In 2000, many of Fresno Unified’s more than 100 schools desperately needed repair and modernization. Schools were overcrowded, classrooms were deteriorating, and technology was inadequate for students and staff. To tackle the needs, Fresno Unified’s voters approved the $199 million Measure K bond with a 67% vote in March 2001 and the $280 million Measure Q bond with a 76% vote in November 2010. The Board of Education will ask voters in November to approve another bond measure, which will continue to transform facilities districtwide.

Measure K funded dire repair needs, projects that had been delayed for years, and built new elementary schools and a middle school. But it became clear the district still had much more to do.

The Fresno Unified Board of Education formed the Facility Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (FAAC) to take a more comprehensive approach by creating the Facilities Master Plan. The plan, approved in April 2009, provides guidance and vision for improving district facilities while anticipating future needs. The Facilities Master Plan identified nearly $1 billion in school facility needs districtwide.

It was apparent the
## BY THE NUMBERS

### Local Bond Dollars Invested
- 2001 - 2014: 199 million
- 2010 - Present: 212 million
- Since 2001: 411 million

### Matching State Funds Earned
- 2001 - 2014: 160 million
- 2010 - Present: 39 million
- Since 2001: 199 million

### Total Project Investment
- 2001 - 2014: 359 million
- 2010 - Present: 251 million
- Since 2001: 610 million

### Funds used for Administrative Salaries
- 2001 - 2014: 0
- 2010 - Present: 0
- Since 2001: 0

### Modernizations
- 2001 - 2014: 38
- 2010 - Present: 3
- Since 2001: 41

### Projects Completed to Date
- 2001 - 2014: 684
- 2010 - Present: 236
- Since 2001: 920

### Aging Portables Removed
- 2001 - 2014: 0
- 2010 - Present: 293
- Since 2001: 293

### Portable Replacements/ New Classrooms
- 2001 - 2014: 221
- 2010 - Present: 347
- Since 2001: 568

### New /Replacement Playground Equipment
- 2001 - 2014: 80
- 2010 - Present: 13
- Since 2001: 93

### Safety/Security Improvements
- 2001 - 2014: 74
- 2010 - Present: 15
- Since 2001: 89

### Athletic Facilities (New & Upgrades)
- 2001 - 2014: 24
- 2010 - Present: 33
- Since 2001: 57

### Heating/Cooling, Electrical, Sewer, Irrigation, Gas/Water Lines Systems Replaced/ Upgraded
- 2001 - 2014: 184
- 2010 - Present: 74
- Since 2001: 258

### NEW SCHOOLS BUILT
- Bakman Elementary
- Olmos Elementary
- Vang Pao Elementary
- Yokomi Elementary
- Williams Elementary
- Gaston Middle School
- Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship

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**Total**

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**Building Futures**

**September 2016**

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[www.FresnoUnified.org](http://www.FresnoUnified.org)
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Measures K and Q Part of Community’s Support for Fresno Unified

A few weeks ago, Fresno Unified kicked off the new school year with the fourth annual employee Convocation. The high energy event brought students, staff, parents and the community together, showcasing how each one of us plays a role in moving academic achievement forward. The district was especially honored to have Mayor Ashley Swearengin join us along with other key community partners -- partners who came in full support of the district and the work of our staff in the name of 74,000 students. As I stood on stage looking out to the packed crowd at the Save Mart Center, it was humbling to see so many district partners come together to welcome back employees. Their sheer presence spoke volumes, letting us know that the work of educating our youth is not done alone or in isolation in Fresno.

The deep support of the Fresno community is seen daily around the district: a uniformed police officer on every campus, weekend green space recreation opportunities, improved attendance initiatives, mentoring, additional supports for English learners and district-wide modernization and expansion projects. Thanks to the Fresno voters who overwhelmingly supported Measure K in 2001 and Measure Q in 2010, Fresno Unified built five new elementary schools, a state-of-the-art middle school and Phillip J. Patiño School for Entrepreneurship, as well as renovated deteriorating classrooms district-wide. Over the last 15 years, school sites and neighborhoods have been transformed, improving the infrastructure for student learning in and outside the classroom. You can learn more about the transformation in our district through Measure K and Measure Q in stories throughout this edition of Building Futures.

Message from Mayor Ashley Swearengin

Hope is Essential with New School Year Underway

As we begin another school year, I wanted to share some thoughts I have in my final months as mayor.

When I took over this job almost eight years ago, I made a commitment that our city government would work hard to provide the foundation that our schools need to be successful. I remember something that Dr. Richard Kriegbaum, president of Fresno Pacific University, said almost 20 years ago, like it was just yesterday.

He said that research has shown that a major indicator of a child’s success in school is determined by the quality of the neighborhood through which he or she walks every day.

All these years later, I can tell you that while we still have a long way to go, the actions we have taken in the last eight years in the city of Fresno demonstrate our commitment to doing our part to help improve the quality of our neighborhoods.

We have much to celebrate together. Better neighborhoods, improved graduation rates, and more students embracing education as a building block for the future. And it’s all about the posture of hope.

Hope is powerful, and I can tell you from personal and professional experience, you cannot change anything without the posture of hope.

Hope is not passive, it is active. Hope is not naïve, it’s brave and courageous. Hope is not ignorant of obstacles and shortcomings and deficiencies; instead, it helps us measure them and choose a path forward despite the obstacles and the risk of failure.

Hope will help us move mountains, such as achieving a 100% graduation rate in Fresno Unified School District, reversing decades of deterioration and despair.

As destiny shapers and change makers, the setbacks will come, over and over again -- but in my experience, if we adopt a posture of hope, the presence of those setbacks are proof that you’re on exactly the right track. The work ahead, whether it covers a single school year or a decade of effort, demands a posture of hope.

May this be the year that is easier than you thought it was going to be. May this be the year that you find the strength and courage you need to keep going. May you choose daily to plant seeds of hope in the lives of our students, our teachers and administrators, our parents and guardians, and all the people with whom you come in contact during the coming year.

Most importantly, may you be deeply and richly blessed for the work and the effort that you will put into your school, and may the energy and excellence and hopefulness you share be returned to you. Best wishes on a successful 2016-2017 school year!
Using Measure K, approved by voters in 2001, the district built five elementary schools, relieving crowding at some schools and allowing the district to move to one traditional calendar rather than having many schools on year-round schedules. It also built the Rutherford B. Gaston Sr. Middle School in southwest Fresno, bringing back a neighborhood middle school to the area for the first time since Irwin Junior High School was converted into a magnet middle school in 1978.

Measure K also funded hundreds of renovations, new buildings, and improvements throughout the district, ranging from heating and cooling systems to playing fields and playground equipment to safety upgrades.
Legacy of Measure K: Five Elementary Schools and a Middle School

By the 1980s, Fresno Unified had run out of space for students, forced to move dozens of portable classrooms onto campuses and in an even more drastic step, create year-round schedules for campuses to maximize the use of school facilities.

The district used 20 different school calendars during this period of intense overcrowding.

Then voters passed Measure K in 2001, a turning point. Over the next dozen years, the district built five elementary schools and was able to phase out year-round schedules. Having all schools on the same academic calendar is better for students, staff and families.

Measure K also funded the Rutherford B. Gaston Sr. Middle School, which opened amid much fanfare in southwest Fresno in 2014. The area had been without a comprehensive neighborhood middle school since Irwin Junior High was converted to a magnet school in 1978 and became Computer Middle School. Before Gaston opened, students were transported to four middle schools in other parts of the district.

Gaston enhanced the educational opportunities for students in the area and created a strong K-12 feeder progression for the Edison region.

“Opening Gaston was a huge accomplishment for our district and much-deserved for the community, which was without a neighborhood middle school for 36 years,” said Superintendent Michael Hanson.

Hanson said Measure K boosted the quality of facilities throughout the district.

“Measure K was the beginning of a new era for our district, enabling the district to build badly needed schools and return all of our campuses to one, unifying traditional schedule,” Hanson said.

Measure K was approved by 67% of the voters in March 2001 and authorized the issuance of $199 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, modernization and maintenance of school facilities.

Projects were identified for all district schools based on need, eligibility and school request. The purpose of Measure K was to:

• Reduce school overcrowding
• Make the district eligible for state matching funds
• Acquire school technology and hardware
• Repair plumbing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
• Renovate and modernize deteriorating classrooms
• Repair, rehabilitate, construct and acquire educational facilities and related property

Measure K enabled the district to open five new elementary schools: Bakman, Olmos, Vang Pao, Williams, and Yokomi. The first to open were Bakman and Yokomi in 2005 and the most recent was Vang Pao in 2012.

Other big-ticket items across the district included modernization of campuses as well as multiple projects at every school in the district. Just a few examples of projects:

• Bullard TALENT K-8 School: converting the old cafeteria into a space that could also be used as a theater
• Edison High School: adding seating around the football/track field as well as stadium lights

• Ewing Elementary School: mural with school name
• Fresno High School: heating and cooling for classrooms and portable
• Jefferson Elementary School: adding security lighting for parking lots and outside of classrooms
• Lincoln Elementary School: construction of new two-story school
• McLane High School: remodel boys and girls locker rooms, build a wrestling room and install new bleachers in the gym
• Roosevelt High School: expand and renovate the metal shop
• Viking Elementary School: new playground equipment
• Wawona Middle School: marquee sign
• Wolters Elementary School: refurbishing cafeteria and administrative office

Campus modernization included projects such as classroom technology enhancements, science lab improvements, library and cafeteria renovations, heating/air conditioning and electrical system upgrades, accessibility improvements, repaving play courts and parking lots, and exterior painting.

In addition, Measure K supported modernization at the following schools: Addams, Aynesworth, Bethune, Bullard TALENT (cafeteria), Burroughs, Calwa, Columbia, Dailey, Easterby, Eaton, Figarden, Fremont, Heaton, King, Kirk, Kratt, Lane, Lincoln, Lowell, Malloch, Mccardle, Muir, Pyle, Robinson, Rowell, Slater, Starr, Sunset and Winchell elementary schools; Ahwahnee, Tehipite, Tioga and Yosemite middle schools; Bullard, Edison, Fresno, and Roosevelt (auditorium) high schools.

Thanks to Measure K, the district was able to build state-of-the-art schools, classrooms and venues for athletics and the arts and provide high-quality learning environments for students and staff.
Using Measure Q, approved by voters in 2010, the district made dramatic improvements to high schools, including new academic buildings and arts and athletic facilities. Measure Q also built the Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, which opened a year ago emphasizing technology and innovation.

Measure Q also funded hundreds of renovations, new buildings, and improvements throughout the district, ranging from heating and cooling systems to better drainage to safety upgrades.
Measure Q Revitalizes High Schools, Adds Elementary Classrooms

When voters overwhelmingly passed Measure Q in November 2010, they paved the way for signature projects at all high schools.

This meant highly visible renovations in every region of the district that improved the learning and teaching environments for students and staff. The district has $250 million in projects completed or underway using Measure Q funds.

For example, at Fresno High School, the outdated “bunker” buildings at the front of the school were torn down, opening up the view of historic Royce Hall. The space in front of Royce Hall was transformed into Warrior Plaza, a green area for students to gather and hold events. The architectural design of the new administration building and library/media center further complements and enhances the grandeur of Royce Hall. The two buildings include 20 classrooms.

“Measure Q changed how our high schools looked, and how our community feels about them,” said Superintendent Michael Hanson. “It also gave us the opportunity to complete renovations throughout the district that meant better learning environments, increased safety and better technology.”

School of Entrepreneurship Built

In addition, Measure Q built the Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, which opened in August 2016, the first high school of its kind in the country. By the time students graduate, they will have started their own business while learning essential career and college skills in a state-of-the-art facility.

Measure Q was approved by 76% of the voters in November 2010, and authorized the issue of $280 million in general obligation bonds to offset state budget cuts, attract quality teachers, and repair/improve/modernize classrooms by:

- Upgrading vocational education classrooms, science labs, technology and libraries
- Improving security, fire safety, restrooms, plumbing and ventilation systems
- Increasing handicapped access
- Securing state matching funds
- Replacing deteriorating portables
- Preventing dropouts by improving alternative schools

- Acquiring, constructing, repairing campuses, facilities and equipment

High School Measure Q Projects

Along with Fresno High renovations and Patiño, significant high school projects were:

- Bullard High School: A south classroom building opened for students in January and a north classroom building is expected to open in early 2017. Work is beginning on a new administration building and library/media center at the front of the school.
- Hoover High School: A new classroom building opened in August 2015.
- McLane High School: A new classroom building opened in August 2015.
- Roosevelt High School: A new classroom building opened in 2013 followed by a much larger, revamped student plaza area and entryway arch and wrought iron fencing in spring 2014.

Measure Q also funded a variety of projects throughout the district, including a renovation of Addicott Elementary School to better serve the severely disabled students who attend that campus; a new gym at Baird K-8 School; heating and cooling upgrades at Birney and Pyle elementary schools, Computech Middle School, Duncan Polytechnical, Edison, Roosevelt, Sunnyside and McLane high schools; roofing at Kings Canyon and Wawona middle schools; gym floor refinishing at Computech, Tehipte, Tenaya, Terronez, Tioga and Wawona middle schools and Fresno, Hoover, McLane, and Roosevelt high schools; play equipment replacement at Ericson, Greenberg, Lawless, Wishon, Del Mar, Easterby, Roeding and Viking elementary schools; parking improvements for Edison baseball/softball parking area and Bullard baseball/softball parking area; and installation of an outside amphitheater at Cooper Academy.

Elementary Classrooms Constructed

New elementary and classroom buildings have been constructed at Aynesworth, Baird, Centennial, Easterby, Ericson, Figarden, King, Mayfair, Robinson, Rowell, Slater, Turner, Wilson, and Winchell.

Fresno High School's library/media center opened in August 2013, and also features a counseling/career center and 10 classrooms. The library/media center is a Measure Q project.

Students have gathering areas to collaborate at the Phillip J. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship, which opened in 2015. Patiño is a Measure Q project.

Hoover High School’s new academic building opened in August 2013, featuring 16 classrooms, four science labs and teacher collaboration space. The building is a Measure Q project.
MEASURE K AND Q
Continued from page 1

The board of education is now turning its attention to additional needs spelled out in the facilities master plan, and approved moving forward with a new bond measure at its Aug. 10 board meeting.

Los Fondos de las Medidas K y Q Transformaron las Escuelas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno

En el 2000, muchas de las escuelas del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno más de 100 necesitaban reparaciones y modernizaciones desesperadamente. Las escuelas estaban sobre pobladas, los salones de clase deteriorados y la tecnología inadecuada para los estudiantes y el personal.

Para atender las necesidades, los votantes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno aprobaron $199 millones de bonos de la Medida K con un 67% que votaron en marzo del 2001 y $280 millones de fondos de la Medida Q con un 76% que votaron en noviembre del 2010. La Mesa Educativa solicitará que los votantes aprueben otra medida de bonos en noviembre, la cual continuará transformando las instalaciones en todo el distrito.

La medida K financió reparaciones terribles necesarias de proyectos que habian sido atrasadas por años y se construyeron nuevas escuelas primarias y una secundaria. Pero está claro, el distrito todavía necesita mucho más por hacer.

La Mesa Educativa del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno formó el Comité Consejero Ad Hoc de Instalaciones (FAAC) para tomar un enfoque más comprensivo, creando un plan maestro de las instalaciones. El plan, se aprobó en abril del 2009, proporcionando una visión de la guía de mejor clase de las instalaciones del distrito, al mismo tiempo anticipar a las necesidades en el futuro. El Comité FAAC identificó cerca de $1 billón en las necesidades de las instalaciones escolares a nivel distrito.

Era evidente que el distrito no podrá atender a todas las necesidades a la vez. El plan era tomar un enfoque incremental en décadas solicitando que los votantes aprueben varias medidas de bonos. La primera fase se logró en noviembre del 2010 cuando la comunidad casi unánimemente aprobó los $280 millones de la Medida Q.

La Medida Q ha actualizado los salones de clase, laboratorios, tecnología y bibliotecas, mejorando la seguridad y protección, incrementando el acceso a discapacitados y construyó nuevos salones de clase y escuelas.

La Mesa Educativa recientemente aprobó los planes para usar los últimos $30 millones de bonos de la Medida Q para reemplazar los salones portátiles de primaria, construir nuevos salones de clase de carrera técnica en la Preparatoria Duncan Polytechnical y financiar la infraestructura necesaria y otros proyectos escolares.

La mesa educativa ahora está girando su atención a las necesidades adicionales.

See MEASURE K AND Q
Continued on page 11

Board of Education Approves Measure X for November Ballot

The Fresno Unified Board of Education voted on Aug. 10 to move forward on placing a local school bond measure -- Measure X -- on the Nov. 8 ballot.

If approved by voters, the $225 million Measure X would fund projects across the district that support classroom education, the repair of neighborhood schools and student safety. The measure would maintain the current authorized tax rate and would build on past investments as detailed in the Facilities Master Plan.

Community meetings will be held in each comprehensive high school region to receive input on prioritizing facilities needs and reviewing updated high school site master plans. The board will consider community input when identifying facilities priorities.

Consistent with the $280 million Measure Q bond passed in 2010, this new bond measure will address the district’s continuing need to repair and renovate schools by putting local taxpayer dollars to work in implementing the next phase of the district’s facilities program.

The district conducted an opinion poll in April 2016, revealing that 74% of likely voters support the bond. Another poll in July 2016 estimated a 79% approval rate when the new bond was measured against two state initiatives on the Nov. 8 ballot -- Proposition 51, a statewide bond, and Proposition 55, an extension of the 2012 tax increase to support K-12 education and community colleges.

Fresno Unified’s Measure X, approved by the board of education for the Nov. 8 ballot, will be used to fund career technical education facilities and numerous other projects throughout the district.
Tips from Health Officer: Make Plans Now in Case of Disaster

A disaster can happen at any moment, at any place, and with little, or no, warning. Causes can be natural, as in an earthquake, infectious illness outbreak, wildfire, extreme heat or flood. They can be man-made, as in a biological, chemical, blast, or radiological attack or accident. It can also come in the form of a personal accident (a fall, poisoning, near drowning, choking or severe cut). The results are often tragic.

Yet the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently found that nearly 60% of American adults have not practiced what to do in a disaster and that only 39% have developed an emergency plan and discussed it with their household, despite the fact that 80% of Americans live in counties that have been hit with a weather-related disaster.

You can take action before such disasters strike that can make the difference for you and your family between surviving and succumbing to such events.

To prepare for personal accidents in your home, everyone old enough to understand the concepts should know basic first aid and CPR. A first aid kit containing all of the essentials should be stored in a designated, easily accessible place (but young child-proof), and the contents checked twice a year. A fire extinguisher should be in a designated location, and the family should know how to use it. The number for poison control should be readily available to everyone.

Larger scale disasters generally require one of two primary responses: evacuation or sheltering in place. You should develop a disaster plan for both that consists of:

- A family communication plan
- Knowing which places in your house are safest, depending upon the threat; meeting places outside the home; and escape routes
- Knowing how to shut off water, electricity, and gas
- Fire resistant and waterproof storage of important documents
- An emergency kit, in waterproof and easily transportable containers. Recommended items can be found at https://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/kit/disasters/

It is extremely important to include your children in planning for disasters, and plan for pets. I encourage you to check out Ready Wrigley, the Preparedness Pup.

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Ooooby now delivers to these school neighborhoods:

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- Lowell Elementary
- Muir Elementary
- Addams Elementary
- Wolters Elementary

Ooooby now delivers to these school neighborhoods:

- King Elementary
- Lowell Elementary
- Muir Elementary
- Addams Elementary
- Wolters Elementary

Use promo code BACK2SCHOOL for $10 OFF at www.ooooby.org/fresno.
FIRST DAY AROUND THE DISTRICT

Fresno Unified welcomed back its 74,000 students to the new school year on Aug. 15. At Duncan Polytechnical High School, students grab breakfast from the new food cart (above). At Williams Elementary School, Victoria Carbajal is already diving into her school work (below). At Fort Miller Middle School, students (bottom) share a laugh as they pull supplies out to get down to work.

For video, go to vimeo.com/ fresounified/firstday2016

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2016 Important Dates

Aug. 29-Sept. 13 Facilities Master Plan Regional Meetings
-- Bullard High School: Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
-- Edison High School: Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
-- Fresno High School: Aug. 31 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
-- Hoover High School: Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
-- McLane High School: Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria
-- Roosevelt High School: Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. in the library
-- Sunnyside High School: Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria

Sept. 5 Labor Day holiday
Sept. 14 and 28 Board of Education meetings at Nutrition Center
Sept. 26 State of Education luncheon (see story on page 14)
Oct. 19 Free PSAT testing for grades 9-11
Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving holiday
Dec. 1 Deadline for choice schools applications

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Parent University Classes

Early Learning Module
Traditional Middle School Module
12th Grade Module
Ready to Learn with PBS
Fresno Police Department’s Community Academy

More information: (559) 457-3390 or go.fresnou.org/parentu

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Important Phone Numbers

Constituent Services: (559) 457-3736
How to enroll: (559) 457-3351
Immunizations: (559) 457-3294
Main number: (559) 457-3000
Parent University: (559) 457-3390
Preschool: (559) 457-3682 or (559) 457-3803
Transfers Office: (559) 248-7538
Transportation: (559) 457-3138
### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Hamilton Eighth-Grader Makes Himself Heard on “La Voz Kids”**

This month’s Student Spotlight is on Isaac Torres, who competed on Telemundo’s reality show, “La Voz Kids.” Isaac, 12, is an eighth-grader at Hamilton K-8 School with a 4.0 GPA. His parents are Ramon and Margarita Torres, who both work for Fresno Unified. After being cast on the show, which aired mid-April to mid-July, he quickly advanced during the blind audition with celebrity judges and was selected to be part of Coach Natalia Jiménez’s team. He battled with other talented kids and made it to the semi-finals before being eliminated. Even though Isaac didn’t win, he says, “It was not about winning. The experience of performing live on the huge stage with an audience and television viewers is something I will not forget.”

What did you like best about being on the show?

I won’t forget the friendships I was able to make on the show.

What are your future singing plans?

I hope to compete in other shows and I will continue to sing at church and community events.

What do you like about middle school?

It’s different from an elementary school where you have only one teacher. I like changing classes and being with different friends. My best period is P.E.

What is your favorite subject?

Math is my specialty. I always get A’s.

What extra-curricular activities are you involved in?

I love running and sports. I’m in cross country and soccer at school and I play in a year-round soccer league.

Have you thought about high school and where you want to go?

All my brothers went to Roosevelt. I want to go there because of my interest in the arts and plays.

What are your fears about going to high school next year?

The struggle to get good grades to graduate.

What is your dream job/career?

I want to be a singer. If that doesn’t work out, I want to follow my brother. He is at Fresno State majoring in business.

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**MEASURE K AND Q Continued from page 8**

mentionedas en el plan maestro de instalaciones, aprobándolo para seguir adelante con una nueva medida de bonos en la reunión de la mesa educativa, el 10 de agosto.

**K thiab Q Bond Measures Hlouv Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm**

Thaum xyoo 2000, ntua lub ntawm Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntwav cov tsev kawm ntawv ntu tshaj li 100 lub muaj kev xav tau khu thiab hlouv dua tshib. Tej tsev kawm ntawv neeg coob dhau, tej chaw kawm puas zai puas zuav, thiab tis muaj technology txaus rau tej tub kawm ntawv thiab neeg khiaj dej num.


10. res performs at Convocation on Aug. 10.

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More schools will be added this year to a special arts initiative the district has been involved with since 2014, bringing more opportunities for students to learn through visual and performing arts.

The Any Given Child initiative is a partnership with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts connecting the district with local arts leaders to broaden experiences for students.

At least eight elementary schools will join the effort this year, for a total of 18. Any Given Child emphasizes the board-adopted Goal 2: “All students will engage in the arts, activities and athletics.”

Highlights of the initiative include:

• Art of the Word at Fresno Art Museum -- Third graders explore art and illustration through storytelling artworks, learn some of the basic elements of art, and have an art making experience that is displayed at the art museum.

• Link Up with Fresno Philharmonic -- Fourth graders play their recorders with the Fresno Philharmonic, preparing for the concert by studying learning pieces by Beethoven and other composers, basic music theory, history, and notation.

• More than 1,400 second graders attend the ballet production “Cinderella” with Valley Performing Arts Council.

• Fifth and sixth grade teachers and classes at 10 Any Given Child schools will participate in theater and visual arts integrated units made possible through a grant to the Fresno County Office of Education from the Department of Education.

In addition to these opportunities, the pilot schools have demonstrated a 175% increase in students participating in the arts or receiving arts instruction at their schools.

This year, the district is also expanding efforts for teachers to integrate art into classroom learning, including a second-grade pilot to integrate music and dance. This builds on the arts integration already in progress in preschool, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade.

The district is also expanding arts integration into middle school by offering a STEAM module in partnership with Fresno County Office of Education. (STEAM is integrating arts into science, technology, engineering and math.)
**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT**

**Roosevelt Teacher Pays it Forward**

Yadira Gonzalez is an English teacher at Roosevelt High School and a finalist for an Excellence in Education award last spring. Roosevelt head counselor Phoua Yang said Gonzalez has high expectations for students and is “always looking for ways to ensure they are off to a good start when they graduate from high school and are prepared for the world beyond.”

**What made you decide to be a teacher?**

I knew I wanted to become a teacher when I was a high school student as I too wanted to make a difference in the lives of young people.

**What do you enjoy the most about teaching?**

The best part about teaching are the relationships I have developed with students. I feel fortunate to play a role in their development as young adults.

**What do you enjoy specifically about teaching at Roosevelt?**

Many of our students face very difficult challenges and despite those challenges, they come to school and do their best. I admire their resilience and feel privileged to serve them. Additionally, I’m incredibly proud to be a part of our Roosevelt community of administrators, teachers, counselors, and classified staff who collaborate to ensure that we do our very best for our students.

**How did the Inspire Tomorrow program come about?**

Many of our students’ are first-generation college students, so navigating the...

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**Community Attends Convocation, Joins in saying, “I Am Ready”**

Just imagine being in the same room with 10,000 team mates. That’s Fresno Unified’s Convocation, the back-to-school gathering at the Save Mart Center to kick off the new school year. On Aug. 10, music and messages filled the two and a half hour program that informed and inspired the thousands of district employees and scores of community members who attended.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/convocation2016

Dexter Yang, a McLane High School 2016 valedictorian, and Cecilia Ballesteros, Fresno Unified Administrator of the Year, launched the morning with “I Am Ready” cheers and a sincere thank you to the generous sponsors who made the event possible. Every element of the program showcased students, staff, parents, and community members -- all part of Fresno Unified’s I Am Ready project, which tells the stories of people doing their part to help the district reach a 100% graduation rate.

Superintendent Michael Hanson addressed the crowd for almost an hour. Punctuated with rounds of applause, the superintendent told the employees, “This work takes every single one of you. Everyone is essential! When students cross the threshold onto our campuses… they are actually riding a wave of faith and hope that no matter who they are, we are going to do right by them…… that we, all 10,000 of us, we will show them how humanity should be.”

He also stressed that the entire Fresno community is critical to making sure students cross the graduation stage.

“At Fresno Unified, we do not operate in isolation, and that should be very good news to all of you. We are in the full embrace of this community,” Hanson said.

Hanson then welcomed to the stage Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, who spoke as a mayor, as a community member, and most poignantly as a parent. She described witnessing teachers, staff, and coaches going to great lengths to provide opportunities to students. The closing song, “I’ll Stand by You,” was performed by students from Roosevelt School of the Arts as community members, volunteers, nonprofit leaders, faith leaders, local officials, and educational partners joined the mayor and superintendent on stage so the thousands of employees could see the support they have from the Fresno community.

Hanson closed with, “When students, parents, and community members stand by us, our goal of graduating 100% of our students can become a reality.”
State of Education Luncheon Supports Student Scholarships

Fresno Unified will host its annual State of Education luncheon Sept. 26, the district’s largest single event to raise money for 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 Tornino’s. For ticket information or to inquire about being a community sponsor, call (559) 457-3733. Ticket information is also available at http://2016stateofed.eventbrite.com

In addition to the State of Education fundraising effort, the scholarship fund is supported through the generous donations of Fresno Unified employees. Last spring, the district awarded $60,000 in scholarships to 45 students, all of whom overcame significant obstacles on their journey to academic success. Many of the 2016 winners’ stories will be shared at the luncheon, giving guests an opportunity to learn first-hand how important their support is to Fresno Unified students.

Many of these students struggled with poverty, having only one parent in the home, mastering English, and countless other obstacles -- but managed to excel academically and become leaders of their high schools. Scholarship winners last year went on to attend a variety of colleges, including University of California at Davis, University of California at Los Angeles, University of California at Irvine, Fresno State University and Fresno Pacific University.

The district’s scholarship fund, established in 2009, has made a difference in the lives of Fresno Unified students by not only helping to defray college costs, but by shining a spotlight on their success and singling them out as worthy of distinction.

world of college can be a scary experience. Six years ago, a team of administrators, counselors, and teachers recognized this issue and wanted to do more for these students. The goal of Inspire Tomorrow is to increase our four-year college acceptance and attendance rates. Our program hosts a yearly mentoring dinner for our students attending Fresno State in the fall where alumni mentors (former RHS students attending Fresno State) dine with our seniors and provide them with tips as to how to navigate their way through college. Additionally, we host two college trips for 10th and 11th graders who meet eligibility criteria and have never been on a college trip. Our dinner and trips are made possible through donations from EECU, California Endowment, and the support of the district.

As you prepare for this new school year, what do you hope to accomplish?

My hope every school year is that I can have a positive impact on our students. I want every student in my classroom to believe in their potential despite any challenges they face, and to know that I will be there to assist them in any way I can.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

When I am faced with students who are challenging in the classroom and won’t connect with me, I hope they find a connection with another adult on our campus. Oftentimes, the most difficult student has huge personal challenges and I must be especially patient with this particular student.

What book are you recommending to others right now?

I love to read young adult novels. I just finished reading “The 5th Wave” series and it is outstanding.

Name one thing most people do not know about you.

During my free time, I enjoy restoring furniture and have even taken a class on how to use chalk paint.
Hace unas semanas, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno inició el nuevo ciclo escolar con la cuarta Convocatoria anual de empleados. El evento de gran energía convocó a estudiantes, personal, padres y comunidad, mostrando como cada uno de nosotros juega un papel en el movimiento hacia el progreso de logros académicos. El distrito fue especialmente honrado con la presencia de la Alcaldesa Ashley Swearengin, junto con otros socios clave de la comunidad – socios del distrito y el trabajo de nuestro personal, socios clave de la comunidad – socios del distrito y el trabajo de nuestro personal, incluyendo a la Alcaldesa Ashley Swearengin, junto con otros socios clave de la comunidad.

El apoyo comunitario llega en muchas formas y tamaños y el distrito está muy agradecido por cada uno de ellos. Ya sea que es voluntario en un salón de clase, mentor de los jóvenes, donante del fondo de becas del distrito, el distrito está apoyando el aprendizaje estudiantil y contribuyendo al desarrollo de graduados listos para el colegio y una carrera. En conjunto estas herramientas son las cuales ayudarán a los estudiantes a lograr el éxito académico y tener un impacto positivo en nuestra ciudad para los años venideros. Si usted está buscando maneras adicionales de participar y servir como socio del distrito, visite nuestro nuevo sitio de internet del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno en: www.fresnounified.org para aprender más acerca de nuestra Iniciativa Estoy Listo.

**Measures K thiab Q Feem ntawm Neeg Zej Kev Txhawb Pab rau Fresno Unified**


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Healthy Minute

Immunizations
Are You Up-to-date?
Many people believe that immunizations are for children and people traveling abroad. Although they are important for these groups, adults who were routinely vaccinated as children may still require boosters for certain immunizations. Immunity is produced when your body is exposed to a weakened or killed virus or bacteria responsible for a particular disease. Once exposed, your body is able to recognize and produce antibodies quickly to fight off that type of infection in the future. Some vaccines give lifetime immunity, while others require periodic boosters. There is little debate about the effectiveness of immunizations. Most doctors agree that the benefits of routine immunizations outweigh the risks. To ensure immunizations are up to date, keep a record. If you think you may be due for a booster or need a new vaccination, talk with your doctor. - Information from Claremont EAP and Staywell, LLC.

$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.

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.

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/wellpath.