



The Superintendent's Update

November 29, 2012

NEWS FROM KELLY

End of an Era: November 14 was the last Board meeting for trustee **Jann Reed**. Jann has been an ardent supporter of schools for not only her two terms - eight years! - on the school board but for the duration of the time her children have been in CUSD. Jann and her husband **Lester Wong** were actively involved in parent organizations at Hooker Oak, Chico Junior High School, Marsh Junior High School and Chico High School, from which two of their children have graduated and one is set to graduate next year. Jann has led us as Board President through some very positive times, including the opening of the Center for the Arts at Pleasant Valley High School and the new classroom buildings at Chico High School as well as the planning for the new construction currently underway at PVHS, CHS, FVHS and Inspire School of the Arts and Sciences. She also saw us through some extremely difficult times as we had to reduce our operating budgets by millions in order to avoid a State loan. Jann, we thank you for your leadership as well as for your never ending support and dedication to CUSD!



Eileen Robinson, Liz Griffin, Kathleen Kaiser, Andrea Lerner Thompson, Jann Reed

Welcome Linda Hovey: CUSD would like to extend our congratulations and send a warm welcome to new CUSD Board Member **Linda Hovey**. Linda will officially join the Board at the December 5, 2012, Board meeting. Linda is the mother of a student at Chico High School as well as a background in education as the Business Administrator for Blue Oak Charter School. With the state budget still in the red and schools remaining seriously underfunded, Linda's finance background will allow yet another set of experienced eyes to look for ways for CUSD to continue providing the best possible education to our students. Again, congratulations and welcome Linda!

Thank You to Our Board Candidates: Running for an elected position is time consuming, energy absorbing and expensive. I would like to personally thank all four candidates - **Liz Griffin, Linda Hovey, Gary Loustale** and **Eric Lyon** - for caring enough about our schools and our students to run for office. Both Liz and Linda will be on our Board for the upcoming four years and while their bid this time did not result in a position, I sincerely hope Mr. Loustale and Mr. Lyon consider running again in the future as both have much to offer our District.

Measure E: Continuing on with appreciation from the results of our most recent election, I would like to thank our community for their support of Measure E. We had tremendous community leadership with the Bond Extension Measure as we all recognized that our students deserve better than what the State is currently providing for the building and maintenance of facilities. The passage of Measure E demonstrates our community's concern for and support of Chico's students. Thank you Chico and we encourage you to visit our website to follow progress as we begin the process for identifying Measure E projects.

Superintendent's Awards for October: **Chuck Sheley** and **Randy Gilzean** were the recipients of the October 2012 Superintendent's Award. Chuck Sheley has been involved with CUSD for the last 50 years (yes, he started very young). Mr. Sheley taught for 38 years at Chico Junior and was the Athletic Director for much of that time. His impact has also been felt at Chico High where he has been involved with the Chico High Track program for most of the last 50 years. Mr. Sheley has filled many roles within CUSD and put considerable time and energy into the CUSD Athletic Accountability Plan which is now in its second year of implementation. Most recently, Mr. Sheley has done extensive work with the coach's certification program. He has voluntarily taken on the task of developing a data base that clearly lists all of the certifications of our coaches and streamlines the ability to update information. This is being considered as a model by state athletic leaders. One can hardly mention Chuck Sheley without also mentioning Randy Gilzean. Mr. Gilzean has been a coach at both Chico High School and Pleasant Valley High School, where he also served as Athletic Director. He is very active in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) on a statewide level and his knowledge and expertise have had an extremely positive impact on CUSD. Mr. Gilzean also helped to draft the CUSD Athletic Accountability Plan and has been instrumental in helping implement the plan. He has held countless coaches' trainings and is helping to monitor CUSD Compliance with the Coach's Certification program as well as Title IX. Thank you to both of these gentlemen for giving so extensively to our district!

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

US News and World Report: Chico High is ranked nationally and statewide very favorably in US News and World Report. See: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/california/districts/chico-unified-school-district/chico-high-school-1948>. Ranking is based on many things but test scores used are from the 2009/10 year. Only other schools near here to make the cut included University Prep in Redding, Chester, and Whitney in the Roseville area. Most of the top 100 are satellite schools like U Prep or Lowell in San Francisco or schools from affluent areas like Scripps Ranch in San Diego, Gunn in Palo Alto, or Redwood in Marin County.

US News and World Report recently informed CHS that they were recognized as a **Silver Award** winner for **Best High Schools in America**. They were ranked #1192 out of 21,776 high schools (top 5%)! Gold Medal winners were the top 2% and the next 7% were Silver Award winners. We were ranked #241 out of 2407 California High Schools (top 10%). One of the major factors that elevated our rankings was the *College Readiness Index* which measures the number of students taking AP exams and our high passing rate. The numbers quoted by US News and World Report indicate the following numbers for AP coursework at CHS:

- Participation Rate – 33%
- Participant Pass Rate – 81%
- Exams per Test Taker – 2.9

Jim Hanlon, Principal stated that even though most the teachers do not teach AP courses, they all contribute by providing rigorous academic instruction to prepare as many students as possible to perform at the AP level. CHS has seen the numbers of students taking AP level coursework triple over the past five to six years. They have set the bar high and each year more and more students are challenging themselves to meet this high mark. This is a team effort! Congratulations to all of you!

Kindergarten Registration will begin the week of December 10, 2012. If you have a child, or know of a child in the Chico Unified School District that will be five on or before October 1, 2013, then that child can be enrolled into Kindergarten. Children who will turn five between October 2, 2013, and December 2, 2013, will be eligible for our Transitional Kindergarten program. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and two forms of verification of your address with you when you register at your neighborhood school.

CUSD held its Annual Kindergarten Faire on November 28, 2012, at the Elk's Lodge on Manzanita Avenue. The event was put on by our amazing staff of Kindergarten teachers and Elementary principals. **Denee Coultas**, a CARD representative was also available as well as **Todd Merrill**, the local representative from Ident-a-Child. Volunteers from the Parents as Teachers CUSD team were also there to share information with families. Attendees had an opportunity to meet school Principals and Kindergarten Teachers as well as find out everything they need to know about Kindergarten registration. It was a fun and informative event with many families from our community in attendance. You can find more information on our website @ www.chicousd.org (look under What's New) or call 891-3000, ext. 137.



CSUC Kindergarten Faire: The Associated Students Child Development Lab at California State University sponsored a Kindergarten Faire on Wednesday, November 18 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the BMU. Chico Unified School District was well represented with tables for each of the elementary schools that are schools of choice plus a table with neighborhood information. More than 12 Kindergarten teachers and numerous administrators were present to talk with interested parents and answer questions. There was a great deal of curiosity regarding the CUSD programs as the schools each had very attractive displays that certainly invited parent interest. Kudos to the staff for their efforts showcasing all the great things happening in CUSD.



Notice of Intent to Apply for Grant Funding: The Chico Unified School District is planning to apply for two after-school grants through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program: an After-School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) grant for Chico High, Fair View, and Pleasant Valley, and a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant for Marsh. Currently, 21st CCLC grants are in operation at five elementary schools: Rosedale, McManus, Chapman, Citrus, and Parkview; a second round of 21st CCLC funding has just been awarded to Bidwell Junior and Chico Junior. ASSETs and 21st CCLC grants are available for schools where 40% of the students receive free and reduced-price meals (at junior high and high school, this may include calculations based on the income of students at feeder schools). The grants are due November 30, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact **Janet Brinson** (jbrinson@chicousd.org) or **Liz Metzger** (emetzger@chicousd.org).

Farm-to-School Grant Award: The CUSD is one of 68 national recipients of a Farm-to-School grant through the US Department of Agriculture. According to a USDA press release, "Farm-to-School grants will help schools respond to the growing demand for locally sourced foods and increase market opportunities for producers and food businesses... Grants will be used to support agriculture and nutrition education efforts." The \$44,000 grant is for a year of planning and piloting activities to increase students' awareness of nutrition, and to develop ways to bring more locally sourced produce into our cafeterias on a regular basis. At the end of this year, we hope to apply for a two-year implementation grant to bring our plans to scale.

Avoiding Future Holocausts: Congratulations to the PVHS staff and students for their performance, *Avoiding Future Holocausts*. Those in the audience were moved by the experience (see comments at the end of this Update). The music was beautiful, the readings emotional, the dance moving, the student presentations sincere and heartfelt, and Yisinia herself was heartbreaking in her experiences, yet so confident in our future in the hands of our youth. Thank you **Amy Besnard**, **Linda Elliot**, **Phil Morgan**, and the countless others who made this event happen and for allowing our students to have such a positive experience. There was endless praise from those in the audience, students and adults alike. Excellent job to all involved!! What an outstanding authentic learning activity!

Common Core State Standards: Common Core training continues. **Brian Boyer**, **Danielle Pierce**, **Jennifer Teague** and **H.B Calvert** attended a full day Math Common Core Training at the Butte County Office of Education. The next Administrator's Common Core State Standards Implementation meeting will be Monday, December 10, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. A team of thirty-eight CUSD administrators and teachers will attend the third meeting of a countywide workshop series about supporting the

implementation of the common core state standards. Adopted in California in August 2010, the K-12 Common Core State Standards were developed through a state-led effort to establish consistent and clear education standards for English language arts and mathematics. The Common Core State Standards have been formally adopted by about 90% of the states. A CUSD Board of Education workshop on the Common Core was held on September 5.

Civil Rights Data Collection: Civil Rights Data is being collected and compiled from each site and the district as required by the US Department of Education. The district collects required information such as enrollment, demographics, school expenditures, discipline, advanced placement, math & science courses, teacher experience and prekindergarten.

Leadership Team: The Leadership Team met on November 15 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for training on gang awareness, prevention and suppression. Thanks to **Sgt. Matt Madden** of Chico Police Department and to Principals **Pedro Caldera** and **David McKay** for informative presentations.

District Advisory Council (DAC): The next meeting is today, November 29 at the Large Conference Room from 12:30-3:10 p.m. The purposes of the DAC are to provide a forum for open two-way communication between the district and school sites as well as guidance and support for Common Core State Standards implementation. Please send hot topics to **Mike Morris** at mmorris@chicousd.org.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE): The next administration of the high school exit exam will be held on February 5 and 6, 2013, for grade 10 students and for grade 12 students and adults who have not yet passed the exam.

CELDT Testing: The annual assessment window concluded on October 31. Thanks to all CELDT coordinators for your work and dedication. The California English Language Development Test (CELDT) test is given each year to students identified as English learners. The CELDT has three purposes: 1) to identify students who are limited English proficient; 2) to determine the level of English language proficiency of students who are limited English proficient; and 3) to assess the progress of limited English proficient students in acquiring the skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing in English. More about the CELDT program may be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/>.

STAR Test: The dates for the STAR Writing Test in grades 4 & 7 will be March 5 and 6, 2013. The STAR multiple-choice testing window will begin on April 15, 2013. The 2012 STAR test results were released approximately August 31 and may be found at: <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>

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

- * 2012 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) Reports
- * 2012 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports
- * 2012–13 Program Improvement (PI) Reports

Congratulations to the following schools for substantial increases in API: Parkview 36, Citrus 35, Fairview 20, Little Chico Creek 18 and Hooker Oak 15. Congratulations to the following schools who have exceeded the state API target of 800 for schools: Emma Wilson, Hooker Oak, Little Chico Creek, Marigold, Neal Dow, Parkview, Shasta, Sierra View, Chico Jr. Marsh, PV, and Inspire. Congratulations to the following schools who met all criteria for federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): Little Chico Creek and Sierra View

A new state accountability tool, the School Quality Snapshot was released recently for all public schools in California. The School Quality Snapshot displays a broad series of data that can be used to help

inform parents and policy leaders about the success of each school. This broader view of accountability includes not only state assessment data, but other important types of information demonstrating school performance. The website is: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sq/>

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. CALPADS data submission for Fall 1 (12-13 Enrollment Counts, 11-12 Grads and Drops and Immigrant Counts) began October 3rd and goes through mid-December.

NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES

Measure E: First let me start out my thanking the entire Chico Community and Staff for supporting our Measure E school improvement measure. The measure passed with an overwhelming show of support. So what now? We start planning immediately. Below is the Draft Measure E Scope of Work Implementations Plan:

DRAFT
Chico Unified School District
2012 Measure E Scope of Work Implementation Plan

Create Citizens Oversight Committee: The district has 60 days from the date the Board certifies the elections results to establish a Citizen Oversight Committee. Election results will not be finalized by Butte County until late November, early December. It is recommended the Board certify election results at the regular January 2013 meeting. In the interim, the district will, beginning the week of November 19, advertise in printed media and the district website, participation in the committee including roles and responsibilities. The Board will select committee members after the January 2013 meeting. Per Education Code Section 152789(a), the committee shall consist of at least seven (7) members to serve a two year term, without compensation. The members must include one member who is active in a business organization representing the business community, a member active in a senior citizen's organization, one member from a bona fide taxpayer association, one member shall be a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the district, and one parent or guardian of a student in the district who is also active in a parent-teacher organization.

Preplanning Sequence of Work:

1. Create a Measure E button on district website to publish all working documents as developed.
2. Each school site to begin working with staff, students, parents and community members to develop an individual site scope of work priority list. (Bond objectives and common directions sent to sites after November 14, 2012, meeting.)
3. M&O, Facilities, and IT staff work to prioritize existing work matrix.
4. F&P staff to develop detailed scope of work at each site.
5. Estimate cost of scope of work for each site, organized by categories (Deferred maintenance, new construction, technology, etc.)
6. Bring site lists back to sites for review
7. Community forum to solicit input on scope of work
8. Bring site lists to Board for input/review and prioritization
9. Develop a Master Schedule of work to be done based on prioritization
10. Bring the draft Master Schedule to Board for public input
11. Review with Board all available funding sources including Measure E
 - a. At this time the Fiscal timelines of Bond Issuance will be presented
12. Board adopt Committee policies, guidelines, and procedures

13. Board appoints Citizen's Oversight Committee
14. Community forums to solicit input on Master Schedule
15. Review draft Master Schedule with Citizen's Oversight Committee
16. Draft Master Plan presented to Board (on agenda for two meetings)
17. Final Master Plan approved by Board
18. Board presentation on Financing and Bond Issuance options
19. Phase I approved by Board

Proposition 30: Another critical success to Education in the November 6 elections was the passage of Proposition 30. This action prevented more than \$5 million dollars in reduction to CUSD revenues in the current fiscal year, next year and after. What does this mean for CUSD now? The current estimated revenues per student built in the Budget adopted by the board in June stands. However, we are still deficit spending. Our Revenues are still at levels received in 2007-08. The hope now is that with the slowing improving economy, State revenues will continue to inch up and provide no further reduction to education funding. Some good news is that CUSD enrollment is up for the first time in many years. This will be reflected in the First Interim financial report brought to the Board on December 5.

Both Measure E and Proposition 30 were victories for CUSD. Thank you again for all your support in the success of both.

Other Business Office News: The Finance Department has been working diligently to bring budgets in line with spending and allocate carryovers to sites. We are also in the process of evaluating all of the business practices and updating them to current best practices to become more efficient and simplify processes for sites. With the new Escape software, sites now have instant access to accounts and financial data. Staff has begun creating small work groups working collaboratively with site staff in the evaluation and recommendation of updated processes. Thank you all who have offered to participate in the process.

NEWS FROM MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS / FACILITIES / NUTRITION SERVICES

Thank you from M&O: A couple of things to be Thankful for are the passage of Proposition 30 and Measure E. We at M&O look forward to the opportunity presented with the passing of Measure E. Over the next few years we hope to be able to make great improvements at school sites such as replacing old HVAC units, new roofs, carpeting, improving energy efficiency, and improving bathrooms, to name just a few. We will be working closely with the District Office and begin implementing improvements as soon as approved.

Weather Changes: 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 may be wet and slippery.

Facilities Update: Fair View High School Construction Technology Shop: With the foundation and wood framing complete, the roof of the new Construction Technology Shop was added this past week. Now that the building is sheltered from inclement weather, work on the interior can get started. The steel erection for the outdoor covered workspace is well underway.

Inspire School of Arts & Sciences on the Chico High Campus: On November 15 the Facilities Department received Statements of Qualifications (SOQ's) from potential Lease-Leaseback Contractors for the addition of portable classrooms for the Inspire High Campus. Selected qualified construction companies were interviewed by a committee on November 27, 2012.

Chico High School Lincoln Hall & Fitness Laboratory: The foundation for the gymnasium portion of the new Lincoln Hall was poured on Friday, November 9. Form framing for the concrete tilt-up walls is now occurring. To view up-to-the-minute construction status of the project please visit our website at <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Facilities--Construction/CHS-Construction-CAM/index.html>.

Pleasant Valley High School New Classroom Building: The construction of the two-story, twenty-four classroom building is moving along on the Pleasant Valley High School campus. Broward Builders is currently pouring the concrete slab foundation. In the next two weeks the structural steel erection will begin. When the weather allows the parking lot will be paved. To view up-to-the-minute construction status of the project please visit our website at <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Business-Services/Facilities--Construction/PVHS-Construction-CAM/index.html>.

Nutrition Services would like to send out a BIG thank you to all the Nutrition Team, parents, and everyone who has helped make the Turkey Feast possible again this year. It truly makes my day to see everyone together to make the lunch time the best it can be for our students. I hope that everyone has a wonderful break. ~ *Vince Enserro*

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Kindergarten TV Ads: Beginning Monday, December 3 and continuing for two to three months a series of 30-second television ads will begin airing on Channels 12, 24 and CW10. These ads feature many of our great kindergarten teachers telling our community the great things that happen EVERYDAY in their classes. These will shine the light on our incredible kindergarten classes and our amazing kindergarten teachers. Kindergarten registration begins on December 10. We will have the ads on our website as soon as they are completed. Thanks to our creative, poised, and star-quality kindergarten teachers for allowing CUSD to be where they started their career in film.

Negotiations CSEA, Chapter 110: On November 13 CSEA, Chapter 110 ratified a tentative agreement (TA) that dealt with almost all articles in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the Chapter and the District. The Board of Education ratified this same TA. The agreement is now in effect until November 2015. Both parties can still reopen the articles dealing with wages and health and welfare benefits and one more each during each of the next three years including the current year. This was a long and complicated process given that the entire CBA was open for discussion. This agreement was possible due to the patience, persistence, cooperation and commitment of the members of both bargaining teams. From the District's perspective, it was a pleasure to work with the Chapter's team.

Negotiations Chico Unified Teachers' Association (CUTA): The CUTA and District negotiating teams exchanged package proposals this summer. The teams met on September 6 and 13 to discuss those proposals. On October 9 CTA/CUTA filed a "Request for Impasse Determination/Appointment of Mediator" with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). The District did not join CTA/CUTA in this filing. The District believes that this filing was premature. We did make it clear to PERB that we would work cooperatively with the mediator assigned to us. Mediation is scheduled for Thursday, December 6.

Donors Choose: DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that makes it easy to connect local communities to the needs of students in public schools. Educators submit classroom project requests for materials and experiences that students need to learn. Community members can browse project requests, contribute any amount and learn about the project's status through photos and thank you messages. Beginning November 1, PG&E provided a Double Your Impact offer to match 50 percent of funding needs of classroom projects across our county, up to \$25,000.

We encourage teachers to post their requests on the website and for community members to help support such requests through **DonorsChoose.org**. Once you are there, go to "projects" on the top and then select the state and city you want. You will see the teacher projects that have been set up. When you donate, PG&E will match your donation up to \$25,000 in Butte County. This is a great way to help our schools and our students. A special THANK YOU to PG&E for their very kind and generous support!

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VALUED EMPLOYEES

CUSD School Psychologists Support Neighboring School: Recently Paradise Unified (PUSD) suffered the loss of two students in a car accident. Thank you to **Scott Lindstrom** and **Mike Carroll** for providing the assistance requested by PUSD after this tragic car accident. **Mary Ficcardi**, PUSD Director of Student Services, spoke highly of both Scott and Mike and indicated that their skills and expertise in crisis management were extremely helpful to the Paradise High School team as well as to the PHS students affected by the accident (see letter at the end of this Update). Again, thank you for caring about students, including those outside of our own community.

NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES

College Connection Students are featured in the Make a Difference Day on the following video: <http://youtu.be/sKUs7NlwLgM>. **Lise Smith-Peters**, Park Services Coordinator with the City of Chico Park Division sent her thanks to the College Connections students for volunteering on Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park.

PVHS Graduate: A proud parent and PVHS colleague, **Liz Mosher**, shared a cover article about her son **Thompson Mosher**, (Thom Mosher, graduate of PVHS ROP Culinary in about 2000). Thompson Mosher was recognized as one of the top 30 "under 30" Industry Leaders in Hospitality Management from a nationally recognized trade magazine. Please find the cover page and article at the end of this Update. Congratulations Thom!

PVHS Grad Featured as Magician on Today Show: Chico-raised magician **Wayne Houchin** appeared on the Today Show as part of his new magical/science show. Houchin, who graduated from Pleasant Valley High School in 2001, performed long ago at Chico farmers markets as his career in magic was evolving. Nowadays he travels throughout the world performing. The Today appearance on NBC included Houchin and another magician from the upcoming Discovery Channel series, "*Breaking Magic*," which includes Houchin and three other performers who present science concepts in "amazing ways," Houchin said.

Arts For All Mini Grants: *Arts for All* funded four mini-grants for the upcoming Band Concert on December 10. The elementary schools receiving this money are Chapman, Emma Wilson, Little Chico Creek, and Shasta. They will be using the funds to cover the cost of bussing (totaling \$583). Thank you *Arts for All!!!*

Logo Contest: **Bidwell Mansion Association (BMA)** recently opened a Logo Contest to the four high schools in the district. Chico High, Fair View, Inspire and Pleasant Valley High art students were asked and encouraged to vie for the opportunity to provide a new official logo for the 57-year-old association. Chico High Advanced Computer Art student **Nimai Buroz** won the contest with an excellent design! An independent panel of judges gathered to discuss and choose a winner, choosing Nimai's entry as the unanimous choice. His teacher **Shannon McLean**, said that she has been lucky to have Nimai in her classes all four years. She is proud of the remarkable work Nimai continues to do on his assignments as well as special projects for the City of Chico Fire Department and school brochures. The BMA will be awarding the winning student a \$100 check and also a \$100 donation to the Chico High Art Department as well. Congratulations Nimai Buroz and Shannon McLean!

CPR and First Aid Training at CHS: The News Release at the end of this Update is regarding the partnership between **CHS, Enloe Medical Center** and **Butte County EMS** to train Chico High health students and staff in CPR and First Aid. All credit goes to CHS new health teacher **Vallarie Jensen** for making this training happen. After the scare earlier this year when a student's heart stopped during PE class, this training was asked for by many of our staff. This partnership was also reported on the 5:00 p.m. news on Channel 12.

Local FFA Member Named to National Honor:



Each year, the National FFA Organization is proud to honor the FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. That honor, the American FFA Degree, is bestowed up on a select group of individuals for years of academic and professional excellence. **Alondra Alvarado**, an FFA member representing the Chico FFA Chapter in Chico, CA was selected to join that exclusive list and was awarded the American FFA Degree at the 85th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The convention is known as the largest student gathering in the United States and occurred October 24-27, 2012.

The American FFA Degree is sponsored by Case IH, The Progressive Farmer, Farm Credit, Syngenta, and Pioneer, a DuPont Business, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It recognizes demonstrated ability and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing or service programs. To be eligible, FFA members must have earned and productively invested \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program in which they start, own or hold a professional position in an existing agriculture enterprise. Recipients must also complete 50 community service hours, as well as demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement. Each recipient of the American FFA Degree collects a gold American FFA Degree Key plus a certificate after being on-stage during the convention. The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 540,379 student members in grades seven through 12 who belong to one of 7,489 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Chico High School Choral Music Department presents their Winter Concert "REJOICE" on Tuesday December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for the Arts. You will hear sounds of the season and much more from the Mixed Chorus, A Cappella Choir, Chico Chic, Sac Street Boys, Madrigals and Voce. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be purchased from any choir student or at the door.

Congratulations to **Evanne Welsh** from Chico High who auditioned for the American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir and was accepted. Evie scored 94/100 points and had to sight read, sing an aria from an opera, do tonal memory exercises, sing major, minor and chromatic scales and arpeggios. Evie will work with a guest director for a weekend and hundreds of other students from all over California. The concert will be November 17 in Stockton. Evie is a member of the A Cappella Choir, the Madrigals and Voce, a women's octet. Evie sang at Chico Junior High School for 6th, 7th and 8th grade and has been involved in the choral program at Chico High for three years. She is currently a junior. Congratulations Evie ~ This is a huge achievement and honor!!

The following students will be participating in the Nor Cal Select Choir to be held at CSU Humboldt in February. These students will join 120 other high school students from all over Northern California and will work with guest director, **Bruce Rodgers**, all weekend, with their concert on February 9. Representing Chico High School are: **Dylan Anderson, Kevin Palmer, Will Santana, James Montague, Barbora Buzinskaite**, and **Alison Willmann**.

Congratulations to the following 9th grade students who will be participating in the California Music Educator's Association Junior High Select Choir to be held in Chico at the CFA January 18 and 19, with the concert being held on January 19. These students will work with a guest conductor all weekend and approximately 100 other students from all over Northern California. They are all members of the Chico High School Mixed Chorus: **Rachel Sites, Ethan Henderson, Robbie Chacon, Austin Seguire, Sonia Damian-Siordia, and Ashley Grinstead.**

CJHS Math Intervention Program: On November 5 and 7 the CJHS Algebra Readiness team (**Mark Peters, Ken Petlock, and Sarah Jensen**) held a Parent information night on the ALEK's math intervention program and how parents can support their students at home. This included teaching parents how to log on, navigate the webpage, assess student progress, and understand the math standards the students learned. On November 5 it was standing room only. They were able to pack the lab with parents. Mrs. Lopez served as a translator and demonstrated to parents how with a click of the button the ALEK's intervention program prompted the students in Spanish. On November 7, the lab was filled once again. The parents were overwhelmingly supportive of the teacher's efforts and awed by the intervention program. In a nut shell, Ken, Mark, and Sarah are rocking it!

Message from Mary Anne Donnelly at CJHS: The math educator from Thailand, **Khunanon Wongrueng**, who was visiting my class returned to Washington D.C. on November 1. We will continue to collaborate with each other and our classes through Skype conferences in the classroom and through a collaborative project we will develop. It has been a very rewarding experience hosting Khunanon and his interpreter, Sara Tokahuta, for the 2.5 academic weeks they were here in Chico Unified School District. I want to express my deep gratitude for all of the teachers who were willing to host Khunanon and Sara. Each of the teachers offered to host them, planned out a full day of diverse educational experiences that my guests could experience in their respective school and some even took them out to lunch. These teachers created a rich, very rewarding set of opportunities that showcased some of the wonderful education that I am proud of in Chico Unified. School District. Those teachers are: **Robert Preston** from Citrus Elementary, **Debbie Travers** from Inspire, **Cindy Cox** from Chico High, **Jules Nilsson** from Parkview Elementary, and **Ray Barber** from Pleasant Valley High. Khunanon and Sara also visited CSU Chico and were hosted by both **Dr. Bev Marcum** and **Katy Early**. It is a privilege to know these teachers. Khunanon was very impressed by the creative means that the teacher employed to bring the curriculum to all students. He appreciated how all students were included in learning, and some of the interventions that were in place to help students succeed. So, again, thank you for providing the opportunity to be involved in this program so that more people know what a great district we are working for. Respectfully,
Mary Anne Pella-Donnelly

LCC TURKEY FEAST: The turkey feast at Little Chico Creek was an exceptional success. They served over 575 people. The students introduced their principal to parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents that were invited to share this fabulous event. Parents stopped me all morning commenting about how special it was to spend the time with their family. One mom told me her husband was disappointed he couldn't make it and is already planning to take the day off next year. Thank you to all that helped. If you go to LCC's website you can see some photos of their wonderful Turkey Feast.

Chapman Students score at Agribee: Two Chapman fifth grade students went to the 8th Annual Agribee on November 16, 2012. This Agribee was put on by the Butte County Farm Bureau and included Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Yuba and Sutter Counties. This was different than a regular spelling bee as the students had to know how to spell and define each agricultural word. The two Chapman Students, **Chancee Wootten** and **Jonathan Rodriguez** took first and second place! Chancee won a new laptop computer and Jonathan won a Kindle! We are so very proud of our students! Thank You! Karen Johnson

CUSD IN THE NEWS

Enterprise Record

[Five from **Chico** High ask approval for field trip to Africa](#)

[Community Corner: Girls On The Run Butte County teaches girls to ...](#)

[Six current, former **Chico** High students going to Africa to drill ...](#)

[Chico school board to review construction projects, begin work on ...](#)

[Chico school trustees get peek at future projects](#)

http://www.chicoer.com/ci_22001070/pleasant-valley-high-students-genocide-survivor-discuss-genocide?IADID=Search-www.chicoer.com-www.chicoer.com

[A new twist for 'Oliver!'](#)

News & Review

<http://www.newsreview.com/chico/night-to-remember/content?oid=8406272>

Other

[Existing farm-to-school efforts propel grants in West](#)

[PVHS Saga <http://pvhsthesaga.org/news/2012/11/19/holocaust-survivor-inspires-students/>](http://pvhsthesaga.org/news/2012/11/19/holocaust-survivor-inspires-students/)

[Letter: Young people need to get involved](#)



News Release

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Communications Specialist
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christina.chavira@enloe.org

Enloe, Butte County EMS train Chico High School in CPR, first aid

CHICO, Calif., Nov. 26, 2012 – Enloe Medical Center and Butte County EMS have teamed up to provide free CPR and first aid training to Chico High School students and staff in October and November. The program is part of Vallarie Jensen's 9th through 12th grade health classes, recently updated with a more relevant, hands-on curriculum. Chico High administration encouraged Jensen's efforts to provide CPR and first aid training to not only students, but also staff. Upon completion of training, each participant will receive CPR and First Aid cards.

Training kicked off with a two-day First Aid class for 246 students in October. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics from Butte County EMS rotated through Jensen's classroom, covering topics such as splinting, controlling bleeding, treatment for head, neck and back injuries, assessing a victim, and how to call 911. Jensen said the ambulance crews had a "commendable attitude and the kids enjoyed it [the class] immensely."

On Oct. 24, Nov. 5 and Nov. 7 faculty and staff attended a 3.5-hour American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR evening class. Cindy Weaver, RN, from Enloe's Education Center taught the class at the Enloe Conference Center, with 41 CHS staff members attending over the three days. The Heartsaver CPR class is designed for the layperson and teaches how to provide CPR to all ages, how to relieve choking, and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED), which is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses and treats potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias. Training was given on the same Zoll-brand AED that is at Chico High School. Enloe provided the classes at no cost.

Students will receive the Heartsaver CPR training at Chico High on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thirty-five to 50 students per hour will rotate through the class in Chico High's new Student Commons Area. Weaver, as well as paramedics and EMTs from Butte County EMS, all certified Basic Life Support instructors, will teach the classes. Each student who completes the two-day CPR course in November and the First Aid training in October has the opportunity to purchase a First Aid and CPR card through Butte County EMS, which will provide the training at no charge. Butte County EMS is a joint venture between Enloe Emergency Services and First Responder EMS Inc.

"Enloe and Butte County EMS have been absolutely wonderful in helping me educate my students," Jensen said. "I have always felt that health classes should be hands on for students to appreciate making the right choices for their own health." Her students have also recently researched health-related topics in the local and national news, such as alcohol poisoning and the meningitis outbreak, and they have explored health care careers and relevant medical issues. On Nov. 6, students received an introduction to emergency services as a career, interacting with Enloe FlightCare paramedics Kira Simon and Jim Cuneo and Emergency Room Triage Technician Teri DuBose, and receiving a tour of an ambulance. "The students appreciated learning how emergency care happens and how ambulances and the helicopter respond," Jensen said.

##

Enloe Medical Center is a local, nonprofit health care organization. For more information, please call 530/332-7300 or visit us online at <http://www.enloe.org>. Enloe Medical Center is located at 1531 Esplanade Chico, Calif. 95926.

Student Comments Regarding Avoiding Future Holocausts

What did the last 24 hours mean to you?

- “Yesterday changed my life. I know it sounds corny, but it really did. I used to think there wasn’t anything people could do to stop these atrocities, but now I realize just how much difference even one person can make.”
- “My favorite part of last night was all of the presentations. The night meant a lot to me because that was probably the only time I will ever meet a Holocaust survivor.”
- “Meeting Yanina and hearing what she went through from her was unbelievable. It puts so much in perspective – how happy she is even after the atrocities she’s seen and been through is admirable. She is so strong!”
- “The last 24 hours meant a lot to me. I learned a good amount of things about all of the past genocides.”
- “Last night was a great night for the recognition of all the world’s genocides. Yanina is by far the strongest and funniest woman I have met. Her bravery far exceeds her frail appearance. Last night will go down in PV history.”
- “Being able to meet an actual Holocaust survivor was a very special experience. It was definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity. I really appreciated the purpose of the night and I’m glad I got the chance to be a part of it.”
- “I enjoyed the performance. All was perfect and I think it joined us to do a good thing for the public. The art, music, and dance were awesome.”
- “I felt that it gave a new point of view on life. It was such a fun event and I enjoyed it. It gave me a new outlook on life and made me realize even the slightest racist jokes are not okay. Thank you for the great opportunity to be a part of something great.”
- “Last night meant to me that I became a part of a big event to help a problem in the world. It felt great to meet Yanina and hear her story because it was a once in a lifetime experience. I will remember last night for the rest of my life.”
- “The last couple of days meant a lot to me. It was great to meet Yanina and hear her tell her story.”
- “Avoiding Future Holocausts: A Night to Remember was an event that I will always remember. Emceeding the event helped to give me a chance to further work on my goal. My pledge wasn’t just for that event. It is my life goal to make a change that will stand the test of time.”
- “When Yanina came and talked to us in class, she was so funny. I wish I could keep her in my pocket and her out when I need a laugh or inspiration. The event and Yanina was a life changing experience. I would give anything to experience that again.”
- “The last few days have been amazing and eye-opening. I’m very thankful to meet Yanina and be a part of this event. I have a deeper understanding about Holocausts. Thank you.”
- “Being able to hear Yanina speak was extremely interesting. Reading about the Holocaust in books gives someone an idea of what happened is one thing, but hearing someone speak who was actually there completely opens your eyes.”
- “It was a really interesting experience and one that I will never forget.”
- “This night meant so much because I personally got to hear Yanina’s story, not just read about it, but her telling us. It felt so real.”
- “Yesterday I realized nothing is being done about genocides.”
- “What it meant for me to meet Yanina was a once in a lifetime experience. Only a few people get to say that what she said was amazing. I know for a fact my children are not going to be able to get this opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor. It meant a lot.”
- “It opened my mind to the world of genocide and the events that still go on today. It brought more genocide awareness to my daily life and helped me greatly to appreciate what I have in America.”
- “The event opened my eyes to the truth of how cruel people can be towards others.”
- “It was amazing how a Holocaust survivor could overcome and speak to us.”
- “She made me feel happy. She was so nice and understanding. I loved how funny she was and how she has so much spirit even though she was in the Holocaust. It didn’t even feel real. It was a chance of a lifetime and I hope I get to meet her again.”
- “It meant a lot to me because it made me realize how big of a problem genocide is.”
- “I was touched. I felt like it was worth the effort we all put in to it and then some more.”
- “This was a life changing experience and this was the first time I have gotten up in front of a big audience.”

- “Meeting Yanina really meant a lot. I really felt something and learned not to judge people for dumb reasons. I’ve been sticking up for people who are saying mean things to people and that’s not something I would do. I really, really, really think we should do more things to this. It taught me to be a better person.”
- “I’ve really liked this whole Holocaust unit. It’s something that actually caught my full attention and I enjoyed being a part of it. It actually made me talk to people about what I’ve been doing in class.”
- “It meant a lot to me. It showed me how one person’s voice can speak louder, if it has meaning, than 100 voices without. Getting the privilege to actually meet that wonderful woman leaves me forever grateful.”
- “Being able to meet a Holocaust survivor was pretty cool. She was pretty cool and nice.”
- “The Holocaust event changed my views on people and the way I treat them because you just never know. You never know what someone has gone through or their story.”
- “It meant so much to me to be able to make everyone aware of what’s going on around us. Yanina’s story touched me. She was a great treat.”
- “The last few days have meant hard work and determination that, in the end, was worth it.”
- “It’s empowering to imagine that Yanina survived all of that and stayed strong. It helps me. I can use her life as an example when I’m going through a hard time. She went through so much. I know that I couldn’t do it on my own like she did.”
- “Her story made me realize how lucky I am to be able to do whatever I was and not get severely punished for it. It makes me be very thankful for the life I have.”
- “It opened my eyes to see how much more horrible the Holocaust really was than I thought it was before hearing her stories. It showed me not to take most things for granted.”
- “It meant a lot. It was great to meet her and to hear her story. She’s just so cute! I’d adopt her if I can. She’s a huge inspiration.”
- “I can speak in front of a group of people and do an okay job at it. Being nervous is natural and I thought I held it down well.”
- “It was an amazing experience to see and meet Yanina. To see one of the few Holocaust survivors was great.”
- “It meant a lot to me to meet Yanina because I was so inspired by everything Yanina told us. I was so honored to be a part of something so amazing. I was very thankful that I was able to be a part of the Holocaust event.”
- “Hope.”
- “I thought that it was really cool to meet Yanina. She was really funny and outgoing. I really liked all the projects and work everyone did. It was so awesome last night.”
- “It was a special day. I learned new stuff that I wanted to know about. I actually learned more about the Holocaust and what it was like.”
- “I am really surprised by how wonderful the show was. I knew if we worked hard and tried our best, we would have more opportunities to be successful. I also realized that I am not worse than others.”
- “To meet Yanina inspired me. I can’t believe how much she has been through and she’s still standing tall. Much love to her.”
- “It meant a lot to me to see and hear how much Yanina went through. It’s amazing.”
- “Seeing Yanina meant that I got to talk to a historical person who survived the Holocaust and a great dancer.”
- “It meant a lot to meet Yanina, to hear her story. I’m glad I got to hear for myself from a personal experience. It seems unreal that people can be so cruel. All humans should be treated equal. I really wish people could have put a stop to the Holocaust earlier. So many people are gone now. It’s so sad. Bless Yanina’s heart.”
- “To me it meant to have a chance to hear from someone’s experience. To meet her was incredible. It meant a lot to me and I will cherish that moment forever. It changed me. It was sad, but it was life changing.”
- “I thought it was cool to see all the work my class and I did. I hope Yanina liked it.”
- “Meeting Yanina was life changing. Just to think that she’s been in certain situations, some people wouldn’t even know, was just exhilarating. Yanina was the funniest, sweetest, and coolest woman I’ve ever met. I almost cried at the Night to Remember.”

www.HotelManagement.net

HMYYP

HOTEL MANAGEMENT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

OCTOBER 22, 2012

TRAINING DAY

Interning in college puts you on the fast track

600: Number of internship hours the NYU Tech Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management requires of undergraduates.

Source: NYU Tech Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management



THIRTY UNDER 30

OUTSTANDING LEADERS IN
THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

USING SOCIAL MEDIA THE RIGHT WAY
TIPS FROM BEST WESTERN'S CEO

A SUPPLEMENT TO

hotel
MANAGEMENT

COVER STORY

LAUREL INGLE

Age: 27

Title: Director of Sales and Marketing

Hotel: Residence Inn by Marriott Mission Valley San Diego

Location: San Diego

HM: What are your thoughts on the role social media can and should play in a hotelier's career? How do you use these social channels for professional purposes?

Ingle: It's important to always remember that your personal and professional life has no differentiation online. You must always be aware that your hotel's owners, your current employers and future employers can see everything and will form opinions about you based on what they see. I monitor everything that's online about me. While it's important to treat social media carefully, it's just as important to be out there. I treat LinkedIn and Facebook as if they were constantly updating resumes that tell my personal and professional story.



KARY LALANI

Age: 29

Title: Vice President

Company: Lalani Lodging

Location: Wichita Falls, Texas

HM: Who do you consider your professional mentors and why?

Lalani: Begins and ends with my dad—Munir A. Lalani. My dad has been my mentor all my life; I mean that in the most literal sense. From the time I was a boy, I wanted to become a businessman like him. We use to go to the office "to make money," I just loved getting to tag along with

him. As I got older I was able to travel with him, and business was always the topic at the dinner table. Today, when my family gets together for the holidays, my dad, brother and I are always talking business. We love being in business together, and I am thankful that my dad provided me an opportunity and invitation to join.

THOMPSON MOSHER

Age: 30

Title: General Manager

Company: Island Hospitality

Hotel: Residence Inn Silicon Valley I

Location: Sunnyvale, Calif.

HM: Global hotel companies are focusing very much on attracting travelers from your generation. If you could tell the industry, "Hey! This is what we really want in a hotel stay," what would you say?

Mosher: I think we all want technology to be up to date, that's a given. We also want an inviting, social atmosphere at the hotel. We're looking for a better opportunity to interact with people from other cultures and a hotel's public areas are a great place for that. We also like a little local flavor, even within a branded hotel. It makes the experience more authentic.

MATT DRUSCH

Age: 28

Title: Director of Sales and Marketing

Hotel: Brookfield Suites Hotel & Convention Center

Location: Brookfield, Wis.

FIONA GOLDSTEIN

Age: 25

Title: Digital Brand Marketing Manager

Company: Thompson Hotels

Location: New York

Workforce Ready Opportunity for FV and other HS students - A Main Hobbies Invests In Great Futures: Thanks to a great partnership with Boys & Girls Club over the past 4 years in Workforce Readiness, some of our students have been able to participate in Job Shadowing & Internships. See below to see one of the opportunities they provide. This is the first one that has been videotaped. They have set up amazing business partnerships where our students and a few others in CUSD get to check out being an employee. Some others include Old Navy, Smuckers, Crush, Bank of America.



All children are born with the potential to lead full, successful, meaningful lives and to make significant contributions to the world around them. Unfortunately, not all children have access to adults who can help them to achieve all of their goals. The Boys & Girls Club encourages youth to stay focused on their education; provides support during crises; offers constructive ways to spend their free time; and exposes them to career paths and options.

Through our programs and services, the Boys & Girls Club provides staff and partnerships with local businesses to help teens be focused and stay motivated in school and offer them practical experiences that help them overcome obstacles, and encourage them to work toward achieving their educational and (eventual) career goals.

For the past two weeks Boys & Girls Club teens from Fair View High School and other local schools had an amazing opportunity to spend two full days of job mentoring at [A Main Hobbies](#). To be accepted into the program teens completed an application and from the interests listed on their application were matched with employees to job shadow various careers within A Main Hobbies. They worked with customer service, graphic design, video production, and the warehouse where they filled and shipped orders and restocked inventory.

The teens said they came away learning about a local company that truly cares about their employees; how to work as a team; and the value of having a good work ethic. Please watch the video below that one of our teens made during their mentoring that highlights their experiences.

Upcoming Events

Crush Dinners Proceeds go to the Boys & Girls Club

TUESDAY NIGHTS
Oct. 10 - Dec 11
from 5:30-8pm at
www.chicocrush.com

November

14-Paradise Turkey
Time

15 - Chico Turkey Time

16- Oroville Turkey
Time

February

9 - [Valentine's Gala](#)

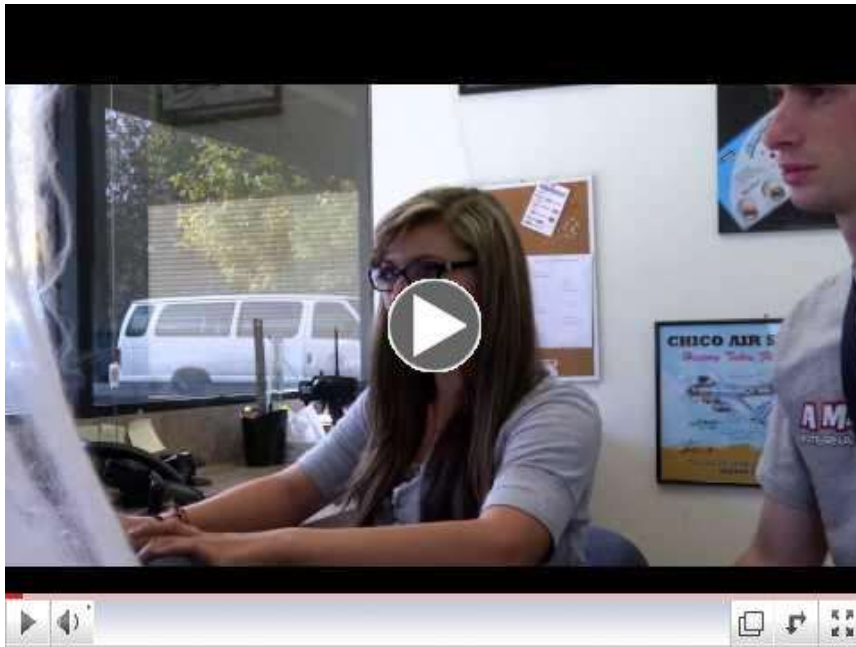
Call us if you want to

- Be a Sponsor
 - Donate an item
 - Buy a table or
 - Buy a ticket
- (530) 899-0335

[Click for our Calendar](#)

Quick Links

[Summer Newsletter](#)



When youth have caring adult mentors in their lives, their grades go up; their life and career goals become more actualized; and their sense of self-esteem increases substantially.

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR KIDS!



A Main Hobbies, hobby store is moving to a new address.

They plan on having their Grand Opening November 19th.

New Address:
2065 Martin Luther King Jr. Suites J01 & J02
Chico, CA

This holiday season please keep in mind supporting local businesses that make a difference and give back locally.

[Club Testimonials](#)

[NEWS at the Club](#)

Did You Know?

Our teens last year gave back and volunteered 3589 hours throughout Butte County



Change A Life

DONATE TODAY

Please take a look at the [What's New](#) page on the BSSP website for more information on these important updates:

Healthy Habits Incentives - Earn a \$25 reimbursement: Your wellness matters -- to you, your family, and to BSSP! Routine health examinations and screenings are keys to improving or maintaining your wellness. To encourage active members and their spouses/registered domestic partners to participate, BSSP is launching the Healthy Habits Incentives program. Members completing the program become eligible for a \$25 reimbursement of out of pocket costs incurred under BSSP's medical plan for any covered family member. [Read more...](#)

Monthly Topics - November, 2012: Click on the links below for additional information:
November is Diabetes Awareness Month:

- [What is diabetes?](#)
- [Ways to better manage diabetes](#)
- [ConditionCare: Diabetes--you are not alone!](#)

Visit our [Wellness Page](#) for newsletters on these monthly topics:

- A Guide to Alternative Medicine
- Getting Enough Zzzzzzz's - Know the Risks for Sleep Apnea
- What do Your Cholesterol Numbers Mean?
- Stressed Out?

Magellan Health Focus: [Coping with Caregiving](#) Life changes in a big way when you become a family caregiver. Your transition to a primary caregiving role may occur in a gradual way or be a sudden development. Whatever the timing or circumstances might be, your new responsibilities can seem overwhelming.

Generics RX Advantage will end on December 31, 2012: In the past, you may have received information about a cost-saving feature of our prescription plan called Generics Rx Advantage. Under the program, you would have paid \$0 the first time you ordered a new generic from the mail-order pharmacy. A new generic prescription is one that has not been filled through the Medco Pharmacy within the past 12 months. If you used the Medco Pharmacy to get a brand medication that has become available as a generic within the past 6 months, a prescription for that generic is not eligible for this offer. The Generics RX Advantage program is coming to a close on December 31, 2012. [Read more...](#)

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.

Cathy Ramirez and I hope you enjoy the holidays with the special people in your lives!

Christy Patterson

Executive Director
Butte Schools Self-Funded Programs
1859 Bird Street
Oroville, CA 95965
Office: 530-532-5837
Fax: 530-532-5836
www.bcoe.org/bssp



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NOV 13 2012

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
CHICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Paradise, California 95969
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Fax: (530) 872-6409
Website: www.pusdk12.org

Roger Bylund
Superintendent

Susan Davis
Deputy Superintendent
Educational Services
Human Resources

David McCready
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services

November 9, 2012

Dear Kelly;

The Board of Trustees of the Paradise Unified School District and I want to thank you for your extraordinary support of our students and staff in the aftermath of the recent automobile accident that tragically took the lives of two of our young people. Your compassion provided comfort for all those trying to cope with loss and the traumatic experiences of the driver and young people at the accident scene. Your immediate offer to provide support as you stepped away from schedules that were already very demanding and challenging is greatly appreciated. Your presence and assistance were critical. Together, county agencies and school districts along with the faith-based community, we were able to begin the long and difficult healing process.

Your efforts were part of an amazing community response over the course of the last week. It started with a 1000 person candle light vigil at the accident scene, followed by your support at three of our schools. There were continuing activities at our schools throughout the week and meetings with Butte County Office of Education and Butte County Behavioral Health to address the needs of students with the most significant challenges. There were very reaffirming and uplifting memorial services. These culminated with a community celebration of the lives of these young people at a community park attended by 500 people. While the struggle to cope with the loss will intensify for many, with your help, we have begun the long process of healing.

Thank you so much for your time, skill, and generous emotional support.

With tremendous gratitude,

Paradise Unified School District Trustees

Donna Nichols

Lisa Nelson

Judith Peters

Tom Conry

Mike Greer

Roger Bylund, Superintendent

Board of Trustees

Donna L. Nichols, President Lisa Nelson, Vice President Judith Peters, Clerk Tom Conry Michael Greer

HOW CAN SCHOOLS AND PARENTS PROTECT CHILDREN FROM BULLYING?



Parents of school-aged children are becoming increasingly aware of the number of incidents of bullying that occur both at school and on-line. Children may avoid admitting they are targets of bullying, so it's important for parents to be aware of the different signs children show that may indicate that they've been the victims of bullying.

Christa Melnyk Hines notes in her article, *Talking About Bullying: Could your chatterbox's talking be hiding a bigger*

problem?, that children may not tell about bullying if they are feeling embarrassed or ashamed. Parents need to look for signs which can include a sudden change in disposition, ailments like stomachaches and headaches, anxiety about going to school or riding the bus, falling grades, or, in extreme cases, self-abuse such as cutting.

It can be difficult to get a child to open up about a bullying incident, so it's important to keep the lines of communication open with your child, asking him

about school and friendships, asking if he knows kids who are bullied, or telling him about a time when you experienced bullying.

Marriage and Family Therapist Mike Pautz of Mount Shasta teaches parents and children that bullying is about power and control. Pautz says, "Bullies often times do not have any power or control within their home, so they use bullying as a way to gain this back. Bullies use bullying as a way to gain back power they may

have lost in their personal lives. They do this by threats, name-calling, and putting others down."

Teasing, social bullying (such as excluding someone from a group), spreading rumors, and physical bullying are other types of bullying. Since bullying can also occur on Facebook and by text messaging, parents need to try to monitor their child's use of electronic media since online bullying is a serious problem and can carry over into school. 12 ►



Marsh Junior High School peer mediators are ready to assist their classmates. Students can call the Bully Hotline at (530) 895-4110 ext. 400.

If your child shares with you a bullying incident that occurred at school, discuss ways your child can deal with the situation and how he can protect himself. Your child needs to know that he isn't alone, that other kids have also had the same experiences, and that bullying is not acceptable behavior.

Hines suggests the following to share with your child to help avoid a bullying situation:

- Tell the bully to stop and then walk away from the situation as soon as you can.
- Practice remaining unemotional by ignoring him or assuming a "straight face" since a bully generally seeks a reaction.
- Hang out with friends to avoid being alone. If you don't have friends nearby, try to stay close to other people.
- Tell a teacher, school counselor, parent, another trusted adult, a friend, or a sibling.

Marsh Junior High School in Chico has developed a peer mediation program, which consists of 15 peer mediators from the 8th grade, to mediate bullying incidents at school. Parents need to be aware that children, particularly adolescents and teens, may feel more secure talking to a peer about bullying rather than an adult, since some children have strong bonds with their peers and they feel that their peers can better relate to their problems.

At the beginning of the year, Marsh students are given a Bully Hotline card with a hotline email and phone number to report being bullied or a bullying incident they witnessed. Mediators then try to bring both sides together to "talk it out" to determine whether it was a bullying incident or a misunderstanding, and to help resolve the situation. Having a friend or bystander who witnesses an incident stand up for the victim and report it is very important to ending the bullying cycle. Peer mediator at Marsh

Ryland Jolliffe remarks, "We need to empower the bystanders to be upstanders."

The start of a new school year is a particularly difficult time for students, especially 7th graders since they are trying to find where they fit in at a new school. The peer mediators at Marsh stated that at the beginning of the school year they started receiving calls the first week of classes. In addition to assisting students by phone or in mediation, the peer mediators visit classrooms to give presentations and also show the documentary: *Let's Get Real*.

Cyberbullying is also a big problem for students at this age. According to Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. and Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D., experts in cyberbullying, some things parents and students themselves can do to help prevent this type of bullying are: never open unidentified or unsolicited messages, protect your passwords, keep photos PG on Facebook and other social media, log off of online accounts, set up privacy controls, google yourself to find out what personal information is public, and don't be a cyberbully yourself.

Parents need to be aware of the symptoms of bullying, encourage children to talk about what is going on at school and with peers, offer support and guidance when needed, and demonstrate how to confidently manage the many diverse personalities who will inevitably come in and out of the child's life. Preventing children from bullying needs to be an ongoing effort made by parents, teachers and children themselves. ■



Darla Greb Mazariegos lives in Chico and is the mother of twin daughters, age 13, and a son, age 10. One of her concerns is how technology is affecting children, and what parents can do to protect children against cyber-bullying.

Christa Melnyk Hines suggests:

“ Boost your child's self-confidence by enrolling your child in sports, self-defense like martial arts, scouting, or other groups that nurture a network of friends, a healthy body image, and leadership opportunities.”

Resources for Bullying Prevention:

- **Cyberbullying Research Center.** Offers online resources providing up-to-date information about the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of cyberbullying among adolescents. www.cyberbullying.us.
- **Disability Awareness & Anti-bullying Puppet Shows;** Redding, CA. Rowell Family Empowerment Center offers fun puppet shows to schools and youth groups to help make students more sensitive to children's disabilities. www.rfec.org; (530) 226-5129.
- **No Name-Calling Week;** national event. January 21-25, 2013. Words can hurt. Focuses attention on the problem of name-calling in schools; provides students and educators tools for dialogues about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities. www.nonamecallingweek.org.
- **Paradise Center for Tolerance and Nonviolence;** Paradise, CA. PCTN is a grassroots, nonsectarian, nonpartisan organization dedicated to honoring and protecting differences, resolving conflicts peacefully, and advocating for a safe, hospitable and harmonious community. www.pctn.org.
- **StopBullying.gov;** online. Provides information from various government agencies on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how to prevent and respond to bullying. Includes a special section for kids. www.stopbullying.gov.

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