

GOLD GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Marysville Joint Unified School District



Highlights in this issue:

**MHS LIBRARY RENOVATIONS
REACH COMPLETION**

**BUILDING PBIS FOUNDATION
WITHIN MJUSD**

**ARBOĞA TK-8 EXPANSION
HITS KEY MILESTONE**

Greetings and Happy New Year! Can you believe we have reached our 100th day of school? This is the latest issue of our monthly newsletter where we provide important updates and share some of the exciting things happening across the Marysville Joint Unified School District. We are so thankful to all of our employees for working together to create a safe, happy, and healthy learning environment. We could not do it without each and every one of you, so thank you. If you have a special person, program, or project that you think should be included in a future newsletter, please let us know!



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear MJUSD Family,

Happy New Year to everyone! Although we returned from winter break a short while ago, the past few weeks have been difficult as we face a surge in positive COVID-19 cases that continue to disrupt our schools and impact our students, staff and families. I am hopeful that case counts will soon decline and we will find ourselves returning to a “new normal,” but for now we are all dealing with the challenges associated with trying to work and learn amid an ever-changing global pandemic. During these tough times I would like to request compassion, patience and support as we all work through this together. I am extremely thankful for our teachers, support staff and administration who are working so hard to keep our schools open. Thank you for your continued service to our students and our community.

The month of January is designated as School Board Recognition Month, which serves as a good reminder to recognize our hard-working Trustees and educate the public about the important role that Trustees play in schools and communities. From the first public schoolhouse in an old church in San Francisco in 1850, California’s Boards of Education have grown to oversee more than 1,000 school districts and county offices of education. In addition to overseeing educational quality at school districts, trustees take on a range of other duties such as decision-making on policies associated with budgets, staffing, facilities, food services and more. The last two years have been challenging for everyone and our Trustees have stood strong in their resolve to support our students and create and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment.

In other important news, the process to create a three-year Strategic Plan is moving into the initial discussion phase as facilities improvements continue across the district. Six Sitolig solar installations will come online before the end of the school year. Detailed plans are coming together for renovations at Covillaud Elementary School and potential improvements at Foothill Intermediate School. The Arboga Elementary School TK-8 expansion project is also nearing completion as site administrators prepare to welcome their first 7th grade class in the 2022-2023 school year.

As we continue to work together I would like to encourage input and ideas from the community about programs and support services that would benefit our students. On that note, I hope you are taking advantage of the 24/7 tutoring support and 24/7 mental health support services that the Board of Trustees recently approved. More information can be found on the district’s website at www.mjusd.com. As a community of learners, we will continue to prioritize the health and welfare of our students and staff. I wish everyone a wonderful rest of the month! Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Fal Asrani, Ed.D

MJUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Randy L. Davis
Trustee Area 1
Term 2017-2024

Vice President Alisan R. Hastey
Trustee Area 3
Term 2020-2024

Member Jeff D. Boom
Trustee Area 4
Term 2002-2022

Clerk Randy L. Rasmussen
Trustee Area 3
Term 2014-2022

Member Frank J. Crawford
Trustee Area 2
Term 2010-2022

Member Gary J. Criddle
Trustee Area 2
Term 2020-2024

Trustee Representative Doug F. Criddle
Trustee Area 4
Term 2020-2024



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: RANDY DAVIS

Randy L. Davis has recently been selected to serve as President of the Marysville Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees. Mr. Davis first moved to the Marysville area with his family in the 1960s and he and his siblings attended Marysville High School, which he graduated from in 1970. After high school Mr. Davis went on to attend Yuba College before transferring to UC Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in soil and plant nutrition.

Following graduation, Mr. Davis joined the Peace Corps and served as a volunteer soil scientist for two years in Lesotho, a landlocked country in South Africa. Upon his return to the states, he began his career conducting soil inventories, investigations, and making land management recommendations for the U.S. Forest Service. In 2011 he retired after 32 years of service and he resettled in the Marysville area the following year. He was appointed to the MJUSD Board of Trustees in 2017 and was elected to serve another term in 2020; he represents Trustee Area 1, which includes the communities of Covillaud and Cedar Lane.

During his time as a trustee, Mr. Davis has spent time visiting school sites where he has seen firsthand how invested and dedicated the teachers are and how hard site staff members work each day.

Continued on p. 2

WORKING TO BUILD A PBIS FOUNDATION WITHIN MJUSD

by Dr. Amy Murray, MTSS Coordinator



If you are involved with the MJUSD community (and I bet that you are, because you are reading this newsletter!) you have probably heard of the acronym “PBIS.” But do you know what PBIS stands for?

According to the [PBIS website](#): “Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based three-tiered framework for improving and integrating all of the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. PBIS isn’t a curriculum you purchase or something you learn during a one-day professional development training. It is a commitment to addressing student behavior through systems change. When it’s implemented well, students achieve improved social and academic outcomes, schools experience reduced exclusionary discipline practices, and school personnel feel more effective.”

We all want our students to be successful. We want to create the most effective, most inclusive schools that we possibly can. That is why our district is building up a solid PBIS foundation across school sites this year. To that end, MJUSD is developing capacity for PBIS by:

- Training principals in PBIS philosophy and practices.
- Partnering with Placer County Office of Education and Yuba County Office of Education to train staff in PBIS.
- Forming PBIS teacher teams at school sites.
- Creating action plans for PBIS implementation in our schools.
- Developing behavior expectations that support a positive school climate.

Our PBIS efforts involve the entire school community, including students, parents, and staff.

For more information about PBIS, visit the websites below or reach out to me directly at amym@mjuds.k12.ca.us.

PBIS.org

<https://www.pbis.org/pbis/getting-started>

The California PBIS Commission

www.pbisca.org

Placer County Office of Education

www.placerpbis.org



Edgewater students practice kindness by holding hands and helping one another.



From left: Zelda Prillwitz, Monroe Chun, Sophia Franklin, Scarlet Petersen, Nayeli Razo Gregorio, and Giuliana (Gigi) Ayers

Trustee Spotlight: Randy Davis continued from p. 1

Mr. Davis has also been able to see the facilities and maintenance needs at many of MJUSD’s historic campuses, which has allowed the Board to prioritize projects and authorize improvements. One of the projects he is most proud of is the expansion underway at Arboga Elementary School, which is being renovated to become a TK-8 campus. Although much has been done to address the needs around the district, he acknowledges that there is much more work to do. District leaders are aware of the priorities and are moving forward with creating a Strategic Plan and a Facilities Master Plan, both of which will serve as blueprints to map out and prioritize resources to maximize student success over the next few years.

With his background in environmental and agricultural sciences, Mr. Davis believes it is important to support and grow the agricultural programs at Lindhurst High School and Marysville High School in order to prepare students to succeed in an ever-changing world. He appreciates the partnerships MJUSD has developed with the Yuba Water Agency and UC Davis, and he hopes to see similar partnerships come on board to support the CTE programs, especially the ones centered around agriculture. A proponent of the arts, Mr. Davis also has a desire to build partnerships that could support the reopening of the MHS Auditorium, which has been shuttered for years.

The Marysville area has an amazing history and legacy, and Mr. Davis would like to see the community work together to move forward, enhance job opportunities and help graduates with their college and career aspirations.

ARBOGA ELEMENTARY TK-8 EXPANSION PROJECT HITS KEY MILESTONE

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer



Community members gathered at Arboga Elementary School earlier this month to celebrate a milestone in the site's TK-8 expansion project, which is slated for completion just in time for the upcoming school year. At the event, administrators, board members, teachers, students and members of the construction and architect teams signed a large support beam that was then hoisted onto a building that will soon be a new state-of-the-art science classroom.

The new project, which will grow the campus from K-6 to a TK-8, includes the addition of two new classroom wings equipped with 10 classrooms and a new science lab. A new Multipurpose Room will also be added and will house a new kitchen, cafeteria, stage, restrooms and a connected outdoor amphitheater space. New parking and drop-off points will make navigating the school campus easier and a new fitness track will also be constructed on the property.

"I applaud the vision of our Board of Trustees in expanding the school to meet the needs of the TK-8 community," Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani said of the project. "As the district is expanding and new construction is happening around the area, this helps to create continuity and keeps the children within their school communities."

Principal Eric Preston said the project has been a long time coming so he is excited to see it come to fruition for the kids and the community.

"I think it's an amazing thing for the school because we're going to have an outdoor amphitheater. We're going to be able to have volleyball games and play basketball indoors," Preston said. "This allows us to actually utilize the 11 acres that we have and let kids kind of breathe."

The design of the expanded school site began in 2020 and the construction and renovation is expected to be completed by August 2022. In total, the project will increase the campus footprint to approximately 55,000 square feet.

"It's just remarkable to stand here," said MJUSD Board President Randy Davis. "We've seen drawings. We've seen conceptualls. We've seen all of the ideas and to come out here today and to see it actually coming up is just thrilling. I'm very happy."

The expansion will be phased in starting with the addition of Transitional Kindergarten and 7th grade classes for the 2022-2023 school year and 8th grade classes in the 2023-2024 school year. The 6th grade students who signed the support beam will be the school's first graduating class of 8th graders.



MJUSD Trustee Alisan Hastey signs the support beam. Trustee Hastey represents Area 3, which includes Arboga.



Students, staff, administrators, and members of the construction and architecture teams gather for a photo in front of the signed beam as crews continue to build new classroom wings in the background.



Sixth grade students sign a support beam at the event on Jan. 11, 2022 celebrating the Arboga TK-8 expansion project.



Aerial images of two new classroom wings and the Multipurpose Room under construction at Arboga.



MJUSD Trustee Randy Rasmussen signs the support beam. Trustee Rasmussen represents Area 3, which includes Arboga.

MJUSD EDUCATORS WORK TO CREATE COMMON ASSESSMENTS

by Amy Stratton,
Director of Instruction, Assessment and Accountability



Over the past several years we have taken time to dive deep into the state standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science. As educators have become increasingly familiar with the standards, we have shifted focus to align our efforts across the district. This month teachers and administrators will start a new series of collaborative conversations across all grade levels and school sites to define a narrow set of high-leverage essential key standards that will result in the creation of two common assessments to be administered in the winter and spring of each school year.

Assessments are sometimes misunderstood; assessments are tools that allow teachers to gain an understanding of students' knowledge as well as an insight into where they themselves need to focus to improve teaching and learning. It is the use of assessments that allow teachers to prescribe interventions, target instruction, and determine when additional support is needed. All teachers at each site use assessments regularly to make instructional decisions to support learning. But what are common assessments? Common assessments refers to "assessments given by teacher teams who teach the same content or grade level" (Bailey & Jakicic, p. 16).

It is when all students have access to the same assessment that teachers can have team discussions around data that informs the practices of teachers and facilitate a collective response to student needs. Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, students will have district-wide common assessments across the grades and subject areas twice a year, in the winter and spring. The district common assessments will be aligned to the high-leverage essential key standards and will bring cohesiveness across the district.

That brings me to the next question: what are high-leverage essential key standards? Each grade level and subject have many standards identified by the State of California that define what educators teach each year. For example, in mathematics, understanding fractions start in third grade across the state. These standards allow for consistent education; no matter where your student attends school, the same standards are taught. However, some standards create a deeper foundation than others and play a larger role in future grades, such as fractions.

It is through deep knowledge of the standards and understanding how those standards move across the grade levels that allow educators to determine which standards are more critical than others. Using resources, such as Achieve the Core <https://achievethecore.org/>, our schools have built site level pacing guides to help make educational decisions daily. It is this knowledge that will be used to further define high-leverage essential key standards that will establish the backbone of knowledge for all students in MJUSD.

I am excited to start this work and look forward to the collaboration of teachers and administrators. It is the work that is done together that allows us to provide the quality education our students deserve.

MJUSD PROGRAM UPDATES

by Alicia Wright, Coordinator of Innovation
and Instructional Technology



Early College

Marysville Joint Unified School District's Early College program is at full capacity, with 35 students preparing to graduate in 2026. At that time, they will receive both their high school diploma and their Associates degree. Each year, our program will grow as incoming freshmen will be invited to apply for this program. Keep working hard, middle school students; there are a lot of opportunities waiting for you as you enter high school. Dream big!

GATE Testing

In February and March, all third grade students will complete the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test® Third Edition (NNAT3). This testing information will allow us to identify students for our Gifted and Talented Education programs. Once students are identified, monthly GATE activities will be hosted for GATE students. Additionally, teachers of GATE students will receive resources and support in meeting the needs of gifted students.



The Early College students competed in an interview challenge and the Marysville High School students won so they enjoyed a catered brunch as a prize. Congratulations!



Solar panel installations at Ella.

SOLAR PROJECTS NEAR COMPLETION AS ENERGY UPGRADES CONTINUE

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer



Over the past year a lot of essential work has been done to upgrade infrastructure and reduce energy consumption thanks to an ongoing partnership with SitelogIQ. The multi-year agreement started in 2020 as an innovative way to accumulate energy savings through energy upgrades that would allow the district to put \$1.5 million back into its general fund each year and use that money for other essential infrastructure projects.

In leveraging those energy savings, the SitelogIQ team is working with MJUSD to complete HVAC upgrades, lighting retrofits, solar panels, environmental controls, engineered infection protection, solar generation, energy management, a student education program and a green boot camp for the staff, and more!

Here is a list of what has been done to date:

- Over 7,000 lighting fixtures have been upgraded with LED light bulbs
- 98% of all HVAC equipment within the district is equipped with ionization units intended to sanitize the air and filter out pathogens
- More than 270 HVAC units have been replaced districtwide
- Nearly 700 pelican thermostat units have been installed districtwide; the units are controlled and scheduled wirelessly to maximize energy savings
- Solar panel installations are under construction at six sites and will be ready to come online by the end of the school year
- The remaining 12 solar panel site installations are in various stages of engineering and approval and are expected to be completed in phases throughout summer and fall 2022.

CARE SOLACE OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

by Courtney Tompkins,
Public Information Officer

care solace
Calming the Chaos of Mental Health Care.

The Marysville Joint Unified School District is continuing its mission to provide more mental health resources to students, staff, and families. To expand access to services, the district has partnered with Care Solace, a support service that works with school districts to set up a “warm handoff” to connect students, staff, or family members to a mental health care provider.

With growing concerns regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental and emotional well being of our community, Care Solace will help families navigate access to community-based mental health and substance abuse services. Although Care Solace is not a crisis response service, the organization does help coordinate care after a hospitalization.

Through their Care Concierge virtual resource, requests can be made to connect individuals to in-person or virtual therapy. Help is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and in any language. Care Solace is offered to families with private insurance, Medicaid and it's also available to families that have no insurance. Care Solace supports all families regardless of citizenship status.

For more information, visit www.caresolace.org. To request services for yourself or your child, visit www.caresolace.com/mjUSD or reach out to your school site counselor or administrator for assistance. Services will be available through June 2022.

Strengthening Relationships through the power of connection



Join us for a 3-week parenting series
using a Conscious Discipline® approach.

When: Thursdays
January 27 and February 3 and 10

Where: Marysville Joint Unified School District
1919 B Street—Board Room

Time: 4:30—6:00 p.m. (Snacks will be provided.)

Registration: Parents, please contact your school's Outreach Consultant if you are interested in participating.

Outreach Consultants, please email Elizabeth Preston to register a family.

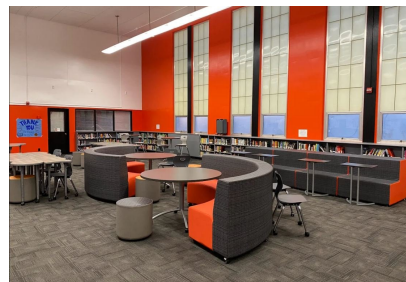
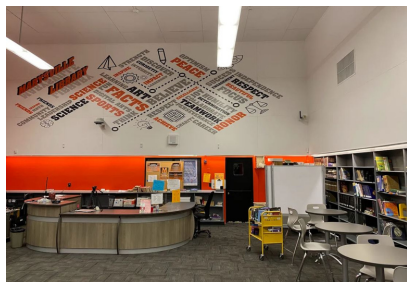
What each family gets: Parenting workbooks, facilitated video lessons, and Conscious Discipline® online parent training courses.

Learn to...

- Reduce power struggles
- Reach and teach children who have trauma
- Understand your children's behaviors are their form of communication
- Calm yourself before responding to your child
- Communicate with children to help them listen and respond
- Teach problem-solving skills that seek solutions, not blame
- Understand how visuals and routines can make your day easier

Child care provided!





MHS Library renovations completed in January 2022 include new carpet, paint, furniture.

MARYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer



The Marysville High School library renovation wrapped up this month, ending a multi-year project to create a more interactive and collaborative space for current and future students. The upgrades include new carpet, paint, and furniture such as tables, chairs, bookshelves and benches and, of course, a lot of new books. MHS Principal Shevaun Mathews said the redesign has opened up and brightened the space, a welcome addition to the historic campus.

The project started a few years ago in 2018 with a surprise donation of \$10,000 from a former music teacher, Lew Matsumoto, who had a passion for books. When he passed away, his cousin, Evelyn Fujioto, distributed the funds on his behalf, as requested in his will. Six months later, she showed up at MHS again with another \$10,000 donation, Mathews said. The generous gifts went into a fund to start raising money to renovate the library. The project began with purchasing new furniture to replace the pieces crafted many years ago by inmates at San Quentin State Prison, but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020 the project was put on hold.

The pandemic, however, opened an unanticipated doorway to funding for the library because the district was able to use state and federal dollars to support the renovation and create a remote learning center for students during distance learning.

When you walk into the space today, you see floor to ceiling windows framed by a bright orange wall that allows natural light to stream in and fill the space. Beneath the windows are shelves of books that span the length of the wall. The furniture is speckled shades of gray and has a clean, modern feel. There are communal chargers and open work spaces as well as quiet cubicles for students to work in.

The college and career center is also housed in the library, nestled in a corner of the room where students have a welcoming space to explore their options and talk about future plans. Today the library is used for group presentations about research tools, college and career opportunities, and it serves as a safe space to read, study, and unwind.

FREE 1:1 TUTORING AVAILABLE 24/7

We would like to remind our community that Marysville Joint Unified School District has partnered with FEV Tutor to provide students with **free, school-sponsored, 1:1 online tutoring** as a support resource!

Since this is a virtual service, you can access tutoring at any time, anywhere with a computer/device and an internet connection. **Simply find the FEV Tutor App on your Clever Dashboard in order to log in for a tutoring session.** From your FEV dashboard, you will be able to request to work with a tutor in minutes for an on-demand session. You can also book tutoring sessions in advance for consistent time with your personal tutor.

Tutoring sessions are offered Monday – Friday from 7:00am – 10:00pm and on weekends. You can book a tutoring session through the blue "Book a Session" button on the dashboard. If you have any questions about this free virtual tutoring program, please contact FEV Tutor directly at: ca@fevtutor.com or call 855-763-2607. FEV's Support Team is happy to answer any questions and work with you to create a personalized tutoring experience that best suits your learner. Take this opportunity to help your student reach their academic goals!



CDPH & CAL OSHA UPDATE HEALTH GUIDANCE AS COVID-19 SURGES THROUGH SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer

As you all know, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is widely circulating in our community and throughout the state of California. Recent data shows that more than 1 in 5 covid tests in California are coming back positive, and we have noticed an increase in positive cases among students and staff since we returned from winter break. Please refer to the [MJUSD COVID-19 dashboard](#) for current and cumulative case counts within the district and the [Yuba County COVID-19 dashboard](#) for county case counts.

The health and safety of our staff and students are our top priority. MJUSD staff will continue to promote healthy habits, including hand washing throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the school, and continued use of masks will help curb the spread of all illnesses at school sites. Parents, please do not send your students to school if they are experiencing symptoms. Instead, please notify your school site and a health aide will reach out to you to discuss next steps.

All Marysville Joint Unified School District schools should be following and adhering to the latest CDPH guidance and requirements for students. Staff should follow the CDPH guidelines, which align with CalOSHA. As information changes or is updated, MJUSD will work to provide updated guidance to all. A [document is linked here](#) with information on current health guidance, close contacts, and testing.

JANUARY SCHOOL SITE NEWSLETTERS



[Cordua Elementary Newsletter](#)

[Edgewater Elementary Newsletter](#)



[Ella Elementary Newsletter](#)



[Linda Elementary Newsletter](#)



[McKenney Intermediate Newsletter](#)

[Marysville High School Newsletter](#)



[Yuba Feather Elementary Newsletter](#)





Abraham Lincoln
Principal David Jones
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djones@mjuds.com



Arboga Elementary
Principal Eric Preston
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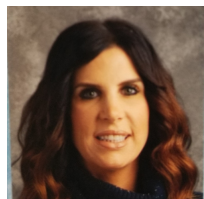
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Cedar Lane Elementary
Principal Rebecca Evers
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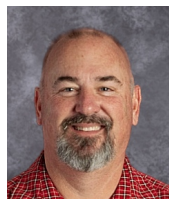
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Covillaud Elementary
Principal Kari Ylst
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Dobbins Elementary
Principal Duane Triplett
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Edgewater Elementary
Principal Lori Guy
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Ella Elementary
Principal Jennifer McAdam
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Foothill Intermediate
Principal Ashley Vette
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Johnson Park Elementary
Principal Tracy Pomeroy
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Kynoch Elementary
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Linda Elementary
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Marysville Charter
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Marysville High School
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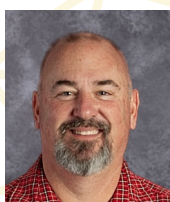
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Olivehurst Elementary
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South Lindhurst High School
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