

VOLUME 8

APRIL, 2024

THE GUSD PRESENTS... GROOVE



**SPRING BREAK EXTENDED
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
GUSD STUDENTS!**

A Message From Superintendent Kyle Turner

It is hard to imagine that we are smack in the middle of April with the testing season upon us. I remain excited for the opportunity to show what our students can do at all of our sites. While standardized assessments don't measure nearly every area of learning, it is a measuring stick for how our students compare to other schools and, more importantly, how we are improving as a District. Best of luck in the administration to all of our sites as we get ready to go!

The District has been rugged at work hiring and preparing numbers for our classrooms next year. As has been much discussed in schools across California, the budget is not education-friendly in its current state. As a District we will be looking to maximize resources and decisions will be made to ensure that we are in a solid fiscal position heading into the next few years. It will be essential for us to staff effectively and efficiently while continuing to be creative to put our students and staff in positions to excel as we strive to achieve new heights in programs and overall student data.

It is an honor to recognize this year's retirees as they round out successful careers in education. Regardless of your role, every member of the GUSD plays an integral role in developing students in hopes that they will be thriving members of our community and beyond. I want to congratulate Richard Cicchillo, Lynn Fredrickson, Heidi Hillesheim, Ron Munoz and Stacy Oliver for their exceptional contributions to Gateway. As I close out my 29th year in education, it rings more accurate than ever as to how much an educator gives to young people. I speak for all of the GUSD when I wish all of our retirees health and happiness for many years as they stride toward the finish line.

I trust that everyone is poised to finish the year strong after a much needed recharge during spring break. We are entering a longer stretch of the school year that sometimes feels like the close of a marathon. Like an experienced runner, I know that we will collectively have a solid kick to finish the year with energy and grit. Thank you in advance for continuing to shine a light for our kids as we prepare them for their next level of education and life. It is an honor to be in the field of education and also a part of the best team in Shasta County and beyond.

I look forward to getting out to the sites and seeing an athletic event as the sunshine has been increasing its presence over the last month. I encourage everyone to support our students when you get the chance as I know they light up when they catch a glimpse of one of their teachers or school staff in the bleachers or around the track. Best of luck to all of our coaches and thank you to those who give so much of their time and energy to our co-curricular and extracurricular activities. You are appreciated!

Have a wonderful week and I'll see you soon around campus!

KT

"Make your mark!"

ATTENDANCE FACTS!

- If a student misses 2 days of school per month, they will have missed an entire school year of education by the time they reach high school.
- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Chronic absence appears to have doubled by the end of the 2021-22 school year. We estimate that it now affects nearly one out of three students.
- Absenteeism and its ill effects start early.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month, known as chronic absence.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and graduation chances.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.



BUCKEYE

Music In Our Schools

Just prior to going out on Spring Break our students had the great opportunity to participate in Music in Our Schools hosted by Shasta Lake School. Our students and Mrs. Perkins did an amazing job proudly representing Buckeye.

K Shasta Radio

Thank you to K-Shasta Radio for coming onto campus and having lunch with our kindergarteners. You are welcome back anytime.

Kiwanis Terrific Kids

Thank you to Shasta Dam Kiwanis for helping us in recognizing some of our amazing students. Congratulations to Regina Carranza, Tobias Verhanes, Reya Ysit, Mali Mendoza-Atchison, Stephen Fisher and Stefany Ramirez-Batista.

Spring Adventure Camp

Spring Break camp was an awesome adventure enjoyed by all who participated. From Six Flags , movie theatre trips, Giants' game, STEM activities and Film camp there was something for everyone.

Lake Shasta Caverns

Shout Out to our 6th Grade teachers and volunteers who led our students on an amazing field trip to Lake Shasta Caverns. It was an awesome opportunity for our students to experience the historic caverns in person.

Ninja Coalition

Our students are looking forward to the Ninja Coalition. Our students will be participating in this event the week of 4/15-4/19.

CAASPP Testing

Our 3rd-8th grade students will begin state testing the week of April 22nd.



BUCKEYE



FEEL THE FALCON PRIDE!



CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

2024 California Distinguished School

Sports

Track has hosted three track meets this last month: John Frank Memorial, Burt Williams Invitational, and a NAL Meet. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff members that have made the meets successful.

Baseball and softball have had great starts to league. Wins are coming their way, check-out a home game.

Tennis and golf have been fighting the weather, but are making strides with the largest teams we have had in years.

Clubs/Extracurricular

Drama will be performing The Odyssey (Dr. Seuss) for their spring performance this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Thank you, Lisa Ernst for your years of dedication making drama a place for students to demonstrate their talents.

Four students attended the Yosemite trip funded by the McConnell Foundation. The students were exploring the Yosemite Valley for five days having a unique experience.

Mathletes demonstrated their elite math skills at a county competition on March 15 at Shasta College.

Link Crew and ASB will be attending the Ninja Coalition on Thursday, April 18 to have team building time and bonding as leaders for CVHS underclassmen.

Music in Our Schools showcased our orchestra, band, and choir ensembles for an evening with all the music programs from across the district.

Academics

CAASPP testing will be starting April 23 to May 3. Juniors are ready and motivated to do their best.

Three college trips were provided to students by ETS, TRIO, and Gear-Up from Seattle to Los Angeles. Students expressed how informative and fun the trips were for them.

Shout-Outs

Congratulations, Anna Hartman-She birthed her son Bennett Hartman on March 15, 2024

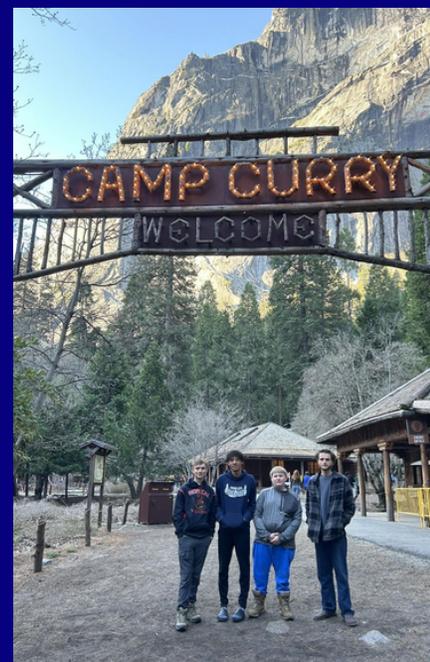
Employees of the Year: Sally Dodson (Paraprofessional), Jacob Weld (Custodial), Kristina Fancelli (Kitchen)

ROP Students of the Year: Layla Grider, Cosmetology

FEEL THE FALCON PRIDE!



CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL





GRAND OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Success for 4th and 5th Grade Basketball Teams:

Cheers to our girls' and boys' basketball teams for their outstanding season! Their hard work and dedication paid off, leading to significant improvements and a season filled with fun and teamwork. As they wrap up, they'll be showcasing their skills in the league tournament.

ASCEND Program Launch at Grand Oaks:

Beginning March 11th, Grand Oaks welcomes the ASCEND program, offering students a dynamic morning mentorship experience from 7-8 before school. Focused on a "Brain-Based" approach, participants will engage in diverse activities including morning exercises, games, art, science, tutoring, mentorship, and more.

Spring Melodies Fill the Air:

Ms. Beadle orchestrated enchanting spring music mini-concerts for families, featuring performances by each class. From delightful songs and dances to captivating instrumentals, the concerts showcased the talents and hard work of our students.

Spring Break Adventures Abound:

Spring Break camp was a blast for all participants! While older students enjoyed thrilling adventures at Six Flags in Vallejo, complete with a \$20 gift card for souvenirs and a Giants game, younger students embarked on a cinematic journey with Kung Fu Panda. Film camp provided an exciting opportunity for all to unleash their creativity with professional-grade equipment to make short films, while STEM activities, woodworking, crafts, and music kept everyone engaged. The week concluded with a delightful root beer float party, leaving memories to cherish.

Recognizing Terrific Kids:

Congratulations to the outstanding students selected for the Kiwanis Terrific Kids Awards! Chosen for their excellence in academics and citizenship, each recipient received a personalized cup, certificate, and fun gift, along with a special dinner for their family, courtesy of the Kiwanis group.
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MOUNTAIN LAKES GATEWAY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS/COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

Graduations & Promotions

Mountain Lakes Graduation Ceremony is June 4th at 9:00AM

Gateway Educational Options Graduation Ceremony is June 4th at 11:00

Gateway Educational Options 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony is May 31st at 10:00

Kiwanis Outstanding Students

Thank you to Shasta Dam Kiwanis for honoring our spring semester outstanding students. We are recognizing Brian Saelee and Dominic Forester for their hardwork and great attitude in school.

Ninja Coalition

Our students are looking forward to the Ninja Coalition. Our students will be participating in this event April 19th.

Personal Device Yondr Pouches

Monday after spring break, we began full implementation of our "phone free" campus policy. Students are still adjusting to not having access to their personal devices at school during school hours but we are already seeing positive results.

Shasta College Tour

Shout Out to Ms. Lynn, our counselor, for organizing a trip to Shasta College to see a variety of the school programs! Attending Shasta College is FREE for the first two years out of high school and have numerous trade programs along with 2 year degrees and transfer options!

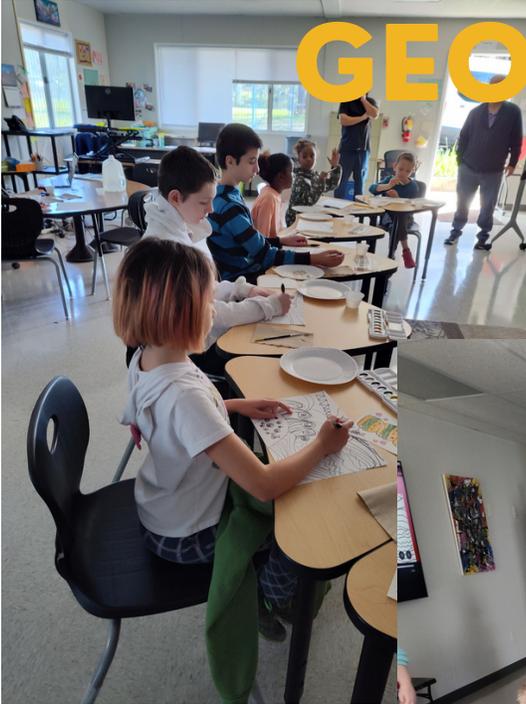
CAASPP Testing

Our 3rd-12th grade students will begin state testing the week of May 6th.



MOUNTAIN LAKES GATEWAY EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS/COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

GEO ART LAB





SHASTA LAKE SCHOOL

We've had several great events over the past month that were enjoyed by many: Literacy Night, Second Trimester Awards Assembly, 4th/5th Basketball season, 6th-8th Baseball and Softball, Kindergarten Orientation, Music in our Schools, Cal Fire visitation to Mrs. Castillo and Mr. Sang's classes, and Concert in the Halls! What a busy and fun month!

Coming Soon:

- Ninja Coalition Obstacle Course 4/15-4/19
- Scholastic Book Fair 4/22-4/26
- Open House 4/24 at 5:30-6:30 pm
- 6th-Grade Orientation for SLS & GOES 4/25
- CAASPP Testing 4/30-5/3
- CAASPP Testing Make-Ups and CAST Testing 5/6-5/10



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

As we start the downhill ride of the school year, we are ramping up our planning and implementation for next year. The majority of planning is based on what the State of California is going to do with their budget and the huge shortfall they are predicting. We have to take that information and localize it and analyze how that will affect Gateway.

Our goal at GUSD is to maintain fiscal solvency while offering stability for our current staff. We want to be able to show our appreciation through increases to salaries, maintaining programs that are beneficial to all our students and have the necessary tools for each individual to perform their jobs without limitations. Every single one of those goals costs money. Our job is to provide balance in all areas of education – teachers, curriculum, support staff, maintenance, custodial, food service, transportation, etc.

Some of the curveballs that we try to anticipate are declining enrollment, being competitive in the job market, and making sure everything we do meets the requirements put on us by State and Federal authorities. This can be very challenging. The next couple of years will be a financial struggle for GUSD. The small changes and adjustments we can make today will help us ensure we fulfill our goals through the uncertainty.

If you have any questions about the business side of GUSD, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to answer any and all of your questions. Beth Roberts – broberts@gwusd.org



What Happened



SCOE Employee of the Year

Back to Back



In recognition of the quality of employees at Gateway, the technology department won Employee of the Year for the SCOE Educator Appreciation Winner in the Technical Services category for the second year in a row. Congratulations to this year's winner Josh Raybisch.

Josh is a highly skilled and dedicated employee who has worked for the District for over seven years. He started working with the District's technology department as a high school student ROP intern and became an integral part of the department after his graduation. In addition to his technical skills, Josh is also known for his excellent customer service. Additionally, Josh has demonstrated leadership abilities, as evidenced by his role as the Vice President of CSEA and a CSEA negotiation team member.

Transportation!

The tread on the tires are still in good condition as Professional Student Transporters continue to provide safe services reaching the end of the school year!

This month presented great opportunity for the Transportation Department. Starting with several employee birthdays, Spring Camp activities and continuing with BUSWEST services providing trainings and NEW wheelchair school buses!

ATTENTION: PARENTS/GUARDIANS & STAFF



As the end of the school year is nearing, please be mindful of the treats that are given to the students. All food items need to be packaged & sealed in a proper container. With the ratio of 1 driver to 78 passenger vehicles (some cases 84), these items pose both a risk for choking hazards and allergen concerns.



Of course, do not forget the NEW BUSES!

Did you know that part of the California Highway Patrols Vehicle Inspection is “Cleanliness.” ?

**“HAVE FUN!
YET, SAFETY IS ALWAYS NUMBER ONE!” (K.Best:)**



2 NEW ARRIVALS COMING SOON TO SPECIAL EDUCATION!



CERTIFICATE

CSEA
EMPLOYEE OF
THE YEAR!

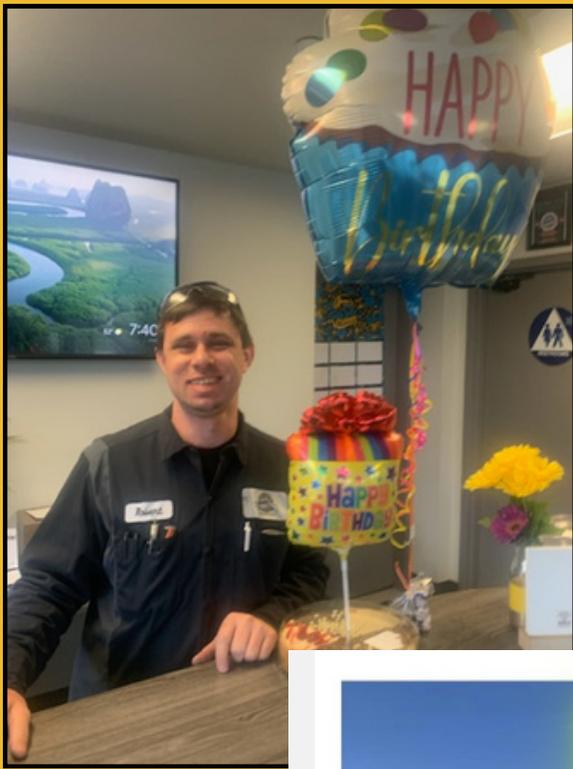
2024

Steve Witts

Exemplifying Excellence, Efficiency
&
Outstanding Productivity!



Kristen Best
SUPERVISOR OF
TRANSPORTATION



Gateway Unified School District
Let's Connect!

Student Services

Our Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) held Spring Camp for over 200 Gateway students from April 1-5. Students enjoyed Jiu Jitsu taught by Rice Brothers from Redding, field trips to the Sacramento Zoo, Six Flags Amusement Park, Turtle Bay Exploratorium and a variety of hands on activities. Students even got to learn new hip hop dance moves taught by Fred Vassalo. To top off the week of excitement, students also got to travel to the San Francisco Bay area to watch a Giants game in the Oracle Baseball Park! It was a nail biter of a game and the Giants pull off the win in the final inning to beat the San Diego Padres 3-2.



Instructional SERVICES

As state testing weeks approach, *QUSD teachers* have been working hard to help students reach or exceed mastery in reading, writing, math and science--making sure to create engaging lessons that help students reach their academic potential.



Parents can play a crucial role in helping their students feel prepared and confident. Here are some positive tips to support your child during testing:

- **Encourage Healthy Habits:** Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep, eats nutritious meals, and stays hydrated to support optimal brain function.
- **Offer Emotional Support:** Listen to your child's concerns and offer encouragement and reassurance. Remind them that they're capable and that you're proud of their efforts.
- **Practice Relaxation Techniques:** Teach your child relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or visualization to help manage any test-related anxiety.
- **Celebrate Achievements:** Recognize and celebrate your child's progress and hard work leading up to the tests, regardless of the outcome. This helps build confidence and motivation.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

As the District enters spring, our facilities will be in increased use. During this time we have many AAU organizations from all around the North state on our campuses playing basketball in tournaments. This is a great way for Gateway to showcase our courts and sites in the months of March, April and May. We also have increased use of our fields when local SDALL requests use for baseball/softball practices. This District welcomes the coordination with the community and organizations allowing access to further promote positive athletic and extracurricular activity.

Local Fruit and Vegetables are starting to pour in! This time of year our daily Salad Bars have numerous local choices from Mandarins, Strawberries and Kiwi to Snap Pees, Salad Mixes and Broccoli.





GUSD
LET'S CONNECT!



GUSD Gateway Unified School District



@officialgusd

Also available at gatewayusd.org