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March 13, 2023



Photo of the Week



Code Clubs Steam Fair

Dates to Know

March 22 (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

Video of the Week



[Secondary P.E. Buy Back Day Learning Video](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to Community Zone, an e-newsletter from the Fresno Unified School District featuring news of the district and schools. [Sign up](#) to receive this newsletter every two weeks. Questions? Contact Communications@fresnounified.org.

Community News

Foundation will Host Suit up for Success Suit Drive

The Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools will hold a suit drive to benefit Fresno Unified high school students in need of business attire for summer internships, job interviews and collegiate and other professional opportunities. Suit up for Success is March 27-31, with a kickoff event on March 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in front of the Fresno Unified Education Center. Staff and the public are invited to donate their clean, gently used business attire (including suits, shirts, skirts, dresses, ties, and other professional wear).

For more information on the suit drive, including donation locations, detailed donation requests and how to get involved with the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools: <https://foundation4fusd.org/event/suit-drive> or (559) 457-3885.

Enroll Now for TK and Kindergarten

Registration for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten is underway for the 2023-24 school year. Families are encouraged to complete registration requirements and enroll their student this spring for a smooth start to the school year, which will begin on Monday, August 14. Research shows that children's brains and bodies develop rapidly in the first 5 years of life, and that early childhood is the best time to establish a strong foundation for learning. [Online Registration](#)

[Transitional kindergarten](#) (TK) is open to students turning 5 between September 2 and April 2. Children who are 5 on or before September 1 qualify for kindergarten.

The district is also pleased to offer [dual immersion language programs](#) at select schools. Through dual immersion, students learn to speak, read and write in two languages. Programs are available in Spanish and Hmong.

[Kinder and TK Enrollment Video](#)
[Kinder and TK Flyer \(English\)](#)

[Kinder and TK Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

[Kinder and TK Flyer \(Hmong\)](#)

Fresno Unified Celebrates Read Across America

Schools across the district welcomed guest readers into classrooms for [Read Across America](#) events. Read Across America Day was March 2, and all of March is National Reading Month.

Hoover Region featured at March ArtHop

Student art from the Hoover region was featured in the March 2 ArtHop, aligned with the theme, "Dulcius Ex Asperis -- Sweeter After Difficulties." Participating schools were McCardle and Eaton elementary schools and Hoover High School.

District Students and Staff join Allensworth Black History Month Celebration

Fresno Unified students, parents, and staff were part of a Black History Month celebration at the Col. Allensworth State Historic Park that attracted a record number of visitors on February 11. Led by the Instructional Department, Fresno Unified's Ethnic Studies team shared a program highlighting Ethnic Studies foundational disciplines: African American, Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x, Native American, and Asian American and Pacific Islander studies. Participants engaged in culturally rich storytelling, indigenous education, music, songs and dance. Thanks to Parent University for supporting the trip and Sunnyside High School career technical education students, who captured historical photos.

See students' photos of the Allensworth event

here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fresnounified>

Help Families Connect with New Ways for Funding College

California's new children's savings account program, [CalkIDS](#), offers newborns up to \$100 and low-income public students between \$500-\$1,500 as scholarships for their future higher education expenses. It also aims to help families start saving with tools like [ScholarShare 529](#), California's official college savings plan.

For more information on www.calkids.org please see recent press releases from Governor Newsom's office (click [here](#)) as well as the California Department of Education (click [here](#)).

Deputy Superintendent Board Remarks from March 8, 2023

- Deputy Superintendent Her started her remarks reminding families and staff to please complete our Spring Climate and Culture Survey before the March 10 deadline. Staff who work 50% or more of their time at a school site can complete the quick [survey at this link](#). Families can complete the [survey at this link](#).

- Deputy Superintendent Her then shared we've now opened enrollment for kindergarten and

transitional kindergarten for the next school year! If your child turns 5 on or before September 1 this year, they are able to enroll in kindergarten. If your child turns 5 between September 2 and April 2, they are able to enroll in transitional kindergarten. Families can [register now at this link](#) or by visiting their neighborhood elementary school.

- Deputy Superintendent Her then announced that a washer and dryer have now been determined as baseline equipment for all middle schools. This need came about from Trustee Levine who highlighted the fundraising efforts of staff at Fort Miller Middle School who were working to replace their donated washer and dryer to support student needs. This sparked a team to come together quickly to make a district-wide assessment of the need, leading to this determination. Deputy Superintendent shared her gratitude with all who came together to make this a reality for our students.

- Deputy Superintendent then made several shout outs and congratulations including:

- The McLane boys and girls soccer teams for capturing the CIF Section Championship titles in their respective divisions,

- Edison High School senior Caiden "Amir" Johnson who placed seventh in the CIF State Wrestling Championships,

- The top three spellers at the [district spelling bee](#):

- > First place: Samantha Tanaglo of Manchester GATE Elementary School

- > Second place: Mateo Ortega-Arredondo of Bakman Elementary School

- > Third place: Ian Trevino of Columbia Elementary School, and

- Ayer Elementary and Bullard High's students and staff for their recent partnerships with the Central California Food Bank to facilitate volunteer food box distributions to support their communities!

- Last, Deputy Superintendent thanked our board trustees, district leaders, and community leaders who helped our district to celebrate Read Across America Week. Deputy Superintendent shared this video from [Malloch Elementary's celebration](#). You can also find coverage of a few more celebrations including [Sunset Elementary](#), Trustee Davis at [Olmos Elementary](#), and Board President Islas at [Birney Elementary](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Question of the Day at Hoover High School

Vice Principal Dan Bordona and campus safety assistant Gilbert Rico welcome students and staff to Hoover High School every morning with a question of the day. The questions are thought-provoking, often connected with an academic subject, current events or social-

emotional learning. For example, a recent question was "What small act of kindness were you shown that you'll never forget?"

Dan and Gilbert started the Question of the Day about two months ago, wanting to engage students and staff beyond "good morning" at the start of the day. Since the question is on a golf cart, it prompts conversations throughout the day.

McLane Soccer Teams Win Section Championships, Boys in NorCal Final

Congrats to the McLane High School Highlanders girls and boys soccer teams! Both teams finished as CIF section champions, the girls in Division VI on February 28 and the boys in Division III on February 24. The boys made it through the NorCal state playoffs to host Terra Linda of San of Rafael in the NorCal final for Division III, coming up just short, 2-0 on March 4.

Victor E. Entertains Centennial Elementary Students

Centennial Elementary School hosted a special guest at Saturday Academy on March 11 -- Victor E. Bulldog IV, Fresno State's live bulldog mascot. Students learned about Victor E. and about the importance of going to college.

J.E. Young Academic Center Hosts Race Day

The J.E. Young Derby Car Race on February 24 is expected to become an annual tradition in the J.E. Young Academic Center's leadership team envisioned an event that would encourage comradery and provide a project for the Men's Alliance students. The Men's Alliance was tasked with building the track and Principal Carson Wood had them build a secret car to surprise staff. As the planning and building proceeded, adult leaders added to the fun by sending "spies" into the Men's Alliance camp. The Men's Alliance's car – designed after the Batmobile – took first place, ahead of the two cars entered by staff. Said Principal Wood: "This day is a reminder that good relationships, laughing, playing, and even being a little mischievous, opens the doors for student learning. Positive teacher-student relationships = academic success!"

Minecraft Meet-Up at eLearn Academy

Members of eLearn Academy's Minecraft Clubs gathered at eLearn for pizza, Minecraft and to meet some of their teammates in person for the first time! eLearn has more than 100 students engaged in Minecraft Clubs, and more meetups are planned for the year. eLearn Academy Minecraft advisers are Tyler Hyatt and Victoria Ontiveros.

Students Learn Presentation Skills at Sunnyside High

At Sunnyside High School, students prepare for future job interviews and learn tips on successfully entering the work force during Brian Sue's economics class. Students learn about dressing appropriately for an interview.

Fresno High Students Learning Electrical Skills

Construction students in Joel Osuna's class at Fresno High School are learning electrical skills necessary to complete an electrical system in a single-family residence in accordance with accepted industry standards. All students have or will have their OSHA 10 certification and be able to apply this new skill to their student-built rooms in the construction shop.

[Fresno High Electrical Unit](#)

Edison High Wrestler is Seventh in State

Edison High School senior Caiden "Amir" Johnson placed seventh in the CIF State Wrestling Championships February 25 at Mechanics Bank Arena in Bakersfield. Wrestling in the 220-pound weight class, Caiden had been ranked 16th prior to the state tournament.

J.E. Young Staff Rescues Goose

J.E. Young Academic Center teachers Jennifer Gross and Esther Ortega came to work and found an injured large goose in a puddle of water inside the bungalow gate recently. Campus safety assistant Joshua Gorthy gloved up and got the goose into a box. Teacher Katrina Floyd-Gonzales got the goose to San Joaquin Veterinary Hospital for treatment. A big shout out to the J.E. Young rescue team!

Ayer Elementary School Helping Food Bank

Ayer Elementary School Principal Lauren Trzeciak had a vision to build a partnership between Ayer Bears and the Central California Food Bank. The school has begun monthly food box distributions to Ayer families. During the first distribution, 150 boxes from the food bank were given out, with the help of home school liaison Rachel Quinonez, noon-time assistant Nadine Cannady and plant coordinator Fernando Avina.

Saturday School at J.E. Young Academic Center

Saturday Academy at J.E. Young Academic Center recently combined work with enrichment fun, with laughter heard throughout the building from students and teachers. As students completed their coursework, they rotated through enrichment projects. Students made succulent wall hangings, thankful/grateful signs and a card and note to a veteran letting them know their service was appreciated.

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