

# BUILDING futures

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

P R E P A R I N G C A R E E R R E A D Y G R A D U A T E S

## Students with Special Needs Return to Revamped Rata School

Rata High School students returned to campus Jan. 7 after the winter break to a renovated campus that will make it easier for them to get around and has improved facilities.

Rata will hold an open house on Feb. 8 from noon to 3 p.m. to celebrate the \$5.2 million renovation. The open house will include entertainment, food trucks and tours.

Rata, on Mesa Avenue near Bullard and Fruit avenues, serves students in grades 9-12 and adults up to age 22 with developmental disabilities, many of whom are medically fragile.

“The staff and I are extremely excited to be back on our campus, to get to work and give our students the best possible education and opportunity to be a successful student in Fresno Unified School District,” said Rata Principal Travis Dyer. “We appreciate the hard



Alicia Imperial-Juarez uses a new tablet, part of the enhanced technology at Rata High School included in an extensive remodeling. Students returned to a refurbished campus after the winter break.

work and dedication of everyone that was involved with this project.”

The project included adding two

classrooms to the existing eight classrooms; adding a life skills room and a life skills kitchen; adding two fully

See **RATA RENOVATIONS**  
Continued on page 8

## Farewell Video of Campus Officer is Shared around the World



Police officer Conrado Martin greets students Dec. 12 during a farewell human tunnel at Cooper Academy.

A video capturing an emotional farewell for campus police officer Conrado Martin is making its way around the globe and setting district records for views and “likes” on social media.

For video, go to [vimeo.com/fresnounified/officermartin](https://vimeo.com/fresnounified/officermartin)

The 90-second video has been viewed 421,063 times, shared more than 8,700 times and has more than 11,000 “likes.”

Martin, a student neighborhood resource officer at Cooper Academy for three years, said he was shocked at

the tremendous positive response to the farewell video, filmed by media specialist Jeff Cook from Fresno Unified’s Communications Department.

“I was just doing my job,” Martin said.

Since his first day at Cooper in August of 2016, students gravitated to Martin.

During his time at the middle school campus, he greeted students every morning with fist pumps, played basketball, football and other games

See **OFFICER MARTIN**  
Continued on page 11

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**Excellence in Education Finalists** (Pages 6 and 7)

**Fresno Unified Recognizes New Teachers** (Page 13)

**Superintendent Message in Spanish and Hmong** (Page 15)



## PARENTS

# Fresno Unified Considers Alternative Weed Control Products

Fresno Unified is considering phasing out the use of Roundup due to concerns about its long-term health effects.

Following a unanimous Dec. 12 vote by the Fresno Unified Board of Education, the district is investigating using alternative weed control products and methods that do not contain the chemical glyphosate, an active ingredient in Roundup. Several members of the community spoke at the board meeting, expressing their concerns about the use of Roundup on district campuses.

The district is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,200 acres of landscaping at schools and facilities.

“As a trustee it is my duty to put the wellbeing of our students and staff first. Whether it’s revising dress code policies or eliminating the use of Roundup, we need to continually evaluate and update our practices. And community voice is a critical part of that. I am proud of the leadership role our board has taken and will continue to push for health-protective and inclusive policies and practices,” said Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas, a member of the Fresno Unified Board of Education.

Along with investigating the use of alternative weed control products and methods, the district committed to cease the purchase of glyphosate-containing products while it investigates alternatives.

### Distrito considera métodos y productos alternos para el control de maleza

Fresno Unified está considerando prohibir el uso del herbicida Roundup luego de que surgiera preocupación sobre los efectos a largo plazo en la salud.

Después de un voto unánime en la junta de la mesa directiva del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno del pasado 12 de diciembre, el distrito está investigando el uso de productos alternos para control de maleza y métodos que no contengan el químico glifosato, el ingrediente principal de Roundup. Varios miembros de la comunidad

opinaron durante la reunión de la mesa directiva; expresando su preocupación sobre el uso de Roundup en las escuelas del distrito.

El distrito es responsable de dar mantenimiento a aproximadamente 1,200 acres de áreas verdes en escuelas e instalaciones.

“Como un miembro de la mesa directiva, es mi deber poner el bienestar de los estudiantes y personal primero. Ya sea en la revisión del código de vestimenta o al eliminar el uso del herbicida Roundup. Continuamente necesitamos evaluar y actualizar nuestras prácticas y la voz de la comunidad es una parte crítica de ese proceso. Estoy orgullosa del rol de liderazgo que la mesa directiva ha tomado y continuaremos nuestros esfuerzos por tener políticas y prácticas incluyentes protectoras de la salud,” dijo Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas, miembro de la mesa directiva escolar de Fresno Unified.

Al mismo tiempo que se hace la investigación sobre productos y métodos herbicidas alternos, el distrito se ha comprometido a suspender la compra de productos que tengan como ingrediente básico glifosato.

### Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv Pom Zoo Lwm Yam Tshuaj Tua Nroj thiab Kev Siv

Fresno Hauv Paus Tsev Kawm Ntawv tau pom zoo tseg tsis siv tshuaj “Roundup” yeeb vim muaj kev txhawj xeeb txog tej teeb meem kev noj qab nyob zoo ntev ntev mus.

Sib law liag ib qho kev pov suab feem coob lub Kaum Ob Hlis tim 12 los ntawm Fresno Unified Board of Education, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tau taug xyuas kev siv lwm yam tshuaj tua nroj thiab kev siv uas tsis muaj tshuaj “glyphosate”, ib qho kev sib tim tshuaj nyob rau hauv “Roundup”. Coob tus neeg koom tes ntawm zej zog tau hais nyob rau hauv pawg thawj coj lub rooj sib tham, hais txog lawv tej kev txhawj xeeb txog kev siv tshuaj “Roundup” hauv hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv tej vaj loog kawm.

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv ris dej ris num rau kev tswj kwv lam li ntawm



The district, which maintains about 1,200 acres of landscaping at schools and other district facilities, is investigating eliminating the use of Roundup due to health concerns. Students at Burroughs Elementary School make good use of the campus’ playground for the Color Run on Nov. 16.

1,200 ev kawj av ntawm cov tsev tsev kawm ntawv thiab tej chaw.

“Tam li ib tug ntawm pawg thawj coj nws yog kuv lub luag hauj lwm muab kev noj qab nyob zoo ntawm peb cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov neeg khiav dej num saib tseem ceeb. Txawm yog nws hloov kho txoj cai hnav tsoos tsho los yog tshem tawm kev siv tshuaj “Roundup”, peb yuav tsum tau luj xyuas nriam thiab qhia tshiab txog peb txoj kev kev xyaum ua. Thiab neeg zej zog lub suab tseem ceeb ntawm feem ntawm. Kuv txaus siab rau kev thawj

coj ntawm peb pawg thawj coj kev saib xyuas thiab yuav tswj xyuas kev cai noj qab nyob huv ntxiv mus thiab xam tej kev cai thiab kev xyaum ua,” Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas hais li, ib tug neeg koom tes ntawm Fresno Unified Board of Education.

Nrog kev taug xyuas kev siv lwm cov tshuaj tswj nroj tsuag thiab kev siv, hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cog lus kom txhob yuav cov khoom “glyphosate-containing” thaum nws tshawb nrhiav lwm txoj kev.

## Fresno Unified is getting social!



Tag us and share posts!  
#FresnoUnifiedIamReady

@fresnounified

@fresnounified

www.facebook.com/fresnounifiedpage

Get Involved!



Fresno Unified School District

## BOARD

**Elizabeth Jonasson Rosas** Area 2  
*Elizabeth.Jonasson.Rosas@fresnounified.org*

Liaison: Brandalyn Hastings  
*brandalyn.hastings@fresnounified.org*

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

**Major Terry Slatic USMC (Retired)** Area 7  
*terry.slatic@fresnounified.org*

Liaison: Michelle Asadoorian  
*michelle.asadoorian@fresnounified.org*

**Claudia Cazares** Area 6  
*Claudia.Cazares@fresnounified.org*

**Veva Islas** Area 4  
*veva.islas@fresnounified.org*

**Keshia Thomas** Area 1  
*keshia.thomas@fresnounified.org*

Liaison: Cherella Nicholson  
*cherella.nicholson@fresnounified.org*

**Carol Mills, J.D.** Area 5  
*Carolmillsfusd@comcast.net*

Liaison: Michele Rodriguez  
*Michele.rodriguez@fresnounified.org*

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Building Futures is a monthly publication of Fresno Unified School District prepared by the Communications Office. To place an ad, contact (559) 457-3733 or email [Communications@FresnoUnified.org](mailto:Communications@FresnoUnified.org).

# SUPERINTENDENT'S Message

## Staff and Students Off to Great Start in New Year

With this being our first issue of Building Futures since the start of the new year, let me start by wishing you a happy new year! The second half of our school year officially kicked off last month after a three-week break, and students and staff are off to a positive start! Perhaps inspired by the new calendar year, there is definitely a feeling of determination and resolve as school sites jump back into classroom learning, athletics and activities. Our new board of education is focused on building upon the momentum established by their predecessors as they evaluate potential shifts in our district's strategic plan and prepare to engage in the budget planning process. I am in awe of their sacrifice to serve the students of this district, each deeply committed to investing strategic resources that will help ensure positive outcomes for kids.



**Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D**  
Superintendent

This month, we will celebrate some

of our board's game-changing investments as we host an open house at Rata High School on Feb. 8 to celebrate our recently completed \$5.2 million renovation. After a year of holding classes at McLane High School, we welcomed students back to campus on Jan. 7. The school serves grades 9-12 and adults up to age 22 with developmental disabilities, many of whom are medically fragile. The campus now features improved facilities and is more accessible for students.

The open house will include entertainment, food trucks and tours. The project included remodeling the existing building and adding two classrooms; adding two fully equipped nurse stations; providing new conference, laundry and support spaces; extending and widening the outdoor walking track; installing new concrete walks for access to the play courts and exercise apparatus; modifying the bus loading/unloading areas; and improving fencing and gates for access security. Every classroom now has a fully accessible restroom and all doors were widened and automated to accommodate wheelchairs and other accessibility equipment.

This month we are also putting the final touches on our new career technical education expansion at Duncan

Polytechnical High School. This project modernizes the current CTE facilities while establishing the first large truck maintenance and repair training facility -- a facility we believe will also support local industries right here in the central valley.

Students will benefit from new classroom space, a maintenance pit for hands-on training, indoor garage workspace and covered exterior space for truck emissions testing. The new building also includes a construction trades education facility, including a large outdoor workspace. Construction also expands our current welding and manufacturing shop classrooms, providing a presentation space, and upgrades the auto maintenance repair space. This has been a long time in the making and without community support for Measure Q and Measure X and our board of education, these kinds of facility improvements would not be possible.

The other vital resource playing a key role in improving the lives of our youth are the adults on the ground -- 10,000 employees who are interacting, men-

See **SUPT. MESSAGE SPANISH AND HMONG**  
Continued on page 15

## Message from Dr. Joseph Castro, President of Fresno State University

### Fresno State is Critical Partner in Producing High Quality Teachers

As part of our mission to boldly educate and empower students for success, Fresno State is committed to preparing quality, well-prepared teachers who can integrate culturally- and linguistically-sustaining teaching practices in diverse classrooms. This can only happen in strong partnership with the district.



**Dr. Joseph Castro**  
Fresno State University  
President

We have expanded our teacher preparation pathway by including our regional partners in these periodic conversations. We

discuss how to improve and strengthen teacher preparation. These conversations must happen as the pathway grows into looking at high school teacher academies and community college pathways.

Our Hispanic-Serving Institution Title V grant meets this need as it focuses on the pathway, starting with community college transfers and the need for more Latinx teachers.

Our elementary credential leaders work hand in hand with several Valley districts in this collaboration. We have a teacher residency at Wishon Elementary. This residency has strengthened the pathway by having the district lens adopted into the approach as well as the foundational theories and practices necessary to prepare effective teachers. Candidates are placed in classrooms on day one, where they

can co-teach with their mentor teachers and experience the everyday experiences of teachers.

As a result of this fruitful collaboration with local school districts and community colleges, our teachers graduate with characteristics of teachers who have been teaching for two years. At Fresno State, we understand the complexity of classrooms today. We depend on input from our relationships with our local district as we reflect on best practices.

As Fresno State has Central California's largest teacher preparation program, we are proud of the strong, collaborative partnership we have established with Fresno Unified School District and the solid educational foundation it creates on behalf of all residents of Fresno.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital, pregnancy or parental status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment (BP 0410). For the full policy, a list of compliance officers, and Title IX information, go to [www.fresnounified.org](http://www.fresnounified.org).



# GOAL 2: ARTS, ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

## Elementary Athletic Highlights from the Fall

### Flag Football Tournament

First place: Birney; followed by Manchester GATE, Easterby, Heaton, Lawless, Viking, King and Columbia

### Girls Soccer Tournament

First place: Figarden; followed by Ewing, Fremont and Addams

### Coed/Boys Soccer Tournament

First place: Winchell; followed by Lane, Birney, Wishon, Yokomi, Aynesworth, Addams and Manchester GATE

### Girls Volleyball

First place: Lane; followed by Kratt, Manchester GATE, Aynesworth, Centennial, Winchell, Columbia and Thomas

## Middle School Athletic Highlights from the Fall

### Boys Basketball

Division I champions: Tenaya  
Division II champions: Ahwahnee  
Division III champions: Sequoia

### Cross Country City Champions

Baird

### Football

Division I champions: Ahwahnee  
Division II champions: Scandinavian

### Golf

Division I champions: Baird  
Division II champions: Cooper  
Division III champions: Tehipite

### Boys Soccer

Division I champions: Gaston  
Division II champions: Terronez  
Division III champions: Ahwahnee

### Girls Soccer

Division I champions: Baird  
Division II champions: Kings Canyon  
Division III champions: Ahwahnee

### Girls Volleyball

Division II champions: Sequoia  
Divisions III champions: Bullard TALENT

### Boys Water Polo

CVAL champions: Computech

### Wrestling

Division I champions: Ahwahnee  
Division II champions: Cooper  
Division III champions: Tehipite

### Wrestling Tournament

First place: Ahwahnee; followed by Cooper and Baird

## High School Athletic Highlights from the Fall

### Boys Cross Country

**Bullard:** District champions; four medalists; Mt. Whitney champions; nine scholar-athletes

**Edison:** Academic team champions (3.37); three medalists; 15 scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** One medalist; two scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Adam Yang NYL champion; one scholar-athlete

**McLane:** Five scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** NYL champions; five medalists; two scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** One medalist

### Girls Cross Country

**Bullard:** Two medalists; 11 scholar-athletes; academic team champions (3.56)

**Edison:** Two medalists; eight scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** Two medalists; three scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Three medalists; three scholar-athletes

**McLane:** One medalist; eight scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** One medalist; three scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** Jessica Valles NYL champion and Division III Central Section champion; four scholar-athletes; two medalists; one scholar-athlete

### Football

**Bullard:** Five scholar-athletes  
**Edison:** Two scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** NYL co-champions; four scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Academic team champions (3.03); eight scholar-athletes

**McLane:** Six scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** NYL co-champions; Vince Branstetter NYL Coach of the Year and City-County All Stars coach; Angel Maldonado NYL Offensive Player of the Year; Alex Quezada NYL Defensive Player of the Year; "Battle of Cedar" and "Little Big Game" winner; 14 NYL all-league (eight second team); six scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** 12 NYL all-league (six second team); three scholar athletes

### Girls Golf

**Bullard:** CMAC champions; two

medalists; Lauren Parayno SoCal qualifier; eight scholar-athletes; academic team champions (3.63)

**Edison:** Alela Rathasombath North Area Qualifier; three scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** One scholar-athlete

**Hoover:** One scholar-athlete

**McLane:** One medalist; five scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** Four scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** One medalist; five scholar-athletes

### Girls Tennis

**Bullard:** Three CMAC all-league; six scholar-athletes

**Edison:** Three CMAC all-league

**Fresno:** Eliza Gonzales NYL singles champion; eight scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Two medalists; three scholar-athletes

**McLane:** Two medalists; two scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** Three scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** Academic team champions (3.68); two medalists; six scholar-athletes

### Girls Volleyball

**Bullard:** One CMAC all-league; six scholar-athletes

**Edison:** Two CMAC all-league (one second team); seven scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** Two NYL all-league (one second team); NYL champions; three scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Academic team champions (3.62); all varsity teams with an average GPA over 3.0; four NYL all-league (three second team); nine scholar-athletes

**McLane:** Two all-league (second team); five scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** Seven scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** One NYL all-league; nine scholar-athletes

### Boys Water Polo

**Bullard:** Two CMAC all-league; four scholar-athletes

**Edison:** Academic team champions (3.50); Central Section Division III runner-up; CMAC co-champions; Ben Wright CMAC Co-Coach of the Year; Damian Young CMAC Co-Most Valuable Player; five CMAC all league (two second team); five scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** NYL champions; Michael Hickey NYL Coach of the Year; Gerardo Granados NYL Player of the Year; four NYL all-league (two second team); two scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Four NYL all-league (one second team); two scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** One NYL all-league (second team); two scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** Two NYL all-league (one

second team); three scholar-athletes

### Girls Water Polo

**Bullard:** One CMAC all-league; four scholar-athletes

**Edison:** Academic team champions (3.76); two CMAC all-league (one second team); nine scholar-athletes

**Fresno:** Three scholar-athletes

**Hoover:** Rachel Perry NYL Goalie of the Year; three all-league (two second

team); four scholar-athletes

**McLane:** Three NYL all-league (two second team); three scholar-athletes

**Sunnyside:** Three NYL all-league (one second team); five scholar-athletes

**Roosevelt:** Mayra Aguilar NYL Coach of the Year; two NYL all-league (one second team); six scholar-athletes



Figarden Elementary School's girls soccer team won the elementary championship.



Scandinavian Middle School's Jacob Hernandez with teammate Khristian Holmes behind him guard Ahwahnee Middle School's Joshua Horton.



Edison High School's Andres Garcia-Diaz battles with Washington Union High School on Dec. 11.



# Lives Changed for Young Birney Students after Cochlear Implants

Two classmates in the deaf and hard of hearing program at Birney Elementary School are on an exciting journey together: learning to listen and talk after cochlear implants.

Avery Castellanos, 3, and Charli Santoyo, 2, have profound hearing

loss and underwent cochlear implant surgery in October. Cochlear implants are designed to mimic the function of a healthy inner ear cochlea. They replace the function of damaged sensory hair cells inside the cochlea to help provide clearer sound than hearing aids can

provide.

Now, the girls are learning to listen and speak through an early intervention program at Birney.

Avery and Charli received their implants within 10 days of each other.

“So we’re going to have these two students basically growing up together learning to listen and speak,” said Fresno Unified audiologist Laurie Smith.

More than 200 students in Fresno Unified are deaf or hard of hearing. Each student is unique and receiving varying degrees of support. Fresno Unified has two programs for students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Birney’s program utilizes listening and spoken language. Norseman Elementary School’s program utilizes American Sign Language.

Ahwahnee Middle School and Hoover High School house both programs. Other students attend their neighborhood school with whatever communication supports they require, such as a hearing assistive technology system or a sign language interpreter.

Avery and Charli attend a special day class at Birney with other students who are deaf or hard of hearing. They receive specialized academic instruction from a deaf education specialist, speech and language therapy, and listening therapy. Students have access to an educational audiologist and hearing assistive technology systems for school use.

At Birney, parents play an integral role in their child’s education.

“We value their involvement and make ourselves available to help guide them in this often unexpected journey of

teaching their child to listen and talk. As children make progress towards their goals, the need for intensive services decreases, and eventually they move on and join their peers in their respective neighborhood schools,” Smith said.

Children with hearing loss are eligible to start school-based programs, such as Birney, as early as 18 months of age. Parents have options and resources available to them within Fresno Unified. An early intervention team works together to provide educational services.

The family’s communication goals help drive the direction for needed supports. When a family wants to teach their child to listen and talk, district specialists are available to educate them on the process.

Avery’s and Charli’s parents are in continual contact with the team at Birney. They participate in lessons to help teach their daughters to attend to sound and identify when they hear something. The cochlear implant is providing access to sounds that they have not heard before, so their brains are working diligently to make sense of what they are hearing.

Parents are taking what the girls are learning in school and replicating it at home to help strengthen auditory comprehension and develop spoken language.

Charli’s father, Daniel Santoya, said he’s excited about the communication improvement he is seeing in his daughter since the cochlear implants.

“I feel this gives her the opportunity to succeed in life,” Santoya said. “Ever since she had the surgery, it’s had a major impact on her.”



Charli Santoya (at left in red) sits with her father, Daniel Santoya, in a special day class at Birney Elementary School for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Charli and Avery Castellanos (in middle in blue) had cochlear implant surgery 10 days apart and are learning to listen and speak at Birney.

## Fresno Unified’s 3rd Annual Job Shadow Day

February 2019  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Students will have an opportunity to Job Shadow at various industry partner locations throughout the month of February. Contact info and sign-up links listed below.



American Ambulance showcasing career options within its organization.

Transportation will be provided for students to and from their school sites.

For more information, email [jeffery.delong@fresnounified.org](mailto:jeffery.delong@fresnounified.org). If you are a **business** and would like to host students, please visit <https://goo.gl/mnn1uK> and complete the interest survey. If you are a **student** and would like to participate, please visit <https://goo.gl/4xKQ5F> and complete the application.

## Fresno Unified School District Important Dates

Feb. 11 and 18	Holidays
March 4	Buyback Day (no school for students)
April 15-22	Spring Break
May 27	Memorial Day
June 6	Last Day of School Year



# Excellence in Education Finalists

## ADMINISTRATORS



**Monica Alvarez**  
Centennial Elementary School



**Jeanne Butler**  
Special Education



**Erica Hasenbeck**  
Prevention and Intervention



**Sally Hernandez-Jimenez**  
Ahwahnee Middle School



**Holland Locker**  
School Leadership



**Maria Maldonado**  
English Learner Services



**Tressa Overstreet**  
Design Science Middle College High School



**Julia Picher**  
Phoenix Elementary Academy

## District Honors Exemplary Employees

The district will showcase some of its finest employees, nominated by their peers, during the annual Excellence in Education dinner Feb. 4.

From among 50 finalists, top employees will be announced in five categories: classified; elementary certificated (teachers, nurses, speech language

pathologists and library media teachers); middle school certificated; high school certificated; and administrators.

One teacher and the classified and administrator winners will move on to Fresno County's Educator of the Year awards.



**Jennifer Stacy-Alcantara**  
Webster Elementary School

## CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Pamela Taylor**  
Easterby Elementary School



**Imelda Aguilar**  
Viking Elementary School



**Janna Kam**  
Anthony Elementary School



**Kirsten Lee**  
Eaton Elementary School



**Michele Markarian**  
Forkner Elementary School



**Isabel Mayoral**  
Storey Elementary School



**Eric Calderon-Phangrath**  
Easterby Elementary School

## CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Victoria Sanders**  
Norseman Elementary School



**Patrick Speir**  
Muir Elementary School



**Mona J. Tatum**  
King Elementary School



**David White**  
Powers-Ginsberg Elementary School



**Bridget Beal**  
Sequoia Middle School



**Elijah Carrillo**  
Yosemite Middle School



**Sarah Chavez-Kemp**  
Sequoia Middle School



# Excellence in Education Finalists



**Kellen Dart**  
Scandinavian Middle School



**Tanya Desmond**  
Health Services



**Rachel Hibler**  
Computech Middle School



**Lisa Poole**  
Computech Middle School



**Tammy Rinkenberger**  
Cooper Academy



**Esmeralda Ruiz**  
Sequoia Middle School



**Jane Wagner**  
Bullard TALENT K-8 School

## CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES HIGH SCHOOL



**Sandra Atkins**  
Design Science Middle College High School



**Nathan Boldt**  
Roosevelt High School



**Stacey Caha**  
Fresno Adult School



**Jeannine DerManouel**  
Fresno High School



**Malisa Ervin**  
Bullard High School



**Alison Harrison**  
Sunnyside High School



**Deborah Henell**  
Design Science Middle College High School

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES



**Tamela Ryatt**  
Sunnyside High School



**Janina Schulz**  
Edison High School



**Eric Walter**  
Fresno High School



**Lorena Almaguer**  
Roosevelt High School



**Mike Bettencourt**  
Bullard High School



**Vangie Carrillo**  
Prevention and Intervention



**Kimberly Conley**  
Special Education



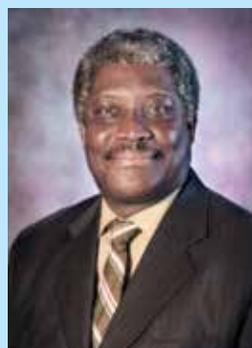
**Julian Contreras**  
Tioga Middle School



**Sandy Sarkisian**  
Sunnyside High School



**Young Thao**  
Scandinavian Middle School



**Randall Wallace**  
Easterby Elementary School



**Sandra Williams**  
Edison High School



**Say Xiong**  
Fresno Adult School





## LINKED LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

# Linked Learning: McLane High Students Explore Medical Careers

Through a career pathway at McLane High School, students learn about job opportunities in patient care, nutrition, and health and wellness.

They can graduate with certifications in ServSafe, OSHA-10, CPR and first aid and medical assisting, valuable training for jobs out of high school or as they pursue higher education.

McLane launched the Medical Education & Research Academy (MERA) in 2004. Students in MERA take a series of courses, including Applied Medical Science, Nutritional Health Science, Medical Health Careers, and Clinical and Administrative Health Careers. In addition, they take science courses tied to health science curriculum, such as Applied Chemistry and Biotechnology as well as Anatomy and Physiology.

Students have the opportunity to participate in numerous work-based learning experiences, including job shadowing



McLane High School students Yulitz Arriola-Robles, front, and Maria Baez Cruz, background, help residents exercise at San Joaquin Gardens assisted living facility. The students are part of the Medical Education & Research Academy at McLane.

and attending health conferences and seminars. In their senior year, students have the opportunity for a 120-hour internship at a health facility.

In addition, MERA is a member of the Health Occupations Students of

America (HOSA), a career technical student organization. Students showcase and compete in statewide and national competitions on a variety of health topics and demonstrate health professional etiquette. Through HOSA, students learn to give back to their community and contribute to the well-being of others.

MERA students also have the opportunity to go on field trips each year, including colleges and medical-related destinations. A favorite trip was to see the Body Worlds Exhibit by Gunther von Hagens.

“The Medical Education & Research Academy helps students understand there are a wide array of careers options

in the health and medical industry available to them,” said Monorith Arun, College and Career Readiness coordinator at McLane. “By experiencing many aspects of the medical field, students graduate more focused on their career goals.”

Arun noted that business partners’ support for MERA is invaluable to the work-based program. Business partners are Community Regional Medical Centers, Veterans Affairs Central California Health Care System, Valley Children’s Hospital, and The Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens. In addition, MERA is certified by the National Academy Foundation and Silver certified by the Linked Learning Alliance.



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<p>Peter Zaki, MD Board Certified Family Medicine</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">CMP Care Center North 1570 E. Herndon Ave., Fresno (559) 437-7380</p> <p>Naveen Alam, MD Board Certified Internal Medicine</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">CMP West 5715 N. West Ave., #102, Fresno (559) 438-0800</p>	<p>Ann Holmes, DO Board Certified Family Medicine</p> 	<p>John Kim, MD Board Certified Pediatrics</p> 	<p>Laurie Dahlberg, CPNP Pediatrics</p> 	<p>Kristen Stockamp, MD Board Certified Family Medicine</p> 	<p>Ji Young Park, MD Board Certified Family Medicine</p> 
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<p style="text-align: center;">CMP Northwest Medical Group 7355 N. Palm Ave., #100, Fresno (559) 271-6302</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CMP Copeland 7145 N. Chestnut Ave. #101 Fresno (559) 299-1178</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CMP Woodward Park 6331 N. Fresno St. #104 Fresno (559) 437-2700</p>
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### RATA

Continued from page 1

equipped nurse stations; providing a new conference room, laundry and support spaces; extending and widening the outdoor walking track; installing new concrete walks for access to the play courts and exercise apparatus; modifying the bus loading/unloading areas; and improving fencing and gates for access security.

Eight of the 10 classrooms now have a fully accessible restroom with the

other two bathrooms across from the classrooms, and all doors were widened and an automated entrance to the building was added to accommodate wheelchairs and other accessibility equipment.

Rata renovations were possible thanks to Measure X, the \$225 million local school bond measure voters overwhelmingly approved in November 2016.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Roosevelt Teacher Encourages Students to Care about Environment

Science teacher Reid Gromis has been with the district since 2010 and at Roosevelt for four and half years. He was a 2018 Excellence in Education finalist. Roosevelt Principal Michael Allen said: "Mr. Gromis takes science beyond the classroom, and he creates opportunities for students to become involved with how science works in the world and the impact that we have on the world around us."



Senior Emily Acosta, Ecology Club vice president, works with Roosevelt High School science teacher Reid Gromis on a succulent project. Gromis leads students in a variety of projects beyond the classroom to beautify their campus and surrounding neighborhoods.

**What made you decide to be a teacher?** I wanted to become a teacher because I enjoy helping people develop skills to be successful in pursuing their own passions. Our world needs passionate and capable people to address the serious problems facing our campuses, communities and country now and in the coming decades.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** There are many enjoyable aspects of being a teacher. Working

with others who are eager to leave a positive impact on their community both within the school and outside partnerships. Specifically, I enjoy

seeing students create original solutions to complex problems, collaborating and analyzing lessons with other constructive and creative teachers,

and supporting valuable community organizations like Fresno Earth Day, USGBC-CC, and the Fresno Discovery Center.

**What is the most challenging about your job?** The most challenging aspect of my job is saying goodbye to so many awesome students at the end of each year. You work so hard to develop relationships and understanding of the students, who are so unique, and you never know where they'll go and what they'll accomplish.

**What impact has the Ecology Club had on students and the campus?** The Roosevelt High School Ecology Club continually works to increase the beauty and sustainability of our campus, community and country.

See Reid Gromis  
Continued on page 10

### New Public Information Officer Brings People Skills to the District



Vanessa Ramirez has been the district's public information officer since August. She handles crisis calls, media events, social media and a variety of other duties.

**What was your background before becoming public information officer?** I have worked in the media world for more than 13 years. I did everything with Spanish TV stations in Fresno, from assignments to producing, reporting and anchoring. In between Univision and Telemundo, I also worked for a year for Central Unified as a community liaison. Since I was very young, I have worked in

jobs that require I interact with people, or customer service.

**What do you hope to accomplish as public information officer?** I want all the good that the district does for its students and its employees to be known. I feel that many times the community does not realize all the services and supports we have for students. I want parents,

students and staff to see the same thing that I see: many people working together making the gears of a great clock work. I want everyone to see that all together, we are building futures.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?** The rhythm, the fast pace and meeting people. There are situations in which you are able to help people, find resources for them, guide them in the right direction and I enjoy the learning that comes with the job.

**What is the most challenging about your job?** To not forget to send that email! Just kidding... the most challenging thing is to learn that not everyone is the same. Individuality is very important. Every person has their own needs and requests -- a very different world from news, where you work and produce for the masses.

**What do most people not know about the duties of the public information officer?** That I am here to help promote all the good stuff that happens in our district, in our schools. I do much more than just respond to media requests. I assist with the district's newspaper,

manage social media, help with messaging for parents, help with crisis calls, and I attend every board meeting, among other duties.

**If you could choose a different career, what would it be?** Writer!! I dream of the day I can publish a book. I have been working on an idea with my best friend and I have more than 100 poems ready to be sent to the printer.

**What is your dream vacation?** God, this is a hard one... I would love to be in a hammock reading a book, no interruptions, drinking black coffee. I prefer the hammock to be on the beach or at a nice hacienda with lots of trees.

**What do you like to do when you are not working?** You mean when I am done cleaning at home? Read, or knit or crochet. I like to be crafty and sometimes I make frames for pictures or handmade necklaces.

**Name one thing most people do not know about you.** This feels like a confession. I don't know how to swim and I have a calcification in my brain (that could explain a lot lol).



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Roosevelt Student uses Hmong Dance Club to Share her Culture

Surita Xiong is proud of many things, including her cultural heritage, religion, family and being a student at Roosevelt High School.

Roosevelt’s Hmong Dance Club allows Surita, 17, to merge her interests.

During practice, her joy in wearing traditional outfits and moving gracefully to music in her native language is apparent. Raising her hands above her head, her fingers help tell the story of the music. Hmong dancing helps Surita and other students understand that they don’t have to leave their culture at home.

“It’s everywhere, and it helps us feel

stronger,” Surita said.

Surita said that sharing her culture with others – even those who seem very different from her – has helped her make new friends. She has also found common ground with her Hispanic friends, such as devotion to their ancestors and spicy food.

A former teacher amazed her once by wearing a traditional Hmong dress and asking the class to celebrate Hmong New Year.

“It was a very nice surprise. I would gladly give my traditional clothes to any one that wants to experience being part of my culture,” Surita said.

Surita, a junior, is focused on finishing high school and pursuing a career in the medical field. While she said some Hmong families do not encourage girls to go to college, her family supports

her academic endeavors. Both of her parents attended school and know that their cultural values will shine even more with a professional education.



Surita Xiong, a junior at Roosevelt High School, enjoys keeping her culture alive through the Hmong Dance Club.

#### REED GROMIS

Continued from page 9

Students are so quick to reveal their genuine curiosity and compassion for the future of their planet when they get their hands dirty working alongside other like-minded students planting gardens or building things out of what others might consider trash.

**How many pounds of trash total have your students collected in the Roosevelt community?** Over the past three years, the Ecology Club has led almost 20 beautification walks around our neighborhood. Our Rough Riders have volunteered their own time to remove more than 1,200 pounds of garbage from our streets and water runoff infrastructure. The most common type of litter collected are single use plastic straws and fast food drink lids.

**Why is it important that students participate in Beautification Walks?** These monthly beautification walks are an easy way for our students to give back to their community. We have been frequently joined by members of the Bass Fishing Club, Art Club, Anime Club, Steve Scholars, and others wanting to make a visibly measurable difference. So many cars passing by honk their support and hopefully many are inspired to reduce their waste and take action to make a positive difference in their community using their

personal strengths and resources.

**Besides the walks, what are other outside the classroom activities you lead for students?** The RHS Ecology Club is always looking to work on community service impact projects. One successful partnership with the Fresno Discovery Center allows club members to maintain the compost piles and animal habitats for the tortoises, worms and koi installations. The club engages with the public during Fresno Earth Day and Open Streets events. Members have also represented our campus at the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Ocean Plastic Pollution Summit.

**Name one thing most people do not know about you.** Judging by the number of followers, I think most people don’t know that I have an Instagram account. Follow us at rhs.ecology.club to see the difference we are making and for inspiring DIY project ideas to implement around your own campus or community.

**If you could choose a career other than teaching, what would it be?** If I wasn’t a teacher, I’d probably work as a National Park Service ranger. It would be so nice to work in the great outdoors teaching interested and engaged visitors about natural history of our country and the importance of preserving and protecting ecosystems for future generations.

### Balderas Elementary School Honors Hmong Culture



Balderas Elementary School students, from left, Emma Reed, Yuna Yang, Kalina Xiong, Khalyna Thao and Kelly Xiong, demonstrate a Hmong dance during a Hmong New Year celebration Dec. 7.



## Fresno Unified Leader Wins State ACSA Recognition

Tamara Neely, director of classified professional learning for the district, was honored in November as Classified Leader of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA).

ACSA announced the award at its Leadership Summit in San Diego.

One of ACSA's priorities is to recognize leaders for their excellence. Through ACSA's annual awards program, it honors students, administrators and community organizations for achievements and dedication to public education.

Neely has been a leader in Fresno Unified since 2006, beginning as a vice principal. As a school leader, she came to recognize the crucial role classified employees play in all aspects of education and student achievement, and was named director of classified professional learning in 2009.

The district initially tasked her with primarily working with the district's school site office managers – about



100 employees. She now works with more than 4,000 classified employees, from office staff to bus drivers to custodial staff.

Neely focuses on sharpening the skills and knowledge of classified employees. The district expects all employees to be adult learners and believes adult learning is critical to student learning.

### OFFICER MARTIN Continued from page 1

at lunch and mingled with students between classes.

He organized an Officer's Club, teaching students about honesty, respect, responsibility and forgiveness. Many of the students did not have a father living in their home, so Martin tried to be a male figure students could look up to and learn from.

Martin, 44, has five children of his own. He was born in Panama but raised in Tennessee.

In December, Martin said his goodbyes at Cooper. He was promoted on Dec. 13 to a sergeant in the Fresno Police Department with a new assignment in southwest Fresno. He has been with the department for 16 years.

Cooper Principal Sandra Auble invited students and staff to line the main corridor of Cooper on Dec. 12 to celebrate Martin. As Martin walked the length of the hallway, it turned into a tunnel of tears and cheers, with Martin hugging and high-fiving students, signing autographs and taking off his glasses to wipe his eyes. Students and staff chanted, "Martin, Martin, Martin."

A visibly emotional Auble is seen using the school intercom to announce the sad news and urging students and staff to say their personal farewells. Auble had wisely jotted down notes on

a Post-it as it became difficult for her to make the announcement, her voice cracking.

All of this was captured beautifully by Cook. Viewers have responded from around the world, including Japan.

Cook stumbled on the idea for the video. The Communications Office had been trying for weeks to reach Martin to do a "Faces of Fresno Unified," weekly videos that feature employees and community partners making a difference for students. Public Information Officer Vanessa Ramirez finally tracked Martin down at a meeting.

While Cook was filming Martin for the Faces video, he learned that Martin had just been promoted and his last day was that week. Cook returned later to capture the celebratory tunnel at Cooper, then headed into the office and filmed Auble making her emotional announcement. The pairing of Auble's announcement with footage of the students lining the corridor as Martin walked its length was the perfect narration for what was happening.

Before police Chief Jerry Dyer approached Martin about being a student neighborhood resource officer, Martin said he never considered being a "school cop." But he loved it and felt called to the position.

"This has been the pivotal point of my career and I wouldn't change it a bit," Martin said. "Not even close."

## Fourteen More Teachers are National Board Certified

Fourteen more Fresno Unified teachers have earned their National Board Certification.

In 2015, Fresno Unified developed a support program for teachers who wished to pursue their National Board Certification, one of the highest achievements for teachers. The 14 teachers who late last year earned the certification are Brinkley Abercrombie, Jon Bath, Joshua Elsasser, Lydia Gonzalez, Janet Hubner, Charlene Lee, Kelly Lightner, Celia Paz, Willow Reed, Janina Schultz, Tamara Smith, Martha Soto, Maria Tafolla, and Alex Volkov.

To earn National Board Certification, teachers must undergo a rigorous,

four-component process demonstrating advanced knowledge, skills and practice in their certificate area. Since the start of the program, a total of 21 Fresno Unified teachers have successfully achieved their certification.

"To achieve National Board Certification demonstrates these teachers' commitment to their craft and their willingness to tackle the various components of the certification process, even while they are already extremely busy in their profession, and likely juggling personal responsibilities as well," said Superintendent Bob Nelson.



Police officer Conrado Martin plays basketball with Anthony Elementary School students during Hero Day on Oct. 26. Martin has been promoted to a new job and won't be working with students at Anthony, Cooper Academy and other campuses. A video of Cooper students' farewell has been shared around the world.



## Parents Invited to Learn about Transition to Middle School and More

Parent University is offering several classes this spring that can help parents support their students' academic progress and improve their community.

The first group of classes began Jan. 29 but parents can still enroll. The second cohort of classes begins March 12. The Parent University website offers a list, including locations.

The classes vary from a single stand-alone session to five-week sessions. Parent University invites parents to learn about key transitions students experience as they move from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school.

Parent University also offers Transition to 12th Grade for high school juniors

heading into their last senior year. All of the transition modules include campus tours, a tour of the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (a half-day program for juniors and seniors), and a high school counselor session.

The spring 2019 cohort includes:

- Standalone sessions on the Local Control and Accountability Plan
- Transition to Middle School
- Transition to High School
- Transition to 12th Grade
- Valley PBS Family Science Night
- Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors)
- Neighborhood Revitalization
- Fresno Residents' Academy

Family Science Night is five weeks and begins the first week of February. It is taught in English and Spanish at Addams, Hidalgo, Olmos, Vinland, Rowell, Holland, Pyle, Leavenworth and Aynesworth elementary schools and Hamilton K-8 School. The classes cover a variety of topics for parents, from helping students become better writers to a workshop on understanding the scientific concept of friction to

navigating social media.

Abriendo Puertas (Opening Doors) is five weeks. Offered in English, Hmong and Spanish, it promotes school readiness and family well-being and helps parents be advocates for their children.

Fort Miller Middle School and Williams Elementary School will host Neighborhood Revitalization modules to help residents connect with resources to increase their quality of life and work together to sustain efforts.

The Fresno Residents' Academy is 13 weeks. The classes teach the community about how the Fresno Police Department works, from patrol to citizens' rights, and will include police Chief Jerry Dyer at some sessions. The police department hopes the sessions will build a stronger relationship with the community and change the community's perception of police.

Transition to Middle School includes the middle school structure and information systems for keeping track of student academic progress; classes offered and types of assessments;

developmental changes during middle school years and prevention strategies for suicide, depression and bullying; how to build positive communication skills at home, including the various communication styles and how communication affects student academic success; how Restorative Practices discipline is implemented and how it affects learning and development; and layout of the campus, meeting the staff and learning about the school's support services for students.

Transition to High School includes resources to help students make the transition; information about the value of joining clubs and organizations; class options; and graduation requirements.

Transition 12th Grade includes resources to help students recover credits to graduate and preparing for graduation; college options and resources; parents' role in supporting the college application process and admission requirements; and information on college costs, financial aid and how parents can help with the process.

### More Information on Parent University Classes

Parent Resource Center at (559) 457-3390 or go to <https://www.fresnounified.org/dept/parentu>



## NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

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State Center Community College District



## Fresno Unified Recognizes New Teachers with Special Signing Day

The district celebrated a group of exemplary student teachers during its first Teacher Signing Day, modeled after a signing day for student athletes committing to colleges.

The district recognized 40 student teachers Dec. 11, with 21 attending the signing day. School site mentors, principals and the Teacher Development Department selected the student teachers, committing to them that they would be hired at a district school. Since the signing day, the teachers are on the path to their own classroom or serving as a substitute teacher until placement during the 2019-20 school year.

The district designed the Teacher Signing Day to honor outstanding student teachers for choosing Fresno Unified and to recognize their hard work. Along with the signing ceremony, held in Bullard High School's lecture hall, the district provided the student teachers with an overview of the hiring process and timeline. The student teachers have the opportunity to substitute teach until a school hires them.

"This is a chance to tell people on the front end, you matter and we love you, you are highly valued," said Bob

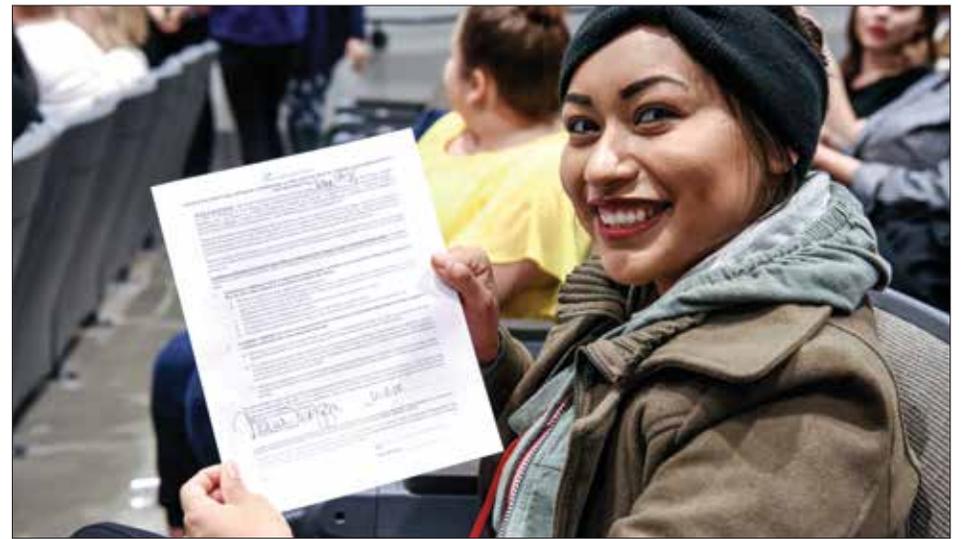
Nelson, Fresno Unified superintendent. "This event honored many of the best and brightest student teachers in the area. It was such an uplifting event, with tons of energy and excitement."

The new Teacher Signing Day is part of Fresno Unified's initiative to "grow its own" teachers to ensure high quality instruction. The Human Resources and Teacher Development departments put on the event.

The district offers a variety of teacher pipeline programs to recruit prospective teachers and give them the support they need to complete the journey.

The district is actively seeking teachers for the 2019-20 school year, including teachers with a multiple subject certificate and teachers for special education, bilingual education, science and math. Many are anticipating a teacher shortage nationwide.

Student teachers recognized at Teacher Signing Day included Gabby Andrade-Stone, a senior at Fresno State who teaches at Wishon Elementary School. "I wanted to work in Fresno Unified. My whole family has been in Fresno Unified, so I am continuing the tradition," said Andrade-Stone.



Student teacher Irma Ortiz shows off her signed commitment to teach for Fresno Unified during the district's first Teacher Signing Day Dec. 11.

After working with a deaf student during her teacher training, she decided to be a special education teacher.

"He totally just changed my life. It was awesome to work with him and just see how he grew," she said.

The student teachers also had the opportunity to hear from Irasema Amays, a second-year teacher who started as a substitute teacher, went through the credential program to be

a student teacher and is now doing amazing work with fourth-graders at Centennial Elementary School.

Amays spoke highly of the district's supports and board investments that help new teachers, including new teacher orientation, instructional coaches, accountable communities, classroom management best practices and the guidance of Principal Monica Alvarez and the Centennial staff.

## Facelifts Underway for High School Weight Rooms Across District

The Fresno Unified Athletic Department, with the generous support of Superintendent Bob Nelson and the district's board of education, has added some muscle to its high school weight rooms.

Students and staff at Duncan Polytechnical, Edison and Fresno high schools are enjoying new weight and fitness equipment and improvements to their weight rooms, while new equipment and renovations are on their way for Bullard, Hoover, McLane, Roosevelt and Sunnyside high schools.

For some of the weight/fitness rooms, equipment dated to the 1970s.

The board approved improvements for the first three high school schools in September. The board approved a phase 2 in December 2018 and a phase 3 for March 2019 that will cover the remaining schools. The phases are

based on need.

The improvements for Duncan Polytechnical include state-of-the-art power lift racks, along with platform flooring and new paint.

"The transformation is remarkable," Nelson said. "According to Principal Jeremy Ward, stepping into the new weight room is like stepping into a brand new facility, floor to ceiling. One could easily mistake the weight room, he says, for brand-new. Students at Duncan are beyond excited to get inside and use the facility, not only in P.E., but during lunch time for the Weight Lifting Club."

The new rubber flooring is a major enhancement as it includes built-in, integrated platforms.

"There are no platforms to trip over as there were in the past and the area is user-friendly for all," said Brett Mar,

co-athletic manager for the district.

The weight/fitness improvements will cost an estimated at \$2 million.

The improvements will expand P.E.

opportunities for students of all abilities and genders, promote more effective conditioning, support healthy fitness habits, and increase athletic competitiveness.



Melany Pha works out on the weights in Duncan Polytechnical High School's refurbished weight and fitness room. The district is investing in new equipment and other improvements at high school weight rooms throughout the district.



## Online Gaming Tournament Helps Involve Students in School



Following the inaugural season of an online eSports league for district high school students, the top teams from each school competed for the league championship Dec. 1. Edison High School's Team 1 won the Division I title and Edison's Team 3 won the Division II title. The Fresno Unified eSports League (FUeL) attracted nearly 130 players from the district's 12 high schools during the fall season. They competed in the Rocket League, a soccer-with-cars game that features three-person teams. eSports is a new way for the district to involve all types of students in an extracurricular activity that engages them in school, with staff and with fellow students, and promotes school spirit.

eSports is a booming industry with numerous job opportunities beyond being a player, including game design, coding, testing, sales and marketing, production, streaming and management. More than 200 colleges and universities are actively recruiting and providing scholarships for eSports players. The University of California system offers \$9 million in eSports scholarships.

## Fun FACTS



▶ More than 38,400 of the district's 40,327 elementary students (96%) took part in a shared outdoor educational experience in 2017-18.

- ▶ The district maintains more than 1,200 acres of landscaping.
- ▶ District employees nominated more than 109 of their colleagues for Excellence in Education awards.



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[valleychildrenspediatrics.org](http://valleychildrenspediatrics.org)

**SUPT. MESSAGE****Continued from page 3**

toring and uplifting our young people. This month we come together as a district to celebrate 50 of our top talent at our annual Excellence in Education awards. Employees being recognized on Feb. 4 are all nominated by colleagues who witness their efforts to develop college and career ready graduates daily. Nominations tell the stories of custodians, bus drivers, food service workers, nurses, teachers, administrators and more who are going above and beyond to inspire, encourage, and guide students to find their path to success. Their compassion for our students is evident and provides a great light for others to follow and I couldn't be more proud to call this year's class of Excellence in Education finalists my friends and co-workers. They bring life to our campuses, our students and those they work with. With these outstanding employees on our team, our students can't help but find success at the end of their educational journey! Every day they are nurturing student relationships with #militantpositivity!

**El Personal y los Estudiantes a un Gran Inicio de Año Nuevo**

Siendo este nuestra primer edición de Building Futures desde que inició el año nuevo, ¡permítanme desearles un feliz año nuevo! La segunda mitad de nuestro ciclo escolar se inició oficialmente el mes pasado después de tres semanas de vacaciones ¡y los estudiantes y el personal se dirigen a un inicio positivo! Tal vez, inspirado por el calendario del año nuevo, definitivamente hay una sensación de determinación y decisión mientras las escuelas regresan al aprendizaje del salón de clase, deportes y actividades. Los nuevos miembros de nuestra junta de educación están enfocados en construir el impulso establecido por sus predecesores como, evaluar los potenciales cambios en el plan estratégico de nuestro distrito y se preparan para participar en el proceso de planificación presupuestal. Estoy asombrado de su sacrificio para servir a los estudiantes de este distrito, cada uno profundamente comprometido a invertir recursos estratégicos que ayudarán a asegurar los resultados positivos para los niños.

Este mes, celebraremos algunas de las inversiones innovadoras como anfitriones de la exhibición de la escuela (open house) en la Preparatoria Rata, el 8 de febrero, para celebrar nuestra renovación de \$5.2 millones terminada recientemente. Después de un año de llevar a cabo las clases en la Preparatoria McLane, el 7 de enero, les daremos la bienvenida de regreso al plantel escolar a los estudiantes. La escuela sirve a los estudiantes del 9-12 grado y adultos con discapacidades de desarrollo hasta los 22 años, muchos de los cuales son médicamente frágiles. Hoy en día, el plantel cuenta con instalaciones mejoradas y más accesible para los estudiantes.

La exhibición de la escuela incluirá entretenimiento, trocas de comida y recorrido de todo el plantel. El proyecto incluyó remodel-

ación de los edificios existentes (10 salones de clase y dos cocinas de destrezas vivientes) y se agregaron dos salones de clases; se agregaron dos estaciones de enfermeras completamente equipadas; proveyendo conferencia nueva, servicios de lavandería y apoyo; extensión y ampliación de la pista de caminar (track); instalación de concreto nuevo de acceso para caminar a las canchas de juego y aparatos de ejercicio; modificar las áreas de subir/bajar del autobús; y mejorar el alambrado (fencing) y puertas (gates) de seguridad de acceso. Todos los salones de clase cuentan ahora con un baño completamente accesible y todas las puertas están amplias y automatizadas para acomodar las sillas de ruedas y otro equipo de accesibilidad.

También, este mes le estamos dando el toque final a nuestra expansión de Carrera técnica educativa a la Preparatoria Duncan Polytechnical. Este proyecto moderniza las instalaciones actuales del CTE mientras se establece el primer mantenimiento de troque y reparación de centro de entrenamiento – una instalación la cual creemos que también apoyará a las industrias locales aquí en el valle.

Los estudiantes se beneficiarán del espacio de los salones nuevos, un garaje de mantenimiento de práctica manual, cochera con áreas para trabajar y exterior cubierto para pruebas de emisiones de camiones. El nuevo edificio también, incluirá una instalación educativa de oficinas de construcción, incluyendo un gran espacio para trabajar al aire libre. La construcción también amplía el taller en el salón de clase de soldadura y fabricación, proveyendo un espacio de presentación y actualiza el espacio de reparación de mantenimiento automotriz. Esto ha tomado mucho tiempo para realizarlo y sin el apoyo comunitario de las Medidas Q y X y nuestra junta de educación, este tipo de mejoras a la instalación no hubieran sido posible.

El otro recurso vital que desempeña un papel clave en mejorar las vidas de nuestros jóvenes son los adultos en el área --10,000 empleados que están interactuando, guiando y animando a nuestros jóvenes. Este mes nos reunimos como distrito para celebrar a 50 de nuestros principales talentos en nuestra Excelencia anual en los reconocimientos educativos. Los empleados obtienen el reconocimiento el 4 de febrero, todos son nominados por colegas que presencian sus esfuerzos para el desarrollo de estudiantes graduados listos para la universidad/colegio y una carrera diariamente. Las nominaciones cuentan las historias de conserjes, conductores de autobuses, empleados de servicios alimenticios, enfermeras, maestros, administradores y más que van más allá para inspirar, motivar y dirigir a los estudiantes a encontrar su camino al éxito. Su compasión para nuestros estudiantes es evidente y provee una gran luz para que otros puedan seguir y no podría sentirme más orgulloso de llamarles amigos y compañeros de trabajo a los finalistas de la clase de Excelencia en Educación este año. Ellos traen vida a nuestros campos escolares, a nuestros estudiantes y con los que trabajan. ¡Con es-

tos empleados tan excepcionales en nuestro equipo, nuestros estudiantes no pueden menos que encontrar el éxito al final de su viaje educativo! ¡Cada día consolidan las relaciones del estudiante con #militantpositivity!

**Cov Neeg Khiav Hauj Lwm thiab Cov Tub Kawm Ntawv Tau So rau Kev Pib Lub Xyoo Tshiab**

Nrog rau qhov nov yog peb thawj tsab xov xwm ntawm "Building Futures" pib txij thaum pib ntawm lub xyoo tshiab, cia kuv pib los ntawm thov kom nej noj qab nyob zoo lub xyoo tshiab! Qhov ib nraw ntawm peb lub xyoo kawm ntawv twb tau pib ntawm lub hli dhau los tom qab ib qho kev so peb lub lim tiam, thiab cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov neeg khiav dej num tau so rau ib qho kev pib zoo! Tej zaum yog kev tshoov siab los ntawm lub xyoo tshiab, nws yog ib qho kev xav txiav txim tseeb thiab raws li cov tsev kawm ntawv xav rov qab mus rau hauv lub chav kawm kawm, kev ua kis las thiab tej dej num ua. Peb cov thawj coj kev kawm txuj ci tshiab tau ua ntsees rau kev tsim kom muaj lub zog los ntawm lawv cov neeg ua ntej raws li lawv tau luj xyuas cov kev hloov hauv peb lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv cov tswv yim npaj thiab npaj mus txuam hauv cov kev ua npaj pob nyiaj txiag. Kuv yog lawv tus tsiaj fij los pab cov tub kawm ntawv ntawm lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv no, txhua tus mob siab kub siab cog lus los nqis peev tswv yim uas yuav pab tau muaj txiag ntsim rau cov me nyuam yaus.

Nyob rau lub hlis no, peb yuav ua kev zoo siab ntawm peb pawg thawj coj kev hloov dej num kev nqis peev raws li peb tau qhib lub tsev kawm ntawv hauv Rata High School rau lub Ob Hlis tim 8 los ua kev zoo siab peb tau ua tiav qhov kev txhim kho \$5.2 lab. Tom qab muaj cov chav kawm ib lub xyoos hauv McLane High School, peb tau tos txais cov tub kawm ntawv rov qab tuaj rau lub Ib Hlis tim 7. Tsev kawm ntawv pab cuam rau qib 9-12 thiab cov neeg laus txog hnuv nyoog 22 xyoos nrog cov muaj lub cev xiam oo qhab, coob tus kho tsis zoo. Lub tsev kawm ntawv tam sim no xim xoo txhim kho tej chaw thiab muaj kev nkag tau ntau ntxiv rau cov tub kawm ntawv.

Yuav qhib lub tsev (open house) muaj kev lom zem, lub tsheb thauj khoom noj thiab kev ncig xyuas. Qhov dej num xam nrog kev hloov kho cov tsev ib txwm muaj los (10 lub chav kawm thiab ob lub chaw ua noj ua haus) thiab ntxiv ob lub chav kawm ntxiv; ntxiv ob lub chaw neeg saib mob muaj khoom txhij; npaj muaj chaw sab laj tshiab, muaj chaw ntxhua khaub ncaws thiab kev txhawb pab; txuas ntxiv thiab nthuav txoj kev taug nraum zoo kom dav fo; puav xis mas tshiab mus rau tom qhov chaw ua si thiab cov khoom ua si; hloovk ho cov chaw npav nres tso neeg tawm/nce npav; thiab txhim kho laj kab thiab rooj vag rau kev nkag ruaj ntseg. Tam sim no txhua lub chav kawm muaj tsev dej siv tau thiab txhua lub qhov rooj dav fo thiab taus maus tiv ua kom cov rooj zaum nkag tau thiab lwm yam cuab yeej nkag tau.

Nyob rau lub hlis no peb kuj ua txhua yam

kawg rau peb lub chaw "career technical education expansion" nthuav tshiab hauv Duncan Polytechnical High School. Qhov dej num kho dua tshiab nov tam sim no CTE cov chaw tam sim no tab tom tsim thawj lub chaw loj tshaj plaws kho "truck" thiab chaw kawm kho – ib lub chaw peb ntseeg tias kuj yuav txhawb pab tej kev lag luam hauv zos nyob rau ntawm no hauv lub loom tiaj.

Cov tub kawm ntawv yuav tau txais txiaj ntsig los ntawm chav kawm tshiab, qhov chaw tu vaj tu tsev rau kev nqis tes xyuum ua, chaw ua chaw kho tsheb sab hauv thiab chaw kho tsheb vov sab saum nyob sab nraud zoov rau kuaj "truck emissions". Lub tuam tsev tshiab kuj muaj xws li kev tsim kho kev lag luam kev kawm, nrog rau ib lub chaw ua hauj lwm dav fo nyob sab nraum zoov. Kev tsim kho kuj tseem nthuav dav peb txuas hla tam sim no thiab tsim chav kawm, muaj qhov chaw nthuav qhia, thiab kho lub qhov chaw kho tsheb. Qhov no tau ntev heev rau kev txiav txim siab thiab tsis muaj kev txhawb nqa hauv zej zog los ntawm Measure Q, Measure X thiab peb pawg thawj coj ntawm kev kawm txuj ci, yog tias tsis muaj tej kev txhawb pab li no cov kev txhim kho no yuav tsis muaj peev xwm ua tau.

Lwm qhov chaw tseem ceeb uas ua rau lub luag hauj lwm tseem ceeb hauv kev txhim kho lub neej ntawm peb cov tub ntxhais hluas yog cov neeg laus hauv thaj av - 10,000 tus neeg ua hauj lwm uas muaj kev sib koom tes, kev cob qhia thiab txhawb nqa peb cov tub ntxhais hluas. Lub hlis no peb tuaj koom ua kev tam li ib lub hauv paus tsev kawm ntawv los ua kev zoo siab txog 50 ntawm peb cov txuj ci zoo ntawm peb qhov qhov kev niaj xyoo muab dej siab Kev Kawm Tau Txuj Ci Zoo. Cov neeg ua hauj lwm tau txais kev pom zoo rau lub Ob Hlis tim 4 yog tag nrho cov neeg tus npe los ntawm nws cov tib neeg nws ua tim khawv lawv kev sib zog los tsim kev college thiab npaj txhij kawm tiav ua hauj lwm txhua hnuv. Cov kev tso npe qhia tau tej dab neeg ntawm cov neeg tu vaj tu tsev, cov neeg tsav tsheb npav, cov neeg ua zaub mov noj, cov neeg saib mob nkeeg, cov xib fwb, cov thawj coj thiab tshaj ntawm nws qhov kev ua thiab deev siab, txhawb, thiab coj cov tub kawm ntawv los nrhiav lawv txoj kev rau kev vam meej. Lawv txoj kev hlub tshua rau peb cov tub kawm ntawv muaj tim khawv thiab ua lub teeb ci rau lwm tus tau taug qab thiab kuv tsis muaj ib yam uas yuav zoo siab tshaj rau lub xyoo no chav kawm kev sib tw Kawm Txuj Ci Zoo Tshaj Plaws kuv tej phooj ywg thiab cov khub ua hauj lwm. Lawv coj lub neej tuaj rau hauv peb lub tsev kawm ntawv, peb cov tub kawm ntawv thiab cov neeg lawv ua hauj lwm nrog. Nrog rau cov neeg ua hauj lwm zoo nov nrog peb pab pawg neeg, peb cov tub kawm ntawv pab tsis tau lawv tus kheej tab sis nrhiav tau kev vam meej thaum xaus ntawm lawv txoj kev kawm txuj ci! Txhua txhua hnuv lawv pab txhawb cov tub kawm ntawv muaj kev sib raug zoo nrog #militantpositivity!



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