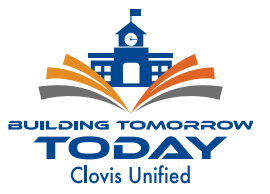


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CUSD Today

December 2022

Clovis Unified School District — DEVELOPING STUDENTS IN MIND, BODY & SPIRIT

Volume 25, No. 5

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Clovis Unified School District
1450 Herndon Ave.
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COUNTY'S BEST



Eichmann,
Hughes
are
Educators
of Year

Congratulations to Clovis East High School CTE Health Pathway Teacher Dr. Kelly Eichmann who was named Teacher of the Year and Weldon Elementary/Clark Intermediate Student Relations Liaison Gabriel Hughes Employee of the Year in the 2022 Fresno County Educator of the Year contest sponsored by the Fresno County Superintendent of School's Office. They – pictured here with Clovis Unified Superintendent Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D. – were announced Nov. 17 at a gala awards ceremony and selected from among dozens of outstanding nominees from Fresno County school districts for the award that recognizes deep commitment to the care and success of students.

Photo by P.J. Lippert/CUSD Today

Southeast boundary study continues 35th elementary school to open Fall 2024

In preparation of Clovis Unified opening a new elementary school in the southeast area of the district in Fall 2024, potential attendance boundary map options have been developed and are available for public review.

The maps were created following several community meetings with families and community members at all Clovis East area elementary schools and community-wide meetings this fall that sought input.

Criteria guiding the process has been:

- Utilize existing school design capacity whenever possible
- Keep neighborhoods together with contiguous boundaries that avoid gerrymandering and avoid crossing major streets and other barriers

- Consider neighborhood dynamics
 - Consider transportation needs
 - Consider implications to special programs
- A Community Forum discussing the different attendance map options was held Dec. 6 and staff gathered further feedback, which can still be offered online at cusd.com.

Input about the options will be processed through January, with a final attendance map recommendation anticipated to be developed



and shared with the public and Governing Board in early February. The board is expected to take action on the proposal later that month.

Clovis Unified will open its 35th elementary school in 2024 near Fowler and McKinley avenues to keep pace with growing residential development and increasing enrollment in the southeast area of the district.

A recent study of school enrollment shows that without a new elementary school, within 10 years elementary schools in the Clovis East Area would be severely overcrowded, with student populations of 1,000 or more.

Last month, the Clovis Unified Governing Board appointed current Miramonte Elementary Principal Laura Reynolds as the future principal of the new school.

To view attendance map proposals or submit feedback: <https://rec.cusd.com/2022schoolboundaries.aspx>.

To hear from Assistant Superintendent of Facility Services Denver Stairs as he explains the boundary-setting process and how to get involved, watch CUSD's "2 Minutes Today" October edition at: <https://www.cusd.com/2MinutesToday.aspx>.

District budget book wins excellence



For the 25th year in a row, Clovis Unified School District has been recognized for excellence in budget presentation with the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2022-23 school year. The award, announced Nov. 15, is presented by the Association of School Business Officials International.

The district holds the longest streak for receiving the award in California.

The association seeks to encourage school district budget presentations that meet compliance and requirements while also providing a presentation format that promotes public understanding and clarity.

This school year, Clovis Unified oversees a \$572 million General Fund. Learn more: cusd.com/budgetfinance.aspx.



Free study help available online

Stuck on a math homework problem? Getting confused about adverbs and adjectives, and there's a quiz the next day? No worries! One-on-one tutoring help is just a click away for Clovis Unified students at all grade levels.

The district has partnered with tutor.com, a service of The Princeton Review, to provide students with online tutoring anytime without charge to families. There are more than 3,000 expert tutors in 250-plus subject areas available to help.

Students using the service can expect one-on-one help through a live messaging window, with the ability for the student or tutor to share screens on a whiteboard on which both write and view.

"It's a great resource year-round, and right now as our students are heading into end of semester and looking into unit tests and finals and needing some help, this is a great place to get it," said Curriculum and Instruction Assistant Superintendent Erin Waer said.

To access the on-demand service, students can log into their Clever account and select the tutor.com app. To find out more, view "2 Minutes Today" that was recently emailed to parents that shows the service in action.



Photo special to CUSD Today

How are you feeling?

At Temperance-Kutner Elementary School, students in Kristen Houston's class were learning about emotions and feelings during their weekly Positivity Project Instruction and used their own emojis to express themselves. The lesson included learning about being open and aware to the feeling of others. Find more news about school happenings in "Around the District" on **Page 7**.



Clovis North wows in parade

They played "California Dreamin'" in the streets of New York as the Clovis North High Marching Band and Color Guard performed in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. A national audience was wowed by their televised performance as the 132 Valley musicians took part in the iconic parade with colorful floats and oversized balloons – the Broncos were trailed by a massive SpongeBob – and thousands lined the route to view in person. "It was a trip of a lifetime!" said CN Band Director David Lesser.



Photos by John Arevalo/CUSD Today



CUSD ag students score well at Fair

Around 100 Clovis FFA students from Clovis Unified's McFarlane-Coffman Ag Center at Clovis East High participated this fall in the Big Fresno Fair where the Small Animal and Livestock Show Teams won six out of 10 overall Grand Champions.

Clovis FFA students raise everything from goats and cows to chickens and pigs. Students invest several hours each day for up to 11 months a year tending to the animals that they will show at the fair. But there is a lot more involved than just animal care.

The ag students work as independent entrepreneurs, obtaining advisory from teachers, parents and animal breeders, said Clovis East ag instructor Jennifer Knight. Individually, they build strategy and project plans including budget, time and financial management, data tracking, data analysis and marketing.

"They have to market their project to ensure they will break even financially or end up making a profit when selling their animal. They also learn to manage their feelings when the animal they have created a bond with will be sold as food at the Live-stock Auction," Knight said.

Students support and work alongside one another, helping and representing Clovis FFA, though they compete individually. Knight said she is proud of the level of dedication and professionalism her students possess. "They learn that just because you work hard does not always mean you will win, yet they learn to be proud of the success they've found making great choices and representing our school and community in positive ways."

BEEF AND CATTLE HIGHLIGHTS: Cambria Cook, Supreme Champion Market Steer, Champion and Reserve Registered Breeding Heifer, Champion Cow/Calf Pair, Champion Advanced Beef Showmanship; Chase Gann, Reserve Supreme Champion Market Steer, Champion Breeding Bull, Champion Registered Bred By Exhibitor, Reserve Champion Intermediate Beef Showmanship; Gabrielle Garcia, Champion All Other Colors Market Steer, Champion Novice Beef Showmanship, Round Robin Master Showmanship Novice Champion; Josef Fulbright, Supreme Champion Bred By Exhibitor Market Steer, Reserve Champion Feeder Calf.

SWINE HIGHLIGHTS: Preston Ashley, Supreme Champion Market Hog; Emmalee Balch, First Place Yearling Breeding Gilt; Gracie Peters, Reserve Champion Yorkshire Market Hog; Nolan Phalzgraph, Reserve Champion Duroc Market Hog; Caden Quinn, Champion All Other Breeds Market Hog; Jackson Scarborough, Champion Yorkshire Market Hog; Tyler Scott, Reserve Champion Hampshire Market Hog, Champion Novice Showmanship.

GOAT AND SHEEP HIGHLIGHTS: Caleb Gann, Reserve Supreme Champion Market Goat, Champion Junior High, 2nd Place Intermediate Goat Showmen, Champion Doe and Bred By Exhibitor Doe; Sadie Keller, Reserve Champion FFA Market Goat; Samantha Lane, Champion Senior Goat Showmen, 3rd Place Round Robin Master Showmanship; Chase Gann, Champion Intermediate Goat Showmen; Chris



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Celebrating Clovis East student wins are, from left, parent Todd Cook, student Cambria Cook with her Supreme Champion Market Steer, student Chase Gann with his Reserve Supreme Champion Market Steer and Clovis FFA Beef Advisor Trevor Autry.

Lane, Reserve Champion Heavy-weight Market Goat; Ryan Hayashi, Reserve Supreme Champion Bred By Exhibitor Market Lamb.

SMALL ANIMAL HIGHLIGHTS: Lucy Hernandez, Grand Champion Market Turkey, Champion Turkey Showmen; Elizabeth

Brandon, Grand Champion Pen of 3 Market Rabbits.

FLORAL: Mishaila Pena, Best of Show Floral Arrangement.



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Reyburn Intermediate student Caleb Gann shows his winning Reserve Supreme Champion Market Goat as Clovis FFA Goat Advisor Emily Faraone holds his banner.

Artists honored in art competition



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Clovis West's Josiah Warren holds his award as instructor Barbie Savage Piasecki celebrates at the Big Fresno Fair.

Clovis Unified student artwork stood out in the Big Fresno Fair's annual art competition, with CUSD students earning Best of Show in nine of the 11 categories. They are: Melanie Moua, Clovis East High, Drawing-Black and White; Julie Harris, Clovis North High, Drawing-Colored Pencil, Felt Markers, Pastel, Oil Pastel; Allison Taylor, Clovis West High, Drawing-Black and White Pen, Ink or Black Felt Marker; Nadia Iqbal, Buchanan High, Painting-Tempera Painting or Water Color; Allison Taylor, Clovis West, Painting-Oil or Acrylic Paint; Josiah Warren, Clovis West, Ceramic-Sculpture; Alexa Sanders, Clovis High, Ceramic-Pottery, Functional Pieces; Kailee Ia, Clovis North, Photography-Manipulated or Altered; Jana Coetzee, Clovis High, 2-Dimensional Design-Print Making Graphic Design, Collage.

At the intermediate school level, recognized were Leanna Vang, Reyburn, Ceramics; and Jack Arnold, Kastner, Fine Arts Drawing.

Jana Coetzee, Clovis High received the Allard's Art Awards.



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Kerman Unified School District Community Health Center 702 S. Eighth Street 559.364.2975	Kerman Dental Center / Valley Optometric Center 942 S. Madera Ave 559.364.2980	Central Fresno Community Health Center 4711 W. Ashlan Ave 559.203.6660	Dinuba Community Health Center Behavioral Health Services 920 N. Alta Avenue 559.595.1000	Dinuba Community Health Center 888 N. Alta Avenue 559.595.1000
Kerman Unified School District Community Health Center KUSD Student-Only 702 S. Eighth Street 559.364.2975	Golden Plains Unified School District Community Health Center - Tranquillity 6171 S. Daniels Avenue 559.364.2984	Bishop Community Health Center Dental Services 459 W. Line Street, Suite B 760.784.7020	Bishop Community Health Center 459 W. Line Street, Suite C 760.784.7020	COVID-19 Testing, Vaccinations & Post COVID-19 Care

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➤ Announcements

It's showtime in CUSD!

Who needs Broadway when the amazing talent of Clovis Unified's high school students and their school productions are available right here? Several shows – the culmination of passion, hard work and numerous rehearsals – will be performed in the coming weeks. For more information or tickets, visit CUSD.com/tickets.

■ **'A Christmas Story'** – Clovis West High Theater will bring the holiday memories of youngster Ralphie Parker to life in the comical production of "A Christmas Story." In the fictional tale, the boy dreams of getting a "Red Ryder air rifle" as a present and hopes against all odds – involving crazy antics of his family, neighborhood bullies and even a broken leg lamp – it will be under the Christmas tree. Remaining shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8-10 at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno.

■ **'The Hunchback of Notre Dame'** – Clovis North High will present the musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" in January. The Hunchback of Notre Dame tells the story of Quasimodo, the hunchbacked bell-ringer of Notre Dame, and his desire to one day be a part of the outside world. The production will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19-21 and 26-28; and 2 p.m. Jan. 21 and 28 at the Mercedes Edwards Theatre, 902 Fifth St. More: thebroncodrama.com.

■ **'Exit the Body'** – Clovis High brings to life "Exit the Body" in this comedy stage production who-dunnit that features a mystery writer, jewel thieves and a disappearing dead body in search of hidden gems. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26-28 and Feb. 2-4 at the Dan Pessano Theater, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno.

Asbestos management plan in place at each school site

In compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Clovis Unified is providing written notification of the availability of the 2021-22 school year asbestos management plan for public inspection at each school site and at the district office, 1450 Herndon Ave., Clovis. The management plan includes inspection records as well as documentation of any asbestos removal

Congratulations!
2022 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS
Nation's Best!

Clovis Unified School District administrators, including Woods Elementary Principal Cecilia Dansby, third from left, and Granite Ridge Principal Joshua Shapiro, fourth from right, received National Blue Ribbon School awards for their schools in Washington, D.C., in November. The two CUSD schools were the only in the Valley to receive the national honor.

that has occurred at the site. Arrangements may be made to review these plans by contacting the district's asbestos coordinator, Adam Belmont at 327-9491.

During the past school year, the district conducted two required six-month surveillance AHERA inspections at all sites. This included inspecting all known asbestos locations and reporting any changes in condition. Additionally, licensed contractors performed asbestos removal work at Dry Creek Elementary and Red Bank Elementary. For each of these projects, the district retained the services of a certified asbestos consulting firm to monitor the work and ensure compliance with all regulations and requirements.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the district's asbestos program, contact Adam Belmont at the number above.

Granville's Home of Hope raises \$103k for CUSD schools

The Foundation for Clovis Schools received \$103,410 for its participation in Granville's Home of Hope event. Funds raised through purchases of tickets

entered in a drawing for a brand new home were distributed to several local nonprofits, including the Foundation for Clovis Schools. The foundation is comprised of volunteers who raise money for classroom grants, scholarships, new teacher mini-grants and leadership training. Thank you to the community and all who purchased tickets through the Foundation for Clovis Schools and to Granville Homes for your partnership and support!

Special Education

Clovis Unified School District offers a variety of special education services and programs to serve children with communicative, physical, learning, emotional and other special needs. These services and programs are available to all qualified children in public schools and, to a limited degree, children in private schools.

Special education services are provided only to children who have been found eligible through a process of testing and other assessments and when it is determined that their needs cannot be met using the resources of the general education program. Parents, teachers, or other concerned individuals can refer a child for assessment and determination of eligibility.

To learn more about special education services

and the special education referral process, contact Clovis Unified School District Special Education Department at 327-9400.

Advisory committee meetings

Clovis Unified holds regular meetings throughout the year of its Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that are open to the public. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Special Education Local Plan Area. Its goal is to raise community awareness about the needs of students and their families regarding Special Education programs and to provide information, workshops and resources to families to help ensure that quality programs educate the student with exceptional needs in mind, body and spirit.

The next CAC meeting will be on "Legislative Updates" held from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 8 at the CUSD Professional Development Building, 1680 David E. Cook Way, Clovis, and a complimentary lunch is provided.

For more information or to secure an interpreter for a meeting, call 327-8455 or email familyresourcecenter@cusd.com. Information and updates can also be found on cusd.com.

College financial aid window opens, workshops

Seniors planning on attending college in the Fall of 2023 can submit their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and CADAA (California Dream Act Application) online. The application window closes March 2.

The FAFSA is not just for low-income students and should be completed by ALL students planning to attend a community college for either a career certificate or transfer degree and by all students planning to attend a four-year university. The application will also be used for college scholarship information and many student athletes are asked to complete the application.

Starting with the Class of 2023, Assembly Bill 469 makes applying for the FAFSA mandatory for all seniors; however, students/parents can also choose to complete a FAFSA waiver form. Contact your high school counselor for more information.

Clovis Unified schools have been holding workshops to assist families in completing the FAFSA. Remaining upcoming workshops are on the following dates, and are open to families from all school areas: Buchanan High, Jan. 31; and Clovis West High, Dec. 12, Feb. 6 and Feb. 14. Links, information and workshop times are available through the CUSD high school counseling centers.

The FAFSA online application is available at <https://fafsa.ed.gov>.

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Tuesday, January 3
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Wednesday, January 4
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

The in-person events will take place at the Clovis Community College campus in Academic Center building 1, Open Computer Lab. (AC1-OCL)
Relaxed parking in student stalls

VIRTUAL SESSIONS will also be available concurrently on these dates.
Meeting ID: 991 2011 8762 Passcode: 2015

VIRTUAL SESSION

Wednesday, December 14
1:00 P.M. - 6:00 PM

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting ID: 991 2011 8762
Passcode: 2015

Why attend Extreme Registration?

- Meet with a counselor for express academic advising
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- Learn about financial aid opportunities

New students or students who have not attended SCCCD in the last two semesters should complete the application at cloviscollege.edu/apply at least two days prior to the event.

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STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Fall district champions honored

Fall sports came to a close in November after a robust season where volleyballs smashed, footballs flew and water polo balls splashed across the district as athletes gave their all in league play.

Elementary

Clovis Unified Fall Elementary Athletic Championships saw hundreds of students competing in volleyball, football and cross-country – with a new district time record set for the Boys 5th/6th Grade cross country race by Valley Oak student Cole Jolley, with a time of 5:11.69. Congratulations to:

■ Football Bowl Series champions Dry Creek, Boris and Fugman; and runners-up Lincoln, Gettysburg and Freedom.

■ Volleyball champion Fugman, and runner-up Jefferson

■ Cross-Country Team champions Dry Creek (girls fourth grade); Woods (boys fourth grade); Mickey Cox (girls 5th/6th grade); Dry Creek (boys 5th/6th grade).

Intermediate

Clovis Intermediate Athletic League (CIAL) fall championship teams: Varsity Football, Alta Sierra; 7th grade, Clark; Girls Volleyball, 8th grade, Reyburn; 7th-grade, Alta Sierra; Boys Water Polo, 8th grade, Clark, 7th grade, Alta Sierra; Girls Water Polo, 8th grade, Alta Sierra, 7th grade, Clark; Girls Tennis, Reyburn; Girls Golf, Alta Sierra; Girls Cross Country, Alta Sierra; Boys Cross Country, Alta Sierra.

High School

Tri-River Athletic Conference (TRAC) fall championship teams: Boys Cross Country, Buchanan; Girls Cross Country,



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Dry Creek Elementary's 4th Grade Girls Cross Country Team receives the District Champions award for the 2022-23 school year at the Fall Elementary Athletic Championships held at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Buchanan; Football, Clovis West; Girls Golf, Clovis West; Girls Gymnastics, Clovis West; Girls Tennis, Clovis North; Girls Volleyball, Clovis East; Boys Water Polo, Clovis North; Girls Water Polo, Clovis West.



Student athletes college bound

Forty-eight senior student athletes in Clovis Unified schools are signing Letters of Intent in November, with commitments ranging from Fresno State and Fresno Pacific University to Cal Berkeley, Oregon State and the Air Force Academy. Proud parents, coaches and friends will cheered at ceremonies for the following:

Buchanan High

J.P. Acosta, Baseball, CSU Long Beach; Bailey Bracha, Soccer, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Maggie Cook, Water Polo, Fresno Pacific University; Savanna FauntLeRoy, volleyball, Hawaii Pacific; Hilton Green, Track and Field, Oklahoma; Braden Guentz, Baseball, Pepperdine; Hayley Hartsburg, Soccer, CSU Sacramento; Grace Hutchison, Cross Country and Track and Field, BYU; Genesis Jasper, Water Polo, Arizona State; Jordan Lev-

► Please see *College*, Page 9

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The art and science of great education

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

GREAT education is both an art and a science, and in Clovis Unified we are finely focused on both in our work to address students' pandemic learning loss.



Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.

Great education requires the art of relationships and of caring deeply about each unique and individual student. It demands of educators the willingness to take the time to get to know each child and to understand his or her motivating interests enough to unlock their full potential for learning. When someone accepts a job with Clovis Unified, they accept an obligation to our students that they will care enough to go outside of their own comfort zones if it means that a child achieves his or her best.

As part of a long-standing tradition in our district that emphasizes the direct correlation of great people to great education, I interview every teacher hired by Clovis Unified. The capacity to care is not a "teachable" quality, and every member of our team goes to great lengths to recruit and retain people who understand the art of caring.

If art is one face of the educational coin, science is the other. Educators must also be intentional and systematic, and they must be wholly committed to monitoring systems that are essential to accomplish goals. A good teacher knows not only what his students' personal interests are, but the data behind how that student is doing on each individual element of the curriculum and subject matter. Is the child at or above grade level? Have they mastered each concept that has been taught? Are they growing, regardless of their current

grade level achievement?

On a larger scale, data drives the actions of entire grade level teaching teams in planning their approach to instruction. And, on a school-wide basis our principals, curriculum and instruction teams, and Area Superintendents are constantly evaluating both objective and subjective data to ensure every day of instruction is maximized.

In Clovis Unified, we have multiple accountability systems in place that are designed to ensure we never lose sight of the science of education. If you are not familiar with our Clovis Assessment System for Sustained Improvement (CLAS-SI), I encourage you to learn more

“ We are leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to bring students back on track and quickly make-up the loss of learning caused by a worldwide pandemic ... ”

Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.
Superintendent

about this multi-tiered evaluation that annually measures schools against themselves and against a standard. For decades, this system has measured everything from how well students are being engaged in co-curricular activities, parent involvement, and cultural proficiency work, to year-over-year academic achievement growth and how clean the campus is kept.

If ever there was any doubt, a pandemic has reaffirmed that our students achieve academic success best when they are in a classroom with a caring teacher. As recent state assessment results showed, the disruptions of COVID shutdowns, contact tracing and quar-

antines had a negative impact on student learning, and I make no bones about the fact that our students' academic performance suffered.

In Clovis Unified, our students' math scores are down roughly 9% from pre-pandemic levels, and English Language Arts scores are close to 6% lower than in 2019. While these results highlight the challenge facing our students and our educational team, there is another data set that shows our students are rebounding rapidly when engaged in our classrooms.

Formative assessments provide another data point that informs the science of teaching, as they show educators whether or not students are growing in their mastery of grade level curriculum standards. Last year, data from these assessments show that more than 80% of our students in grades K-6 grew and improved on these assessments. At the school and district level, we have multi-tiered systems of support that emphasize first, best classroom instruction and then the importance of identifying and fulfilling needs that match resources, curriculum and staffing where they will make the greatest impact.

Each fall, teachers go through an individualized process to create plans to bring every child to grade level or above. At the same time, our Area Superintendents are meeting with each school leader in their Area to develop intentional strategies and plans to see school-wide academic growth. I, too, along with members of our school leadership and instructional services leadership, meet with two elementary schools in each area along with every high school and intermediate school leader to dive deeply into student performance data and academic success plans.

We are leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to bring students back on track and quickly make up the loss of learning caused by a worldwide pandemic, an effort that demands both the art and the science of great education.

LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Special to CUSD Today

They may be young, but members of the Tarpey Elementary School Student Council took their message of civic responsibility and caring for one's community to Sacramento in November at the California State Judicial Council's Civic Summit. The elementary children were invited to speak at the summit after the Clovis Unified school was named earlier this year as the only elementary school in the state – out of more than 5,800 public elementary schools – to receive the California Civic Learning Award of Excellence from the California Courts.

“ Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future. ”

MARIA MONTESSORI, ITALIAN PHYSICIAN AND EDUCATOR

Prevent child drug use: Facts you should know

Clovis Unified continues to partner with local health and law enforcement agencies in Fresno County to alert parents and students alike to the ongoing dangers of drug use in our area. An alarming rise of the availability and use of illegally made street drug fentanyl creates great concern as the potent opioid can be deadly. Fentanyl is the leading cause of fatal overdose in Fresno County, according to officials.

Also of concern is that drug makers have begun disguising the drug by making it look like candy. That could allow adolescents to hide the drug in plain sight of adults, or it could mean that kids unknowingly consume the drug but think it is candy. In some cases, even a small dose of street fentanyl has been fatal as the opioid is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

This fall Clovis Unified hosted a Town Hall with local officials to bring this to the public's attention; conducted social media campaigns to provide parents, students and

the community with facts; and provided educational messages during the recent Red Ribbon Week annual drug prevention campaign.

We encourage parents and the community to partner with us in this effort as together, we can help our students live their very best lives.

The following provide tips and resources to continue raising awareness and fighting for our children.

FACTS & INFORMATION

Knowing the facts can equip parents to better protect their children from drug use.

- Drugs commonly accessed by youth include alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription drugs and street drugs, including fentanyl which is the leading cause of drug-related deaths in Fresno County.

- Drug dealers use apps to contact youth and arrange convenient cash-app purchases, even dropping off products in locations by a student's home.

- App conversations can be made up entirely of emojis in cer-

tain combinations that signify various drugs.

- Common names for some of the street drugs in the area are: percs, blues, tango and cash, M30, xannie bars, fent and smackers.

- Drugs can be hidden in plain sight, such as nicotine or THC vaping products that look like a thumb drive or pen, or opioids in the shapes of common candies like gummy bears or Skittles.

- Parents should talk with their child about the dangers and real consequences of drug use.

More information, resources and conversation starters can be found at cUSD.com/ParentBulletin.aspx and cUSD.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject.aspx.

PREVENTION TIPS

Parents, create an environment that encourages your child to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

- Talk with your child about the real consequences of drug use.

- Keep any prescription medications out of reach of children or in a locked cabinet.

- Know where your child is

and know their friends. Speak up about any whose influence concerns you.

- Monitor social media for peer pressure and cash apps that target youth.

- Learn and watch for symptoms of drug use.

- Seek help for any mental health or wellness issues.

- Encourage a balanced life that includes social, physical and co-curricular activities. Plan family time.

More information, resources and conversation starters about drugs and drug use can be found in Clovis Unified Parent Bulletins at cUSD.com/ParentBulletin.aspx.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT DRUGS

Children whose parents talk to them about the dangers of drug use are 42% less likely to use drugs. Here are suggestions for making the conversations go well:

- Choose informal times such as during dinner, in the car, going for a walk or at bedtime.

- Set clear expectations about

drug and alcohol use, including real consequences for not following rules.

- Develop strategies with your child if they encounter peer pressure regarding drug use.

- Let them know you care and will answer their questions honestly.

- Check-in with them and keep the conversation going.

- Stay engaged in their lives by asking about their friends, school and activities.

- Be a good listener.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources can be found by contacting your school or visiting the CUSD Comprehensive Wellness Project website that has resource pages on substance use, self-care, mental health, suicide prevention and more. There are also video links to view the Fentanyl Town Hall as well as a special report on the topic. Visit: cUSD.com/ComprehensiveWellnessProject.aspx. Fresno County also has information available at fresnocountyca.gov/fentanylandopioidsafefresno.org.

— ABOUT US —

CUSD Today, Clovis Unified's good news publication, is sent directly to the homes of all CUSD parents and staff, as well as district supporters. In an effort to unify the CUSD community, the newspaper highlights the achievements of Clovis Unified students and staff; profiles new and updated Governing Board policies; and shares general news and information happening within the district.

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Careers launch from CTE experience

■ CTE Night gives students look in time for fall enrollment

By Karen M. Boone
Assistant Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability

Clovis Unified families are invited to learn more about the district's growing Career Technical Education programs at "CTE Night" from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building. With fall enrollment opening soon for CTE courses, the event will give students the chance to explore college and career opportunities available to students from all CUSD high schools, CART and the Clovis Adult School.

Teachers and current CTE students taking classes ranging from construction and engineering to hospitality and healthcare will be on hand at the showcase and provide engaging activities and practical experiences so visitors can learn how CTE can impact students.

During the day, seventh- and eighth-grade Transitions Program students will tour the building as part of the Intermediate Transitions Conference and also get a sneak peek at what CTE is all about. Students at all intermediate and high schools will also be given an opportunity to sign up to take a bus over to the Veterans Memorial Building during the day to familiarize themselves with the 21 CTE pathways offered in the district.

Not every student learns the same way. In CTE courses, students experience a mixture of classroom instruction along with hands-on learning and industry partnership experiences. Career Technical Education provides an alternative approach that works to help students become college and career ready. Students and parents interested in learning more about how to get involved in CTE classes are encouraged to attend this event.

This school year, there are 3,705 students enrolled in CTE pathways throughout the district. Clovis Unified offers a variety of CTE courses at each high school, and students can take CTE classes offered at schools other



► QUICK FACTS

- 21 CTE Pathways in CUSD
- CTE courses at all five CUSD high schools
- Explore the options at CTE Night at 6 p.m. Jan. 24 at Clovis Veterans Memorial Building
- Enroll for Fall 2023 during spring registration

than their home school site.

Current offerings are as follows – Buchanan High Pathways: Engineering Design; Environmental Resources; Design, Visual and Media Arts; Production and Managerial Arts; Food Service and Hospitality; Patient Care; Performing Arts; Clovis East High School Pathways: Agricultural Mechanics; Agricultural Science; Animal Science; Plant and Soil Science; Emergency Response; Public Safety; Patient Care; Clovis High Pathways: Design, Visual and Media Arts; Residential and Commercial Construction; Systems Diagnostics, Service and Repair; Clovis North High Pathways: Design, Visual and Media Arts; Patient Care; Software and Systems Development; Clovis West High Pathways: Business Management; Financial Services; Performing Arts; Systems Diagnostics, Service and Repair; All Sites: Education; Child Development.

For more information on each of these pathways go to the CUSD website: <https://www.cusd.com/CTEPathways.aspx>

We look forward to seeing you on Jan. 24th!



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For more information or menus: [cusd.com/MealMenus.aspx](https://www.cusd.com/MealMenus.aspx)



T'Wolves filmed for spirit

Clovis East High is one of three schools in the country chosen to be featured by the brand "Varsity Spirit," which brought a film crew to the Timberwolves' Salute to Services/Staff Appreciation football game this fall. The focus was how the band, pep and cheer teams, and student section work together to create school unity and Wolfpack pride. The media coverage will show across the country throughout the year.



Growing knowledge at the farm

Some of Clovis Unified's youngest students took a field trip to the farm recently for tours and demonstrations at Clovis East High's McFarlane-Coffman Agriculture Center. Kindergarten through second graders from Riverview, Century, Tarpey, Miramonte and Freedom elementary schools visited around different booths and activities manned by high school ag students who taught the younger children about all sectors of agriculture.

Kids learned about animals by watching sheep being shorn, milking a dairy cow model and petting goats, horses and pigs. They learned about plants and horticulture by playing a seed matching game, discovering the benefits of insects and creating a flower arrangement. And, they learned about ag mechanics by watching a welding demonstration, learning how to use hand tools safely and attaching different equipment.

"The grade-school children love it," says Clovis East Agriculture Department Chair Jennifer Knight, "and it is also a great opportunity for our high school ag students to become the teacher for the day, sharing information about agriculture in a tangible, positive way."

One of the primary goals of the event, which is also held in the springtime, is to educate kids about their food and where it comes from, which is especially meaningful in the



Central Valley where agriculture is a top industry.

"It may be the first time for some to see a farm or farm animal in person. We want them to know their food is grown by a human who cares about plants, animals and the environment, and that food doesn't just come from a store or factory," Knight said.



Tasty reading!

Oraze Elementary third-grade teacher Kris Salomonson held a "Book Tasting" in her class recently. Atop red-checked tablecloths, students sampled several different kinds of books to get a "taste" of their different genres. On the menu were humor, fairy tales, non-fiction, biography and historical fiction. Students then created their own order of what they liked and shared it with the group.



Unity at Clovis Adult

Twenty-one cultures were showcased by students in Clovis Unified's Clovis Adult Education English as a Second Language program at the school's Multicultural Fair this month. CAE students created presentation boards about their homelands and shared traditional costumes and dances, food and heritage with attendees. "The reason for the fair is the spirit of oneness and unity, because in this school, everyone is family," said Joann Beshansky, who teaches ESL and helped organize the event.

CN student video Top 30

A Clovis North High student made the Top 30 as a semifinalist in the Breakthrough Junior Challenge, a global science video competition for high school students. Isaac Wang created a video on how the immune system fights germs and used not just science, but a little bit of comedy and engaging animations to explain. According to the BJC website, entries were judged on a student's ability to communicate complex scientific ideas in illuminating and imaginative ways. Thousands of entries were received from around the world. To view Isaac's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2YRdnq7LV0>



Guardians at Weldon

The Clovis High Transitions Team staff dressed up like characters from the movie "Guardians of the Galaxy," and visited students at Weldon Elementary for the school's Goodies with Guardians annual event. Hosted by the Weldon parent club, kids and their families are treated to donuts and coffee before school starts, and also have the chance to get their picture taken.



National prize for CE ag

Clovis East High's FFA Meats Team won third place in the FFA National Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The students – Devin Majors, Zachary Peters, Tyler Holt and

Raevyn Murillo – were coached by instructor Jennifer Knight. The event tests students' skills and competencies in evaluating and identifying meat products and includes a general knowledge exam; beef carcass evaluation; identification of wholesale and retail cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; quality and yield grading of beef carcasses; a team meat merchandising event; and solving of a meat formulation problem.

Fun on the field

Discs flew and smiles, too, at the Van Ravenhorst Disc Golf Classic held recently at Clark Intermediate. Around 100 Functional Life Skills (FLS) students from Clovis Unified intermediate schools competed in friendly games and social opportunities. Clark leadership students and student mentors did a great job mentoring and encouraging the competitors.

The event is named after adaptive P.E. instructor Bert Van Ravenhorst who retired last year after 22 years with the district. It includes ladder golf, corn hole, volleyball and disc golf. This year's champion FLS team was Alta Sierra Intermediate, followed by Kastner and Clark.

"The students learn about each other, their likes, dislikes, and find that they have things in common while playing disc golf," said Shireen Malan, Special Education program specialist. "Our hope is that the FLS students learn teamwork and that it's not solely about winning but that everyone is having fun!"

Let's get moving!

Students, staff and families took part in Walk to School Day at Oraze Elementary recently. The event included local law enforcement and promoted safe walking practices as well as encouraging kids to be active for a healthy lifestyle.

Happy Diwali

Students at Copper Hills Elementary colored mandalas and learned about Diwali Oct. 24. Diwali, also known as the "Festival of Lights," is an important celebration in history and within the Indian culture. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Several students also shared their family's traditions for the holiday.

Editor's note: "Around the District" is a regular feature of CUSD Today that highlights positive activities and accomplishments of students and schools throughout the district. Items for consideration may be sent to cusdtoday@cusd.com.

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Educator finalists named

The California League of Educators announced the Region 7 finalists being considered for the Educator of the Year for elementary, intermediate and high school for the area that includes Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tulare and Kern counties.

Finalists will be honored at events in December and Region 7 winners will be announced. They will go on to represent the area at the State California of League Educators of the Year awards in March.

Congratulations to Region 7 finalists from Clovis Unified:

Elementary: Kimberley Bueno, Boris;

Cheryl Hedrick, Garfield; Brittany Salley, Miramonte; Natasha McCollough, Riverview; Joaquin Rivera, Pinedale; Matt Filippi, Mickey Cox.

Intermediate: Shauna Everson, Alta Sierra; Kenneth Martinez, Clark; Matt Hirata, Granite Ridge; Patty Manghera, Reyburn; Stephanie Davidson Barcellos, Kastner.

High School: Michael Miller, Clovis West; Jenny Mammen, Gateway; Abigail Paxton, Buchanan; Jeri Olson, Clovis East; Sarah Perkovich, Clovis High; Clifford Nitschke, Clovis North.

Lincoln teacher jams with band on stage

Lincoln Elementary third-grade teacher Joel Stetler played drums this fall for The Killers rock band in Los Angeles after he held up a sign in the audience that said: "Fighting Cancer, Ready to Play Drums on 'Reasons,'" referring to the band's song "Reasons Unknown." The former drummer caused the crowd in the Banc of California Stadium to go wild with his beat and huge smile.

Stetler has been fighting a rare form of terminal cancer for several years and has been featured in local news reports for his mindfulness and determination to live his fullest



life – he runs marathons! – for himself, his family and his students.

Earlier this year, in collaboration with his Room 11 third graders, Stetler wrote a book titled, "Wisdom for the

Long Run – 27 Mantras to Bring You Past Your Finish Line." It includes illustrations and wisdom from his students.

"Years of cancer treatment have taught me that much of life can be boiled down to goals vs. obstacles. ... I've learned to take these obstacles as opportunities for growth," he writes. "It's a beautiful thing to watch [my Room 11 students] ... taking on struggle and adversity in the same spirit as the world's most dedicated endurance athletes, then exiting out the other side being smarter than yesterday."

The book is available on amazon.com.

Employee briefs



Groovy lunch week highlight on Clovis campuses

Across Clovis Unified campuses, Campus Catering staff dressed in "groovy" attire to celebrate National School Lunch Week, keeping with this year's theme, "Peace, Love & School Lunch!"

The week is intended to highlight the nutritious foods served daily at schools, which this year are available at no cost for all Clovis Unified students.

Clovis Unified meals include locally sourced fruits and vegetables, along with whole grains, low fat dairy and a variety of protein sources.

For photos, descriptions, ingredients and nutrition information about the food offered in CUSD cafeterias, please visit <https://cUSD.nutrislice.com/menu/>.

Last year, Clovis Unified Campus Catering staff served 4.7 million nutritious and deli-

cious meals – and they are back at it again this year. Now that's groovy!

CUSD employees part of Blue Devils' win

When the Blue Devils Performing Arts won the World Championship title at Drum Corps International in Indiana this year, several Clovis Unified employees who are also CUSD graduates were part of the band! The Blue Devils, based in California, excelled with its 2022 program titled "Tempus Blue," throughout summer competitions and went on to win its 20th World Championship title.

Congratulations to Daniel Erese, Clovis North percussions technician and Clovis East graduate; Dalton Hooke, Clovis West music technician and Clovis East graduate; Santiago Segura, Clovis High music technician and Clovis West graduate; Shelby Stratton, Clovis High color guard technician and graduate; and Nathaniel Trueba, Buchanan music technician and Clovis West graduate.



Book brings fun to language

Mixing her passion for students and language development, 25-year Clovis Unified veteran language-speech pathologist Lisa Phenicie published her first children's book this fall called "Bubble Hunt" that is designed to build communication.

It's a fun story about a family – including two sisters modeled after Phenicie's own daughters – playing with bubbles and wondering where they come from.

"The words and pictures in the book were carefully chosen as to assist with developing communication skills – words, gestures, signs, facial expressions. It demonstrates a way to combine simple repetitive words with play," Phenicie said.

Currently at Century Elementary, the new author said she has had the idea for the book for some time, but it came together when she noticed the beautiful artwork of her co-worker at Century, Taryn Baker, who joined in the project as illustrator.

"Bubble Hunt" targets developing communicators and those acquiring language.

"My hope is that this sweet, little book will be used with parents, grandparents, speech-language pathologists, and educators as they interact with children. In the back of the book, I have included speech and



language information and suggestions on how to use the book. Grab some bubbles and some toy animals and have some fun while using the words in the book."

Phenicie dedicated the book to all the toddlers and preschoolers she has worked with over her nearly three decades and those she will continue to work with in the years to come. A sequel is already underway: "Even Elephants Love Bubbles!"

The book is available on amazon.com.

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38-year board veteran honored upon retirement

By Kelly Avants
CUSD Chief
Communications Officer

Nov. 9

A crowd filled the boardroom on Nov. 9 with leaders from around the community joining district staff and family members present to honor Board Member Betsy Sandoval upon her retirement after 38 years of service on the Governing Board. The board adopted a resolution honoring her years of committed service to the students, staff and community of the district.

Leaders from the City of Clovis and Foundation for Clovis Schools also spoke in appreciation of the example of civic responsibility and care for others that Mrs. Sandoval's service exemplifies.

Early in the meeting, the board announced the ap-

pointment of two principals. Monica Castillo, current principal of Clovis Community Day School, is moving to the position of principal at Clovis Online School. Laura Reynolds, current principal of Miramonte Elementary School, will become the principal of the district's newest elementary school opening in August of 2024 at the corner of Fowler and McKinley avenues.

Before the school opens, Reynolds will be involved in the community processes of developing attendance boundaries; selecting a school name, mascots and colors; working with the facilities team overseeing construction of the new campus as well as staffing, equipment and supply purchases; and building the culture of a new school community.

In other action, the board:

▶ BOARD BRIEFS



Photo special to CUSD Today.

Retiring Clovis Unified Governing Board Member Betsy Sandoval receives a proclamation of appreciation for her 38 years of civic service from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

- Heard a performance from violinist Emily Nieves from Clovis East High. She was present to celebrate the valuable role music education plays in the district.

- Held a public hearing to allow opportunity for comments on an energy service agreement with Trane U.S. Inc. for work related to HVAC improvement projects, and

later approved an agreement for the project.

- Approved conference requests, fundraisers, student trips, voluntary community recreation programs, change orders, minutes for the October 19 meeting, and notices of completion as submitted.

- Approved a provisional internship permit for a teaching candidate to allow additional time to receive specialized credentialing.

- Awarded bids for football equipment reconditioning, energy management system upgrades, and did not award a bid for district fleet vehicle replacement.

- Approved amendments to existing Board Policies No. 1312.3, 4119.25, 4219.25, 4319.25, 4131.1, 4151.10, 4251.10, 4351.10, 4151.20, 4151.21, 4151.22, 4151.23, 4251.10, 4261.20, 4361.20, and Board Bylaw 9323, copies

of which are available online.

- Approved an owner-controlled insurance program for the Terry Bradley Educational Center Project.

- Approved the proposed use of one-time discretionary funds for the 2021-2026 Educator Effectiveness Grant at Clovis Online School.

- Approved annual legal services agreements with three law firms for occasional work for the District.

- Adopted a negative declaration for the Kastner Athletic Field Lighting Project.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Board is scheduled for Dec. 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the boardroom at 1680 David E. Cook Way in Clovis; it will be followed by the annual Budget Workshop. Complete minutes, agendas and videos of Governing Board meetings are available online at cUSD.com.

Field trip for the Teachers



Crayons, markers and colored pencils let Clovis Unified instructors explore their creative side at the Fresno Art Museum as they learned and created pumpkin drawings following the style of renowned artist Yayoi Kusama. The innovative program is a partnership between the district, museum and Fresno County Office of Education, and it lets district TK and kindergarten Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) instructors be the students first before they bring the lessons to their classrooms. Pictured, top left, Ramona Esparza and Michelle Lauby begin their pumpkins after a discussion by FCOE Visual Arts Director Aaron Bryan. At left, Katherine Radke adds her finished work to the "Pumpkin Patch" on the museum wall.

Photos special to CUSD Today by Shera Scott



College:

FROM PAGE 4

Genesis Jasper, Water Polo, Arizona State; Jordan Leveque, Track and Field, CSU San Diego; Karly Lilles, Soccer, Fresno Pacific University; Christal Lopez, Softball, CSU San Diego; Jayden Mandal, Football, Fresno State; Caroline Mendyk, Cross Country and Track and Field, University of Wisconsin; Colton O'Toole, Baseball, CSU Long Beach; Noah Ray, Track and Field, University of Arizona; Olivia Sundgren, Swimming, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Sydney Sundgren, Cross Country and Track and Field, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Sloan Swan, Wrestling, Wyoming; Daisy Torres, Soccer, CSU Northridge; James Watney, Golf, Saint Mary's.

Clovis East High

Cadence Cunha, Soccer, Fresno Pacific University; Katrina Rodriguez, Softball, Hope International University; Jayden Xiong, Volleyball, Fresno State.

Clovis High

Kendall Carr, Soccer, Air Force Academy; Christopher Caudillo, Cross Country, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Olivia Gutierrez, Tennis, William Jessup University; Jada Hardwick,

Soccer, CSU Monterey Bay; Ryle Hibbard, Water Polo, Biola University; Alyssa Kem, Basketball, Fresno Pacific University; Emma Ruvalcaba, Cross Country, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Ella Sweeney, Water Polo, Azusa Pacific University; Fernando Valentin, Baseball, Dakota State University; Sydnie Vanek, Volleyball, University of Arizona.

Clovis North High

Isabella Blanco, Cross Country and Track, Sonoma State; Naleyia Bridges, Softball, Longwood University; Braedyn Kincade, Soccer, CSU Northridge; Ryan Maddox, Softball, University of Arizona; Sergio Montoya Jr., Wrestling, Oregon State; Katie Morris, Soccer, Fresno State.

Clovis West High

Brooke Cox, Soccer, Nicholls State University; Aiden Goodrich, Volleyball, San Francisco State University; Abby Hill, Swimming, Utah Tech; Millie Morales, Softball, Cal State East Bay; Cayden Munster, Baseball, Fresno State; Maddie Rey, Softball, Fresno State; Julianne Snyder, Water Polo, UC Berkeley; Sidney Strickland, Water Polo, Fresno State.

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