

The Superintendent's Update



May 8, 2015

NEWS FROM KELLY

As we approach the end of the school year, many Chico community organizations reach out to show their appreciation of the dedicated work that takes place every day in our schools. All educators deserve recognition for their dedication to our students, and we are proud that each year our community chooses to highlight the work and careers of various educators within CUSD. Below is a list of several award ceremonies that have occurred within Chico in the past month. Please join me in congratulating each of the honorees as you see them throughout the remainder of the year.

Chico Masonic Lodge 2015 Educators of the Year: The Chico Mason Lodge held its 2015 Teacher and Classified Staff Awards Night on April 28 at the Masonic Lodge. It was my privilege to represent Chico Unified School District at this awards night. **Katelyn Clements**, a teacher at McManus Elementary School, was presented her award for Elementary School Teacher of the year by Principal, **Tina Keene**. **Susan Christensen**, Art Teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, was presented her award for Secondary School Teacher of the year by PVHS Principal, **John Shepherd**. The Classified Award was presented to **Tam McMillan**, Delivery Driver for CUSD by **Vince Enserro**, Director and **Bob Feaster**, Assistant Superintendent. Thank you to the Masons and Congratulations to Katelyn, Sue and Tam!



Katelyn Clements, Susan Christensen, and Tam MacMillan

Chico Rotary 2015 Educators of the Year: The following three CUSD educators were recognized as Chico Rotary Educators of the Year: **Sue Mieske**, Counselor at PVHS; **Lori Cook**, Independent Study Teacher at Chico High; and **Mark Hardesty**, Counselor at FVHS. Also recognized was former PVHS staff member **Debbie Travers** from Inspire as well as an Instructor from Butte and Chico State. Thank you Chico Rotary and huge congratulations to Mark, Sue, Lori and Debbie. While they received a wonderful award along with dollars for their classroom, each also had to speak about their role as an educator to a room filled with over 200 community and business leaders. Thank you also to CUSD Principals **Jim Hanlon**, **John Shepherd**, **Eric Nilsson** and **David McKay** for doing such a fabulous job introducing these exceptional educators. Great job CUSD!



Alpha Delta Kappa, Beta Tau Chapter chose **Sonya Ross**, third grade teacher at Little Chico Creek School as Educator of the Year. Congratulations Sonya.

See: <http://www.chicoer.com/lifestyle/20150429/little-chico-creek-teacher-named-educator-of-the-year>

District 13 PTSA Honorary Service Awards: The District 13 Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) held its annual Honorary Service Awards on Thursday, April 16. Congratulations to the following honorees:

Melissa Pratt	Bidwell Jr. High	Continuing Service Award
Morgan Henry	Chico High	Honorary Service Award
Janine & Michael Reale		Honorary Service Award
Jan Mahon	Citrus Elementary	Honorary Service Award
Doug Alden		Honorary Service Award
Kristen Briggs	Marigold Elementary	Honorary Service Award
Rhys Severe		Golden Oak Service Award
Karen Wagner		Honorary Service Award
Julian Gonzales	McManus Elementary	Honorary Service Award
Ryan Heimlich	Pleasant Valley High	Outstanding Teacher
Jeanne Green	Rosedale Elementary	Honorary Service Award

April Superintendent's Award: Congratulations to **Janet Brinson**, the recipient of the April Superintendent's Award.



Janet has worked for Chico Unified for the last 29 years. She began as an Elementary Teacher at Chapman Elementary school, years she frequently reflects on lovingly. She subsequently became a Coordinator in the categorical office and for the last 10 years has served as the Director that oversees all of our State and Federal programs, including Categorical money and Compliance. Janet has been outstanding in keeping her focus on students and particularly, advocating for programs that provide increased and improved services to students and families. She oversees all of our After-School Programs, she chairs our English Language Learner Advisory Council (ELAC), which led her to research and help to implement Language Star, a program designed to increase proficiency in English Language Learners.

She oversees all of our compliance work and serves as the District's Uniform Complaint officer, a position which is definitely time intensive, and at times can be quite intensive. She oversaw the work to ensure our ongoing compliance with Title IX, and in the process, learned more about athletics in one year than she would have ever imagined in her previous 25 years. Janet has worked closely with CARD, Boys' and Girls' Club and the Friends of Ag – to name just a few – to develop opportunities for students Kindergarten through Grade 12. She was one of the original creators and proponents of the Youth Build, a program designed to give job skills to students

who have previously not found success in the traditional educational programs. She also worked closely with both Nutrition Services and our local ag community to bring the Farm to School Grant to CUSD. She works tirelessly on behalf of many of our students who are now front and center in the Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control Accountability Plan: Homeless, Foster Youth, and English Language Learners. As most of you here tonight already know, I could go on for hours – days – about all Janet has done for our students and our community. However, to do so would undoubtedly "make her tired" – her phrase for when you know you are getting very close to the end of what is usually her very long patience rope. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Janet Brinson for her service to our students and their families.

Administrative Retirements and Openings: This past month I received retirement letters from three CUSD district office administrators I value immensely, both professionally and personally: **Janet Brinson**, **Dave Scott**, and **Bob Feaster**. Their retirements have resulted in both appointments and internal/external openings for CUSD administrative positions. These positions include:

- **Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources** (to replace retiring Bob Feaster): Open Position. This position has been advertised on EdJoin. Paper screening assistance was provided by CUTA, CUMA and CSEA members. CUTA, CSEA, CUMA and community members are also serving on the oral interview panel. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval at the May 20, 2015, Board meeting.
- **Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services** (to replace retiring Dave Scott): Congratulations to Joanne Parsley who has been appointed to this position. Joanne is currently Director, Educational Services, Elementary Education.
- **Educational Services Director, Categorical Programs** (to replace retiring Janet Brinson): John Bohannon will move from Director, Educational Services, Alternative and Secondary Education, to the Ed Services Director, Categorical Programs position. He has already started this transition by working this year with Janet Brinson to better understand the Categorical programs.
- **Educational Services Director, Alternative and Secondary Education** (vacancy from John Bohannon moving to Categorical Programs): Congratulations to David McKay who has been appointed to this position. David is currently the principal at Fair View High School.
- **Principal, Fair View High School** (vacancy from David McKay moving to Director of Secondary Education): We have advertised and recruited for this position on Ed Join; CUTA and CSEA site staff have participated in the paper screening and will be part of the oral interview process for this position. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval at the May 20, 2015, Board meeting.

In addition, two long time CUSD site administrators have announced their retirement. Please join me in congratulating **Rhys Severe**, Principal at Marigold Elementary and **Doneld Williams**, Assistant Principal at Fair View High School as they complete their administrative careers and begin new adventures in retirement. Additionally, two elementary principals have accepted new positions outside of CUSD. **Shirley Williams** has accepted the position of Principal at Durham Elementary School and **Tim Cariss**, Principal at Rosedale Elementary, has accepted a leadership role with Illuminate, an electronic student data company. Congratulations and best wishes to Shirley and Tim as they begin their new positions. As a result of both retirements and site administrators accepting new positions, we have several openings at the school site administrative level.

- **Assistant Principal, Fair View High School** (to replace retiring Doneld Williams): Open position. We have advertised and recruited for this position on Ed Join; CUTA and CSEA site staff have participated in the paper screening and will be part of the oral interview process for this position. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval at the May 20, 2015, Board meeting.
- **Principal, Marigold Elementary School** (to replace retiring Rhys Severe): Open position. We have advertised and recruited for this position on Ed Join and will ask for assistance from CUTA and CSEA site staff in both the paper screening and interviewing process for this position. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval prior to the end of the school year.
- **Principal, Citrus Elementary School** (to replace Shirley Williams who accepted a position at Durham Elementary): Open position. We have advertised and recruited for this position on Ed Join and will ask for assistance from CUTA and CSEA site staff in both the paper screening and interviewing process for this position. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval prior to the end of the school year.
- **Principal, Rosedale Elementary School** (to replace Tim Cariss who accepted a position with Illuminate): Open position. We have advertised and recruited for this position on Ed Join and will ask for assistance from CUTA and CSEA site staff in both the paper screening and interviewing process for this position. My goal is to have a candidate to bring forward for Board approval prior to the end of the school year.

While all of our retirees will leave incredibly large shoes to fill, it is my hope that by identifying at least some replacements now, we can begin the transition process and take full advantage of the time each of these knowledgeable professionals have left in their positions. These are big jobs and the more overlap time we have for training, the better for both those new to the position and for CUSD. I have no doubt that all of our retirees will RUN through the finish line and each has offered to be available even after their retirement if any of us have questions or need assistance. Again, I will miss them all greatly...please join me in wishing each of them a happy retirement!

Sincerely, Kelly

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR EMPLOYEES

Life-Saving Effort at Inspire: CUSD would like to recognize and thank Inspire Assistant Principal **Dan La Bar** and Inspire Dance Instructor **Jarrah Myles**. Both were instrumental in saving the life of a young female Inspire student who collapsed at school. These two immediately responded and worked together to perform CPR for an extended period of time. They were heroic under incredibly stressful conditions. Thank you also to **Eric Nilsson** and his team who worked to ensure the emotional safety of the students present during this scary event. Inspire staff did a great job of gathering the students and staff who were present, encouraging them to talk about their experiences, sharing factual information, and planning for visits to see the student in the hospital. Thank you to the entire Inspire staff who rallied to save this student's life—you are heroes.

Outstanding Volunteer: **Martha Newton**, Targeted Case Manager at BJHS, wanted us to know that she has had the pleasure of having an ESL class for parents for the last two years. In the middle of last year **Sue Bequette** took over as the ESL teacher for the parents. Sue volunteers her time two days a week, two hours a day, all year long. May 12 will be the last day of the program for this school year and BJHS is planning a party for 9:00 a.m. to celebrate with the parents their success in this program.

NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

PVHS Completes WASC Process: Congratulations to PVHS for successfully completing an in-depth look at their school through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) process. Kudos to [Deanna Holen](#), [Cindy Hopkins](#), and our Focus Group Leaders for seeing the staff through this year-long process. The Visiting Committee was extremely complimentary of the school and the many programs in place for students. We look forward to seeing their final report. Way to go PVHS!

Oakdale WASC: Congratulations to our Alternative Education schools are earning back-to-back six-year accreditations! Oakdale now joins the club! Principal Dave McKay said they could not have made it happen without everyone's hard work, patience, and support.

CUSD Art Shines in Chico Community: CUSD Art teachers [Pennie Baxter](#), [Linnea Smith](#), and [Reta Rickmers](#) all had students participate in the Bring Back Bags art contest. Reta's student [Jordan Fowler](#), had his artwork selected to be on the bag. Thank you to Roplast for sponsoring this contest and for donating \$500 to each participating art teacher to be used for art supplies. Thank you to Ms. Rickmers, Ms. Smith and Ms. Baxter for getting their students involved in this very positive student activity. (See flyer attached at the end of this Update.)

Important Notice for High School Athletics: Having a yearly physical is a requirement for participating in high school athletics. The Butte-Glenn Medical Foundation will be offering \$5 physicals at [Pleasant Valley](#) on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm starting in Valhalla and at [Chico High](#) on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30pm. Student Athletes in grades 8-11 from any school who plan to play high school sports in CUSD next year may attend either physical. Students **must** download the Physical form from the HIGH SCHOOL website (under Athletic forms) and have the Physical form **completed** (all signature lines must be filled out) prior to physicals. The \$5.00 for the physicals is to help offset the cost of the Athletic Trainer at each site. The Physical Education teachers at each junior high and the Athletic Directors at each high school have been given green information sheets for all students interested in athletics. If you did not receive an information sheet, be sure to pick one up so you are aware of all the requirements for high school athletics.

CALPADS Data Management Recognition: CUSD has qualified for the 2013-14 CALPADS Data Management Recognition. A recognition letter and certificate were received recognizing our staff efforts for keeping CALPADS up-to-date with current, accurate data. Staff were thanked for their commitment to high-quality data. (Please see attachments at the end of this Update.)

Nurtured Heart Training: A Nurtured Heart training was held April 10 at Neighborhood Church. Thank you to [Scott Lindstrom](#) and his staff for continuing to offer Nurtured Heart training to staff both in CUSD and throughout the North State. This training provides valuable insight into student behaviors as well as positive options for addressing inappropriate behavior. I was proud to see so many CUSD staff members in attendance and know many others have already received this information.

Free Mothering Summit: A local group of organizations is working to promote a free Mothering Summit entitled "Embracing Motherhood" to be held at the Enloe Conference Center on May 9 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The invitation is at the end of this Update. Mothers will learn about their baby's brain development, how to feel successful with their toddler, connect with other moms, and hear world-famous author Shoshana Bennet talk about the joys, myths and challenges of motherhood. This is a day focused on Mothers. A free catered lunch will be provided. Register on the Mothers Strong Facebook page. This event is critical to the *Mothers Strong* work because it will create the grass roots community support and demand that is critical to ensure that maternal mental health remains prominent on the list of important issues. If you are wondering what *Mothers Strong* is, please check out their Facebook page and if you have

Facebook, please like the *Mothers Strong* page, and please share the Embracing Motherhood event on your own Facebook feed as appropriate. Ditto for Instagram, twitter, snapchat, etc. If you know of mothers with children 0-5, please encourage them to register and attend. Best regards ~ The Mothers Strong collaborative, DeAnne Blankenship, California Health Collaborative

NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES

Visit from the State Allocation Board:



On April 10, **Bill Savidge** from the State Allocation Board (SAB) and **Rick Huston** from Butte County Office of Education toured the Center for the Arts at Pleasant Valley High School and the Lincoln Center at Chico High with **Julie Kistle**, CUSD Director of Facilities & Construction. The SAB is responsible for apportioning construction funds to school districts. It was satisfying to show off how CUSD has leveraged our local bond dollars with State dollars to build efficient and beautiful buildings for our students.

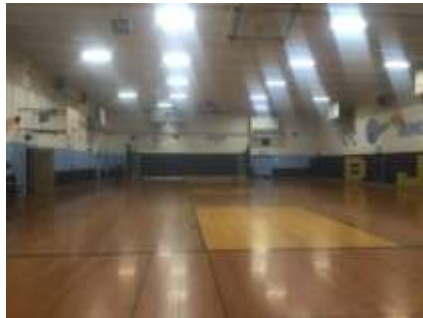
Third Phase of ADA Work Completed: The third phase of American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) site accessibility upgrades have been completed at McManus, Rosedale and the District Office. At Rosedale the improvements included new compliant ADA parking stalls, new portions of sidewalk and concrete in front of the main office, new striping and signage and new fencing and gates. At McManus the improvements included a new curb ramp, revised ADA parking stalls, new concrete in front of the main office and new striping and signage. At the District Office the improvements included a new path of travel from the City sidewalk to the accessible ADA ramp and stairs. Improvements also included modified ADA compliant parking spaces and path of travel, new stairs and handrails, striping and signage. All of these improvements make the path of travel from the main parking spaces to the rear entrances compliant and accessible.



Construction for Marsh Multipurpose Building Underway: The Marsh Junior High School Multipurpose Building has finally broken ground! This project is scheduled for completion June of 2016. The multipurpose building will add a new cafeteria, dining area, stage, performing arts classroom, restrooms and student gathering area to the campus. Construction activities occurring this week include: mobilization, site surveying and demolition. Be sure to check out the crews in action!



New Lighting in Bidwell Jr. High Gymnasium: In mid-April, the BJHS gym received an upgraded lighting package. This new energy saving LED lighting system is the first step in the gym modernization. The gym will also receive a new heating and air conditioning system, paint, upgraded wall treatment, new acoustical ceiling and refinished flooring.



Nutrition Services has some amazing examples of team work and acts of kindness from members of our team:

- One of our team members, **Judy Goode**, lost her husband **Curt** this week. Curt was also a CUSD team member at Little Chico Creek. There has been an outpouring of support for Judy from the Nutrition family. Judy will be well supported in her time of need.
- Bidwell Jr. High School came together as a big family to support one of their students. In honor of **Jesus Cortez "Junior,"** a student with MS (Multiple Sclerosis), nutrition team member **Chris Rowen** made very cool orange aprons. The team wore them proudly in support of Junior and all those who have MS worldwide and were very excited to show them off. Junior's Mom was very thankful and excited to see all the support that Junior received from his classmates, teachers and administrators. Pretty cool to have had such an impact on one of our students in CUSD; thanks Chris, team and BJHS!



- The Nutrition family would like to wish **Marla Stratton** a long and happy retirement. Marla has been a Cook Manager 2 for CUSD since 2003 and has worked for CUSD for 25 years and 7 months. Marla has always been very open minded and willing to try new food items with her students. Marla put her guests first and likes to offer the freshest and highest quality products presented each and every day. Marla has infused that great customer service attitude into her BJHS team. In her absence, the team she has built will continue to carry on that tradition. Thank you Marla for all you have done for CUSD. Enjoy each and every day of retirement.
- As Marla leaves for her well-deserved retirement one of our current Nutrition team members has been promoted into the Cook Manager 2 position at BJHS. Please welcome and congratulate **Denise Bell Corona** as the new manager. Like Marla, Denise is driven by great customer service skills and will transition right into the position with her new team. Congratulations Denise, you have earned it!

- We would like to welcome our new Nutrition Specialist to CUSD. **Crystal O'Rear** will be joining our team April 28. Crystal is a Chico local who graduated from CSUC with a degree in Nutrition and Food Science. She has a great skill set that will help CUSD continue to be at the fore front of child nutrition nationwide. Crystal will be here just in time to attend our end of the year BBQs, so please take a moment to say hello.
- Special thanks to Shasta and Sierra View for their participation in our taste tests and the Nutrition Education day. CUSD Nutrition has partnered with a new company called HumFresh. HumFresh focuses on nutrition education for athletes. I asked the folks at HumFresh if they would expand their focus to nutrition education to all students. They were on board in a second! HumFresh brought a team out and talked about the importance of healthy eating, the benefits of healthy foods before taking tests, doing homework, playing outside, and yes, sports. In addition, they discussed recovery after exercise and rigorous studies by eating good foods. Lastly they talked about rethinking your drink. Asking yourself, how many sugars are in what I drink and what are better alternatives to the sugary drinks that are available? Twenty students at Shasta and Sierra View also participated in a taste test. The Nutrition Team performs taste tests throughout the year to get feedback from our guests about what they like to eat; we also roll out new entrée items to get feedback. Both sites tested sandwiches, burritos, breakfast entrees as well as fruits and vegetables. The feedback we received was awesome. So many smart students who can articulate what they like and dislike about the items they tried. In addition there was great input about how we could change some of the items we have currently. We will take that information back to the kitchen and continue to make the healthiest and most appealing meals we can for our guest.



- We invite you to join us for our annual end of the year BBQs at each school during the month of May. Please contact your school office for the exact day and time. Come and enjoy a great lunch with students.
- Lastly, our fourth year of the summer feeding kicks off this June 8. Please contact the Nutrition office for all the details regarding summer feeding sites and times.

NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

Request for Interest Based Bargaining Training: On April 15, the CUSD Board of Education voted to approve the tentative agreement reached with CUTA.

As all of you are extremely aware, the road to this agreement was long and frequently painful. As happy as I am that there is a contract to ratify this evening, I am well aware that there are still people--on both sides--that remain unhappy with both the process and the resulting agreement.

In fact, one of the comments I heard several times during the past year was the statement, "we need to change how we do business". I could not agree more. And not only do I agree with this statement, but I welcome the opportunity to do so.

In the past months, I have heard several suggestions to improve communication and increase understanding of key issues. These suggestions range from restructuring and reviving our District Advisory Council to provide more input into key decisions to live online monthly Q&A sessions that involve staff from the District and CUTA. I am open to these suggestions and others.

Regardless of the methods, for meaningful change to occur, it will require effort and commitment from *both* sides of the table. As a result, I would like to ask that Mr. Moretti and members of the CUTA team as well as members of the Board of Education, to join me in looking at alternative methods for bargaining.

One such method is Interest Based Bargaining, or IBB. As all of us have an interest in better understanding the needs of each side, and to do so in a respectful and productive environment, this might be an approach that could benefit our District. CSEA and CUMA are also encouraged to participate.

Regardless of our title—teacher, office manager, custodian, bus driver, administrator, and the many, many other positions in our district--I know we are all here because we care passionately about students. Educators go to into education to help people, not to fight with each other. It is time to stop the blaming and divisive comments and focus on working together to find solutions that benefit our students and our community.

Change will not happen overnight, but we need to start. I ask our Board and our bargaining teams to commit to investigating a collaborative approach to bargaining as a first step. It will not be the last step, but it can be a very positive step. –Kelly Staley

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Gold Ribbon School Award: **Eric Nilsson** is pleased to announce that Inspire has received the 2015 Gold Ribbon School Award, one of only 373 schools across the state to receive the award, and they were also honored with an additional Arts Exemplary Education Award, one of only 38 schools in the state to receive this award. When you consider that there are over 9,300 public schools in California, this is quite an honor to Inspire's staff and well deserved recognition of their dedication to student learning, achievement and success.

*In State Superintendent of Public Schools Tom Torlakson's words, **This award is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of your school's educational community.***

These schools are academically successful, vibrant, and innovative centers of learning and teaching. They provide great examples of the things educators are doing right—embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching, and creating a positive school climate.

In addition to being chosen as Gold Ribbon Schools, 38 schools were given an additional honor of being selected as having an Exemplary Program in Arts Education, Career Technical Education, or Physical Activity and Nutrition. Schools had to apply separately for these honors, which will be denoted on the list below by a symbol that corresponds to their program. The awards, introduced in 2013, reflect Torlakson's goals outlined in his A Blueprint for Great Schools report, which provides direction for California's education system."

Inspire students are amazing. They have ownership in their school, they are proud of themselves and each other, they are supportive and caring, and they contribute every day to the mission, vision and culture of Inspire.

All of us at Inspire also understand the importance of our partnership with all constituents in our school community – parents, industry partners in the Arts and Sciences, Butte College, California State University, Chico, Chico Unified School District, the Inspire Board of Directors, the Inspire Foundation – we are grateful for all the support and belief in us. We know these partnerships have impacted the school in immeasurable ways and contributed to our receiving this award. So thanks to our students, to all of you, and thanks to Inspire staff – you are all the difference! ~ Eric Nilsson, Principal

Chico High School Autism Awareness: Check out teacher [Caitlin McCandless](#) and her students at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/pjbkgvk>

Statewide Directing Change Contest Winners: For the third year in a row, Pleasant Valley High School students have placed in the state-wide Directing Change Contest. The contest is funded by CalMHSa (California Mental Health Services Authority) which we support as members of the Board of Directors and financially. The contest asks high school and college students to submit public service announcements (PSAs) in two categories: stigma and discrimination reduction and suicide prevention. [Mike Peck](#) (Pleasant Valley teacher and advisor for the House of Blues production company) teaches video production and incorporated Directing Change into his curriculum because of his belief in promoting mental health and raising awareness. He is a huge advocate for youth and youth struggling that need extra support – whether it be clinical services or connection to peers and other support systems on campus. Below are the results by region with a few moving forward to the state-wide ceremony on May 19. We are very fortunate to have Mike in our community not only as a teacher, but also as someone who propels the passion of youth to bring awareness to mental health. Click on www.directingchange.org to learn more about the contest.

Region 9 - Reducing Stigma Category

Butte, Glenn, Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Del Norte

***First Place (tied): “What Defines Us” (Advancing to statewide round of judging)**

Student Names: [Jake Frank](#) and [Sarah Gray](#)

[View](#)

[Download](#) (You must agree to these [terms and conditions](#))

***First Place (tied): “Just Like You” (Advancing to statewide round of judging)**

Student Name: [Skyler Ramsden](#) and [Madison Royal](#)

[View](#)

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Third Place: “Unshakable”

Student Names: [Peter Gibson](#) and [Donald Hall](#)

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Honorable Mention “Defining Moments”

Student Names: [Baylee Martin](#) and [Zachery Lawyer](#)

Link: <http://youtu.be/xWdpqx8eAL0>

Honorable Mention “Anyone Can Help”

Student Names: **Bennie Ellis** and **Sam Stuckrath**

[View](#)

[Download](#) (You must agree to these [terms and conditions](#))

Region 8 & 9 - Suicide prevention Category Marin, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Butte, Glenn, Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Del Norte

Second Place: “Ignite the Light”

Student Names: **Noah Welday** and **Megan Thayer**

[View](#)

[Download](#) (You must agree to these [terms and conditions](#))

Honorable Mention “Look Up and Listen”

Student Names: **Alec Worthington** and **Trevor Gerfen**

[View](#)

[Download](#) (You must agree to these [terms and conditions](#))

Congratulations to PVHS SkillsUSA teams: Pleasant Valley High School and Butte County ROP *Welding Technology* and *Video Production* students have returned from the SkillsUSA California State Leadership Conference and competition held on April 8-12, 2015, in San Diego. (See pictures at the end of this Update.) Aside from learning valuable Leadership skills at the conference, the Welding students competed in their respective contests, where they were judged on their resumes, a written leadership test, a written skill knowledge test and a physical welding test starting at 5:30 am on contest day. Video Production students competed in a two day event. Day one included resumes, taking exams and pre-production, (planning and storyboarding) and filming. Day two was stressful as students only had 5 hours to sort through their clips, edit, and render a 60 Second Promo video for Skills USA.

Every year, competition increases at the State Level, as this year there were over 2,300 students (a record high) from throughout the state competing in multiple contest areas. Once again, our students did an exceptional job of representing PVHS and Butte County ROP!

Regional Winners: Sacramento

- **GOLD:** **Jake Frank & Megan Thayer**
- **SILVER:** **Sydeney Kleinewr & Perte Gibson**
- **BRONZE:** **Noah Welday & Sarah Gray**
- **GOLD:** **Alex Brinkley**
- **GOLD:** **Chris Faltese**
- **BRONZE:** **Chase Jacobson**
- **4th Place:** **Joseph Marfil**

State Winners: San Diego

- **GOLD:** **Alex Brinkley**
- **BRONZE:** **Noah Welday & Sarah Gray**
- **4th Place:** **Jake Frank & Megan Thayer**

*Also proudly representing PVHS and Butte County ROP in leadership events at the State level: **Julia Santos**, **Chase Jacobson**, **Chris Faltese**, **Joseph Marfil** and **Jennifer Larson**.*

A solid congratulations to all of these students, as they have set a fine example for the students who are excited to compete next year! Please see attached for pictures of this year's conference and contests. *Thank you ~ [Mike Peck & Matt Joiner](#)*

The PVHS Jr. Varsity Baseball Team had their last game last Friday. They played 23 games and only lost 5! Following are some pictures of them throughout their season. They were a great team and Pleasant Valley should be proud!

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

Another Beautiful Mosaic Bench at PVHS: Students showed up on a Saturday morning at Pleasant Valley High School to help complete the 2015 mosaic bench in front of the M building. Students in [Reta Rickmers'](#) sculpture class worked with local artist [Robin Indar](#) to create the bench which is the fourth in a series. The theme is the solar system with images of Chico adorning the sides.



Shown in the photo during the grout process are from left to right: [Minjoo Kim](#), [Bella Pflueger](#), [Omar Sanchez](#), [Charlotte Roberts](#), [Mary Applegate](#), [Taylor Kennemer](#), and [Emily Allison](#)

Pleasant Valley High School Student Takes First Place: [Nicole Dully's](#) colored pencil drawing, *Where the Wild Things Are*, took 1st place at the annual student art show at the Chico Art Center. The show ran through April 24 at Creative Fusion, 450 Orange Street. ~ Reta Rickmers



News from ACE-LIFE Academy: The Pleasant Valley High School ACE-LIFE Academy (Acceleratedareer/CollegeEducation/LearningIsForEveryone) is an academy with an academic and career focus on occupations related to education and human services, two of the largest industry sectors in California. We provide personalized, hands-on applied instruction and work-based learning. This small learning community is led by dedicated teachers and committed community members. At each grade level, students participate in a rigorous college prep curriculum and have exciting opportunities to engage in a variety of off-campus opportunities. Through the academy, students gain life and career building skills while earning college credit. The Careers with Kids and the Human Development classes are 2 x 2 x 2 classes articulating

with Butte College: Three units per class. Our HERO (Human Service and Emergency Related Occupations) students are placed with mentors throughout the community to directly learn about the occupations in these various human service careers. The students participate in three four-week rotations. During rotation, the students spend two class periods in their English class on Monday and Tuesday to free up class time on Thursday and Friday to go to their mentor site. The students leave campus after lunch and return at the end of the school day; we provide the transportation. Some of our mentors are: Chico Fire Department, Chico Police Department, CSU Police Department, Enloe Hospital, Humane Society, Fish and Wildlife, Cal-Fire, Kids-In-Motion, Avail Physical Therapy, CSU, Chico, Bidwell Junior High, Marsh Junior High, Innovative Preschool, Marigold Elementary School, McManus Elementary School, Sierra View Elementary, Smart Start Preschool, Loma Vista and Pleasant Valley High School. Our Careers with Kids students, after the initial introductory period, spend four days a week working with a mentor(s) and the young kids at Smart Start Preschool, Innovative Preschool, Marigold Elementary School, or Loma Vista. Another benefit of being a student in the ACE-LIFE Academy are the many programs, field trips, and learning experiences in which our students partake. All our students participate in various community service projects such as the Chico Fire Health and Safety Fair, Innovative Preschool Carnival, and Marigold Carnival.

Anaheim Wrap-Up for PVHS Band Students: We had a great trip with 66 students and 10 adults over four days. All groups are rated on a 1-5 scale, with 1 (Gold) being high and 5 being low. All three performing groups (band, choir, jazz band) earned 2's (Silver) ratings, and the jazz band took a third place award too. Given where we are in our musical development, I was very pleased with that outcome. There were 71 performing groups from 31 schools from 10 states (a total of 1,800 students), and we got to watch quite a few of them perform. We also watched a private Disneyland show and fireworks display during the awards ceremony. The kids behaved well, learned something, and hopefully made some memories. Our Spring Concert is Monday, May 11 at 7:-00 pm ~ Please Join Us! ~ *Ryan Heimlich*



Fair View High School ROP – Rookie Team of the Year: FVHS ROP students just got back from the 29th Annual Jim Lambert Design/Build Competition in Sacramento, which is put on by the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange. It is a competition that showcases local High School Career Tech programs in the trades, that promotes career awareness of the construction industry. Over the two days, 14 teams were judged on design, plan review, safety and health adherence in the construction phase of the structures. Out of the 14 teams, three were first year participants, with FVHS being one of them. They partnered with Jack Rodgers of Youth Build Chico, and with their combined team, they took home the “Rookie Team of the Year”!!!! It was such a great experience, that the students who will be back next year, are already planning ideas for a new design. Teacher **Matt McGuire** stated that CUSD can be very proud of how the students handled themselves, and ‘took care of business’.



"**The Show**" will be returning to Emma Wilson Elementary on May 28 and 29. There will be three show times this year. TK-3rd grades @ 8:45 am on May 28 and 4th-6th grades @ 9:00 am on May 29. We also have an evening showing (May 28 @ 6:30 pm). ~ Durell Siplin, 4th Grade Teacher, Emma Wilson Elementary.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

BCOE VAPA Summer Convening: BCOE is offering two full days of instruction in all four art disciplines: music, theatre, dance, and visual art on July 29 and 30 at the BCOE Instructional Resource Center in Oroville. The BCOE VAPA Summer Convening is designed for PreK-8 general ed. teachers, high school and elementary arts specialists, instructional aides, afterschool staff, and parents that support the arts at your schools. Space is limited. Register and pay by June 1 to get the Early Bird Special of just \$150 which includes food and all art materials @ <http://goo.gl/forms/qQLAIKLSrW> Questions may be directed to: **Nancy Silva, Coordinator**, VAPA Programs & Partnerships, Butte County Office of Education, 530.532.5812

Appreciation of Work Done by Inspire Staff--Following is a letter to Inspire Staff and Faculty from Erin Baumgartner, CSU, Chico SWE (Society of Women Engineers) President:

THANK YOU and all of the SWENext (Society of Women Engineers) members and other Inspire Staff and Faculty so much for all of the hard work and effort in designing and leading the Strawberry DNA Extraction and Paper Planes labs at this year's Imagineer Day. We received so much positive feedback from participants, parents, the Interim Dean of the College of ECC (Engineering, Computer Science,

and Construction Management) and many other Chico State Staff and Faculty, and the local community. Inspire's SWENext members had much to do with that.

I am so impressed by all of the SWENext members, and every one of them should be very proud of themselves for not only representing Inspire in such a positive light, but also representing themselves as future leaders in the STEM fields. My fellow officers and I are so happy that we were able to initiate the first year of collaboration between Inspire's SWENext Club and CSU, Chico's SWE Section, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen and expand on this collaboration in the near and distant future. Thank you again for helping us open new doors and inspire curiosity.

CUSD IN THE NEWS

[Tentative teacher agreement tops CUSD agenda](#)

[Teachers set to vote on deal with school district](#)

[Chico Unified teachers ratify two-year contract; school board votes Wednesday](#)

[Teachers union votes to approve district contract](#)

[Chico school board approves two-year teacher contract](#)

[Teachers approve contract](#)

[Food truck proceeds support Chapman playground](#)

[Come fly with 'Mary Poppins'](#)

[Schools hope for STEM training contributions](#)