

CUSD

A DESTINATION DISTRICT

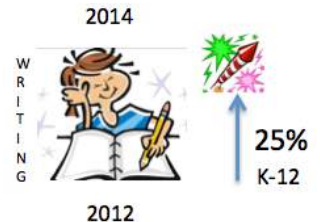
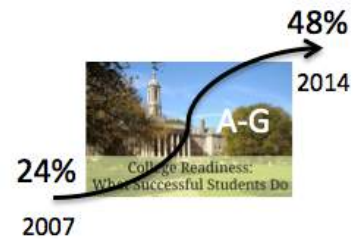
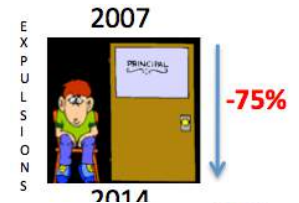
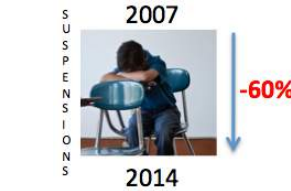
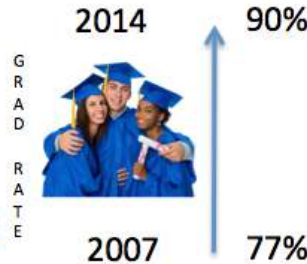
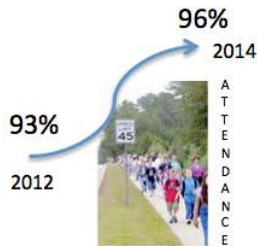
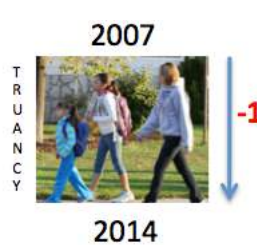


* District Update *

This document is to keep you abreast on upcoming items, current issues, and

- Upcoming events and reminders:**
- Financial Sub-Committee Meeting June 4 at 3:30 p.m. in Board Room
 - John Muir Promotion June 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Stadium
 - CHS Graduation June 5 at 8 p.m. in Stadium
 - Kings Lake Graduation June 9 at 5 p.m. in TLC
 - Board Meeting June 9 at 6

Continuing Improvements



Positive Parenting



Words for Listening Well:

- Please, thank you, good morning, etc. (extending courtesies to your children)
- Wow, that's exciting!
- Thank you for showing me how to do that (when your children give you computer tips, etc.).
- I appreciate that you trusted me enough to talk to me about that.
- What a great story! I feel like I was there.

Every Corcoran Student Can Achieve!

Follow CUSD @corcoranunified on Twitter to get the latest news!

Quotes & Proverbs

“Each child is an adventure into a better life - an opportunity to change the old pattern and make it new.”

This is a great quote found by Donnetta Murray that is a good fit for a summer reflection after an industrious and successful year. We have so many endeavors on our plates, yet we continuously strive to keep the main thing; the main thing which is the educational welfare of our kids.

The message? Our kids have a great chance at success beyond the confines of our school and the four walls of our classrooms if we are committed to improve ourselves and our practices. That means we have the personal integrity and character to be willing to give up what we find comfortable (what we realize is not working) to do what is not so convenient (what we realize will work) for the sake of our students. Many of our staff are to be honored for that!!



PBIS Awards



School site representatives from Corcoran Unified were on hand in Fresno last Thursday, May 21, to receive their Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) awards. Every school continues to implement PBIS at their sites and each one was recognized in front of 20+ school districts that morning. Corcoran High, John Muir, Mark Twain, Fremont and Bret Harte were awarded the Silver Award Banner, while Kings Lake was awarded Bronze. The focus for next year will be to continue adding behavior supports for students, which are needed for Gold and Silver awards.

Equal Opportunity: The Corcoran Unified School District is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Caught in the Act

Greg Samson



What is your work history, including at CUSD? I'm finishing my 16th year in education. My teaching experience includes one year of 5th grade (this year), three years of 6th grade, four years of 8th grade and eight years of administrative experience at the K-6, junior high and high school levels.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job? I feel most rewarded when I'm able to "connect" with students to the point where they look forward to coming to school each day to learn and be a part of a team in my classroom.

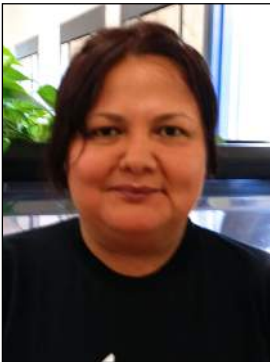
What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job? Referencing back again to my point of connecting with students, I just finished running a lunchtime intramural soccer program for our students. This opportunity to provide an additional positive outlet at school was very rewarding for both me and the students. I'm a firm believer that the more ways you can involve students in school makes it a better overall environment for them.

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life? The biggest inspiration in my life is my father. He has taught me to look at life through a lens that always focuses on "What is in the students' best interests?" If you make every decision based on that question you cannot go wrong.

Tell us a little about yourself: I've been in education for 16 years now, am happily married to Marla Sansom (who is a principal in another district), have five children between the two of us and enjoy spending my free time in Morro Bay at our family beach house. In addition, I'm an avid sports fan...anything that keeps score I will watch!

If the world were listening, what would you say? Direction is so much more important than speed...many people are going nowhere fast! And one more...never go to someone with a complaint or a problem unless you have a solution.

Principal Mike Anderson notes, "Mr. Sansom is a very organized and enthusiastic educator who goes the extra mile for his students. He is a leader on our fifth grade Math/Science team and created class competitions in Soccer. Mr. Sansom's great attitude and work ethic is infectious and his students benefit from his patient and knowledgeable teaching style. The Mark Twain Eagles are very happy Mr. Sansom has joined our team"



Gina Banales

What is your work history, including at CUSD? My work history consists of secretarial and waitress positions before working for C.U.S.D. in the Food Service Department.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job? I like knowing our students are eating healthy meals and to see them smile.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job? We are revamping our salad and fruit bar to make it more inviting to students.

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life? My mom and dad.

Tell us a little about yourself: I come from a family of 14. I am number 12. I have three sons, a daughter and an 8 year old grandson named Israel. I enjoy going to yard sales, a little gambling, watching movies, yard work, and going camping once a year at Morro Bay. It has been a tradition in our family for over 50 years and it is a BLAST !

If the world were listening, what would you say? PEACE on earth and feed the hungry.

Food Director Terri Thomas says, "Gina has been a sub for the district and has really shown that she wanted a position with food services. Gina was one of the subs I would always call if I needed to cover a shift; she was always willing to help and be where I needed her. She was also one of my main people to be part of the Fruit and Vegetable Program. I have never seen Gina angry, in a bad mood, or disrespectful to anyone. I am glad and happy to have Gina now a part of my staff at Mark Twain. She is always willing to learn and do whatever is expected."

CUSD STARS

The CUSD Board recently honored six students from the district who had outstanding achievements in the fourth quarter. Pictured are (front row, l. to r.) Marco Flores, Kenny Pierre, Alexi Ramos, Joe Romero, (back row) President Robert Alcorn, Superintendent Rich Merlo and in the inset Hailey Torres (top) and Luis Vejar (bottom).

Marco Flores, a kindergarten student at Bret Harte, is very considerate and always looking for ways to help others. He is the first one to help when things need to be done in the classroom. But most of all, he is known for his kindness to others. His teacher, Mrs. Ontiveros, says that once she observed Marco notice a classmate having difficulty getting on a swing. He stopped playing, then lifted the student up on the swing and proceeded to push his classmate before continuing to swing himself. She said it was humbling to see his selflessness and kindness. Principal Mendoza says he has proven to be an exceptional young man, who follows all the rules on a daily basis and is always polite with whomever he encounters.



Luis Vejar is a second grade student at Fremont. He has shown a commitment to academic excellence and positive behavior. He excelled in all of his exams, reading comprehension and writing composition. His teacher, Mrs. Lerma, says what separates Luis from most is the tenacity that he shows when preparing for exams and getting homework in on time. His AR scores are the highest in the class and he enjoys reading all types of books on his own, too. Principal Ochoa says Luis is a hard worker who doesn't sit back and revel in his success, but continues to push himself to grow and improve every day.

Hailey Torres has two fifth grade teachers at Mark Twain. Mrs. Daza says Hailey is a great student not only because of model behavior, but because she truly cares about her education. She is very conscious of the purpose of a lesson and makes great efforts to understand the concept or standards being taught. Plus she monitors her own learning and makes adjustments to her work after asking for further guidance. Mrs. Jones adds that Hailey always tries her hardest and helps her classmates with things they don't understand. Plus she always has a smile on her face. Principal Anderson noted Hailey likes her teachers because they are excellent educators and very nice. She would like to be a teacher when she graduates from college.

Alexi Ramos is a seventh grade John Muir student. His teacher, Mrs. Green, said there were six main reasons she selected him for the honor: he always comes to class with a huge smile on his face; he is very organized; he is kind; he is caring; he is a team player; and, he is motivated. She said he never settles for anything less than his BEST effort and tries really hard to set himself up for success. He comes to class prepared and ready to learn. He is always willing to be helpful in class with his classmates. Principal Spencer added that Alexi is a great example of how to be a successful student. He is an ELD student who works very hard to learn the English language and master Academic English. He follows rules and is cooperative. He is a great student and a great person.

Freshman **Joe Romero** has accomplished a lot in his first year at Corcoran High School, both on the athletic fields and in the classroom. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is part of the Ag Academy where he is exceeding the academy's expectations. Joe is on an A-G track and meeting college entrance requirements. He is known to be a very respectable young man and a dedicated student athlete in the sports of Cross Country, Track & Field and Wrestling. He helped the first two sports win league, but it is Wrestling where he has made his mark by placing first in many invitations and being voted Outstanding Wrestler in two of them. He was one of only two freshmen in California who made State and has a streak of 20 wins. Principal Stone added he is a good student and dedicated athlete and CHS looks forward to seeing what great things he will accomplish in the next three years.

Kenny Piere is an eighth grade Kings Lake student. His teacher Mr. Kitson said that Kenny came with some problems that could have caused him to give up, but he didn't! Instead he has been one of the hardest workers in the class and his attitude of wanting to learn everything he gets has drawn his teacher's admiration. Mr. Kitson gives him rigorous and challenging work, but Kenny does not shrink from the challenge. He is always respectful to his teacher and staff...always! He is a leader in class in a positive way and proves to be helpful and respectful to other students. Director Airheart says that one of Kenny's greatest qualities is respecting others, as well as his strong work ethic. He perseveres through his daily assignments and tasks, and makes Kings Lake campus a better place to be.

Healthy Scholars Health Fair



Healthy Scholars is a non-profit organization dedicated to removing health barriers to learning. On May 18, the Healthy Scholars organization conducted a pilot health fair for 41 Corcoran High School students. Students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of health booths, such as height, weight, blood pressure, and dental screening. There were also additional screenings of the eyes and ears. As well as an opportunity to speak to a physician with any health concerns.

The information gathered will be sent to the student's parent with any recommendations for further referrals to medical professionals. The California Health Collaborative and Kings County Department of Public Health Tobacco Control Program gave out information to students on teen pregnancy prevention and the effects of tobacco on the body. There was also a raffle of an iPod nano for the students that completed each health booth. The winner was Eileen Nevarez.

Healthy Scholars was founded in 2013 by Samantha Madala, a high school freshman struggling with hypothyroidism, which makes one tired and have difficulties focusing. Low awareness led teachers to blame it on her efforts. After being diagnosed and receiving treatment, her health and grades improved. She started Healthy Scholars to help other students reach their potential, without having to be held back by health problems.

The Healthy Scholars organization has plans for another health fair at CHS in the Fall 2015.



John Muir Weather Balloon



John Muir students, along with Teacher Dean Adalian and Director of Technology launched a high altitude weather balloon from John Muir on Saturday, May 23. It reached an approximate height of 60,000 feet (11.3 miles) and landed on the 3rd green at the North Kern Golf Course in Bakersfield, traveling a distance of 48.3 miles. It was in the air for approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Students put a ping pong ball into the capsule filled with their choice of science experiment, which included everything from edible candies to Kool-Aid, glue and coins. Flying high as a passenger was Olaf. John Muir School can be seen in the center left photo, while Corcoran is visible below Olaf.

Technology was used to track the course of the balloon and where it landed.



CHS Chess Takes Third

The CHS Chess team competed in the SCL Championships held in Mendota on May 23, finishing third place in the high school division. Corcoran players were Manuel Cabrera, Chris Burke, Jacob Martinez, Natalie Samuels, Ruben Valencia and Daniel Valencia. Ruben, pictured in photo upper right with Coach Randall Burke and Samuels, received an

honorable mention. Ruben is also pictured at right, with Manuel and Daniel shown competing in lower left photo.



CHS Annual Art Show

The Corcoran High School Annual Art Show was held May 21 and 22 in the TLC. Some Fremont students were able to visit the art show.

Keiara Kennedy (left) displays her cellulite clay work, while Sole Roux (below right) stands in front of her paintings.

Miguel Alvarez, the CHS Art teacher, says that 120 students displayed work in the show. They had been working on their projects throughout the year. The students chose what was to be displayed in the show.

