



# The Superintendent's Update

September 21, 2015

## News from Kelly

It is amazing how time flies once the students arrive--we are already one month into the 2015-2016 school year! First of all, I would like to send a shout out to all of you for such a smooth and positive start to the school year. I have been fortunate enough to visit every elementary school site and most every elementary classroom. I have seen high quality instruction and enthusiastic learners at every stop. There have been many times that I have just hung out in order to learn more about the topic being taught; we have such talented staff that it is easy to get pulled into the class and not want to leave. Next week I will start visits to secondary school sites and classrooms and have no doubt that I will continue to observe exceptional teaching and learning.

I have said this so many times, but I will repeat it again—**THANK YOU** for all you do for our students. We have impressive people at every level and I continue to be honored to be your colleague. – Kelly

**Superintendents Awards:** On August 19, **Marjorie Kucich** was recognized by the CUSD Board of Education for her leadership in the area of secondary mathematics. She worked over the summer to prepare staff development opportunities in math as well as to ensure the newly adopted integrated math programs were in place. At the same meeting, community member and current Chico Noon Rotary Club President **Tod Kimmelshue** was recognized for his work in support of music in CUSD. Todd and Chico Rotary have donated \$30K to be used for our music programs, including the purchase of new instruments.

At the September 16 CUSD Board meeting, **Eric Snedeker**, presented the Superintendent's Award to CUSD nurses and shared with those present the unending list of responsibilities undertaken by our nurses. Congratulations to the eight CUSD nurses honored: **Bonnie Erickson, Julie Graber, Eva Moore, Michelle Neves-Dean, Julie Parker, Ann Scott, Cindy Steffen**, and (recently retired) **Lynn Koch**. Also on September 16, **Marv Davidson** was honored for his development of the Laura's Literacy Project, which has already raised over \$50,000 dollars for elementary library books.

**CUSD has qualified for CALPADS Data Management Recognition.** Congratulations to our CALPADS staff—**Jennifer McCall, Jennifer Bevers, Michael Morris**—and all those who support their efforts! Nice job team!!!

Check out our Facebook Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chico-USD/101962589844142?ref=hl>  
<https://www.facebook.com/CUSDFacilitiesandConstruction?ref=photo>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nutrition-Services/219286875762?ref=ts>

## News from Educational Services

**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION UPDATE:** The CUSD elementary schools have gotten off to a wonderful start. Many thanks to all the staff at all the schools that helped make for this smooth beginning of the school year.

**Back To School Professional Development Day:** There was much positive feedback about the August 13 professional development day at Pleasant Valley High School. The District Leadership Council took teacher feedback regarding staff development and helped plan the day. Thanks for their help making it a worthwhile day.

**Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Round-up:** Almost all of the elementary schools experimented with a version of a Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade round up this year as well. Each site planned for parents to bring their child in a few days before school started and do some reading baseline assessing along with a chance for their child to meet some teachers at the school. Positive staff and parent feedback was received about this as well.

**Elementary District Leadership Council (DLC):** The DLC will be meeting the first Friday of each month and discussing issues relevant to all of CUSD. On October 2, the DLC group will be discussing assessments used by CUSD. The October meeting will focus on the SBIT/RTI process used by schools. Please share your thoughts regarding these topics with your school site's DLC representative.

**Who is the DLC?** The mission of the District Leadership Council (DLC) is to serve as the collective educator voice for each Chico Unified school site to ensure district initiatives are aligned to student academic and emotional needs. The 2015-16 Members include:

- Marjorie Kucich, BJHS
- Katy Gervasi, Chapman
- Cindy Cox, CHS
- John Klein, CHS
- April Hislop, CJHS
- Tammy Barnett, Marigold
- Kelly Coombe, MJHS
- Sherri Lowe, McManus
- Anne McLean, Neal Dow
- Julie Anderson-Nilsson, Parkview
- Terri Crawford, ELD
- Dana Feingold, ELD
- Tammy Oberg, ELD
- Carol Sylvester, Illuminate
- Christi Bangsund, LCAP/SD
- Shelbi Lundberg, Citrus
- Sara Pardini, EWE
- Erica Scott, Alt. Ed.
- Kellie Steinbach, Hooker Oak
- Stephanie Cunniff, LCC
- Debbie Rosenow, PVHS
- Joana Castaneda, Rosedale
- Cindy Chang, Shasta
- Amanda Alexander, Sierra View
- Laura Holman, Spec. Ed., TOSA
- Lori Sullivan, Technology
- David McKay, Director
- Ted Sullivan, Director
- Kelly Staley, Superintendent

All information related to the DLC can be found in the Staff Room on the CUSD website.

**SECONDARY EDUCATION UPDATE:** The excitement of the first days of school was punctuated by engaging new student welcoming activities at all secondary schools: from orientations at Fair View, CAL, and Oakdale, to 7th grade orientations at Bidwell, Marsh, and Chico Junior Highs, to dynamic LINK Crew activities at Chico, Inspire, and Pleasant Valley High Schools. At all schools, the warmth and enthusiasm with which the new students were welcomed by staff and older classmates was moving. Thank you, dedicated staff, for setting the positive tone on your campuses. You clearly make the difference by building authentic relationships with your students.

**Back To School Staff Development Day:** Thank you for providing feedback on the August 13 Professional Development Day. The DLC used your input, from both surveys and individual conversations, to plan the day and will use your feedback to fine tune the professional development plan for 2015-16 as well as the

opening sessions for 2016-17. Please communicate your ideas to your DLC rep. The vision for professional development this year was to provide introductory sessions on August 13, with the opportunity to go deeper on a given topic over the next four 3:30-5:00pm sessions. Communication is key, so please do not hesitate to email Director [David McKay](#) your ideas or stop him in the halls when he is on your campus.

**Secondary District Leadership Council (DLC):** The two main Essential Questions guiding the DLC's work this year are: 1) "What does in-depth, teacher-driven professional development that directly impacts student learning look like?" and 2) "What would a useful 7-12 CUSD assessment plan look like?" Secondary DLC will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and report out at staff meetings as well as sending out meeting notes. The overarching goal of the DLC is to create and sustain solid relationships on and across sites, as well as with district leadership. Again, all information related to the DLC can be found in the Staff Room on the CUSD website.

**\$5.3 Million Career Pathways Grant Expansion:** A \$5.3 million competitive grant was awarded to Chico Unified School District and the Butte-Glenn Career Pathways Consortium (BGCPC) by the California Department of Education for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years. The regional consortium yields a powerful dynamic with a synergy of partnerships: Butte Community College, Butte County Office of Education (BCOE), Glenn County Office of Education (GCOE), Butte County school districts, Glenn County school districts, business entities, community organizations, and industry advisors. CUSD is a significant participant and the fiscal agent.

The purpose of this grant is to expand the work of the BGCPC, which was awarded a \$5.8 million grant last year. This expansion grant will support new and existing pathways from three high-wage, high-skill industry sectors: Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), and Arts and Media Entertainment (AME). Pleasant Valley High, Chico High, and Inspire School of Arts and Sciences are all adding new pathways with exciting implications for students. The consortium prefers to refer to this work as an initiative rather than a grant; while this is one-time money, the goal is to establish sustainable pathways which will afford students authentic, meaningful college and career preparation and opportunities. For more information, contact grant lead [Kristin Lower](#) at [klower@chicousd.org](mailto:klower@chicousd.org).

### Information Services

**Java, Shockwave and Silverlight being discontinued:** This month Google will discontinue support for a multitude of Internet plug-ins. This action could have far reaching implications for both staff and students. Certain types of plug-ins are notorious for being security vulnerabilities and Google has officially pulled the plug on them. Below are the most popular plug-ins that will no longer be supported in the Chrome browser, nor in Chromebooks.

- Java
- RealPlayer
- QuickTime
- Shockwave
- Silverlight

**NOTE:** Flash and Adobe Reader will continue to be supported in Chrome.

How might this affect you? This transition could represent a challenge for any school that is relying on older websites or programs that use plug-ins such as Java. Information Services recommends that you begin to explore alternatives to incompatible websites and programs as they become known to you. We are always here to help.

For now both Firefox and Internet Explorer will continue to allow the plug-ins, however in time they will also follow suit. This coming year is our opportunity to migrate away from Java and Shockwave before all support ends.

**Printing from Chromebooks:** Many staff members have expressed interest in printing from the new staff Chromebooks. The IT Department is currently working on a permanent solution, but it is still a few months away. In the meantime you can print from your Chromebook by logging into <https://view.chicousd.org> and using a VIEW Windows desktop from there. A VIEW desktop allows you to run Windows 7 on your Chromebook. Simply login to the website from your Chromebook and choose CUSD-STAFF from the list.

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## News from Business Services

**The Facts about CUSD Portable Classroom Buildings:** Chico Unified School District schools currently utilize 122 portable classroom buildings. Portable classrooms were added to our campuses to accommodate growth and optimize state funding in the late 1980's and mid 1990's. The portable classroom buildings range in age from 2 years to 30 years of age. Most of the portable classroom buildings have reached or surpassed their useful lifespan. The District Facilities Master Plan includes plans to reduce the number of portable classroom buildings to 42. This reduction results in a decrease of 65% by replacing them with permanently constructed classroom buildings. No portable in the district has ever been condemned or found unsafe for students. All concerns regarding mold, fumes or unusual smells are fully investigated and Certified Independent Industrial Hygienists are utilized to perform indoor air quality tests.

**M&O and Transportation Departments Were Busy Over the Summer:** As you might have noticed throughout our school sites, M/O and Facilities and Construction crews were very busy this summer doing a host of projects to improve CUSD schools for our students and staff. They completed 439 work orders! The awesome custodial crews at each school did an amazing job of cleaning the schools and working around all the projects, summer school, and early back programs. During the summer, they also made inspections of our sites with the Northern California Schools Insurance Group, who helped us identify safety issues.

**Fire Marshall Visits:** Starting September 14 and ending September 30, M/O along with the Chico Fire Department will be conducting fire inspections at all of our school sites.

**Things are Shining in Transportation:** During the summer a team of transportation employees came to the Corp yard to beautify our buses. **Becky, Marina, Dinah, Tammy D., Cheryl H, Char** and **Michael** completely washed and waxed our fleet. This not only made our buses look awesome, but it helps to save water in the future because it will take less water to clean them.

We also would like to thank **Becky Dawson of Papa Murphy's** on Eaton Rd. once again. She has donated 500 "Great Bus Rider Awards" for our bus drivers to give out to our deserving students. The award entitles the student to a free Mini Murph Make N' Bake Pizza Kit. Each Friday one student per bus route is given this award for their excellent behavior and their ability to follow the rules of the driver and bus.

We would like to welcome **Michael Swanson** to the Transportation team, Michael has passed all three of the CHP test and is now driving one of our Special Ed routes. Michael is a great addition to our team.

**Nutrition Services (NS)** started the year off with a great back to work event held at Little Chico Creek Elementary. They partnered with Supervisor **Dusty Copper** and the **Maintenance & Operations (M&O) crew** for a BBQ lunch and a group speaker. Both teams took a great deal from the event that will be very helpful throughout the year. The de-escalation training will continue to be very valuable for years to come. Nutrition Services also held four hours of required annual training regarding new requirements that became effective on July 1, 2015. The team received training in customer service, menu production, understanding complete meals and nutrition. The great training day got the school year kicked off in the right direction for our students. The first day and week of school went very smooth. Thank you NS and M&O teams for all you do for our students. It is going to be a great 2015-16 school year.

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## News from Human Resources

**Blood Borne Pathogen and Mandated Reporter Training:** The District is in the process of providing video based training for Blood Borne Pathogen and Mandated Reporter Training. This required annual training will occur during the month of September. All employees are expected to view and sign that they have seen the training videos.

**Art Contest:** Our Workers' Compensation Carrier creates an annual safety calendar that uses student artwork from schools that are part of the JPA. They are currently accepting submissions from students. The deadline for submissions is **September 30, 2015**. All submissions will be judged and the top 13 artworks will be displayed in this year's safety calendar. If a student's artwork is selected the student will receive:

- 1) A copy of the calendar
- 2) A class party
- 3) Another copy of the calendar will be given to the student's teacher to display in the classroom.

More information regarding the specifics of the contest will be email to each elementary school site.

**Paid Sick Leave Law:** California's new Paid Sick Leave Law allows employees who traditionally have not received sick leave (such as substitutes) to accrue and use sick leave. The state's new sick leave law takes effect January 1, 2015; however, the right to accrue and take sick leave under this law does not take effect until July 1, 2015.

- **Qualifications:** Employees qualify for paid sick leave by working for the District on or after January 1, 2015, for at least 30 days within a year in California and by satisfying a 90 day employment period (which works like a probationary period) before an employee can actually take any sick leave. Starting on July 1, 2015, employees will earn at least one hour of paid leave for every 30 hours worked. The District will provide up to a maximum of 24 hours (three days) for paid sick leave.
- **For what purposes can an employee take paid sick leave:** You can take paid leave for you or a family member for preventive care or care of an existing health condition or for specified purposes if you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Family members** include the employee's parent, child, spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild and sibling. **Preventive care** would include annual physicals or flu shots. **For partial days**, your employer can require you to take at least two hours of leave. Otherwise, the determination of how much time is needed is left to the employee.

- **Do I have to give notice that I need to take my paid leave:** Employers must permit the employee to use the paid sick leave upon an oral or written request, and the law forbids requiring an employee to find a replacement as a condition for using leave. If the need is foreseeable, the employee must give reasonable advance notice, but where the need isn't unforeseeable the employee need only give notice as soon as practicable.

The District is in the process of sorting out the specifics of the law and will be informing staff of their eligibility.

**TB Clearance:** Employees who work in a school environment must have TB screening upon their initial employment and every four (4) years thereafter. Testing in the past has allowed for two options:

- 1) An initial skin test which requires the employee to return to the healthcare provider in three days to have the skin test read.
- 2) A chest X-ray.

New legislation has allowed for a third option. Education Code Section 49406, as amended, requires all employees of school districts, CERTIFICATED and CLASSIFIED, to undergo a TB examination.

- 3) This legislation now allows employees an opportunity to take a **TB risk assessment questionnaire** which will be administered by our Registered Nursing staff. If the responses to the questionnaire supports that the employee does not represent a risk of TB then the requirement of testing has been met.

In lieu of the Assessment Questionnaire, a TB skin test (intradermal) is still acceptable for the requirement, except that an X-ray must follow if the skin test result is positive.

The District intends to continue to offer employees a chest X-ray to meet the TB requirement. The X-ray van will be available only once a year and details specifying availability will be announced in the future.

Classified employees will still receive a courtesy reminder approximately one month prior to the expiration of their TB clearance. This reminder will now include the option for the Assessment and will advise employees to contact the Classified Human Resources office at 891-3000 x132 to schedule an appointment.

**Job Opportunities:** We continue to fill open positions and expect further openings in the near future. Recruitments for classified positions will continue to be posted over the upcoming holiday period. So if you are interested in additional hours or adding a new position, please check our website. Job Site Transfer/Seniority notices from the District will be mailed to the home of employees for classifications in which the employee currently holds a regular position.

However, if you are interested in a position in a classification to which you are not currently assigned, you will need to make sure that you consistently check our web page at: <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Human-Resources/Classified-Non-Teaching/index.html> for job opportunities. This link will take you to the Classified (Non-Teaching) web page that shows our current "Internal Notices" and will link you to open and promotional recruitments. The two easiest locations to find information about current recruitments are on the link above or through Edjoin.org. Be sure to check the websites on a weekly basis to ensure that you do not miss an opportunity. The following are job listings which can be found on Chico Unified School District website: <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Human-Resources/Classified-Non-Teaching/index.html>

**Internal Openings:** Internal openings are only open to current CUSD permanent classified employees. If you are a current CUSD permanent classified employee and are interested in any internal openings, please submit a Letter of Interest form. *If you do not currently hold a permanent classified position with CUSD you are not eligible to submit a letter of interest. See:* <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Human-Resources/Classified-Non-Teaching/index.html>

## News from Our Schools

### Letter from a CHS Parent to Thank CHS Staff and Students!



*What an amazing day it was at Chico High!*

*My daughter is a student in Angela Harrick's SH class at Chico High. Angela and her staff nominated my daughter as an honorary member of the 2015 Homecoming court. Today was the rally and her older sister and I were able to attend. Her inclusion into her community has always been a huge part of our family's focus. What happened at the rally today was truly amazing and brought our dreams for her to life.*

*As she and her partner were brought out on the chariot the students and staff at Chico High stood up and cheered like I have never heard before. It was absolutely jaw dropping. The feeling in the room was electric. As you can see in the picture that I have attached, my daughter was beaming. She is unable to communicate her emotions but I am pretty sure her expression says it all. Our eyes were filled with tears and we were beaming with pride. I was proud of my daughter for being brave and enjoying the moment. And, most of all, I was proud of the outpouring of support by the Chico High community.*

*I would like to express a very heartfelt thank you to Abe Simmons and all of the students in Student Government for accepting her as one of them and making her feel like she belongs. You will never truly know how much that means to our family. We are forever grateful.*

*The entire Chico Unified family should be proud of what happened at Chico High today.*

*Sincerely, Maria Sarye*

**News from a Previous Student:** **Laura Dietle**, PVHS Teacher just received the below email from a former student, Savanna LaPant. ACE-LIFE is a team and she wanted to let us know we are appreciated... plus, she is so proud of Savanna....

*Hello Mrs. Dietle, - This is Savanna LaPant. I was in your careers with kids class three years ago now. I am emailing you to thank you. I got a Vet Internship today and it was all because of your portfolio that we made in my careers with kids class. They loved the way my resume was set up, and they usually don't take college freshman, but because of my professional manner and my excellent resume and recommendation letters (do to your class) I got the internship. I just wanted to say how much I appreciated your help and all the activities we did in that class. It has helped me in so many ways, and I know it will continue to help me in the future. Thank you! Savanna LaPant*

**PVHS Teachers Flash Mob:** What an amazing moment. Thanks to so many amazing PVHS teachers for stepping out of their comfort zone to create a priceless memory for PVHS students. Special thanks to PV House of BLUE student's: **Cameron Farrell**, **Cameron Sannar**, **Nate Hopkins**, and **Theo Aull** for volunteering all day to film and edit this video! To see the video, click here: <https://youtu.be/nn1VToNI8fw>

### Lizzie Sider at MJHS



**Lizzie Sider** brought her Nashville Band to Marsh Junior High School to perform a concert on September 18, 2015. Lizzie Sider has been on her National Bully Prevention Tour going to more than 350 schools throughout every corner of Texas, California and Florida, as well as throughout New York City, greater Washington DC, Nashville, TN, and Phoenix, AZ, and performing for over 150,000 students. Lizzie is proud to be a spokesperson for organizations such as PACER Teens Against Bullying, GWEN (Global Women's Empowerment Network) and Hatebrakers.org.



### Exciting New "Hub" Furniture Installed at Bidwell Jr. High:





### Loma Vista Receives Donation from Laura's Literacy Project:



**Marvin Davidson** and his two sons created Laura's Literacy Project as a legacy to his late wife **Laura Dearden**, an educator/administrator in the Paradise School District for 30+ years. This September, Marv made a donation of \$2,000 to Loma Vista. Through this donation Loma Vista was able to purchase the following: a listening center, a Locking mobile teaching cabinet, 8 sets of headphones, a Junction box, and a Portable CD player

All of these items will provide Loma Vista students with the opportunity to learn to read in an environment that is suitable to their learning abilities. All of these monies have been provided through donations from various members of our current and surrounding communities. If you would like to donate, please go to Laura's Literacy Project via Facebook and make your donation.

**Los Tambores de Chapman** performed at the Chico World Music Festival, on Saturday, September 12. Student drummers from Chapman were lead by Teachers **Kathy Naas**, **Jena Rivera**, **Meagan Callahan**, **Weston Crumm**, and our main support, **Lansana Kouyate**. We are very proud of them!



**Also At Chapman:** Thank you to **Terri Crawford** who puts flags out every year on or near September 11 and **Kathy Hill** who puts up the message on the marquis.



**Above and Beyond:** New Principal **Holly McLaughlin** was very impressed with the actions of one of Parkview's teachers, **Phil Swingle**. Just before school started, Phil used Google maps, plotted out a travel map, and then went to the homes of all of his students to personally deliver his back to school letter! Most families were not at home, but he was able to connect with many of them. No wonder she was impressed!

## News from Our Community

**Laura's Literacy Project:** Numerous schools in CUSD have benefited from generous donations of books via Laura's Literacy Project. Most recently Loma Vista, Chapman and Citrus were awarded donations to expand the collection of books in their classrooms and libraries. Laura Dearden-Davidson was an educator in Paradise for 37 years, and passed away in July of 2014. She was widely known throughout the education world in Butte County. Laura's commitment to education in general, and reading and literacy in particular, was the catalyst that propelled her husband, Marvin Davidson, to start her foundation, Laura's Literacy Project. The project has raised \$50,000 to date which supports literacy in the classroom.

On September 17, Laura's Birthday, local school personnel and community members celebrated Laura's Literacy Project - *Little School Houses* - with a formal ribbon cutting. This event was attended by many educators from Paradise and Chico in addition to many community, Chico City Council, Rotary and Chico Chamber of Commerce members. It was held on the lawn in front of Citrus school with numerous students in attendance and the Chico High School band. It was a day of celebration and promises to support Laura's vision of literacy for all well into the future.



**Arts for All** is a non-profit boosters group dedicated to keeping Arts education alive and well for all CUSD students. Our purpose is to raise awareness and funding to support CUSD visual and performing arts education. Since their 2010 inception Arts for All provided 123 grants to teachers in seventeen different schools involving more than 9,000 students, funding musical instruments, a Chair as Canvas project, theater productions, student poetry books, fine art, ceramic and woven art materials, the Chapman School Mosaic Mural project, and much more. To apply, please return your application to [kurnizki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurnizki@sbcglobal.net)

**Support Arts Education for All Students in Butte County:** The Butte County Office of Education's Arts Education Foundation is participating in the North Valley Community Foundation's annual Annie B's Community Fundraising Drive through the end of September 30, 2015. The BCOE Arts Education Foundation's mission is to bring about a renaissance in arts education at schools throughout Butte County after years of federal and state budget cuts. It's a matter of access and equity. While some students are

fortunate to partake in private arts education lessons outside of school, many of our neediest students go without. We need your support for this ambitious effort. One-hundred percent of the monies raised by our BCOE Arts Education Foundation through Annie B's Community drive will go to Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs and activities in Butte County that maximize academic achievement and educational enrichment for all students. In addition, the North Valley Community Foundation will match a portion of all funds raised by our BCOE Arts Education Foundation, making YOUR donation go further! Participation is simple. You can find out more and make a tax deductible donation online by September 30th at this web address: <http://drive.anniebs.org/cause/bcoe-arts-education-foundation/>

OR

**Make your check** payable to NVCF Annie B's/BCOE Arts Ed and send to:  
BCOE VAPA Programs & Partnerships  
Attn: Nancy Silva  
5 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965

**THANK YOU Mix95.1, the Chico Mall, JC Penney, and Carl's Jr.!!!:** For the last couple of years, these businesses have been holding a school supply drive for the benefit of our CUSD families. Below is a picture of our elementary principals with their new school supplies



**College and Career Night:** The CUSD College and Career night was held on Tuesday, September 15 at Chico High School in the Lincoln Center. Thank you to **Leslie Keller**, Senior Library Media Assistant, for her coordination of this event. Also a huge thank you to all of the presenters that shared information with our students and parents. Presenters included:

- UC Santa Cruz
- UC San Diego
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- Chico State
- Butte College
- Feather River College
- University of San Francisco
- Sacramento State
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States Army

## CUSD in the News

Chico school board raises substitutes' salaries

**Chico school** board adopts balanced 2015 budget

**Chico** junior high **schools** get makeover before new **school** year

Construction of multipurpose building underway at Marsh Junior High **School**

Ability First Sports Camp celebrates 30 years

Summer months means hungrier kids

Inspire **School** of Arts and Sciences names new principal

CARD will explore pool center but still talking about Shapiro

Chico school district, teachers association entering interest-based training to improve relations

Editorial: Chico schools should embrace new bargaining strategy

Esplanade study elicits community response in first public workshop

Butte County **school** districts weighing new test results

David Little: Phony complainers for a phantom problem

**Chico school** board inches toward new bond measure

**Chico school district** begins planning for sixth-grade move to junior high **schools**

<http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20150917/literacy-project-named-for-paradise-educator-kicks-off-in-chico>

Athletic fields top list of Chico Unified spending recommendation

Expert says not much hope for Shapiro Pool

### **CUSD is making national/international news:**

Repower Our **Schools**: North Carolina movement for 100% renewable energy in education

Eco Child's Play

Ruckus Wireless, Brocade deliver Gigabit-class Smart Wi-Fi to U.S. **schools**

Networks Asia

Technology Stocks News Buzz - Ruckus Wireless Inc (RKUS), Yandex NV (YNDX), Wipro Limited ...

Ruckus Wireless, Brocade deliver Wi-Fi to new US **schools**

Telecompaper (subscription)

Ruckus, Brocade supporting **schools** with 'smart Wi-Fi'

iTWire



August 26, 2015

Dear Superintendent Kelly Staley,

## CALPADS Data Management Recognition

We are pleased to inform you your local educational agency has qualified for the 2014-15 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Data Management Recognition. Congratulations and thank you for your support for the submission and maintenance of high-quality data! Your certificate accompanies this letter. Please extend our congratulations to all those involved in CALPADS submissions, including site and district administrators and staff who work with your student data. In addition to the certificate, your LEA will be recognized on the CALPADS Data Management Recognition webpage at <http://fcmat.org/Pages/Data-Submission-Recognition-Program.aspx>.

As you are aware, data from CALPADS are used for many significant purposes, including the Local Control Funding Formula, the test registration system for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, and the Accountability Progress Reporting system.

The local educational agency (LEA) staff working with CALPADS are integral to keeping CALPADS up-to-date with current, accurate data. Submission deadlines are established each year and LEAs that meet all submission deadlines assist the state in maintaining timely, high-quality data. The California Department of Education and the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team/California School Information Services (FCMAT/CSIS) have established the CALPADS Data Management Recognition Program to formally commend LEAs that have met all CALPADS deadlines in a given year. The CALPADS Data Management Recognition for 2014-15 is being awarded to LEAs that completed the following CALPADS Data Submissions by the deadline listed below:

- *December 19, 2014 – Fall 1*
- *March 10, 2015 – Fall 2*
- *July 31 2015 – EOY1\*, EOY 2, EOY 3 & EOY 4 \**  
*\* (only required if LEA has grades 10-12)*

We look forward to continuing to work with your staff as CALPADS data are used in an increasing number of critical data functions.

Sincerely,

  
Cindy Kazanis

Director

Educational Data Management Division  
California Department of Education

  
Nancy Sullivan

Chief Operations Officer

FCMAT/California School Information Services



California Department of  
EDUCATION

California Department of Education  
**CALPADS**  
California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System



# Data Management Recognition

*Presented to*

**Chico Unified**

Awarded to Local Education Agencies that met the initial CALPADS certification deadline for all six data collections (Fall 1, Fall 2, EOY1, EOY2, EOY3, & EOY4), resolved anomalies to achieve an anomaly rate of less than 2% of enrollment, and maintained quality data in the local SIS as well as in CALPADS.

*Cindy Kazanis*

Cindy Kazanis  
Director  
Educational Data Management Division  
California Department of Education



*Nancy J. Sullivan*

Nancy Sullivan  
Chief Operations Officer  
FCMAT/California School Information Services

Butte Glenn Career Pathways Consortium Expansion  
2015 - 2016

[View this email in your browser](#)

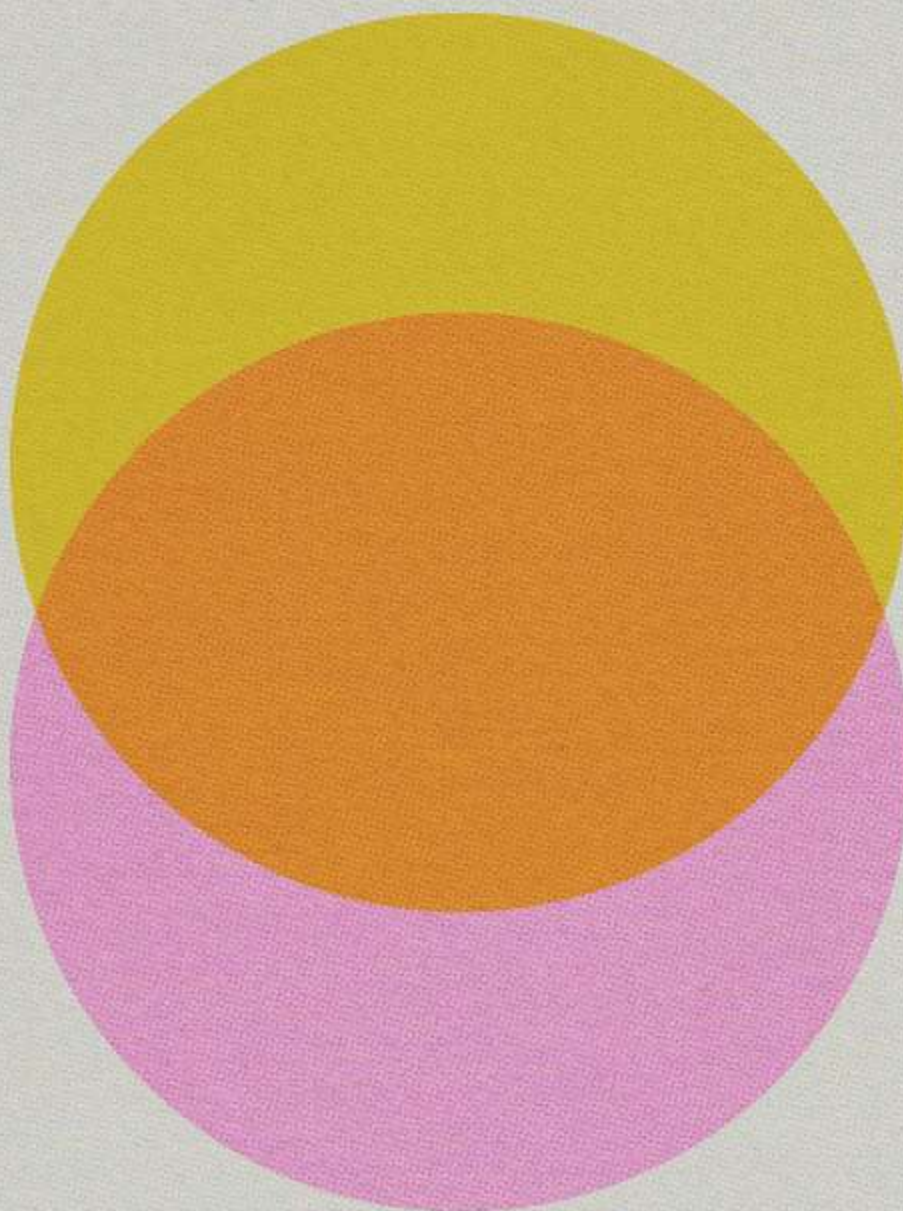
NOTE: Please enable your browser's ability to view images to **enjoy photos** of your **wonderful regional colleagues** "in the field."

# BGCPC-X

## *Pathfinder* Newsletter

**Celebrating Teacher  
Success** with Career  
Pathway Curriculum  
Integration in Butte and  
Glenn Counties

**Issue Number One /  
Volume One**



## Welcome!

The BGPCPC-X *Pathfinder* Newsletter wishes to **recognize and thank Butte / Glenn educators** for undertaking perhaps the **world's most important work**: Preparing our next generation of young adults for meaningful participation in the **global economy of the 21st Century**. Thanks for all you do!

## Celebrating Teacher Excellence

Twice a month it is our privilege to **highlight the excellence of instruction in Butte and Glenn counties**, by focusing on one or two of your **regional colleague's successful efforts** to make highly engaging problem-based, **integrated curriculum** within **career pathways** a reality on campus. Watch our "Teacher Feature" section of this newsletter.

If you'd like to **celebrate a colleague's excellence**, feel free to recommend her or him as a candidate for interview with *Pathways*. Simply reply to this message. Thanks!



## Teacher Feature: Michael Peck

*Pathways* caught up with Pleasant Valley High School teacher **Michael Peck** in Chico last Friday...

### Outside of the classroom, what do you do for fun?

I really enjoy many of the same things I teach my students outside of the classroom as well. Much of my "free time" is spent shooting photography, filming, and editing. I also love taking my wife and kids on amazing adventures as much as possible. This summer we enjoyed adventures in Santa Cruz, Fort Bragg, Portland & Hood River Oregon, and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean. We love experiencing the outdoors and traveling to different locations throughout the world. I am also a "vinyl head" who enjoys shopping for, collecting, and listening to various genres and styles of music on my turntables at home.



**Our BGPCPC-X Grant asks trios (two core academic teachers and one CTE teacher) to collaborate to produce two integrated lessons per semester. Is this a reasonable goal? How can we help you meet it?**

I think this should be pretty reasonable to think that a CTE teacher and a core academic teacher should be able to collaborate this year. I think if people start small, maybe with two teachers they will find it may develop into additional opportunities to collaborate and bring in more people who will get excited about this whole collaborative concept.



Among his many endeavors, Michael Peck hosts the student-driven project based learning lab "House of Blue" at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico.

Video cameras, microphones, a "green screen," and state-of-the-art audio and video editing equipment invite kids to practice hands on, real world media production.

**Can you tell me about one simple way in which integrated curriculum might enhance student learning?**

Integrated curriculum is amazing because it will show students a real world context of what they are learning in both their CTE and academic courses. It will also let students know that more than one teacher knows that the material is important and relevant which may create more buy in for students. And once things really start to develop students will experience education in such a cool new way that they will forget they are actually learning as they experience lessons or units that expand far beyond the classroom.

**What's "in it for you?" Why might teachers actually *want* to make time in their incredibly busy schedules to ease into the process of making problem-based, integrated curriculum a reality on campus?**

When academic teachers get a taste for what's happening in some of these CTE courses or pathways they are going to be blown away. They might see an "average" student they have in class become a leader and expert in another area. Students in CTE generally understand and come to really appreciate the skills they acquire and hands on working environments in CTE courses.

Also an opportunity for passionate teachers to actually work together on lessons and projects that they choose and believe in. I teach in the Media, Arts, & Entertainment area of CTE and I cannot wait to work with Christina Fisher who is an energetic and dedicated English teacher at PV. We are going to give our students a little taste of this "new" way of learning is all about this year. Stay tuned for more...

Butte Glenn Career Pathways Consortium Expansion 2015 / 2016

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# Chico Unified School District Facilities Master Plan Projects

## *Bidwell Junior High Modernization*

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On September 2, 2015 the Facilities & Construction Department hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bidwell Junior High School Modernization project. This event celebrated the official opening of the newly renovated Administration Offices, Library, Multipurpose Room and Gymnasium. CUSD Board of Education President, Elizabeth Griffin, Superintendent, Kelly Stalely and Bidwell Jr. Principal, Judi Roth cut the ribbon and invited the public in for a tour of the newly modernized facilities.



## *Marsh Jr. Multipurpose Building*

The new multipurpose building at Marsh Jr. High is moving right along. The building foundation has been poured and structural steel deliveries have begun. We are scheduled to commence erection on Monday September 21, 2015. Students and staff will soon have the opportunity to sign one of the structural beams that will be memorialized in the building forever.. To view up-to-date progress on this project visit: <http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Facilities--Construction/Marsh-Construction-CAM/index.html>



## *New Science Buildings at Chico Jr. and Marsh Jr. High*



Construction of the new science classroom building at Marsh Jr. High is well under way. Underground utilities and foundation work is currently in progress. The plans for the new science classroom building at Chico Jr. High have been approved by the Division of the State Architect. This project is scheduled to break ground in early October.

### Facilities Master Plan Phase I & Phase II Construction Budgets & Funding Sources

PROJECT	CONSTRUCTION BUDGETS	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>Phase I</b>		
Safety & Security	\$2,350,000	Measure E
ADA	\$1,500,000	Measure E and Redevelopment
Technology Phase 1	\$2,458,416	Measure E
<b>Phase II</b>		
Marsh Jr. High MPR	\$6,800,000	State Facilities Funds
Marsh Jr. Science Building	\$4,000,000	Developer Fees
Chico Jr. Mod. & Science	\$6,400,000	Developer Fees
Bidwell Jr. Modernization	\$4,200,000	Measure E
Technology Phase 2	\$1,219,250	Measure E

## *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Upgrades at Citrus & Emma Wilson*



The ADA Barrier Removal project at Citrus Elementary School has been completed. The project replaced the ADA ramp, repaired the old stairs, replaced the surrounding flatwork, refinished the landing and added thresholds to the front entry to the school.

Emma Wilson Elementary School also had Barrier Removal work done over the summer. Several walkways were leveled and two old drinking fountains replaced with new bi-level fountains that feature water bottle fillers. The students now have cool, accessible water to drink near the play areas.

### *Safety and Security Project: Window Coverings*

As part of the District's safety and security plan, classrooms and indoor common areas in need of window coverings will receive blinds or curtains. These window covering are to be used in the event of Code Red Emergency.

Loma Vista, Marigold, Emma Wilson, McManus, Fair View, Inspire and the J&K building at Chico High School have all received window coverings in the first phase of work. The next phase of schools scheduled for

new window coverings are Shasta, Sierra View, Little Chico Creek, Citrus, Hooker Oak, Parkview, Neal Dow and Rosedale. Phase 3 will include all Junior High school and High school projects

### *Cabling Infrastructure Projects*

Over the summer Chico Jr. High received a complete upgrade of cabling and network electronics throughout the campus. Wireless access points were installed in every other classroom, plus four outdoor locations covering the pool, P.E. field, loading zones and parking lots. New phone system cabling for classrooms and offices was installed along

with cabling locations for twenty-five future security cameras.

Marsh Jr. High is also in the process of a complete upgrade of cabling and network electronics throughout the campus. Wireless access points will be installed in every other classroom, plus six outdoor locations covering the P.E. fields, loading zones and parking lots.

## *New Solar Shade Structures*



Sierra View Elementary

During summer break, solar shade structures were constructed at Bidwell Jr. High, Emma Wilson, Neal Dow, Rosedale and Sierra View. These systems were constructed on the edge of the playgrounds in order to provide shade for our students.

These projects were funded with Proposition 39 Clean Energy Jobs and a zero interest loan from the California Energy Commission. To view the energy consumption and production at each school site visit:

<http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Facilities--Construction/Phase-1-Solar-Power/index.html>

## *Owl Boxes*



Fair View High School students in Matt McGuire's ROP Building and Construction class are building owl boxes for school campuses. These owl boxes will encourage owls to nest in areas where school sites are experiencing gopher holes in their playfields. These gopher holes can cause serious risk of injuries to students.

Owls are natural predators of gophers. The building of these owl boxes are a part of the District's safety & security plan. The students involved in the construction of the owl boxes are Ryan Chapman, Michael Dominguez, Bladi Figueroa Martin Lopez, Brandon Maes, Jarred McCarty, Jace McMillan, Dillon Pearson, Tony Roulett, Daniel Williams and Gabe Valdez.



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We are on the Web:

<http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Facilities--Construction/index.html>



Find us on Facebook

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Through Arts for All, Mini-Grants are available for CUSD **visual and performing arts projects.**

You must fill out the attached application to access these funds. Funds can be used for materials, projects or student activities. All proposals will be judged by the Arts for All Grants Committee Board. The Arts for All Board will oversee the administration of each funded project.

- **A report (either written or verbal) of your progress on each funded project is due one month after granting to the Arts for All board.**
- **A final written report, including digital photographs of the project/activity, summarizing what has been accomplished will be due one month following the conclusion of your project.**

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A MINI-GRANT?

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Any teacher in CUSD.

## FOR WHAT CAN MINI-GRANT FUNDS BE USED?

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Priority will be given to applications that have a permanent, on-going value or use. The Board will also consider one-time projects that have an impact on a significant number of students.

## HOW MUCH MONEY IS AVAILABLE FOR A MINI-GRANT?

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Mini-Grants will be offered each semester for projects which can be completed during that semester, based upon available funds. Funding of this nature is competitive since there is a limited amount of funding available at any time. In the future, we hope to have greater funds available, but for this current round of funding please keep requests to **\$250.00 or less.**

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A MINI-GRANT?

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1. Fill out an application (see below).
2. **Submit completed application ELECTRONICALLY For Fall of 2015, submit by September 21, 2015 For Spring 2015, submit January 29<sup>st</sup>.**
3. Arts for All Grant Committee Board Members read and rank the applications and make recommendations to the full Arts for All Booster group the month following the submission deadline.
4. Applicants are notified, in writing, by the Board of the status of their application the month following the submission deadline.
5. The recipient must give a report (either written or verbal) within one month following the granting of the award to the Arts for All Board outlining your progress.
6. Funding will come from the Arts for All North Valley Community Foundation account as a check payable either to the grant recipient, to third-party vendor(s), or as reimbursement with original receipts submitted with approval by the Arts for All board to NVCF/Arts for All.

APPLICANT  
NAME:

NAME AND  
ADDRESS OF  
SCHOOL SITE:

WORK PHONE:

PERSONAL  
PHONE:

EMAIL:

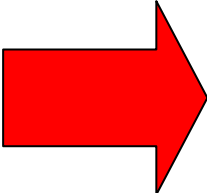
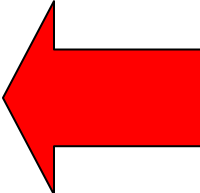
DATE:

## Project Proposal

<p><b>1. As briefly as possible, describe your plan or project idea.</b> <i>How many students will directly benefit? How will your project benefit your students' arts education and the arts? What will you do? Where? With whom? When? And why?</i></p>	
<p><b>2. Describe the specific need or issue that your project will address.</b> <i>Please include a list of those who will benefit from this project.</i></p>	<p><i>The current situation is this:</i></p>
<p><b>3. What specific changes or outcomes do you intend to achieve as a result of your project?</b></p>	<p><i>We intend to achieve the following specific outcomes:</i></p>
<p><b>4. What are the major steps you will need to take to make your project happen?</b> <i>Please include a timeline...</i></p>	

Continued on next page.

<p><b>5. What resources will you need to accomplish these steps? Please submit a budget with 1–2 sentence narrative describing rationale behind your cost estimates.</b> <i>People, equipment, materials, training, supplies, services, etc.</i></p>	
<p><b>6. Approximate total cost:</b> <b>Funding from other sources:</b> <b>Grant size requested:</b></p>	<p>\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____</p>
<p><b>7. Who else in the community has a vested interest in working with you as partners on this project?</b></p>	
<p><b>8. What information, tools, data, etc. will you use to decide whether your project succeeded?</b></p>	
<p><b>9. Is there an opportunity with your project to generate recognition and membership in Arts for All? If so, how?</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Any other comments or considerations to support your project?</b></p>	


 Please answer the questions above and  
**email the application to:**  
**Kim Kurnizki, Arts for All Grants Committee Chair, at:**  
**[kurnizki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurnizki@sbcglobal.net)**


**REMINDER:**

- **A report (either written or verbal) of your progress on each funded project is due one month after granting to the Arts for All board.**
- **Please submit digital photographs whenever possible. Digital photographs of your funded project will help Arts for All missions of advocacy and fundraising.**
- **A final written report summarizing what has been accomplished will be due one month following the conclusion of your project.**



# MOM'S READING REWARDS INCENTIVES

**Hey Principals! Want to win that \$500 cash prize at the end of the year?  
Want some fun ideas to get families to bring their bookmarks into Mom's?**

**We've brainstormed some easy, low-cost ways to improve your numbers.**

Hand it over to your PTO! They can provide the manpower to implement some of these ideas. You can call or email me each month and I will tell you which students have redeemed bookmarks that month. Then, hold a monthly drawing for students who qualify. Here are some fun incentives to help motivate them:

➤ Smaller incentives:



Make a schoolwide announcement (PA system, newsletter) recognizing outstanding readers

**PLUS one of these:**



**Lunchtime Front of the Line Pass for them + one friend for one week**

Special lunch with the principal or their teacher



Special cupcake or other treat at lunchtime



Free homework pass

"Balloon Pop" prize board, where students can pop a balloon to get a small prize inside.  
(Fill with homework pass, line pass, extra free time, etc.)

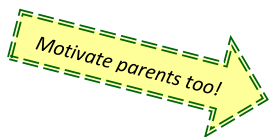


➤ Larger incentives:



Display a large "Reading Wall of Fame" in library or hallway, where students and parents can see pictures of students redeeming bookmarks on the wall.

Hold a drawing at the end of the month/trimester/semester for larger prizes:



**Reserved parking spot for the month/trimester/semester/year**

Principal for a day



Privileged spot - comfy chair with the sign "RESERVED for Sarah" and their photo, in the library for a whole month/trimester/semester



Movie & popcorn party to the class with the most bookmarks at the end of the year

These programs may take a little time to gain momentum, but have the potential to earn cash for your school!

Let families know that they'll get multiple entries for multiple qualifiers!