

November 14, 2022



### Photo of the Week



Special Olympics soccer skills competition at Rata High School

### Dates to Know

**December 7** (see website for time)  
[Board of Education](#)

### Video of the Week



[LGBTQ+ Untold Stories History Showcase 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

#### District Unveils "Faces of Fresno Unified" Digital Magazine

The district launched a new digital magazine November 10, featuring the students and staff of Fresno Unified. "Faces of Fresno Unified" will publish bi-annually, with a special graduation edition. The digital publication highlights the accomplishments and talents of the Fresno Unified family through words, photos and videos. This edition features the legacy of H. Roger Tatarian, and outstanding students from Hoover High School, Gaston Middle School and Centennial Elementary School. Find out why King Elementary School's library technician is so beloved, and how a shy Sunnyside High School student joined the first class of the Doctors Academy, became a Fresno physician and now mentors future medical professionals from her alma mater. [www.magazine.fresnounified.org](http://www.magazine.fresnounified.org)

#### Winter Camp Registration is Open



Registration for Fresno Unified's FREE winter camps is open! Grades kindergarten through eighth can enjoy camps ranging from drones and aviation, visual arts, winter sports like snowboarding and skiing, and much more. Camps run December 19 through January 6. This year, register by cell phone (make sure contact information is up to date at school). Registration closes November 25.

[Winter Camp Flyer \(in three languages\)](#)

### Native American Heritage Month Educational Series



Fresno Unified has an American Indian school/community liaison to provide academic and student support services for American Indian and Alaska Native students. **Michelle Lira** is the liaison and works hard to support students by connecting them to internal and external resources. This program is federally funded, and students must be the member of an Indian tribe or band, a descendant in the first or second degree, considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut, or a member of an organized Indian group supported by the Indian Education Act of 1988.

Michelle currently serves almost 300 students in Fresno Unified who identify as tribal. To connect a student with Michelle, reach her at [Michelle.Lira@fresnounified.org](mailto:Michelle.Lira@fresnounified.org).

### English Learner Services supports World Languages Conference



English Learner Services helped facilitate a conference at Fresno State on November 5 with world language teachers throughout the Central Valley, with a welcome by Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. Yosemite Middle School dual language immersion teacher Yesenia Chávez delivered a well-developed and impactful unit on social justice. It was announced at the conference that McLane High School will host the World Language Fair for students and their teachers to attend in April.

### 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](mailto:Gmagallon@centralunified.org).

## Superintendent Board Remarks from November 9, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks acknowledging the great work across the district recognizing Native American Heritage Month, National Family Literacy Month, California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month, and Veterans Day.
- Superintendent Nelson then recognized Chief Financial Officer Santino Danisi's stellar work serving our district for the last 14 years. Superintendent wished Santino well in his future endeavors as he becomes the controller for the City of Fresno. Superintendent shared that he will be launching a nationwide search for the best candidate shortly after the new year. In the meantime, Patrick Jensen, will be serving as the interim chief financial officer. Patrick has served as a chief business officer for several years and has experience across the district.
- Superintendent reminded parents that they should be receiving their personalized winter camps registration links via text this week. Superintendent encouraged families to check out the offerings on our website at [extendedlearning.fresnounified.org/wintercamps/](https://extendedlearning.fresnounified.org/wintercamps/) and to get their kids registered for these fun, free camps.
- Superintendent shared the news that our Foundation for Fresno Unified Schools will be participating in Giving Tuesday this year! Giving Tuesday falls on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and is a nationwide drive for folks to give to their favorite charitable organizations. Superintendent asked all to keep an eye out for more information this month and to choose us as your Giving Tuesday donation!
- Superintendent Nelson then made a shoutout to our English learner department and all our Hmong dual language immersion schools and staff. Earlier this week educators from Minnesota visited our district to learn from our Hmong dual language immersion program. Superintendent shared his gratitude for our team's initiative and dedication to develop and write our Hmong DLI curriculum from scratch so we could best serve our unique community.
- Superintendent Nelson wrapped up his remarks recognizing the incredible work of our school psychologists and celebrating National School Psychology Week [with this video](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

## School Buzz

### Kirk Launches Annual Santa Letter Writing Project

Sponsors are needed for the annual Kirk Elementary Santa Letter Project, a way to support Kirk students with a Christmas gift this holiday season. The school's 403 students are excited to write their letters! Sponsors will receive a letter to Santa from a student, and then provide a wrapped gift to that student. Letters will be sent to sponsors by November 18, so sign up now!

To participate as a sponsor: <https://forms.office.com/r/d0NATH5ke9>

See the attached flyer for details and the QR code to sign up as a sponsor.

[Kirk Santa Letter Project Flyer](#)

### Bullard Student Athletes sign National Letters of Intent



Bullard High School celebrated three student athletes signing national letters of intent on November 9. The athletes are:

- Ava Medrano: UC San Diego soccer
- Cameron Schneider: Fresno State baseball
- Trevor Wilson: UC Irvine baseball

## Employee Spotlight

### Norseman Teacher is Educator of the Week

Norseman Elementary School teacher Victoria Sanders was selected as KSEE24's Educator of the Week. Victoria was surprised on November 4 with a \$124 gift card.



## CTE Spotlight

### District Hosts School Choice Expo



The School Choice Expo returned to an in-person event at Duncan Polytechnical High School on November 8. The expo showcased the variety of CTE pathways and programs that are among the district's more than 20 school choice programs offered to engage students' interests, aspirations and learning styles. To learn more, visit [fresnounified.org](http://fresnounified.org) and remember -- the transfers deadline is December 1.

Donate to the  
Scholarship Fund

Volunteer

Work for Fresno Unified