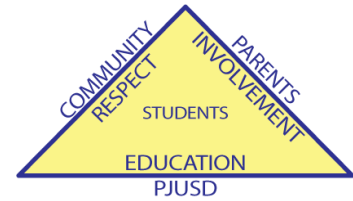


WHAT'S GOOD! AT PJUSD



Pierce Joint Unified School District Newsletter

September 2019

Stadium Upgrades at Gregg LeMaster Field

"Students First"



New blue and gold bleachers are awaiting the fans for the first Pierce Bears home football game on September 13 at Gregg LeMaster Field. There is a brand new press box with a new audio sound system as well. Seating capacity of the new bleachers is 730 standard seats and 28 Handicap seats for a total of 758. Work on this project began in the spring with site work including the addition of

ADA paths of travel from the parking lot. Entrance to the stadium will now be on the south side of the field by the junior high school. Restroom access will be at the junior high locker room as well. There is a brand new scoreboard too!

New Classroom Wing at AES Ready for First Day of School



Eight new classrooms housing second and third graders were ready for students the first day of school on August 8. Teachers and students were excited to occupy the brand new space. Work on the project began in August 2018

and was completed in July 2019. An official ribbon cutting was held on August 14 to kick off the Back-To-School Night at the campus. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members and community members attended the event. Both the contractor and architect were in attendance too and spoke about the project. McCuen Construction, the builder, donated \$2,500 back to the school site for supplies. This building was funded through the Measure B Bond funds.

In This Issue

- Summer Workers
- Elevate Math Program
- Chromebooks Go Home
- Almond Harvest
- Art at Grand Island
- Pool Year Extended for PE
- New Faces
- Service Awards

2019/20 Online Registration Results:

AES = 52%

GI = 26%

JJH = 50%

PHS = 50%

ALT = 20%

District = 50%

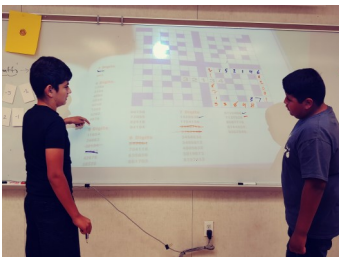
Thank you for bringing
up our total each year.

District Hires Students for Summer Work

This past May, the district interviewed 5 students and hired 2 of them to work with the technology department during the summer. Samantha Gonzalez and Alexis Palomares were the two students hired along with Danny Garcia, a previous student, who now attends Humboldt State and has been working with the district the past three summers when he returns home. These students were given many tasks including collecting classroom technology and bringing it to the technology department for updates. As the updates were completed, they deployed the computers back to the classrooms. Over 900 new Chromebooks were delivered to the district as part of the Chromebook take-home program. Samantha, Alexis and Danny unpacked and inventoried all of the devices. One entire week of June these 3 traveled back and forth each day to Winters Joint Unified School District where they took part in a Chromebook Bootcamp Training. They learned many repair skills including replacing keys and screens. Each received a certification for the training completion. During the school year, these students will help the technology department with repairs as needed.



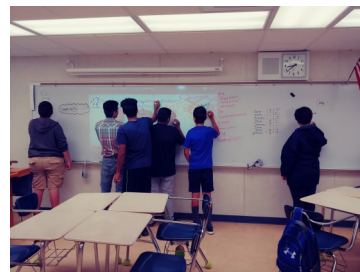
Elevate Math Summer School Program



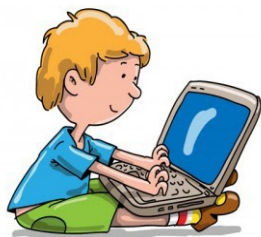
A group of students finishing 7th and 8th grade this past school year were invited to participate in a summer school math program called Elevate. Elevate is a program run through the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Its purpose is to preview upcoming math content for students for the next school year. Students work on math skills and growth mind set to build their math confidence. The seventh grade program was 19 total days and the 8th grade class was for a total of 24 days. It was a huge commitment for both the teachers and the students. Amy Hannon-Korynta taught the 7th grade course while Nicole Arias led the 8th graders. During the spring, the teachers attended 3 Saturday trainings in preparation for teaching their courses. A college mentor, Nancy Cabrera, was hired as part of the program as well. She worked with each of the classrooms and taught lessons as well. A field trip to UC Davis was part of the program for the 8th graders. Students left the program feeling more confident. One student wrote the following comment



to his new math teacher this school year, "I'm bad at math but I recently got better during the summer." This is an excellent example of growth mind set and how everyone can improve and get better at things.



Chromebooks Go Home with Students



Over 700 Chromebooks for students in grades 7-12 are now in the hands of students full-time. Students were issued Chromebook computers the first day of school if their parent had attended a one-time, one hour training on the Chromebook take-home program. Parent trainings were held over the summer. Raquel Mendoza was the lead trainer conducting over 30 trainings over the course of 8 weeks in both English and Spanish. She was assisted by Patty Gonzalez. Chromebooks are checked out to the students and insurance for the devices is available for purchase. Advantages for students having their own devices include saving classroom instruction time

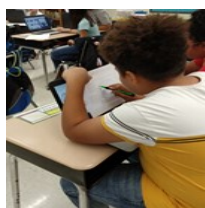
by students already having their computers and not having to check them in and out in the classroom and being able to work on assignments before and after school on campus or at their homes. This was an extremely large undertaking for the technology department which had to prepare all of the new devices and ensure wireless network connectivity throughout the campuses.

First Harvest of Almond Trees at School Farm

In February of 2017 about 7 acres on the school farm were planted to the Independence variety of almonds. Trees have been shook and the nuts are in the process of being swept and hauled away to be processed. This endeavor could not have been possible without the help of the community and its donation of time and materials to prepare the ground, install the irrigation system, purchase and plant the trees, and maintenance of pest management. Mr. VanLaningham, one of the agriculture teachers, has been facilitating the whole process with the help of student farm managers. Mrs. Sweet, another ag teacher, is utilizing the acreage as a laboratory for her Integrated Pest Management course that is a new offering at the school this year.



Art Teacher at Grand Island



Last year, Grand Island Elementary decided to rebrand their school as a STEAM school with the focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. The school is

putting an emphasis on the 'A' in STEAM and is fortunate this year to have an art teacher, Kate Randall, coming to the school two mornings per week to teach art to the students. She rotates between the three classrooms over the course of a few weeks guiding students ranging from Transitional Kindergarten to sixth graders. Kate also teaches art at all of the other district schools as well.



Pool Year Extended for PE Classes

Physical Education students in grades seven through high school began their school year with a three week swimming unit.



Teachers, Lisa Burnum, Michael Barber and Swade Schmidt, instructed students on proper swimming techniques based on each individual student's level. Mary



Grimmer, a certified Red Cross Instructor, provided curriculum for the teachers. Students that performed the final test were given a Red Cross Card based on their proficiency level in the Red Cross Learn to Swim program.

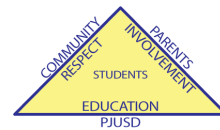
Pierce JUSD Celebrates!

New Faces in the District



New Staff at Arbuckle Elementary:
Danielle Mercado—3rd Grade Teacher;
Junior Guzman Olmedo—Custodian/Groundsworker/Bus Driver

New Staff at Johnson Junior High:
Ellen Voorhees—Gear Up Counselor;
Jacqueline Schlosser—7/8 Grade English;
Karyna Perez Quirarte—6th Grade Teacher;
Raquel Ulloa-Mendoza—6th Grade Teacher;
Manvendra Gill—6th Grade Teacher;
Trevor Platt—8th Grade English Long Term Sub



New Staff at Pierce High: George Goldkind—English; Geneva Knowles—Intervention/Prevention Counselor;
Kevin Kightlinger—Business; Caley Paul—English; Juan Casteneda—Music;
Shirley Kaholokula—Special Ed; Paul LeClaire—Special Ed; Keryn Munson—Social Science;
Katherine Randall—Art; Rosa Prado—Custodian; Nancy Cabrera Jauregui—Math; Katherine Grote—Math

Service Awards



5 Years: Nicole Arias, PHS; Samantha Vann, AES; Lauren Bonino, JJH;
Tim Cortez, JJH; Gary Lederer, PHS; Jill Pedrozo, AES;
Jody Ehrke, AES; Cathy Lopez, District; Amy Hannon-Korynta, JJH;
Danielle Alvernaz, AES; Not Pictured: Guisela Avina, AES



10 Years: Rosa Prado, PHS



15 Years: Kelli Griffith-Garcia, AES;
Veronica Dorantes, AES;
Daena Meras, District Office



20 Years: Kay Peck, AES;
Cindy Tellez, GI; Lupe Corona, AES



25 Years: Maria Silva, AES/JJH;
Not Pictured: Estella Garcia, PHS



30 Years: Cindy Rohde, PHS;
Jane Hardy, GI

"Students First"

