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Subject: FW: We are Fresno Unified -- October 23, 2023
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October 23, 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



Fresno Unified leaders gathered with Assemblyman Dr. Joaquin Arambula and family and friends of Edison High School valedictorian Neng Thao to commemorate the October 7 signing of the [Neng Thao Drowning Prevention Safety Act](#). (See more great Fresno Unified photos on our [Flickr](#))

Dates to Know

November 1 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

November 10
Veterans Day Holiday

Video of the Week



[Hoover High School graduate Joseph Aquino spoke at the State of Education Gala October 12.](#)

Celebrating Our Employees, Schools and Students

Del Mar Elementary School is Getting a Whole New Look

Our district held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 9 at Del Mar Elementary School to celebrate a great new facilities project funded by Measure M. The project, eight years in the making, includes:

- A multipurpose room double in size from the original one built in 1947
- A new early learning building and playground
- Moving the offices from the center of the school to the front and creates a safer, single point of entry
- A new library where the offices were
- Expanding parking for families and visitors
- Improving pick-up and drop-off areas
- Refurbishing modular buildings
- Larger area for the nurse

[Del Mar Groundbreaking Video](#)

Sunnyside Grad Speaks to Students about Her Journey

Sunnyside High School graduate and children's book author [JaNay Brown-Wood](#) spoke to Sunnyside students on October 12 during two assemblies. She shared her journey as a student in southeast Fresno to achieving her dream as an author and educator.

Food for Thought: DeWolf Teacher Wins Grant by Connecting Chemistry to Cooking

DeWolf High School teacher Peter Chaney cooked up a great idea for integrating food into chemistry lessons and won a grant. His grant proposal taps into molecular gastronomy, a new movement in food preparation that incorporates science and new techniques in the preparation, transformation and artistic presentation of food. It also lends itself to teaching chemistry. Peter's Molecular Gastronomy in the Science Classroom grant proposal got the thumbs-up from the Foundation@FCOE and he will receive up to \$1,000. The grant will help with project-based learning activities that expose students to chemistry as well as the culinary industry as a career option.

Herrera and Terronez Students Help Slow Down Drivers

The Juan Felipe Herrera Leadership Club at Herrera Elementary School was moved to action when they heard of recent traffic and pedestrian tragedies around Fresno Unified schools. Students brainstormed ways they could raise awareness and educate their school and neighborhood about safety in school zones and created the SLOW for School Zones Campaign. On Friday mornings in October (National Pedestrian Safety Month) Herrera and Terronez Middle School students and staff line the sidewalks of Church Avenue that run past their schools to promote safe driving and pedestrian safety in school zones. Drivers have shared their support by honking, waving and most importantly...by slowing down!

Edison, Hoover, Sunnyside AP Students Earn Recognition

Students from Advanced Placement programs at Edison, Hoover and Sunnyside high schools have been awarded academic honors from [College Board National Recognition Programs](#). The awards recognize high-performing students and help them stand out when applying to colleges or for scholarships. The recognition criteria includes:

- GPA of at least 3.5
- PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 scores within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP exams in ninth and 10th grade
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native

Students awarded:

- National Hispanic Recognition Award at Edison: Arlene Dominguez, Brittney Ochoa, Daniel Rosas Garcia, Dominic Milian, Hannah Anderson, Jonathan Davila, Luke Mayer, Mayra Hernandez Garcia and Xander Garcia
- National African American Recognition Award at Edison: Estella Scriptunas
- National Hispanic Recognition Award at Hoover: Cesar Borja
- National Hispanic Recognition Award at Sunnyside: Alejandro Sanchez Zepeda and Luis Esquivel Flores

Fresno Adult School Awarded Grant to help with Citizenship

Fresno Adult School (FAS) has been awarded a \$450,000 [Citizenship and Integration Grant](#), the largest award the grant program has ever given. The funding will support more than 200 constituents with high socio-economic needs with free naturalization services and free citizenship/English language preparation, with constituents.

Through prior Citizenship and Integration Grants, FAS has provided citizenship instruction since 2012. It has worked with the New American Legal Clinic at San Joaquin College of Law, with the clinic providing the naturalization services. Historically, FAS has been the only educational institution to receive the grants nationwide.

Phoenix Secondary School Holds Farmers Market

Phoenix Secondary School held a farmers market on October 13, using a grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Several more are planned for this school year. The event included fresh fruit and vegetable vendors, a food giveaway, student plant sales and display and resources from Parent University.

Superintendent Board Remarks from October 18, 2023

- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks with a strike update. He shared that we provided an [updated package proposal](#) to FTA on Friday, October 13 and are awaiting response from FTA to continue negotiating. The superintendent then shared assurances to all families, students and staff that we are well prepared and will ensure that our schools stay open, safe and full of learning for our children. That being said, he shared that we are under no false pretenses that school will be the same without our teachers in their classrooms – it will be hard, but our families and students deserve a safe and positive learning environment no matter what. Superintendent also shared that FAQs have gone out to families and staff via ParentSquare. You can also find information at any time on our website at www.fresnounified.org/more-than-just-a-classroom.
- Superintendent Nelson then recognized October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month, not only to create awareness, but to meet the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act. He shared that digital citizenship and cyber safety are critical to preparing our students for college, career, and life. During the week of October 16-20, all students K-12 will participate in the district's Cyber-Safety Week, receiving at least one cyber-safety or digital citizenship lesson during this week.
- Superintendent also shared that we have three LCAP meetings scheduled for next week and encouraged all to attend. You can find all dates at www.stafed.fresnounified.org/lcap.
- Superintendent Nelson also recognized Red Ribbon Week happening next week.
- Superintendent Nelson then invited all to join Fresno State's Black Student Success Initiative is holding their Super Saturday fair! On Saturday, October 28 from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union families and students will be treated to important workshops and panels, a great keynote speaker and connections to college for middle and high schoolers.
- Superintendent then made the last call for Excellence in Education nominations! The deadline is October 27 and Superintendent encouraged all to take some time to nominate your amazing colleagues before then. You can find the link to nominate in your Employee Zone newsletter.
- Superintendent then made some shoutouts including:
 - Congrats to the Baird Middle School Minecraft esports team! They not only are the champions of the Fresno Unified Minecraft esports league, but they have earned the right to battle the champs of CURRO South Africa in the third annual International Championship! Please join us this Friday, October 20, 2023, at 7 a.m. to watch the match live on Twitch!
 - Last week we held a groundbreaking ceremony at Del Mar Elementary School to celebrate a great new facilities project funded by Measure M. The project, eight years in the making, includes a multipurpose room double in size from the original one built in 1947, a new early learning building and playground, moving the offices from the center of the school to the front

and creating a safer, single point of entry, a new library where the offices were, expanding parking for visitors and staff, improving pick-up and drop-off areas, refurbishing modular buildings and a larger area for the nurse. Thank you to all who are making these improvements a reality!

- Shoutout to the Juan Felipe Herrera Leadership Club at Herrera Elementary School! They were moved to action when they heard of recent traffic and pedestrian tragedies around Fresno Unified schools. Students brainstormed ways they could raise awareness and educate their school and neighborhood about safety in school zones and created the SLOW for School Zones Campaign. On Friday mornings in October, which is also National Pedestrian Safety Month, Herrera and Terronez Middle School students and staff line the sidewalks of Church Avenue that run past their schools to promote safe driving and pedestrian safety in school zones. Drivers have shared their support by honking, waving and most importantly...by slowing down!

- Exciting news from Fresno Adult School! It just received the Citizenship and Integration Grant worth \$450K. It's the only educational institute to have ever received this nationwide! This is especially impactful for our area because more than 23,000 people in Fresno County are eligible to be naturalized and this program gives them a pathway there. The funding will support in serving more than 200 constituents with free naturalization services and free citizenship/English language preparation, a process that otherwise would not be accessible to our community.

- Congratulations are in order for Amanda Harvey, our Nutrition Services Director, who will be honored with the California Food for California Kids innovation award! Among many other accomplishments, the team held their first farmer's market at Phoenix Secondary last week, it was fantastic! Amanda will be recognized at the California Farm to School Network Conference on Tuesday for her work in expanding the Farm to School program in the Central Valley. Way to go Amanda and our whole nutrition services team!

- Shoutout to our College and Career Readiness team for their amazing Breast Cancer Awareness Month video! The team, lead by Tyesha Hendricks, produced a fun, entertaining video to the "Hey Barbie" song. Trust me, you don't want to miss this one – check out our social media to watch! Great work team!

- Last but certainly not least, last week we held a joint press conference with Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula to celebrate the governor's signing of the Neng Thao Drowning Prevention Act. Let's take a look at a video highlight of that event. Neng was taken far too soon, and sadly is not the only Fresno Unified student who has been lost to drowning. We're proud to partner with Neng's family and our state in expanding our water safety programs, including free swimming lessons.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

News from our District

Negotiations Information

Looking for information about the possible teachers strike? Please go to our [More than Just a](#)

[Classroom webpage.](#)

Parents, Staff, Community can Share Ideas on Education through District Forums

Please join us for our district's [LCAP community meetings](#), which started on October 10. By taking the ThoughtExchange survey you will provide valuable feedback to the district.

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](#)

Important Information about Social Services Benefits

The county Department of Social Services needs the community's help with spreading the word about the county (and state) system changes coming soon. For anyone accessing benefits from our social services, they need to know that the system they've used (MyBenefits CalWIN and DSS PASS) will switch to a new system called BenefitsCal. Any Fresno County family accessing Medi-Cal or Cal-Fresh services from Social Services will need the attached information.

[BenefitsCal Info in English](#)

[BenefitsCal Info in Spanish](#)

CTE Spotlight

Hoover Students Learn about Public Service Jobs

Hoover High School hosted Public Service Day on October 4, an opportunity for students to talk with representatives of various public service agencies about careers. About 120 students explored careers at nine stations.

[Hoover Public Service Day Video](#)

**Donate to the
Scholarship Fund**

Volunteer

Work for Fresno Unified

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