

From: [Chau Bui](#)
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Subject: FW: We are Fresno Unified November 6, 2023
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November 6, 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



The District and Fresno Teachers Association Announce a Tentative Contract Agreement (See more great Fresno Unified photos on our [Flickr](#))

Dates to Know

November 10

Veterans Day Holiday

Thanksgiving Week (no school)

November 20-24

December 6 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[District and FTA Contract Signing](#)

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

District Bands Strut their Stuff at Showcase

The Arts Education Department proudly presented the second annual district Showcase of Bands at Sunnyside High School on October 24. A staggering 1,200 student participants from nearly every high school and middle school in the district convened to showcase their musical excellence and spirit. Performances included concert bands, parade bands and field shows.

This event not only serves as a platform for students to display their musical talents but also to foster community spirit, bring together students from different schools and highlight the importance of arts education in our schools.

View photos: [District Showcase of Bands 2023](#)

Baird Middle School Wins International Minecraft Challenge

Congratulations to Baird Middle School and coach Edward Mertens for taking the win against our friends of CURRO Esports South Africa on October 20 in an international Minecraft competition. Our esports athletes demonstrated not only their gaming skills but their communication, critical thinking, strategic and collaborative skills abilities. Go Baird Explorers!

- [Minecraft International Match Video](#)
- [Baird MS Pictures](#)

Students Decorate Book Bins

Students from a number of schools are decorating book bins for the [Reading Heart project](#). Once decorated, the bins will be delivered to elementary schools so that students can select free books from the bins and donate books too. For Computech's bin, students decorated the bin with similes, such as, "A book is like a key – it opens the door to your future."

- Schools designing Little Book Bins: Hoover, Sunnyside, Duncan Polytechnical, DeWolf and

Fresno high schools; McCardle Elementary School; and Computech and Sequoia middle schools

- Schools receiving a Little Book Bin this year: Calwa, Eaton, Easterby, Bullard TALENT, Holland, Williams, Powers, Webster, Bakman, McCardle, Jefferson, Addams, Sunset, Vang Pao, Vinland, Kirk, Herrera, Malloch and Manchester GATE elementary schools and Wawona K-8 School

Nutrition Services Leader Wins Award

Amanda Harvey, director of Nutrition Services, was recognized with the Modeling School Food Systems Change Award at the [California Farm to School Conference October 24-25](#). Amanda was described as a “solutions-oriented leader” who has increased the use of locally sourced ingredients and freshly prepared meals and provided more choices for students and served more of the food students love.

Students Present Untold Stories

Middle and high school students created displays detailing the lives of members of the LGBTQ+ community for the third annual Untold Stories event at Fresno High School on October 30. The event honors LGBTQ+ History Month.

[LGBTQ+ Untold Stories Event](#)

McLane High Students Learn about Personal Finance

Our district is embarking on a new initiative to offer a personal finance elective class at all high schools next year. As part of this work, the district is partnering with Next Gen Personal Finance to develop a curriculum to help students learn how to make good financial decisions. Through the new partnership, author Yanelly Espinal talked with McLane High School students on October 24 about the importance of financial literacy and gave them signed copies of her book, “Mind your Money.”

[Mind Your Money Presentation at McLane Video](#)

Elementary Volleyball and Flag Football Results

Results of the Elementary Volleyball Tournament:

Champion – Manchester GATE Elementary School

Top finishers (second through eighth): Wawona, Yokomi, Sunset, Columbia, Storey, Ewing and Fremont

Results of the Elementary Flag Football Tournament:

Champion: Addams Elementary School

Top finishers (second through eighth): Heaton, Birney, Sunset, Thomas, Webster, Kirk and Ayer

Trustee Davis Interviews Liz Cheney at Conference

Fresno Unified trustee Valerie Davis interviewed former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney, a speaker at the recent Council of the Great City Schools’ 67th annual fall conference in San Diego.

**Superintendent Board Remarks from November 1,
2023**

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks celebrating the tentative agreement reached between Fresno Unified and the Fresno Teachers Association. He shared that this agreement provides many benefits to our teachers, continues a fiscally strong budget, and most importantly supports our students. He specifically highlighted the agreement includes 16% in ongoing salary increases, an additional 5% in one-time payments, a Bridge to Medicare ensuring affordable, high-quality medical coverage for life upon retirement, substantive movement towards class size reduction, and charts a clear path forward for continued collaboration in hopes of avoiding this situation in the future.
- Superintendent shared his thanks to several key groups of people including:
 - Our Board of Education,
 - Our Chief of HR and Chief Negotiator, David Chavez,
 - Our Deputy Superintendent, Misty Her,
 - Our Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Jensen,
 - Our Assistant Superintendent of Labor Negotiations, Annarita Howell,
 - Our Chief Communications Officer, Nikki Henry,
 - Our Chief Academic Officer, Natasha Baker,
 - Our attorneys Peter Schaffert and Nicole Tucker of AALRR,
 - Local Peacemakers Larry Dunn and Linda Hoff,
 - Experienced mediators and fact-finders Don Raczka, John Gray, Mitch Olson, and Jun Payoyo,
 - Our principals, instructional superintendents, assistant superintendents in Human Resources,
 - The Fresno Teachers Association especially President Manuel Bonilla, Executive Director Louis Jamerson, and Bargaining Chair Taylor Vizthum, and each and every one of our teachers, and
 - To our students and their families who have been the innocent bystanders wading through the difficulties of these negotiations, carrying the stress and uncertainty on your shoulders. It does not go unnoticed.
- Superintendent acknowledged that we are all coming down from several months of high stress and sends his love to all as we heal and move forward together.
- Superintendent acknowledged there are many additional amazing things happening across the district, but will save those for another meeting as he knows this news is the top of mind for all. He finished with gratitude and perspective to be moving forward together on behalf of our students.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from our District

Yosemite Middle School will Host Hmong New Year Event

Yosemite Middle School will host its first Hmong New Year event on Saturday, November 18 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The celebration will feature live performance, vendors, raffles, activities and more.

[Yosemite Hmong New Year Event Flyer](#)

Parents and Staff can Share Ideas on Education through District Forums

Please join us for our district's [LCAP community meetings](#), which started October 10 and end on November 8.

Each participant will receive an adult ticket and a child ticket to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo and a ticket to feed the giraffes. Dinner and childcare are provided, as well as translation services.

- Tuesday, Oct. 10 Edison High School's cafeteria
- Wednesday, Oct. 11 at Fresno High School's cafeteria
- Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Roosevelt High School's cafeteria
- Wednesday, Oct. 25 at McLane High School's library
- Thursday, Oct. 26 at Sunnyside High School's cafeteria
- Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Bullard High School's cafeteria
- Wednesday, Nov. 8 at Hoover High School's cafeteria

All of the forums start at 5 p.m.

[Flyer on LCAP Meetings](#)

It's Time for the School Choice Expo and Virtual Expo

The School Choice Expo is this Tuesday, November 7, at Duncan Polytechnical High School from 5:30-7 p.m. In addition, a virtual expo is available November 6 through December 1 at fresnounified.org/schoolchoice. Families can attend any time at their convenience for the virtual expo.

Fresno Unified offers more than 20 school choice programs designed to engage students' interests, aspirations and learning styles. Programs include visual and performing arts, International Baccalaureate, science/technology/engineering/mathematics, dual language programs, world languages, early college, career technical education and much more.

To learn more, visit fresnounified.org and remember -- the transfer deadline is December 1.

National School Psychology Week 2023

National School Psychology Week, November 6-10, celebrates and recognizes the important work of these professionals. Fresno Unified has 108 school psychologists and 10 school psychologist interns who are trained to deliver a continuum of mental health services and academic supports.

Our school psychologists include board certified behavior analysts, doctors of education, applied suicide intervention skills trainers, Ukeru trainers, crisis prevention intervention trainers, university professors, bilingual psychologists, certified autism spectrum disorder clinical specialists and school neuropsychologists.

In our district, school psychologists have led the way with crisis intervention both on-site and after-hours. School psychologists provide suicide prevention, intervention and postvention services to our students, staff and families. School psychologists are part of school, regional and districts teams focused on implementing academic and social emotional/behavioral

intervention through our Fresno Unified Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework.

Donate to the Scholarship Fund	Volunteer	Work for Fresno Unified
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