



# The Superintendent's Update

September 29, 2011

## NEWS FROM KELLY

**School Site Visits:** At their beginning of the year meeting, CUSD administrators commented that one of the most valuable, not to mention enjoyable, aspects of their job is the time spent in classrooms. The reasons were numerous and overwhelmingly positive: we learn from both the teachers and the students; we see amazing lessons that we can then share with others; we view first hand the many talents of both students and staff; and when we are in classrooms frequently, we have a better understanding of the immediate and long term needs of both students and staff. As a result of this conversation, CUSD administrators, including district administrators, committed to finding more time to be in classrooms with a goal of at least five hours per week.

As I have been to most every site now, I would like to thank those teachers who have welcomed me into their classrooms. I have seen many examples of excellent teaching—and am testimony to the statement you are never too old to learn. At a recent visit to McManus, I learned about the “power of zero” in [Ms. Peggy Weis’](#) class, something that I am positive was not taught in my fifth grade math class and I am still asking, “how can that be?”. At Emma Wilson, I learned a new way to do long division that makes such incredible sense and I am convinced that had [Ms. Kerry Quevedo](#) been my fifth grade teacher, math would have been my favorite subject. At Shasta, I learned about culture, music, and my nemesis, rhythm from [Ms. Wendy Aviles](#). These are just a few of the many highlights from my visits to classrooms and I look forward to sharing more in each newsletter. Kudos and thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff members...and our fabulous students!

**Neal Dow All School Sing:** Thank you to Neal Dow Elementary for inviting me to join them for the all school sing, their Monday morning tradition for setting a positive tone to the school week. Incredibly impressive were the musical abilities of Mr. [Steve Oberlander](#) and Ms. [Nancy Barry](#)—both of whom were indeed awesome and I will never again complain about the color of my shoes—a lesson learned from Ms. Barry’s song! Equally impressive were the Neal Dow students who showed their enthusiasm for the Monday morning sing through their positive participation and outstanding citizenship. Way to go Neal Dow... and again thank you for the invite. It was a wonderful way to start off the school week!

**PLC Strategies Shared with CUSD Administrators:** As we continue to strengthen our PLC processes, we look to and learn from other Districts that are gaining positive student achievement results. One such district is Sanger Unified School District, which has gained acclaim around the state for closing the achievement gap and improving learning for all students.

CUSD was fortunate to host Sanger’s Deputy Superintendent [Rich Smith](#) as part of our staff development for site and district administrators. Smith spent the day teaching CUSD administrators the strategies Sanger has used successfully to increase student achievement. These strategies include involving staff and parents in building school and district wide

structures to support student learning, creating systematic assessment and intervention procedures, strengthening the PLC process, maintaining high expectations for site principals, and building a process for principal reports to boards and peers.

Planning is underway to provide teachers and staff with the opportunity to work with Mr. Smith in order to learn more about the strategies utilized in Sanger and to discuss how similar strategies might assist CUSD as we continue to address student achievement.

Thank you to all of the site and district-level administrators for taking time out of your busy schedules for this important training.

**LOVE CHICO:** This past weekend marked the fourth year that **LOVE CHICO** has worked with the school communities to make positive improvements to our school sites. **LOVE CHICO** is yet another reason we are so fortunate to live in Chico—we have a community that cares and goes out of its way to show it! Please see the pictures at the end of this Update of this year's **LOVE CHICO** event. Once again, thank you **LOVE CHICO**!

## NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### Grants and Categorical Programs Update

**Math Grant submitted:** The Chico Mathematics Project (through CSU Chico) and CUSD finalized and submitted a three-year math partnership grant to the California Department of Education. We will learn whether or not we are funded in December, and if we are, we will hit the ground running in the spring. Want to take part? There are still a few spots left. If you teach in grades 3-7 and are interested in high-quality professional development in mathematics (including a summer workshop and school-year coaching and an annual stipend), contact **Katy Early** at [kearly@csuchico.edu](mailto:kearly@csuchico.edu).

**Chico's Newest Old School Prepares for Accreditation:** In 1996, the CUSD implemented an independent study program to offer an instructional alternative for approximately 50 CUSD students in grades K-12. In 2001, the program became a separate school – Oakdale - housed on the campus of Bidwell Junior High. The 9-12 portion of the school was closed in 2009-2010, as CUSD decided to have each secondary site be responsible for their students independent study needs. This year, Oakdale, now housed on the Fair View High campus, has been redesigned as a grade 7-12 program for students interested in an alternative education. Because Oakdale has reopened as a new secondary school, it is currently working toward its initial WASC accreditation. **Kevin Dolan, Nancy Hian, Rhonda Odum** and **David McKay** are preparing the initial self-study for submission by September 30, and hoping for a visit from a WASC team this fall.

**Book-in-Common Kick-Off and Invitation:** Thursday, September 22, was the kick-off for Chico's Book-in-Common. The Book-in-common program is an effort to get everyone in Chico to read the same book and engage in activities, discussions, and thinking about its themes and context. This year's book is Dave Eggers' *Zeitoun*, a moving true story of one family in New Orleans during and just after Katrina. CSU Chico has offered to help CUSD purchase copies of the novel so that staff and students can be part of this community-wide conversation. If you are interested, contact Liz Metzger at [emetzger@chicousd.org](mailto:emetzger@chicousd.org), or go to the CSU Chico Book-in-Common page at [www.csuchico.edu/bic](http://www.csuchico.edu/bic).

**CTE Advisory Committee Reconfigured:** Ed Code requires that the governing board of each school district appoint a career-technical education (CTE) advisory committee to develop recommendations on the program and to provide liaison between the district and potential employers. Chico Unified appointed a CTE advisory committee in 2007; however, since that time, the majority of the original members have retired or changed jobs. Thus, on September 21, the board appointed a new CTE Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives of business and industry along with site, district, and ROP staff. We greatly appreciate the following individuals for accepting Board appointment to this important committee:

<b>CTE Advisory Committee</b>	
Norm Nielsen	Chico Electric
Greg Peitz	Gregory Peitz Architecture
Carol Lams	Sierra Cascade Nutrition and Activity Consortium
Carol Witt	String Bead
Mark Forwalter	Transfer Flow
Marie Fickert	Chico Fire Department
Tim Adkins	MJB Welding Supply
Fred Davis	Davis and Associates
Ken Mackell	Employment Development Department
Mike Dunbaugh	Dean of CTE, Butte Community College
Carrie Monlux	CSU Chico (Department of Agriculture)
Paul Watters	Butte County ROP
Janet Brinson	CUSD – District Administration
John Shepherd	CUSD – Site Administration

**Abeo visit:** Thanks to an EETT-C grant focusing on postsecondary readiness, a group of teachers and administrators from Chico and Pleasant Valley High Schools spent September 20-21 with staff from Abeo School Change, a Seattle-based group that partners with schools and systems to examine and improve student learning. Specifically, the work during those two days centered on teachers examining their assignments against a set of college-ready rubrics to assess the extent to which their assignments were preparing students for the rigors of postsecondary work. Thanks to [Stephanie Starmer](#), [John Klein](#), [Marcelle Gregoire](#), and [Connie Chrysler](#) for organizing this effort, as well as to the teachers who took part. Information from the workshops, and from possible future workshops, will be shared in the weeks to come.

**District Advisory Council (DAC):** The DAC will have their first meeting of the year on September 29. There are two classified representatives, a teacher representative from each school and from administration. The main purpose of the DAC will be to provide a forum for open two-way communication between the district and school sites. Future meeting dates will be decided at the first meeting.

**PE Testing Software Pilot:** Teachers in grades 5, 7 and 9 who administer the annual state Physical Fitness Test will soon have the opportunity to pilot electronic data collection software which will provide teachers and students immediate feedback about performance on the PE test.

**K-1 Assessment Pilot:** During the first certificated district-wide meeting on September 14, teachers of grades K-1 received initial training from teachers [Laura Manning](#) and [Nancy Barry](#) in a software program (ESGI) that assists teachers assessing student progress in learning the foundations of reading and math. The software reduces the time needed to individually assess and record each student's progress, providing instructional time.

**Accountability Progress Report:** An overview report of recently released state and federal accountability data was presented at the September 21 regular board meeting. Data included the 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index (API), 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), 2011–12 Program Improvement (PI) and 2010-2011 California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), and the Standardized Testing & Reporting (STAR) results. The Accountability Progress Reports were released on August 31 at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/).

- **Congratulations to the following schools for substantial increases in API:**  
Rosedale 54, Neal Dow 46, Parkview 31, Chapman 26, Hooker Oak 26, PV 24, Bidwell Jr. 16, and Chico Jr. 15
- **Congratulations to the following schools who have exceeded the state API target of 800 for schools:**  
Hooker Oak, Marigold, Neal Dow, Shasta, Sierra View, Bidwell Jr., Chico Jr., Marsh Jr., Chico High, Pleasant Valley, and Inspire.
- **Congratulations to the following schools who met all criteria for federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).**  
Chapman, Hooker Oak, Neal Dow, and Inspire

CUSD's district API has gone over the 800 API mark, although the 800 state target is technically for schools. CUSD's district API growth of 14 exceeded the state average API growth of 10.

**CALPADS:** To fully comply with federal accountability requirements, California has enacted a data collection and reporting system, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). Collection and reporting of this data is a joint effort between all CUSD schools, Business Services, Educational Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Nutrition Services. Staff from some of these departments met this week to coordinate CALPADS data collection, including [Jennifer McCall](#), [Joe Loomis](#), [Mike Ruffner](#), [Jason Gregg](#), [Jennifer Bevers](#), [Mike Morris](#), [Heather Deaver](#), [Marilyn Tritt](#), and [Julie Suniga](#).

[Jennifer McCall](#), [Joe Loomis](#), [Mike Ruffner](#), [Jason Gregg](#), [Jennifer Bevers](#), and [Mike Morris](#) also attended a CALPADS in Aeries workshop in Sacramento on September 12.

**California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE):** Annual training for CAHSEE site testing coordinators will take place on September 23. Testing department staff [Louise Workman](#), [Jennifer Bevers](#) and [Mike Morris](#) will deliver the training with coordinators [Damon Whittaker](#), [Cindy Engberg](#), [Doneld Williams](#), [Lori Castaldo](#), [Brian Boyer](#), and [Dan La Bar](#). 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. 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 [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/](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 15 and may be found at [www.star.cde.ca.gov/star2011/](http://www.star.cde.ca.gov/star2011/).

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

## NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES:



### Solar Chico

**Facilities:** Late last winter CUSD selected SolarCity as our Partner in a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This agreement allowed SolarCity to install solar panels on our property with the guarantee that CUSD will buy all of the power generated from them. We are making significant progress with the installation of solar power generating systems on four of our campuses and on our Corp Yard property. The projects at Chico High School and Pleasant Valley High School are nearly completed and will begin to produce solar energy before the end of the week! The district will soon be reaping the financial benefit of reduced electrical bills. We have heard a lot of positive comments regarding these systems. Parents are especially pleased with the added security provided by the lighting in the parking lots at night and students and staff love the addition of shaded parking spaces. In the near future, we will begin installation of a ground mounted system at Marsh Junior High School and covered parking structures at Chapman Elementary School will follow along next spring.

It is our goal to support the City of Chico's emissions reduction goals through educational outreach and by encouraging citizen action. As a supplement to these projects, we are excited to announce the kick-off of "Solar Chico", a community partnership between CUSD and SolarCity designed to celebrate our commitment to clean energy. This partnership hopes to inspire the local community to go solar and/or complete energy upgrade projects through a collaborative purchasing approach that offers significant discounts to customers and raises



funds for local school projects at the same time. Each residential customer who participates in the program will receive a substantial discount on the purchase of a solar system and a referral fee will be contributed to CUSD to be utilized for facilities projects. Commercial businesses can also participate. The district is planning to hold a **ribbon cutting ceremony** to celebrate the completion of both high school projects at **Pleasant Valley High School on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 3:30 p.m.** and we intend to launch this program at the celebration and media event. We are hoping to have a lot of student and staff participation, **so please join us!**

**Maintenance and Operations (M&O):** For the second year in a row, the M&O crew entered The Annual Dog Parade and Chili Cook-off. The event was held on Sunday September 18, 11:00am-4:00pm at the Chico Elks lodge. The "John Wayne Chili" crew consisted of Chefs **John Carver** and **Julie Kistle**; Decorators **Darci Bruggman** and **Mary Wrysinski**; and Cameraman **Randy Salado**. After winning the Peoples' Choice Award last year, the crew came back this year and won the Peoples' Choice Award again, along with Third place Judges Choice, and also the Best Decorated



Booth. The chili was a blend of beef brisket, ham hocks, chorizo, and Hershey's chocolate among other secret ingredients, including (Thanks Mary) sugar. Thank you to all the CUSD employees who visited our booth and voted us as the Peoples' Choice.



**Helping LOVE CHICO:** M&O helped prepare for the LOVE CHICO weekend by providing background support for the many projects that took place at each school site. Items they worked on included irrigation issues, ball wall reconstruction, and touchup painting, to name just a few. They would like to thank all the members of our community and school personnel who got involved with this event. They would also like to thank CSEA for their flexibility in working with the community on these volunteer-based school improvements.

**Nutrition Services:** Nutrition Services is starting new garden bars at the secondary level. The new bars will allow students to dress their own burgers, salads, sandwiches with tomato, onion, lettuce, pickles and other fresh items. This will help promote our healthier choices. Five elementary sites will roll out a new menu with five entree choices daily. This will be a test to see if we can move forward with all elementary sites.

**Information Technology--Web Filtering Changes Coming:** Web filtering is something that all K-12 institutions must have if they receive federal funding. This is part of the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and requires us to block inappropriate websites. The system we use is managed by Butte County Office of Education. The policy we had in place before last year for web filtering was the same web policy for all users (Staff and students). We have many cases where the web filtering blocks access to needed sites for information. For example, California Lottery is a blocked site because we block gambling and it is categorized as gambling. But when someone needs information about how much money came from the Lottery they cannot look up the information. The old policy had a temporary password that was entered that would override all the web filtering. This helped in many cases. However, we had many issues with the password override accounts getting in the hands of students. It had become such a problem that we were changing the passwords frequently, sometimes weekly. To solve the issue of the

password overrides we implemented a tiered filtering policy system last year. The filtering policies are based on the CUSD computer login and works with district Windows computers. The user login (the same that is used for Webmail) determines if the user is staff or student. The student/staff policies are tiers and have different filtering policies. This is different for staff (which will have more access) or student (which will have the mandated CIPA policy). The system now can track all usage (by the county) based on user login ID. It is very important that teachers and staff safeguard and protect their individual computer login credentials.

**HELPDESK “Help Me... Help You...”:** The helpdesk system has built-in features that can help get your work orders to the right person quickly. If you begin your subject line with a two digit school abbreviation (listed below), it will route to the technician(s) who supports your site. Otherwise, the ticket has to be manually reviewed and takes time to research what site/technician needs to be assigned to the work order. Also, any additional or more specific information you can provide in the body of the message will help us to respond to your work orders. Below is the list of school sites and Abbreviation codes.

Chico High	CS
Pleasant Valley	PV
Fair View	FV
AFC	AC
Bidwell Jr.	BJ
Chico Jr.	CJ
Marsh Jr.	MJ

Chapman	CH
Citrus	CI
Emma Wilson	EW
Hooker Oak	HO
J. McManus	JM
Loma Vista	LV
Marigold	MA

Neal Dow	ND
Little Chico Creek	LC
Parkview	PA
Rosedale	RO
Shasta	SH
Sierra View	SV

**United Streaming Is Now Discovery Education:** We are now in the second year of our subscription with Discovery Education (formerly known as United Streaming). The login page for your teacher account is at [www.DiscoveryEducation.com](http://www.DiscoveryEducation.com).

**What's Changed? It is Now My DE:** With the new My DE, all of Discovery Education's resources are at your fingertips. My DE has a fresh new look and design, streamlined content, and exciting new customization capabilities. Learn what happened “On This Day”, view “Featured Content” and catch up with “News and Events” in the brand new slideshow located on the left of your screen. Design your own landing page by utilizing the new Drag and Drop feature, which allows you to arrange your content so it suits your needs and gives you immediate access to what is most relevant to you. Have quick and easy access to what you use most frequently. Learn what's new in DE by setting up your RSS feed, view My Content, use builder tools, get helpful tricks and tips, view and sign up for upcoming webinars/events, and access the comprehensive help section — all without leaving your My DE landing page.

## NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:

**Condolences to John Shepherd:** Our thoughts go out to John Shepherd, principal at Pleasant Valley High School, and his family. John's father passed away Monday. The family is planning an open celebration on Saturday from noon to five at the Monsignor Moran Hall in Susanville. There will be an open mic from 1-3 during the celebration. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Robert T. Shepherd Legacy Scholarship would be greatly appreciated. The mailing address is: 195 Delaney Drive, Chico, CA 95928.



**Jon Nickerson:** Jon was the recipient of the Superintendent's Award at the September 21 Board meeting for his tireless work in spending countless hours helping students plan improvements to the campus, organizing donations, and working alongside the special needs students completing the physical work. Both the students and the school benefit greatly from Jon's hard work and dedication. The students pictured below made an inspiring presentation to the Board that night about what they did this past summer.



**Flu Shots:** Below is a message from the Director of the Butte County JPA announcing free flu shots for JPA members.

BSSP has contracted with HealthTech Mobile Services to offer free seasonal flu and pneumonia shots at Raley's and BelAir locations in northern California from Woodland to Redding. HealthTech will be at the following Raley's locations from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.:

- **2485 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico:** 9/28, 9/29, 9/30, 10/1, 10/26, 10/27
- **2325 Myers Street, Oroville:** 9/21, 9/22, 9/23, 9/24, 10/28, 10/29
- **725 S. Main Street, Red Bluff:** 10/12, 10/13, 10/14, 10/15

You can visit the [Raley's website](#) (search for flu) to see other dates and locations in your area. *To receive your free shots at Raley's or BelAir, you will need to print this [Raley's BelAir Coupon](#) and take it, along with your BSSP/Anthem card, to the store.*

We will also soon be making a similar coupon-based option available for Walgreens nationwide. Stay tuned for more information on that option coming soon! I hope you find this information useful! As always, please contact me with your feedback on our programs, our website, these emails or any questions you may have regarding the programs offered by the Butte Schools Self-Funded Programs. --Christy Patterson, Executive Director, Butte Schools Self-Funded Programs



## NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES:

### Music Happenings at Chico High:

- Chico High music students have been busy. **Will Santana, Tanner Cory** and **Dylan Anderson** attended the Barbershop Harmony Camp, courtesy of **Don Franklin** and the local barbershop group. For an entire weekend, they sang, were coached, gave a concert and got to hear the National Barbershop Champions. Thank you **Don Franklin!**
- Approximately 15 students attended the **North State Symphony** Concert courtesy of **Russ and Jan Burnham** who provided tickets for them. What a fantastic experience for them to hear Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto and the Rite of Spring by Stravinsky. CHS Student **Will Buchholtz** plays cello in the North State Symphony. Thank you **Russ and Jan Burnham!**
- The **guitar students** were treated to a lecture and concert by local guitar teacher and performer, **Warren Haskell**. Warren played some great classical pieces and some of his own compositions. The students were amazed at his ability and technical expertise on the guitar. Thank you **Warren Haskell!**
- **A Cappella Choir** had a special treat when **Robin Bacier**, a CHS grad and up and coming singer currently living in New York, came and sang for us and told us what it takes to make it in the music world. Robin has some great reviews and you can check out her music on Youtube, and please buy some to support her career. What a wonderful singer and a great ambassador for Chico High. Thank you **Robin Bacier**.
- Students from **Mixed Chorus** and **A Cappella Choir** will attend "Little Shop of Horrors" a musical, at CSU Chico, ON October 6, 7:00pm at Harlan Adams Theater courtesy of the **Target** grant. This promises to be a great show and a good experience for the students. Thank you **Target!**
- Students from **Piano, Mixed Chorus** and **A Cappella Choir** will walk over to CSU Chico to hear the Creole Choir from Cuba on **October 26**. This trip is also courtesy of the **Target** grant. Thank you **Target**.
- **Haley Chamberlain** auditioned for the American Choral Director's Association Regional Honor Choir. She will find out the results soon.
- **Katie Brown, Kevin Palmer, Meghan Murphy** and **Tanner Cory** sang the Star Spangled Banner at a football game.
- **Chico Chic, Emily Moline, Haley Chamberlain, Emily Schmidt** and **Lindy Edstrom**, sang the Star Spangled Banner at a football game.
- Many of the **choir students** are involved in the school musical, "**Once Upon A Mattress**" and they are keeping busy with rehearsals after school every day. Performances are the first week of November.
- **A Cappella** and **Mixed Chorus** will sing for the school board on **October 19** and for the CUTA pancake breakfast **October 22, 10:00-11:00**.
- All of the **Small Ensembles** and the **Two Big Choirs**, will be putting on a **Veteran's Day/Americana Concert** on Tuesday, **November 8, 2011**, at Williams Theater at Chico High. The concert will begin at 7:00 pm and will cost \$5.00 unless you are a Veteran, then it is free. Come and hear American folk songs and Patriotic songs.

### CHS Ag Farm Tour:



The [Friends of Ag](#) conducted a tour of the CHS Ag Farm located at the corner of Henshaw and Guynn in north Chico on Saturday, September 10. It was a great day and is a great place for students to learn. Thank you to the [Friends of Ag](#) for continuing to be wonderful partners and mentors year in and year out. You are appreciated!

**MJHS Video:** Please see the attached video, Marsh Junior High's thank you to our wonderful community partners, [LOVE CHICO](#).

[Click to Play](#)

**CHS CAD:** The CHS CAD class has been approached to do some work in conjunction with the Butte County Association of Governance. Members had viewed some of the work the Chico High Architecture students had been doing in the community. The office is about to put a very large project out for bid and they are interested in having the CHS students participate in some way with either the modeling or designing of this project which will include three very large commercial buildings off Hagen Lane to be used for the "B LINE" bus garages, maintenance and offices. This is a very positive step in bridging the gap between education and the business world. We appreciate the interest and trust in our students. - [Mike Bruggeman](#)

**Inspire and Chapman Working Together:** [Ted Sullivan](#) offered his home for the first gathering of Inspire and Chapman staffs. The purpose of the meeting was for staff to meet each other and spend some time talking about the possibilities for their educational partnership next year. They had a wonderful time and the event was well attended. It is very apparent that there is a real sense of excitement about the possibilities and opportunities for learning for all the students involved. Thank you to both of these wonderful staffs for working in such a positive and collaborative manner to meet the needs of all of our students. You are a model for us all!

**Good Deeds from Hooker Oak School:** As part of 9/11 Day, [www.911day.org](http://www.911day.org) Room 9 from Hooker Oak School will be doing good deeds or service **ALL** year long. Students from the 5/6 grade class have written letters and hand-delivered them to all of the Hooker Oak neighbors within a 1-2 block radius, as a way to thank them for being their school neighbors. "Orders" for good deeds, which include raking leaves, washing dogs and cars and baking treats and more, have been coming in and room 9 students are ready to meet the orders! Contact Beth Geise with any questions at 680-5831 or at [bgeise@chicousd.org](mailto:bgeise@chicousd.org). Please click the following to see the Channel 7 News clip: [www.krctv.com/news/29198598/detail.html](http://www.krctv.com/news/29198598/detail.html)

### Shasta Elementary Flea market: Extra Extra read all about it!

Who: Shasta School 6<sup>th</sup> graders  
 What: A Flea Market with 40+ individual sellers  
 Where: Shasta School at 169 Leora Court – Off the Esplanade in North Chico  
 When: Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Why: To raise money for Shady Creek Environmental School

## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

**Fourth Annual Early Learning Summit, “To Play or Not to Play”:** On Saturday, October 29, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Learning Summit will take place in the CSU, Chico Bell Memorial Union. The summit will focus on how children’s play can be a significant strategy for closing the achievement gap and meeting state standards. The participants will discuss challenges surrounding the concept of play in early learning curriculum, explore and discuss current research on play as a sustainable strategy to support “lifelong learners” and how play can be an integral part of the curriculum model for transitional kindergarten. Please look for the registration form found at the end of the update.

**Furry Scurry Run:** The Butte Humane Society invites the community to come celebrate pets and the people who love them by participating in the Furry Scurry Fun Walk and Festival, an major fundraising event to be held on Saturday, October 15, in downtown Chico. The festival is free and open to the public; registration for the run is \$20, which includes an official Furry Scurry tee-shirt, a bagel breakfast, and entry into the dog costume contest. Registration is available online at [www.buttehumane.org/furryscurry](http://www.buttehumane.org/furryscurry). Free registrations can also be earned by raising at least \$20 through the online project at [www.crowdrise.com/furryscurry](http://www.crowdrise.com/furryscurry). All proceeds from the event go directly to the Butte Humane Society for the care of homeless animals in our community. For more information, contact **Heather Schoeppach**, Butte Humane Society, at 343-7917.

## CUSD IN THE NEWS

### Enterprise Record

[Letter: \*\*School\*\* board looking out for children](#)  
[Taste local cooks', chefs' chili and watch dogs on parade](#)  
[From Annie B's to matters of journalistic quality—or lack thereof](#)  
[Letter: Letter about Inspire misinformed](#)  
[Letter: Derogatory remarks are disappointing](#)  
[New high \*\*school\*\* campus could take step forward Wednesday](#)  
[Chinese graduates teach culture classes](#)  
[Love \*\*Chico\*\* to bring out 19 churches on Sunday](#)  
[Food policy, \*\*school\*\* calendar slated for future CUSD agendas](#)  
[Inspire high \*\*school\*\* moves small step forward](#)  
[Editorial: Board should admit mistake](#)  
[Daily Planner: September 25](#)  
[Plans moving ahead for new two-story building on the Pleasant Valley campus](#)

### KHSL

[Chico Unified Parents Band Together To Save Their Summer](#)  
[Strict \*\*School\*\* Wellness Policy Putting Some Fundraisers in Jeopardy](#)

### KRCR

[Parents Lobby \*\*School\*\* Board To Push Back The Start Of The \*\*School\*\* Year](#)

### Other

[The SAGA: PV sharing our field with \*\*Chico\*\* High](#)

# THANK YOU - LOVE CHICO





# A Proven Way to Improve Student Learning, Performance and Health



Want your students to be more alert, focused and ready to tackle the academic challenges of the school day? It's hard not to answer yes. There is a well-documented method of foodservice that can support you and your students in achieving what you want - it is Expanding Breakfast outside the cafeteria.

Feeling resistant? We've done our homework and were expecting that. Everything we've read said there would be resistance—at first. However, staff at schools where Expanding Breakfast has been implemented, confirm the "benefit curve" is fast. Almost as soon as the program starts, some advantages are immediate and that resistance disappears. Here are a few reasons why.

## Expanding Breakfast Receives High Grades\*



- Improves classroom performance and yields better test scores and grades
- Increases children's ability to focus and concentrate on school work
- Decreases disciplinary problems, tardiness and visits to the nurse
- Increases attendance rates

## An Important Part of an Overall Healthy School Environment

- School breakfast offers a wide variety of healthy foods, meeting USDA requirements and supplies 1/4 of the Recommended Daily Allowances children need.
- Students look forward to a nutritious meal to start the day off right - they're healthier, happier, better behaved, and more productive through-out the day.

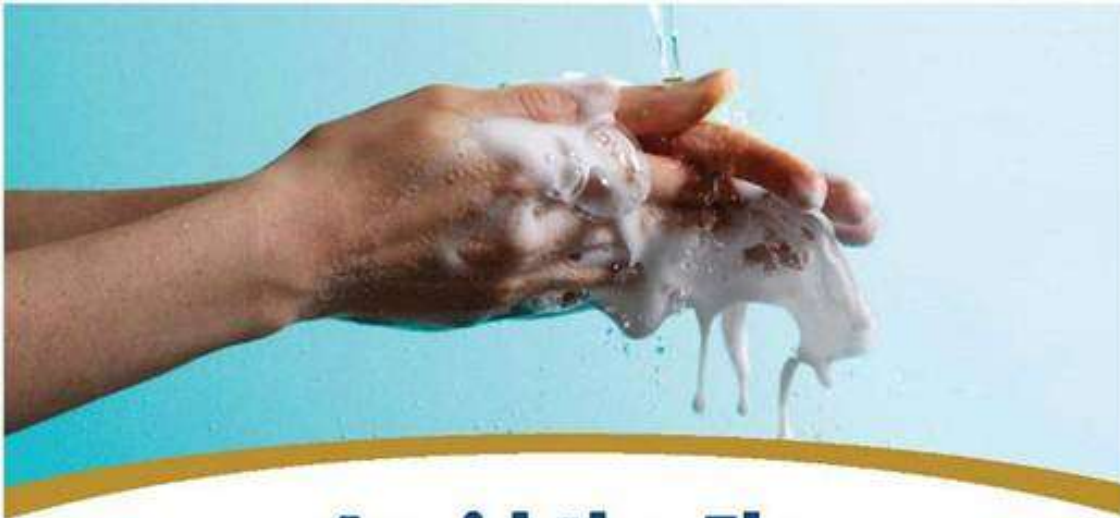
## Principal Frequently Asked Questions

- Does't this program cost more to run? Actually, Expanding Breakfast Programs often cost less to run. Labor costs may be higher, but per meal costs are lower due to volume and many schools generate enough money to contribute to funding lunch, purchase new equipment, and more. Also the program has been proven to increase attendance rates, yielding higher levels of state matching funds.
- What about lost instructional time? Often breakfast is served during morning announcements, Daily Oral Language, and other similar activities, so no instructional time is lost. Teachers report they have actually gained instructional time due to fewer nurse visits, less tardiness and absenteeism and fewer disruptions.
- How messy is breakfast outside the cafeteria? To start, there will be less clean up in the cafeteria. And, we will take the necessary steps to provide easy-to-serve, -eat, and -cleanup, nutritious breakfast foods to minimize labor and mess.



Let's talk about starting an Expanded Breakfast program.  
Contact Vince Enserro, Director of Nutrition Services for Chico Unified School District  
891-3021 x201 or [venserro@chicousd.org](mailto:venserro@chicousd.org)

For the studies go to [www.nutritionexplorations.org](http://www.nutritionexplorations.org) and click on the Educators Section.



## Avoid the Flu

**Healthy habits and simple actions will help reduce your risk of flu and other illnesses.**

- **Wash your hands.** Use soap and water often, especially after coughing or sneezing. Carry alcohol-based hand cleaners in your car, backpack or purse when soap and water are not available.
- **Keep your distance.** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If you're ill, stay home. You can help prevent others from getting sick.
- **Cover your cough.** Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It can prevent the spread of germs. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your arm above your hand.
- **Don't contaminate.** Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread this way, which is why hand washing is so important.
- **Maintain good health.** Get plenty of sleep. Drink lots of water and eat nutritious foods. Get regular exercise. Manage stress. Being healthy helps fight the flu.
- **Get a flu vaccination.** Protect yourself against seasonal illness. It's the single best way to prevent the flu.
- **Stay informed.** These simple flu-prevention steps are the same ones you would use in the event of pandemic influenza, a flu outbreak of global proportions.

**UCDAVIS**  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

# FitFuture

strategies for better living.

Series on Fitness & Nutrition for Families

## HOW YOUR SCHOOL'S MEAL PROGRAM CAN HELP



National School Lunch Program participants are more likely than non-participants to consume vegetables, dairy products, and protein-rich foods. They also consume less soda and/or fruit drinks.<sup>1</sup>



Research shows that school lunches contain three times as many dairy products, twice as much fruit and seven times the amount of vegetables as lunches brought from home.<sup>2</sup>



## New Foods, New Year: Parenting Strategies for Good Nutrition in 2008

By Jennifer Kerr, MS, RD

Research shows that when compared to picky eaters, children who enjoy a greater variety of foods have more nutritious diets. As the variety of food increases, so does the variety of nutrients needed for growth, development and general health. However, encouraging children to try new foods can be a challenge.

When parents present healthy meals and snacks in a pleasant and unassuming manner, children will learn to enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of food. This can seem more easily said than done, but here is some help!

Here are some DOs and DON'Ts when it comes to providing new foods to your children:

DO 	DON'T 
Eat healthfully yourself. Children are influenced by parents, particularly the parent of the same gender.	Coax or beg children to eat.
Introduce new foods along with well-liked familiar foods.	Offer rewards or punishment for eating or not eating.
Allow children to decide how much to eat. Children require several smaller meals/snacks per day.	Rush children to finish a meal and refuse to offer snacks between meals.
Use mealtime to strengthen family connectedness while helping children develop good eating habits.	Let children eat alone. Allow distractions such as television.

Mealtime responsibilities are divided between you and your children. You are in charge of deciding what to eat, when to eat and where to eat. Adults can set the stage for good family nutrition by:

- Choosing and preparing healthy foods
- Providing meals and snacks at routine times
- Creating a pleasant family dining atmosphere
- Role modeling the mealtime behaviors that children must learn

A difficult part of a parent's job can be to trust that children CAN decide how much and whether to eat. When allowed to do so, children will:

- Eat (we all have an innate desire to avoid starvation!)
- Eat the amount they need (they will listen to their internal cues for hunger and satiety)
- Learn to eat what their parents eat
- Learn to behave well at mealtime

Parents would surely agree that time spent planning meals, modeling good habits and encouraging healthful choices is time well spent!

Brought to you by your  
School Food Service Department

<sup>1</sup>"Dietary Intake and it's Relationship with School Meal Participation." in Final report submitted to the USDA. *Children's Diets in the Mid-1990's* Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., (2001)

<sup>2</sup>A. Rainville, "Nutritional Quality of Reimbursable School Lunches Compared to Lunches Brought From Home.", in *The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management*, (Spring 2001)






# Get Smart As You Shop

Fruits and vegetables can fit into any budget. The following tips can help you save money as you strive to eat more fruits and vegetables.



Remember, fresh, frozen, canned, and dried types all count toward getting more fruits and veggies.

## Before You Shop







-  **Look for store ads** and use them when planning your weekly grocery list. Plan to buy the fruits and vegetables that are on sale and use them in meals and snacks that week.
-  **Plan your weekly meals and snacks** before you go shopping. Look through your freezer and pantry to see what fruits and vegetables you have at home that you can use.
-  **Think variety!** Make a point to try a new fruit or vegetable each week.



## After You Shop

-  **Use fresh fruits and vegetables** within a few days after shopping and use frozen and canned fruits and vegetables later in the week.
-  As you are putting your groceries away, **chop some fruits and vegetables** and place in bags or storage containers. Keep them in the refrigerator so they will be ready to grab for lunches and snacks.

## While You Shop

-  **Purchase fresh fruits and vegetables in season** when they tend to be less expensive.
-  **Buy whole fruits and vegetables** instead of pre-cut or pre-packaged forms which tend to be more expensive.
-  **Consider frozen and canned** if fresh are too expensive. Frozen and canned fruits and vegetables keep longer than fresh.
-  **Shop smartly!** Look out for added sugar in canned fruits; look for fruit packed in water or juice. Choose veggies with low sodium.
-  **Consider generic or store brands** instead of name brands. Store brands tend to cost less and have similar taste and nutrition.
-  If your budget allows, **buy larger bags of frozen fruits and vegetables.** They may be a better bargain and you can use what you need and keep the rest for later use.
-  **Buy canned or dried beans** and use them in recipes instead of meat which is more expensive. Traditional recipes made with meat such as chili, soups, and Mexican dishes like burritos are delicious with beans.

Visit [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov) & for more great tips and recipes  
Brought to you by Nutrition Services and your Local School Wellness Committee.  
September 20, 2011





## Seasonal Chart for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (shaded area indicates peak season)

\* Many of the listed fruits and vegetables are available year round, but their cost will be higher and quality may be less.

Fruit/ Vegetable	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Tips
Apples													Choose firm apples with no soft spots.
Avocado													Ripe fruit will be slightly firm, but yield to gentle pressure.
Banana													Select bananas that are firm; with no bruises.
Bell Pepper													Choose peppers with firm skin, with no wrinkles.
Broccoli													Select bunches that are dark green.
Cantaloupe													Select melons that are slightly golden with a light fragrant smell.
Carrots													Pick carrots that are deep orange in color. Avoid carrots that are cracked or wilted.
Corn													Husks should be green, tight, and fresh looking. The ear should have tightly packed rows of plump kernels.
Cucumber													Choose firm cucumbers with rich green color and no soft spots.
Eggplant													Pick symmetrical eggplant; avoid oversized eggplants with may be tough and bitter.
Grapes													Look for firm, plump, well-colored clusters.
Lettuce													Choose fresh, crisp leaves with no wilting.
Mushrooms													Mushrooms should be firm, moisture-free (not dry), and blemish-free.
Onion													Onions should feel dry and solid with no soft spots or sprouts.
Orange													Pick oranges that are firm, heavy for their size and have bright colorful skins.
Peach													Choose peaches that are soft to the touch with a fragrant smell.
Pear													Ripe pears will yield slightly to gently pressure a the stem end.
Strawberries													Strawberries should be dry, firm and well shaped and be a bright shade of red.
Summer Squash													Look for squash that are firm with bright, glossy exteriors.
Sweet Potato													Choose firm, dark, smooth sweet potatoes.
Tomato													Select plump tomatoes with smooth skins, free

# 4th Annual Early Learning Summit

*Dedicated to expanding our dialogue and refocusing our vision for children birth to age 8*

## “To Play or Not to Play:”

Is there a place for play in closing the achievement gap?

**Saturday, October 29, 2011**

**8 a.m.—3 p.m.**

**Bell Memorial Union, CSU Chico**

**An opportunity for those who work with young children to discuss:**

- \* perceptions and challenges surrounding play
- \* current research regarding the value of play
- \* how play can be a model for transitional kindergarten

**Participate in creating a shared vision for children’s play and learning!**

### Creating and Leading the Discussions will be:

Cheri & David Longaker - PITC  
Melissa Groves PhD - CSU Chico  
Susan Toussaint - CSUC ASCDL  
Elizabeth Griffin - First 5 Butte County  
Sally Miller - Glenn Co. Office of Education, Children and Family Services  
Patty Mannel - Network for Healthy California -Sierra Cascade Region  
Kelly Doty - Sierra Cascade Nutrition & Activity Consortium  
Michele Buran - Sierra Cascade Nutrition & Activity Consortium  
Sue McGuire - Chico Community Children’s Center



### Registration Closes October 14, 2011 \*\*

**\$25.00 fee will include continental breakfast & lunch**

**Please make checks payable to Valley Oak Children’s Service (No Purchase Orders Accepted)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade or Age of Children You Work with \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Box Lunch: Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

SEND TO: Valley Oak Children’s Service, 287 Rio Lindo Ave, Chico 95926 - Attention Connie Roberson. For more information  
Email: [croberson@valleyoakchildren.org](mailto:croberson@valleyoakchildren.org) or call Connie at 530-899-4924 **\*\*No registration confirmation will be sent**

### “Draft” Agenda

8:00	9:00	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00	10:30	Key Note & Group Discussions I
10:30	10:45	Break
10:45	12:00	Video & Group Discussion II
12:00	1:00	Lunch
1:00	2:30	Panel & Group Strategies
2:30	3:00	Evaluations and Raffle for Door Prizes

