

**From:** [Communications](#)  
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**Subject:** Community Zone -- January 30, 2023  
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January 30, 2023



## Photo of the Week



Parent University Community Cleanup at Ewing Elementary School

## Dates to Know

**February 8** (see website for time)  
[Board of Education](#)

## Video of the Week



[Holland Elementary School Highlight 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](mailto:Communications@fresnounified.org).

## Community News

### **Ninth Annual Black History Month Program**

Fresno Unified Black Student Unions proudly present the ninth annual Black History Month Program on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 6 p.m. The show will be at Roosevelt High School in the Audra McDonald Theater for students, parents, district leaders and community partners. This year's collaboration features the entire school district, including students from each region, and community partner Purposed II Praise School of Dance.

[Black History Month Program Flyer](#)

### **District Tripling Scholarship Amounts**

Fresno Unified will triple scholarship money (to \$300,000) and the number of scholarship winners for 2023. Students meeting the eligibility requirements should apply now!

- Scholarships from \$1,000 to \$2,500
- More than 200 scholarships available
- Deadline to apply Wednesday, March 1
- Apply at [Fresno Unified Scholarship Application](#).
- Also apply for \$5,000 [Jim Newton Memorial Scholarship](#)

### **McLane and Bullard Regions ArtHop: Resilience, Joy and Hope**

Schools from the McLane and Bullard regions will showcase student art Thursday, February 2 at the M Street Art Complex in downtown Fresno. Through their art, students expressed their feelings and experiences during the lockdown, as well as the experiences of others. The theme of the art is "Resilience, Joy and Hope."

Participating schools are Bullard Talent K-8 School and Ericson, Hidalgo and Rowell elementary schools.

Details:

- Thursday, February 2 from 5-8 p.m. at the M Street Art Complex 1419 M. St. (Tuolumne and

M streets)

- [REAL Collaborative](#) galleries will also feature Valentine-themed make-and-take activities
- Questions: [Alana Hill](#) in the Arts Education Department

## **Hour of Code Winners 2022**

Congratulations to Hour of Code participation winners!

**Primary School -- Manchester GATE Elementary School**

**Secondary School -- Kings Canyon Middle School**

A big thanks to every site, teacher and student who made this event possible. Kudos to Lawless Elementary **School** for opening their doors for the CoderGirlz "Hour of Code" event. The students taught coding and most importantly, they showed that they are investing in their future to achieve their greatest potential in life by learning 21st century skills for the workforce. Here is a quick video of this event.

[Video of Lawless Coder Girlz](#)

## **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](http://www.calkids.org) please see recent press releases from [Governor Newsom's office](#) as well as the [California Department of Education](#).

## **Free City Bus Passes Available for High School and Adult School Students**

Fresno Unified high school and adult school students now have access to free monthly passes for city FAX buses.

- Available upon request from a student's school office
- Parents can opt out by calling their school's office

The district was able to obtain the free passes at a discounted price through its partnership with the City of Fresno.

## **After School Enrichment Opportunities**

The Extended Learning Department would like to share the exciting opportunities happening across the district regarding additional community-based organizations working with after school programs. For example, students at Herrera Elementary School learned how to paint a mural with J.E. Creations and students at Ewing Elementary School continuously participate in enrichment activities with WorkEd. Extended Learning appreciates the collaboration and support for students to have direct access to these enrichment activities!

## **Check out Fresno Unified's Digital Magazine**

The [Faces of Fresno Unified digital magazine](#) highlights stories and accomplishments of students and staff and outstanding programs in the district.



## Superintendent Board Remarks from January 25, 2023

- Deputy Superintendent Her started her remarks by sharing her honor at filling in for Superintendent Nelson while he attends the ACSA Superintendent's Symposium.
- Deputy Superintendent then reminded all seniors to please get their scholarship applications completed as soon as possible. Seniors can [apply online through our website](#) and are encouraged to reach out to their academic counselor for support.
- Deputy Superintendent celebrated the district's almost 60 Excellence in Education nominees. All nominees will be recognized at an awards dinner on Tuesday, January 31 in front of a sold-out crowd of 700 Fresno Unified family members. Deputy Superintendent encouraged folks to congratulate the nominees in their lives, [you can see photos of all nominees here](#).
- Deputy Superintendent reminded all to join us on Wednesday, February 1 for the 9th annual Edison Region Black History Month program at Roosevelt's Audra McDonald Theater. Tickets are \$1 with doors opening at 5 p.m., a pre-show at 5:30 p.m., and the program beginning at 6 p.m.
- Deputy Superintendent closed her remarks with a few shoutouts to the following:
  - The McLane Hmong Dance program for performing at the celebration of the newly elected Oakland mayor, Sheng Thao. Mayor Thao is the first Hmong American mayor of a major city in the United States.
  - The [King Elementary African American Dance Troupe](#) for performing at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day garlanding ceremony last week.
  - Roosevelt School of the Arts staff, especially Serena Rimorin, for the amazing opportunity for our students to learn from active Broadway performers. Deputy Superintendent shared [this video](#) highlighting the recent Dear Evan Hansen workshop for RSA students.

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

## School Buzz

### Golden Heart Customer Service Award

Superintendent Bob Nelson presented the Mayfair Elementary School front office staff with the district's first Golden Heart Customer Service Award on January 18. They received this award based on feedback from the parents who visited their front office and rated the customer service they received. Parents rated the staff on their friendliness, timeliness of response and their professionalism. The plan is to give a service award quarterly.

### McLane Hmong Dancers Perform in Oakland

The McLane Hmong Dance Program was selected to perform at the January 23 celebration of Oakland's newly elected mayor, Sheng Thao, the first Hmong American mayor of a major city in the United States. Teacher and after school program coordinator Chia Neng Vang said the

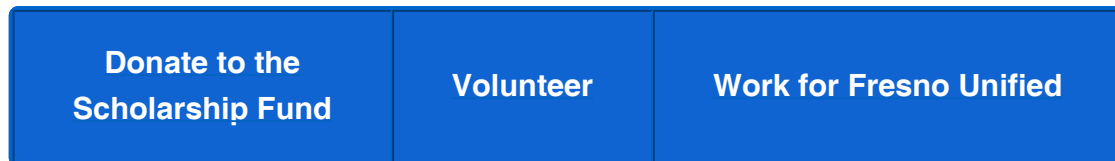
students did fantastic and loved meeting Mayor Thao.

### **SROs Making Connections with Middle School Students**

A second wave of student resource officers (SROs) have joined middle schools recently to connect with students and build bridges with families. This second group is serving Ahwahnee, Tioga, Sequoia, Tehipite and Scandinavian, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department SRO recently started at Wawona K-8 School. Earlier in the year, SROs started at Fort Miller, Tenaya, Terronez, Kings Canyon and Gaston. SRO

### **Webinar Spotlights Wawona**

Wawona K-8 School students in Marcos Chavez's seventh grade ELA class were featured on WestEd's National Webinar: Culturally Sustaining ELD for Grades 6-12. The segment focused on an integrated ELD lesson that was part of a Personal Narrative Unit using the text, *Living Beyond Borders: Growing up Mexican*, by Margarita Longoria. The unit engaged students as they made cultural connections and had lively conversations, leading to high-quality writing.



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