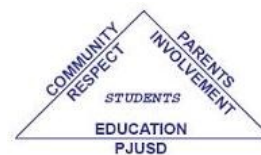


WHAT'S GOOD!

AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

August 2017

Construction at PJUSD

Main Gym Floor Gets Refurbished at PHS

Pierce High School's main gym floor was completely redone over the summer. Beginning in early June, a crew came in and completely sanded the gym floor down to the bare wood. Wood stain and paint was then applied to create the basketball and volleyball courts. A giant Pierce Bear head encompasses the center jump circle. In the spring, a committee made up of coaches, teachers, board members, staff and community members met to make decisions regarding the color scheme and design elements of the floor. We invite everyone to come out and support the Pierce volleyball team and see the beautiful upgrade.



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"Students First"



2017/18 Enrollment

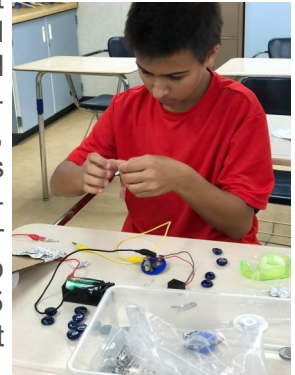
Arbuckle Elementary:	612
Grand Island Elementary:	55
Lloyd G. Johnson Jr. High:	360
Pierce High:	436
Arbuckle Alternative High:	10
TOTAL ENROLLMENT:	1473

Renovation of Classrooms at Middle School

Over the course of the summer, computer labs that were wedged in-between 3 classrooms were removed to make room for more classroom square footage. The district has moved to having completely wireless devices which made it possible to eliminate this lab space. Veteran teacher Danielle Schaad was asked about the renovation and had the following to say, "The expanding of our sixth grade rooms has given us many advantages. For instance, we can arrange the classroom for a wide variety of student needs, there is now room for collaboration of student groups, and more wall space to display student work. In addition, we can move the chrome book box out of the direct line of student chairs and desks bumping it. I too, hope to put a table in this area for small group work." The contractors for this project met the short timeline to get the project completed while students were on summer break. Teachers were patient in awaiting the project completion knowing it was going to have a positive outcome in the end. They were allowed into their classroom space just three days prior to the school year welcoming students.

~Summer School 2017~

Students from grades kindergarten through eighth grade took part in the Migrant Education Summer School STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Program. Migrant Education has worked with Pierce Joint Unified School District for the past five years to keep these programs going. The curriculum used focuses on specific themes like bridge building, vertical gardens, animal prosthetics, wind generators and electronic circuits. The teachers get to keep the curriculum to use in their classroom during the regular school year. High school students had the opportunity to earn credits to stay on track to graduate. There were 35 students in the program and all of them earning at least five credits or increasing their grade one letter grade.



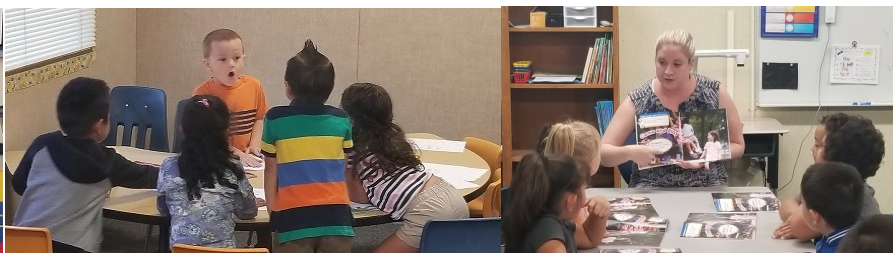
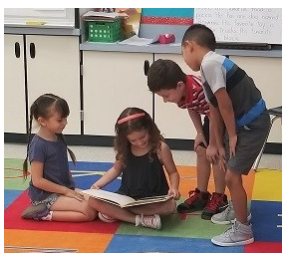
Full Day TK—Kindergarten Classes and Breakfast in the Classroom



There are lots of changes in Kindergarten at Arbuckle Elementary!

The first thing is serving breakfast to all kindergarteners in our classrooms. We are focusing on using good manners during this time. Many children are becoming more independent when it comes to opening up their milk and are showing more responsibility for cleaning up their garbage and left overs.

Another new change is a full day program. Students are here from 8:23-2:45. During the added time we are hoping to do more hands on activities and developmental play. We are looking forward to planning some fun science experiments with animals as well as observation of plants and how they grow. As with any age, we are excited about putting more art back in the classroom during our longer afternoons. The teachers and students are both getting used to their new schedules and look forward to another great year.



District Receives State Grant and Welcomes New Counselor

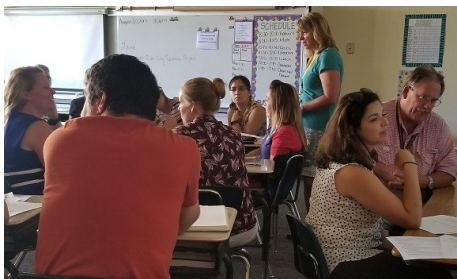
Pierce Joint Unified School District was one of 34 districts in the state to be awarded the Learning Communities for School Success Programs competitive grant that was awarded last May. The district will receive \$195,000 over the course of this three year grant. The intent of the grant is to increase student attendance. Pierce has hired an additional counselor to implement the grant with the focus on ensuring students attend school especially those students who have been identified as being chronically absent or truant. This counselor will also work closely with the site administrators in regards to providing students with alternatives to suspensions in order to work with students to change and modify their behavior versus being repeatedly suspended. An additional focus of the grant is to target and support incoming freshman who had failing grades as eighth graders. Laila Murhi is the newly hired counselor for this role. She works at all of the schools in the district to support the needs of the students.



Professional Development



JJH and PHS English teachers and Social Science teachers are taking part in a monthly book study with the book *Rigorous Reading: 5 Access Points for Comprehending Complex Texts* by Nancy Frey and Douglas Fisher. The last Wednesday of every month, during collaboration time, these teachers come together to discuss researched based strategies to help all students excel. Our goal is to provide students with the ability to read increasingly complex texts and to gain exposure to thoughtful reading instruction that provides access to these texts.



CELEBRATING STAFF AND STUDENTS

Years of Service Awards 2017



5 Years:

Angela Dorantes: District Fiscal Specialist; Molly Conrado: 4th Grade Teacher AES; Francisco Mendoza: Maintenance Technician; Cecil Felkins: Computer Teacher JJH; Ellen Hester: Math Teacher JJH; Erin Sweet: AG/Food Science Teacher PHS



10 Years:

Lynn Howard: English Teacher PHS; Jeanine Schaap: ALT School/Independent Study Teacher; Lisa Burnum: P.E. Teacher JJH/PHS; Rosa Prado Prado: Custodian AES; Jennifer Barham: 2nd Grade Teacher AES



15 Years:

Josefa Gutierrez: Custodian JJH; Linda Mendoza: After School Para Educator AES; Steve Saunders: 3rd Grade Teacher AES; Maria Estela Garcia: Cafeteria PHS; Chaz Franklin: Science Teacher PHS



20 Years:

Gary Teague: P.E. Teacher JJH

PHS Students Attend Summer Academies at Sacramento State

Pierce High School students once again had the opportunity to attend the Sacramento State Summer Academies during the summer of 2017. Several different courses were offered to students including Bio-Technology, Forensic Studies, and Law Enforcement, among others. Four of the participants attended a Board Meeting to share information about the academy they attended. Each of them thanked the Board members for offering this opportunity for them to be exposed to different careers and the college campus.



New Faces in the District



At AES/GI—
Jessica
Karlons: Para
Educator; Ana
Leal Cisneros:

Para Educator; Mary Grimmer: Library Clerk; Laila Murhi: Counselor; Juanita Topete: Para Educator; Jasmin Duarte: After School Program Site Lead



At PHS—
Michael Walker:
Music; Jennifer
Wilderman:
Social Studies/

English; Elizabeth Kitchen, Special Education; Sean Gallagher: History; Max Struble: English; Nicholas Green: English; Mary Ornbaun: Administrative Assistant



At JJH—Joey
Dorantes: Custodian/
Groundswoker/Bus
Driver; Justin
Valencia: Social

Studies; Nadia Chechi: 6th Grade; Delora Stephens: 6th Grade; Mary Grimmer: Library Clerk; Maria Mendiola: