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Interim Superintendent

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INSIDE NEWS

A Publication for Employees



August 14, 2007

Welcome to the 2007 – 2008 school year!

To returning and new Pajaro Valley Unified School District staff, welcome to the 2007-2008 school year.

Students will again be filling our hallways and quads, curious to find out what this new school year will bring. Staff has been working hard over the summer to make the start of your year as smooth as possible. A continued focus on student achievement for all students is at the cornerstone of this school year. Some familiar faces are in new positions at the District Office and everyone is ready to have a great year.

As you know, the District does not have final results from the API & AYP testing yet. Based on a very preliminary review it appears students have improved in Elementary Math and Language Arts. The overall scores and standing of the District will not be available for a while, but this does not change the strategies developed over the past few years.

A *Thank You* goes to each and every employee for the hard work and dedication you continue to bring to the District. PVUSD students are blessed to have such a caring, dedicated and wonderful staff eager to make this year's educational goals a reality.

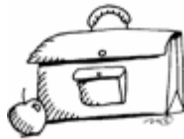
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New Employees

Human Resources is always a busy place over the summer, and this year is no exception. Each day more positions are filled as new staff join the PVUSD team and current staff move into new positions.



Panel interviews for the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction will be held on August 24th, and a Special Board Meeting is scheduled on August 25th for this position.

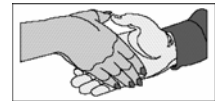
North Zone Assistant Superintendent filing is closed, and an exceptional pool of candidates has expressed an interest in the position. Larry Lane is currently filling in until the hiring process is complete.

New Employee Breakfast

A welcoming breakfast was held for new employees on August 9th.

Approximately 100 employees attended, as well as School Board President Doug Keegan, Vice-President Kim Turley and Trustees Leslie DeRose, Karen Osmundson, Libby Wilson and Willie Yahiro.

Union Partnerships



Pajaro Valley Unified School District has enjoyed a strong partnership with both AFT and CSEA over the years. Staff and students continue to be well served through the collaborative efforts of the PVUSD bargaining units and the professionalism of the membership.

Redesigning Schools to Raise Achievement (RSRA) will continue to be the model approach used by the District in our school improvement process.

As education continues to be in the state and national forefront, these positive working relationships are an important key to maintaining a focus on students attending Pajaro Valley Unified School District schools.

District Office Staffing

Put the right people in the right places and great things begin to happen.

Some staffing changes have occurred at the District Office. Best practices means putting the right people into positions where talent, expertise and skills will be fully utilized. Learning a new job is both challenging and rewarding, and each of the employees below has done an outstanding job during the transition. The dedication each has shown to PVUSD students is admirable.

Director, Curriculum and Instruction

Sylvia Mendez

Director, Extended Learning

Terry Eastman

Director, State and Federal Programs

Nancy Bilicich

Director, Student Services

Joe Trautwein

Assistant Director of Assessment

Barbara Bidlingmaier

Coordinator, Language and Arts

Caroline Calero

Professional Development, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)

Carolyn Savino and Katie Sedgwick

Administrative Staffing



PVUSD would like to acknowledge our “new” site administrators. Some are new to the District while many others are making career changes and moving to new sites.

This school year is seeing the return of nearly all our Principals. Welcome to *Trish Hucklebridge*, Principal at Watsonville Charter School for the Arts.

Assistant Principals joining the PVUSD or moving to a new campus are: *Kyle Griffith*, E.A. Hall; *Greg Stein* and *Rafael Ramirez*, Pajaro Middle School; *Lee (Craig) Broadhurst*, Ann Soldo; *Andrea Roman*, Ohlone; *Allison Anderson*, PV High School; *Neil Aratin*, Aptos High School; *Jeremy Ertl*, Mar Vista and Valencia.

Communication



Are good things happening at your school? Did a student, parent or co-worker accomplish something deserving of special recognition? The District Office is working hard to improve overall information and communication. Email your **Great News Stories** to: Connect@pvusd.net.



Art and PE Winners



The winners? All PVUSD students!

The commitment to art and physical education in the PVUSD has always been strong. With new state and federal standards, the emphasis on art and physical education was declining. Last year California school districts received two grants. One grant was one-time money for physical education, and the other, while smaller, is an ongoing grant focusing on art.

Each school site was allocated the majority of the funds from both grants, while the District Office retained enough funding to focus on developing well-rounded students.

PVUSD is pleased to announce two well-respected teachers accepting Special Assignment positions for art and physical education. Susan Megorden, from Aptos Jr. High, will be working with teachers to incorporate more art into the classroom, and Margie Jennings from Pajaro Middle School will be focusing on physical education and developing healthy habits for students. It is exciting to have these two veteran teachers share their enthusiasm and years of experience with all District staff.

CAHSEE

The improved passage rate for the California High School Exit Exam shows evidence of the hard work by students and staff. Every member of the PVUSD team plays a critical role in the educational success of students, and passing the CAHSEE as a sophomore allows students to take courses that help them achieve their personal and academic goals.

Grand Jury Report

In early July the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury released its initial report and findings. This year one of the many entities that was reviewed was the PVUSD.

Reviewing public education is not new to the Grand Jury. Over the past few years, the Grand Jury has reviewed several school districts as well as the County Office of Education.

The next step following a report is for the organization reviewed to clarify questions raised in the report and respond and correct misunderstandings or misinformation.

PVUSD is doing just that. District staff has been gathering information and data, and will be providing that information to an outside team responsible for writing the final response. This will allow District staff to keep the focus where it must be: on education and student achievement. Responses are due in mid-October and will be made public immediately.