



# The Superintendent's Update

November 18, 2011



## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Good Luck Claudia de la Torre:** Please join me in saying good bye and the best of wishes to Rosedale Principal [Claudia de la Torre](#). Claudia will be leaving CUSD at the end of the semester to take a principal job in San Gabriel. Claudia shared the following with her school community: "I am leaving with mixed emotions; I am sad to leave the Chico that I love, but I am leaving to finally bring my family together. I want to thank you for all of your support. I admire and respect the dedication that you have for the children of Chico and for the work that you do everyday."

Claudia has been a tremendous advocate for our Two Way Immersion program for many years and is known for her strong belief that a quality education best prepares students for success in the future. We thank Claudia for her dedication to our District and wish her the very best in her new position.

**CHS Ag BBQ Cookoff:** Kudos to [Ronnie Cockrell](#) and his CHS Agriculture Welding students! Each student designed and fabricated a barrel BBQ-smoker and on Friday, 11/18, the students used their hand make BBQ to share their favorite BBQ dish with the Chico High community. A wide variety of parents and community members attended and were treated to samples of BBQ beef, chicken, turkey, sausage, venison, bear, and duck – and with 35 different BBQ chefs, it is very possible I missed something! CHS Ag teachers [Quinn Mendez](#) and [Sheena Sloan](#) also got in on the action as their students utilized the "Friends of Ag" CHS Ag Farm-grown beans to provide a variety of bean dishes as well. This is the second year of the event, and the number of students participating quadrupled from its inaugural year. The food was off the charts good—but equally if not more impressive were the designs of the individual BBQs. Again, THANK YOU and GREAT JOB to the CHS Ag staff and students as well as the many parents and community members that helped pull off this impressive feast!

**CUSD Nutritional Services Turkey Feasts:** By now, each school site has had the privilege of hosting a Turkey Feast. Board members, District staff, School site staff, and Nutrition Services staff have all greatly enjoyed serving our wonderful students...and in many cases, their parents and grandparents as well.

I'd again like to thank [Vince Enserro](#) for bringing this idea to CUSD and [Tanya Harter](#) and the amazing staff members in our [Nutrition Services Department](#) for finding a way to make it work at each school site. I had the opportunity to serve at Little Chico Creek, Chapman, Shasta, Fairview High School and Pleasant Valley High School. At each school, each and every student we served were a very positive representative of their school. I and all of the other staff I have worked with look forward to doing this again next year. Nice job CUSD!



## NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**District-wide Meeting:** The second district-wide staff meetings were held in various locations across the District on November 9.

The elementary teachers compared the student data from the first Student Progress Assessment (SPA) or the kindergarten and first grade assessments located on ESGI and the second assessment administered in November. Based on these discussions teachers evaluated their SMART Goals and revised/developed the goals to meet the academic needs of their students.

Content-alike teams shared strategies they are utilizing in their classes to improve student achievement in order to meet the SMART goals the teams set in September. For English and Math teachers, data from the Student Progress Assessment will assist them in measuring student progress toward meeting these goals at the next district-wide meeting in January. English teachers also continued a discussion regarding vertical articulation between the junior high and high school English teachers during their meetings. From this discussion, a plan is being developed for a vertical articulation meeting for English in the near future.

**On-line Independent Study and Credit Recovery:** **Melanie Mol** from Education 2020, CUSD's provider of on-line curriculum, returned to the district's independent study programs at Chico High, Pleasant Valley and Oakdale (on the Fair View campus) to provide more individual instruction in best practices for utilizing the curriculum.

All three independent study programs now have students utilizing the on-line program as the curriculum for at least part of their educational program.

**Charter School Update:** The CUSD Board of Trustees held public hearings for the renewal charter petitions for Nord County School and Inspire School of Arts and Sciences at the November 16 board meeting. The charter petitions for both schools will come back to the CUSD board as action items at the December 7 board meeting.

**Tdap:** Many thanks to the school nurses, health assistants, school office managers and principals for all of their efforts with the new Tdap requirement. As of today, there are less than 10 students (of approximately 6000) who have not yet met this requirement. CUSD is 99.99% Tdap compliant!

**Special Education Self Review:** The Special Education Self-Review (SESR) is an intensive multi-step appraisal process during which students' IEPs are evaluated for legal compliance, implementation and educational benefit. The fiscal and policy components of the program are also reviewed. Thank you to the following staff who have assisted with the SESR: **Joanna Allen, Galen Anderson, Trudy Bacon, Sharon Bolden-Schleh, Norelia Caldera, Jennifer Childs, Mo Deitz, Dale Durniak, Carol Heald, Laura Holman, Diane Ippisch, Jeaner Kassel, Rosann Lampkin, Leigh Pearce, Aaron Sauberan, Dennis Schultz, Eric Snedeker, Brenda Sorenson and Richard Utterback.**

**District Advisory Council (DAC):** The DAC met on November 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Agenda topics included District Calendar, District Assessments, California Common Core

Standards and Class-Size Reduction. The main purpose of the DAC is to provide a forum for open two-way communication between the district and school sites. There are two classified representatives, a teacher representative from each school and from administration.

**Leadership Institute:** Deanna Holen, Joanne Bettencourt, Dave Murgia, Judi Roth, Erica Sheridan and Mike Morris participated in a countywide Leadership Institute on November 14 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Dave McKay offered a great presentation.

**Assessment Data Management System:** Glenn Pulliam, Brett Silva, Laurie Barnes, Tim Cariss Dan Sours, Ted Sullivan , John Bohannon and Mike Morris met after school on the November 15 for an informational presentation about *Illuminate*, an Assessment Data Management System. We currently use the Edusoft system to collect and analyze student assessment results. We are looking at systems that could potentially offer better student assessment data collecting and reporting capabilities at the same or lower cost.

**California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE):** The next administration of the CAHSEE will be February 7 and 8, 2012, for all students in grade 10, and for students in grades 11 and 12 who have not yet passed. CAHSEE results may be found at [California High School Exit Exam \(CAHSEE\) Results](#).

**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 up 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:** 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 Progress Assessments took place from October 24 to November 4 for grades 2-6. Grade 2-6 teachers reviewed results at the November 9 Districtwide Meeting. Students in grades 7-11 took the Districtwide Student Progress Assessments during the week of November 14 – 18 and November 28 – December 2. 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. An overview of the district's assessment system may be found at: [CUSD Assessment](#).



## NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES

The **CUSD warehouse** provides a wide variety of products at low prices. The catalog is located at: <http://www.chicousd.org/documents/BUSINESS/PURCHASING/storescatalog.pdf>. All prices include tax and shipping. We like to provide the best quality for the price. If you have any comments, suggestions or issues with the quality of products, please contact Melinda Edgecomb in Purchasing 891-3000 x 126, [medgecomb@chicousd.org](mailto:medgecomb@chicousd.org).

**Maintenance and Operations (M&O):** There are a few things that all teachers and staff need to be aware of during Thanksgiving vacation. Custodial staff are working on Monday, November 21, only. We will also have a light crew working on Tuesday, November 22, at the sites that have ADA Recovery day scheduled. In order to help with the ant problems we already face this time of year, please remove all food and drinks from your room and make sure there is no food left in student desks before leaving on Friday. Your help is much appreciated.

Now that the cold weather is starting to settle in, here are some tips and precautions:

- Use care when opening doors. The wind can catch them and fling them open unexpectedly.
- Keep your rooms closed up as much as possible to allow the heater to work properly.
- Watch for slippery floors and sidewalks. Beware of ice.
- Drive carefully. Roads are wet and slippery.

Now, go out and have a great Thanksgiving vacation.

**Speaking of Thanksgiving - Nutrition Services** would like to thank all school sites for participating in the Turkey Feast. It was a wonderful opportunity for administrative staff to interact with students in the district. I hope everyone involved was as inspired as I was by the students' reactions - Priceless!!! (See pictures at the end of this Update.) On another note, the department is up 8% for breakfast meals and 11% for lunch meals YTD over last year YTD. I attribute the increase to the staff's dedication to customer service and providing the freshest most nutritious food we can.

**Information Technology and the uniFLOW (aka. Copier/Printer System) and Schedule:** The idea behind centralizing copier/printers is to save money and administrative overhead. Each site no longer has to worry about contracts. Under the new contract each school is allotted MFP Black and White copies and HP LaserJet Black and White copies per student **at no cost** to the school site. Copies and overages will be assessed on a quarterly basis from a billing statement generated by Ray Morgan. The reports that are generated by uniFLOW for the staff and/or organizations within the school (i.e. ASB, PTA, etc.) are for site administration for bill back and to understand any charge backs for overages over the free allotment of copies/prints.

We have created a tentative uniFLOW rollout schedule for the remainder of the school sites. Some adjustments to this list may be required as we make arrangements with the various sites. The District Office, Corp Yard, Junior High schools, and Chapman have been our pilot sites and have endured working out many of the issues. We received great feedback from the high schools from last week and this week. Thanks for all of your help and support.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>
11/10/2011	CHS (COMPLETE)	12/15/2011	Rosedale
11/15/2011	PVHS (COMPLETE)	1/3/2012	Little Chico Creek
11/17/2011	Sierra View (COMPLETE)	1/5/2012	John McManus
11/29/2011	Shasta	1/10/2012	Hooker Oak
12/1/2011	Parkview	1/12/2012	FVHS
12/6/2011	Neal Dow	1/17/2012	Emma Wilson
12/8/2011	Loma Vista School	1/19/2012	Citrus
12/13/2011	Marigold		

**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).

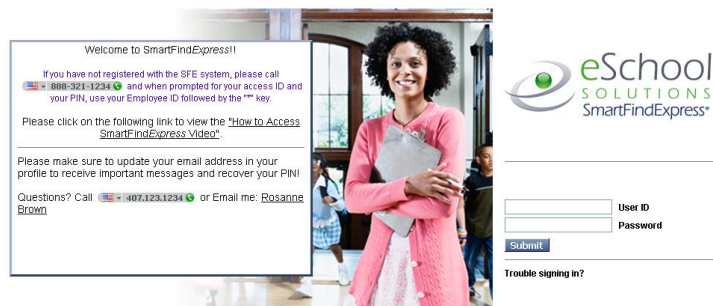
**What's changed — it's now My DE.** With the new *My DE*, all of Discovery Education's resources are at your fingertips. *My DE* has a fresh new look and design, streamlined content and exciting new customization capabilities. Learn what happened On This Day, view Featured Content and catch up with 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 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.

**Firefox Update:** We had issues with the Firefox update to 7.01 and the Aeries used by office staff. We have updated Firefox to 7.01. Please submit a work order if you are having problems with Firefox. We have tested it at several sites and have resolved the issues with the manual update and using it with administration portal of Aeries (<https://aac.chicousd.org>).

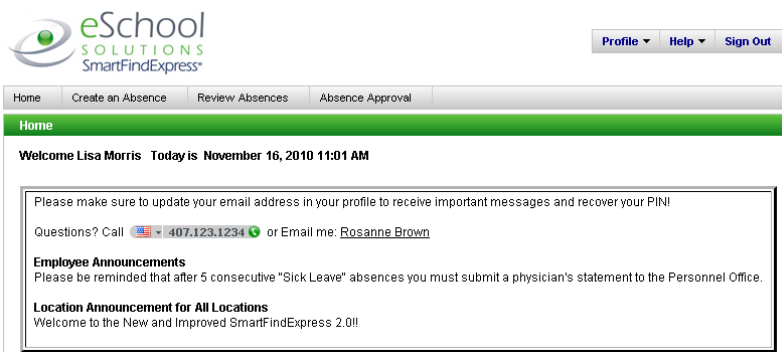
**Secondary Teachers' Gradebook Tip: Remember to back up your Gradebooks.** If you ever make a mistake and need to go back to a previous point in your Gradebooks, the only way to do so is from a backup YOU have created. In **Gradebook Maintenance** – Click **Backups** and follow the simple steps. Backup as frequently as you like. Restoring is just as easy (please backup before restoring)!

**SEMS (our automatic substitute calling system) Update:** We are excited to announce that we are upgrading SEMS to SmartFindExpress (SFE), the latest and greatest version! The new version is very similar to what you are accustomed to using; however, there are changes including a new look. The changes are designed to expand absence and substitute management capabilities. We are targeting **January 2** as the “Go Live” date on the new version of SFE. The Log In Screen has a new look –





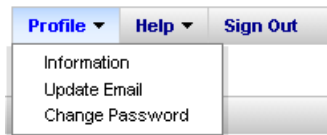
Your Home Page is very similar to what you are familiar with, however the menus have been moved from the left side of the screen to across the top of the screen –



If you have multiple roles in the system such as an Administrator and Employee or as an Employee and Substitute, you will be able to select the role you need at the top right side of the screen just below the Profile, Help, and Sign Out options -



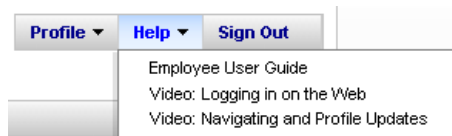
The Profile Menu at the top right side of the screen –



Will allow you to:

- View the status and address in your profile
- Add or modify the email address in your profile
- Change your Password (PIN)

The Help Menu provides you with access to an Employee User Guide you can elect to view online or download and even print as well as access to training videos to assist you in navigating the system (check back often as new videos will continue to be added) –



Again, this will be coming January 2 with training happening for site personnel December 5.

**Help Desk Improvements Coming Soon:** We are continuing to look for ways for improving support and communications. We are targeting January to implement a new “service desk.” The new system will have more ways for you to look for solutions to fix common problems with a knowledge base. There will also be options to publish software to allow users to install directly from the service desk portal.



## NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES

**Thank you Sue Campbell:** Mike Bruggeman sends a big thanks to Sue Campbell for her efforts in organizing the annual Marsh Jr. High field trip to the Architecture and Engineering classes at CHS. Sue has organized a field trip to Mike’s classes each year and CHS has benefited from a number of excellent students deciding to enroll in Architecture and Engineering classes. Thank you Sue!

**PVHS Band Activities:** The PVHS band performed in two recent events. First the PV Band welcomed Santa at the Chico Mall with students Mario, Mika and Kyle giving him a royal drum escort to his throne. The band also performed holiday tunes with the CCDS band in front of Sears while Santa greeted children. The next day, the PV band played for Christmas Preview at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main Streets. The event put the downtown community in the Christmas spirit. Finally, even if you missed these excellent PVHS Band performances, you are not out of luck. We encourage everyone to attend the PVHS Band’s Winter Concert on December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Center for the Arts on the PVHS campus. It’s free, and it will feature their newest ensemble, the PV Jazz Choir in their first performance. Way to go PVHS Band



## CUSD IN THE NEWS

### Enterprise Record

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

[CUSD holds discussion on educational future - Chico Enterprise ...](#)

[Chico Reads needs donations](#)

[Lunch & Learn: District staff to share ideas on public education ...](#)

[Kindergarten fair markets to parents](#)

[Fight over food rules goes back to Chico Unified School District ...](#)

[Letter: School board's food concerns misplaced](#)

[League of Women Voters seek info on ed issues](#)

[CUSD reverses its food regulation requirement](#)

**News and Review**

[Was solar project a sell-out?](#)

**KHSL**

[CUSD Board Members Revise School Wellness Policy](#)

**KNVN**

[CUSD Board Members Revise School Wellness Policy - NBC 24 ...](#)

**Other**

[SolarCity to Build 1.6-MW Solar Power System for Chico Unified ...](#)

[Letter: Don't neglect vocational education](#)

Wellness Newsletter – Don't Get Saucy



# The Turkey Feast

(Smiles All Around)





## The Citrus Turkey Feast

[Click to play](#)



Viking Voice 11/10/2011

## Visual Arts and Performing Art (VAPA) Department News

The visual arts and performing arts departments at PV have formed into one department. We are pleased to be able to collaborate together to strengthen our program. As a department we are working to ensure our students are prepared for their future of college and the workplace (see quotes below). Reta Rickmers will be chair of the newly formed department.

*"We need people who think with the creative side of their brains—people who have played in a band, who have painted...it enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively."*

—Annette Byrd, GlaxoSmithKline

*"Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."*

— Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Cooperate Communications, Xerox Corporation

### Performing Arts

The PV production of Agatha Christie's Mousetrap was a huge success. The acting, sets, and stage direction were all very effective. If you missed this play in the CFA, be sure to catch future productions! Tamara Jensen's **IB Theater** students just did an awesome project ...it's called the Five-Day Theater project collaborating with schools from San Jose, Stockton, and Salem, OR. They got three prompts to work with and then wrote scripts, mass shared the scripts and then performed 4 of them on Friday. It was a stressful and time-consuming week but the end products were definitely fun to watch.

Christina Fisher took her **dance class** on a field trip to Chico State to see Pilobolus in performance at Laxson Auditorium.

The **PV Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz** will be holding a Holiday Concert on Monday, December 12 at 7pm in the CFA auditorium. The concert is free and will feature the debut performance of our new vocal jazz group. Come out and enjoy all of your favorite holiday tunes presented by our wonderful PV music students!



### Visual Arts:

The Art Department could use new magazines! We need specialty magazines that might interest students, such as skateboarding, snowboarding, fashion, and music magazines as well ones with good visuals like National Geographic. Donations of **SD Memory cards for digital cameras**, wire (copper, baling or color insulated), nature books, art books, any old hardback books, larger picture frames with glass and old calendars are also requested. Please leave in the main office and designate that the materials are for the Art Department. Thanks!

California teens ages 13 to 18 were challenged to participate in a GOT MILK? Breakfast Billboard Photo Contest for an opportunity to win \$1,000 and a chance for their work to be featured on a billboard for a month in their hometown. Students in Ms. Ritcher's **Photo I classes** submitted photos illustrating why breakfast with milk is important for their health and academic performance. TWO students each placed third and won \$100 in the statewide contest: **Congratulations to Amy Quinto and Jaylee Waddell!**

In **Digital Arts Exploration**, Ms. Ritcher's students have completed digital painting projects inspired by ideas and techniques from Impressionism, applied to their own lives. Consciously using the Elements of Art, students are beginning to work on their Artist Trading Cards for a trading session to be held as the activity portion of their final in December.

Students in Ms. Ritcher's **Drawing** class are finalizing some pretty wonderful handmade books showing their media exploration. Students interpreted the Elements and Principles of Art and filled their book with miniature works of art in batik, tapa, collage, watercolor, pen, pencil, and marker.

In October, **Art Studio 1** students visited Chico State for an all-day field trip featuring a facilities tour of the Art Department including a glass blowing demonstration, a meeting with our college mentors and tours of the University Gallery and The Janet Turner Print Museum. **Art Studio 2** visited the Snidle Gallery and the Municipal Building for a presentation by Mary Gardner about Chico's public art. Our next field trip will be to San Francisco in February.

On November 3, **Art Studio 1 and 2** had their fall art show in the library. It was catered by PV's culinary class. It was very well attended with students, parents, our Marigold buddies, our CSUC mentors and staff crowding the library to see all of the art work.

