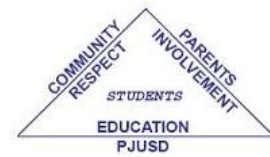


WHAT'S GOOD!

AT PJUSD

Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018



20th Annual FFA Field Day!



On Saturday, February 3rd, Arbuckle FFA chapter held its 20th annual field day. We welcomed nearly 2,000 students, advisors, and guests to compete in 18 different contests from agronomy to veterinary science and everything in between. Each contest was run by a Pierce High School student. The students have been working on the field day since August. On February 3, their hard work paid off when they were able to see the Twentieth Annual Arbuckle FFA Agricultural Technology Field Day in action. We had the California Secretary of Food and Agriculture, Karen Ross; California Director of Rural Development for the United States Department of Agriculture, Kim Vann; Deputy Secretary of Food and Agriculture, Kevin Masuhara; Senator Jim Neilson; and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry in attendance. We had received confirmation that the Chief of Staff for the Minority Leader of the Assembly, Brian Dahle, would be in attendance, but he contracted the flu. These guests went on a tour of the field day led by field day

co-chairmen, Carlyn Marsh and Anthony Labrecque, and were able to talk to students and advisors about agriculture education and the FFA Organization. We also had media coverage from the Appeal Democrat and Pioneer Review. The field day was concluded with an awards ceremony and with Carlyn and Anthony giving Ms. Rohde a keepsake box as an appreciation gift for her two decades of service. After the field day, Carlyn and Anthony gave an interview with the international radio station Rural Radio. Our field day was an incredible success, and we have so many people to thank. Because of all of our community members donating money, serving as judges, or cooking the food, we were able to put on yet another amazing event.

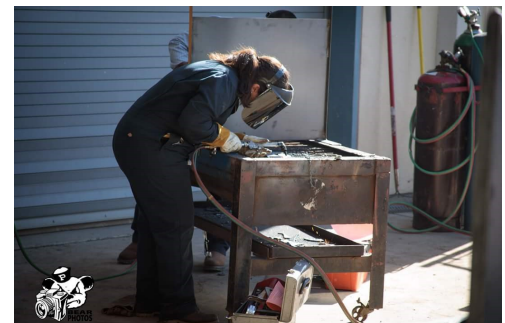


"Students First"



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Pierce High School—Multi-purpose Building Project



The Pierce High School's new multi-purpose building continues to take shape with the exterior lath & plaster materials being installed. On the interior of the building, major components for electrical, fire sprinkler and plumbing are being installed. On February 15, 2018, approximately 25 students toured the new multi-purpose building and were invited to be part of interior space planning process. The students were given opportunities to ask questions about the construction

and to learn of ways they support future food choices and final technology elements. Site staff will also be allowed to tour the facility in the near future and to help select furnishings. The High School kitchen staff are excitedly looking forward to being in a brand new kitchen. With a spacious and modern kitchen, they will be able to try out new food recipes, providing more appetizing menu selections for the students. The expected completion of this building is targeted for the end of May 2018. More information about facilities improvements can be found at <http://www.pierce.k12.ca.us/facilities/>.



JJH Takes advantage of New Computer Science Class With Amazing Results!



Computer Science is one of the highest paid and fastest growing job arenas in the US and the world. The skills of building computers, making apps and managing "the cloud" are in high demand and growing every day. Our 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Johnson Junior High are anxiously engaged in mastering these new skills!

JJH students were excited for the new opportunity through the after school program to build their own computer, learn how to hack programs and games like Minecraft, and even make and share their own apps. Each student received a Raspberry Pi processor and built their own laptop computer around it designed for trial-and-error learning by the Kano

Computer company in the UK. In just a few weeks they have already begun to hack the popular game Minecraft, changing it to work in some new and imaginative ways as well as programming their computers to not just make sounds, but manually synthesized music! These new computer science skills will give each of them, and future JJH and PJUSD students a profound edge in today's growing job market and have *fun doing it*.

The class is open to all district 6th, 7th and 8th graders and meets each Monday and Thursday in Mr. Richins' classroom: PHS P6. Newcomers are always welcome!



Virtual Reality Learning



On February 2nd, the Government and US History classes had the opportunity to explore a distant setting right from the College and Career Center with the use of VR goggles. Students from US History entered into an atmosphere similar to the time of the Great Depression and were more sympathetic of, and responsive to, the content while reading. Government had the opportunity to see both the Democratic and Republican conventions from the last presidential race. Students had a better understanding of the environment which allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of what was being taught, in class.



Grand Island D.A.R.E. Graduation



On Friday, February 9th, the 4th and 5th grade students of Grand Island Elementary School graduated from the Colusa County Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. is a program that teaches students the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use, how to make responsible choices, and anti-bullying strategies. Under the instruction of Deputy LeAnn Knutson, the 22 students finished the 10 week program by writing an essay summarizing the information they learned in their D.A.R.E. class. Saul Martinez, a 4th grader, and Calvin Bair, a 5th grader, received the honor of reading their essays aloud at the graduation. In addition to the kindergarten through 3rd grade classes, parents and community members also attended the graduation. Special guests included Summer Shadley, the school principal, Jim

Saso, the Colusa County Assistant Sheriff, Colusa Police Department K9 Officer Luis Ruiz and his canine partner, Rocky. The students each received a certificate of completion, a D.A.R.E. pin, and t-shirt. The graduation ended with refreshments for all.

Promoting Healthy Snacks for Students

For the past four years the University of California and CalFresh Nutrition Education program has collaborated with the physical education program at Arbuckle Elementary School introducing healthy snacks to the students. This year the partnership has grown by introducing nutrition lessons and materials to all classrooms at the school. The University of California Community Education Specialist teaches students how to make healthy snacks at home. Each nutrition lesson gives the students the opportunity to make the snack as they learn about the nutritional value of the ingredients in the snack. At the end of the lesson the students get to enjoy their own healthy snack.



The CalFresh program has also helped support the after school garden club by supplying students with seedlings, seeds, and curriculum. The partnership has helped students learn about nutrition and healthy eating habits.



"Students First"



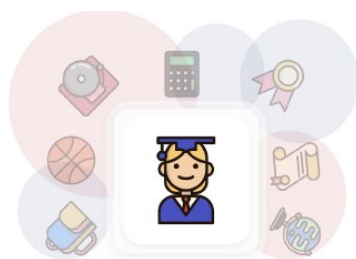
CELEBRATING STAFF AND STUDENTS

Arbuckle FFA Receives Distinguished Service Citation

The Distinguished Service Citation is the highest award presented to an organization, agency, business, industry or other group by the State FFA Association. The award is operated under the policies and procedures of the State FFA Association. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions made to California Agricultural Education and the California FFA Association. FFA chapters can nominate businesses and organizations for this award. The Arbuckle FFA program was nominated by the Superior Region in part for its community involvement in the annual field day, adopt a family program (Arbuckle FFA adopted two local families in need and delivered holiday food and gifts), thank a farmer program (local farmers are drawn and awarded Arbuckle FFA gear in appreciation for being a farmer and helping the community), and for a grant received for a community project (Arbuckle FFA made owl boxes and donated them to farmers in Colusa County). The Arbuckle FFA will receive their award at the National Conference .

Band Student Achievements!!

February is turning out to be a rewarding month for three Johnson Junior High band students. Anjolie Wiederhold and Miguel Tejeda auditioned and made the North State Junior High Honor Band held at Chico State on Saturday, February 3rd. Anjolie returned the following weekend to Chico State on the 10th to participate in the North State Solo Festival along with William Dafoe. They both went home with an outstanding rating from the judges qualifying them to participate in the State level festival at Sacramento State on the first weekend of May.



Your student's academic records,
in the palm of your hand!

Aeries
Student Information System

Let's find your student data.

Get Started

New Parent
Portal App!

Please visit
your App store
to download the
new parent
portal app.



A New Bus for the Pierce District

"Our new international bus number four is a pleasure to drive. Glad to get to be the one to have her!"
~Debbie Peters, Driver

