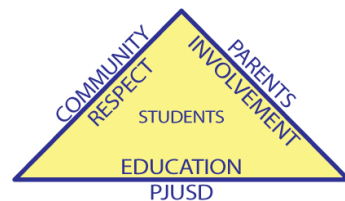


# WHAT'S GOOD! AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

November 2019

## Natalie Corona Gymnasium

"Students First"



On October 8, Pierce High School's south gym officially became the Natalie Corona Gymnasium during a home volleyball game. Natalie's family, friends, co-workers, teammates and community gathered together to share in this special event. Pictures of Natalie were continuously being projected during the volleyball games. The ceremony consisted of memories of Natalie being shared by her friend and teammate, Mariah Diaz, her coach Kim Travis who shared quotes from all other coaches who had the privilege to coach Natalie over the years, and school board president, Nadine High who shared Natalie's senior yearbook quote and the many activities that she was involved in during high school. Natalie's number 11 jersey was also retired during the ceremony.

Officers from the Davis Police Department participated in the formal unveiling of the new signage in the gym. Bold blue block letters on the outside of the gymnasium proudly mark the building for students and visitors as it serves as a reminder of the outstanding character and service of this beautiful young woman whose End of Watch came 1-10-19. She will always be remembered at Pierce High School.



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## Social Media Presentation

Parents listened intently during an informational presentation regarding their children and their use of social media on Tuesday evening October 1 in the high school multi-purpose room. Presenters included Jessica Geierman, the middle school principal, Leann Knutson, the school resource officer, and three employees from the county district attorney's office. Sample contracts were distributed that parents were encouraged to use with their children. An informational sheet on the risks associated with smart phones and 5 tips for using smart phones in a smarter way were handed out as well.



## Grand Island Elementary Coding Class



Students throughout the district, including Grand Island, have been introduced to computer coding through a UC STEM program utilizing Roboblockly. Teachers in grade K-6 have been receiving ongoing training with the program and then implement their learning with their students in the classroom.

### CA Dashboard Chronic Absenteeism Rating

All Students

All Students State



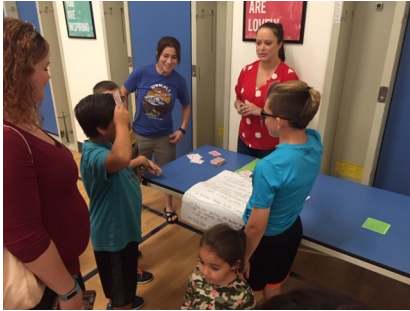
Green

4.1% chronically absent

Declined 2.8% ⬇️

Number of Students: 1,068

## 4th Grade Family Night



What do you like about math? What don't you like about math? What are your math goals for the year? Fourth grade students answered these questions, and they were streamed through video to start the family night on October 23. Parents, students and other family members listened intently as the volunteer students' answers were projected on the large screen in the school multi-purpose. Each fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Ehrke, Mrs. Martinez, Ms. Conrado and Mrs. Garcia, then came to the stage with student volunteers from their classroom to demonstrate a math game. Four different math games using playing

cards were shown. All of the fourth graders then made their way to the stage to sing a math song about multiplying with nines. Families were then encouraged to try out some of the card games that had just been taught. These games were set up along the walls of the room. Teachers let the families know that each of the students would be receiving their own deck of cards, directions to these four games and additional ones, and the fourth grade math standards. Math games are a fun way to learn and engage students in a subject matter that can sometimes be daunting. Fourth grade is making math fun!



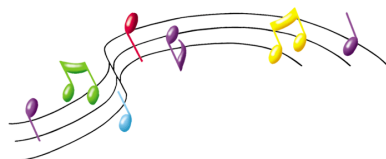
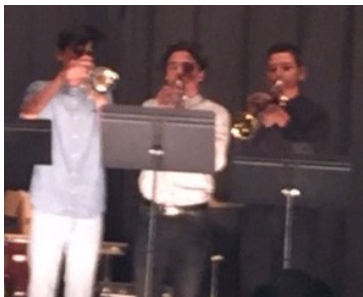
## Sweet Suites



Individuals and groups of band students in grades 7-12 performed on Thursday, November 7 at the high school auditorium before a large crowd. 'Suite Sweets' was how the event was promoted. As family, friends and community members arrived at the venue, they were greeted with tables full of different dessert choices. People could pick what they wanted to eat and then seat themselves in the auditorium to enjoy the music. Donations were being accepted. The kickoff for the evening was three young men playing the national

anthem. Students entered and exited the stage fluidly between performances. Tubas, trombones, clarinets, flutes, drums, trumpets, bass guitars, piano and singing were enjoyed throughout the evening.

These talented students are under the direction of the district's two music teachers, Ron Rector and Juan Castaneda.



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## FFA HIGHLIGHTS

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Arbuckle Elementary students attend the 2019 FFA Pumpkin Patch. There were many fun activity stations for the kids to enjoy! Thank you Arbuckle FFA for another successful Pumpkin Patch

The Arbuckle FFA has been ranked 14 in the state based on their performance in 2019. Partly based on the 19 state FFA degree recipients and the 4 American FFA degree recipients along with state proficiency awards and state winning career and leadership development events. Arbuckle FFA is the highest ranked chapter from the Superior Region and the North State.



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## Conflict Facilitation Training at Johnson Jr. High

On October 30, Johnson Jr. High Counselors held the second annual Conflict Facilitation Training for ten returning 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade mediators, as well as five new 6<sup>th</sup> grade conflict facilitators. The conflict facilitation program is important for school climate because it offers students who find themselves dealing with peer-to-peer issues a resource for resolution. In addition, having students who are equipped with the skills necessary to help problem solve empowers our student body and promotes a culture of community on campus. The two-hour training provided conflict facilitators opportunities for team building and educated them about ways in which they can enhance JJH. The team showed great effort in the training with every student engaging in role-play exercises and working collaboratively with one another to learn new skills and build confidence in their role. Being a conflict facilitator takes a certain set of personal characteristics such as courage, responsibility, kindness, and compassion and this group of students who have volunteered to take on this role embody them all. JJH is looking forward to having this valuable resource on campus.



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## STUDENTS TAKE GEAR UP FIELD TRIP TO UC DAVIS



On November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>, the eighth grade students took their first GEAR UP field trip! The cohort was divided into two separate days, both going to UC Davis. Each trip included an admissions' presentation and question and answer session with Pierce Alumni that currently attend UC Davis, a walking tour, and lunch at the Segundo Dining Commons. While at UC Davis, students learned about A-G requirements, information about majors, and living on campus. They also enjoyed watching a football practice, walking the arboretum, and seeing a portion of the school farm. This was the first time visiting the UC Davis campus for the majority of students. Many of the students remarked that the campus was beautiful, the food was awesome and that they did not realize that college can be so much fun! For questions or more information about the GEAR UP program please contact Ellen Voorhees, UC Davis GEAR UP Advisor to the Pierce

Joint Unified at [evoorhees@pierce.k12.ca.us](mailto:evoorhees@pierce.k12.ca.us) or by phone at 530-476-3261.

## Pierce JUSD Celebrates!

Cundi Fernandez began her career with the Pierce Joint Unified School District on August 26, 1986 – that was 33 years ago. She started as an instructional aide at Grand Island Elementary School under the direction and leadership of Pat Hamilton. In 1990, Pat was hired to lead Arbuckle Elementary School as the principal. Upon her arrival to that campus, Pat immediately realized that she needed Cundi at Arbuckle Elementary with her, knowing what a tremendous asset she could be to the community of Arbuckle and specifically to the Spanish speaking parents and children at the school. Cundi was transferred to Arbuckle Elementary School where she became the first bi-lingual office clerk for the Pierce District. Over the course of her time at Arbuckle Elementary her title according to past district records has been office assistant, office clerk, secretary, secretary/attendance clerk, clerical assistant, clerical aide, bi-lingual clerk, other secretarial, attendance clerk, and bi-lingual attendance clerk. Her unofficial roles at AES have included: nurse, custodian, campus supervisor, cashier, van driver, caterer, event planner, mother, grandmother, teacher, vice principal, principal, friend and confidant. Cundi has worked with many secretaries over the years. The past 15 years have been with Veronica. The two of them have shared many, many laughs together. Cundi's expertise, knowledge, passion and compassion will be extremely missed.



### 2019 Fall

#### Reclassification Ceremony!



On October 17, 2019 the Pierce Joint Unified School District celebrated the achievement of its English Learners by honoring them at the Fall Reclassification Ceremony. Many of the students being honored began their public education with limited or no English skills and have since gained proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English. The ceremony marked their official change of status from English Learner (EL) to Fluent English Proficient (FEP).



#### Locker Room Addition to Begin in January

The Natalie Corona Gymnasium will soon be getting an addition. In January, the district has plans to add a second locker room to the south of the existing boys' locker room at the east end of the gymnasium. The need for this addition has been identified for many years and was part of the plan when the district placed the Measure B Bond Proposition on the ballot a few years ago. This new facility will be utilized by the girls, and the boys' side will be completely remodeled. During the addition and remodeling, physical education classes and sports teams will be temporarily using the locker room at the north gym or the locker rooms at the middle school. When school begins in August, the new facility is anticipated to be completed and ready for use.

