

WHAT'S GOOD! AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

November 2016

The Kindness Challenge 2016-2017!

Each week students at Arbuckle Elementary and Grand Island are given a weekly "Kindness Challenge" to work on over the course of the week. Any student who successfully achieves the "Kindness Challenge" gets to sign their name on a paper leaf that is cut out by their teacher and hung on the "Kindness Tree" posted at each school site. The official "Kindness Challenge" is a week-long school event that takes place every January across the United States. Our elementary schools decided that being kind to one another should happen on a daily basis so that is why it is a weekly "Kindness Challenge". A few examples of a "Kindness Challenge" to date have been: Make a new friend this week or... Do a household chore without being asked. Students are excited to



share, and it is fun to hear how they have achieved the weekly challenge. Kindness goes a long way to helping all of us reach our full potential. Every Friday the new challenge is shared at the "Character Matters Assembly". Way to go Arbuckle and Grand Island Elementary!

On Friday, October 14th a total of forty 4th and 5th grade students from Arbuckle Elementary and Grand Island Elementary attended a day long training on effective conflict management strategies. Our presenter, Mr. Bob Noyes, has been training Pierce students on the subject of conflict management for over the past ten years. Students were treated to a fun day of team building activities plus how to actually hold a conflict management session between two people who are having some kind of conflict. Each student practiced the steps necessary for them to take on the role of being a conflict manager at their school site. By the end of the day, each elementary school had a new team of new conflict managers to be used when needed at each school site. Already at AES students have been utilizing the conflict managers frequently to solve issues that arise during a normal school day. The goal is to have all trained conflict managers take part in the process of helping students solve their problems during the coming school year.

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"Students First"



New Instructional Coach Roles

Amy Kuykendall and Megan Hall have found themselves in new roles this school year with the district. They are serving as a literacy coach and an instructional coach respectively. Prior to becoming a literacy coach, Amy began at Arbuckle Elementary School in 1991 as a first grade teacher and most recently was the Reading Specialist there. Megan had previously taught third grade at Arbuckle Elementary for the past 10 years. As instructional coaches, they work with teachers to refine their teaching practice. This work includes providing staff development, planning lessons with teachers, observing lessons, and providing feedback. Their work as coaches is to continuously build the capacity of teachers in the classroom by supporting the needs of individual teachers. Interns and beginning teachers get the majority of Megan's support. English language arts teachers are supported by Amy. All teachers in the district have access to the coaches. These two coaches work together out of the same office. This allows them to support one another in their new roles as well. They continue to build their own skills by reading pertinent educational literature and attending trainings.



Bus Video Cameras Installed

Goal #2 of the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is that students will feel a sense of connectedness academically, socially, emotionally, and physically in their schools. School safety and the well-being of students is what this goal is all about. An action in this year's LCAP under this goal included equipping the district's entire bus fleet with high quality video cameras and accompanying audio recordings. The installation of these cameras was completed in early September and has already been of great benefit in curbing inappropriate behaviors by students on the bus. School administrators are able to view the recordings when a report is made

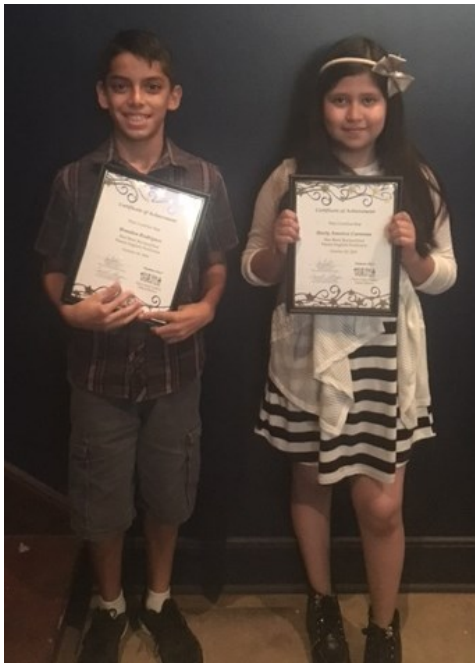
regarding a problem on the bus. The administration has used these recordings when talking with students about safety and following bus rules. Periodically the recordings of each bus are monitored to ensure the safety of all students. These cameras are another set of eyes and ears for the drivers so that they may do what is most important which is deliver the students safely to their destinations.



PJUSD Celebrates Student Achievement

Reclassification Ceremony

Each fall and spring, school principals look at data to determine if they have any English Learners that meet the qualifications to be considered Fluent English Proficient. These qualifications are based on the following: California English Language Development Test (CELDT) scores, reading level, teacher recommendation (which includes grades and test scores), and parent recommendation. The CELDT test is made up of four parts including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading scores are in regards to reading comprehension.



From AES: Brandon Rodriguez and
Hasly America Carmona.
Not pictured: Favian Gonzalez



From JJH: Karina Robles-Jacobo, Maricela Reyes-Ortiz,
Lisandra Valencia, Gisell Aceves, and Fabiola Robles-Jacobo

Not pictured from PHS: Jesus De Los Santos, Analleli Iniguez,
Betsy Garcia, Mario Hernandez, and Edgar Reyes Orozco

Choir Returns to PHS



dents. Although school has only been in session for a little over two months and this being the first year that the high school has offered choir in years, students were well prepared and sounded beautiful. A large audience of family and friends enjoyed the concert. The choir performed three songs under the direction of Mrs. Hawkins. Colby Hawkins, Madilyn's husband, accompanied them on the piano. Band members played three numbers as well.

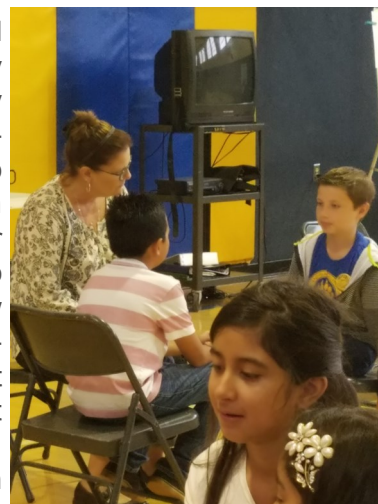
Madilyn Hawkins, the new music teacher at PHS, held a fall concert with performances by both her band and choir stu-



CONFLICT FACILITATION TRAINING



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Drug Dog Searches

This year the high school and junior high school will utilize the service of Williams' Police Drug Dog. Campus searches with the dog will be conducted with the dog's handler and school administration. Pictured is Officer Jennifer Patterson and her K9 partner Jaaco.

Celebrating Staff

Kay Peck celebrates 20 years of service with the Pierce Joint Unified School District.



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