

WHAT'S GOOD!

AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

May 2019

District Focusing on Math

In March, the district invited teachers and parents to participate in a district-wide math meeting to work together to understand why our students are struggling with math achievement and poor performance on state testing. At the first meeting small groups convened to try and identify the root cause for this low performance. District-wide math data was shared at the second meeting in April. Amy Christianson, an educational consultant and President of the Butte County Office of Education School Board, facilitated the third meeting in May. During this meeting, the group prioritized what they felt were the most important issues to focus on for the next school year.

The top three areas were:

1. Teaching at the student level
 - basic skills and foundation
2. Instruction/planning/curriculum
 - increased collaboration time, Professional Learning Communities
 - instructional approaches and class size
3. Building strong teacher teams
 - hiring, retention, and professional development



Teachers and principals will now use these areas to plan their instruction. Math meetings will take place on a quarterly basis so that teachers are able to share with the public the work they are doing and the results they are seeing based on that work.

Grand Island Teachers Ready for STEAM School

Grand Island teachers attended a two day workshop focusing on the new California Arts Standards. Grand Island teachers worked closely with other Northern California teachers to explore the organization and structure of the new standards. The new standards have a universal design for learning guidelines, focusing on three principals: engagement, representation, and action/expression. The new standards encompass: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. Grand Island teachers are excited to incorporate the new California Arts Standards into the 2019/2020 school year.

"Students First"



In This Issue

- Journalism Academy
- Distinguished Dozen
- Gear Up for College
- Chromebook Take-Home Program
- PHS Weight Room
- Teachers Receive Tenure
- D.A.R.E. Graduation
- Retirement

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GOAL!

Download on your mobile device today and select yes to receive notifications. We are working toward 250 app downloads by the beginning of the 2019/20 School Year!

Download the app today!

Journalism Academy

There's new journalists in town! In February Arbuckle Elementary School was given a great opportunity through Migrant Education and Mrs. Garcia jumped at the opportunity to bring such a dynamic program to a group of seven amazing students. These seven students have been busy learning about the roles and responsibilities of a journalist. They immediately dove right into learning about how to research information, how to conduct interviews, how to write articles that grab the reader's attention, and most importantly how to create and publish a newspaper. These students have put in many hours after school, over spring break, and on the weekends to make sure that their paper is ready to hit the press. Be on the lookout for the First Edition of, *The Bark*, coming out in June 2019. This is a newspaper that you **WILL NOT** want to miss!



2019 Journalists for *The Bark*

Distinguished Dozen Dinner



Distinguished Seniors:
Kylie Renee Stephens,
Katherine Ann Corona,
Emma Marie Doherty,
Cody Michael Stafford,
Darleny Lizbeth Corona, and
Zechariah Wilson Dafoe

Distinguished Juniors:
Aiden Charter,
Abigail Mendoza,
Grace Alonso,
Emma Hofhenke,
Crystal Medina,
Emily Ehrke,
Alejandro Centeno, and
Saffa Yafai



Super Sophomores:
Sierra Murphy,
Betsy Myers,
Jack Marsh, and
Hudson Bair.
Not Pictured: Kyle Howell and
Luke Voorhees

GEAR UP FOR COLLEGE



This year JJH was chosen as a grant recipient of the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program that is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. GEAR UP will serve an entire cohort of students for the next six years, beginning with the 6th and 7th grade students of this school year. A full time GEAR UP advisor will be on the JJH campus next year and students will have the opportunity to learn more about postsecondary educational opportunities, attend field trips to colleges and trade schools, and have a full time academic counselor to help them envision their educational path for their future. The staff of JJH are excited to have this amazing opportunity for our wonderful students.

Chromebook Take-Home Program for Grades 7-12 Starting in August!



Beginning with the 2019/20 school year, students in grades 7-12 will each be given their own Chromebook device to be able to take with them from class to class and take home as well. Prior to students being able to take the computers home, parents will be required to attend a training. This training will include basic technology skills and ways to use the Chromebook as a tool to learn together. Participants will learn how to communicate with teachers and administrators using the device. Parents will also be taught how to electronically access their child's grades if they have not previously known how. Online safety will be a focus of the training as well. Dates for the mandatory parent trainings will be sent home to families in the registration information this summer.

Pierce High School Weight Room Project



Work has completed on the new P.E. Weight Room. The old boys locker room was renovated to provide state-of-the-art weight training. Students now can safely exercise in a modern facility that should last for generations to come.



Pierce JUSD Celebrates!

Teachers Receive Tenure!

At the March 14, 2019 Board Meeting Nick Green and Sean Gallagher were granted tenure. Mr. Green teaches English at Pierce High School, Mr. Gallagher teaches history also at Pierce High School. The district congratulates them for receiving tenure and is proud to have them as a part of our team.



Nick Green receives his certificate of tenure from Principal Dave Vujovich



Sean Gallagher receives his certificate of tenure from Principal Dave Vujovich

D.A.R.E. Graduation at AES



5th Grade Students at Arbuckle Elementary Graduate from D.A.R.E.



5th Grade D.A.R.E. Speech Contest Winners!

After 28 years in the Pierce District, Randy Marler is retiring! Mr. Marler started his teaching career within the Pierce district at Grand Island Elementary. He then moved over to Lloyd G. Johnson Junior High School. The district will miss Mr. Marler and wish him well on his new journey of retirement.

