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Did you know staff has access to emergency information and updates?

Staff Hotline for Emergency Announcements and Updates:
(951) 92-ALERT (922-5378)

(Please note this line is not monitored)

Emergency updates on website:
www.puhsd.org/emergency/info



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District Newsletter

THE "SUPES" ON.....



October 2016

Superintendent's Message by Mr. Grant Bennett



I am proud to be Superintendent of the Perris Union High School District in Riverside County, California. I have spent 24 of my 26 years in education serving the students, staff and community of the District. My career began as a math teacher at Perris High School in 1993 after teaching two years in Orange County. While at Perris High, I served as a baseball coach, athletic director and Assistant Principal before becoming Principal of Perris High School in 2000. As the District continued to grow in student enrollment and a new high school was planned, I was lucky enough to not only be instrumental in leading the educational programming and facility design efforts, but I was also the founding Principal when Heritage High School opened in 2007. In 2009 I was promoted to Director of Pupil Services and later Director of Learning Support Services before becoming Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in 2015, and in early 2016, selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Superintendent.

As a site level administrator, I prided myself in building relationships that positively impacted the larger Perris community. In my various roles as a District administrator, and now as Superintendent, I continue to be a servant leader who puts students first and I work to build the trust amongst our staff necessary to move the entire school district forward. While in Educational Services I was one of the driving forces behind the implementation of Common Core at the District and have also been a key player in the District's Scholar+ 1:1 Chromebook program.

I have served on the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accrediting commission for six years, serving on the Board of Directors for the past two years. I have also been extremely active in the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), both at the state and local chapter levels holding the leadership roles of Charter President, Charter Treasurer and Region Delegate over the past 15 years. I have been heavily involved in the Perris Community, serving for more than 10 years on the Board of Directors for the Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce, including 5 years as President. In addition, I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Perris for more than 16 years.

I received a Bachelor's Degree from Cal State Long Beach in Mathematics and a Master's Degree from National University in Educational Administration. I have been married to my wife Pam for more than 31 years. We have three children, Anthony, Emma and John. We live in Murrieta, California.

Now that's enough about me. What are we doing as a District to give our students a quality education that prepares them for life after high school? We have done some incredible work in the past and I know we will do more great things for our students. The change to Common Core and the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASSPP) systems has been difficult and more is still to come. What I am asking is that everyone participate in the process and embrace the changes needed to help our students be successful. Through collaboration and flexibility we can increase student learning and engagement. While we want to increase test

Superintendent's Message

(cont.) by Mr. Grant Bennett, Superintendent

scores, they are not the only area we will focus on. We will continue to work on increasing our A-G Completion Rate, increasing our Graduation Rate and decreasing our Absentee Rate and Drop-Out Rate. Giving our students options for when they leave our high schools is paramount to our success. We need to prepare our students for four-year college, trade school, military service or the work force. We need for them to have a choice for their future and we must get them ready academically and socially for the adult world they will enter. The work will not always be easy or pretty, but I know that the people in this District have the capacity and desire to make it happen. Teamwork and collaboration will give us the greatest opportunity for success. With all that being said, thank you all for the warm welcome and confidence.

Human Resources

by Tonya Davis, Chief Human Resources Officer



Morale Update — The Employee Morale Committee has met several times to plan some exciting events for the 2016-17 school year. We encourage every employee to take advantage of these opportunities to build relationships with fellow co-workers and celebrate all that we do in the District. Look for save the date information coming soon!

- December 9, 2016 - 3rd Annual Casino Night @ Pinate Middle School
- April 1, 2017 - Golf Tournament
- May 2017 - Storm Baseball Game



In Remembrance — Our coworker and friend, Larry Davis, Jr., passed away suddenly on October 3, 2016. He worked for the District almost 11 years. He began working in the District in 2005 as a campus supervisor and worked at

both Perris Lake High School and The Academy. He will be remembered for his strength, caring spirit, and big smile. A beautiful memorial service was held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 and a military funeral honors was held Monday, October 17, 2016. During the memorial service it was evident that the love that runs through the Davis family is deep and abundant. Larry will be greatly missed.

Grieving the loss of a colleague can be difficult and we encourage employees who need support to utilize our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling [1-888-327-0020](tel:1-888-327-0020) (our company code is REEP).

Educational Services

by Dr. Marilyn Saucedo, Assistant Superintendent



There have been some changes this year in Educational Services. I am proud to be serving as the new Assistant Superintendent with the appointment of Mr. Grant Bennett as the new Perris Union High School District Superintendent. My goal is to continue the work as we continue to move forward. Also joining the Ed Services team is Pete Herman, Director of Pupil Services. New additions to Special Education include Cindy Barris, Special Education Coordinator, along with Chad Shaner and Valencia Smartt, our Special Education Program Specialists. Other new members include Andrew Cruz, District Librarian, Sonia Rezkalah, our Community Engagement Specialist, and Norma Carrillo, our ELD/ELA TOSA.



Pete Herman



Cindy Barris



Chad Shaner



Andrew Cruz



Sonia Rezkalah



Norma Carrillo

Kick Off to College Event

The second annual Perris Union High School District Kick Off to College Event was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. The focus on college and career readiness aligns with District Goal #2, "All students will graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary and career options." It also is connected to Riverside County Education Collaborative that was praised by President Barack Obama for increasing college-going rates in the Inland Empire.

Throughout the day, all school sites had activities focused on elevating the topic of college and career planning and encouraging students to begin thinking about college and career-related choices in their future.

Educational Services (cont.)

Pupil Services

Our new Director of Pupil Services, Pete Herman, has been on the job for four (4) weeks. He has made multiple visits to all school sites and has started forming positive relationships with many members of our District and site teams.

Pupil Services is currently focusing on an array of projects including but not limited to:

- Providing training for our new web based attendance monitoring/tracking system (Attention2Attendance/ A2A)
- Creating and implementing an Alternative Placement Committee (APC) that will approve site recommendations for placing students that are credit deficient at Perris Lake High School
- Linking sites to support programs related to Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS), specifically geared towards secondary school sites

Mr. Herman has hit the ground running and will continue to create and implement programs, processes, and supports that will result in an increase in student attendance and achievement.

Community Engagement

School, Family, and Community Partnerships are an integral factor in the quality of a student's education. Perris Union High School District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goal #4 is to secure and strengthen home-school-community connections and communications. Our Community Engagement Specialist and the Community Liaison/Aides at each of our school sites are taking a more meaningful approach to connect with our families and with our community partners.

The District will also once again participate in the district-wide Parent Engagement Leadership Initiative (PELI) Training in collaboration with RCOE. PELI was created by Kenneth Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, as the conduit to share the parent engagement county-wide. Research shows that all parents want their children to succeed in school; however, not all parents know how to best support their children in education. Our goal is to build a trust between our families, create a sense of community and build partnerships that will positively influence our student's educational success.

The Governing Board desires to provide a safe school environment that allows all students equal access and opportunities in the district's academic and other educational support programs, services, and activities. The Board prohibits, at any district school or school activity, unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual 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 gender expression; 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. School personnel must take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so when he or she witnesses an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying. (BP, 5145.3)

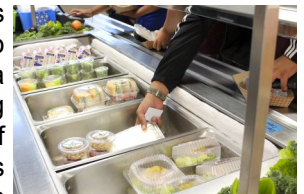
Business Services

by Candace Reines, Assistant Superintendent



Have you heard about our new TerraBites Cafe? These cafe's opened at each of our school campuses serving new and improved menu items to our students at both breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is free for all students and lunch is \$2.50, though a majority of students qualify for free lunch.

The staff at TerraBites Cafe has been working incredibly hard to rebrand themselves and create a new and exciting student dining experience. They are a team of food and nutrition professionals dedicated to providing students with healthy and delicious meals while promoting good habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness.



TerraBites Cafe is also proud to offer meals to staff members. You can view our fall menu at www.terrabites.cafe/menu. Adult breakfast is \$2.25 and lunch is \$3.50. A-la-carte items are also available. Adult meals can be paid

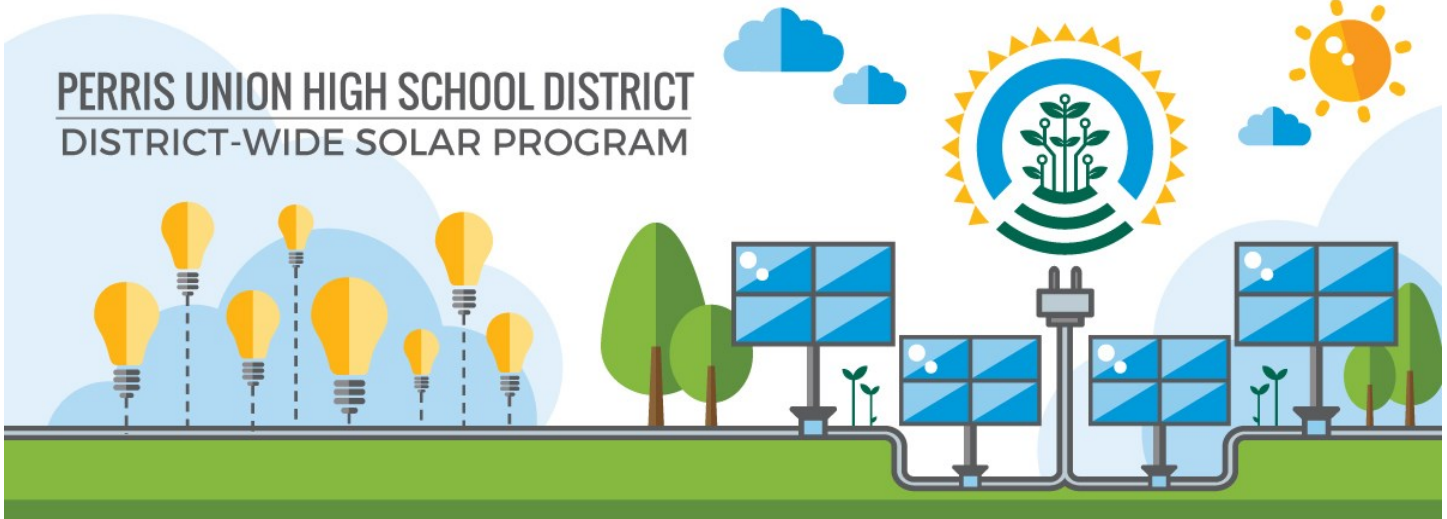
for in cash at the time of purchase or by setting up a meal account. Meal accounts can be set up by calling Nutrition Services at extension 80240, emailing veronica.rangel@puhsd.org, or by creating an account online at myschoolbucks.com. Payments can be made in cash or by check at any cafe, or by credit card with a My School Bucks account. Staff members wishing to purchase a meal may enter the front of the breakfast/lunch line during meal service.

Look for continued improvements at TerraBites Cafe throughout the school year. Please follow us on our social media channels to learn more about the cafes and our goals for 2016-17.

   **TerraBitesCafe**
#TerraBitesCafe



Business Services (Continued)



PUHSD is going solar! The Board of Trustees approved a contract with OpTerra Energy Services on August 17, 2016 for the construction of solar shade structures at all school sites and district facilities. This will result in an estimated \$9,700,000 in savings over the 20-year life of the agreement. The contract with OpTerra Energy Services is a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), meaning OpTerra

lent to taking 295 cars off the road. We have worked hard to cultivate a culture of conservation within the District, making sure heating and air conditioning, lights, computers and other electrical items are turned off daily to save energy. The District has also recently completed \$2 million in energy upgrades through Proposition 39 funds which includes lighting upgrades and replacement of aging or inefficient equipment, and the receipt of over \$37,000 in utility rebates. It is anticipated these upgrades will result in utility savings of \$130,000 annually.



Solar shade structures looking similar to this will be installed in 2017.

will construct, install, operate and maintain the solar panels, selling energy back to the District at a reduced rate. Solar panels at the District will provide approximately 68 percent of the energy that will be used district-wide with a capacity of 4 megawatts, producing 6.67 million kilowatt hours annually. The generation and utilization of solar energy aligns with the District's vision of fiscal and environmental responsibility, improving air quality and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

Prior to exploring solar, the District completed many other energy efficiency and conservation measures as part of a carefully crafted energy implementation plan. Over the last 31 months since beginning our energy conservation program with Cenergistic, we avoided using energy equiva-



Plans for construction of the solar panels at each District site will soon be submitted to the Division of the State Architect for their review and approval. Construction will commence in early 2017, and is expected to be completed prior to the start of school in August 2017. Site-specific construction schedules will be developed through close coordination with site representatives to eliminate or minimize any possible construction-related impositions. The location of the solar panels at each site can be viewed by accessing the following link: tinyurl.com/PUHSDsolar