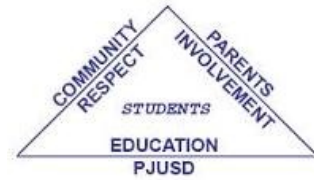


# WHAT'S GOOD! AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

February 2017

## Class of 1976 Donates to PHS

On October 15, the 1976 graduating class of Pierce High School held its 40 year class reunion. Prior to the evening event, arrangements were made for alumni to tour the high school. Superintendent, Carol Geyer, facilitated the tour throughout the campus. Participants shared memories and stories of their years at PHS while walking among the campus. Once the reunion committee had paid all of their expenses from the event, they still had leftover funds in their account. This committee graciously donated the extra money to the high school to use. Money from this donation was used to replace the four front glass windows of the main building entrance doors with etchings of the Pierce Bear. Installation was completed in December.



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## Measure B Passes

Voters in the Pierce Joint Unified School District passed Measure B in the November election. Measure B allows the school district to issue bonds to fund facility projects within the district. Prior to the school board passing a resolution to have a bond measure on the ballot, much planning had gone into the facility needs of the district. This planning began with an in-depth analysis of facility needs at each site based on enrollment at each of the schools, anticipated growth, age of buildings, functionality of buildings, in addition to other factors. A District Facilities Committee has been meeting regularly over the past 2 ½ years discussing needs and projects. One specific project that the district anticipates starting soon is the construction of a new multi-purpose room/central kitchen at the high school. The architectural drawings have been submitted to the Department of State Architects for approval. Once approved, the district will begin moving forward with the actual construction of the project. A second project slated to begin this summer includes the expansion of classroom space at Johnson Jr. High School in two of the classroom wings which will increase classroom space in 6 rooms. This expansion is made possible by the elimination of pie-shaped computer labs between classrooms. These labs are no longer necessary beings now all classrooms are equipped with wireless access for Chromebooks. More projects have been identified in the Facility Needs Assessment, and the committee, which includes the school board, will be working on prioritizing these projects.

### "Students First"



#### Pierce Joint Unified School District

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## SCIENCE CLASSES AT JJH

At its January meeting, the Pierce Board of Trustees were informed about the science program at the middle school. Science teachers Amy Hannon-Korynta, Mary Reilly, and Danielle Schaad each took a turn explaining their programs in grades 6-8. They informed the board of how they are using the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as their teaching guide which is different from the previous approach of teaching science where one grade level focused solely on physical science or life science or earth science, etc. With NGSS the teaching of science is integrated at each grade level so that students get instruction in all science areas versus just one for the year. These teachers have worked collaboratively to determine what concepts and units are done at which grade levels. Mrs. Hannon-Korynta brought samples of the curriculum and explained how they use the consumable texts from year to year with the students. Ms. Reilly had an example of a final project from one of her recent classroom labs on density. Mrs. Schaad shared about the curriculum that is now being used with 6<sup>th</sup> graders prior to them going to their week-long science camp at Shady Creek. She emphasized that all of the lessons offered to the students at Shady Creek are all aligned to NGSS. All three teachers are pleased with the curriculum and want to participate in professional development to continue to deliver the best science lessons and experiences for students. Mr. Thornton who is new to teaching sixth grade this year came as support to the other science teachers.



Science Teachers at JJH  
Dani Schaad: 6th Grade, Mary Reilly: 8th Grade,  
Amy Hannon-Korynta: 7th Grade

## First Grade Performs at Arbuckle Elementary



Families gathered on January 25 in the evening at Arbuckle Elementary School to enjoy a singing performance by the entire group of first grade students. Students in the four first grade classrooms of Mrs. Jansen, Mrs. Corona, Mrs. Mingarelli, and Ms. Alvernaz entered the room and completely filled the risers on the stage. All of the songs that they sang had hand and body movements to go along with the music. Parents and grandparents were proud to see their children. Following the singing portion of the Family Night, students each joined their families in the audience and spent time reading books together. The event was capped off with a drawing of a free book for one student in each of the four classrooms.

## 3D Printing at Johnson Junior High School

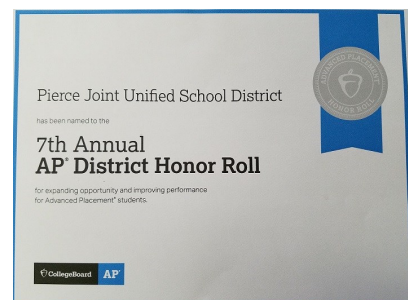
Exciting things are happening at Lloyd G. Johnson Junior High School. There is now a 3D printing class being offered during 7th period. Students work through a website called tinkercad.com and create 3 dimensional objects. They are sent to the newly purchased 3D printer and then “printed out”. It is a great opportunity for the students to learn about design and production of objects. It is also a great opportunity for the students to practice their problem-solving skills. Eventually the students will be put into small groups. They will be given a problem and asked to design a solution. They will be required to work together and agree on what will actually help solve the problem. They will then submit their designs to be printed and then we will see if it is indeed a solution. So far this semester the students have created 3-Dimensional nameplates as well as cylindrical boxes with lids that fit tightly.

In addition to the 3D Design class, students are also able to take a class on basic computer applications. It is paired with the College and Career Exploration class. Half of the 7th & 8th grade students have the computer class this semester while the other half has the Career Exploration class. This class shows the students how to use the computer as a tool for learning, rather than just a “game playing device”. We will be exploring the Google Applications for Education Suite. We will be looking at issues like Online Safety, word processing, spreadsheet creation, etc. Also integrated into this class will be lessons from Learning.com, an online computer assistance site.



## PJUSD Honored for Increasing Access to AP Classes

The Pierce School District is one of twenty-two school districts in California that were recently named to the AP District Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes school districts across the U.S. and Canada for increasing AP access to students, while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning AP exam scores of 3 or higher. Inclusion on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2014-16.



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# CELEBRATING STAFF

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The Pierce Joint Unified School District celebrates new staff each year at their Annual Back to School Breakfast. We welcome the employees below who have been hired during the school year.



**Mary Grimmer: Library Clerk—  
Arbuckle Elementary/Johnson  
Junior High**



**Jasmin Duarte: After School  
Program Site Lead—  
Grand Island Elementary**



**Pamela Kalisuch: Social  
Science Teacher—  
Johnson Junior High**



**Bill Taylor: Utility  
Technician/Bus Driver—  
Districtwide**



**Scot Donaldson:  
District Mechanic**



**Kate Kellogg: After School  
Program Site Lead—  
Johnson Junior High**



**Maria Mendiola: Special  
Education Teacher—  
Pierce High School**

