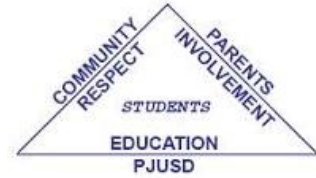


WHAT'S GOOD! AT PJUSD



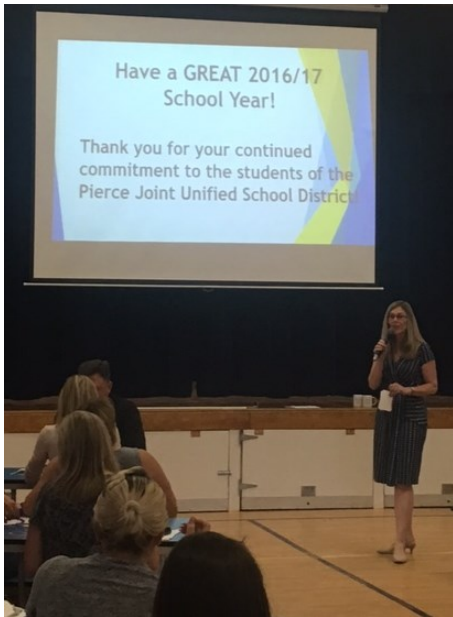
Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

August 2016

WELCOME BACK!

Pierce Joint Unified Staff was welcomed back to the new school year at the Annual District Breakfast held on Wednesday, August 10. All employees enjoyed a delicious breakfast which included an egg and sausage casserole, homemade blueberry coffee cake and an array of freshly cut fruit. New staff were introduced and

employees were honored for certain milestone years in regards to service to the district. Following the recognition, the staff watched a video and listened to a message from Superintendent, Carol Geyer, around the district's theme of Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Working together in groups, the staff participated in an activity of matching rigor, relevance and relationships to ideas that we know need to be included in learning activities for students. Each staff member was prompted to reflect on an area in which they excel in terms of rigor, relevance and relationships. They were then asked to commit to going from good to great in terms of their own practice in one of those same areas, rigor, relevance or relationships. Each employee left the breakfast with either a graduation cap, puzzle piece or heart which was meant to be respectively representative of rigor, relevance and relationships.



First year online registration goal hits 36%!



For the first time, parents were able to complete the student registration process online if they chose to do so. Parents could log-in to the parent portal and update all of the necessary registration information by using a computer, tablet or smart phone. In addition to updating information such as addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts and medical information, parents were able to access and sign-off that they had read The Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. This online registration process saved the site secretaries many hours of computer input time. Next year we plan to increase the number of parents

who utilize the online registration process. Our plan is to open our IT Building for those families who do not have access to the internet or devices so that they can complete the process. We will have staff there to assist in the process as well. We are saving both time and paper by using this system.



In This Issue

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New "Buddy Bench" at Arbuckle Elementary

Arbuckle Elementary School has initiated a program called the Buddy Bench. With the help of administration, teaching, counseling, maintenance staff and students we were able to develop this enrichment program. The Buddy Bench was designed to promote a friendly place for student interaction that establishes friendships. The Buddy Bench has shown to be effective as various students have developed new friendships and interests.



NEW FACES!

New Staff at Arbuckle Elementary: Carmen Barba: Kitchen Helper; Blake Kitchen: Vice-Principal; Kathy Boehm: District Nurse; Violet Bolias: District Health Clerk; Alena Anberg: 3rd Grade Teacher; Mallory Lomeli: Kindergarten Teacher; Martha Martinez: 4th Grade Teacher



New Staff at Lloyd G. Johnson Junior High: Nubia Lozano Hernandez: Campus Supervisor; Sam Thornton: 6th Grade Teacher; Xochitl Villasenor: After School Program Site Lead; Alexandra Rudorff: 7th Grade English Teacher; Mary Reilly: 8th Grade Science Teacher; Elizabeth Kitchen: Special Education Teacher; Jeff Graham: Computer Teacher; Valerie Vandrey: Drama Teacher; Ron Fisher: Principal

New Staff at Pierce High: Theresa Deardorff: Cheer Coach; Elizabeth Kitchen: Special Education Teacher; Luke VanLaningham: Ag Teacher; Troy Geierman: Math Teacher; Madilyn Hawkins: Music Teacher; Chris Berkstresser: Special Education Teacher; Chris Hall: Math Teacher



PJUSD Celebrates Staff



Celebrating 5 years of Service at PJUSD
Melissa Mingarelli, Beatriz Tapia, Perla Duarte,
George Griffin, Summer Shadley, Noah Gomez



Celebrating 10 years of Service at PJUSD
Mike Richins, Don Friel, Donna Rourke, Melissa Cano,
Jody Ehrke, Megan Hall, Trini Villa, Maria Rodriguez,
Clara Gessford, Melanie Brackett



Celebrating 15 years of Service at PJUSD
Tammy Minten, Allison Jansen, Josefina Garcia,
Yolanda Hernandez, Debbie Peters



Celebrating 20 years of Service at PJUSD
Jim Dye, Dani Schaad, Duffy Bailey, John
Allen, Ron Rector, Ana Garcia

**Celebrating 25
years of Service
at PJUSD**
Amy Kuykendall
and Lori Foster



**Celebrating 30
years of Service
at PJUSD**
Blake Kitchen
and
Cundi Fernandez



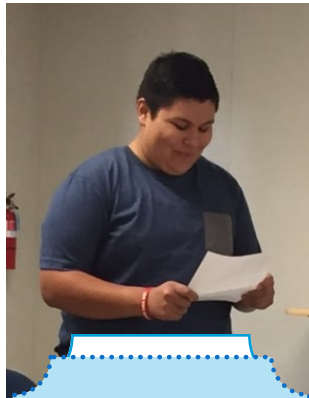
PJUSD is Making Beautiful Music

The school district has had the goal of increasing its music program into the high school as part of its Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). This year, Madelyn Hawkins has been hired to teach at Pierce High School. Her courses include music appreciation, choir, band, and piano keyboarding. By participating in a music course, students are able to meet their fine arts requirement for graduation. Ron Rector continues to serve the music needs of our students at the elementary and middle schools.



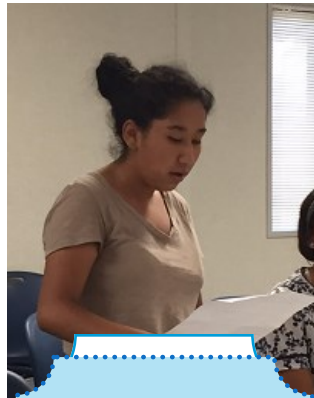
SACRAMENTO STATE SUMMER ACADEMIES

Students in grades 9—11 were given the opportunity to attend Sacramento State Summer Academies in several different areas of study. Three of the participants presented to the Board of Trustees on their experience at the academies.



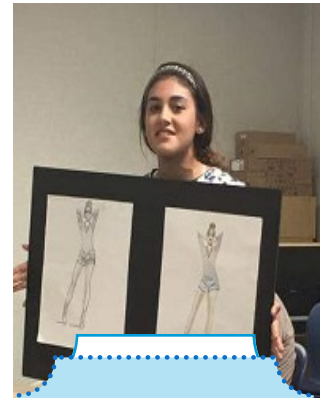
"I thought that since I had seen it done, I knew CPR. I know now that it is very serious and I am happy to say that now I actually know CPR."

*~Christian Saavedra—
Attended Health Careers
Academy*



"It was a great experience. The teachers were very nice and helpful. I learned about many health fields and what I could do in the field of health."

*~Melissa Alcaraz—
Attended Health Careers
Academy*

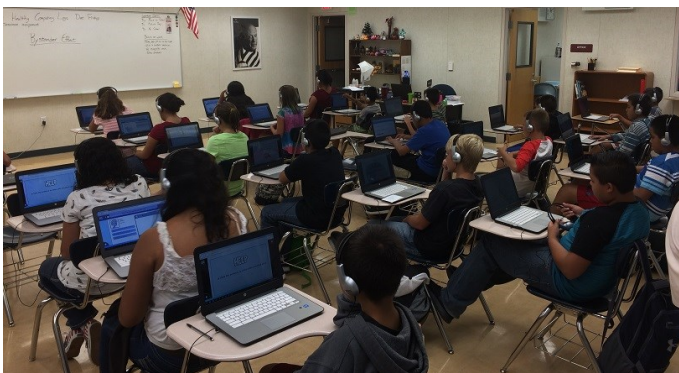


"I want to thank the Board for having this program. It shows that the district really cares about the students. There was a lot of creative people in the class. It was a fun environment to be in"

*~Giselle Vera—
Attended Fashion Academy*

Computers in All Classrooms!

Three years ago the district began its pursuit of having enough Chromebooks for every student in every classroom. That goal has now been realized from first grade through grade twelve. This type of access allows students constant access to the internet, to curriculum, to assignments, and to academic support programs as well. With such an emphasis on technology, this year the district hired a technology teacher at the middle school. The curriculum for this class includes keyboarding skills, research skills, Google application skills, and digital citizenship skills which incorporates computer etiquette and keeping students safe on the internet.



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Visit us on the web at
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"Students First"

