Fresno Unified will Reopen Schools to In-Person Learning April 6

■ Campuses will Welcome Back Youngest Learners First

Students will resume in-person instruction with their teachers on April 6, returning to campuses ready to provide safe and stable learning environments.

The district’s plan to phase in the return of students will begin with the youngest learners. Students will be grouped in cohorts to ensure physical distancing requirements.

For updates on reopening plans, visit fresnounified.org.

The district will be working with families to determine who wants to return to in-person learning or remain in distance learning with their teachers. Reopening plans are contingent upon Fresno County reaching the red tier of the state’s risk levels.

Superintendent Bob Nelson estimates more than 30,000 students will likely

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Enroll Now for High Quality Preschool and Kindergarten

Exciting news: Parents of preschool students can now enroll their students using an online process. Preschool enrollment opens on April 1 for Fresno Unified’s high-quality early learning programs for the 2021-22 school year. Options include dual immersion language programs at select schools. Through dual immersion, students learn to speak, read and write in two languages. Programs are available in Spanish and Hmong.

Fresno Unified offers preschool for 3-year-olds, pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten. Enrollment for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten began on March 1.

Research shows that children who start school early build a strong foundation for future success. For more information, go to fresnounified.org, contact your school, or call (559) 457-3416.

Superintendent Bob Nelson receives his COVID-19 vaccination March 6 at Valley Children’s Hospital, which has partnered with Fresno Unified to provide up to 3,000 vaccines to district employees.

Student Art Goes Virtual (Page 6) Gibson Student Wins Spelling Bee (Page 7) Campus Planned for Old Juvenile Hall Site (Page 10) Superintendent Message in Spanish and Hmong (Page 15)
return to campuses on April 6. Students and staff will follow all safety practices, including wearing masks, staying physically distanced, practicing proper hand hygiene, not mixing with other students outside of their cohort, and completing their daily self-health screening before coming to campus.

Plan Announced March 2
Nelson, Fresno Teachers Association President Manuel Bonilla and board members announced the new reopening plans on March 2 during a virtual event.

“Our teams are eager to get back in space with our students,” Nelson said.

Labor partners and the district came to the new reopening agreement amid dropping COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates for Fresno County and the emergence of widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

Nelson said he expects all district employees who desire to be vaccinated will have had the opportunity to do so by the end of March, thanks to partnerships with Valley Children’s Healthcare and United Health Centers.

The district is working with The California Endowment and United Health Centers to provide ongoing testing for staff and students as an added safety layer.

Thousands of Students already on Campuses
By March 8, about 10,000 students are expected on campuses. Cohorts of students with the highest needs were back on campus for their distance learning, with access to reliable internet, staff support and school meals, beginning Feb. 22. Also in February, low-risk high school sports were allowed to return to competition.

In addition, more than 100 teachers volunteered to return to their schools across the district to simultaneously teach up to 10 students in their classrooms and their students online. Simultaneous teaching is going on Tuesday through Friday.

Simultaneous Teaching Pilots
These simultaneous teaching pilots are helping test technology and determine the best strategies for simultane-ous teaching when the district begins to transition back to in-person learning. Because of the need for six-feet physical distancing in classrooms, schools will be utilizing a hybrid learning environment with simultaneous in-person and distance learning.

Beginning on March 8, small groups of students will be able to get extra help on Mondays, with nearly 750 teachers volunteering to provide up to three hours of in-person support to these students.

Some Sports are Back in Action
The district has also been able to allow several sports to begin competition this month with numerous safety protocols in place, based on direction from the California Department of Public Health and California Interscholastic Federation.

Those sports are cross country, track, tennis, golf and swimming and diving. While other more high-contact sports have not been cleared to compete yet, they are practicing.

The district is making plans for a robust summer school program to help students in need of recovering credits for graduation or who have fallen behind in their learning during distance learning.

El Distrito Unificado de Fresno Volverá a Abrir las Escuelas para Aprendizaje En-Persona el 6 de abril
Las escuelas les darán la Bienvenida Primera a los Aprendices Pequeños
Los estudiantes regresarán a la instrucción en persona con sus maestros el 6 de abril, regresando a la escuela listos para proveer un medio ambiente de aprendizaje seguro y estable
El plan del distrito de incorporar gradualmente el regreso de los estudiantes comenzará con los estudiantes más pequeños. Los estudiantes serán agrupados en grupos para asegurar los requisitos de distancia física.
Para actualizaciones en los planes de la reapertura, visite fresnounified.org.
El distrito estará trabajando con las familias para determinar quienes quieren regresar al aprendizaje en-persona o mantenerse en aprendizaje a distancia con sus maestros. Los planes de Reapertura son contingentes del Condado de Fresno alcanzando el nivel rojo de los niveles rojos del estado.
Superintendente Bob Nelson estima que es probable que más de 30,000 estudiantes regresen a las escuelas el 6 de abril. Los estudiantes y el personal seguirán todas las medidas de seguridad incluyendo el uso de cubre bocas, manteniéndose en distancia física, practicando el uso de higiene adecuado de las manos, no mezclándose con otros estudiantes fuera de su grupo pequeño (cohort), y completando su examen diario de salud personal antes de venir a la escuela.
El Plan anunciado el 2 de marzo
Nelson, el presidente de la Asociación de Maestros de Fresno Manuel Bonilla y los miembros de la mesa directiva anunciaron los planes nuevos de reapertura el 2 de marzo durante un evento virtual.

“Nuestros equipos están ansiosos para regresar en espacio con nuestros estudiantes,” dijo Nelson.

Socios Laborales y el distrito vinieron al nuevo acuerdo de reapertura en medio de la caída de una infección del COVID-19 y tasas de hospitalización para el Condado de Fresno y la aparición de una disponibilidad generalizada de la vacuna y exámenes del COVID-19.

Nelson dijo que él espera que todos los empleados del distrito quienes desean ser vacunados tendrán la oportunidad de hacerlo para finales de marzo, gracias a las asociaciones de Sanidad Infantil del Valle (Valley Children’s Healthcare) y a Centros de Salud Unidos (United Health Centers).

El distrito está trabajando con La Dotación de California y Centros de Salud Unidos (The California Endowment and United Health Centers) para continuar con exámenes para el personal y los estudiantes como una capa de seguridad añadida.
Miles de Estudiantes ya están en las Escuelas
Para el 8 de marzo, se esperan alrededor de 10,000 estudiantes en las escuelas. Grupos de estudiantes con necesidades más altas regresaron a la escuela para su aprendizaje a distancia, con acceso a internet confiable, ayuda del personal y comidas escolares, comenzando el 22 de febrero. También en febrero, deportes escolares de preparatoria de bajo riesgo fueron permitidos para regresar a competir.
Además, más de 100 maestros fueron voluntarios para regresar a sus escuelas en todo el distrito para enseñar simultaneamente hasta 10 estudiantes en su clase y a sus estudiantes en línea.

Piloto de Enseñanza Simultánea
Estas clases piloto están ayudando a examinar la tecnología y determinando las mejores estrategias para la enseñanza simultánea para cuando el distrito comience la transición de regreso al aprendizaje en persona. Debido a la necesidad de distanciamiento físico de seis-pies en los salones de clase, las escuelas utilizarán un ambiente de aprendizaje híbrido y con aprendizaje a distancia y en persona simultáneamente.

Comenzando el 8 de marzo, grupos pequeños de estudiantes podrán obtener ayuda extra los lunes, con casi 750 maestros voluntarios para proveer hasta tres horas de ayuda en persona a estos estudiantes.

Algunos Deportes están de Regreso en Acción
El distrito también ha podido permitir que varios deportes comiencen la competencia este mes con numerosos protocolos de seguridad implementados, basado en las instrucciones del Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Fresno.

Esos deportes son de correr en campo (cross country), correr en pista, tenis, golf, natación y clavados. Mientras otros deportes de más alto contacto no han sido autorizados para competir aún, ellos están practicando.

El distrito está haciendo planes para un sólido programa de escuela de verano para ayudar a los estudiantes que necesitan recuperar créditos para graduarse o a quienes se han atrasado en su aprendizaje durante el aprendizaje a distancia.

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We’re Preparing to Return to In-Person Learning at our Campuses

Hello, Fresno Unified family! This month we usher out winter and welcome in the springtime. That changing of seasons always brings a freshness with it, but I also know that this month is carrying a heavy load for all of us as we officially look at one year of COVID-19 disrupting every aspect of our lives. That is not an easy anniversary for any of us to recognize, and certainly not one to celebrate. But as hard as it is, I am grateful that things are moving in our county and especially in our district to get our students and staff back to campuses.

We have been incredibly grateful to see a sharp decline in COVID-19 cases and positivity rates since our post-holiday peak in mid to late January. With that decline, along with the increased accessibility to vaccinations and testing, we were able to announce our new agreement to return to campuses in the red tier with a projected first date of instruction on April 6! We plan to phase in the return to campuses starting with our youngest learners in a cohort model with simultaneous live teaching for students on campus and at home in distance learning. With simultaneous teaching, all students will be live with their teachers and classmates, whether they are physically in the classroom or at home. The schedules are already available on our website and depending on your student’s school and grade, they will be in live simultaneous teaching from 9 a.m. to at least 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. More information is coming your way as we continue to prepare for the return on April 6.

In the meantime, we will continue increasing our supports to students through the month of March. First, we brought back our small on-campus cohorts at the end of February. This included inviting back all our high-need students who had been on campus for support of their distance learning prior to the winter break. We will expand those on-campus cohorts as our COVID numbers continue to drop.

Also at the end of February, we brought back our pilots for simultaneous teaching. We know that when we do transition our students back to in-person learning we will have to operate in a hybrid learning environment so we can accommodate the necessary six feet of physical distance in our classrooms. To do so effectively, where our students receive live instruction from their teacher whether they are at home or in the classroom, our teachers will be simultaneously teaching both cohorts of their students at once utilizing technology. The pilots that are currently underway include volunteer teachers who are back on campus piloting different types of technology to determine best practices for all our teachers as we return to campuses.

Next, we’ve worked as a team to provide even more opportunities for in-person student supports through teachers who are volunteering to come back to their campuses on Mondays to be with students who need those additional supports. Those in-person supports begin on Monday, March 8 and our teachers and site administrators will be working to reach out to students in need to offer the additional help.

Our team has also been successful in securing opportunities for all our Fresno Unified staff to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine in the month of March. Our teams have been offered several options to get their vaccine quickly and safely and we’ve been thrilled to see so many get signed up for their vaccines! Through exclusive partnerships with Valley Children’s Healthcare and United Health Centers, we’re also able to guarantee appointments for our team members, only further expediting that process of vaccination. While our reopening plans aren’t contingent on everyone getting vaccinated, we know that the added layer of safety is a huge relief to our staff and to the students and their families as they return to in-person learning next month.

There is hope, there is a plan, and there is a future!

Message from Dean Watanabe, Fresno Chaffee Zoo Chief Conservation Education Officer

Fresno Chaffee Zoo has developed a video library of unique lessons to support educators and bring science and the zoo to students. The Science with the Zoo video lessons range in topics from animal adaptations to landforms, habitats to weather. These lessons are designed for synchronous (with a teacher and classmates at a specific time online) or asynchronous work, giving educators control of how the lessons are best presented to students in this unique time.

For students in kindergarten through fourth grade, there are six different 30-minute Next Generation Science Standards-aligned lessons per grade. For high school, 12 different 60-minute videos are available for students in a variety of subjects, including anatomy, biology and zoology. Each lesson ends with a Who’s Who at the Zoo segment to showcase career options at the zoo. Each video includes a transcript with suggested stopping points for further discussion with students. Accompanying worksheets and Check for Understandings make delivery of the lesson even easier. These videos are free to use for all FUSD teachers. The Science with the Zoo video library can be purchased in total, by grade level, or by individual lesson, and is at no cost to teachers or administrators outside FUSD.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo’s mission is to educate, inspire and conserve. With this program and partnership with Fresno Unified School District, the zoo is proud to advance its mission through educational materials that underscore to students the importance of conserving our natural world.
Frequently Asked Questions on Returning to In-Person Instruction

Return Dates for Cohorts and In-Person Instruction

When will Fresno Unified return to in-person learning? Under a new agreement with labor partners, the district will return to campuses in the red tier with a projected first date of instruction on April 6.

What if Fresno County is not in the red tier of the state’s risk levels by April 6? If the county is still in the purple tier, the district will not start returning to in-person learning but will continue to expand on-campus cohorts of high-needs students for distance learning, Monday in-person supports, and simultaneous teaching pilots that have already brought thousands of students back to campuses.

What is the plan for phasing in students? The district will begin bringing back students starting with the youngest learners.

What about middle and high school students? Middle and high school students will also return to in-person learning through a phased-in approach that is currently being finalized.

Simultaneous Instruction

What time will students have instruction? The schedules are available on COVID-19 Information page at fresnoufied.org. Depending on school and grade, they will be in live simultaneous teaching from 9 a.m. to at least 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

What safety procedures will be in place? When students and staff return to campus, all state and county safety protocols are required, including wearing masks, self-health screening, and physical distancing of six feet. Given that there is no scenario under which we can provide six feet of physical distance for ALL our students, even in the moderate tier our return to school will be in phases, starting with our youngest students.

Will students and staff be required to wear masks when they return to campus? Based on state and local health guidance, masks are required both inside and outside for students, staff and essential visitors for ages 2 years old and older. Fresno Unified is supplying five masks to each student and district staff member. If there is a medical reason a student or staff cannot wear a mask, a doctor’s note must be provided.

What additional personal protective equipment (PPE) is being provided to employees? All staff have or will receive five Fresno Unified cloth masks. Additional PPE is provided to health services staff, special education, early learning and athletic trainers. Classroom and office kits have been created to include hand sanitizer, wipes, first aid kit and gloves.

Athletics

Can high school athletic teams return to practice and competition? As of Feb. 1, the California Interscholastic Federation approved high school athletic teams identified as low risk in the purple tier to return to practice and competition. Those sports include cross country, track, tennis, golf and swimming and diving. All other high school sports have also been cleared to return to conditioning.

Option to Remain in Distance Learning

Will families be given a choice of sending their student to campus or staying with distance learning? Parents will have a choice to keep their student home and remain in distance learning. Parents are asked to register their student to return to school. The process to register your child to return to in-person learning is being finalized.

With physical distancing requirements of six feet, how many students can be in class? Based on physical distancing requirements of six feet, an average of 10 students will be in a classroom.

How will teachers provide instruction with some students physically in class and others continuing with distance learning? Technology provides Fresno Unified teachers the ability to simultaneously teach students both on campus and those who remain at home. This hybrid method provides more instructional time for students and ensures students receive the same high-quality instruction whether in person or remote. It also provides stability for students by staying with their teacher.

Self Health Screening

What type of health screening will be in place for students and staff? Since last spring, Fresno Unified has been conducting a self-health screening at home prior to leaving for work or school. That same screening tool will be in place for students. If an employee, student or essential visitor answers “yes” to any of the self-health screening questions, they should stay home and notify their school site or department. You can find more detailed information on health and safety protocols by viewing this video, our self-health screening tool found on www.fresnounified.org.

What if a student or staff member shows COVID symptoms at school? What happens then? COVID symptoms may include high fever and chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, repeated shaking/tremors, muscle pains or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. While some of these symptoms can also indicate the common cold or flu, students and or staff showing any of these symptoms will be sent home. Students will be sent to an isolation room until they have been picked up by parents. Staff/ students will have to isolate for at least 10 days or until they have received a negative COVID test. Students are resolved and they have gone 24 hours without a fever and without fever reducing medication. Households members will also need to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days.

Transportation and Meals

How will transportation be provided for students? Transportation routes have been developed. Riders will be required to wear masks and physical distance on the bus and at the bus stop. To honor physical distancing, buses will operate at less than full capacity. For families who can, we encourage driving or walking your child to school.

How will meals be served? Breakfast and lunch meal distribution will continue on a grab and go basis at designated sites. Students returning to campus will receive their meals on campus during scheduled meal periods.

Parent and Staff Notifications

What if there is a positive case at school or work? How will parents and staff be notified? If a student or staff member is having symptoms on campus, they will be immediately sent home. However, this is not an indication of a positive case. Should a student or staff confirm positive, the entire school/work community will be notified by email, letter or phone message. Close contacts (those who were within six feet for more than 15 minutes cumulatively) will be notified personally and instructed to self-quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. To ensure health privacy notifications will not include the individual’s name. Should three individuals at a school or department confirm positive within 14-days (considered an outbreak) Fresno Unified will work with the Fresno County Department of Public Health to message to the school community and determine if returning to 100% distance learning is necessary.

If a student/staff member has been around someone with COVID-19, would they be required to test before coming to school, even with no symptoms? No. If they are determined a close contact, requirements dictate they quarantine for a minimum of 10 days regardless of a test result. This is because an exposed person can develop COVID-19 anytime during that 14-day incubation period. Should families want to have their child tested, they should contact their healthcare provider or contact one of the county’s many testing sites.

Employee Testing and Vaccinations

Fresno County recommends testing staff for in-person instruction every two weeks. Is there a plan in place for testing staff on a regular basis? Employees will be randomly selected for testing through a partnership with United Health Centers twice per month to provide another layer of safety prac...
District Cookbook in the Works

The district is compiling a Fresno Unified cookbook, beginning with recipes from a recent Cultural Cooking Challenge.

Students of all ages participated in the challenge through January, sending in recipes, videos and photos. About 20 students participated.

Students were encouraged to submit recipes for dishes important to their family’s culture or traditions.

Juvental Tafolla, a student at Fresno Adult School, contributed his family’s recipe for chicken flautas, writing: “This recipe came from my family ancestors, only that my generation might have added an extra topping on them.”

Simon, also from Fresno Adult School, provided the recipe for sweet raisin tamales, writing: “Family recipes are to be cherished and saved in a family cookbook that you can share with your children.”

For elementary students, the cooking challenge was part of a series of challenges from the Virtual Innovation Program (VIP), a partnership with Fresno State. During distance learning,

VIP has engaged students in problem-solving and fun challenges, using items they already have at home.

“The Cultural Cooking Challenge was a fun way to encourage our students to talk with their families about the food that is part of their culture, perhaps food that made during the holidays. This was also a way to celebrate the diversity of our district,” said Superintendent Bob Nelson.

Former Fresno Mayor Lee Brand, left, presents Roosevelt High School Principal Michael Allen with a check for $100,000 for scholarships during an event Feb. 24. Brand is an alumnus of Roosevelt. The funds will provide scholarships for Roosevelt seniors for 10 years. Brand donated the remainder of his campaign account to local organizations to use for scholarships.

REOPENING Q AND A
Continued from page 4

When will Fresno Unified staff be vaccinated for COVID-19? The district anticipates all staff who would like to receive a COVID-19 vaccination will be able to receive their first dose by the end of March, thanks to partnerships with Fresno County Department of Public Health, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Valley Children’s Healthcare, and United Health Centers. While not required, the district hopes that all employees will take advantage of the free vaccinations in order to reduce the spread of the virus.

At Cooper Academy, students who have returned to school for their distance learning can decorate their space. The cardboard cubbies at each workstation help students and cut down on distractions.

New and Revised Board Policies

The Fresno Unified Board of Education has approved the following board policies and exhibits:

• (deleted) BP 5112.2 Exclusions from Attendance
• BP 5113.1 Chronic Absence and Truancy
• BP 5126 Awards for Achievement
• *(NEW)* BP 5141.5 Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health
• BP 5145.7 Sexual Harassment
• BP 6020 Parental Involvement
• BP 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials
• BP 6179 Supplemental Instruction
• E 9270 Conflict of Interest – Statement of Economic Form 700

These updated policies/exhibits can be found online at: https://bp.fresnounified.org/. For additional information: (559) 457-3736.
Visual Art Galleries Provide a Platform for Highlighting Student Work

Fresno Unified student art projects are now available for viewing through a new virtual gallery.

The high caliber virtual galleries up so far feature work from Bullard TALENT K-8 School, Wawona School and Bullard, Edison, Hoover and Roosevelt high schools. By the end of May, 20 galleries will be on display.

The virtual galleries are a project of the district’s Relevant Engagement in Art and Literacy (R.E.A.L.) initiative, which launched in the 2016-17 school year. R.E.A.L. initially included 12 teachers from across the district participating in a collaborative project modeled after McLane High School’s award-winning ArtVenture Academy work.

By the 2019-20 school year, 50 classrooms from elementary through Adult Transition Program students were involved.

R.E.A.L. connects powerful, socially relevant themes within a variety of texts and art culminating in exhibits of student art and writing during the citywide monthly ArtHop events promoted by the Fresno Arts Council. This experience over the past several years has been incredibly powerful for students, teachers, families, and the Fresno community.

The district held the exhibits in rented professional gallery space at the M Street Arts Complex.

Although the community cannot be in the same physical space this school year for the R.E.A.L. art exhibitions, the virtual galleries offer equally professional spaces for curated student pieces. This virtual platform now allows community members from across the country to see the work of Fresno Unified students.

Examples of virtual exhibits available for viewing:

- Bullard TALENT (teacher Kathy Pape-Perez) – How has COVID-19 Impacted your Life and Voice?
- Bullard High (teacher Nicole Vargas) – 2020 Vision: In our Eyes
- Hoover (teacher Tom Wilson) – Foster Empathy through Art
- Roosevelt (teacher Josephine Allen) – How our World Views Disabilities

Hoover High School Athletic Director is Lacrosse Coach of the Year

Tim Carey, athletic director at Hoover High School and the girls lacrosse coach, has been named the lacrosse coach of the year by a national organization.

Carey is among 23 coaches from across the country selected as 2020 recipients for a wide range of sports by the Coaches Federation of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Carey was among only two selected from California and the only coach from the Central Section to be named a national coach of the year. NFHS announced the awards on Feb. 10.

Carey was instrumental in bringing lacrosse to the Central Section in 2009. Hoover is one of nine high schools in the section to offer lacrosse. His teams have won six league titles since he started the program. During five of his seasons, his teams were undefeated.

“It’s amazing to be honored this way,” Carey said. “It’s a true testament to all the young ladies and the assistant coaches who have helped to build this program, and to the amazing lacrosse community in Fresno.”

The NFHS selected Carey as a California winner and geographical section winner prior to his selection as a national coach of the year. A NFHS committee ranks the sectional winners based on a point system to select the national winners. Carey has worked for Fresno Unified since 1989 and as a teacher in the district since 1995. He has been athletic director at Hoover since 2006.

Students Selected for Film School

Ten students from Fresno Unified are participating in Left of Bang’s Film School, a mentor program led by actor and producer Brian Hooks.

Students began attending four Saturdays of filmmaking school via Zoom on Feb. 20. The program uses mentors to teach inner-city high school students the basics of filmmaking. Brian Hooks and Darrin Person, who leads Fresno Unified’s Mentoring Office, have been friends since high school. Through this connection, the film school accepted all 10 of Fresno Unified’s applicants.

The students will also have an opportunity to be part of Left of Bang’s ongoing mentorship after the initial four weeks.

The first session covered the basics of filmmaking and students heard from actor, comedian and gameshow host Anthony Anderson, as well as actor, writer and comedian J.B. Smooch.
Students Submit Ideas for New Fresno High School Mascot Image

Fresno High School received more than 25 submissions from students as it seeks to create a new Warrior mascot image.

The submissions process closed on Feb. 26. The district had invited students to help establish a new mascot image after the board of education voted Dec. 9 to replace the Native American image.

The district expects to unveil a new mascot image later this spring.

A group made up of students, staff, alumni and community members will review the submissions and identify finalists. From there, students will vote on the next Fresno High Warrior mascot image, which will be featured on campus, spirit wear and athletic uniforms for decades to come.

The image selected will then go to a professional graphic artist to be fine-tuned and unveiled in a special ceremony later this spring.

The board voted to replace the Native American image late last year after the district gathered information and opinions from various stakeholders on the mascot. Two petitions were circulated -- one opposing the use of the Warrior mascot image and one in support of it.

The district held two small virtual listening sessions in the fall, hearing directly from Fresno High students, alumni, parents and several Native American community leaders. It also held a virtual community town hall and a virtual town hall for Fresno High students in the fall.

Fresno High School Students Provide Tech Support to their Peers

A group of Fresno High School students are helping their peers navigate technology issues, providing another layer of support during this time of distance learning.

Fresno High’s five tech mentors provide after-hours help 3-7 p.m. every weekday via Teams and Google Voice.

The students are paid as Fresno Unified employees for their assistance and gain valuable experience trouble-shooting tech issues. But Kaylah Salinas, the Fresno High computer lab assistant who oversees the students, said that’s not their biggest reward.

“The mentors have made it very clear that the work is most meaningful because they enjoy serving their community and sharing their knowledge to help their peers,” Salinas said.

Salinas won a district Excellence in Education award in January as the Classified Employee of the Year, honoring her work launching the tech mentors program and the many other duties she skillfully handles. She will compete for a Fresno County Educator of the Year award.

The tech mentoring program began just weeks after schools closed in March of last year due to COVID-19. The district’s Mentoring Office had reached out to Salinas about launching a tech support line. It was a perfect fit because Salinas led the peer mentoring program at Fresno High and had advanced tech skills.

Salinas recruited five of her strongest peer mentors and created a platform for managing the requests. The program was first piloted offering help to Fort Miller Middle School students, already Fresno High’s peer mentoring partner. In August, the program began helping students district wide.

The tech mentors help students and parents with issues in Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office, steps to reset student passwords, and accessing the various curriculum platforms used by the district. With all learning online, there’s a tremendous need for student and family tech support.

The tech mentors have also been trained to contact the district’s Family Learning and Technology Support (FLATS) or the student’s school when the tech problem exceeds their training.

Tech mentors offer help in English, Hmong, and Spanish to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Mentors can be contacted via chat, audio calls, or video conference on Microsoft Teams and via audio calls and voicemail at (559) 335-3383.

Gibson Fourth Grader Comes out on Top in Virtual Spelling Bee

Sebastian Shelton, a fourth grader from Gibson Elementary School, correctly spelled “parenthetical” and placed first in the district’s annual elementary spelling bee on Feb. 22.

After winning, he said he thought about “Ms. Ali,” Gibson library technician Alexandria Lenzinger.

“If it wasn’t for her I don’t think I would have gotten the word right,” Sebastian said.

Lenzinger worked with Gibson spelling bee contestants via Teams online with word lists. Sebastian said he also studied on his own every day. He has been preparing since October.

The event, put on by the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Learning Department, was held virtually this year. Participants had to sign an integ-

See SPELLING BEE Continued on page 9
Patiño Honored for Female Enrollment in Computer Science Classes

Patiño School of Entrepreneurship has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for high female representation in computer science courses, specifically AP Computer Science Principles.

Patiño, which opened in August 2015, features a curriculum that connects students to their passions and provides real-world applications for what they are studying. Students meet regularly with mentors from the business community and develop and test new ideas, preparing to open and run their own businesses their senior year of school.

“We are thrilled to be recognized for this achievement. Patiño School of Entrepreneurship was developed with the idea that we are a school for all students and each of our courses was specifically chosen with that in mind,” said Principal Blair Eliason. “Our goal is that our students graduate with an entrepreneurial mindset and know that with the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout their education, nothing can hold them back.

“It is wonderful to see our students, and in this instance, our girls, showcase their entrepreneurial mindsets when choosing and participating in courses such as AP Computer Science Principles.”

AP announced the award on Jan. 25. Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, Patiño was among 1,119 that achieved either 50% or higher female representation in AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science examinees meeting or exceeding that of the school’s female population during the 2019-20 school year.

AP said that represented a nearly 37% increase in schools achieving these diversity milestones than the previous year.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is necessary to ensure gender parity in the industry’s high-paying jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was $88,240 in May 2019. However, a code.org analysis of 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds women represent just 24% of the 5 million people in computing occupations.
District Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month

The district honored Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month in January and February with a variety of virtual activities.

- Gaston Middle School hosted the annual Edison Region Black History Month Program on Feb. 1. Although virtual this year, the livestreamed program celebrated and educated while showcasing the talent of district students. Collaborating with Gaston were students and staff from King and Kirk elementary schools, Computech Middle School and Edison High School, as well as the Purposed II Praise School of Dance.

- Three Fresno Unified elementary students were among the winners of Martin Luther King Jr. writing and art contests sponsored by the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. They were honored in a virtual celebration Feb. 11. Harley Estes-Ezell, Manchester GATE Elementary School, placed second in the essay contest; Anthony Rivas Pimentel, Mayfair Elementary School, was best of show in the art contest; and Sebastian Ordaz, Manchester GATE, was first in the speech contest.

- Roosevelt High School leadership classes worked with the Black Student Union to prepare activities and events for Black History Month. They launched activities with the Black History Teams Background Challenge for students and staff to see who created the best Teams background. All the entries will be reviewed and then added to Google Docs folder so that both students and staff could access the files.

- The district’s Black Student Union Advisory Council created a public service announcement for Black History Month, which is February.

High School Students Make Up Classes during Winter Session

Thanks to a special winter session, more than 1,500 students were able to make up credits toward graduation.

The session was held over the winter break, Dec. 21 through Jan. 7, to help high school students improve failing grades, with the highest priority on getting seniors back on track for graduation.

The district held the 10-day session for the first time because of additional challenges for students caused by distance learning. The district sought a different approach to help students catch up.

Make up work was offered in math, science and English. The winter session was a success, with more than 1,500 students recovering five semester credits toward graduation. More than 100 teachers helped instruct the students virtually.

Of 1,800 high school students invited to participate, 1,546 enrolled: 624 seniors, 418 juniors, 238 sophomores, and 266 freshmen.

“We are very grateful to the many teachers, counselors and site administrators who dedicated their time over the winter break to help so many Fresno Unified students, many of them seniors, to recover needed credits and get them on track towards graduation. We’re also tremendously grateful to all of our high school students who committed their time over winter break,” said Jeremy Ward, executive officer of College and Career Readiness.

The district used Edgenuity accelerated online curriculum, which allows students to work at their own pace. Using the curriculum, teachers individualized instruction for each student.

The district funded the winter session with money earmarked for Saturday Academy, an attendance recovery program that was canceled due to school closures.

SPELLING BEE

Continued from page 7

Sebastian attributes his spelling skills to reading a lot and looking up words he does not know. His favorite books are the “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” series. He also enjoys the Harry Potter novels and the “Who was?” biography series.

Sebastian’s favorite subjects are math and writing. He also likes soccer and wants to attend Tenaya Middle School so he can be in the band and play guitar or drums.

His advice for students who want to excel in a spelling bee? “Always try your best and keep on trying. You’ll be successful.”
Plans Move Forward on Innovative New High School Campus

The district has unveiled plans for an exciting new campus at 10th Street and Ventura Avenue that will bring together several high school alternative education programs as well as several district departments. Consolidating programs and services will be more convenient for students and parents and allow for closer cooperation between departments and staffs. The district detailed plans for the new campus at the Jan. 20, Fresno Unified Board of Education meeting. The campus naming process will begin this spring. The campus is expected to open in August of 2023.

The project will rise on the 12.8-acre site of the old Fresno County juvenile hall, where students were housed in poor conditions and The Fresno Bee dubbed it the “hall of shame.” The district bought the property from the county in October 2018. The new school represents a totally new future for young people and an opportunity to rebuild dreams.

“This project is a dream come true for our students, parents, staff and our community,” said Yolanda Jimenez-Ruiz, administrator for alternative education.

The campus will house Cambridge High School, J.E. Young Academic Center, and eLearn Academy, the district’s online learning school for kindergarten through 12th grade. It will also house the Educational Resource Center, headquarters for the team that supports students in kindergarten through high school seeking to transition into alternative education. Alternative education schools provide more personalized education options for students in need of a flexible schedule.

The campus, designed to meet the needs of more than 1,200 students, will include an early learning center where young students in need of a flexible schedule. The campus will also bring together alternative education partners. This will be possible thanks to the district’s extensive planning.

Extensive planning has gone into the campus to provide students with the best options for success. When selecting what career pathways to focus on, the district considered the interests of students and areas where employers would hire qualified students immediately after graduation.

Morning, afternoon and evening classes will be offered to accommodate students’ schedules. The combined campus will focus on several career pathways:

- Engineering: Logistics and distribution, robotics and manufacturing mechanic
- Business: Social entrepreneurship, accounting and event management and hospitality
- Technology: Information technology systems, coding and cyber security

For example, a first-of-its-kind career pathway will allow students to earn advanced certifications in logistics and distribution of materials, a booming industry, or become certified as a forklift operator.

All students enrolled in one of the schools located at this campus will have access to the training, certifications and internship opportunities planned for these pathway programs. This will be possible thanks to the district’s alternative education partners’ innovative approach to scheduling and the unique facility that will house these programs.

Departments will Move to the Campus

The campus will also bring together the Early Learning, Prevention and Intervention, Special Education and Professional Learning departments, which are housed at four locations currently.
REOPENING OF SCHOOLS
Continued from page 10

With paraprofessional Enrique Cervantes taking the lead, teachers, students and parents painted a mural at Wawona School (right), with artists coming at different times to adhere to safety protocols. Patterned after a painting in the office, the mural says “Education is like a tree and Wawona is my second home” in Spanish. Principal Kimberly Villescaz said the symbols in the mural illustrate being well prepared for the future and highlight the dual language program that is a focal point at Wawona. The mural is the first in a series of murals planned for the entire campus to highlight diversity. Sequoia Middle School has installed five murals so far to add color and interest to the campus while also sharing empowering messages, Principal Matt Ward said. At bottom, artist Claire Burbige has portrayed a growth mindset quote against a backdrop of Sequoia National Park.

Murals at Wawona and Sequoia Campuses are Created while Schools Closed

Yuav rov tuaj rau hauv cov tsev kawm. Cov tib ntxhais kawm uas muaj qhov xav tau kev pab ntawv pla aw yuav tau rov qab mus hauv tsev kawm ntxhais lawv tsoj kev kawm deb, nrog kev nkg mus rau hauv internet, txais kev txhawb nga los ntxhais cov neeg ua hauj lwm thiab tsev kawm ntxhais muab mov noj pib lib Ob hlis hnbu tim 22. Tsis tas li ntauwa tham lu Ob hlis, cov kis las hauv tsev kawm them siab uas ntawv pab lab uas yuav tsi muaj teem raug mob ntau tau cai rov qab sib tw du.

Ntxiv mus, ntau tshaj 100 tus kws qhia ntawv ua yeem muab lub sij hawm rov mus rau tom tsev kawm ntxhais theeb pla aw ib cheeb tsam kuj tib txhij qhia cov tib ntxhais kawm ntxhais txog 10 leej hauv chav kawm thiaub lawv cov tib ntxhais kawm online. Kev qhia tib txhij li no yog muaj rau hnbu Tuesday txog Friday.

Kev Sim Cov Kev Qhia Txbhj

Cov quav sim qhia ntawv siv cov tshuab los leg dej num thiab txiav txim cov tsvv yim zoo tshaj pla aw rau kev tib txhij qhia thauh lub nrog pib bloov mus rau kev kawm tim ntsej tim muag. Vim tias qhov yuav tsum tau muaj 6 kauj ruam nyob sib nrog deb hauv cov chav kawm, cov tsev kawm ntxhais yuav siv qhov kawm sib txuas (hybrid) nrog kev kawm ib nraib tom tsev thiab ib nraib hauv tsev kawm ntxhais.

Pib lub pab hauv ntau tim 8, cov pab pawg me ntawm cov tib ntxhais kawm yuav tau tais kev pab cuam ntxiv rau cov luam Monday, muaj li 750 tus kws qhia ntawv ua hauj lwm uas yeem muab lub sij hawm yuav muab li pab xuaj moo hauv kev txhawb nga tim ntsej tim muag rau cov tib ntxhais kawm.

Ib Txbhia Tub Ntxhais Ncaws Pob Rov Mus Tau

Hauv paus tsev kawm ntxhais tau xais kev tso cai rau ib cov tib ntxhais ntawv pab nos pib sib tw lub hlis no nrog rau ntawv cov qauv tiv thiaub kev nyab xeex, ua raws kev qhia los ntawm Department of Public Health thiaib California Inter-scholastic Federation.

Cov kislas ntawv pab ntawd yog cross country, track, tennis, golf thiab ua luam dej thiaub dhaia dej. Lwm yam kev sib tw ntawv siv cov tais kev tso cai rau kev sib tw tab sis lawv xyaum tau.

Hauv paus tsev kawm tab tom npaj txhim kho qhov kev qhia ntawv caij ntuj so kom zoo tshaj los pab cov tib ntxhais kawm uas xav tau cov qhab nia uas poob qis rau cov kawm npaj kom tiav los yob leej twg poob qab ntawm lawv txoj kev kawm thauh kawm kev deb.
During this year of virtual education, Duncan Polytechnical High School pushes forward, providing students with the opportunity to earn dual enrollment college credits and relevant, industry recognized certifications.

Many students in Duncan’s Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) will graduate with certifications specific to the care of patients with COVID-19, preparing them to help their community battle the virus.

“Covid-19 has over run the healthcare industry and it is important that our students are not only prepared to enter the work of healthcare, but that they are also trained to incorporate COVID-19 protocols in everyday care,” said Senior Nursing Services teacher Jodi Uyeg.

“This is why Duncan students will be trained in multiple areas of COVID treatment, such as Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19, Long Term Care Facilities in the context of Covid-19, How to Put On and Remove Personal Protective Equipment, and Stroke Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

Nursing Services senior Alissa Chang took advantage of this opportunity and earned her certification for stroke care from the American Heart Association last fall. She and other seniors are preparing to take the State Board Certified Nursing Assistant Exam in May.

Students in the Innovative Design and Applied Technology Academy (iDATA) have been busy honing their skills with the OSHA-10 and S/P2 Safety Certifications specifically designed for each of their five industrial pathways. In addition, the automotive and heavy truck pathway students are hard at work earning their Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), EPA 609 Refrigerant, Ford, and Daimler certifications. Senior automotive technology student Boonthavee Lee has earned five Automotive Service Excellence Entry-Level certifications with plans to earn the remaining three before graduation.

Junior manufacturing pathway students also continue to earn free college credit for Computer Integrated Machining technology through Duncan’s partnership with Fresno City College.

While the academic year has been challenging, many MASH and IDATA students are still applying for different internships scheduled to begin as early as March. Some of these internships are being offered through the Fresno Business Council, The San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance, and Workforce Connection.

“We are excited that our students continue to have opportunities to highlight their skills and certifications in relevant learning experiences in our community. These students have been busy completing leadership and work training through programs like IMAGO and are excited for the final qualifying step -- the internship interviews,” said Duncan’s College and Career Readiness coordinators, Karen Burrington and Cara Jurado.

A highlight for all Duncan seniors is the capstone experience, which includes the creation of a portfolio and presentation to showcase their skills and knowledge and their goals and plans for becoming valuable community members after graduation.

A panel made up of industry experts and community members evaluates the students’ presentations and portfolios and provides valuable feedback.

“The senior capstone project was very helpful. It allowed me to reflect on my achievements in the past four years as well as helped me plan out the next four years of my life. It was hard work but looking back, I’m glad I did it,” said Pheng Lee, a 2019 Duncan graduate.

Community partners interested in sitting on an evaluation panel for the Duncan capstone event can sign up using this link: http://bit.ly/3qcCLn7

This year’s event, which will be virtual, is April 7 and 9 for IDATA industrial and applied technology students and April 13 and 15 for MASH medical students.
Paraeducator’s Mission is Clear: She Helps Students Learn to Speak

Stacey Kapigian, a district employee for 32 years, has been a paraeducator for 20 years helping students learn to talk using assistive technology. She was a finalist for one of the district’s Excellence in Education awards in late January. Cristin Hubbell, an assistive technology teacher on special assignment, said about Kapigian: “Our students with communicative disabilities have excelled because of her. I think being able to communicate is more important than reading, writing, math and all the other academics. If you can’t communicate, you are isolated from the world.”

What does your job entail? Working with students pre-school through 22 years old teaching seven different vocabularies within two different applications on communication devices. Vocabularies vary depending on a student’s abilities. The vocabularies are downloaded to the student’s device, usually an iPad. Once downloaded the student touches on a picture from the vocabulary app and it says the word, allowing the student to communicate. Students may have to touch on many pictures to create sentences.

Each week I make books and activities for all vocabularies on communication devices for teachers, speech language pathologist, paras, students and parents; make support materials for Unique Learning and News2you curriculum for all vocabularies; add vocabulary to personalize students’ devices; clean and maintain devices including troubleshooting problems; mount devices; teach Picture Exchange Communication System; support low tech devices; help with use of software programs, hardware, and switches; and load software extensions for writing and reading programs and teaching students how to use these tools.

What are some of the scenarios in which students are unable to communicate? They could have cerebral palsy or autism. Assistive technology supports over 250 students on devices. (That is three AT specialists and me.)

What is the hardest part about your job? Keeping up with technology.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? I love working with our students and staff — teaching, encouraging, and providing materials.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. As a high school senior, I was voted “biggest flirt.”

What do you like to do when you are not working? I like to work in the yard, crochet, sew, have coffee with friends and shop!

If you could pursue any career, what would it be? I’m looking forward to retirement in November 2021, but if I could go back 30 years, I’d like to pursue a career in nursing.

What is your dream vacation? Ireland, Scotland and England.

Sunny Side AVID Teacher also Leads Bullying Prevention Program

Cyndi Mello is a teacher in Sunny Side High School’s Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, which focuses on closing the opportunity gap for students to prepare them for college and careers. Mello has been with the district since 2004, all at Sunny Side High. She was a finalist for one of the district’s Excellence in Education awards in late January. She launched the Don’t Laugh at Me (DLAM) bullying prevention program at the campus 15 years ago. Principal Michele Anderson said about Mello: “Mello and her cohort of students become a very close family through the years of hard work and commitment to one another for successful graduation and future.”

What made you decide to be a teacher? My high school volleyball coach and her husband, who was my high school activities director, took me in after high school. They offered me room and board if I would go to college full-time. Living with them, I had two great role models as educators. One of my first jobs was as a noon-time supervisor at an elementary school. I absolutely loved being around the elementary students and decided to change my major to liberal studies. After playing volleyball at Merced Junior College, at 19 I started coaching volleyball at the high school level and that is when I knew I wanted to teach high school.

How did DLAM start? Shortly after the Columbine shooting, I founded the Don’t Laugh at Me bullying prevention program. Being a novice teacher at the time and watching the devastation of Columbine, I knew I needed to act, to help students feel like they belonged. Coincidentally, Mark Wills, a country singer, had just released a song titled “Don’t Laugh at Me.” My students listened to the moving song, which inspired lengthy discussions about how we could create a positive change in society and help students feel loved, supported, and heard. In 2001, the first Don’t Laugh at Me anti-bullying club originated at my former school, Fowler High School.

Over the years I’ve had hundreds of students participate as active members in the Don’t Laugh at Me program. Each year the students write new skits, find or write new poems, create raps, puppet shows and even deliver personal testimonials about how they were bullied. Once the performance is written and rehearsed, DLAM travels to various elementary schools and presents two, thirty-minute assemblies. The first assembly is generally geared for kindergarten through third grades and the second assembly focuses on fourth through sixth grade. Throughout the years the students have added facets of the comprehensive Olweus Program that FUSD adopted. DLAM students include the Olweus principles and rules in each performance, especially skits. More recently, the DLAM students have also woven in the restorative practices into the skits.

This year looks different, but the DLAM members are hard at work, meeting every Thursday and are just about to finalize their performances and will be able to send it out to every FUSD elementary school interested, to show to their students.

How has this initiative changed the campus? The DLAM students go through many team building exercises at the start of the school year and they become close, like a family. Once their relationships have formed then they start the hard work of creating that year’s program. Because these students get so close, they trust each other and trust me. If they see bullying happening online, on campus or even in the community they speak up to each other and to me. I then take the information to the Sunny Side admin. The students also do things like make posters with positive, inspirational messages and post them around campus. Sometimes they make posters that target bullying behavior or simply to speak using kind words.

What do you enjoy the most about your job? The relationships I build with my students is the best part of my job. Teaching students to be the change they want to see in the world, whether it is in English class, AVID or working with the DLAM students. I love when I see their eyes light up. I love when I greet them at the door and smile, and they smile back. I love that after a year of hearing me say...
For twins Dominic and Donavan Borges, amazing things can happen when faith and hard work collide.

Odds can be defied, circumstances overcome, and dreams turned into reality. For the twins, seniors at Design Science Middle College High School, life changed in a big way in January when they received full-ride scholarships to the California Institute of Technology. Caltech, in Pasadena, is a renowned science and engineering institution that accepts about 230 freshmen from around the world each year.

“We were yelling inside the car. We just got back home from the store. We were buying things for another project,” said Donavan, sharing a smile with Dominic. Dominic and Donavan applied to QuestBridge, which identifies high achieving, low socioeconomic students and connects them with top universities. They were matched with Caltech and awarded scholarships worth more than $600,000.

They will be the first in their family to attend college. In May, they will graduate from Design Science with their high school diplomas and associate degrees in math from Fresno City College, “which is an amazing task in and of itself,” said Design Science Principal Tressa Overstreet.

Born just one minute apart, Dominic and Donavan do most things together, including dreaming of improving the family’s future. Without college educations, they have watched their parents have to work very hard to support the family. Their dad, Gustavo, is a truck driver and their mom, Victoria, is a former security guard.

Although their family could offer little college guidance, Design Science staff filled that gap and provided the twins invaluable help on the path to higher education.

That path started their freshman year when they took their first college courses. At Design Science, students enroll in Fresno City College classes as well as their high school courses. Prior to Design Science they attended Leavenworth Elementary School and Computech Middle School.

The twins have big dreams: Donavan wants to be an engineer and Dominic a doctor. They know challenges will come, but their competitive spirit (most of the time between them), dedication, and hard work will help them prevail.

“Nobody is going to do it for you; you have to do it. If you want to change, you need to create a plan for it,” said Dominic, emphasizing how discipline and determination helped immensely during the pandemic when in-person classes closed.

Dominic and Donavan want to come back to Fresno and become role models for other young Latinos.

“This is our home; we have to come back,” said Dominic.

### CYNDI MELLO
Continued from page 13

please and thank you they begin to say please and thank you. I love when they get that “a-ha” spark in their eyes and I know they have finally understood a difficult concept. Maybe my favorite thing is teaching them to work together, watch them collaborate and listen to their awe-inspiring discussions whether it be in a Socratic Seminar, while doing group work or in the Don’t Laugh at Me Meetings.

What is the most difficult part about your job? The most difficult part of my job is seeing, hearing, witnessing, reading about what some of my students go through in their home life. It breaks my heart when I am in a meeting and I hear a parent yelling at their child. It is heartbreaking when a student writes in their UC Personal Statement that they had to read by candlelight to do their homework because their power was turned off because their single mom couldn’t afford to pay the utility bill.

What do you enjoy most about being an AVID teacher? I didn’t truly know how much being an AVID teacher would change my life. I was a coach for many years, and I was close to many of the athletes. But nothing can compare to spending four years with a group of students who were once strangers and become family. Watching them grow from timid freshmen to confident seniors is an honor and a blessing. Helping those students achieve their goals, pushing them when they need to be pushed, checking their grades and attendance and giving them kudos or telling them they need to step it up. These students truly are my family. They call me Mama Mello and that is a name that I am proud to call mine.

If you could choose another career, what would it be? There is no other career for me. I simply can’t imagine not being in the classroom. I believe it is my purpose, my calling, and where I am meant to be. “Success isn’t about how much money you make; it’s about the difference you make in people’s lives.” The Michelle Obama quote resonates with me because I believe that being a teacher is all about making a positive difference in our students’ lives.

What is your dream vacation? My dream vacation is to go to Kauai and spend a week golfing, hiking, taking in the scenery and lounging by a pool.

Name one thing most people don’t know about you. One thing most people don’t know about me is that in tracing my family heritage, I have formed a strong connection with my 93-year-old Aunt Mamie. We have been on this three-year journey helping each other piece together facts about our Portuguese ancestry.
Es importante informar a todos los estudiantes y personal de la escuela de la situación. Desde el inicio del año escolar, hemos estado trabajando para mantener un entorno seguro y saludable para todos. Hemos implementado medidas como el uso de mascarillas, el distanciamiento social, y el limpiamiento frecuente de las áreas comunes. Además, hemos aumentado la disponibilidad de pruebas y vacunaciones.

Seguir las regulaciones de la escuela y el gobierno es crucial para proteger a todos. Es importante que cada uno cumpla con las medidas de seguridad, incluyendo el uso de mascarillas, el lavado de manos regularmente y el distanciamiento social.

Si tienes alguna pregunta o necesitas ayuda, no dudes en contactarnos. Estamos aquí para asegurar que todos puedan aprender de manera segura. ¡Hagamos un año académico exitoso y saludable!

SUEPT MESSAGE
Continued from page 3

Nos estamos preparando para volver al aprendizaje en persona en nuestros campus escolares.

¡Hola, familia del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Fresno! Este mes les damos la salida a un nuevo modelo de aprendizaje que se inició a principios de enero. Es un enfoque que nos permite ofrecer una experiencia de aprendizaje más cercana a la experiencia de la escuela tradicional. Además, nos ofrece la oportunidad de personalizar el aprendizaje para cada estudiante.

Para nuestro próximo mes, nos preparamos para el retorno a la escuela. El objetivo es garantizar un regreso seguro y saludable para todos. Estamos trabajando en equipo para brindar una experiencia de aprendizaje de alta calidad. Como siempre, el bienestar de los estudiantes y el personal es nuestra prioridad.

Savor your last few weeks of winter, and let’s bring in spring with a renewed and refreshed hope!
Bullard Wins Super Quiz
Bullard High School placed first in the Super Quiz in the Fresno County Academic Decathlon, which held virtual competitions on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, and an awards ceremony on Feb. 9. The theme this year was The Cold War. Also excelling was Design Science Middle College High School, which placed fourth overall in points, captured 33 individual medals and had three individual cash prize winners for overall scores. Lisa Portella coached Design Science. Bullard, coached by Steve Fisher, placed fifth in overall points and captured 16 individual medals and had three individual cash prize winners for overall scores.

Other Academic Decathlon highlights:
- Cambridge High School (coach Robert Vega) captured a gold medal and two bronze medals
- Duncan Polytechnical High School

(Version 1)

District Employees Win ACSA Awards
This year’s Region 9 award recipients for the Association of California School Administrators are: Classified Leader of the Year: Malati Gopal; Personnel/Human Resources Leader of the Year, Felicia Quarles-Treadwell; Adult Education Administrator of the Year, Keda Buttles; Special Education Administrator of the Year, Julie Wheelock; Retired Administrator of the Year, Susan Bedi; Valuing Diversity Award, Kimberly Hendricks-Brown; Confidential Leader of the Year, Joanne Hernandez; Student Services Leader of the Year, Kristi Jackson. Gopal, Quarles-Treadwell, Buttles, Wheelock, Bedi, Hendricks-Brown and Jackson moved on to the state competition.

McLane Teacher Librarian Wins Award
Clare McGarvin, a teacher librarian at McLane High School, has been recognized with the President’s Award from the California School Library Association (CSLA). McGarvin was honored Feb. 11 at the annual CSLA virtual conference. McGarvin is the vice president of membership for CSLA. Instructional services manager Tom Nixon and McGarvin were also presenters at the virtual conference on the Sora Digital Library, which has been highly successful in Fresno Unified.

McLane Teacher Librarian Wins Award
Clare McGarvin, a teacher librarian at McLane High School, has been recognized with the President’s Award from the California School Library Association (CSLA). McGarvin was honored Feb. 11 at the annual CSLA virtual conference. McGarvin is the vice president of membership for CSLA. Instructional services manager Tom Nixon and McGarvin were also presenters at the virtual conference on the Sora Digital Library, which has been highly successful in Fresno Unified.

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