District Hosts Community Workshops on Funding Priorities

Fresno Unified’s 2018-19 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) includes $193 million in investments to increase or improve services for students living in disadvantaged circumstances.

The LCAP outlines the district goals and spending priorities.

For video, go to vimeo.com/fresnounified/LCAP2018 holding regional workshops to gather feedback from the community to prepare and update the LCAP as part of the annual strategic budget development process. Community meetings in the McLane, Edison, Bullard, Fresno High, Roosevelt and Sunnyside regions are planned for December and January.

“The workshops provide an opportunity to update our community on investment priorities, review data on student performance and exchange ideas for

See LCAP Continued on page 5

New High School Campus will Feature Alternative Programs

The district is designing an alternative education program for the old juvenile hall site that will help high school students achieve their goals of graduation through personalized learning, flexible schedules, academic and social emotional supports, and technology integration.

It also will strive to make learning relevant. Using a project-based learning concept, students would choose a problem to solve, perhaps identified by the City of Fresno.

Students’ coursework in a variety of academic and career technical education classes would focus on the project

See NEW CAMPUS Continued on page 13

Ella Metcalfe-Armstrong learns Spanish in a dual immersion language program at Wawona School. Dual immersion was expanded for the current school year in part due to feedback from the community. The district will hold regional meetings in December and January to gather feedback for the 2019-20 school year.
Something to Smile about: New Mobile Dental Clinic Launched

A mobile dental clinic that debuted at Mayfair Elementary School in 1994 marked a milestone at the same campus this past fall.

Thanks to a $542,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente, the Healthy Smiles Mobile Foundation was able to purchase a new mobile dental clinic and refurbish an existing one. The new mobile dental clinic was unveiled Oct. 19 at Mayfair Elementary, where the program began.

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

“More than two decades ago, Healthy Smiles first began providing services to our community right here at Mayfair Elementary,” Fresno Unified Superintendent Bob Nelson said at the unveiling. “It started with just a few students and a van, far different from the mobile unit here today.

“Over the years, the number of patients has increased significantly, but the commitment of Healthy Smiles and its team has never wavered as they have continued to provide care for so many.”

The new mobile dental clinic will travel the Valley providing free oral health care to underserved children in 100 inner city and rural communities. The clinic will provide dental cleanings, cavity fillings and teeth extractions to 8,000 children a year.

The Healthy Smiles program visits 55 Fresno Unified elementary schools and serves more than 5,200 district students. Over the years, Healthy Smiles has worked closely with Fresno Unified’s Health Services, nurses and school staff.

Tooth decay is the No. 1 chronic childhood disease and causes 51 million lost school hours per year in the U.S.

Algo Por lo Cual Sonreír: Nueva Clínica Dental Móvil

Una clínica dental móvil que debutó en la Primaria Mayfair en 1994 llegó a una meta en el mismo plantel el otoño pasado.

Gracias a la concesión de $542,000 de Kaiser Permanente, la Fundación de Sonrisas Saludables Móvil pudo comprar una nueva clínica dental móvil y renovar la existente. La nueva clínica dental móvil fue expuesta el 19 de octubre en la Primaria Mayfair, donde inició el programa.

“Hace más de dos décadas, Sonrisas Saludables se inició en la Primaria Mayfair proveyendo servicios para nuestra comunidad,” El Superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno Bob Nelson mencionó en la demostración. “Inició con unos cuantos estudiantes y una camioneta van, mucho muy diferente de la unidad móvil de hoy.”

“Con los años, la cantidad de pacientes fue aumentando significativamente, pero el compromiso de Sonrisas Saludables y su equipo nunca han flaqueado ya que continúan proveyendo cuidado a muchos.”

La nueva clínica dental móvil recorrerá el Valle proveyendo cuidado de salud oral a los niños que carecen de servicios en 100 centros de la ciudad y comunidades rurales. La clínica proveerá limpieza dental, empaste de caries y extracción de dientes a 8,000 niños al año.

El programa de Sonrisas Saludables visitó 55 escuelas primarias del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno y sirve a más de 5,200 estudiantes en el distrito. Durante los años, Sonrisas Saludables ha trabajado muy de cerca con las enfermeras y el personal de Servicios de Salud del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno.

La caries dental es la enfermedad crónica infantil número 1 y causa que las escuelas de los Estados Unidos pierden 51 millones de horas por año.


“Ntau ntau lub xyoo dâu los, cov neeg mob tau muaj coob zyj zut zuaj, tiam sis kev cog lus ntwaw “Healthy Smiles” thiaib nws nbs piib nea hauv lwm yeej tsiis muab lawv txoj kev ua hauv lwm tso tseg li xij los muab kev pab rau coob coob tug neeg.”

Lub chaw tsheb kuaj hniav tsibh no yuav tawg kev nciq Zos los muab kev pab kuaj hniav dawb pub rau cov me nyuam yaus nyob ib puag nciq li ntwaw 100 hauv nuocg thiaib tej zyj zog nyob tuaj tom ntuug zos. Lub chaw kho hniav no yuav muaj ntxuav hniav, ntsaws hniav thiaib nrho hniav rau 8,000 tug me nyuam yaus tauj ib xyoo.

“Healthy Smiles” qhoj kev pab tau mus nciq Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv cov tsev kawm ntwaw theem qis li ntwaw 55 lub thiab tau pab tsajh li ntwaw 5,200 hauv paus tsev kawm ntwaw cov tub kawm ntwaw. Ntau lub xyoo dâu los, “Healthy Smiles” tau ua hauv lwm ze nrog Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Lub Chaw Kho Mob, cov neeg saib mob thiab tsib kev kawm ntwaw cov neeg khoi dej num.

Kaus hniav lwj yoj nag npawb 1 cov me nyuam yaus tus kab mob hniav thiaib ua rau 51 lab (millions) xuaj mooz tsaii tauj kawm ntwaw txhua lub xyoo hauv Teb Chaws Meskas.
SUPERINTENDENT’S Message

Reflections on a Successful Year, with More to Come

It’s human nature. Every year around this time, we pause to reflect on the year behind us, celebrate new beginnings and look toward the future. Fresno Unified is no different, and in fact, we have much to celebrate this holiday season. The district’s strong financial footing places us as one of the most stable systems in the state, particularly among the large urban school districts. Students’ educational outcomes remain steady and continue to improve. Our board continues to invest in new and improved educational programs that will carry our students into the jobs and careers of tomorrow. With community support, we continue to build and modernize facilities that contribute to stable city neighborhoods and better support teaching and learning. This school year, students in two of our special education programs will see this first hand at Rata High School and our Adult Transition Program (ATP). This past fall, Fresno Unified and our collegiate partners at Fresno City College announced the expansion of evening college courses at Sunnyside and Edison high schools. The classes increase opportunities for our community to attend college right in their own neighborhood, close to home. Adults in our community can now benefit from the Neighborhood Campuses program, as can our own students who are interested in taking evening high school enrichment classes.

Additionally, with the help of Fresno City College instructors and Fresno Unified teachers, we also launched night classes at Duncan Polytechnical High School. Courses at Duncan focus on certification and career technical education workforce development, utilizing the career ready facilities Duncan already provides.

In October, our Board of Education approved the purchase of the old juvenile hall building on Tenth and Ventura. Vacant for more than a decade, we plan to demolish a portion of that campus and build a state of the art learning facility that brings the best of our alternative education experiences together under one roof. This facility will provide an abundance of options for students ranging from credit recovery, to online learning, to service learning to career technical education and more. The purchase of the old juvenile hall benefits both our students and our city and I am extremely thankful to our board for their ongoing support, we continue to build and modernize facilities that contribute to stable city neighborhoods and better support teaching and learning. This school year, students in two of our special education programs will see this first hand at Rata High School and our Adult Transition Program (ATP). This past fall, Fresno Unified and our collegiate partners at Fresno City College announced the expansion of evening college courses at Sunnyside and Edison high schools. The classes increase opportunities for our community to attend college right in their own neighborhood, close to home. Adults in our community can now benefit from the Neighborhood Campuses program, as can our own students who are interested in taking evening high school enrichment classes.

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As we look towards 2019, we find ourselves offering our thanks for the service of Bullard Trustee Brooke Ashjian, McLane Trustee Christopher De La Cerda and Edison Trustee Cal Johnson, who is retiring after 12 years of serving the students of this district. Fresno Unified sincerely thanks them for placing the needs of our community’s children at the forefront and for standing in difficult space at times for what they believed was most needed for the success of students and the district.

With that, we welcome new voices to our board as we look to the future.

See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG

Continued on page 15

Message from Victor Taylor, Public Information Officer for the California Highway Patrol – Fresno Area CHP Offers Explorer Program for Young People

The mission of the California Highway Patrol Explorer Program is to develop young individuals into responsible and productive citizens through discipline and a commitment to serve their communities.

The program is a unique and challenging opportunity for young men and women (ages 15-21) that develops prospective CHP cadet applicants. Successful completion of the Explorer Program can open doors and present many opportunities, especially for an Explorer who is planning to make the CHP a career.

Competitions are a high point of Explorer training, providing the opportunity to compete against other posts for trophies. The competitions take a considerable amount of preparation time, effort, and training. Preparations begin months in advance and certain Explorers are specifically trained for certain scenarios. This fosters a great sense of teamwork, camaraderie, and esprit de corps. Competitions consist of law enforcement scenarios including but not limited to, building searches, Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T) entries, foot pursuits, patrol car driving courses, felony traffic stops, DUI stops, shooting skills and athletic events.

CHP Explorers participate in many law enforcement activities, including:

- Ride-alongs with officers in the field
- DUI checkpoints
- CHP’s for Kids
- Area office clerical duties
- Explorer competitions
- Physical fitness training

Our community is a vital component of our future success. That is why Fresno Unified is hosting a number of community engagement workshops as the district begins to develop next school year’s fiscal budget. This effort is part of our Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Workshops give parents and community members an opportunity to share their voice and ideas regarding potential budget investments and programs that are designated to support students and improve student outcomes.

Meetings are underway now through January 23. For a list of workshop dates, visit the district website at www.fresnounified.org or go to Page 5.

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See SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG

Continued on page 15
Mobile Health Unit Opens at Addams, Permanent Clinic Planned

Addams Elementary School now has a mobile health center on campus, making basic health care more accessible for school-age students in the community.

The district held a ribbon cutting Oct. 24 to celebrate the opening of the mobile unit.

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

Clinica Sierra Vista will operate the health center in partnership with Fresno Unified. Services include physicals, sports exams, immunizations, vision and hearing screenings and treatment of minor illnesses and injuries.

The health center will provide services to school-age children. Clinica Sierra Vista accepts Medi-Cal and most insurances and HMO plans.

“This mobile health unit will be a tremendous boost to our Addams families and Addams community by being easily accessible right on campus,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

There are plans to build a permanent health center at the elementary school before the summer, funded by Valley Children’s Healthcare with services provided by Clinica Sierra Vista.

Former Basketball Star Gives Back to Community as New Edison Coach

Jackie White, the second woman to play for the Harlem Globetrotters, is back in Fresno passing on her tricks to the Edison High School girls basketball team.

White is in her first season coaching the varsity girls and Addams community by being easily accessible right on campus,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson. “Students cannot learn if they are not at school, and this will keep more students healthy and improve attendance.”

However, she wanted to finish her college career taking on the challenge of a Division I program. She transferred to Long Beach State. The team was ranked as high as No. 1 that year and won its conference. She earned her degree in criminology.

White took a job as a counselor with the Juvenile Division of the Chino correctional facility, but within six months, the Harlem Globetrotters hired her as their second female player. She was a Globetrotter from 1986-1987. It was a hectic, 10-month season with stops in a different city every night.

“It was an experience I would never have traded in my life. I got to see the world,” White said.

She returned to Chino, where she worked for 28 years. For 20 of those years she coached a young men’s basketball team (ages 16-25), winning three championships.

“I never detached myself from the game of basketball,” White said.

White retired in 2013 to help care for her oldest brother, who was dying of cancer. She moved back to Fresno in 2016 to be near her elderly mother. She planned to travel during retirement but “something kept tugging at my heart.”

And then the Edison girls coaching job was available.

“That tugging led me to feel that I still wanted to serve my community, give back to my community,” White said.
District’s New Tech Learning Initiative Showing Positive Results

Fresno Unified has a new program that strives to make sure students develop the skills they need to succeed in a fast-changing, high tech world.

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

The district launched the Personalized Learning Initiative (PLI) in 2016 at 89 schools, with 220 teachers and 12,423 students. This year, year 3, the district has 89 schools with more than 650 teachers involved and more than 25,000 students, and 26 additional schools are committed to increasing personalized learning.

Every student has access to a classroom laptop computer and does much of their math and English language arts work digitally. Teachers undergo extensive training to combine high quality teaching with meaningful integration of technology.

The use of technology – specifically Office 365 and district-adopted learning tools – allows teachers to quickly assign tasks, assess learning and customize instruction for individual students in ways not possible before.

Teachers say individual needs are met, student are more engaged and learning to be digitally literate and more prepared for college and careers.

Jefferson Elementary School third-grade teacher Juliana Bonilla began training for PLI with some skepticism but says it has changed the way she teaches and is encouraged by her students’ success.

“My kids are rockin’ and rollin’. I am rockin’ and rollin’. My outlook on it has totally changed. I see my kids and what they are producing and what they are able to produce,” Bonilla said. “There’s so much more out there than paper and pencil activities.”

Early data on PLI is encouraging:

- Students with PLI teachers outscored their non-PLI peers on 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests in grades 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 on English language arts.
- Students with PLI teachers outscored their non-PLI peers on the SBAC in grades 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 in math.
- PLI is associated with positive gains for African American, Hispanic and Asian elementary students and did not have a negative effect on any ethnic group, with the same patterns for middle school grades.
- PLI students are collaborating digitally significantly more than non-PLI students with the same level of technology access.

PLI allows students to have rich digital learning experiences, work together with peers on their learning, and use technology to share their learning. PLI teachers are shifting practices to encourage student voice, choice and collaboration, which engages them more in their learning.

One unique aspect of PLI is that the district is partnering with Microsoft Education, Digital Promise and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to analyze data. The partnership is a valuable example of how school districts, tech providers and external researchers can work together to address education challenges.

In 2016, 440 teachers chose to apply to the program and, given the available budget, 220 were randomly selected through a lottery system. In year 2 and year 3, teachers and school-sites continue to choose to participate in PLI.

PLI began as a joint effort between Information Technology and Curriculum and Instruction departments.

“There are many positive things happening across our district. PLI is teachers choosing to challenge their learning and sharpen their craft to provide high quality, 21st Century academic experiences for our students,” said Kim Mecum, chief academic officer.

Dr. Philip Neufeld, executive officer for Information Technology who previously worked at Fresno State and private industry, said: “PLI is a strong collaborative effort within the district, with external partners, and most importantly with teachers to better prepare students for their #AsYetImagined futures.”

Students collaborate more using computers and are showing increased academic gains when they have teachers who have been trained in strategic use of technology through the Professional Learning Initiative.

![Students collaborate more using computers and are showing increased academic gains when they have teachers who have been trained in strategic use of technology through the Professional Learning Initiative.](Image)

**LCAP**

Continued from page 1

Improving student outcomes. Input from prior years has been extremely helpful to inform investment priorities included in the district’s plan,” said Ruthie Quinto, the district’s deputy superintendent and chief financial officer.

Examples of new or expanded investments for the 2018-19 school year aligned to stakeholder feedback received include:

- Reduction in class sizes at all grade levels
- Expansion of dual immersion programs offered
- Increased use of classroom technology
- Increased mental health and social-emotional supports for students

Also, Fresno Unified’s LCAP survey is now available, providing another opportunity for feedback and recommendations. For more information, access to the 2018-19 LCAP regional workshop dates and how to take the LCAP survey, please visit the district website at www.fresnounified.org.

### 2018-19 Local Control and Accountability Plan Regional Community Meetings

All meetings 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hoover High School cafeteria</td>
<td>November 27, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patiño School of Entrepreneurship cafeteria</td>
<td>November 29, 2018</td>
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<td>McLane High School library</td>
<td>December 6, 2018</td>
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<td>Edison High School cafeteria</td>
<td>December 11, 2018</td>
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<td>Bullard High School cafeteria</td>
<td>January 14, 2019</td>
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<td>Fresno High School Senate Chambers</td>
<td>January 17, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roosevelt High School library</td>
<td>January 22, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunnyside High School cafeteria</td>
<td>January 23, 2019</td>
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Students Pursue Arts, Activities and Athletics

Throughout the year, students pursue the district’s Goal 2: “All students will engage in arts, activities and athletics.” Below left, student art is featured during ArtHop Nov. 1 at the M Street Arts Complex, where the district rents exhibit space. Below right, Scandinavian Middle School’s Ethan D. Vang listens to music teacher Dennis Turner II during a McLane region performing arts day Nov. 7 to introduce elementary students to performing arts options. Bottom left, Edison High School’s Tyler Mrkaich battles in Edison’s 22-21 runner-up finish for the Division III Section title on Nov. 10. Bottom right, the McLane choir performs during the McLane region performing arts day.
Students Pursue Arts, Activities and Athletics

Below left, Unified Soccer teams from Bullard and McLane high schools square off at Sunnyside High School on Oct. 31. Unified Soccer is made up of general education and special education students. Below right and bottom left and right, sixth-graders from Del Mar Elementary School attend outdoor science school at Calvin Crest Nov. 15.
Sunnyside Ag and Tech Pathway Plants the Seeds of Career Ideas

Students at Sunnyside High School have the opportunity to explore the diverse agriculture industries of the Valley and prepare for a variety of ag-related jobs.

Since 2014, Sunnyside has offered the Agriscience and Technology Pathway, with 400 students in the program this year. “At Sunnyside, we have many students who have family backgrounds in the farming or food processing industry. It then made sense to create an agriculture high school program that prepares students for the enormously diverse industry that will guarantee a promising college and career in our very own Central Valley,” said Floridia Cheung, career technical education coordinator at Sunnyside.

The Agriscience and Technology Pathway is a four-year interdisciplinary program. Students take specialty classes, including agricultural biology and soil chemistry. By junior and senior years, students are taking career technical education classes in agricultural mechanics and engineering. Students learn agricultural science management and how to weld, design, and 3D print manufacturing parts.

The program enhances academics with activities beyond the classroom. This year, 10th-grade students visited the Hilmar cheese factory and UC Merced Campus to learn about college and career options in agriculture in October. In February, five buses of ag tech students will visit the International Tulare World Ag Expo.

Students move in a cohort through each grade level, taking courses from three teachers who collaborate to design projects based in the ag industry. The teachers also prepare students to be college and career ready, discussing higher education options along with employment options.

Students learn about the various ag- and tech-related undergraduate programs at Fresno State, including Agricultural Business, Animal Sciences and Ag Education, Food Science and Nutrition, Industrial Technology, Plant Science, Pest Management, and Viticulture and Enology.

“With our connection to the Fresno State agriculture programs, we hope that our students will find the perfect job for their interest and skills in the industry,” Cheung said.

Ag-related jobs range from pest management to agricultural food processing and manufacturing. Students can become scientists or engineers.

“Our pathway exposes students to the range of occupations, and gives them the foundation to have the best array of college and career choices in the agriculture industry,” said Sunnyside principal Tim Liles.
Fresno Adult School Teacher Embraces Challenges, Changes Futures

Martha Turnipseed, an Excellence in Education finalist last February, has worked for Fresno Unified for 17 years, the last 11 as a teacher at Fresno Adult School in the Secondary Education Program, teaching in English and Spanish. Fresno Adult School vice principal Keda Battles said about Turnipseed: “She puts in extra time and is very passionate about helping her students. She’s even paid for students to take the high school equivalency test because the students could not afford it.”

What made you decide to be a teacher? I think my love for learning new things, and wanting to share that knowledge with others was one of the reasons why I considered becoming a teacher. I have been very fortunate to have many teachers who served as role models and mentors to me; I wanted to emulate their passion for the profession and the care for their students.

Another reason why I considered becoming a teacher is because I think education is the gateway to achieving personal and academic goals; it’s also a way to give back to the community. President Kennedy’s remark on his inaugural speech (1961) “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country” was and still is a call for everyone to become a public servant at whatever capacity or field of expertise. We can all make a positive difference in someone else’s life.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? One of the most rewarding components of my job is to celebrate with my students and their families the life-long dream/goal of obtaining either their high school diploma, and/or earning the certificate equivalent to the high school diploma, knowing that they in turn will support their children’s education at home with the strategies, skills and content they mastered in the pursuit of their academic goals.

What is the most challenging about

See Martha Turnipseed
Continued on page 10

Ayer Elementary Library Technician Encourages Book Smarts

Jessica Kelley has worked with the district since 2013, starting as a substitute aide and library technician, and has been the library technician at Ayer Elementary School since 2014. Principal Lynn Rocha-Salazar said about Kelley: “Mrs. Kelley is methodical and articulate. Her love of reading impacts her text selection and the titles she brings into our library. She works in collaboration with teachers to share stories that represent our students’ culture and interests. In addition to running our library, Mrs. Kelley attends school functions and her family often volunteers in service of our students. Boys and girls love to hear her read and she works diligently to promote a love of literacy.”

How did you become a library technician? I got my Master’s Degree in Library, Archival and Information Sciences from the University of British Columbia in 1992. I worked for many years at the Vancouver Public Library as a children’s librarian. I also worked for Fresno County Public Library for one year, until I had my own children. When they became older I decided to return to work, and it seemed to be a natural fit to work at a profession I loved within the school system, which also allowed me to be on the same schedule as my family.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? I find it very rewarding when students find a book they love. I love watching their faces when I read to them and they identify with the storyline and want to check the book out for themselves. It is also gratifying when you see a student’s reading ability grow over time and see them make confident choices. Being able to help students find exactly the book they are looking for or to introduce them to something new makes the library both relevant and rewarding to our school population.

What is the most challenging part of your job? I find it challenging to stay in my job—there are so many good books and resources available! I also find I have to work hard sometimes to encourage kids to try and read something different and to persevere with a longer book for a deeper reading experience. It is a challenge to compete with devices and the allure of instant gratification.

How is your job connected to student success? It is intrinsically linked to student success. A student’s future depends on his or her ability to read, process information, express needs and opinions, and navigate the world either online or in print. A library’s role is to augment classroom activities by providing a variety of reading materials to engage beginning readers and to continue to address the needs and interests of developing readers. Librarians in school settings have the job of maintaining collections that are relevant and
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Edison High School Student Artist is also Community Volunteer

The windows are open, the smell of an orange tree is taking over the room, jazz is playing and there is a white canvas against the wall... waiting to be filled with the colors of life. That is the setting in Emilie Haskell’s bedroom, where she paints. Emilie is a 16-year-old junior at Edison High School, and her passion for art goes beyond those four walls and unfurls into the community. She volunteers her time mentoring the Bach Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale every Tuesday, teaching music to the children at a women’s shelter in downtown Fresno during the summer, and assisting Fresno Art Museum summer camps with fashion design and painting. She recently donated some of her art to the Fresno Unified State of Education luncheon auction to raise money for scholarships.

Her drive and willingness to help others see the world through the arts made her a Fresno Arts Council Horizon Awards youth recipient in October.

“When I found out I won, it was really affirming in the sense that my volunteer work was being recognized,” Emilie said. “I am not just an art student. I am also someone who cares about the arts community.”

Emilie speaks in a soothing voice, but has an engaging personality. She plans to pursue a career in graphic design or animation.

Emilie Haskell will exhibit her art at ArtHop Jan. 3. She is also passionate about serving her community.

Edison High School Student Artist is also Community Volunteer

your job? Since my teaching assignment this year includes teaching multiple subject areas both in English and in Spanish, one of the most challenging parts is dealing with the reality of a limited amount of time to serve as a teacher, a resource, a mentor, and/or a guidance counselor to my students. I firmly believe that given the opportunity, the guidance, the support, the resources and a reasonable amount of time, all students are able to reach their academic potential, and achieve their goals.

What is the most satisfying about teaching adults? Despite the many challenges adult students face in their daily lives -- work (many work the graveyard shift or in the fields), lack of transportation, childcare, and/or housing, learning disabilities and long term illnesses -- they still are eager to learn. They still have a sparkle in their eyes, and a smile on their face when they come to school, and realize that each day brings them one step closer to achieving their goals. Adult students bring a vast knowledge of experience and culture to the classroom and when given the opportunity, they share freely and willingly. In doing so, they enrich the classroom experience of others, including the teachers. I am always so grateful to them for being part of my growth as an educator.

What special challenges are there in teaching English to adults? It depends on the level of literacy and cultural background of the adult students. Since there are many cognates shared between Spanish and English, many Spanish students have an advantage of learning English faster than let’s say, for instance, students from Asia, or the middle east because even their alphabets do not resemble the letters in English. Also the way the language is structured is in some instances different than English, like Korean for example. That is not to say, they lack the motivation to learn English. Quite the contrary -- they are like sponges, eager to learn and apply their new language acquisition steadily at their own pace and comfort level. We need to create multiple freeways, and highways so students can access content, connect with the information and opportunities to apply it.

Tell us about paying for the high school equivalency test for students who can’t afford it. Three years ago, my teaching assignment changed from teaching the high school diploma to teaching students who want/need to earn their certificate equivalent to the high school diploma. Most of our adult students have a limited income; they are making sacrifices on a daily basis to provide the most basic needs for their families, so having to pay for the battery of tests to earn their certificate is very challenging. Day after day, they make every effort to come to school, participate in class, and study in spite of the many challenges they had/have to deal with. They exhibit a great commitment to their academic goals because they know this will make a difference in their lives, and their families. I believe with every new graduate we have, our community benefits; therefore, sponsoring students for their high school equivalency test is an easy decision for me to make because it is the right thing to do for the future of our community.

Name one thing most people do not know about you. I am a very private individual working in the public arena. In other words, I treasure the moments of solitude when I can enjoy the simple things in life, those that nurture my spirit as well as my mind, so I can recharge my batteries whenever I make a commitment to another brand new school year, and to all the students who have been entrusted to me.

If you could choose a career other than teaching, what would it be? It probably would be an academic counselor. Even though, I admire many other professionals who have chosen a career serving the public -- doctors, nurses, firefighters, men and women in uniform and public officials -- I don’t think I have the courage and/or the physical strength to serve the public in that capacity. Instead, I would lend my ears and give my time and guidance to others through being a school counselor; it is another noble public servant profession.
Hoover Repeats as Unified Soccer Champs

Hoover High School’s Unified Soccer team repeated at North Yosemite League and All-City champions. The team, made up of general education and special education students and coached by Nicole Peterson and Michael Hill, signed autographs, handed out signed photos and took photos with supporters on Nov. 1 to celebrate. The team beat Madera 7-3 for the title.

Lane Wins Girls Volleyball Tournament

Lane Elementary School won the Girls Elementary Volleyball Tournament on Oct. 27 at Sunnyside High School’s stadium. Thirty-two teams started the day in a pool play format with eight teams making it to the final bracket. The Lane Lancers are coached by Brandy Cody and Don Fleming. Following Lane, top finishers were Kratt, Manchester GATE, Aynesworth, Centennial, Winchell, Columbia and Thomas elementary schools.

Fresno High School Librarian Wins Award

Sue Navarro, teacher librarian at Fresno High School, has won the California School Librarian Association Good Ideas Award in recognition for collaboratively planning and implementing library units of instruction. She will have the opportunity to share her ideas at the association’s annual conference and the association will recognize her at the awards luncheon in the City of Industry on Feb. 9.

Roosevelt Ecology Club Cleans up Neighborhood

More than a dozen students from Roosevelt High School’s Ecology Club, Steve’s Scholars and the Bass Fishing Club banded together to clean up their neighborhood on Oct. 3 in advance of The Big Fresno Fair. It was the second beautification walk of the school year following September’s clean-up of Huntington Boulevard. Volunteers collected 16 bags of litter that would have clogged the city’s storm drains.

Edison Students Learn about Solar Installation

Edison High School students in the Green Energy and Technology Academy learned how to install solar panels during a week-long training in November. Local solar company Grid Alternatives trained the students.

Pyle Elementary Launches Walk/Run Club

Pyle Elementary School launched a Walk/Run Club on campus on Oct. 29. Students, their families and staff have the opportunity to exercise before school starts every day, using the field area near the blacktop.

Birney Elementary is Flag Football Champion

Birney Elementary School won the flag football championship at the district tournament at Sunnyside Stadium on Nov. 3. Twenty-four teams started the day in a pool play format with eight teams making it to the final bracket. The Birney Bears are coached by David Garcia. Top teams following Birney were Manchester GATE, Easterby, Heaton, Lawless, Viking, King and Columbia elementary schools.

What have been your past experiences with school and public libraries? As a child I read voraciously and visited the public library almost weekly, and also fully utilized my school libraries. As an adult I have been working in libraries since 1986, specifically as a children’s and youth librarian. My time at Ayer’s library is my first experience with school libraries and I am very happy to be here! What are your strategies to get students interested in reading? I try to make the library as welcoming as possible with lots of “new book” displays and seasonal decorations. I read to all grade levels except sixth, and share a chapter book with fourth and fifth grades. I listen to requests for specific titles and subjects when purchasing new books. I hosted a special book club for struggling readers, which was really successful. Every February is “I Love Reading” month – students are invited to enter into a raffle by writing down the name of a book they have read that month that they loved, and then if their name is picked they get to choose some books to keep. I always share with students which books I have read and why I liked them and ask their opinions about what they have read. We celebrate “Read Across America” at our school and guest readers and book giveaways are very popular.

What book are you recommending to students right now? I have been recommending “Orphan Island” by Laurel Snyder, “Wolf Hollow” by Lauren Wolk and “The Inquisitor’s Tale” by Adam Gidwitz.

What book are you reading right now? I have just started “Harbor Me” by Jacqueline Woodson.

What is your dream vacation? I would love to tour the ancient and prehistoric sites in Europe. Name one thing most people do not know about you. I could easily spend an entire weekend doing my embroidery and watching British murder mysteries!
Gaston Middle School Fights Hunger with Food Pantry

Gaston Middle School student Kionna Haygood pulls food from the new pantry to put in bags to give away to families in need. The pantry consists of a large hallway closet stocked with canned food, beans and toiletries. The Black Student Union club opened the pantry in October as its year-long community project. The Central California Food Bank supplies the food through a one-year grant. Students who want to volunteer to help with the food pantry must apply, interview and go through training. Students keep the pantry in order, organizing the food after food bank deliveries and bagging the groceries for distribution to families once a month. A family of four is allowed two bags of groceries. The school is seeking support to continue operating the pantry after the grant ends.

Gaston Teacher Wins Barnett Award at County Event

Minith “Adam” Real, a P.E. teacher at Gaston Middle School, was named the Barnett Award winner Nov. 15 at the annual Fresno County Educator of the Year awards. This award, named after Bruce Barnett, former CEO and president of the Educational Employees Credit Union, honors a finalist who is not only an outstanding educator but has a servant heart. The primary criteria for this award is how the educator demonstrates their love for students and their service to their community.

Along with Real, other Fresno Unified finalists honored at the event were King Elementary School principal Joy Nunes and Del Mar Elementary School home school liaison Myra Ramirez.

Fresno City College Neighborhood Campus

Beginning January 28, evening college classes will be offered at
Only $46 per unit with FREE parking!

SUNNYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL & EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

Monday/Wednesday
- Reading & Composition (English 1A)
- Intro to Business
- Human Relations
- Graphics
- Photography
- Intro to Health Careers
- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Hip Hop Dance
- Counseling
- Beginning Spanish
- Beginning Guitar

Tuesday/Thursday
- Reading & Composition (English 1A)
- Intro to Business
- Human Relations
- Intro to Health Careers
- Introduction to Public Speaking
- Beginning Guitar
- Beginning Drawing
- Counseling
- Computer Aided Drafting/Design

REGISTRATION EVENTS: Sunnyside High School – Register Wednesday, January 23 • 5:30 – 7:30pm
Edison High School – Register Thursday, January 24 • 5:30 – 7:30pm
Fresno Unified Grows its Own Teachers through Pipeline Programs

Fresno Unified is always pursuing potential teachers, seeking those in the community or already working for the district in another capacity who have a passion for teaching. It offers a variety of pipeline programs to help develop teacher candidates.

The pipeline programs are overseen by the district’s Teacher Development Department, established in 2009 to ensure every classroom has a highly effective teacher and to provide opportunities for teachers to improve at their craft, no matter how many years they have been a teacher.

To increase diversity among teachers, the district shifted from traditional recruitment strategies to a “grow our own” approach. The district is filling 99% of teacher openings from a variety of pipeline programs. The district provides targeted support for new teachers to help them transition into the profession.

The district held an Aspiring Teacher Expo on Nov. 1, providing a one-stop location for potential teachers to learn about the district’s pipeline programs as well as colleges and credential programs. Fresno Unified is seeking to fill a variety of positions for 2019-20, including multiple subject, special education, bilingual education, science, and math.

Teacher Academy:
High school students in the Teacher Academy explore teaching as a career through academics and technical courses, with academies offered at McLane, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools. Some students may qualify for paid summer school jobs. The Teacher Academy outlines the steps to becoming a successful educator and provides a bridge to employment with Fresno Unified. Students are given priority consideration for other teacher pipeline programs.

Para Academy:
The Para Academy is for current non-teaching Fresno Unified employees. Participants receive extra support as they pursue the necessary classes to be a teacher, such as help in preparing for the CBEST. They can receive a stipend after successfully completing classes toward a degree, and are given priority consideration for other teacher pipeline programs.

Transition to Teaching:
Transition to Teaching is a fast-track program for Fresno Unified employees who already have a degree, those looking to make a career change with a passion for teaching, or college seniors.

Teacher Residency Program:
The Fresno Teacher Residency Program is a partnership between Fresno Unified and Fresno State. The goal is to improve student achievement in science, technology, engineering and math through innovative teacher preparation coupled with outstanding professional support. Residents benefit from mentors and early teaching experiences in the classroom. The district guarantees residents a job with Fresno Unified if they successfully complete the program. Fresno Unified and Fresno State staff co-teach courses. Residents receive an $11,500 stipend.

Internship Program:
Interns can earn their credential while working as salaried teachers in the classroom. Interns are highly effective teachers taking credential courses with partner universities and working with mentors. Interns work under an Internship Credential sanctioned by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

To learn more: (559) 457-6072

NEW CAMPUS
Continued from page 1

and including learning through service projects.

“We will take all the most innovative, effective ideas for alternative education and put them into practice at a brand new facility designed for students who have struggled in the past with traditional high school,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

The district unveiled plans for the new campus on Oct. 17 at the site of the old juvenile hall. The district is in escrow to purchase the 12.5-acre site at Ventura Avenue and Tenth Street for $1.2 million.

It will tear down the juvenile jail, visible from Ventura, as well as other buildings, but will renovate some existing office buildings for district administrative offices. The district has not announced a start date for the project.

The large campus will enable the district to consolidate alternative education programs and combine services for students, potentially to include:

- Cambridge High School (currently on Chestnut Avenue near Kings Canyon Road) – Grades 10-12, traditional and online learning, business and entrepreneurship classes
- J.E. Young Academic Center (currently on Abby Street near downtown) – Grades 7-12, online and independent study, certification classes
- eLearn Academy (currently on Abby near downtown) – Grades 7-12, A-G only courses for college admission, accelerated and duel college credit, customized learning and scheduling
- Early learning – Child care center, child development learning lab for professional learning (a new concept)
- Educational Resource Center – Counseling, social workers, school psychologists, support for students as they transition
- Health center (a new concept)

The district takes over a property owned by the county since the 1800s, with a jail on the site for 62 years. The most recent county facility, juvenile hall, closed in 2006. The media referred to the building as the “hall of shame.” At the unveiling of plans on Oct. 17, Nelson emphasized the district’s plans to transform the former juvenile hall site into a place of hope.

“For 62 years the building behind me has served as a jail. This facility is a place where essentially students lost the opportunity to take charge of their own future, and our intent is to permanently change that legacy,” Nelson said.
Learning Leadership at Bullard

Tenaya Middle School’s Nicholas Oddo, left, and Emily Madrigal take part in a team-building activity Nov. 7 at the Bullard Region Leadership Conference. Led by Bullard High School students, student leaders from the region’s elementary and middle schools gather annually to improve their leadership skills and collaborate on a common goal for the year, which they take back to their campuses. The theme this year was “You Belong!”

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board with the recent election of Veva Islas from the McLane region, Terry Static from the Bullard region and Keshia Thomas from the Edison region. I am thankful to all those who choose to serve our community and are willing to put in the sweat equity for the sake of our more than 74,000 students. New faces in familiar places remind us of the progress we have made since mid-December and we look forward to their collaborative leadership as we build upon our strategic plan heading into the new year.

Whatever way you choose to reflect and celebrate this time of year, I want to wish you a wonderful holiday season. Be thankful for the experiences of this past year and look forward to the anticipation of the many successes ahead.

**Reflexiones Sobre un Año Exitoso, Con Más Por Venir**

Es naturaleza humana. Todo el año durante este tiempo, hacemos una pausa para reflexionar sobre el año anterior, celebrar nuestros éxitos y pensar en los nuevos índices y cambios que están por llegar. La situación financiera sólida del distrito nos coloca como uno de los sistemas estatales más resistentes, especialmente entre los grandes distritos escolares urbanos. Los resultados educativos permanecen constantes y continúan mejorando. Nuestra mesa directiva continua invirtiendo en programas nuevos y más educativos los cuales llevarán a nuestros estudiantes a los trabajos y carreras del mañana. Con el apoyo comunitario, continuamos construyendo y modernizando las instalaciones que contribuyen a vencer los estigmas vecinales y promover el crecimiento y el éxito de nuestras escuelas.

Este ciclo escolar, los estudiantes en dos de los programas de educación especial, verán esta información directa en la Preparatoria分数 Fresno Unified score la formación para menores beneficia a ambos; a nuestros estudiantes y a nuestra ciudad y estoy extremadamente agradecido con nuestros padres, maestros y personal por su trabajo en el beneficio de nuestros estudiantes.

Nuestra comunidad es un componente vital para nuestro éxito en el futuro. Es por ese motivo que el Distrito de Fresno está organizando una serie de talleres de participación comunitaria mientras que el distrito comienza a desarrollar el presupuesto fiscal para el próximo ciclo escolar. Este esfuerzo es parte de nuestro Plan de Responsabilidad de Control Local (LCAP). Los talleres proveen a los padres y miembros comunitarios la oportunidad de compartir sus expresiones e ideas en relación a posibles inversiones presupuestales y mejoras en la administración que sean prioritarias para el distrito. Estos talleres son una parte de nuestro Plan de Responsabilidad de Control Local (LCAP).

En octubre, nuestra Mesa Directiva de Educación aprobó la compra del antiguo edificio del reformatorio para menor, localizado en la calle 10 y Ventura. Estuvo vacante por más de una década y planeamos derrumar una porción de ese campo y construir la instalación de estado de arte en el lugar reina lo mejor de nuestras experiencias alternativas educativas juntas bajo un mismo techo. Esta instalación proveerá opciones abundantes de gran alcance para los estudiantes desde recuperación de créditos, hasta aprendizaje en línea (online), servicios de aprendizaje de carrera técnica y educativa y más. La compra del antiguo edificio del reformatorio para menor, beneficia a ambos; a nuestros estudiantes y a nuestra ciudad y estoy extremadamente agradecido con nuestros padres, maestros y personal por su trabajo en el beneficio de nuestros estudiantes.

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**Building Futures**

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

PREPARING CAREER READY GRADUATES

www.FresnoUnified.org

S U P T . M E S S A G E

Continued from page 3
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