



The Superintendent's Update

June 2013



NEWS FROM KELLY

As we conclude the 2013-2014 School Year, I would like to thank our fabulous CUSD staff for their dedication to our students and families as well as for their commitment to providing high quality educational programs and services. It takes a wide variety of individuals to help our students make the journey from Kindergarten (and in many cases even earlier) to that walk across the Graduation stage. As I attended promotion and graduation ceremonies, I was reminded time and time again that our students come to us from widely varying backgrounds, with unique experiences and circumstances... and regardless of those backgrounds and experiences, our staff members consistently pull together to provide support and ensure the success their students.

While the end of the school year is a busy time, it is also an immensely rewarding time as we watch our students move on to a new phase in their education. Some merely move from one grade to the next, while others leave for Junior High School or High School, or in the case of our over 800 high school graduates, begin their post-secondary life in the world of work, the military or higher education. Whether you have fed them, driven them, taught them, cleaned up after them, taken care of them when they were not feeling well, supervised them, counseled them, coached them, tracked their attendance, worked closely with them and their parents--or more likely, all of the above--whatever your role, thank you for the part you have played and the positive difference you have made in the lives of our students. You are appreciated and have definitely earned some quality rest and relaxation over the next two months. Enjoy...and I look forward to seeing you all in August!

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Your Input Needed on New API: Your input is sought on New State Academic Performance Index (API) Indicators. The API is the cornerstone of California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999; measures the academic performance and growth of schools on a variety of academic measures: The California Department of Education (CDE) is developing new indicators to include in the API for high schools. To help with this important task, the CDE invites administrators, teachers, parents or guardians, students, school board members, educational organizations, community members, and business leaders to participate in an online survey. The survey will end on June 20, 2013, **so take the survey now by using the following link:** [API Survey](#)

Academic Performance Index (API) Reports Available: The 2012 Base Academic Performance Index (API) Report (which includes growth targets and school rankings) is available for all schools in California at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/api>.

Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas Awarded to Seniors: California Golden State Seal Merit Diplomas were awarded to 89 Chico High students, 1 Fair View High

student, 20 Inspire students, and 97 Pleasant Valley High students from the class of 2013. The number of CUSD students meeting the state criteria for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma has increased this year at every CUSD high school. This is a great accomplishment for our high schools. Congratulations!

	Number of Seniors Qualifying			
	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
Chico High	89	70	79	69
Fair View High	1	0	0	0
Inspire	20	7	n/a	n/a
Pleasant Valley High	97	89	80	74

The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (GSSMD), established in 1997, provides recognition to public school graduates who have demonstrated mastery of the high school curriculum in designated areas. Each school district or charter school that confers high school diplomas is required per California *Education Code* sections 51450–55 to maintain appropriate records in order to identify students who have earned a GSSMD and to affix the GSSMD insignia to the diploma and transcript of each qualifying student.

State Seal of Biliteracy Awarded to Seniors: California State Seals of Biliteracy were awarded to 46 Chico High students, 8 Inspire students, and 44 Pleasant Valley High students from the class of 2013. The State Seal of Biliteracy provides recognition to high school students who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. Congratulations!

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Update: Nine CUSD schools were involved in piloting the Smarter Balanced Assessments this year, a part of more than one million students in 21 states who participated in the Pilot Test. Smarter Balanced is the system of academic tests that is expected to replace the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program tests in English–language arts and math beginning in the 2014–15 school year. The Smarter Balanced tests are based on the Common Core State Standards adopted by California in August 2010. The Smarter Balanced tests will generally be taken on computers, and the Practice Tests provide a good idea of what the new tests will look like. The Practice Tests are available for everyone to use at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>. There is a Practice Test for each of grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 in both English–language arts and math. Each Practice Test has about 30 questions. An answer key is not currently available for the Practice Test items, but should be available this summer.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment system will be designed to meet federal- and state-level accountability requirements and provide teachers and parents with timely and accurate information to measure and track individual student growth. The assessment system will utilize computer adaptive technologies to design assessments that will minimize the amount of time that students are out of the classroom and away from their teachers, better measure student abilities across the full spectrum of student performance, evaluate growth in learning, and provide more information to teachers, administrators, and parents within weeks of testing.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Testing Dates For 2013-2014: The CAHSEE will be administered at the school site during regular school hours on the dates specified in the chart below. Students in grade ten must take the CAHSEE during the February 2014 test administration. For grade ten students who are absent, a make-up administration will be offered in May. Grade eleven and twelve students who have not passed one or both parts of the CAHSEE will be offered the examination on the dates listed in the chart below.

CAHSEE Administration Dates for 2013–14 School Year

English–Language Arts	Mathematics	Grades
Tuesday, July 23, 2013	Wednesday, July 24, 2013	Adults
Tuesday, October 1, 2013	Wednesday, October 2, 2013	Grade 12 & Adults
Tuesday, November 5, 2013	Wednesday, November 6, 2013	Grade 11, Grade 12 & Adults
Tuesday, February 4, 2014	Wednesday, February 5, 2014	Grade 10 Census (*All), Grade 12, & Adults
Tuesday, May 13, 2014	Wednesday, May 14, 2014	Grade 10 make-ups, Grade 11, Grade 12 & Adults

Information Technology - Good News for CUSD Staff: CUSD employees can now get Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013 on their home computer for \$9.95 (or \$23.94 if you want physical backup disk as well) under the Home Use Program (HUP). This program is also available in the 2011 MAC version. Following is the announcement from Microsoft:

“Under the Home Use Program, you and our other employees who are users of qualifying applications at work (e.g. Office Enterprise) may acquire a licensed copy of the corresponding Home Use Program software (e.g. Office Enterprise) to install and use on a home computer. You may continue using HUP software while you are under our employment and as long as the corresponding software you use at work has active Software Assurance coverage.” (CUSD has active coverage)

Microsoft has asked us to not share our access code with others outside of CUSD. In order to comply with this request, please email Bonnie McCarthy (bmccarthy@chicousd.org) for more information if you are interested. She will send you the necessary information to sign up. This is a great deal, since the regular price for Microsoft Office Professional 2013 starts at \$99.99 per year.

Upgrades over the Summer: BCOE, who provides our web filtering services, is going to update both their Spam and Web filters. This means we will see less Spam in our inboxes starting this next school year as well as other filtering improvements.

NEWS FROM MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS / FACILITIES / NUTRITION SERVICES

Maintenance & Operations (M&O)



Energi Jr. Par Course



It's summer time! As always, M&O has a long list of things we would like to accomplish. One of them is to install Par Courses at six (6) elementary sites: Chapman, Citrus, McManus, Neal Dow, Parkview and Rosedale. The courses are funded through the Carol White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant. The US Department of Education awarded 56 grants totaling \$27 million dollars nationwide. **Janet Brinson** and **Carol Lams** have been working on the Grant for some time and should be applauded for their efforts. The Par Course, or Energi Jr. by Playworld, provides a gym-like, personal training

experience with seven stations and 84 exercises. Each course will be enclosed with borders and fall material. We would also like to thank **Dena Carter**, President and **Gary Kimbrough**, Sales Consultant from North State Playgrounds (NSP3) for their help in designing the courses. M&O wishes everyone a safe and fun summer.

Facilities



Chico High School Lincoln Hall & Fitness Laboratory: Steel erection of the new Lincoln Hall and Fitness Lab will be completed in two weeks. The anticipated completion is in November 2013.

Pleasant Valley High School New Classroom Building: The roof decking is almost complete on the new 24 classroom building at Pleasant Valley High School. Estimated completion date for this project is in October 2013.



Inspire Phase II: Modern Building Inc. has been busy preparing the Inspire site for seven (7) additional repurposed portable classrooms. The first phase of delivery will begin June 10. The project is expected to be completed before the start of the 2013/2014 school year.

Measure E Update: In March the Board of Education approved Darden Architects to develop a Facilities Master Plan to assist in the long-term planning of the Measure E Bond Fund. The Master Planning Team has toured all of the elementary school campuses and held five Community Input Meetings to address the needs and opportunities for improvement at each school site. Secondary Schools will be assessed this summer by the Master Planning Team. Focus Group meetings have also been scheduled to assist in the development/confirmation of the District's Education Specifications.

Summer Projects:

- **PVHS Gym Floor and Bleacher Replacement:** Pleasant Valley High School's Varley Gym has been repainted in the interior and the concrete floor prepped with a special sealant to prevent moisture from destroying the hardwood floor. Hur Flooring Company will be installing the new hardwood floor beginning June 10. A new set of wood bleachers will arrive in August.
- **Chico High School Sport Field Toilet Building:** United Building Contractors will begin work on a new restroom located on the Chico High School sport field near the northeast end of the track. The estimated completion date is August 2013.
- **Walkway Canopy Repairs at Chico Jr. High and Rosedale Elementary:** Contractor bids for this project are due June 11, 2013. This project is estimated to be completed by start of the 2013/2014 school year.
- **Shasta Elementary and Loma Vista School Relocatable Classroom Addition:** In order to ease the crowding issue at both Shasta Elementary and Loma Vista School, the School Board has approved the addition of a repurposed portable classroom at each site. Loma Vista will also receive a new accessible toilet building. Efficient Energy Concepts will begin the site work on June 10.

In The News: Chico Unified School District receives award of honor for Chico High School Classroom Addition (Sacramento – March 1, 2013) - Chico Unified School District in collaboration with the architectural firm DLR Group, received the 2013 Leroy F. Greene + Planning Award of Honor for the Chico High School Classroom Addition. The new classroom building, which was constructed to help alleviate crowding on the existing campus, resulted in a highly sustainable facility for the District.



Nutrition Services: The year has come to a close and I want to say thank you to the entire Nutrition Services TEAM, subs and all for a great year. The team accomplished much this year: 1) The biggest task was starting the new menu regulations; the team had to learn a whole new system as well as educate our students along the way; 2) There was an increase in meal participation both for lunch and breakfast; 3) The New Supper program went off without a hitch thanks to the After School Coordinators and Nutrition Supper Staff at the sites. We served 158,000 suppers at six sites; and 4) We are now headed into the Summer Feeding program that will run from June 10 to August 9 at various sites throughout Chico. More information can be found on the Nutrition Services website at: <http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0202111927441562>. Our goal this summer is 70,000 meals and working with CARD, Boys & Girls Club as well as the Chico Nature Center, we believe we can accomplish this goal. The summer program will be a great opportunity to cross train staff to increase our versatility district-wide, and more importantly, feed our community. Please join us at one of our sites for breakfast or lunch. Have a happy and safe summer. ~ *Vince Enserro*, Director Nutrition Services

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

CSEA 2013/14 Negotiations: The District and Chapter 110 negotiating teams agreed to meet as follows:

- June 17 (Monday): 9am-Noon
- July 23 (Tuesday): 9am-2pm
- August 5 (Monday): 9am-Noon

The teams have exchanged initial proposals for the 2013/14 school year. Article 2 (wages) and Article 7 (Health and Welfare Benefits) are automatically open. Chapter 110 is opening Article 6 (Transfers) and the District is opening Article 17 (Early Retirement).

CUTA 2012/13 Negotiations: On May 3, 2013, the State-appointed mediator informed both CUTA and the District that he was releasing us from mediation and not sending us to fact finding. This is a very unusual outcome as the typical next step after mediation is to send the parties to fact finding. The two sides have reached agreement on many (not all) of the issues in Articles 6 (hours of employment), 7 (class size) and 8 (wages) with Article 9 (Health & Welfare Benefits) being the primary obstacle to an agreement. On May 14, 2013, the District provided CUTA with a proposal in an effort to reach a

settlement on as many of the identified issues as possible. That proposal can be viewed on the District website at:

<http://www.chicousd.org/documents/Negotiation%20Updates/130514%20CUSD%20Proposal.pdf>

In summary, this proposal provides the following with respect to Health and Welfare Benefits:

- For the 2012/13 school year, all CUTA members participating in medical will be fully reimbursed for their out of pocket medical premium costs (\$306 for the year for full time)
- For the 2012/13 school year, all eligible CUTA retirees will receive a one-time check of \$750 for composite (more than one person covered) or \$375 for a single person.
- Beginning with the 2013/14 school year, the District will provide up to \$1,100 per month for any plan approved by CUTA for members.
- There is not language that:
 - Identifies a plan color as that plan will be chosen by CUTA for members
 - Deals with the impact and effects of changes to the plan chosen by CUTA
 - Provides for a 50/50 share of increases should the premiums go beyond \$1,100 per month. The District contribution is the subject to negotiations each year.

CUTA 2013/14 Negotiations: The teams have met nine times since February 28, 2013. We have reached agreement on language dealing with Article 26 (Effects of Layoffs). More specifically we agreed on criteria to break ties in seniority.

A subcommittee of our teams has been working on options for elementary preparation time. These options would provide for more consistent scheduling with services provided CUTA members. The teams have reviewed thoroughly; the Article 6 (Hours of Employment) brought forward by the District and are still in the process of reviewing CUTA's Article 6 proposal. The teams set the following meetings:

- August 29 (Thursday): 9am-3pm
- September 12 (Thursday): 9am-3pm
- September 26 (Thursday): 12:30pm-3pm
- October 9 (Wednesday): 12:30pm -3pm

Thank You: This has been another challenging and emotional year in Certificated Human Resources. With your help, we have all worked through the terrible layoff process, the release of so many great temporary teachers, the retirement of some many outstanding and gifted teachers, and the individual issues brought to us when life happens. The staff in both Certificated and Classified Human Resources would like to thank you for your patience and professionalism as we end another school year. You have also shared with us many of your professional and personal achievements. Thank you for sharing! We enjoy it very much when you share with us and especially when you bring your children by the office. Our students are so fortunate to have the dedicated and professional staff members working with and for them. It is our pleasure to serve you and ultimately our students. We wish you a safe and happy summer break

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VALUED EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES

Bidwell Teacher to Lead Teacher Research Group: **Annie Adamian**, Science Teacher at Bidwell Jr. High School, was elected as a program chair for the Teacher as Researcher Special Interest Group (TAR SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). AERA is the premier research organization for educational scholars and the TAR SIG members present some of the best examples of K-12 classroom research in the country. In her role as a program chair, Ms. Adamian will be responsible for facilitating the review process of conference proposals and then creating the program for the next

year's conference. Annie was recently inducted to her position at AERA in San Francisco and she will be responsible for helping to prepare the Teacher as Researcher program at Philadelphia next spring. This is a three year position where Annie is mentored the first year by the previous chair, is solely responsible the second year, and then mentors a new program chair the following year. Thank you **Ann Schulte** and CSUC for your support of Ms. Adamian in this process. Congratulations Annie—we look forward to hearing more about your work in this area!

Once Again Kudos to Mary Kemp and Terri Humphrey! It is always a pleasure when outsiders are impressed enough to write a letter complimenting CUSD staff. Below is an excerpt from a letter written from BCOE District Service Specialist Stephanie Wisterman complimenting the work of CUSD fiscal service employees **Mary Kemp** and **Terri Humphrey**:

“While at your district, we reviewed invoices and purchase orders for appropriate approval and supporting documentation. The backup was orderly and neat and my questions were answered thoroughly. Mary Kemp and Terri Humphrey should be complimented on a job well done. In these times of decreasing resources, staff is being asked to do more with less. Once again, Mary Kemp and Terri Humphrey have been able to produce the same quality of work, in spite of the increased demands on their time.”

Thank you to Ms. Wisterman for taking the time to recognize their work...and huge kudos to Mary and Terri for the work they do every day to keep CUSD running smoothly.

Congratulations to Gabriel Scott: **Gabriel Scott**, son of CUSD Assistant Superintendent **Dave Scott**, is yet another shining CUSD success story. Gabriel's educational journey consists of Jay Partridge Promotion in 1992, Bidwell Jr. High School Promotion in 1994, Pleasant Valley High School IB Diploma in 1998, Butte College graduation in 2000, UC Berkeley graduation in 2002, and culminates with graduation from University of Maryland Law School 2013. Gabriel and his family would like to thank each of the CUSD teachers and staff who helped him along the way. As we know there are thousands of stories like this one, please share as you hear them so we can celebrate our successes often!

NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES

FVHS WASC: Congratulations to Fair View High School (FVHS)!! FVHS recently received the news that they received a six-year WASC accreditation. Our appreciation goes out to the FVHS Family--students, staff, parents and community--on their hard work leading to this recognition.

FVHS Student Art Show Fundraiser: On June 9 the Junior Leadership Development Program (JLDP) team hosted a student art show. JLDP is a College Prep and Workforce Readiness Program put on entirely by Chico State Students. This program gets students actively involved in their community--incorporating community service projects along with Career Mentoring. Chico's Olive Garden restaurant donated the food and catering—thank you Olive Garden! The main purpose of the event was to provide students the opportunity to showcase their work and to provide funding for future JLDP programs at Fair View and Table Mountain High Schools. Students' work was on display and many were for sale. - Fran Anderson, Coordinator, Youth Employment and Volunteer Program, Fair View High School, Chico, CA

Athlete Committed: The locally developed Athlete Committed commercial has been selected for the final screening stage for the 2013 People's Telly Award. Please use the link below to vote for our Athlete Committed commercial. All voters need to do is view the commercial and give it a “Thumbs Up”. The commercial with the most “Thumbs Up” wins the Telly Award. Share with your friends and colleagues as you see fit. What a great way to show our support for the Athlete Committed program and the athletes from Pleasant Valley and Chico High School who are making this such a success!
<http://www.youtube.com/tellyawards>.

CHS A Cappella Choir Wins Silver: Congratulations to the Chico High School A Cappella Choir who received a SILVER AWARD at the Nationally Ranked Heritage Music Festival. Out of the nine choirs in our category, CHS placed 1st, scoring higher than eight other choirs. Only one school, Redlands High

School received a GOLD award. The choir students also sang all over San Francisco. They got to meet the cast of Beach Blanket Babylon and sing for them, go to a Giants/Dodgers game, ride a cable car, visit Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, Great America and see the musical. Way to go CHS Choir. Special thanks to CHS Choral Director **Sue Delgado** for all her excellent work with these students!

AMAZING SUCCESS for Chico FFA Livestock Students earned at the Silver Dollar Fair:

- **Swine:** The Swine show was on Wednesday and all of the students successfully placed their animals in group 1 (top group) and many of them exceeded in their respective classes. **Mackenzie McGinnis, Courtney Wood, and John Thorpe** all made the final round of Swine Showmanship. **John Thorpe** (freshman) placed 6th overall in showmanship (competed against 11th and 12th graders!) and **Courtney Wood** placed 4th overall! **Megan Maginnis, Shane Besser, and Mackenzie McGinnis** all placed in the top 3 of their market classes and all other swine exhibitors' animals were very competitive in the show. Congrats to all the swine exhibitors: **Jordan Bush, Parker Stowie, Jake Walton, Nathan Vervalin, Megan Maginnis, Shane Besser, John Thorpe, Tyler Mack, Thomas Lopes, Shawna Epperson, Natalie Dean, Mackenzie McGinnis, Maddi Johnson, Courtney Wood, Sutter Long, and Clayton McDonald.**
- **Lambs:** The sheep exhibitors continued to make Chico FFA proud! **Sutter Long** and **Kayla Hall** both made it to the final round of Showmanship, Sutter placed 8th overall and Kayla placed 2nd. Sutter also placed 6th in her market lamb class, Sutter was very busy this week as she also competed in the breeding hog show on Wednesday, and placed 2nd overall with her breeding gilt! Kayla earned a position in the Round Robin competition also known as Master Showmanship. She competed against showmanship winners in all species and tested her skills in exhibiting sheep, goats, pigs, and steers. Congrats to all the lamb exhibitors: **Kayla Hall, Jericha Hervey, Emigdio Carrillo, Sutter Long, Mikayla On, and Elizabeth Polen.**
- **Steers:** The steer exhibitors held up the string of Chico FFA success! Both **Eduardo Alvarado** and **Jillian Gabski** placed first in their market classes which earned them a spot in the Champion Drive! Jillian went on to be selected as the Champion in the FFA Steer, she later competed against the 4H champions and was crowned Grand Champion Market Steer of the Silver Dollar Fair!!!! Jill also placed 6th in Showmanship with her champion steer! So very proud of the Steer exhibitors and all of their hard work!!

Thank you, to all of the parents and students for their commitment! Thank you to all of the teachers who have allowed our students to miss class to compete this week. ~ *Sheena & Quinn*

Student Plant Photo Contest: Friends of the Chico State Herbarium had the largest number of entries — 71— in its fifth annual Student Plant Photo Contest. Sixty-one of these came from Chico High School photography classes and the remaining from Red Bluff High School and Chico Junior High School. These photos were on display for the annual Spring Open House on May 17 in the Herbarium. Members of the board of directors of the Friends of the Chico State Herbarium judged the photos and prizes were awarded. Much thanks to Quinn Mendez for allowing students to photograph in the greenhouse!!



1st:

Jiri Roznovjak (\$100.00)



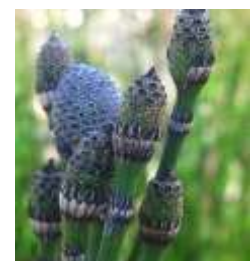
2nd Tie between

Kaesha Fleming and **Ashley Phipps**
(\$50.00 ea)



3rd:

Alex Lupericio
(\$25.00)



CHS Peer Tutors: **Caitlin McCandless** is the Autism Teacher at CHS who has promoted the integration of her autism students into the general education population through the utilization of peer tutors who come into her class and work with her students. Some comments from the Peer Tutors:

- *"Miss. M this is great, it's my favorite part of school"*
- *"I have learned to love these kids who are tough"*
- *"I remember seeing them and thinking, how rough"*
- *"I never thought I would do something like this"*
- *"I can't believe I went two years without Silas"*
- *"I have learned so much about who I am"*
- *"I have learned to be grateful for the gifts that I have."*
- *"I can't wait to have a class like yours"*
- *"Thank you C-2, this class was never a bore"*



Peer Tutors in Room C-2

Comments from Caitlin McCandless: We have been so fortunate to be supported by the wonderful students and staff of Chico High School and it is because of your love and support that we had **fifteen** general education high school students in our class yesterday at lunch time eating pizza, laughing, and dancing with the amazing boys of C-2. I never would have expected that many high school students to sign up to be peer tutors in our class. These peer tutors willingly teach, befriend and encourage the students of C-2 who, at times, may be difficult to teach, befriend and encourage. These peer tutors deserve recognition for all of the hard work they do in this classroom and I wanted to encourage the staff of Chico High to give some kudos to these wonderful young people they may have in their classes! I also wanted to send my gratitude to the staff for all of the hard work everyone puts into making these wonderful young students so magnificent. I wish I could share with you the countless amounts of praise you have received from these peer tutors. They speak of each of you so highly, they love their classes, they enjoy the relationships they have built with you over the years and they know they are where they are today because of great educators (even though I'm sure it may not seem like that sometimes)! Thank you for doing your best to provide the best for our Chico High students! I sure hope you enjoy these last few days of this school year and I thank you so much for making my third year as a teacher so enjoyable! I love Chico High and feel like a part of this family! Thank You! -- Caitlin McCandless, Special Education-Autism Class

Hello Special Olympics Track Meet Supporters! We would like to extend our deepest appreciation for all that you do to support our student-athletes and in making this event a huge success year after year! We hope to see you all next year!! – *Sincerely - Cami Anderson, SSTM Volunteer Coordinator, Adapted PE Specialist, Butte County Office of Education*

A Sojourn for Inspire School of Arts and Sciences:



Nineteen of **Marysol de la Torre's** dedicated US History students and **Becky Brown** (one lucky English teacher!) have just returned from the trip of a lifetime—Sojourn to the Past, a ten-day journey through the deep South to see the places and meet the people that influenced the Civil Rights Movement. Our journey began in Atlanta, where students were immediately immersed in the historical lessons of the movement. We met Clark Olsen, a Unitarian minister who was with his friend Jim Reeb when Reeb was killed by white supremacists, angered by these “outsiders” involvement with the burgeoning Movement. We were inspired by Olsen’s story and his message that ordinary people can make a difference just by “showing up.”

In Atlanta, we also met Minnijean Brown Trickey, one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Minnijean endured some of the most hateful acts by segregationist students there because she was “tall, proud, and beautiful.” We were honored to hear her story, and thrilled to participate in a workshop she led on the subject of institutionalized racism.

Before the trip, students read *Walking With the Wind*, Congressman John Lewis’ stirring memoir of his involvement in the movement, including leading a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery in order to advocate for voting rights. After crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the outskirts of Selma, Lewis and the other marchers were brutally attacked by white police. Despite the attack that day, as well as 40 arrests and countless beatings, Lewis continued to advocate the path of non-violent protest. We were incredibly moved to meet the man himself and hear his inspiring story.

On day five, we retraced the marchers’ steps across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and later that evening, in Montgomery, we visited Maya Lin’s beautiful Civil Rights Memorial and touched the names of those whose lives were taken for the cause of freedom.

In Birmingham, we visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the 1963 bombing, where four little girls were killed. In Hattiesburg, Mississippi, we met the family of slain voting rights activist, Vernon Dahmer, whose motto was “if you don’t vote, you don’t count.” In Little Rock Arkansas, we met another member of the Nine, Elizabeth Eckford. Elizabeth was the subject of perhaps the most iconic photo of school integration—she walks stoically down the street, followed by a mob of segregationists who scream at her, spit on her, threaten to lynch her. Elizabeth’s story was perhaps the most heartrending. To this day, it is so difficult for her to be around crowds and noise we had to give her a “silent ovation,” waving our fingers in the air and standing as she passed by.

Daily, I was astounded by our students’ capacity for deep reflection, courage, and open-ness. They cried together, comforted each other, and discussed difficult topics with profound respect. We didn’t just learn about history, we were given the opportunity to enter history in a meaningful way. As junior Jack Sorensen said, it was “hearing people’s stories” that brought the Movement to life for us. We know we are a part of it, and we know we have a responsibility to continue it.

Citrus Bike Program: Thank you to Citrus teachers **Ray Bransky** and **Dave Dion** for their excellent work with Citrus students and the bike program. The program was created by Ray and has grown over the years with the help of staff and community. Great job Ray and Dave for creating this excellent opportunity for our students. I encourage everyone to watch the video they have put together: http://respectfulrevolution.org/#/road/videos/ray_dave_and_cyclists_citrus_elementary



Article from the Enterprise Record, May 11, 2013

With dirt on their shins, road rash on their arms and scrapes on their knees, Citrus School students could not be more proud of their battle scars. They earned them this week, as 55 sixth-graders each cycled 75-plus miles during Bike to School Week. The students amped up their mileage by using pedal power to transport themselves to science camp all five days, whether at Gateway Science Museum a few blocks away or up dusty roads in upper Bidwell Park to the Diversion Dam.

"We have bragging rights," said Sireesha Reddy, 13, noting she's learned a lot about bikes all year long. "And when a tire goes flat or gets a hole in it, we know how to fix it."

For the students, the week-long bike trip was the capstone to a year of learning about bikes. Somehow, teacher Ray Bransky finds a way to squeeze cycling lessons into nearly all subjects, whether by disassembling and assembling an entire bike, tabulating tire rotations in Excel or learning about levers.

"It's a really good connection for students," Bransky said. "It's a good way for them to connect to the curriculum."

The students have steadily been increasing their cycling all year long, with monthly bike field trips. That included rainy rides to Chico Junior High School, to the Chico library for library cards, and longer trips to Bidwell Park for bird watching

"It's so much better than being in class," said Lillee Newell, 11. "And our teacher teaches us how to get around Chico by bike."

That was part of this year's theme — "Exploration and Independence" — said teacher Dave Dion.

"Chico has so many great places for them to go and learn," he said. "If they know how to get to those destinations, they can use that for life."

Each morning the students left school en masse to fuel up on food at Chico Natural Food's energizer station before riding on to their destination. They studied creeks and robotics at Gateway, lamb lungs at Chico Junior High and wildlife at Teichert Pond.

"It's cool because you get to see stuff you've never seen before and go places you've never gone," said Angel Coronado, 12.

Learning so much about bikes is crazy but also fun, he said. And students remember what they learn.

"I tell Mr. Bransky that at Chico Junior High next year they are going to be telling us an equation and we are going to answer with a bike part," he said with a grin.

When the school year started, Hope Tapp, now 12, had never ridden a bike. But with the encouragement of her friends and teacher, she grew confident on two wheels and now plans to ride her bike to junior high next year.

"Everyone thinks it's fun to ride a bike," she said.

While Bransky's passion starts with bikes, his vision is they are tools to teach larger life lessons, such as planning ahead, problem solving and safety — including the need to always wear a helmet. While riding around Chico in their pack of 55-plus, he always emphasizes that the students have a responsibility to themselves and the rest of the group.

"If one person makes a bad choice, it affects all of us," he said. "My hope is they will take that piece and remember it for the rest of their lives."

Farewell to Another School Year: Elementary schools said goodbye to their wonderful sixth graders. Staff shed tears as students honored them with words of appreciation and gifts of cards and flowers. We are so proud of our students and wish them well as they move on to the junior high schools. To our principals, teachers and staff, we want to thank you for a great year and hope you have a refreshing summer. We look forward to seeing you again in a couple months. Congratulations!



Rosedale Elementary



Chapman Elementary

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

CHS ROP iTech Class Involvement with the Butte Regional Transit Operations Center:

When I initially decided to include the guidance from an industry professional to work with the students, my expectations were to merely expose the students to the real world so they could begin to understand what is out there and think about the possibilities affiliated with their ROP program. I personally did not expect to see their skill level developed to the extent that it is. This program under Mike's leadership is a serious and sophisticated effort. What our generation has seen as potentially wasted time in front of computers playing games has produced a generation of technology users that read and understand software and the mass of programming that has been built off it. For many of these kids, a manual is useless; they don't even need it. They open a program and seem to have the ability to feel their way through it from the start and achieve a level of efficiency that we really can't understand. This program is an example of what "vocational" is becoming. This type of modeling and product development is where much of what we call engineering and design will come from and grow into. This is the type of program both high schools and the District can get behind as an example of what education should continue to defend and promote for investment.

Thank you - Andy Newsum, PE, **Deputy Director/Project Manager**,
Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), Butte Regional Transit – B-Line

As you may be aware, TLCD Architecture has had the pleasure of collaborating with Mike Bruggeman's ROP iTech class over the past two school years. When TLCD was hired early last year our client, the Butte County Association of Governments, asked that we partner with students from the iTech class on our Butte Regional Transit Operations Center project. Since that time the students have been very involved with the project, and were active participants in several design workshops and other meetings. They have prepared solar shading studies, constructed models with the program's 3D printers, and developed video "fly throughs" among other things.

I have attached a Powerpoint prepared by the students that shows their model, as well as one of their "fly throughs". I used the model when I presented our design to the City of Chico Architectural Review Board last week, and have no doubt it was in part responsible for the many accolades the project received from the Board. I have also attached a link to a blog posting about our work with the students.

Everyone at TLCD Architecture has been a bit taken aback by the incredibly high level of engagement of the iTech students, and the incredible work they were responsible for. I have personally worked with high school students on projects many times in the past, but have never before encountered a school program this sophisticated. Obviously Mr. Bruggeman's teaching, leadership, and remarkable ability to involve professionals such as ours in his classes are in large part behind the students' success. Working with Mr. Bruggeman and his students has truly been a pleasure, and is an experience that has added an entire new dimension to this very exciting project.

Best regards - Don Tomasi

CUSD IN THE NEWS

Enterprise Record

[Chico school board to hold rare Monday meeting](#)

[Chico teachers jam board meeting over contract conflict](#)

[CUSD suffers cyber attack: District computers fall victim to ... - Chico](#)

[Schools get more money in Brown's budget proposal](#)

[Chico schools fight off cyber attack](#)

[Letter: Article on bike week appreciated](#)

[Letter: Chico scholarships reach \\$2 million](#)



Tim Taylor

Superintendent

ttaylor@bcoe.org

Student Programs and Services

Dr. Steve Olmos

Assistant Superintendent

solmos@bcoe.org

Special Education

Michelle Zevely

Director

1859 Bird Street

Oroville, CA 95965

Ph: (530) 532-5792

Fx: (530) 532-5794

mzevely@bcoe.org

Mesa Vista School

Stacy Doughman

Principal

2265 6th Street

Oroville, CA 95965

Ph: (530) 532-5740

Fx: (530) 532-5743

sdoughma@bcoe.org

Board of Education

Dr. Ladd Johnson

Jeannine MacKay

Brenda J. McLaughlin

Dr. Robert W. Purvis

Roger Steel

Betty Vassar

Mike Walsh

May 16, 2013

Dear Track Meet Supporters and Participants,

The School Site Track Meet Committee (SSTM) wanted to be sure to thank you for supporting our efforts to create another fantastic collaborative athletic event for our students throughout Butte County. The assistance you provided before, during and after the event helped to create a positive, well run, and well attended event and our deepest appreciation goes out to you.

Our 13th annual **Special Olympics Track & Field Meet** that was held on May 3, 2013 was our largest event to date, a statement that we continue to make each year! We had 533 student-athletes, grades pre-K to adult education representing 43 schools; 230 volunteers, and countless family and athlete supporters were also in attendance. Student-athletes, trained and coached by CSUC students, participated in official running/wheeling events as well as field events, all trying to achieve their personal best! Also available was our ever popular Olympic Village which was created and hosted by the CSU Chico Adapted Physical Activity Department students and faculty where water activities were enjoyed ball all on this warm day! Field events such as standing broad jump, tennis ball throw, softball throw, turbo javelin and Frisbee throw were each hosted by Kiwanis and Rotary of Chico as well as Gridley High School Leadership group.

There are many "hands" behind the scenes as well, making this a well oiled event and we want to be sure to acknowledge their effort and contributions:

- ✓ Thank you to all the school administrators who support the attendance of their students at this collaborative event!
- ✓ District & County transportation coordination.
- ✓ Continual fundraising efforts of the SSTM Fundraising Committee, in conjunction with North Valley Community Foundation's Developmental Disabilities Sports Fund (DDSF) allowed this event to be so well attended by students and staff. (Year round donations accepted online through NVCF at nvcf.org, organization DDSF-SSTM)
- ✓ A big thanks to our event sponsors: Special Olympics Butte County, Chico Chamber members and the hundreds of individuals and businesses that donated to our fundraising/volunteer efforts.
- ✓ SELPA, BCOE, and District administrative, itinerant, and teaching staff along with Butte College Respiratory Care, Gridley HS Leadership and CSUC staff and students supported event attendance, set up, track events, registration, awards, Olympic Village, classrooms and clean up
- ✓ CUSD and BCOE nursing staffed the first aid station
- ✓ Marsh Jr. High, Gridley High School, Sycamore Middle School, Butte College Respiratory Care, Central MS, Adventist and Sherwood students all provided peer buddies for our athletes; as well as student T.A's from school sites with Special Day Classes on their campus
- ✓ CSU Chico Campus Police for event parking and traffic control
- ✓ CSU Chico for facilities, equipment, and faculty and volunteer support
- ✓ KHSL TV for their event coverage

Again, thank you for all of your assistance and continued support! We look forward to seeing you next year for the 14th Annual School Site Track & Field Meet!

Sincerely,

SSTM Games Management Team

Cami Anderson, Rick Bower, Lindsay Canales, Heidi Erickson, Tracy Lopez, Gina McKellar, Marci Pope, Debbie Roth, and Randall Stone



Summer Feeding Program



Please help us get the word out to Butte County children. Chico Unified School District's Nutrition Services is offering a Summer Feeding Program. All Children Eat Free (no paperwork necessary 18 and younger). Our nation's children are relying on all of us to do our part so no child goes hungry this summer. Thank you for your work and continued support!

WHY:

During the school year, more than 21 million children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. But when school is out, many low-income kids relying on these school meals, go hungry. To close that gap, Chico Unified School District and the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps children get the nutritious meals they need during the summer months so they're ready to learn when they return to school in the fall.

Help us raise awareness of this program and connect children and families to summer meal sites in their community! Here are some ways you can help!

WHEN/WHERE:

1. Please distribute these bookmarks to all classrooms/students at your school site prior to the end of the school year.
2. Post this information in a public location.
3. Come and join us at one of Chico's Summer Feeding Locations ALL SUMMER LONG June 10-August 9, 2013:
 - o **Chico Jr. High School**- Lunch 11:30-1:00
 - o **Bidwell Jr. High School**- Lunch 11:30-1:00
 - o **Chapman Elementary** -Breakfast 7:30-9:00
and Lunch 11:30-1:00
 - o **Parkview Elementary** - Lunch 11:30-1:00
 - o **Hooker Oak Park** -Lunch 11:30-12:30
 - o **20th Street Community Park**-Lunch 11:45-12:45
 - o **Boys & Girls Club**
 - o **CARD Community Center**-Lunch 11:30-12:30
 - o **Little Chico Creek**-Lunch **11:30-1:00**



WHO:

Chico Unified School District Nutrition Services Vince Enserro or Tanya Harter

CONTACT: For more details please contact Vince Enserro at (530) 891-3021 x201 or venserro@chicousd.org.