

Skunker News

District Administration

Annette Machado,
Superintendent/Principal

Mary Frea, Vice Principal

Sandi Johnson, Administrative
Assistant

Suzanne Johnson, Fiscal Services
Manager

Board of Trustees

Susan Markarian, President
R. Allen Scheidt, Clerk
Valerie Holmes, Member
Sabino Mendez, Jr., Member
Paul Jaurigue, Member

Upcoming Events

Student Council Valentine Pizza Sales	February 3-6
Parent Night: Student Showcase	February 5
Spelling Bees	February 23, 24, 25
2nd Trimester Report Cards Go Home	February 27
Open House	March 19
Kindergarten Egg Hunt	March 27
Spring Break	March 30 -April 6

Pacific Union's Mission

This newsletter is the first *Skunker News* of the school year. Pacific Union would like to take the opportunity to share, both with parents and community members current happenings and events within the district. We are proud to continue a long standing tradition of providing our students the best educational services available. Pacific Union School's mission is to prepare all students to function as informed, productive citizens to achieve

in the work environment and to realize personal fulfillment. Among Pacific Union's major goals are that students will:

- Reach high levels of academic and social achievement
- Have high self-esteem both as learners and as persons
- Be able to utilize higher level thinking skills
- Be good problem solvers, communicators, and decision makers
- Be competent in group



processes

- Be accountable for their own behavior
- Be self-directed learners; and
- Have concern for others.

Pacific Union Named as One of Four High Achieving Schools in the San Joaquin Valley

Pacific Union is honored to be part of a study being conducted by California State University, Fresno. The purpose of the study is to identify system wide practices used by high-achieving, rural school districts. Pacific Union School District was chosen because the district met all three criteria selected to identify rural school districts as being high-achieving. The three criteria are: 1) identified as a "rural" school district by the National Center for Education Statistics within the 8 coun-

ties of the San Joaquin Valley; 2) had a 3-year average AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) in both English Language Arts and Math that was above the state's 3-year average; and 3) has a student population with more than 70% in both socioeconomically disadvantaged and minority areas. All teachers at Pacific Union responded to a survey regarding student achievement, standards, goals, and curriculum. A panel of teachers, as well as a few administrative staff were interviewed in

November. Pacific Union is looking forward to sharing the results of the study after it is finished this spring. The other three districts included in the study are Sanger Unified, Riverdale Unified, and Delano Joint Union High School.



LCFF and LCAP - Your Opinion Matters

California's new school funding law, called Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is a new way for school districts to focus on student success and funding. It requires each district to develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) that will drive the decision making process. Parents are needed and encouraged to be involved in this new process. The LCFF:

- Requires school districts to focus on the eight key areas that help all students succeed:
 1. Basic Services
 2. Implementation of State Standards
 3. Course Access
 4. Student Achievement
 5. Other Student Outcomes
 6. Student Engagement
 7. Parent Involvement
 8. School Climate
- Provides extra funding for students with greater challenges
- Gives the district more flexibility on how to spend its money.

Each year our LCAP is reviewed and revised to meet the needs of our students through information gathered from parents, students, teachers, and academic evaluations.

Last spring a parent survey was sent home as well as distributed at Open House. Information from that survey was thoroughly evaluated, reviewed with parents and staff, and used to create Pacific Union's LCAP. The 2014-15 school year is the first year of implementation. Some of the items/programs being put into action are:

- Common Core Math Curriculum in grades K-8
- New Band Instruments
- 126 Chromebooks and a Charging Cart
- Additional Psychological Services
- After-school Tutoring and Transportation, Grades 4-8
- 2 full-time Reading Intervention Specialists
- Fieldtrips for all grade levels

- Aeries Online Attendance and Grading System (Parent Portal is set to open Fall 2015)
- New Sports Uniforms
- Professional Development for Teachers and Staff

The LCAP is an on going working document. Since we are a one school district, all our money and resources go directly to benefit our students and teachers. Please take the time to complete the next survey set to be released some time in February. We will have a hard copy paper survey available as well as an online survey linked to our website at

<http://www.pacificunion.k12.ca.us/>
Remember the success of Local Control Funding comes from the added benefit of local input from our parents to help Pacific Union best meet the needs of you and your children. Should you have any questions concerning LCAP or LCFF, you may call the school at 559-834-2533.

Pacific Union Goes Wireless

This past summer Pacific Union had new wireless internet installed throughout the entire school. All rooms, including the library, cafeteria, and portables each have a Cisco Wireless Access Point. Each access point has the capability of providing internet access to 30 plus devices at the same time. All students can use the internet without slowing down



the internet connection speed, which is connected to and filtered through Fresno County Office of Education. In order for students to access the internet, they are required to have a signed Internet Usage Agreement on file at school. With access to wireless internet, each classroom is now equipped with six chromebooks and a printer for student use. Classrooms can also use the cart of 30 chromebooks for projects or activities. A chromebook is a laptop that utilizes Google

Apps for Education. Students can research and create documents, presentations, etc. individually or collaboratively.



3rd Grade Teacher Winner of Two Awards

Congratulations to Mrs. Hills and her 3rd grade class. Mrs. Hills' class participated in the SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game Program. Students discussed and voted on which stocks to buy and trade during a 4 month period. They competed against 46 other classes across the nation and finished in first place.



Mrs. Hills and her class were also awarded one of this year's Fresno County of Education Innovation

Grants. The Foundation at FCOE awards these grants to individuals who have applied and shown continued dedication to the development and achievement of their students. Mrs. Hills wrote a proposal to utilize "Fit Bits" in conjunction with her current physical education program. Students record and chart their daily activity levels, including steps taken, distance in miles, and calorie usage. The goal is to improve physical fitness by making students aware of the connection between healthy eating, healthy habits, and added exercise.



Parent Night and Student Showcase

Please join us for our Parent Night and Student Showcase, February 5th, at 6:00pm in the cafeteria. Various teachers, students, and staff members will be sharing some of the exciting activities and learning taking place at Pacific Union. Displays will include presentations by students and teachers on Interactive Notebooks, Google Slides Presentations using Chromebooks,

and current technology programs like SRI/Reading Counts, just to name a few. Come join us and see all the amazing opportunities the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Prop 30 funds are helping to provide at Pacific Union.



Annual Christmas Extravaganza a Success

The Student Council put together another amazing school event in December. The Christmas Craft Extravaganza is an annual event for families, where kids of all ages create memorable ornaments, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, and enjoy milk



and cookies. There were over 50 items donated for the Silent Auction that brought in \$775. This money will help pay for the Student Council sponsored activities throughout the year for students in grades TK

through Eighth. Pacific Union would like to thank the parents, students, and staff members for all the help with this year's Christmas Craft Extravaganza.