

the Buzz

Winter Issue 2017

A Marysville Joint Unified School District Publication



District Benchmarks

Good News:

Throughout the spring, MJUSD consultant Maria Nielson will be visiting sites to help staff “unpack” the California State Standards and begin the process of creating site-based interim assessments. This endeavor will allow sites to become more autonomous in the establishment and administration of formative benchmark assessments for their students. These site-based assessments will guide teachers in identifying areas of academic strength and areas in need of enhancement for their students. The goal is to provide teachers with relevant and timely data to modify and adjust teaching strategies to meet specific student needs. This process will necessitate grade-level and/or content area staff working together to agree on the foundational concepts and skills students need to know and be able to demonstrate to be successful in the coming year.

Once the agreed upon site-based assessments are loaded into Illuminate, the site will no longer be required to administer the MJUSD Benchmark or end-of-unit assessments. Rather, each site will measure student progress utilizing the essential standard formative assessments they have created.

Bad News:

Until the site-based formative assessments are created, the MJUSD Benchmark assessments and/or end-of-unit program assessments will need to be administered by the site.

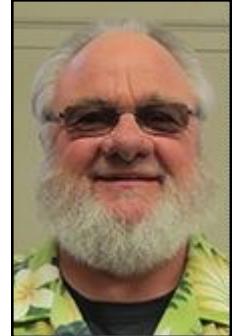
Gay Todd

Gay Todd, Ed.D.
Superintendent

New Faces on the MJUSD Board of Trustees.....

Paul Allison

I am Paul Allison. Some of you know me as I have taught in the district since 1990. I believe that schools and education are our future. As Jefferson believed, “Schools are the cornerstone of our democracy.” I also believe that through our schools, we build our future. But schools must have the right tools to do their job. As your school board member I want to promote policies that will remove obstacles to student achievement. I want to work in partnership with parents and teachers to give the schools the tools they need to give the students the skills they need. This means that we need to have safe, healthy classrooms with the technology needed for modern teaching. It also means supporting teachers to enhance their skills to do what they do best – teach. I know that teachers need time to work and plan with their colleagues. This preparation promotes the best student learning. As a teacher in this district for over 26 years, I know what it takes to provide a high quality education which incorporates the values of our community, and the world class education our students deserve. I am committed to the education of our children and to ensure their future success by developing the best academic and vocational programs possible. I encourage you to contact me and share your ideas to continue to provide our students the best education and life preparation possible.



Susan Scott

I'd like to introduce myself...I'm Susan Scott, new board member representing Area 2. I've had the unique pleasure of being employed with the MJUSD for 26 years in various clerical positions at several school sites. I began at Alicia School as an Outreach Assistant and then transferred to W.T. Ellis. I worked in the district office to support the Discipline Attendance Review Team (DART)/SARB program. My first fulltime position in the district was at Yuba

Gardens as the School Librarian. I finished my career at Marysville High School as an Attendance Clerk. Each position allowed me to interact with students, parents, and teachers as well as many community partners. I know the importance of student attendance and engaging parents in school activities. Schools provide many resources to families. Newsletters and outreach communication keep parents updated. I respect the dedication that teachers have and share with students. My admiration was strengthened when I worked at the high school and experienced first-hand the positive influence teachers have on our students. Watching the young men and women graduate and begin their adult life knowing our schools played an important role in their growth and development was a real pleasure. I hope to continue to help bridge the gap between school, staff, parents, and the community as we work together to keep our schools the best they can be.



The Buzz from the District Office.....



School Wellness Policy

(Managed by the MJUSD Coordinated School Health Council)

Fast Facts

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires those participating in the USDA's School Meal program to establish a local wellness policy and inform the public of the following:

- ✓ Nutrition guideline limits: calories, fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sugar
- ✓ Measure and evaluate wellness policy compliance of current district practices with model policies
- ✓ Each school must have a designee to oversee wellness policy

The Wellness Committee has been progressively working to bring MJUSD into compliance with this regulation since the 2007-08 school year. Most recently during the 2015-16 school year the committee: assisted in the notification & implementation of policy revisions, provided site-level training and support for the Wellness Policy Annual Evaluation, and collected and analyzed data from the Wellness Policy Annual Evaluation.

Summary of Evaluation Data

Best Practices

Schools are aware of the Wellness Policy and continue to find ways to improve on-site initiatives promoting healthy behaviors. Nutrition Education is facilitated through the Harvest of Month and Dairy Council curriculum, STARS, and UC CalFresh. Nutrition Services offers a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and has decreased offerings of pre-packaged foods while meeting federal regulations. An "Approved Food List" for fundraisers and student groups promotes a positive relationship between these groups and Nutrition Services which encourages healthy behaviors for our students both at school and at home. Health Services continues to push boundaries with outreach initiatives.

Hurdles

- ✓ Need for parent/guardian/staff support to improve the nutrition quality of food at classroom celebrations
- ✓ Support with PE and nutrition curriculum and professional development opportunities
- ✓ Small and outdated kitchen facilities pose challenges while continuing to improve food service operations and menu

2016-17 Goals

- ✓ Increase meal participation
- ✓ Provide elementary schools with an approved list of food items to sell at fundraisers and events
- ✓ Host a Diabetic Health Fair to reach high risk students
- ✓ Form an Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition Education and Physical Education
- ✓ Improved security partnership with the Marysville Police Department



Our hard work is getting noticed

Local and statewide community partners have recognized MJUSD as a leader in implementation of the School Wellness Policy and Evaluation. **Amber Watson**, Director of Nutrition Services, has been asked to speak on both a local and statewide level about our best practices and procedures for bringing our district into compliance with this regulation.

Ed Services—New English Learner Reclassification.....

New guidelines for English Learner Reclassification have expanded to include multiple measures which will make the process easier for students. Form #21 has changed...now when investigating the evidence that ensures a student is at grade level proficiency, site review teams will have additional criteria to monitor:

- ◆ Overall CELDT scores of Advanced or higher, and domain scores of Intermediate or higher.
- ◆ Teacher evaluation including, but not limited to curriculum mastery. Report Card grades may play a part in this evaluation but are not required.
- ◆ Parent /Guardian opinion and consultation.
- ◆ Basic skills assessment based on overall proficiency on the ELA SBAC, and/or overall proficiency on district benchmarks, including site-based, grade-level standards assessments shared in Illuminate.

Board of Trustees

Paul Allison

Jeff Boom

Frank Crawford

Jim Flurry

Glen Harris

Randy Rasmussen

Susan Scott

Welcome to Jessica Guth.....

Student and Health Services welcomes **Jessica Guth**, Director of Program Services. Jessica comes to our district from Yuba City Unified School District. Jessica lives in Yuba City with her husband and children Max and Olivia. Jessica has experience as a Special Education teacher and Program Specialist. She brings much enthusiasm and energy to the district, and we are pleased to have her expertise to add to our team. Jessica is here to support specialized classrooms, staff development, intervention programs, Speech and Language Services, and Health and Nursing.



Student and Health Services.....

Based on our December 1 Student Count, we are serving 1,268 students identified with Special Needs. Each of our diverse schools offers a continuum of Special Education supports and services, and several of our school sites provide quite unique program options.

Olivehurst Elementary School is in year one of implementing their Learning Center model. Designed by Special Education Teacher, **Robyn Lynn**, with the assistance of General Education Teacher, **Melissa White**, and the support of Special Education Teacher, **Dan Pingel**, along with our Technology Director, **Bryan Williams**. The Learning Center was funded through a State Department Inclusion Grant; this center-based approach to serving students with and without special needs is assisting with the federal initiative to serve ALL students in more regular and inclusive environments.

The Learning Center team focuses on students belonging to General Education first and as assessment data is collected, students are provided intervention in alignment with their academic levels. The location of that intervention might be in the general classroom or within the center. As the model grows and expands, students will receive more instruction time in general settings with non-disabled peers and identify less with traditional self-contained classrooms. Teachers will develop more professional and collaborative means of working together to support all kids. This program has literally broken down the walls between general and special education classrooms. Congratulations to the Olivehurst team! Call Student Services if you would like to tour.

New Wheels.....

Four new buses have been added to the Transportation Department fleet. Old 1990 buses were replaced with 2016 models that carry 84 passengers. The old buses could not be retrofitted with particulate traps or other clean technology. These buses were purchased with one time discretionary funds at a cost of \$162,656 per bus. The old replacement buses were traded in for a cost savings to the district.



One additional new bus is being purchased with grant funding from the Feather River Air Quality Management District. The Blue Sky Grant will pay \$123,634 with the district matching \$40,000. The old bus must be taken off the road and destroyed as part of the grant funding agreement. The Transportation Department is coordinating with local law enforcement and fire agencies to create training opportunities for first responders before the old bus is destroyed.

These new buses are 100 year anniversary model Thomas Built, SAF-T-LINER buses built in Thomas's environmental friendly factory in High Point, North Carolina.



The Air Force Junior ROTC has been cleared for takeoff and will be landing at LHS next school year. The aerospace program will be open to all high school students in the district. LHS is engaged in the process of hiring the commanding officer.

Employees We're Buzzing About....



Administrators of the Year

Two MJUSD administrators were recognized by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Colusa-Sutter Yuba Chapter with Administrator of the Year awards on February 9.

Doug Escheman

Doug Escheman has invested 30 years in the MJUSD. Doug began his career as a 5th grade teacher and currently serves as Principal of Covillaud Elementary School. Covillaud was named a Distinguished School and Title I Academic Achievement School under Doug's leadership, an honor he humbly shares with his staff, students, Marysville Rotary and Kiwanis, Blue Cross, Glad Tidings, and the Marysville Police Department plus an additional 300 or so supporters including organizations, churches, parents, and friends from the community. Covillaud rose from an API academic score of 536 (in 1997) to an impressive 873 (in 2011) just before the State of California stopped calculating the API. Their scores were over 800 for six straight years. Doug was recognized as the Elementary Principal of the Year.

Kari Ylst

Kari Ylst was named Intermediate Principal of the Year and recognized for her trustworthiness, open mindedness, inclusiveness, dedication, compassion and professionalism. She is applauded for her depth of knowledge in educational methodology and touted as being a champion of students and staff. Kari's participatory leadership and communication skills were also highlighted in her nomination. Kari is easy to talk to, encourages feedback, and appreciates her collaborators in the field of education. Kari has a knack for working with people constructively, and taking on challenges confidently. Alicia and Yuba Gardens intermediate schools merged in 2008. Three years after the merger, Kari was hired as the principal of Yuba Gardens. Her winning style has brought peace and harmony to the Yuba Gardens team.



Join AmazonSmile and support the Education Foundation when you shop. When you select the Marysville Joint Unified School District Education Foundation as your charitable organization, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the Foundation. As of the middle of January, 27 customers are supporting the Education Foundation for a cumulative donation of \$391.31.

AmazonSmile is a free program and smile.amazon.com offers the exact same prices and vast selection as Amazon.com. Bookmark the following link so your eligible shopping benefits our

Thank you!



Who Dun It? A Fundraiser to Die For!

Mafia Murder Mystery

When:
Saturday, April 29
6:00 p.m.

Where:
Allyn Scott Community Center

How Much:
\$25
Includes: Interactive Murder Mystery,
Four-course Italian Dinner,
Fun and Games

Who Benefits:
Marysville Joint Unified School District
Education Foundation

A non-profit organization supporting a myriad of special academic and extra-curricular needs benefitting students.

One of the names on the
Guest List is also on another's
Hit List....no one is safe.



Your principal has tickets and would ❤️ to sell them to you!