

December 12, 2022



Photo of the Week



ArtHop featured Roosevelt region art on December 1

Dates to Know

May 18 (see website for time)
[Board of Education](#)

May 30
Memorial Day Holiday

June 10
Last Day of School

Video of the Week



[Giving Tuesday Thanks 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.

New Winner in District Coat Drive



The annual coat drive competition among district departments was a huge success this year, with 12 departments collecting a total of 485 coats for the district's homeless students (compared to 224 last year). Benefits and Risk Management won the Golden Stapler Award for collecting the most coats, bringing in 253 coats. New this year, Project ACCESS won the Golden

Giving Tuesday Raises more than \$11,000 for Scholarships



The [Foundation for Fresno Unified School's](#) inaugural participation in Giving Tuesday on November 29 provided the community the opportunity to step in and change the course of students' lives through college scholarships. By donating on Giving Tuesday, each donor helped to give more students access to pursue their post-secondary dreams. THANK YOU! The

foundation raised \$11,195 for scholarships, with 182 donors.

The regional winner was Edison, with 44 donors and \$5,545 raised. [More Giving Tuesday Details](#)

Students Attend Women's Leadership Camp



Students from Fresno Unified participated in the HERo Women's Leadership Camp on November 22. Students in grades 8-12 grade explored careers in law enforcement through hands-on activities and small group sessions with captains and lieutenants and the deputy police chief.

Students Participate in Hour of Code



Students from across the district participated in Hour of Code activities during the week of December 5-11. This global movement, which started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, is designed to demystify "code," to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. Thousands of Fresno Unified students participated this past week.

Winter Break Work Permits

Students in need of a work permit during winter break can get their permit processed at the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Office, 4120 N. First St. (93726). The CCR Office will process and issue work permits on the following dates:

December 19- December 22: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

December 27- December 30: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

January 3-January 6: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The office will be closed December 23, 24, 25, 26 and January 2.

Students must have been offered employment, have their intent to employ (B1-1) form completely filled out and signed by themselves, their employer and their parent/guardian.

Questions: workpermits@fresnounified.org or call (559) 248-7465.

[Winter Work Permit Flyer](#)

Fresno Teacher Residency Program



Interested in acquiring a credential and teaching for Fresno Unified? The Fresno Teacher Residency Program might be for you!

Program Highlights:

- Receive a teaching credential in 12 months
- District professional learning
- Year-long residency placement
- Teaching position in Fresno Unified

Program Supports:

- Cohort model of learning
- Co-teaching opportunities with mentor teachers
- Test prep support

- Financial Incentives

Apply at: tinyurl.com/ftpr2022

Click [HERE](#) to access the flyer for more information on the credential pathways offered

Questions: Jimia.White@fresnounified.org

Academic Decathlon Recruiting Proctors



The Fresno County Academic Decathlon is back in person (after two years as a virtual competition) and is seeking test proctors for the Saturday, February 4 event at Sunnyside High School. Academic Decathlon is one of the most exciting and prestigious scholastic competitions for high school students, featuring mathematics, science, social science, language and literature, visual art, and music.

It takes hundreds of volunteers to ensure the success of the Academic Decathlon. No special educational background, knowledge or experience is needed to serve as a test proctor -- just a willingness to help. All training is provided on the day of the competition. Proctors are needed from 9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., with lunch and snacks provided. This event is coordinated by the Fresno County Office of Education and sponsored by various local businesses. Questions: Gilbert Magallon at Central Unified School District, (559) 274-4700, ext. 63119 or Gmagallon@centralunified.org.

Superintendent Board Remarks from December 7, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks acknowledging and thanking trustee Slatic for his years of service to the Fresno Unified Board of Education and opened the floor to trustees who shared the same.
- Superintendent Nelson then recognized National Special Education Day, which was celebrated on December 2. He shared that our district serves over 9,000 students receiving specialized services and thanked our Special Education Department, staff, and all who serve our students receiving specialized services.
- Superintendent Nelson also congratulated Board Clerk Islas for being awarded as a Champion of Immigrant America by the Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC).
- Superintendent shared that due to the negotiated contingency language in our collective bargaining agreements, most* Fresno Unified staff will be receiving an ongoing 6% pay raise retroactive to July 1, 2022 as well as a one-time 0.5% payment based on your 2021-2022 base salary. Staff will receive a separate check on or around December 15, which includes the retroactive pay and one-time payment. You will see the ongoing 6% salary increase in all future regularly scheduled paychecks. Superintendent shared his gratitude to be able to provide this pay raise and one-time payment in a financially responsible way due to the negotiated contingency language in our CBAs.
- Superintendent reminded folks of our fall eFuel tournament this Saturday at Sunnyside High School. Matches start at 8:30 a.m., with the finals scheduled for 2:30 p.m. If you're not able to join in person, you can watch the livestream on Twitch at [fresnounifiedsports](https://fresnounifiedsports.com).
- Superintendent encouraged all teachers to sign up for the winter PL Summit happening Thursday, January 5 and Friday, January 6. Many great sessions are scheduled and you can find the schedule by [clicking here](#). Make sure to register in iACHIEVE before December 31. All questions can be directed to Edith Navarro.
- Superintendent gave a couple of shoutouts to the Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools. First, for their first annual Giving Tuesday campaign, which brought in 180 donors and more than \$10,000 in a single day for student scholarships. Second, for receiving a generous donation from Councilmember/Assemblymember-elect Esmeralda Soria. Councilmember Soria graciously donated \$20,000 to support student scholarships in the Fresno High area. Superintendent reminded folks that our district cannot and does not provide scholarship assistance through our

district funding (taxpayer dollars), so every dollar raised by the foundation is so impactful to make those resources available to our students for their post-secondary journeys.

- Last, Superintendent shared an update regarding our district's rollout of ParentSquare as our district- and school-to-home communication platform. He shared that about 70 of our schools are learning to use ParentSquare currently and have already begun posting and interacting with families through the platform. Superintendent shared he wants to see even more principals, vice principals, counselors, teachers, and coaches using the platform and that professional learning will be offered at the upcoming PL Summit. You can also get direct support from our Communications team. Superintendent shared this testimonial from Principal Gengozian at Manchester GATE, an early adopter of the ParentSquare platform! Take a look by [clicking here](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

School Buzz

Trustee and Kaiser Representative Read at Williams



As part of a book reading partnership with Kaiser Permanente to promote a love of reading and healthy eating, board member Andy Levine and a Kaiser representative took turns reading "Dinosaur Days" to a class at Williams Elementary School on December 8. Students also received a book to keep. Reading Heart, a nonprofit book donation program, is also part of the partnership, providing fresh fruit for the students.

Eaton Class Collects \$2,000 for Poverello House



Fifth and sixth grade students at Eaton Elementary School collected spare change during the week before Thanksgiving and collected more than \$2,000 for the Poverello House. Students presented a check to Poverello House representatives on December 2. Teacher Kirsten Lee said this is the third year classes have collected change for the Poverello House.

Slater Collecting Food and Clothing

Slater Elementary School is hosting its third annual food and clothing drive. Fifth and sixth graders are leading this event, trying to reach the goal of over 3,000 items! Students are collecting canned food and clothing of all sizes, new or gently used. This is an opportunity for students to give back to members of the community who may be in need this holiday season,

with all donations going to the Poverello House. Community donations can be dropped off in the bins outside the front gate of the front office from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. For larger donations, please contact Kimberly Lopez or Karene Toutikian in the front office. Questions: (559) 248-7260. Slater students appreciate the community's help in reaching their goal this year.

[Slate Food and Clothing Drive Flyer](#)

Eaton Students Learn about Vision Impairment



In recognition of National White Cane Awareness Day, teachers and staff of visually impaired students at Eaton Elementary School set up cane and braille activities for all students during recess. These activities helped students learn more about how their peers with visual impairments travel safely on campus and read and write in braille. Activities included braille stations, cell coding stations, braille Lego stations and a white cane station/obstacle course. Blind students brailled

students' names and students read braille books, played braille games and had fun learning about visual impairments. Eaton is home to a vision impairment inclusion program. National White Cane Awareness Day was October 15 and October was Blind Awareness Month.

Employee Spotlight

Bus Drivers Recognized for Safe Driving



Six Fresno Unified bus drivers have been recognized with Blackwell Awards from the CHP, given to drivers with 20 consecutive years of accident free (at fault) driving. The drivers are Emma Fontes-Sauceda, Rosemary Morales, Twyla Hunt, Kathy Sanders, Lanesha Ruben and Lisa Torres. The award is named for the late Bob Blackwell, a CHP school bus officer from 1950 to 1970.

CTE Spotlight

DeWolf Students Learn about Career Pathways



DeWolf High School hosted the Institute of Technology recently to learn about the school's career pathway programs. Students learned about culinary arts, barbering and cosmetology programs and participated in hands-on demonstrations. This is just another way that DeWolf is expanding student-centered and real-world learning experiences.

Donate to the Scholarship Fund	Volunteer	Work for Fresno Unified
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