



For Immediate Release
Contact: Bonnie Gutierrez
PVUSD Health Services Coordinator
831/786-2130

**Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD)
Family Resource Centers
Celebrates Grand Opening on Friday, June 1**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. May 14, 2001, Watsonville, CA. Imagine: Your 8-year-old son can't sleep because of a nagging toothache, however you don't have the money to pay for a dentist. Your bright and curious 12-year old is struggling to master English in order to keep up with the demands of a rigorous curriculum. You'd like to encourage your teenager to apply for college, but the application process is bewildering. The school nurse tells you your kindergartner needs one more vaccination but you don't have a car to get to the County Health Department. What do you do?

If your child is a student in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, then you can easily find answers – and help – at the Family Resource Centers on the Alianza Charter School campus. The Centers celebrate their grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by PVUSD Superintendent, Dr. John Casey, on Friday, June 1 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm.

“We are delighted to provide the kinds of services our children need in order to be healthy and ready to learn,” said Dr. Casey. “The Centers are an example of our commitment to ensuring that all our students receive critical services to help them advance through school and succeed in life,” he said.

Parents will be on hand to talk about some of the critical services their children have received and fourth graders from the Freedom School will be playing violins and dancing – Folkloric style – to celebrate.

The Resource Center, housed in two buildings at the rear of the Alianza campus, was renovated at a cost of \$47,900.00. Funds from PVUSD, the Pajaro Valley Health Trust, the Monterey County Child and Family Commission and state and federal funding helped make the renovation possible.

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A range of services are made available through partnerships between the school district, nonprofit organizations and County agencies to help identify, resolve and prevent health and educational issues which often derail academic performance.

Health services include free dental care by the Dientes! Community Dental Clinic team, and on-site health exams and immunizations provided by Salud Para La Gente. A Nurse Practitioner and social services staff provide referrals to needed community services.

Another critical safety net for students is the Language Assessment Center which works to increase the number of English proficient students in the district through assessments and support. The Title VII College Bound Program encourages parental support to help children achieve academic success. Finally, the Alianza Community Computer Lab combats the digital divide by training parents on state-of-the-art computers.

The Grand Opening Program is as follows:

- 4:00 Welcome by PVUSD Superintendent
 - Remarks by PVUSD School Board Member, Roberto Garcia
 - Parent Testimonials
- 4:15 Children's Performance: Freedom School Fourth Graders
 - Folkloric Dance and Violins
- 4:30 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony by Board of Trustee
- 4:40 Resource Centers Open House – Tours and Refreshments

The Alianza Family Resource Centers are located at the rear of the Alianza Charter School Campus, 440 Arthur Road, in Watsonville.

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