

October 31, 2022



Fresno Unified School District

# COMMUNITYzone

A Publication of the Fresno Unified School District

ACHIEVING OUR GREATEST POTENTIAL



## Photo of the Week



Comcast donated 200 laptops to students from southwest Fresno as part of the Lift Zone launch October 27 at St. Rest Baptist Church, providing free wi-fi to the area for a digital learning hub.

## Dates to Know

**November 9** (see website for time)

[Board of Education](#)

## Video of the Week



[Baird Middle School participates in international Minecraft competition.](#)

## Greetings!

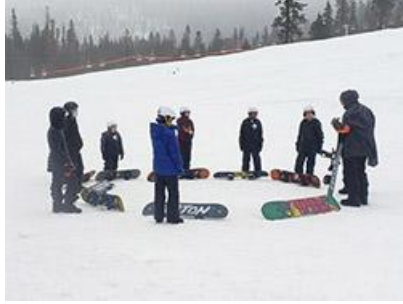
Welcome to Community Zone, an e-newsletter from the Fresno Unified School District featuring news of the district and schools. [Sign up](#) to receive this newsletter every two weeks. Questions? Contact [Communications@fresnounified.org](mailto:Communications@fresnounified.org).

## Community News

### Winter Camp Registration Opening Soon

Registration for Fresno Unified's FREE winter camps opens Monday, November 7. 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](#)



### Community Idea Exchange Forums



There's still lots of opportunities to share ideas on district funding priorities. Attend one of the Community Idea Exchange forums, with the next one scheduled for Thursday, November 1 at Roosevelt High School. All participants will receive an adult ticket and a child ticket to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, along with a ticket for feeding the giraffes. Childcare, dinner and translation services are provided. These community workshops are vital to helping the district prioritize spending and

improve education. All are welcome.

[LCAP flyers in English, Spanish and Hmong](#)  
[Community Idea Exchange Video](#)

### Community Updated on Farber Educational Campus



The community had an opportunity to learn more about the Francine and Murray Farber Educational Campus, including construction progress, timeline, programs and services, at a forum October 27. The community was also invited to provide input on art ideas for the professional development building. Designed to meet the needs of more than 1,200 students, the campus will provide a central location for alternative education schools as well as a hub for a variety of other services for students and families.

### Save the Date: School Choice Expo is Back in Person



The School Choice Expo is back in person this year at Duncan Polytechnical High School on Tuesday, November 8 from 5:30-7 p.m. The district will also continue to host the virtual School Choice Expo from November 7-11 at [fresnounified.org/schoolchoice](https://fresnounified.org/schoolchoice). Fresno Unified offers more than 20 school choice programs designed to engage students' interests, aspirations and learning styles. Programs range from visual and performing arts, International

Baccalaureate, science/technology/engineering and mathematics, dual language programs, world languages, early college to career technical education and many more.

To learn more, visit [fresnounified.org](https://fresnounified.org) and remember -- the transfers deadline is December 1.

[School Choice Expo Flyer](#)

### Superintendent Board Remarks from October 26, 2022



- Superintendent Nelson started his remarks acknowledging the great celebrations across the district as we wrap up LGBTQ+ History Month with the Untold Stories Showcase at Fresno High tomorrow evening.
- Superintendent also recognized the amazing work happening across the district as our schools celebrate Red Ribbon Week with students pledging to be drug-free.
- Superintendent then shared a few highlights of great work from our IT Department including:

- All elementary school classrooms are now equipped with 75-inch Promethean panels for interactive learning. Teachers and students can use apps or any Windows software, or they can

cast their own laptops onto the panel display. Great work by our IT and CIPL teams to install the panels and train teachers in over 2,300 classrooms.

- Our IT team has also completed Phase 2 of the leased fiber upgrade to our district network. 62 more school sites now have internet speeds between 20 times and 100 times their prior speeds. Internet traffic now comes into each site from two directions, which reduces outages. Seventy-one of our school sites have been upgraded, and the remaining sites are actively underway. Thank you to the board for their continued investment in technology for our students and staff.

- Our IT team also has an exciting visit coming up on Monday! Tokyo's board of education will be visiting Fresno Unified. Tokyo's BoE was encouraged by Microsoft to visit Fresno Unified to learn about our Personalized Learning Initiative and our use of Open Education Analytics. Tokyo's BoE is the largest BoE in Japan, with 20,000 teachers and 160,000 students. We're proud of our team's work to become a global leader in these areas.

- Superintendent Nelson then shared several key dates for our Fresno Unified Family including:
  - Our [Community Idea Exchanges](#), otherwise known as our LCAP town halls, continue tomorrow at Edison, Roosevelt on November 1, and Fresno High on November 7. All meetings begin at 5 p.m. and we encourage all of our families, students, and staff to join and share their ideas on how we budget for the next school year.

- Starting on November 7, our registration opens for our [Winter Camps](#)! There are 15 sessions available on and offsite spanning things like snowboarding, drones, aviation, first responders' career, and much more. Links to register will be sent by text to all families with registration opens – so please make sure your cell phone number is correct and up to date in ATLAS to get that text to register.

- Also starting on November 7 is our [Choose Your Future Week](#)! Fresno Unified offers more than 20 school choice programs designed to engage students' interests, aspirations and learning styles. You can see all we have to offer at our in-person School Choice Expo on Tuesday, November 8 from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. at Duncan Polytechnical High School. We are also offering our virtual School Choice Expo from November 7-11. Visit [www.fresnounified.org/schoolchoice](http://www.fresnounified.org/schoolchoice) to browse our programs on your own time. Don't forget, the priority deadline for transfer applications is December 1. In that spirit, Superintendent shared this [highlight video from our Transfers Department](#).

[View Full Board Meeting Recap](#)

## School Buzz

### Dia de los Muertos at Ahwahnee Middle School



Students from Spanish and Native Speaker classes at Ahwahnee Middle School have been working very hard learning about Dia de los Muertos and how Hispanic culture celebrates this very special time with their families. Students learned about the "altares" and they created a very personal and unique altar celebrating their family members who passed away.

### Herrera Sixth Graders Lead Campus to a Greener Future





Sixth graders at Herrera Elementary School completed their first STEAM project with an exciting culminating event. During this quarter-long project, students designed a recycling program that involved collecting data, generating questions, investigating solutions, making predictions, and engaging in meaningful collaboration with community partners. Their project came to life when teams of students created and presented project proposals and submitted them to the city of Fresno. Students received recycling containers from the city's solid waste management division and will now distribute the containers and present to all grade levels at Herrera, as part of their new schoolwide recycling program.

### **Edison Hosts 30th Annual Fall Model United Nations Conference**

Edison High School hosted its 30th annual Fall Model United Nations Conference on October 20. Eighty students explored Security Council and Economic and Social Council topics while roleplaying the part of delegates from over 40 countries. Edison seniors Owen Wanless, Hannah Gill, John Mortimer and Leo Price developed the conference topics and acted as co-chairs. During the daylong event, students debated global migrant labor abuses, how to improve meteorological forecasting and rival claims to lands in the Nagorno-Karabakh and Cyprus regions.

### **Fresno High Region's ArtHop investigates CHANGE**



Muir Elementary School and Phoenix Elementary Academy student art will be featured at ArtHop on Thursday, November 3 at the M Street Art Complex. Muir's "Inside Outside" show was created by TK students with the guidance of their teacher, Marylyn Topoozian. Students 4 and 5 years old reflected on the experience of being sheltered at home (inside) and then the excitement of visiting the zoo (outside). Phoenix Elementary Academy created art based on a study of literature and post-pandemic feelings through poetry, windows into students' worlds, and butterflies representing the process of

change in their school-wide show "The Change Within."

Fresno Unified's [REAL Collaborative](#) galleries at M Street will also feature make-and-take activities, and a best-of-September gallery curated by Edison High School.

Come take a look at [ArtHop](#) on Thursday, November 3 from 5-8 p.m. at the M Street Art Complex on the corner of Tuolumne and M streets. Contact [Alana Hill](#) in the Arts Education Department for more information. M Street Arts Complex -- 1419 M. St. Fresno, CA 93721

## **Employee Spotlight**

### **Yosemite Teacher Wins Award**



Jessica Cisneros, a teacher at Yosemite Middle School, has been named a 2022 Staples Thank A Teacher Contest winner. Her nomination reads: "Jessica took the necessary exams to teach history in both English and Spanish to provide any student regardless of language barriers equal access to education. She is always willing to take summer classes or attend professional development to improve her lessons for her students. She does not hesitate to use her own money for her students in and out of her classroom. Without any prior knowledge, she also has become the tennis and soccer coach and has led our teams to victory. She is without a doubt an amazing teacher."

## McLane Teacher Awarded Grant



McLane High School teacher and head football coach Andrew Pancotti has been awarded a grant of up to \$1,000 from The Foundation@FCOE for his Nutrition and Hydration Initiative. He will be honored on November 2, along with other grant recipients. Andrew explained that since he was hired as McLane's coach in 2021, he has noticed his players struggle with nutrition and hydration, which has contributed to injuries. Crosspoint Church, across the street from the school, has generously been providing pre-game meals and

drinks for the team.

"The student-athletes were excited and grateful. This led us to the idea of applying for a grant for 2023 through the Foundation at Fresno County Superintendent of Schools," Andrew said.

Andrew said the grant will pay for meals and electrolyte drinks for players before every home and away game next year to help them perform at their best and avoid cramping and other related injuries. Andrew said: "On behalf of McLane High School and the McLane High School football team, we thank the FCSS for this generous award. We look forward to our partnership with Crosspoint Church."

## CTE Spotlight

### First Electric Truck Arrives at Duncan for Hands-On Student Learning



Duncan Polytechnical High School took delivery of its first fully electric truck for students to work on in the Heavy Diesel Truck Technology Pathway. Duncan is the first high school in the nation to obtain a fully electric truck. The district's purchase of the Mack LRE truck is a significant investment to ensure students have the most up to date equipment to learn from as they prepare for careers in heavy truck repair, a growing industry with excellent employment potential. The truck arrived November 27. The truck pathway is part of Duncan's [Innovative Design and Applied Technology Academy](#). [Video of Delivery of Duncan's New Truck](#)

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