an exclusive preview day last June which saw more than 2,000 community members in attendance.

“See GASTON, Page 12

From left, alum and plaque designer Kristi Carlson, Principal John Forbes, and alum Kopi Sotropoulos unveil a plaque in honor of Fresno High School’s 125th birthday at a celebration of students and alumni Sept.16.
Work is underway on a new pool complex at Edison High School following the Board of Education’s approval of the project Aug. 27.

The Edison pool project is part of the Board of Education’s decision in 2013-14 to set aside $8 million for priority facilities projects at high schools.

Edison aquatics coach Travis Dyer expects the new pool to significantly strengthen the aquatics program in the Edison region.

“People in the aquatics community at Edison are really excited about this,” said Dyer, the girls water polo coach and co-coach for the boys and girls swimming teams.

Dyer started an aquatics program at Computech Middle School in the Edison region a few years ago that has bolstered the high school program, and he said the new pool will be a great draw for aquatic athletes to remain in the Edison region.

“It’s really going to keep our kids here,” Dyer said.

The 35-meter pool with high and low diving boards will replace the existing L-shaped pool, built in 1951. The project will also include a new locker room facility for boys and girls with a coaches office, storage, janitorial rooms and a snack bar area on the east side.

Raised, covered bleachers, with storage underneath, will be built on the west side for the comfort of spectators. The pool complex is expected to be completed in the fall of 2015.

The district continues to provide high-quality facilities for students and staff throughout the district, including $130 million in Measure Q projects either completed or underway following voters’ overwhelming approval of the Measure Q 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. 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.

**Former DeWolf 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.
Battling the Obesity Epidemic: Even Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference

By Brian Guthrie, MD
Pediatrician at Kaiser Permanente Fresno

One in three children in the United States is considered overweight or obese -- a startling statistic that should concern us all.

Childhood obesity continues to be a struggle many families face, particularly here in Fresno County, where nearly 20% of children are considered overweight or obese, according to the most recent data available from the California Health Interview Survey. Children with a weight problem early in life often continue to struggle with the same issue into adulthood, which puts them at greater risk for health problems, including diabetes and high blood pressure.

As a Kaiser Permanente Fresno pediatrician, I meet many young patients who are overweight for their age. Getting them -- and their families -- to understand the long-term implications of carrying extra weight at such a young age is never easy, given all the temptations they face on a daily basis.

And that’s why it’s so important for everyone in the community -- from healthcare professionals to school teachers -- to spread the word about preventing childhood obesity and offer suggestions for helping those currently struggling with a weight problem.

This year, Kaiser Permanente Fresno gave a $50,000 grant to Valley PBS to pay for the production and broadcast of four public-service announcements that will begin airing this month during breaks in children’s programming on Valley PBS and Valley Vme, the Spanish-language public broadcast channel. All four segments will focus on ways parents can teach their children healthy habits and prevent childhood obesity.

The grant also funds a new website “Healthy, Happy Valley PBS Kids,” which will connect visitors to healthy recipes, physical activity ideas and other health resources, including some in Spanish.

It’s just one of the ways Kaiser Permanente Fresno is trying to provide the community with educational resources that will help raise awareness about this growing epidemic.

What Can We Do?

It’s not too late to reverse this trend and start making healthier decisions for your child.

I often tell families that making small changes in their daily lives now can make a big difference toward improving their long-term health. Some ideas:

Start a daily family walk after dinner. Fresno has pleasant temperatures in the early evenings that make for a perfect time to stretch your legs and unwind from a long day of school and work.

Make cut-up fruit and veggies easily accessible to children. It’s often easier for them to reach into the pantry to grab a bag of chips or cookies. Make it just as easy for them to grab something healthy to eat from the refrigerator.

Encourage your children to play during recess rather than sit or stand in one place. Suggest they get involved in a game of basketball, soccer or foursquare with their friends. Making them move around and stay active will help them focus more once they’re back in the classroom.

Try to plan meals ahead of time and prepare food at home rather than eating out. Easier said than done, I know, but good planning can often make it easier to prepare family meals. Encourage your children to participate in the food preparation and cooking. Involving them in the cooking might make them more interested in eating the healthy foods you make together.

Be aware of portion sizes. Try to eat off smaller plates and bowls. Don’t force your children to clean their plates if they are full.

Set the example. Everyone in the family needs to lead a healthy lifestyle. Children will model the behaviors you set. Show them that being healthy is important to you, and they will likely follow in your footsteps.

For more tips and ways to prevent childhood obesity visit my webpage at http://mydoctor.kaiserpermanente.org/ncal/prov/brianguthrie/about/professional.

GASTON
Continued from page 10

ntawv nyob ntawm koog no mus rau lwm lub tsev kawm ntawv lawm. Lub tsev kawm ntawv no lub npe yog ib tus thawj xib fwb tsev kawm kawm ntawv los yeej tug noob nyoog 0-19 xyoos thiab qab nyob zoo yog pab rau cov hluas kev pab los ntawm Clinica Sierra Vista. Kyoto qab noj qab nyob zoo uas yog muab Haus Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Fresno coj tau ib qhov kev ntsam xyuas txog kev noj qab nyob zoo uas yog muab kev pab los ntawm Clinica Sierra Vista. Geyn qhov chaw saib xyus kev noj qab nyob zoo yab rau cov hluas muaj noob nyoog 0-19 xyoos thiab qib hnu Monday txog Frayday thauam 8 a.m. txog 5 p.m.

Tus menyum kawm ntawv qib yim Fabian Gonzales khiaj ntawm lwmu qhov chaw los kawm nyob ntawm Tsev Kawn Ntawv Gaston no.

“Nws yog ib qhov uas zoo heev vim yog kuv tau pib dua ib qhov tshiab ntawm kuv lub neej, tiam sis kuv yeej muaj ib nyuag ntsiv ntshai thiab. Tiam sis kuv tuaj ntawv ib qhov xib fwb zoo heev thiab ntawv lau lawm, thiab ntsiv,” Fabian hais.

Nws hais tias lub chaw noj mof los "Thaum uas kuv nkag mus txog hauv. Nws zov kua lai thiab yim ib lub tsev kawn ntawv qib saib rau kuv," tus menyum kawm ntawv qib yim Realitee Young hais.

"zoo heev li" rau qhov nwg muaj ntau hom zaub mov dua li lub tsev kawm ntawv qib lawm. Lubi tsev kawn kawm ntawv no muaj li 21.5 evkawm nyob ntawm txog kev Martin Luther King Boulevard thib Church Avenue. Nws muaj 36 chan qhov ntsaw uas xib tuaj uae njog rau te koom siv xyuas txog xob (technologi), chaw tham qhia txaus 100 leej, chaw kawm txog kev ua hauj lwmu, chaw pov npas, chaw uasi sab naaum, lub tiaj ia kislas, chaw uasi xeey yaj kiyob nyob sib kawm ntau thiab chaw noj mov muaj ntawv qhov.

Gustso yorm muaj coob tshaj 2,000 tus neeg zej zos tuaj koom.

La Escuela Secundaria Gaston Abre sus Puertas a más de 840 Estudiantes

En cuanto el dia empezaba a clarear y los autobuses escolares viajaban por todo el distrito, los estudiantes llegaron temprano a la Escuela Secundaria Ruthefod G. Banton Sr., el pasado 18 de agosto, para iniciar el primer dia de clases en la nueva escuela.

Emocionados de ser los primeros en caminar por los pasillos de la nueva escuela, los estudiantes recibieron la bienvenida por parte del Superintendent Michael Hanson y del Miembro de la Mesa Cal Johnson, temprano desde las 6:45 de la mañana. No había duda que este primer dia de clase era especial.

See GASTON, Page 13
El distrito está brindando a los padres y tutores una nueva manera, fácil de tener acceso a EduText y recibir actualizaciones de las calificaciones y asistencia de los estudiantes por medio de mensajes de texto diarios.

Los padres pueden registrarse ahora para las actualizaciones de texto desde un teléfono celular. Anteriormente, los padres tenían que tener acceso a una computadora para ingresar al portal del ATLAS para padres. Hemos agregado este método de registro para hacerlo más versátil y fácil de usar y así más padres pueden aprovechar las actualizaciones diarias de EduText vía teléfono celular y estar más activos en el desempeño académico de los niños y contactar a los maestros cuando se necesite ayuda.

EduText fue originalmente lanzado la primavera pasada en un esfuerzo por reducir el número de estudiantes con D’s y F’s y su impacto en las calificaciones a la final del año escolar. Mientras los mensajes diarios de EduText siguen igual, este año – basado en opiniones de los padres y personal escolar – el distrito agregó la función de registrar a través de un teléfono celular, proporcionando un acceso fácil y disminuyendo el impacto de apoyo del personal de la oficina de padres.

Durante el verano, los PINs únicos de EduText para padres fueron creados para cada uno de los 73,000 estudiantes del distrito, poniendo al alcance del personal de padres y escuela de los padres en sus cinco escuelas locales. Los padres o tutores ahora pueden simplemente enviar su PIN de EduText para padres al 28527 (ATLAS) y estar automáticamente registrados para recibir las actualizaciones diarias de asistencia y calificaciones. La activación es inmediata y los padres pueden revisarlas o desactivarlas en el portal del ATLAS.

El registro a través del portal del ATLAS para padres está todavía disponible y ofrece a los padres una perspectiva más detallada de las calificaciones de sus estudiantes.

Para los padres o tutores que se registraron para EduText el año pasado, pero necesitan actualizar sus números de teléfonos celulares, el PIN de EduText para padres provee la forma fácil de hacerlo. Además, en hogares donde varios padres quieren recibir los mensajes diarios, se puede seguir el mismo proceso.

El distrito ofrece una variedad de recursos disponibles de EduText bajo el área de “padres” en la página de internet del distrito en www.fresnounified.org, incluyendo consejos útiles para padres sobre cómo hablar a sus hijos acerca de las calificaciones.

EduText en el vecindario del suroeste de Fresno, funciona como el primer Centro de Salud y Adicionalmente, la apertura de Gaston en sus alrededores, restableciendo la estabilidad de los vecindarios.
Students From Across District Kick Off New Year With "I Pledge" Activities

The 2014-15 school year started strong with students across the district participating in back-to-school activities during the first week, such as rallies and assemblies, for the “I Pledge” campaign. Students proudly wore their favorite college T-shirts as they pledged to graduate high school and continue improving in their education.

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) started this year feeling accomplished and reenergized after being recognized at the NO BULL Teen Video Awards held in Los Angeles on Aug. 9. I was lucky enough to be a part of this unforgettable experience. The awards show felt similar to the Teen Choice Awards and the Grammys. The night was filled with performances by Alex and Sierra (season three winners of “The X Factor”) and appearances from different Disney Channel and Nickelodeon celebrities. And to top off the exciting evening, SAB won two awards, “Best Message” and “Best Documentary,” for our Human Element video. What began as a pro-kindness campaign at Fresno Unified schools is now transforming to a national campaign to spread simple but empowering messages such as “Human Kind,” “Be Both,” and “Kindness is our weapon of choice.” This is a huge accomplishment for SAB because our goal from the very beginning was to spread the message not only in our own district, but to also have this campaign be heard on a more national level.

Moving forward this year, SAB has new goals planned in order to expand the Human Element campaign. One of our goals is to have staff on all campuses involved with the campaign by participating in activities, encouraging kindness on each campus, and teaching students that kindness is infectious. We would also like to continue the Human Element in elementary and middle schools. In order to achieve this goal, SAB has to understand what the needs are of children attending primary and intermediate schools and work with their leadership teams at their schools. By doing this, we hope that kindness will become a social norm.

As a Student Advisory Board representative for Edison High School, I am excited to continue working on the Human Element on our campus. Our motto “One Tiger, Many Stripes” reflects who we are: A family who is always growing and becoming stronger. Edison’s main focus this year is to have the entire student body feel welcome on our campus by showering them with kindness. In addition, our leadership team plans on working closely with Gaston Middle School by implementing the Human Element campaign on their campus.

This year will be an outstanding year for Fresno Unified as we work together to bring kindness to the lives of every student.

Human Element Campaign Receives National Accolades

The Human Element, a pro-kindness campaign created by Fresno Unified students, received top honors Aug. 9 in Los Angeles at the Great American NO BULL Challenge’s Teen Video Awards for a video submission with a simple message: Human Kind. Be Both.

The NO BULL Challenge’s mission is to empower teens to impact their on and off campus communities by addressing bullying, cyberbullying, and digital responsibility. The Challenge hosts the NO BULL Teen Video Awards (TVAs) and uses award-winning teen films and scripts to create educational resources that are then offered, free of charge, to educators and others.

The TVAs is an Oscars meets the Grammys event, where 11 of Fresno Unified’s Human Element students attended and had a chance to walk the red carpet and receive awards they were nominated for by a panel of judges. The video submitted by the Human Element students, which tells the stories of students overcoming challenges, placed first in the “Documentary of the Year” and “Best Message” categories at the TVAs. In January, the video will be viewed at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

Fresno Unified Campus Culture Manager Leslie Loewen attended the event with the students and said she could not be more proud of the students and their engagement in the Human Element campaign.

“The students were so humble, so thankful, and made sure everyone knew it was a group effort,” Loewen said. “The students’ goal is to take the Human Element campaign nationwide. With this recognition, they are one step closer to achieving their goal.”

The Human Element is a pro-kindness campaign created by Fresno Unified’s Student Advisory Board, a district-wide, youth-led organization committed to providing a voice for students by representing and presenting the interests of the students to the Fresno Unified Board of Education.

Warm Tomato Pasta

Makes 4 servings

- 1/2 cup green onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large red bell pepper, finely diced
- 3 cups tomato, seeded and diced
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 8 oz. dry linguine or spaghetti

Saute onion and garlic in oil until soft. Add red bell pepper and saute until tender. Stir in tomato and cook over high heat until juices evaporate. Stir in cheese, parsley, cayenne pepper, and black pepper.

Cook pasta and drain well. Toss hot pasta with tomato mixture and serve.

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

kp.org/fresno

Here’s a healthy, seasonal dish to help you thrive

STUDENT COLUMN

www.FresnoUnified.org
Desde que se publicó el último número de Building Futures un poco antes de que abriéra-mos las escuelas. No he tenido la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes la tremenda cantidad de éxito que hemos tenido durante estas primeras semanas de clase. Fue una experiencia realmente inspiradora. Una de las mejores que hemos tenido en mis 10 años de Superintendente en el Distrito Escolar de Fresno.

Mientras que visitaba los campus escolares en todo el Distrito, me di cuenta que los maestro(as) estaban más preparados que nunca antes, los estudiantes estaban enfocados y listos para aprender, los edificios estaban limpios y funcionando eficientemente y vi a más padres y tutores que antes, acompañando a sus niños a la escuela el primer día de clase. No me canso de recordar lo importante que es este último punto – la participación de los padres/tutores en las educación de sus niños es uno de los principales factores que influyan los resultados académicos de sus niños.

De acuerdo a la Asociación Nacional de Maestros de Ciencias, investigación muestra que “cuando los padres juegan un papel activo, los niños logran grandes éxitos como aprendices, independientemente del estatus socioeconómico y del grupo étnico/racial, o del propio nivel de educación de los padres”.

Padsres y tutores, es extremadamente importante hacer que su niño(a) piense acerca de su propia graduación tan temprano como sea posible. De hecho, ustedes lo podrían convertir en una norma en su casa. No tengan miedo de hablarles acerca de la universidad y de las carreras.

El nuevo año escolar provee un empezar fresco acerca de la universidad y de las carreras. Mientras que visitaba los campus escolares en el Distrito Escolar de Fresno, hemos tenido en mis 10 años de Superintendente real es inspiradora. Una de las mejores que primeras semanas de clase. Fue una experiencia de éxito que hemos tenido durante estas.

Building futures un poco antes de que abriéra-

La campaña de “Yo Me Comprometo” apoya fuertemente la alta prioridad que el Distrito Escolar de Fresno debe dar a la educación de sus estudiantes más jóvenes para una experiencia educativa productiva mientras crecen y avanzan a través de su educación.

Porque nuestra dedicación es la de proveer la mejor educación para todos los estudiantes en Fresno, el Distrito Escolar de Fresno también está ofreciendo diariamente, tres horas de programas de pre kindergarten en la mañana y en la tarde, diseñados para desarrollar las destrezas académicas y socio-emocionales necesarias para el éxito en el kinder tradicional y transicional y más allá.

Actualmente tenemos más de 2,800 lugares para preescolar para el año escolar 2014/15, con muchos espacios todavía disponibles para todos los niños de Fresno hasta que se ocupen. La verificación de ingreso es parte del proceso de inscripción, pero este no determina si su niño(a) será inscrito o no.

Yo sé que hay algunos factores que pueden entorpecer la inscripción de los niños de preescolar o menores de edad. En el pasado, había ciertos requisitos de voluntariado y otros pre-requisitos de ingreso que se tenían que cumplir, pero yo me siento muy orgulloso de que cada estudiante registrado en el programa de preescolar del Distrito Escolar de Fresno es inscrito sin costo alguno.

Estamos haciendo las cosas fáciles para nuestras familias. Entendemos que mientras hay varios niveles de ingreso a través del valle, su ingreso de núme rios de ingreso a través del valle, su ingreso familiar y escolar. Estamos tratando de hacer las cosas fáciles para nuestras familias y ayudar a asegurar que todos los estudiantes estén obteniendo alimentos nutritivos. Nuestros niños no deberán tener hambre cuando estén tratando de aprender.

Gracias a todo nuestro personal quienes traba jaron muy duro para ayudar a implementar la Provisión de Elegibilidad de la Comunidad, la cual es una nueva opción disponible para nuestras escuelas bajo el Programa Nacional de Almuerzo Escolar y del Programa de Desayuno Escolar.

Quiero agradecer a nuestra comunidad por su increíble apoyo. Porque con la visión de nuestros socios de la Mesa de Educación, ustedes serán testigos de que cosas increíbles sigan pasando en todo el Distrito Escolar de Fresno.

Mensage del SUPERINTENDENTE

Desde que se público el último número de Building Futures un poco antes de que abriéra-mos las escuelas. No he tenido la oportunidad de compartir con ustedes la tremenda cantidad de éxito que hemos tenido durante estas primeras semanas de clase. Fue una experiencia realmente inspiradora. Una de las mejores que hemos tenido en mis 10 años de Superintendente en el Distrito Escolar de Fresno.

Mientras que visitaba los campus escolares en todo el Distrito, me di cuenta que los maestro(as) estaban más preparados que nunca antes, los estudiantes estaban enfocados y listos para aprender, los edificios estaban limpios y funcionando eficientemente y vi a más padres y tutores que antes, acompañando a sus niños a la escuela el primer día de clase. No me canso de recordar lo importante que es este último punto – la participación de los padres/tutores en las educación de sus niños es uno de los principales factores que influyan los resultados académicos de sus niños.

De acuerdo a la Asociación Nacional de Maestros de Ciencias, investigación muestra que “cuando los padres juegan un papel activo, los niños logran grandes éxitos como aprendices, independientemente del estatus socioeconómico y del grupo étnico/racial, o del propio nivel de educación de los padres”.

Padsres y tutores, es extremadamente importante hacer que su niño(a) piense acerca de su propia graduación tan temprano como sea posible. De hecho, ustedes lo podrían convertir en una norma en su casa. No tengan miedo de hablarles acerca de la universidad y de las carreras.

El nuevo año escolar provee un empezar fresco acerca de la universidad y de las carreras. Mientras que visitaba los campus escolares en el Distrito Escolar de Fresno, hemos tenido en mis 10 años de Superintendente real es inspiradora. Una de las mejores que primeras semanas de clase. Fue una experiencia de éxito que hemos tenido durante estas.
Healthy Minute
Take a Minute for Your Health

Early Detection is Key to Breast Cancer Survival

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, outside of non-melanoma skin cancer, and the second most common cause of cancer death in American women (lung cancer is the most common cause). Each year in the US, more than 210,000 women learn they have this disease. Early detection increases the chances of survival. Women with small, localized breast cancers (where the cancer has not spread beyond the breast) have an excellent chance of living many years after cancer treatment. Fortunately, every woman covered under the District’s health plans is eligible for $0 preventive care services, including annual physical and well-woman exams.

Breast Cancer Screening Tips

Beginning in their early 20s, women should be told about the benefits and limitations of breast self-examination (BSE). The importance of prompt reporting of any new breast symptoms to a health professional should be emphasized. Women who choose to do BSE should receive instruction and have their technique reviewed on the occasion of a periodic health examination (PHE). It is acceptable for women not to do BSE or to do BSE irregularly.

For women in their 20s and 30s, it is recommended that clinical breast examination (CBE) be part of a PHE, preferably at least every three years. Asymptomatic women aged 40 and over should continue to receive a clinical breast examination as part of a PHE, preferably annually. Begin annual mammography at age 40 prior to each annual PHE.

Visit JHMBHealthconnect.com/preventive-care-services for information about the District’s $0 preventive services.

- Information from Claremont EAP Personal Advantage.

WellPATH seeks to foster a healthy work environment and engage Fresno Unified School District employees in their health and well-being. Participation in program activities is open to active employees, spouses, domestic partners, dependent children age 18+, early retirees, and retirees covered under the District’s health benefit plan.

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 $17.37 per $1,000 borrowed.

Fresno Unified School District
www.FresnoUnified.org