

GOLD GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Marysville Joint Unified School District



Highlights in this issue:

**BACK TO SCHOOL!
STUDENTS & TEACHERS
RETURN TO CAMPUS**

**STUDENTS PARTICIPATE
IN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
OVER SUMMER**

**TALKS UNDERWAY TO
REVITALIZE MARYSVILLE
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM**

Greetings and Welcome Back to School!! This is our first edition of the 2022-2023 school year. In our monthly districtwide newsletter we provide important updates and share the exciting things happening across the Marysville Joint Unified School District. If you have a special event, person, program, or project that you would like to share with our community, please email Courtney Tompkins at ctompkins@mjusd.k12.ca.us so she can highlight your story in the Gold Gazette. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to her as well.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear MJUSD Community,



A warm welcome back to another exciting new school year! I hope your family had the opportunity this summer to spend quality time with loved ones and that you and your children are ready for the upcoming school year. It is going to be a great year!

The beginning of each school year is always time for reflection, preparation, and new beginnings. We will continue to focus on strengthening communication, building relationships, and working together to ensure that we have safe, welcoming, and student-focused schools.

Staff have been working all summer long to prepare for the upcoming school year and, as the school year gets underway, we will continue to expand academic, enrichment, and social-emotional opportunities for our students.

I am honored to welcome several new administrators and a large number of new teachers to the MJUSD family. I would like to personally thank them for choosing to serve our community. The shortage of teachers and administrators in the field of education is a national crisis, so I am grateful that we have found so many qualified people to join our team.

We have a lot of exciting work ahead, including new school renovations and building projects as well as new partnerships with Chico State and UC Davis to facilitate a college-going culture within MJUSD. We are also expanding the district's Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL) program and offering new parent-engagement options.

Together We Can is our theme for this year because we believe that together we can create opportunities that will benefit our students. It is important that we remain positive, productive, and proud of our schools and find joy in the work we do daily.

We will continue to prioritize school safety at all school sites. Each year, all staff members receive training on safety procedures and response expectations for a variety of emergencies. Each school conducts regular emergency drills and we will continue to have school resource officers to build relationships and respond in the event of a school emergency. I would also like to ask the community to continue to help us keep our schools safe. You can go directly to www.mjUSD.com to anonymously report any concerning behavior or suspicious activity.

Communication also continues to be a major goal for the district and we are working really hard to keep you informed. To stay up-to-date on all of the happenings around the district, I ask that you keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter (the *Gold Gazette*), the *Superintendent Memo*, which contains Board Meeting updates, and the weekly *Guest View* columns that are published every Saturday in the Appeal Democrat. You can find these documents at www.mjUSD.com under the Communications section.

It is truly my honor to continue to serve this beautiful and vibrant community and I am excited to meet each of you and hear from you as the year unfolds. I would like to wish you all a safe and successful school year, and thank the Board of Trustees for their vision that ensures we focus on educating today's youth for tomorrow's world.

Sincerely,

Fal Asrani EdD.
Superintendent

MJUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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WELCOME BACK! STUDENTS AND TEACHERS EXCITED TO START THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

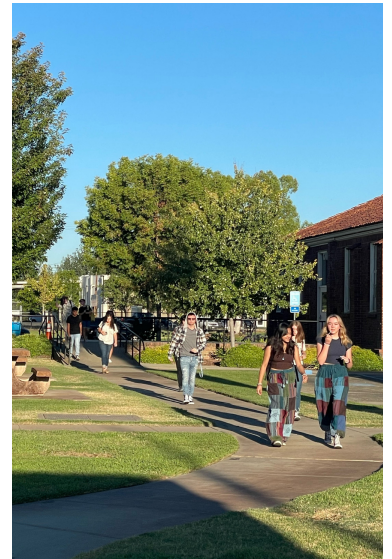
Joy and excitement filled the air as teachers and students returned to school for the 2022-23 school year. The classrooms and playgrounds were buzzing with energy.

On the first day of school, Thursday, August 11th, we welcomed our more than 10,000 students back to school! It was so wonderful to see so many smiling faces. Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani and district administrators visited school sites Thursday morning to welcome our students and offer support to school site staff. "I really enjoyed visiting sites on the first day of school and seeing the children so happy to be back on campus," Dr. Asrani said. "It was also exciting to see our teachers back in their classrooms and engaging with students."

Here are some photos from the first day of school!



Arboga Elementary School students arrive at the newly renovated campus on the first day of school.



MCAA students walk to campus on the first day of school.



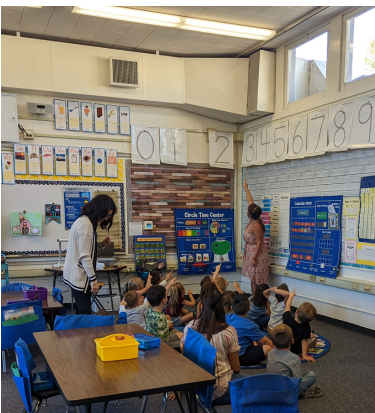
Kynoch students play on the playground on the first day of school.



Edgewater staff and the District's English Language Program Coordinator Hector Gonzalez on the first day of school.



Marysville High School seniors celebrated the start of the school year by watching the sunrise in War Memorial Stadium.



Cordua students in the classroom on the first day of school.



Lindhurst High School students are happy to be back on campus on the first day of school.



An Arboga student walks up to campus for the first day of school.

TEACHERS LEARN LITERACY STRATEGIES FROM THE ESTEEMED DR. KATHERINE MCKNIGHT

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer



Katherine McKnight

Dr. Katherine McKnight traveled to Marysville this month to share some wisdom and insight with our teachers through her “Literacy for the Big Kids” training session. Teachers who enrolled said it was “one of the best Professional Development” sessions they had ever attended.

Attendees described Dr. McKnight as a dynamic, engaging, and funny presenter, and said they felt inspired and excited to try some of the strategies she shared with them in their classrooms. Of the training, one teacher said “I really felt like it opened my eyes to the many different ways that I can support my students.”

Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani, who attended one of the sessions, said she was very excited to see more than 100 teachers attend the workshop to finesse their skills in the classroom. “Teaching reading is a commitment across all grades as many of our students are not reading at grade level, even in high school,” Dr. Asrani said. “Therefore it becomes a collective responsibility for all teachers to focus on reading because we know that when students learn to read, their knowledge and comprehension increases as well.”

Prior to the start of the session, Dr. McKnight shared a few pieces of wisdom with me. She said:

- It's people, not programs, that change the world;
- Reading is the foundation of all learning; and
- This is a keen opportunity for us to prepare our students to have powerful, independent voices that can change communities.

In her 34 years as an educator and researcher, Dr. McKnight has authored 22 books and traveled all over the world to share her work with educators.

Her titles include the best-selling *The Teacher’s Big Book of Graphic Organizers*, winner of the 2013 Teachers’ Choice Award and *Literacy & Learning Centers for the Big Kids*, grades 4-12. She is the founder of *Engaging Learners*, an educational company built around her successful Literacy and Learning Center model. Her work in educational leadership, literacy and student skill development has resulted in unprecedented academic achievement in many struggling schools.

A big thank you to Lori Guy, Director of Data and Student Improvement, for securing Dr. McKnight for these professional development sessions. What an incredible resource for our district!



Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani talks with teachers before a training session with Dr. Katherine McKnight at Kynoch Elementary School on August 5, 2022.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN LIFE SKILLS IN ‘LEADER IN ME’ TRAINING

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer and Amy Murray, MTSS Coordinator

About two dozen student leaders from our middle and high schools attended an insightful leadership workshop where they learned skills and strategies to guide them in their roles as student leaders through the 2022-23 school year.

The *Leader in Me* training was led by charismatic presenter Mike Suto, who serves as a Senior Coach at Franklin Covey Education. The training was centered around the best-selling self-help book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, and it included several engaging activities that helped students build trust, confidence, and camaraderie. Within moments, Mr. Suto had students laughing, talking with one another, and stepping out of their comfort zones.

Student Leadership Training continued on p. 4



Students participate in the “Leader in Me” training on August 10, 2022.

Student Leadership Training continued from p. 3



Students and administrators participate in the "Leader in Me" training on August 10, 2022.



MJUSD student leaders during the "Leader in Me" training in the Marysville High School cafeteria on August 10, 2022.

When asked to share their thoughts about the day, one student said "this workshop will stick with me forever" and another student said they learned that "although we need to better ourselves, we also need to work together to better the community." Miranda Xiong, who serves as a Parliamentarian at Yuba Gardens Middle School, said that she appreciated "The friends I made here and life lessons taught." Jess Guzman from MCAA noted that: "All of the amazing stories and activities we did and listened to were very memorable."

The students who participated in the training are members of the District's Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL) Team, which was founded last year under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Fal Asrani and is now led by Dr. Amy Murray, MTSS Coordinator. Dr. Murray organized the 'Leader in Me' workshop and will be working with the students throughout the year to ensure their voices are a part of decisions that guide the district forward. During the 2021-2022 school year, SEAL Team students requested the return of AVID courses and new world languages, both of which have been implemented this school year. They also asked for more vegetarian food options, which is being worked into the district's meal plan.

"It's exciting to see our students stepping into this leadership role," Dr. Asrani said. "Through this collaborative opportunity we are training our students to voice their suggestions and ideas on how we can make our schools more responsive to student needs."

MJUSD WELCOMES OVER 70 NEW TEACHERS THIS YEAR, OFFERS TRAINING AND SUPPORT

by Amy Stratton, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability

Marysville Joint Unified is delighted to welcome over 70 new teachers to our MJUSD family! Some of the new teachers come to us with teaching experience, but others are completely new to the profession. To support our new staff members, the Educational Services Department provided new teachers with Professional Development (PD) training sessions to ensure a strong foundation for the start of school.

Teachers with fewer than five years of experience participated in two days of training. During that time, they experienced sessions in High Quality First Instruction as well as learned about the importance of Routines and Procedures for classroom management. On the second day of training, teachers who have five or more years of teaching experience eagerly joined in the fun and shared their experiences and enthusiasm with the group. During this day, teachers learned about Google Classroom and tools, Aeries gradebook, Catapult and school safety. More than 50 new teachers participated in the session.

Support for our educators does not end here. Teachers new to the profession will continue to be mentored throughout the year. Teachers will also be supported through the Tri-County Induction Program or through our MJUSD teacher support program, depending on their particular credential need. We are dedicated to ensuring our new teachers are cared for and prepared to be the best at their craft.

A special thanks to our fearless presenters: Jennifer Campbell, ELA teacher at McKenney Intermediate; Heather Mournal, 4th grade teacher at Kynoch; Julie Alves, retired teacher; Judy Hart, retired principal; Ruda Nelson, Google Administrator; Anatoliy Russ, Database Administrator; Giselle Ferreira, Student Discipline; Zach Pless, Director of Student Welfare and Attendance; and representatives from the Marysville Unified Teachers' Association.



New teachers during a professional development session.

DISTRICT LEADERS MET OVER 2 DAYS TO CONNECT & PREPARE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR



MJUSD administrators gathered earlier this month for a two-day management retreat to plan for the 2022-23 school year. The keynote message focused on preparing the students of today for the world of tomorrow. Our leaders learned A LOT and had an awesome time in the process!

MJUSD GOES GREEN, INVESTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer

The Marysville Joint Unified School District is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by installing energy efficient systems at campuses throughout our district.

One major project underway is the installation of solar panels at school sites. The project, which is being constructed by Sitelogiq and IES, started in 2020 as an innovative way to accumulate savings through energy upgrades that would allow the district to put \$1.5 million back into its general fund each year. In addition to this project, the district has also been upgrading infrastructure to reduce energy consumption, such as replacing existing light fixtures with LED lights and installing new HVAC and air filtration systems.

According to the energy program monitor, which tracks our district's energy usage and savings, MJUSD used 16.5% less energy through June 2022 compared to the baseline school year of 2018-2019, the most recent school year prior to COVID-19 when students were in school full time.

The solar panel project was designed in three phases. As of July 2022, the first phase is complete, which means solar panels have been fully installed and are generating electricity at five campuses: Browns Valley, Cordua, Johnson Park, and Linda elementary schools as well as at McKenney Intermediate School.

The second phase is currently underway at Lindhurst and South Lindhurst high schools and Olivehurst Elementary and Yuba Gardens Intermediate schools, where recently installed solar panels are expected to be generating electricity by the end of next month. Construction and installation at Marysville High School (MHS) and Edgewater Elementary School also just wrapped up.

The third phase of installations is slated to begin in the fall at MHS War Memorial Stadium and at Dobbins Elementary School. Solar panels will also be installed at Arboga and Covillaud elementary schools after renovations and upgrades at those campuses are complete.

When you visit your child's school, you will see these solar structures also serve a dual purpose: they provide cool, shaded areas in the parking lot or the fields and some sites have even used these areas as an outdoor performance or sitting area. Our district also recently applied for and secured an energy efficiency grant under Assembly Bill 841, which will allow MJUSD to provide more energy upgrades at no cost to the district.



Solar panel installation at Cordua Elementary School.



Solar panel ground installation at Lindhurst High School.

MJUSD LEADERS EXPLORE WAYS TO RESTORE THE HISTORIC MARYSVILLE AUDITORIUM

by Fal Asrani, Ed.D., Superintendent



From left to right: Bryan Williams, Randy Davis, Fal Asrani, Sen. Jim Nielsen, Randy Rasmussen, Gabe Simon, Jennifer Passaglia, and Jay Trujillo.



The Marysville Community Auditorium.



Dancers from Transitions Dance Company perform for a small audience during a meeting about the opportunities to revitalize the Marysville Community Auditorium on July 19, 2022.

MJUSD leaders have a big vision of seeing our historic Marysville Community Auditorium revitalized and filled once again with performances featuring artists, musicians, dancers, and more!

Over summer I brought together key leaders from our city, county, and state offices, as well as members of our local arts community, to discuss creative opportunities to fund renovating and seismically retrofitting the 1920s-era brick building that houses a 1,000-seat theater – the largest auditorium in Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa counties.

In attendance was California Sen. Jim Nielsen, Marysville City Manager Jim Schaad, Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture Executive Director David Read, Appeal Democrat Editor Robert Summa, as well as a representative from Assemblymember Gallagher's office and many other important folks who are invested in making Marysville and the surrounding communities better for our children and grandchildren.

Before the meeting, we took a tour of the beautiful theater and were treated to a special performance from some former MJUSD graduates who learned to perform onstage in this very space. It was inspiring to feel the room filled with energy and possibilities.

The iconic detailed brick facade features an arched column entrance that leads to a 1,000-seat theater that is nearly a century old. Over the years, countless actors, artists, musicians, and dancers graced the stage and filled the grand space with memorable performances, including notable acts such as the Beach Boys and famous ballet companies.

The auditorium was renovated over 40 years ago, in 1978, which included the addition of catwalks and platforms, but the building does not meet today's safety standards. The building was closed in 2017 due to a need for seismic retrofitting and a number of other renovations and repairs to update and reinforce this cultural gem. There are certain rules set forth by the State that determine which buildings can be used for educational programs, and seismic stability is one of the key design components that are required. The current estimated cost to update this beautiful building is approximately \$30 million.

During our conversation about the project, we realized that we need our whole Yuba-Sutter community to join us in our efforts to preserve this unique piece of history and provide a creative space in Marysville that will benefit our communities for generations to come.

If you are interested in helping get this project off the ground, please email Courtney Tompkins at ctompkins@mjusd.k12.ca.us.

DENTAL ASSISTING STUDENTS TRANSITION TO COLLEGE AND CAREER

by Jami Larson, Director of College and Careers

The Dental Assisting CTE pathway at Marysville High School prepares students for their future. Daniela Pomeroy, instructor, is elated with the exciting college and career opportunities afforded to her students after completing the two-period block course last year.

Six students were offered jobs in dental offices, and they love working in the dental career field. Two students are waiting to turn 18 so they can begin their employment with Ampla Health. Two graduates are starting dental school this fall, and one is specializing in orthodontics. An additional two students are starting prerequisites to become dental hygienists while working in a dental office.

Thank you Mrs. Pomeroy for your dedication to our students and commitment to connect students to real-world applications of the hands-on learning you facilitate.

The Dental Assisting CTE Pathway is possible through a partnership with Tri-County ROP.

Exciting things are on the horizon for the Dental Assisting pathway. Be on the lookout for more good news that you can sink your teeth into.



Dental Assisting students practice hygiene skills at the MHS Dental Lab.

THE HAPPY TOOTHMOBILE IS OPEN NOW AND SERVING STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOLS

by Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer

Did you know the Happy Toothmobile Dental Office is open and serving students at schools throughout the Marysville Joint Unified School District?

That's right! The mobile dental office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. It is currently located at Cedar Lane Elementary School, and has appointments available now. The Toothmobile is a full scope dental practice providing:

- Screenings
- X-rays
- Extractions
- Fillings
- Baby Root Canals
- Sealants
- Cleanings and Fluoride
- Dental Care Education



Students not currently under the care of a dentist may receive services at this mobile dental office.

Children with Medi-cal or no insurance may also be treated. If your child does not have any dental insurance, you may be eligible for a low-cost sliding fee program. Please note: the mobile office does not accept private insurance.

If you have any questions, please call the Happy Toothmobile Dental Office at 530-788-3578.

Happy Toothmobile

**MJUSD
Dental Office**

The Happy Toothmobile is a mobile dental office offering full service dentistry to Yuba County Children! Through the joint efforts of Marysville Joint Unified School District, Peach Tree Health, & First 5 Yuba, screenings, cleanings, sealants and restorative treatments are available at various school sites in Marysville, Olivehurst, and Linda, CA.

Children don't have to attend the host school to be seen at the Toothmobile!

For appointments & information call
530-788-3578

Happy Toothmobile Schedule - 2022/23

Cedar Lane School (842 Cedar Lane, Olivehurst)
June 3rd - September 1st

Olivehurst School (1778 McGowan Pkwy, Olivehurst)
September 2nd - October 13th

Loma Rica Pop-Up Dental! (5150 Fruitland Rd, Loma Rica)
September 14 - 16th

Linda School (6180 Dunning Ave, Marysville)
October 14th - December 15th

Yuba Feather Pop-Up Dental! (18008 Oregon Hill Rd, Challenge)
November 16th - 18th

Covillaud School (628 F Street, Marysville)
December 16th - February 2nd 2023

MJUSD SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM SERVES OVER 1,000 STUDENTS

By Courtney Tompkins, Public Information Officer



Summer school students had a chance to do a few fun experiments during a hands-on science day with a representative from Sitoligq.

MJUSD served 1,015 students in grades TK-12 during the Summer Learning Program, which was offered over 12 days during the month of June.

Students in grades TK-6 were provided enrichment activities to support English Language Arts and mathematics as well as additional enrichment in physical education and music. Students in grades 7-8 were provided enrichment activities in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 9-12 were provided opportunities for credit recovery. Summer School was offered at 5 sites across the district and transportation was provided to students for the first time. Over 24,000 meals were served during the Summer Learning Program.

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

This year we have added Assistant Principals/Student Support Specialists at all of our larger elementary sites as well as welcomed new site Principals. Several of our current administrators have also stepped into new positions that opened up due to retirement or resignations. Given our districtwide student needs, we have added a Coordinator of the English Language Program, two coordinators for Special Education, a Director of Data and Student Improvement, as well as a Director of Adult Programs & Community Partnerships. The district identified these new positions as ones that are critical to raising student achievement by working closely with staff, parents, and the community. So let us meet them:



Hector Gonzalez
English Language
Program Coordinator



Renee Henderson
Edgewater Principal



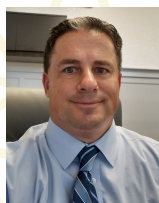
Lauren Heusser
Special Education
Coordinator



Andy Magenheimer
Assistant Principal,
Cedar Lane



Zachary Pless
Director of Student
Welfare and Attendance



Gabe Simon
Asst. Superintendent
Personnel Services



Jay Trujillo
Asst. Superintendent
Educational Services



David Vujovich
Principal,
Marysville High School



Nohemi Arroyo-Magana
Assistant Principal
Lindhurst High School



Lunden Duenas
Assistant Principal
Marysville High School



John Green
Assistant Principal
Olivehurst



Chris Schmidt
Principal
Lindhurst High School



Monica Vanderstoep
Assistant Principal
South Lindhurst HS



Dale Vanliew
Assistant Principal,
Covillaud



Melissa White
Assistant Principal
Johnson Park



Alicia Wright
Assistant Principal
Marysville High School



Jolie Critchfield
Director of
Child Development



Bob Eckardt
Director of Adult Education
& Community Partnerships



Amy Eggleston
Special Education
Coordinator



Lori Guy
Director of Data &
Student Improvement



Shevaun Mathews
Director of
Special Education



Amy Stratton
Director of Curriculum,
Assessment, & Accountability



Abraham Lincoln
Principal David Jones
530-749-6105
djones@mjuds.com



Arboga Elementary
Principal Eric Preston
530-741-6101
epreston@mjuds.com



Browns Valley Elementary
Principal Heather Marshall
530-741-6115 ext. 3804
hmarshall@mjuds.com



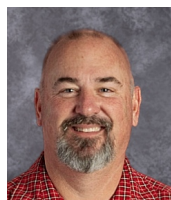
Cedar Lane Elementary
Principal Rebecca Evers
530-741-6112
revers@mjuds.com



Cordua Elementary
Principal Heather Marshall
530-741-6115 ext. 1804
hmarshall@mjuds.com



Covillaud Elementary
Principal Kari Ylst
530-741-6121 ext. 4004
kylst@mjuds.com



Dobbins Elementary
Principal Duane Triplett
530-692-1665 ext. 1204
dtriplett@mjuds.com



Edgewater Elementary
Principal Renee Henderson
530-741-0866
rhenderson@mjuds.com



Ella Elementary
Principal Jennifer McAdam
530-741-6124
jmcadam@mjuds.com



Foothill Intermediate
Principal Ashley Vette
530-741-3204
avette@mjuds.com



Johnson Park Elementary
Principal Tracy Pomeroy
530-741-6133
tpomeroy@mjuds.com



Kynoch Elementary
Principal Derek Morrison
530-741-6141
dmorrison@mjuds.com



Linda Elementary
Principal Zachary Schulz
530-741-6196
zschulz@mjuds.com



Lindhurst High School
Principal Chris Schmidt
530-741-6150 ext. 2504
cschmidt@mjuds.com



Loma Rica Elementary
Principal Ashley Vette
530-741-4204
avette@mjuds.com



Marysville Charter
Academy for the Arts
Principal James Lohman
530-749-6156
jlohman@mjuds.com



Marysville High School
Principal David Vujovich
530-741-6108 ext. 3102
smathews@mjuds.com



Marysville School for Adults
Director Bob Eckardt
530-740-6424
beckardt@mjuds.com



McKenney Intermediate
Principal Joe Seiler
530-741-6187
jseiler@mjuds.com



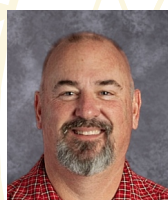
North Lindhurst High School
Principal David Jones
530-749-6919
djones@mjuds.com



Olivehurst Elementary
Principal Rob Gregor
530-741-6191 ext. 5804
mrgregor@mjuds.com



South Lindhurst High School
Principal David Jones
530-749-6919
djones@mjuds.com



Yuba Feather
Principal Duane Triplett
530-675-2382
dtriplett@mjuds.com



Yuba Gardens Intermediate
Principal Jim Hays
530-741-6194 ext. 7004
jhays@mjuds.com