

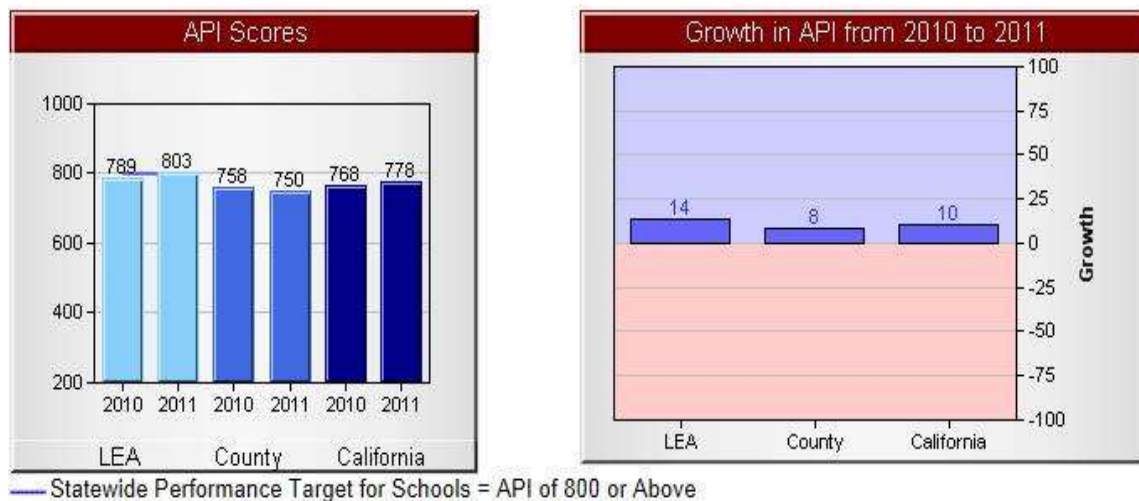


# The Superintendent's Update

September 9, 2011

## NEWS FROM KELLY

The 2010–11 Accountability Progress Reporting (APR) data became available August 31, 2011, and CUSD beat the state average API growth of 10 (we had +14) and the county growth of 8. The growth is a result of your dedication to the academic success of our students. A huge thank, on behalf of our students and community, you to each of you!



### **API : Congratulations to the following schools for substantial increases in API!**

- |            |    |              |    |
|------------|----|--------------|----|
| • Rosedale | 54 | • Hooker Oak | 26 |
| • Neal Dow | 46 | • PVHS       | 24 |
| • Parkview | 31 | • BJHS       | 16 |
| • Chapman  | 26 | • CJHS       | 15 |

### **Over 800 API: Congratulations for meeting or exceeding the state goal!**

- |              |               |        |           |
|--------------|---------------|--------|-----------|
| • CUSD       | • Neal Dow    | • BJHS | • CHS     |
| • Hooker Oak | • Shasta      | • CJHS | • PVHS    |
| • Marigold   | • Sierra View | • MJHS | • Inspire |

### **AYP: Congratulations to the following schools who met all criteria for AYP!**

- Hooker Oak
- Neal Dow
- Inspire

Below is a chart summarizing each school's API growth and AYP status:

	2010	2011			AYP All Criteria Met?
	Base API	Growth API	Change	Target	
Chico Unified	789	803	14	N/A	No
Chapman	712	738	26	5	No
Citrus	720	664	-56	5	No
Emma Wilson	792	792	0	5	No
Hooker Oak	786	812	26	5	Yes
LCC	797	796	-1	3	No
Marigold	843	831	-12	maintain 800	No
McManus	721	727	6	5	No
Neal Dow	781	827	46	5	Yes
Parkview	749	780	31	5	No
Rosedale	738	792	54	5	No
Shasta	848	851	3	maintain 800	No
Sierra View	868	872	4	maintain 800	No
Bidwell	795	811	16	5	No
Chico Jr	811	826	15	maintain 800	No
Marsh	829	825	-4	maintain 800	No
Chico High	802	806	4	maintain 800	No
Pleasant Valley	815	839	24	maintain 800	No
Inspire	N/A	850	N/A	N/A	Yes
Oakdale	685	615	-70	6	No
AFC	546	526	-20	13	No
Fair View	559	550	-9	12	No

**District Advisory Council (DAC):** To ensure open, two-way communication and to keep us on the track of increased student achievement, we are re-instating the District Advisory Council (DAC). The DAC will have their first meeting of the year on September 29. The main purpose of the DAC will be to provide a forum for communication between school sites and district staff as well as a means of gathering input into decisions that impact the District.

**Gateway Science Museum** is now scheduling fall 2011 field trips. Please go to: <http://www.csuchico.edu/gateway/explore/Class%20Field%20Trips.shtml> and explore the possibilities. To schedule your class for a field trip or Museum Explorer opportunity, contact [gateway@csuchico.edu](mailto:gateway@csuchico.edu). Please include your name, school, grade level, preferred date(s), time, number of visitors (students and adults), and contact phone number. We will accommodate your request as best as possible. The open field trips and our Museum Explorer Program have limited availability, and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. You will be notified via

email once your date is selected, confirming your field trip and/or Museum Explorer opportunity. Center for Mathematics and Science Education, [mscenter@csuchico.edu](mailto:mscenter@csuchico.edu), 530-898-4322.

**Henshaw Farm Field Visit:** Students are very proud of their efforts on the farm on Henshaw Road and would like to show off their work to CUSD administrators, School Board, Principals, food services, teachers and student advisors. They have set this Saturday morning, September 10, 9:00am as the time to see the pumpkins, cranberry beans, watermelons, zinnias, and cantaloupes. Be prepared to be impressed with their summer's work. Kudos to the Friends of Ag as well as the CHS Agriculture Department and Ag Students who have made this dream a reality!

**LOVE Chico:** On Sunday, September 25, a coalition of area churches will have 3,000-4,000 volunteers working to improve and beautify our community. A great many of these volunteers will be working on our campuses. Projects include:

- Painting playgrounds
- Helping teachers organize and prepare their materials and classrooms
- General campus cleanup
- Building benches
- Painting murals
- Building planter boxes
- And much more!

We are very fortunate to live in a community with such an interest in our schools and our children. If you have the opportunity, please stop by and thank the volunteers you see working at our schools on Sunday, September 25, between 8am and Noon. For more information visit their website at: <http://lovechico.org/> or their Facebook page.



## NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**District-wide Staff Development:** The District will have its first district-wide staff meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 14. During this 90-minute meeting, teachers will review student achievement data from the 2010-2011 STAR tests administered in April along with data created from the district-wide STAR Mirror tests administered in grades 2-12 at the beginning of this school year. The goal is to discover areas in the California State standards where there is room to improve student performance. Teachers will work together in subject alike or grade alike teams to develop a goal and devise instructional strategies to support improved student achievement in the identified growth areas. To prepare for the meetings, Director of Alternative Education **John Bohannon** and Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Joanne Parsley** have been hosting meetings to train teachers to lead the SMART goal meetings. Teachers will be asked to evaluate their SMART goals at the next district-wide meeting in November in the on-going effort to sustain continual learning for students and teachers.

**Oakdale Preparing for WASC:** Alternative Education Principal **David McKay**, along with Oakdale teachers **Kevin Dolan** and **Nancy Hian**, met Wednesday, September 7 to work toward completion of the WASC initial self-study report. Director of Alternative Education **John Bohannon**, District Grant Writer **Liz Metzger** joined the meeting with Fair View Assistant Principal **Don Williams** and Resource teacher **Rhonda Odum**. The goal is to have the report completed this month in order to receive an initial visit from WASC this school year.

**Online Education coming to CUSD:** CUSD's Independent Study teachers and a group of secondary school administrators spent Thursday, September 9 training to utilize the Education 2020 online curriculum. The online curriculum will be piloted in the district's Independent Study programs for grades 6-12. It will also serve as a credit recovery program for students that are not on track to earn promotion. In addition, all teachers 6-12 can get access to the curriculum if they want to use portions of the interactive, on-line tools for instruction.

**Chinese Language Teachers:** A warm welcome to **Zhan Zhang**, also known as Sonia, who comes to us from Hunan, China. She will be in Chico for one year volunteering at Parkview Elementary school enriching the afterschool program with Chinese culture and language. She was previously an English teacher in Changsha and most recently was a volunteer Chinese teacher in Thailand. We plan to formally welcome Sonia at the September 21 School Board meeting. In addition, **Bruce and Jodie Dillman** have graciously opened their home to **Snow** for the remainder of her stay in the United States. **Snow** joined us last year and provides Chinese culture and language after school at both Chico High School and Marsh Junior High School. She previously lived in the apartment that houses other Chinese teachers but was longing for the cultural experience that is gained when living with a family. By all accounts – the Dillman family is providing a wonderful opportunity that is greatly appreciated by Snow. Thank-you Dillmans!

**Superstar Teacher!:** Chapman's own **Kathy Naas** is featured on the CSU Chico homepage ([www.csuchico.edu](http://www.csuchico.edu)), with the caption "Chico State produces top teachers." Click on "learn more" next to her picture to read about how she incorporates music and art into her teaching; if you want to learn about her commitment to service-learning, scroll to the bottom and read the article about her in *Chico Statements*.

**Chapman Drummers Take the Stage:** Don't miss it! Los Tambores de Chapman, a newly-formed group from Chapman Elementary, will be performing at Chico's 18<sup>th</sup> World Music Festival (on the lawn in front of Laxson at CSU Chico). Under the direction of teacher [Kathy Naas](#), these talented young people "explore world rhythms ensemble style, mixed with their own ideas and creating delightful improvisation." The Kids' Stage will run from 10:30-3:30; Los Tambores perform from 12-12:30.

**Our Next Superstar Teachers?** The first cohort of the Rural Teacher Pathway Program has begun their coursework at Butte College, the first step in their journey to become teachers. The Pathway program has recruited 21 students, many of them graduates of CUSD, to train as math and science teachers. As part of a partnership with CSU Chico, CUSD has hired fifteen of these students to work in our after-school programs and provide rich academic support to students there. Students received an orientation on Tuesday, September 6, and will begin working in the next few weeks.

**Japan Foundation Grant:** Congratulations to [Michelle Martin](#), PV Japanese teacher, for receiving a second year of a salary assistance grant through the Japan Foundation. Michelle has developed and maintained an exemplary Japanese language program at Pleasant Valley High School; as a result of her talent, passion, and hard work, 20% of her salary will again be paid through the Foundation. Good job, Michelle!

**Compliance Review is Coming:** Chico Unified staff is currently preparing for a Federal Program Monitoring (FPM) visit in mid-November. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that we are in compliance with federal regulations that govern the programs for which we receive funding. Compliance monitoring is a good thing, as it ensures that funding is spent the way it is intended to be. Preparation for the visit requires collecting a tremendous amount of data and documentation; a task which is occupying many staff members during these next two months.

**Don't Forget: Opportunity for Science Training:** There is still space to sign up for a workshop put on by CSU Chico and the Gateway Science Museum. This workshop will acquaint teachers with the new Education and the Environment (EEI) curriculum. The EEI is an environment-based curriculum approved by the California State Board of Education which is intended to teach select existing History-Social Science and Science standards while emphasizing our relationship to the environment and how humans interact with natural systems. This initial workshop is planned to acquaint teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 with the curriculum and with the lesson plans and resources that have already been developed to teach it. View the curriculum units (for grades K-12) at:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/Curriculum/Default.htm#CurriculumUnits>.

If you would like to be contacted when the workshop date is finalized, contact Liz Metzger ([emetzger@chicousd.org](mailto:emetzger@chicousd.org)).

**California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE):** CAHSEE results may be found at [California High School Exit Exam \(CAHSEE\) Results](#). The next administration of the high school exit exam will be held on **October 4 and 5, 2011** for grade 12 students and adults who have not yet passed the exam. The Chico Unified district pass rate for students taking the test for the first time in grade 10 continues to exceed the county and state passing rate.



**CELDT Testing:** The California English Language Development Test (CELDT) test is given each year to students identified as English learners during July through October. Schools sites are conducting annual CELDT testing through October. CELDT test examiner trainings took place in May and August with teachers from school sites trained by CUSD teacher/CELDT trainers **Tina Keene and Terri Crawford** to administer the state CELDT test to English Learners. The CELDT has three purposes: (1) to identify students who are limited English proficient; (2) to determine the level of English language proficiency of students who are limited English proficient; and (3) to assess the progress of limited English proficient students in acquiring the skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in English. More about the CELDT program may be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/>.

**STAR Test Results:** Individual student results from the spring 2011 STAR tests have been sent to parent/guardians. If you did not receive your student's STAR score report, please contact Louise Workman at 891-3000 x171. The dates for the STAR Writing Test in grades 4 & 7 will be March 6 and 7, 2012. The STAR multiple-choice testing window will begin on April 16, 2012. The 2011 STAR test results were released on August 15th and may be found at <http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2011/>.

An informational overview of all STATE TESTING PROGRAMS may be found at: [Chart of California Assessment System](#)

**2010–11 Accountability Progress Reporting (APR):** California's integrated accountability system that reports both the state Academic Performance Index (API), and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Program Improvement (PI). The following reports were released on August 31 at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/>.

- 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) Reports
- 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports
- 2011–12 Program Improvement (PI) Reports

**District Assessment:** Students in grades 2-11 were assessed in English and Math at the beginning of the school year to establish a baseline for measuring progress in the learning. Students will be assessed two more times to track progress and identify learning needs prior to the state STAR tests in mid-April. An overview of the district's assessment system may be found at: [CUSD Assessment](#). The CUSD DISTRICT TESTING CALENDARS may be accessed at:

- [2011-2012 Elementary District Testing Calendar](#)
- [2011-2012 Secondary District Testing Calendar](#)

**Data Support:** Educational Service's Data & Assessment Analyst, **Jennifer Bevers** provided program evaluation data for the Elementary Counseling Grant and the Math Professional

## NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES:

**Student Enrollment:** Tracking and watching numbers is what Business Services does best. Chico Unified is off to a great start with district-wide enrollments exceeding projections. While CUSD is not "growing" in size, we are not declining either. CUSD's biggest challenge is keeping our enrollment numbers steady. We measure enrollments daily but remember, keeping kids in

school learning not only helps build great kids on their paths to success, it also matters in our funding. The district is funded based on Average Daily Attendance (kids in seats) at the 8th month of enrollment. Keep up the good work to all our school sites!

**Health Insurance Reminder:** One important new benefit for CUSD medical insurance subscribers is enactment of **Preventative Care** coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Effective July 1, 2011, your medical coverage will provide 100% Preventative Care coverage as long as your service was provided through a Network Provider. The list of Preventative Care services is extensive and may periodically change. To find out the current list of Preventative Care services please click on the following website: <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/regulations/prevention/taskforce.html> .

**Strategic Planning Workshop:** A BSSP-JPA all day Strategic Planning Workshop is scheduled for September 20 to discuss everything from health insurance cost containment to how the new Affordable Health Care Act is working. If you have any topics you would like brought up as discussion items during this important workshop, please contact Scott Jones [sjones@chicousd.org](mailto:sjones@chicousd.org) and he'll see if they can be worked in.

**BSSP Website:** Our JPA Executive Director, [Christy Patterson](#), continues to add important information to the BSSP website which can be accessed at: <http://www.bcoe.org/bssp> Please check it out!

**Prevention and Risk Reduction Programs** are instrumental in keeping all of us healthy and fit as well as helping to keep insurance premiums contained. Your JPA provides the following prevention and risk reduction programs:

- Each BSSP medical plan includes an annual \$250 wellness benefit for which any plan deductible is waived. (Co-payments and co-insurance, if applicable, are still paid by the insured.)
- The JPA sponsors FREE and confidential health screenings throughout Butte County each spring and fall. The health screenings include a comprehensive blood chemistry panel, hemogram, prostate and colon cancer test as well as body fat analysis.
- **Free annual mammograms** are offered at two locations in Chico and Oroville. When it is time for your mammogram, please contact BSSP at [bssp@bcoe.org](mailto:bssp@bcoe.org) or 530-532-5838 to request your coupon for a free screening mammogram.
- Discounts for weight loss and smoking cessation programs are offered through enrollment in the Anthem Blue Cross medical plans.
- Anthem Blue Cross' 360° Health Condition Care Program reaches out to members with asthma, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary artery disease (COPD), heart failure and coronary artery disease to ensure management and reduction of the patient's condition as well as prevent further escalation of the disease.
- Medco's RationalMed program reviews the variety of prescriptions issued to a patient. When the potential for adverse drug interactions exists, Medco contacts the patient's doctor(s) with that information. This program helps ensure the effectiveness of prescriptions taken by members as well as prevents additional hospitalizations due to harmful drug interactions.
- The Executive Director edits a periodic health newsletter, *Healthy Habits*. This newsletter addresses health risk reduction information such as nutrition, fitness and stress reduction as well as providing informative information on how to maximize members' insurance benefits for cost savings to members and the JPA as a whole.

**Maintenance and Operations (M&O):** One of the goals at M&O is to provide a positive classroom environment for our students and staff in an energy efficient and cost effective

manner throughout the district. M & O responds to our HVAC work orders as quickly as we can. We have two HVAC techs and they can receive as many as 15 work orders in a day. Typically each call out is 2–3 hours work, some take days. In some cases, when the Energy Management System fails, an outside vendor from Sacramento is called in to fix the problem. Recently, at one school, it took the vendor a week to determine what the problem was. During heavy workloads, we prioritize our calls to the younger age groups and special needs classrooms first. Things you can do to help during these hot days is to open up your classroom in the mornings when it is cool outside, make sure the doors and windows are closed when the A/C unit is running and use fans when possible in the room. Please do not to push the override button during regular school hours, as it puts the unit in night mode, which means your unit will shut down for the remainder of the day. Also, do not manipulate your wall sensor. This is a safety violation and can also cause your wall sensor to malfunction creating even more problems. Maintenance and Operations would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during these hot days.

**Solar Project Update:** Solar City is making significant progress on the installation of the five solar arrays it has agreed to install for CUSD. The first project was installed over the summer at the district's Corp yard. This project was selected to be accomplished first because it did not require approval by the Division of the State Architect since is not located on a school campus. The ground mounted system is located on district property just to the north of the Corp Yard. It successfully began generating power on July 16.

Just as soon as Solar City received approval of the projects for Chico High School and Pleasant Valley High School, those projects kicked-off with a vengeance. Knowing that these projects were going to occur when the school year started, Solar City, School Administrators and the Facilities Department worked together to inform parents, students and staff about the need for finding alternative transportation or parking for the first few weeks of school. CUSD was relieved when the first day of school came and went and it was clear that everyone understood the temporary arrangements.

The solar system at Chico High School was switched on for the first time on Saturday, August 27 and testing of the system began. After Pacific Gas and Electric performs an inspection of the system it will be turned on for the next 20+ years and begin to supply approximately 80% of the demand from the school. Students and Staff alike are enjoying the shaded parking during this hot weather.

The solar system at Pleasant Valley High School is currently under construction and will start to generate power by mid-September.

Solar City will accomplish two more planned projects in the coming months. A ground mount system is to be installed at Marsh Junior High school and another carport mounted system will be installed on the Chapman Elementary School parking lot.

**Nutrition Services** continues to see increased participation across the board. Over the next couple of weeks they will be conducting two food focus groups to test some new products. The new menu roll out will be tested at five pilot schools. The new menu will offer five entrée choices at the elementary schools opposed to the current three choices. The new menu will allow streamlining the production process and at the same time bring more choices to the students. Nutrition Services has been enjoying the great feedback they are receiving, from staff, students



and parents. Thank you Nutrition team members for your dedication to the students. Also - Great job CHS team members. On Monday they broke a record of students served for lunch. 646 WOW big number!!!! However that record did not stand very long. 646 fell!!!! And the new record is 691!!!



The Let's Move Community Group would like us to share some information about a fun event that is coming up.

**BIKE TO BUILD YOUR OWN SOLAR OVEN:** A family bike ride and "build a solar oven" workshop will be held **Saturday, September 24 from Five Mile to Cedar Grove. Let's Move Chico**, in support of **World Play & Moving Plant Day**, encourages parents and kids to join the fun starting at **10 am at Five Mile Recreation Area**. The riders will arrive at Cedar Grove where solar oven building will begin at 11 am. **Solar cooked foods, bicycle powered machines, food drying techniques**, and other fossil reduced methods will be displayed until 1:00pm. **Free to participate!** Small fee to build your own solar oven. RSVP for solar oven building 345-7347.



### Information Technology

**Computer Upgrades:** We have moved to a district-wide licensing model for Windows desktop (Windows XP and Windows 7) and Office Suite. The new licensing will allow us to standardize to Windows 7 and Office 2010. This will also mean that any computers in the district can have Windows 7 and Office 2010 installed. As we move forward with new technology, everyone will eventually be getting Windows 7 and Office 2010. As you can imagine, converting all computers over to the new standard is a time consuming process but we are making great progress. As we are implementing new technology, we are testing for issues that might come up.

**"Virtual Desktops" or Cloud Computing:** This year we are testing "cloud computing" for desktop computers. This includes the infrastructure for a virtualized desktop (Server based computing for end user desktops) to greatly improve the desktop computer life cycle. We have begun to deploy Windows 7 and Office 2010 experience with a virtual desktop infrastructure (this is parallel to the computer upgrades talked about above). This greatly benefits end users as well as giving us capacity to expand the hosting of new and more desktop computers running the latest versions of desktop OS and Office Suite.

**IT Support:** Minor adjustments to the IT department for delivery of IT support services were made to better and more evenly provide the much needed support across the district to all school sites and departments. We have three groups for support: One group of six technicians will support K-8 schools; the second group of three technicians will support 9-12 sites; and the third group of two technicians will support the district and manage the systems and support payroll and backend support for Aeries, Destiny, SchoolMessenger, and other servers and network services.

**Just a reminder:** Now that we are on the new contract with Ray Morgan Company for copiers and printers, the IT department will only support printers identified under the contract. Any HP LaserJet printers **without** the **red Ray Morgan Company sticker** and **all non-HP and inkjet printers are no longer being supported by the district and the IT department**. Unfortunately, the IT department does not have the resources to support inkjet based printers.

### Tips to Extend Projector Lamp Life

1. Do not handle the lamp without gloves. Oils and deposits from hands and fingers can cause hot spots, which may result in premature lamp failure.
2. Keep the projector air filters clean. Clogged filters and/ or vents will not vent heat properly, and can cause the projector lamp to overheat and fail.
3. Do not place anything on top of the projector or in front of the intake or exhaust vents. This will cause the lamp to overheat and fail.
4. When you replace the lamp, make it is seated completely.
5. Hot lamps are very fragile. Always move the projector after the lamp has completely cooled. Shock and vibration applied to hot lamps may cause the lamp filament to break.
6. Do not unplug the projector until the lamp has properly cooled. After the projector has been shut off, the fan will remain on for about 5 minutes. This aids in cooling the lamp evenly and completely and decreases the chance of early lamp failure.
7. Do not turn the projector on and off frequently during presentations. Each time the projector is switched on, the inrush of power causes stress on the lamp filament. Try to minimize on/ off cycles. A good rule of thumb is to let the bulb completely heat up and cool down between on/off cycles. However, that being said, TURN OFF YOUR PROJECTOR WHEN IT IS NOT GOING TO BE USED (for example, at lunch break)
8. Some projectors offer "low lamp" or "economy mode" options. Use them whenever possible. These options have been developed to extend projector lamp life.

### NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:

**Classified Human Resources:** As a reminder to employees who are interested in working for the District, you must be on an eligibility list. All eligibility lists expire after 6 months so we are constantly recruiting and establishing new lists. If you are a current employee and you are interested in a position outside of the current classification that you are working in you must also be on an eligibility list for the new classification. An exception to this for current employees is when the position is a lateral position and then you must demonstrate competency which is normally achieved by taking the written examination for the classified position. If any employee has questions regarding layoffs they are encouraged to contact the Classified Human Resources department. If you have questions specific to benefits you are encouraged to contact the benefits department at extensions 114 or 113.

Internal openings are only open to current CUSD permanent employees. If you are interested in any internal openings you must submit a Letter of Interest. Letter of Interest forms can be found at [chicousd.org](http://chicousd.org) or you may simply submit a hand-written letter to the Classified Human Resources office that includes the information requested on the Lateral Transfer notice. The following internal openings are now available which can be linked at the Districts web site [http://www.chicousd.org/\\_dept/human\\_res/Classified/index.html](http://www.chicousd.org/_dept/human_res/Classified/index.html)

POSITION	SITE	CLOSING DATE
<a href="#">Computer Technician (Limited Term)</a>	Information Technology	September 15, 2011
<a href="#">Health Assistant</a>	Parkview	September 15, 2011
<a href="#">Office Assistant Elementary Attendance</a>	Marigold	September 15, 2011
<a href="#">Sr Office Assistant</a>	FVHS	September 15, 2011

<a href="#">Transportation Driver Trainer/Instructor</a>	Transportation	September 15, 2011

We currently are openly recruiting for the following classifications:

<a href="#">Job Posting</a>	<a href="#">Online App</a>	<a href="#">Date Posted</a> ▼	<a href="#">Location</a>	<a href="#">Salary Info</a>
<a href="#">Substitute Cafeteria Assistant</a> Posted: 7/28/2011 - Deadline: Until Filled <b>Classified Staff</b>	✓	7/28/2011	Chico Unified, Chico <b>Butte County</b>	\$10.76/Hour
<a href="#">Substitute School Bus Driver</a> Posted: 4/25/2011 - Deadline: Until Filled <b>Classified Staff</b>				

If you have any questions regarding these recruitments please contact classified human resources.

**Student Calendar:** This school year (2011/12) is the last of the three years of student calendars that was approved by the Board of Trustees. It is anticipated that options for the student calendars for the next three years (2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15) will come before the Board for discussion mid-year (e.g., January 2012) and will be voted on the following month. In the meantime, we will be seeking staff, parent, student and community input. In early October we will set up a portion of the District's website that will have information about the process, timelines, parameters, etc. and we will establish an email address for those with thoughts and opinions about what the next three years of student calendars should look like.

**Sunrise Rotary Club of Chico, Run for Literacy:** The Sunrise Rotary Club of Chico held a 5K fun run/walk on August 27 to raise funds for literacy in the Chico area. For the past several years the club has provided dictionaries to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the area and they are looking at other ways to help students improve their literacy skills. They raised approximately \$4,000 for literacy improvement in our community.





**C-3 Barbecue:** CUTA, CSEA and CUMA all put in a great deal of time, energy and money to provide all CUSD staff with another amazing beginning of the year get together. Kudos and a huge thank you to [Kevin Moretti](#) did his usual great job of planning, organizing and cooking. The beginning of the school year would not be complete without his famous fish tacos. Many of those in attendance received a raffle prize and all were treated to the Alice Peak Experience band. This is a great time for everyone to relax and get to know folks from various schools/positions.



**Donations to PV and CHS Athletics:** The Family Eye Care Optometry <http://chicofamilyeye.com/> is donating 5% of their September sales of glasses to CUSD high school athletics. Following is a copy of the flyer that was developed by a PV art student to promote this event. The funds raised will be divided equally between CHS and PV athletics. As you know we are very dependent on the generosity of our community to maintain our current level of athletic opportunities for our students. We are fortunate to live in a community support of our students!



#### NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES:

**PVHS International Baccalaureate:** **Amy Besnard** finished meeting with each IB senior and thinks the students are amazing. Below are some of the group projects the IB seniors are working on.

- **Headbands for Hope:** Creating and selling headbands; proceeds go to CARE which makes education accessible to Indian girls
- **Operation Child:** Soliciting donations (school supplies, toys, hygiene items, etc.) to place in shoeboxes and send to poverty-stricken areas around the world
- **Unicef Project:** Collecting money to end hunger and provide vaccinations around the world
- **Somalia Relief Project:** Collecting money to fight the famine in Somalia
- **Tanzania Well Project:** Continuation/completion of the well project; collecting money to create wells in Tanzania
- **Senior Citizen Project:** Organizing and conducting a variety of activities/events in local senior citizen homes
- **Other projects students expressed interest in:** March of Dimes, Great American Smoke-out, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Special Olympics



Some of the IB juniors are off to a blazing start as well and projects include organizing and directing small plays with children from various orphanages in Mexico, educating the community on the importance of music education, and providing educational materials in the Philippines.

**PVHS Flash Mob Vid Link:** Check out the following link—this is great school spirit!!:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIJnNsHBuQM&feature=feedu>

## CUSD IN THE NEWS

### **Enterprise Record**

[Letter: CUSD works well with charter schools](#)

[District tops API target - \*\*Chico\*\* Enterprise Record](#)

### **Chico News and Review**

[Letters for September 8, 2011](#)

REL#11-63  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 6, 2011

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## State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Welcomes Students and Teachers Back to School

SACRAMENTO—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson officially welcomed students, teachers, school employees, and administrators back to school, and provided parents with 10 timely back-to-school tips today for the start of the traditional school year.

Our state's future depends on our public schools," Torlakson said. "Across California, students are starting the school year with high hopes. And though teachers, school employees, and administrators are coping with enormous challenges, I know they are committed to making this year the very best for each and every student. Welcome back to school, California!"

### Tom's Back-to-School Tips

1. **Get your shots.** Seventh through twelve graders must get their pertussis shots, and must show proof of immunization to attend public and private schools this fall. Administrators may allow unimmunized students to remain in school for 30 days after the start of school before meeting the vaccine requirement. For more information, please visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/225509>.
2. **Get your sleep.** Doctors recommend children in the first through fifth grades get as much as 10 to 11 hours of sleep each night. Lack of sleep can affect a child's ability to learn and may affect their immune systems.
3. **Have a healthy breakfast.** Hungry children do not learn as well as well-nourished ones. If you don't have time to pack a healthy lunch, schools usually serve students well-balanced meals. Low-income children may qualify for free and reduced-price meals. Just fill out an application directly at your school.
4. **Stay active.** Keep children physically active with bike rides, basketball, and walkathons. Studies show that physically active students have better classroom behavior and a better ability to learn and achieve.
5. **Avoid school absences.** Chronic absences are an early predictor of students dropping out of school that could affect their academic and career success.
6. **Read!** Reading to children calms them at bedtime and exposes them to language, sounds, new ideas, and the love of reading. Create a comfortable, quiet, well-lit place to study in your house for older children, away from distractions like electronic devices and toys. This will help them concentrate and absorb more of what they are trying to learn.
7. **Get to know your child's teacher.** This will help create a good line of communication to help avoid conflicts and misunderstandings about your child's education.
8. **Lend a hand.** Volunteer your time, raise money through booster clubs, and donate supplies to your local school. In these tough economic times, schools have cut back severely. Plus, the school and students benefit from parents who are actively engaged in their children's education.
9. **Drink plenty of water.** Many students have already started training for the high school sports season. With temperatures still in the 90s, everyone needs to watch out for heat exhaustion. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention has created a free online course to prevent heat-related illness. For the free course, please visit [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extreme/heat\\_illness\\_training.htm?s\\_cid=tw\\_eh+223](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extreme/heat_illness_training.htm?s_cid=tw_eh+223).
10. **Spend quality time with your kids.** This helps in your children's development and happiness, and helps reduce your own stress.

## Chico High Students Are Making the Change to Healthier Lifestyles

**“Be the Champion, Make the Change”** is again the motto of the Chico High School Nutrition Action Council (NAC).

The NAC council of 25 students has really made a difference on our campus by encouraging other students to make changes...changes to healthier eating and to being more active. Throughout the year, the NAC students have had taste testing of different fruits and vegetables (Harvest of the Month / with most of the fruits locally and organically grown). The student response has been overwhelmingly positive. Recipes are also available. The fruits and vegetables being featured this year are tomatoes, squash, persimmons, mandarins, potatoes, dried fruit, peas and asparagus.

The 2011 winning CHS student nutrition poster designed by one of [Shannon McLean's](#) computer art students has been made into a large tile mural produced by [Nancy Skadal's](#) ceramics students. The mural will be hung in Lincoln Hall very soon.

We will continue to have numerous positive student engagement nutrition projects such as student mentoring, poster contests, mural production and costume designs from our ROP students with [Anita Homesley](#).

On September 9, [Sue Baber](#) will present her nutrition, prevention and intervention programs to all of [Kevin Wisdom's](#) health class students. At the same time, a Chico State nutrition intern will be speaking to the health class students on how making healthier nutrition and exercise choices positively impact our lives.

This year, the International Walk and Bike to School Day is on Wednesday, October 5. Last year many CHS students and staff participated in this fun event.

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