

From: [Communications](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: We Are Fresno Unified -- December 18, 2023
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:46:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

December 18, 2023



Fresno Unified School District

WE ARE FRESNO UNIFIED *ACHIEVING
OUR GREATEST
Potential!*
A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District



Photo of the Week



Lincoln Elementary School Deck the Halls Event
(See more great Fresno Unified photos on
our [Flickr](#))

Dates to Know

December 18-January 5

Winter Break

January 10 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Hmong New Year at Terronez Middle School](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to Community Zone, an e-newsletter from the Fresno Unified School District featuring news of the district and schools. [Sign up](#) to receive this newsletter every two weeks. Questions? Contact Communications@fresnounified.org.

Celebrating Our Employees, Schools and Students

Wishes at Wawona K-8 School Fulfilled

The dedicated families and staff from Wawona K-8 School adopted 70 Wawona students in need of gifts this season and fulfilled their wish lists. Campus culture director Jena Van Well said: "We believe that these gestures of kindness will not only bring joy to the recipients but also foster a sense of unity and support within our school."

Elementary Girls Compete in District Soccer Tournament

Our district held the Elementary Girls Soccer Tournament on December 9 at Roosevelt High School, with Sunset Elementary School winning the championship. Other top teams, beginning with second place, were Bethune, Easterby, Manchester GATE, Bakman, Calwa, Ewing and Malloch.

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools Thanks Teachers

This past week, teachers found a special surprise in their mailboxes -- a festive bookmark doubling as a short ruler. The gift was from the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools as a token of the foundation's appreciation for teachers' immeasurable dedication.

The bookmark includes a QR code leading to [The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools](#) website's upcoming Teacher Corner resource page. From the foundation: "Join us in spreading holiday cheer and expressing gratitude to our incredible educators."

Superintendent Board Remarks from December 13, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks wishing all happy holidays and sharing his gratitude to our school sites for bringing the magic of the holiday season to their schools and our students all throughout the month of December.

- Superintendent Nelson also recognized that with the start of the winter break next week also comes our first session of our winter camps. Superintendent Nelson implored families who are signed up to please take full advantage of your camps and stick through the full camp week. Session two of our winter camps begins on January 2, and Superintendent wishes everyone a great camp experience.
- Superintendent also shared with all that we will be providing free lunches over winter break to those ages 1-18 at several of our campuses. Children must be present and consume the lunches on site between 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For lists of locations, dates, and times please head to our website or [use this direct link](#).
- Superintendent then encouraged our certificated staff to please take advantage of the upcoming Winter PL Summit happening virtually on January 4 and 5. Superintendent shared there are tons of offerings, including sessions supporting instruction, social-emotional learning and family engagement. Superintendent reminded our teachers they will be paid at their supplemental rate for participating. Teachers can refer to their Employee Zone email from Communications for the links to register.
- Superintendent Nelson then made a plea to our community for volunteer crossing guards to serve our schools and help keep our students safe. Superintendent shared that interested volunteers can reach out to their school site directly and/or call (559) 603-1325.
- Superintendent Nelson then provided a few recognitions and shout-outs:
 - Armand Chavez is retiring at the end of December after nearly 31 years with Fresno Unified. Armand spent his nearly 31 years in our Safety Department starting as a campus safety assistant at Yosemite Middle School and then on to lead CSA at Duncan. In 2008 Armand joined the newly formed district safety office as a safety specialist and soon was promoted to the department manager. Thank you, Armand, for your years of service keeping our students, staff and families safe.
 - Ed Dewitt is also retiring soon and has served Fresno Unified for more than 35 years! Ed assisted in the creation of the Assessment Information System, better known as AiS as well as the creation and implementation of the Student Conduct Referral portal within that same system. He was a pioneer in state reporting for the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) and California School Information Services (CSIS). He also assisted with the coordination of the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) which has been in operation since 2009! Among numerous other projects, Ed has continuously and selflessly mentored and supported the professional development of dozens of staff over the years. We are fortunate to have shared space with such an amazing colleague and friend – congratulations and thank you Ed!
 - Congratulations to the Hoover CSA team who received the Golden Nugget for Safety Excellence award from our Safety Department. They received the award for their great job implementing 5 Star Students resulting in decreased tardiness and better relationships between staff and students.
 - Shout out to our amazing Kirk students and families who held their second annual sock drive! Led by Kirk's BSU students, Kirk worked to get donations of new socks that would be donated to the Marjaree Mason Center. Superintendent Nelson [shared this story that ABC30](#) did highlighting our amazing students.
- Superintendent Nelson closed his remarks wishing everyone a restful winter break.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from our District

Take the Academic Calendar Survey

The 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic calendar survey is available through December 19 on our district homepage with two options from which to vote. Thank you for your calendar feedback!

[Take the Calendar Survey in English](#)

[Take the Calendar Survey in Spanish](#)

[Take the Calendar Survey in Hmong](#)

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