



The Superintendent's Update

November 8, 2011

NEWS FROM KELLY

CUSD Board and Teachers Meet to Discuss Secondary Education: On November 2, 2011, the CUSD Board of Education dedicated their workshop to a panel discussion regarding secondary education. Board member Andrea Lerner Thompson chaired the discussion and Board members Jann Reed, Eileen Robinson, and Liz Griffin also shared their thoughts. A huge thank you to the teacher and staff experts that volunteered to serve on the panel; they included:

- Bidwell Junior High School: **Marjorie Kucich, Sandra Villasenor, Judi Roth**
- Chico High School: **John Klein, Shannon McLean, Doug Wion, Jim Hanlon**
- Chico Junior High School: **Rochelle Simmons, Mary Anne Pella-Donnelly, Pedro Caldera**
- Fair View High School: **David McKay**
- Inspire School of the Arts and Sciences: **Rachel Iufer, Ron Pope, Marysol de la Torre**
- Marsh Junior High School: **Kurt Rix, Jay Marchant**
- Pleasant Valley High School: **Ray Barber, Marcelle Gregoire, Beth Burton; John Shepherd**
- District Staff: **Dave Scott, John Bohannon, Kelly Staley**

The discussion was rich and varied, including suggestions for immediate improvement as well as issues for further research and discussion. Below is a list of just some of the areas discussed—and as you can see it was a deep and far reaching discussion.

- Request for more articulation between Jr. High and High School in core content areas.
- Relevance: CTE has it built in; do we have relevance in core content areas?
 - Schools need to provide connection and relevance for students.
- Critical Thinking Skills: How do we teach students to know which of the enormous amounts of information out there is accurate and useful.
- Continue to provide an emphasis on Career Technical Education, including Agriculture, Architecture and Engineering (Math/Science), and Manufacturing.
- Stay current with technology, especially in CTE courses.
- Hours of school need to expand in order to meet needs of students.
 - Students need a personal connection to school.
 - How do we provide a balance between core content and extra-curricular?
 - Have standards made teaching shallow or do they provide a base of knowledge that is common between all students, regardless of background?
 - Is there still a need for a common body of knowledge to which *all* students are ensured access?
 - How do we “Wow” students and get them connected to their learning?
 - Can increased technology do this?
 - How do we teach students to use technology responsibly and critically?

- How do we develop partnerships between schools and business? This is especially necessary for elective classes.
- How can writing be used to increase critical thinking skills?
- A need for all courses to emphasize writing, not just English courses.
- A need for increased “top down” articulation: High School to Jr. High School to Elementary for both academic and behavioral/responsibility discussions.
- How do schools tie into each student’s unique intelligence – academic, athletic, artistic (Howard Gardner)?
- What is the maximum size of an optimal school environment? How do we ensure that all students connect with an adult daily?
- How can we ensure all students, especially 9th and 10th graders, have a connection to school?
- Students need to have a place where they belong. How do we build in that structure – so they have somewhere to go at lunch and do not have to figure out where they can belong on their own by trial and error.
- Entire school needs to make sure students feel welcome, wanted, and needed. Students need to know they are safe and cared about before they can be ready to learn.
- Establish “home room” at each school where students know they have a support group.
- Work to integrate writing/critical thinking across the curriculum.
 - Will this require more articulation between core academic areas?
 - Can cross curricular instruction be shared between English and Social Science for example?
- How can we shake up the schedule so writing does happen across school and is not an additional burden on teachers?
- Schools need rigor. Reading and critical thinking skills need to be taught across all content areas.
 - May need to teach teachers how to teach critical thinking.
- AVID uses WICR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Relevancy).
- Many educators need training in how to best use technology.
- Find a way to let teachers observe other great things in our district and recognize it is okay not to know everything.
 - At Inspire, teachers pledged to observe two teachers per month to learn new instructional strategies from each other.
- Record daily lessons so students that need to see/hear it more than once can review it as much as needed. Also helps students who are absent.
- Concern that technical reading and writing is not offered at high schools.
- Schools need to reflect standards of industry including a “paperless” approach.
- Summer collaborations with follow-up throughout year; staff development cannot be a one shot deal.
- Peer observations so that teachers can learn from each other.

- Cross-collaboration to talk about students, including what other teachers have found to be successful in working with that student.
- Use of common language so that all staff uses the same vocabulary with students as well the use of common structures and formats.
- How do we build in common collaboration time for teachers to meet and work together and thus allow time to rethink/review/revise what we do?
- What can we as a District do or provide so that students are best prepared for future?

I would like to ask the last question again so that all CUSD educators have the opportunity to respond.

- **What is the single most important thing we as a District can do or provide so that all students are best prepared for the future?**

Please either send your thoughts directly to me at kstaley@chicousd.org or if you would prefer, share with your site administrator or site leadership team. I will compile the responses I receive and share them in an upcoming Superintendent's Update.

I would again like to thank all of those present for an engaging and informative conversation that will now help us as we begin to prepare for secondary schools that will meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students.

Weissenborn and Parsley Win Leadership Team Awards: Thanks to the generosity of Horace Mann/Golden Apple Insurance and Financial Services, at the Leadership Team meeting each month we are able to recognize a "Leader of the Month". The honoree receives a plaque, and best of all, a gift certificate to a local dining establishment. There is no doubt that each of our educational leaders, for a wide variety of reasons, is deserving of this award, so finding a process to select those to receive the award each month was difficult. However, as any award is most meaningful when it is a reflection of the opinion of colleagues, our process this year was to have members of the Leadership Team vote. In September, **Mike Weissenborn**, Director of Facilities, was presented with this award and in October **Joanne Parsley**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction was selected for the award. Congratulations to both Mike and Joanne!



School Site Turkey Feasts: Thank you to the CUSD Nutritional Services Teams for providing each school site in the District with a special Turkey Feast luncheon served by CUSD staff, including all site and District administrators. Students and parents were invited to enjoy this lunch together...and so far we have had many parents take us up on the opportunity! I have personally had the opportunity to serve students and parents at Little Chico Creek Elementary,

Chapman Elementary, and Fair View High School. Without exception, the students have been enthusiastic and appreciative. Special kudos to Chapman Elementary intermediate grade students who, without exception, all made it a point to individually say thank you as they went through the line. Again, thank you **Vince Enserro** for bringing this idea to CUSD and thank you to all of the staff who have worked to make it a positive event for students and parents.

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Japanese Language After School Classes: In a partnership between CUSD, CSUC and CARD, Japanese Language and Culture after school classes will be offered at Bidwell Jr. High and Marigold Elementary schools. These classes will begin in January and will provide an introduction to Japanese language with the eventual opportunity for students to continue instruction for credit in Pleasant Valley High School's Japanese Language classes.

District-wide Meeting: CUSD will have its second district-wide staff meeting of the year on Wednesday, November 9. At the first meeting in September, teachers in subject-alike teams created SMART goals based on student achievement data. During the November 9 meeting, teams will share teaching strategies they have utilized to increased students achievement in the areas covered by the SMART goals. Teachers will continue to analyze areas of strength and growth throughout the school year utilizing data from the district's student progress assessment.

Charter Update: November 1 was the deadline for charter schools to request CUSD facilities for the 2012-2013 school year. CUSD received requests from Nord Country Day, Forest Ranch Charter, Sherwood Montessori and Wildflower Open Structure. The CUSD Charter School Facility Committee will now analyze the amount of space required to satisfy the district's legally mandated responsibility to provide facilities to charter schools with 80 ADA of students that would otherwise attend CUSD schools. The committee will also analyze available space at all campuses in determining space that will be offered to charter schools.

Two charter schools submitted renewal petitions to CUSD in late October. Inspire and Nord Country School, whose charters expire in June 2012, are both petitioning for a five-year renewal. CUSD will hold the mandated public hearings for these renewals at the November 16 regularly scheduled board meeting.

District Advisory Council (DAC): The next DAC meeting is **November 17** in the Large Conference Room at the district office from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are two classified representatives, a teacher representative from each school and from administration. The main purpose of the DAC is to provide a forum for open two-way communication between the district and school sites. Please send hot topics to **Mike Morris** by November 15.

Formative Assessment Workshop: Teachers **Sarah Jensen, Rochelle Simmons, Marjorie Kucich, Dan Sours, Todd Jones** and **Jennifer Teague** participated in a Minute-to-Minute Formative Assessment workshop with presenters **Marcelle Gregoire, Connie Chrysler-Anderson, and Michael Morris** from CUSD and **Michelle Sanchez** from BCOE. Additionally, **Dan Sours, Todd Jones** and **Jennifer Teague**, the math group from Chico High, presented to the group on ways they are creating frequent common formative team assessments to monitor and respond to student learning needs.

Educational Results Partnership: Educational Results Partnership, a non-profit dedicated to increasing student achievement and closing the achievement gap, provides actionable data and compiles best practices to assist California Schools. Supported by the California State University, California Business for Educational Excellence and the California Chamber of Commerce, EdResults works with K-12 schools, colleges and universities across California. **James Lanich**, President, Founder and **Ken Sorey**, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives from Educational Results Partnership met with **Mike Morris** and **Jennifer Bevers** to discuss ways their state test data, analysis and reporting system and best practices network could be shared with administrators and teachers to support CUSD school improvement efforts.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE): CAHSEE results may be found at [California High School Exit Exam \(CAHSEE\) Results](#). The high school exit exam was held on **November 1 and 2, 2011**, for grade 11 and 12 students and adults who have not yet passed the exam. The next administration will be in February for all students in grade 10, and students in grades 11 and 12 who have not yet passed.

CELDT Testing: The California English Language Development Test (CELDT) test is given each year to students identified as English Learners during July through October. Our CELDT examiners just finished annual CELDT testing. 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 Testing: 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. We are currently compiling our STAR orders for 2011-2012. 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 <http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2011/>. An informational overview of all STATE TESTING PROGRAMS may be found at: [Chart of California Assessment System](#)

Districtwide Student Progress Assessments: The administration of the District Student Progress Assessments took place from October 24 to November 4 for grades 2-6. Grade 2-6 teachers will review results at the November 9 District-wide Meeting. Students in grades 7-11 will take the District Student Progress Assessments during the week of November 14-18. Grades 2-11 were assessed in English and Math at the beginning of the school year to establish a baseline for measuring progress in learning. An overview of the district's assessment system may be found at: [CUSD Assessment](#).

NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES:

Marsh Junior High Solar System: The new solar system design for Marsh Junior High has been approved by the Division of the State Architect. Construction fencing is being put in place and the project is getting ready to begin. This project is another Power Purchase Agreement with SolarCity. These agreements allow the District to take advantage of the solar photovoltaic

systems, which are funded by private investors, to lower the District's utility bills. Work on the Marsh system is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. The system is designed to deliver 315.84 kw.

Chico High School – Lincoln Hall/Fieldhouse: Design work continues on the project intended to replace Chico High School's Lincoln Hall which was built in 1952. The SKW Architects is the design firm working in conjunction with Modern, a local construction firm. The plans are scheduled to be submitted to the Division of the State Architect in early January. Construction will begin in the summer of 2012.

Pleasant Valley High School – New Classrooms Building: Nichols Melburg and Rossetto is completing the design work for the new classroom building at Pleasant Valley High School. Broward Builders has been selected as the Lease-Leaseback entity on this project. This project is being reviewed by the Division of the State Architect in increments. One of the first increments will be the removal of temporary classrooms which will occur after the winter break.

Inspire School of the Arts and Sciences: Design work continues to move ahead on the relocation of Inspire from Chico High School to the Chapman Elementary campus. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for the project and is available for review on the District website at:

<http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Facilities--Construction/Inspire-School-of-Arts--Sciences/index.html>.

Maintenance & Operations (M&O): This month M &O began our yearly Fire Inspections with Inspector **Rick Doane**. Rick has been with the Chico Fire Department for ten years and was recently named Chico Fire Department "Fireman of the Year." The purpose of the fire inspections is to ensure that our classrooms and buildings are providing a fire safe environment for staff and students. Rick informed us that over the last ten years, Chico Unified has made vast improvements in fire safety. He has found that most of the flammable materials brought into the schools have been treated with a fire retardant. The district recommends a product called Inspecta-Shield which is available through the warehouse. It is very safe and simple to use. Once the material has been treated, it is recorded on the Flame Retardant Treatment Log that has been supplied to each school. The updated log will be reviewed each year by the Fire Inspector. Also, the Inspector will need to view the Fire Drill Log. Some of the things he is looking for during room inspections include art work on the walls (not to exceed 20% of the wall space), daisy chained cords, flammable materials, power strips near flammable materials and more. Remember to keep things that burn away from things that get hot. Each site will receive a copy of their Fire Inspection and corrections to be made.

Along with the fire inspections, M&O is doing the annual Williams Inspections. The Williams Settlement requires school districts to conduct annual facility inspections for all schools and report the findings in their School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs), in full compliance of the Williams Act, SB 550 and AB 607. The main purpose is to make sure that our facilities are clean and safe. We walk the site with a form referred to as a FIT (Facilities Inspection Tool). After the inspection, the information is recorded on an evaluation sheet where the school is rated for its overall condition. That information is collected and reported on the SARC.

Working together with agencies such as the Chico Fire Department, we are ensuring a safe learning environment for students and staff.



Nutrition Services: The Turkey Feasts have been fun and successful! The Turkey Feast is an all school event celebrating Thanksgiving. It is a complete lunch that includes turkey gravy over mashed potatoes with whole wheat roll or cornbread muffin, fresh green salad and fresh fruit basket with cranberry, pumpkin cupcakes and milk. It is served buffet style and is decorated with pumpkins from the FFA garden as well as flowers. The event includes inviting parents to participate and has administrative staff serving the students and parents. Please join in the fun – a flyer is attached at the end of this Update.

Information Technology: Systems Upgrades Coming Soon! The **SEMS (Substitute Employee Management System)** will be upgraded when we return from Christmas break. The current system has served us well, but the company has an updated product called SmartFindExpress. We will begin the implementation process soon. Look for improved web interface for both staff and substitutes and more ways to access (traditional phone, web, and smartphone apps). Again, the new system is scheduled to be online January 2, 2012.

Eagle Software is also releasing a new **Aeries Parent/Student Portal soon**. The upgrade will continue to work with current logins but will improve the display of information on the web page. The company also announced the teacher portal will be upgraded next summer. This will unify the user interfaces (Parent, Student, Teacher, and Administrator) interfaces and all will have the same look and feel. Currently the Parent/Teacher/Student is part of the Aeries Browser Interface (ABI) and is the first generation of the company's web interface.

IT Support – HelpDesk: Please remember to submit a HelpDesk Ticket when you need IT support. This is the best way for IT personnel to track time and prioritize requests. Whether you submit via email (helpdesk@chicousd.org) or by logging onto the HelpDesk (<https://helpdesk.chicousd.org/>)

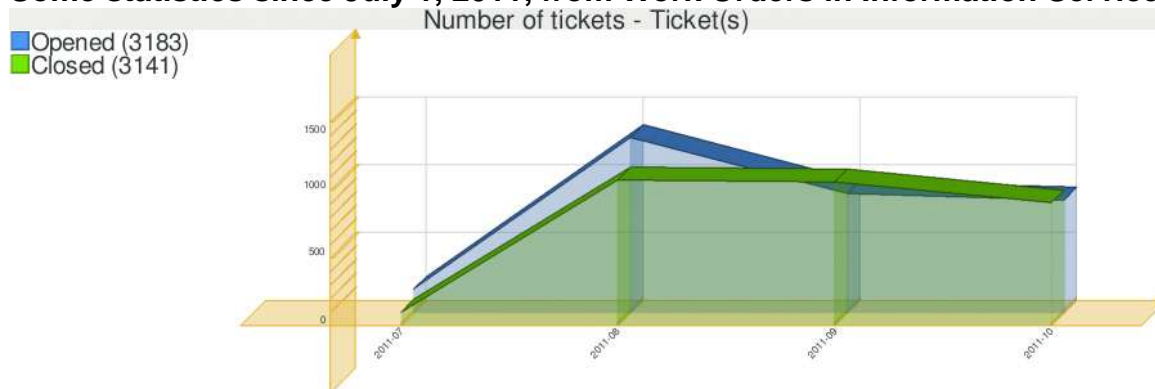
Please remember to enter the school name, and a short description of the problem in the TITLE or SUBJECT line Example: Chico Junior – Computer not booting

(HelpDesk ticket)

(email ticket)

In the body of the message, enter a full description of the problem with as much information as possible, including contact person, phone number, etc.

Some statistics since July 1, 2011, from Work Orders in Information Services:



uniFLOW is Coming to a Site Near You: We are getting ready to roll out Uniflow to all sites currently not using Uniflow for copier control and cost reporting. We are confident that we have all the technical issues worked out and can provide the solutions needed for each site's specific needs. We will be notifying each site when we are going to be on campus and make the switch over. Before we make the switch we will be meeting with each principal and/or office manager to discuss specific needs so that we can have everything ready to go on switchover day.

In that meeting we will be discussing:

- **Groups:** Uniflow accounting provides a way to assign cost centers to specific printing/copying jobs. We will need to know besides normal classroom needs, who has special cost centers (ASB, Special Ed., etc.). We will setup the appropriate cost centers for reporting and accounting purposes.
- **Accounting:** There are basically two models available for print jobs for your site: 1) Unmetered; and 2) metered. Unmetered accounting means that all print jobs are accepted and printed, and the school will be responsible for all printing/copying costs. Metered accounting means that each user is given a budget from which all printing/copying is decremented from and when the budget is empty, no more print or copy jobs will be processed. Metered systems will require someone at your site to be trained how to manage user budgets within Uniflow.
- **Printers:** At the time of Uniflow rollout, all managed HP LaserJet (LJ) Printers will be included into the Uniflow system. The same accounting and reporting formats are used for copiers and for LJ printers. All accounting is done from the same budget system and will be decremented from the same accounts.
- **Training:** IT and Ray Morgan Company (RMC) will provide training for all staff on the days we roll out Uniflow to provide as smooth a transition as possible. Additional training may be required for Accounting as well, which can be done before, as part of, or after we roll out Uniflow. We will send out quick/user guides to your staff a couple days before your site's switch-out.
- **ID / Barcodes:** All RMC copiers will have bar code readers attached to make logins as quick and easy as possible. We will work hard to make sure that bar coded ID badges are available for your staff in a timely manner. It may take some extra time to get everyone's new ID badges printed with barcodes, so please let us know who the "critical" users are so we can try to have the new badges available for them. Barcode Badges will also be available for special copy needs, such as PTA, ASB, and other non-district related copying.

It is Information Technology's goal to complete the Uniflow Rollout before winter break, which means that there is little wiggle room to reschedule once we have things set. We are looking forward to completing this project and hope everyone will help make this a smooth transition.

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:

Student Calendar: CUSD is seeking input from the community as we develop a recommendation for a new three-year student calendar. To view the current calendar as well as additional information, please go to the District website at: www.chicousd.org/Departments/Superintendents-Office/HOT-TOPICS/index.html

We recognize that our school calendar affects students, staff, parents and the community. We want thoughts and ideas from a wide variety of people in order to provide the best possible schedule for all of our students. Stakeholders are asked to provide input regarding what they like about the current calendar and/or to suggest improvements for the new proposal. To express your opinion, please email CUSD at schoolcalendar@chicousd.org

District staff will gather public comment until mid-December. Staff will then compile the information and make a recommendation to the Board of Education in January. It is anticipated that the student calendars for the next three school years will be adopted at the February regular meeting of the Board of Education.

For more information please contact: **Bob Feaster** @ 891-3000 x142.

CSEA, Chapter 110 Negotiations: The teams have met twice this school year on October 11 and October 31. We will meet again on November 8. We have been dealing with a wide array of topics as the entire collective bargaining agreement is open. We have made a great deal of progress and are close to agreement on several topics such that we hope to have tentative agreements signed soon. Some of the topics we have been working on, include, but are not limited to:

- Order of Offers/Increase in Hours/1:1 Aides
- Use of bereavement leave
- Reemployment rights
- Assignment issues for Transportation Special Education Aides
- Notifications regarding potential employee discipline

The tenor of the sessions has been positive with significant progress being made.

Chico Unified Teachers' Association (CUTA): The teams met in mediation on October 18. A tentative agreement (TA) was reached on the topic of the impact and effects of the changes to the Red (medical) Plan by the Butte County JPA. CUTA will be taking the TA through the process of having it approved by the Executive Board and then the general membership. It is anticipated that the TA will come to the Board of Education for approval at their meeting on November 16.

Attendance Improvement Committee: This committee, comprised of teachers, school counselors, attendance clerks, administrators, community members and a member of the Board of Education, has met several times to explore ways to improve the attendance rate of our

students. Our attendance rate is already very good but we want to explore any and all ways that we can to make it even better. The District has adopted a new system to make the process of informing parents of attendance issues more uniform and more automated. While we are working out some glitches this program holds promise to help with our attendance rate. The committee has been looking at other issues such as short term independent study options, ways to positively improve attendance and how we can best get the message out in a consistent manner about the power of attending school. Please email **Bob Feaster** (bfeaster@chicousd.org) or **Kevin Moretti** (kmoretti@chicousd.org) if you have ideas or suggestions or you just want more information about the committee.

Retirement Incentive Committee: This committee is comprised of teachers and administrators who are looking at options to provide retirement incentives to certificated staff that are cost neutral or better yet save the District money. This is a more complicated process than it might appear at first. The committee is looking for creative options to help in this issue. Please email **Bob Feaster** (bfeaster@chicousd.org) or **Kevin Moretti** (kmoretti@chicousd.org) if you have ideas or suggestions or you just want more information about the committee.

NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES:

INSPIRE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” This week!!! **Joyce Henderson, Marylou Lim, Kim Gimbal, and Jarrah Myles** are rehearsing with about 75 students preparing for this week’s performances at the beautiful CUSD Center for the Arts on the Pleasant Valley High School campus. Dates and times are: November 11, 7:00 pm; November 12, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm; November 13, 7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale at Bidwell Perk and in the Inspire Office (PC4). Ticket prices are as follows: General Admission - \$12; Students 18 and under - \$10; Students with ASB card - \$8.

PVHS Veteran’s Day Presentation: The Pleasant Valley High School ACE-LIFE Academy is hosting their annual Veteran’s Day presentation on the afternoon of Thursday, November 10, in the Center for the Arts. The first presentation will be during 6th period (12:45-1:40 pm) and then repeated during 7th period (1:47-2:43 pm). The program was started as part of the Academy’s cross-curricular teaching and as a way to educate our students about the meaning of Veteran’s Day. This will be a patriotic show with veterans from PVHS speaking and ACE-LIFE Academy students involved in the program, from planning and coordinating the day, to hosting the program itself.

CHS “Once Upon a Mattress”: Chico High students presented the musical “Once Upon a Mattress” from November 2-5 at 7:30pm in the Williams Theatre on the CHS campus. Tickets were \$10 for students and \$12 for adults.

PhotoVoice, a Fantastic Showcase of Student Work at CHS: On Monday, October 31, CHS presented a great showcase of student work. **Shannon McLean’s** photography students have been busy on a project called PhotoVoice, in collaboration with the American Lung Association, California Health Collaborative, and Public Health. The agency partners recently presented information to the students, on current issues in our state on smoke free air (parks and entryways) and butt litter, and the students, under the guidance of their teacher, started capturing photos and writing stories about what they found.

Fantastic Event at PVHS: In preparing for a unit on the Holocaust and the novel *Night*, [Amy Besnard's](#) World Literature courses welcomed a very special guest. Yanina Cywinska, Holocaust survivor, accomplished prima ballerina, actress, and novelist came to PVHS and spoke with 75 students, some parents, teachers, and Administration. Her story was one of obvious tragedy, but her messages were filled with hope and inspiration. In one day, she changed lives. The students cannot stop talking about her and the indelible impression she made on them. What a remarkable experience.



Autism NPDC Team: [Eric Snedecker](#) shared [Lisa Sullivan's](#) (Ph.D., Project Coordinator, with National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders from UC Davis Medical Center) email regarding [Taryn's](#) SH program at Marsh Jr. High and the staff's involvement in the grant project. Eric appreciates all the time and hard work in making this a positive experience for the students, families, and program. The support at Marsh is outstanding from the general education teachers, administrators, and support staff.

*Dear Jay and Eric,
I just wanted to check-in and say that your team at Marsh is doing an amazing job implementing the NPDC materials and using our resources. I just heard from Taryn about the district training for other teachers working with moderate to severe students. I'm so impressed with the dedication of the team there at Marsh. I'm sure you both play a big part in supporting their efforts. Regards - Lisa*

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

SAVE BIDWELL MANSION: State legislators voted to cut \$22 million annually from the budget by closing 70 state parks come July 2012, including Bidwell Mansion. [State Senator Doug LaMalfa](#), R-Richvale, held a Town Hall Meeting at the Chico City Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 2, regarding Bidwell Mansion. While [Dianne Wrona](#), Sr. Library Media Assistant at Chico High School was standing outside the City Council Chambers greeting attendees and answering questions, a shy darling little girl came up to her. She introduced herself as [Lucinda Law](#), a 4th grader at Rosedale Elementary. She carried a note pad and pencil and told Dianne she wanted to go in to listen to some of the meeting. She said she was very upset when she heard the mansion might close so she, as a member of her Leadership Team at Rosedale, went to her Administrators to ask if she could speak to all the classes at Rosedale

and get them to sign a petition to keep the mansion open. They gave her permission, so she will be doing that soon. Her mother said her daughter is very interested in these things and also took part in the kick-off event for the month long traveling display for the celebration of the 100th year of the Suffragette Movement. Dianne was very taken with this student's gumption and interest in history.

CEPCO Honoree: Every year the Chico Economic Planning Corporation (CEPCO) honors those who make Chico the fantastic place to live and work it is with CEPCO's Excellence in Business Awards. On October 27 at the Bell Memorial Union Auditorium on the CSU, Chico campus our own **Sheena Zweigle** from CHS was honored as one of Chico's finest in the Business, Education, and Innovation community. Congratulations Sheena!



CUSD IN THE NEWS

Enterprise Record

http://www.chicoer.com/letters/ci_19162643#.TqHfCTqOyhE.email

[School reports 'white van' sighting](#)

http://www.chicoer.com/letters/ci_19176255#.TqXfGtJXsnw.email

http://www.chicoer.com/letters/ci_19176255#.TqXfGtJXsnw.email

[Music and message packed into 'Hairspray'](#)

[Police, **school district** warn of white van man](#)

[Letter: CUSD can set good nutrition example](#)

[Dance event thrills Chicoans](#)

[Secondary **education** topic of meeting](#)

[CUSD holds discussion on educational future](#)

[Teaching Islam a touchy subject](#)

[Chico community aims to save Bidwell Mansion](#)

[Great Debate in **Chico** takes on K-12 tenure reform](#)

KNVN

[Parents on Alert After Reports of Suspicious White Vans Near **Schools**](#)

Other

[Police, **school district** warn of white van man - Paradise Post](#)

Editorial: Education not just about college

Chico Enterprise-Record

Posted: 11/04/2011 12:13:06 AM PDT

Our view: Schools and the business community need to be partners in the discussion about the future of education.

It is wise of the Chico Unified School District to talk about the future, especially the nature of education being delivered to students.

Life seems to change dramatically and lurches forward uncontrollably at times. Education prepares us for that.

Who would have thought a generation ago where technology and curriculum would have gone, that classes would have computers, and that school life doesn't revolve around the classroom and library?

How will education, with a foundation of subjects that haven't changed in 25 years, adapt to be flexible for a changing world?

There are arguments galore about the role of education. Like a pendulum, they swing from philosophical, worldly thinking to the most rudimentary necessity — to get a job.

The latter is critical.

Vocational education graduates generally find jobs quickly because they have mastered a skill that's needed in the work force, but the classes are expensive because of the necessary equipment and tools.

Those classes are often chopped, not only because of cost, but because of their blue-collar association. They don't fit with the must-go-to-college message students often get from parents and high school counselors.

So we applaud Jim Hanlon of Chico High and John Shepherd of Pleasant Valley High.

In a discussion about the future of education this week, both principals acknowledged the need for more interaction with the business community, and more options to pursue technical trades and vocational education.

There's no denying that a college education is critical, but it's not for everyone.

The number of college graduates who find a job in their area of study depends on a variety of factors, but it should be high. It isn't.

And then there are dropouts.

What's even sadder is that college graduates may leave school burdened with debt before even finding a job.

As college costs increase, more high school students will look for vocational training and avoid universities.

Getting students into a satisfying job with sufficient pay as quickly as possible should be education's priority.

We're glad to see this discussion happening locally, and hope both education and business continue to be at the table.



I am sure you are now wondering...What's A Turkey Feast??? Well it is an all school event that will celebrate Thanksgiving. It will be a complete lunch that will include:
Turkey Gravy over Mashed Potatoes with
Whole Wheat Roll or Cornbread Muffin
Fresh Green Salad & Fresh Fruit Basket
Cranberry, Pumpkin Cupcakes & Milk
It will be served buffet style and will be decorated with festive theme.

Students **\$2.50** elementary and **\$2.75** at Jr. & Sr. Highs (Free & Reduced Eligibility apply)
Adults + Siblings (non-students) **\$3.50.**

We will have pumpkins from the FFA garden as well as flowers and the cranberry beans they have grown. The event will also include parents that would like to attend the event. Our Administrative staff will be serving the students and parents.

- November 1-Emma Wilson
- November 2-Rosedale & Little Chico Creek Schools
- November 3-Chapman & Hooker Oak
- November 4-Fair View High School, AFC & CAL
- November 7-Marsh Jr. High School & Chico Country Day School
- November 8-McManus
- November 9-Bidwell Jr. & Parkview
- November 10-Pleasant Valley High School
- November 14-Marigold & Loma Vista
- November 15-Neal Dow & Chico Jr. High School
- November 16-Sierra View
- November 17-Chico High School & Citrus
- November 18-Shasta

