

Washington Unified School District Partners with Community Groups to Improve Student Vision

One of Washington Unified's top priorities is for all elementary students to be reading on grade level by the third grade. The district is grateful for its community partners: CalViva Health, the Tsu Chi Mobile Clinic, and the Easton Lions Club for their role in helping students obtain glasses so that they can achieve their academic goals.

"Making sure that kids can see the words in front of them is a critical piece in the district's plan for all students to be literate by the third grade. Our intense focus on best first instruction and strategies designed to support English Learners won't help if a student can't see the material," stated Educational Support Services Director, Cathy Troxell. The district's partnerships with CalViva Health, the Tsu Chi Mobile Clinic, and the Easton Lions Club highlights

the need for different agencies in the community to get involved when it comes to supporting students.

Washington Unified is excited to continue its long standing partnership with the Easton Lions Club in an effort to provide vision services to families in need. Students at the district's elementary sites can be referred for services at any time during the year and are provided with high quality vision screening and, if necessary, free prescription lenses in order to help them reach their academic potential.

Washington Unified School District most recently partnered with CalViva Health and Tsu Chi Vision Mobile Clinic, to provide 43 students at West Fresno Elementary School with free vision examinations and a free pair of glasses! "We cannot thank CalViva's Courtney Shapiro and her team enough for including WUSD in this partnership," stated Washington Unified's Assistant Superintendent, Hank Gutierrez, "the students and parents of West Fresno Elementary School have been afforded a life changing experience." The partnership was part of a broader effort by the Children's Movement of Fresno, whose aim is to facilitate and advocate for positive outcomes for children throughout the community. Washington Unified is grateful for its community partners who make it possible for us to serve our students well.



Tsu Chi Fresno, Vision Mobile Project Assistant Coordinator, Olivia Chung fits a West Fresno Elementary student for her new glasses.

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You can find

Washington Unified School District

in the app store.



Superintendent's Message



Washington Unified
Superintendent
Joey Campbell

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and express my appreciation to our outgoing board members, Jim Curtis, Frank Butterfield, Antonio Rodriguez, Jr., and Neil Amaral.

The contributions of these gentlemen to the district cannot be overstated. They have guided the district through substantial change and helped to launch a district improvement process that will result in substantial improvements in the coming years. Mr. Rodriguez was first elected in 2010, Mr. Amaral was first elected in 2014, Mr. Curtis was first elected in 1989, and Mr. Butterfield was first elected in 1993. The community is indeed indebted to them for their excellent leadership.

While these board members became friends and are missed, we are excited to welcome our new board members: Anna Campbell, Terry Ruiz, Mark Aguilar, and Eddie Ruiz. They join existing members: Steven Barra, Darrell Carter, and Henry Hendrix. We are fortunate to move forward under the leadership of this team as we continue our efforts to make Washington Unified a place where we cultivate achievement and grow strong futures.



Washington Union Student Work Chosen for Exhibition at Fresno's Artés Americas Cultural Center

Washington Union High School art students Briana Valenzuela and Shay Envernizzi were recently honored to have their artwork chosen to be displayed at Fresno's Artés Americas Cultural Center in downtown Fresno.

According to their website, the cultural center aims to celebrate the arts in Mexico, Latin America, the Southwest, and California. All exhibits are "culturally educational and family friendly." The Artés Americas Cultural Center has dedicated space to display artwork, host concerts and classes, and to host performances that honor Latino arts.

Valenzuela's work, entitled Cerapteryx Graminis of Noctuidae, synthesizes both human and animal forms that toy

with ideas regarding human nature and ironic behaviors. Envernizzi's work, entitled Rainbow Dimension, explores the idea of being masked in order to breathe in a world that is often full of judgement.

The girls' work will also be featured at Washington Unified's upcoming Visual and Performing Arts Showcase. The event will be held on April 27, 2017 at 5:00p.m. at the district office located at 7950 S. Elm Ave, Fresno, CA 93706. The evening will include an art reception and a wide variety of performances including music, dance, and spoken word. Artwork will hang through the month of May. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend.



Rainbow Dimension
by Shay Envernizzi



Cerapteryx
by Briana Valenzuela

Please Join Us for

*The Washington Unified School District
Visual and Performing Arts Showcase*

**April 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
7950 S. Elm Ave, Fresno, CA 93706**

West Fresno Elementary's Community Literacy Night Draws Record Crowds

For the fourth year in a row, West Fresno Elementary School hosted a Community Literacy Night in order to provide local families with the resources needed to

promote literacy in their homes. The event aims to promote a literacy rich environment for families to replicate in their homes through interactive centers, online resources, and book distributions. This year's event attracted a record number of participants as almost 300 students, plus their family members attended.

lastic, Familius and LLC. The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools was also present to help drive home the night's message about the importance of family literacy. The Fresno County Library was on site for the event, helping families to obtain library cards that they can use both online and in various Fresno County Library locations.



Above: Batman poses with WFES students Natalie Rodriguez and Rosa Hernandez at Literacy Night.

This year's theme was Superheroes, as evidenced by over twelve superhero themed interactive stations set up for families. Batman Boggle, Brave Hero Bingo, and Wonder Woman Song Stories were just three of the booths that participants enjoyed. One of the night's highlights was a special guest appearance by Batman, who spoke to students about the importance of reading every-day! Learning Director and Literacy Night coordinator, Sabrina Green said, "It is amazing to see so many families come out for such an important cause. It truly shows our parent's desire for their children to be successful."

Students and their families also enjoyed a free dinner and each child left the event with a free book donated by Scho-



Top: Mrs. Granam leads Brave Hero Bingo with WFES families. Above: Ramon Santos and Elias Barajas reading at Literacy Night.

American Union Elementary's Caeden Steele Wins National Racing Competition

American Union Elementary School student, Caeden Steele, has been racing since he was 5 years old. Inspired by his dad's love of racing, Caeden began racing quads at a young age and later Sprint cars, developing his own love of the sport. "I like the competitive part of racing because it's fun," explained Caeden. Although Caeden's favorite car is a Corvette, he wants to stick with Sprint car racing because he prefers racing on the clay dirt track as opposed to the road.

Caeden's dedication to the sport has paid off. This past December Steele competed in the 32nd Annual Tulsa Shootout.

The five-day competition had a record 1,249 entries among 615 drivers in nine classes, making it the biggest racing event in the country! Caeden drove with his father and uncle 29 hours across the country to compete in the event, eventually winning first place in the Junior Sprints feature of the national racing event.

Caeden's success isn't just limited to the race track. Caeden is an active student at American Union. He participates in the school's Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) Program, is an honor roll student, and plays multiple sports including basketball and flag football.

Join us in celebrating Caeden's huge win as the National Junior Sprint Winner!



Above: American Union student and racing champion Caeden Steele.

Washington Union High School HOSA Students Participate in Capitol Leadership Experience

College and career ready. While this phrase encapsulates the vision of the Washington Unified School District, it isn't just about having good grades and being able to land a job. Being college and career ready means that students are prepared to navigate the world after high school in a meaningful way. It means that they are able to use their experiences and their education to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others.

One way that students are learning to make a difference in the world around them is through studying and participating in local and state government. This past February, Washington Union High School seniors, Eric Manzo, Liseth Santos, and Jesus Crispin experienced the state legislature first hand by visiting the capitol and observing Senate and Assembly Committee Hearings and Floor Sessions. The culmination of their trip was a chance to meet directly with State Assembly member Dr. Joaquin Arambula, to talk about Cal-HOSA: Future Health Professionals.

According to the Cal-HOSA website, their mission is to: "promote career

opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people." Washington Union's HOSA chapter has been active since the inception of the Health Institute, an award winning Washington Union High School career technical education pathway. Manzo, Santos, and Crispin discussed the student organization with Dr. Arambula and it's importance for students throughout California.

"It is important for the youth of America to be educated in Civics and Government to ensure that they have an informed opinion," states Washington Unified Curriculum and Instruction Director John Sherron, "Democracy cannot be taken for granted. Our country depends on an informed citizenry and experiences like the HOSA students visit to the Capitol help ensure that our



Above: Dr. Joaquin Arambula with Washington Union High School seniors: Eric Manzo, Liseth Santos, and Jesus Crispin.

young people are equipped to participate in our government in a meaningful way." Sherron also cited the success of Washington Union's Mock Election, held in November, where students participated in a mock presidential vote and voted on 3 state assembly bills. It is hoped that experiences like these will equip Washington Union's students to participate in our country's decision making process.

Alternative Education Program Expands to Offer Online Diploma Completion Classes to Community Through Cyber High

Earning a high school diploma can lead to better opportunities for students when it comes to career options and salary potential. Washington Unified's Alternative Education Program is pleased to announce that it can now offer diploma completion classes to adults in the community. The program is open to adults, ages 18 and older who are looking to earn a high school diploma.

Courses are offered online through Cyber High and are designed to be

easily accessed from most devices. "Many adults are juggling multiple responsibilities, including jobs and children," explained Learning Director Grant Thor, "To add a demanding class schedule on top of that makes it hard for some to achieve their goals of earning a high school diploma. The online format gives adults the flexibility to be able to complete coursework at any time and from various locations."

Students can enroll through the Adult

Education Office by contacting Principal Glen Freeman or Learning Director Grant Thor at 495-5602 or 485-8805 ex. 599. Interested students are encouraged to contact the Adult Education Office for a review of their transcripts to see how the program might work for them.

ENROLL TODAY!
495-5602

6th Annual Washington Unified Spelling Bee Winners to Advance to County Competition

On Friday, January 27th, students from American Union Elementary, West Fresno Elementary, and West Fresno Middle School competed in the district's 6th annual Spelling Bee Competition. Students worked with their teachers and coaches to prepare for the competition, first winning their individual school spelling bee, before advancing to the district level. "We are proud of all of our Spelling Bee participants," stated Director of Curriculum and Instruction Annie Sharp. "We know that these students have worked hard to study words that often surpass their individual grade levels in order to prepare for competition." The following students placed at the district level:



4th - 6th Grade Oral Spelling Bee Winners:

- 1st: Cassandra Leon (WFMS)
- 2nd: Felicia Morales (AUES)
- 3rd: Eslevan Navarro (WFMS)



7th - 8th Grade Written Spelling Bee Winners:

- 1st: Sergio Aranda-Salcedo (WFMS)
- 2nd: Natalie Reyes (WFMS)
- 3rd: Aujanai McClure (WFMS)

The top two spellers from each Bee will be moving on to compete in the County competition on Thursday, March 15th, at the Satellite Student Union at Fresno State University. The winners of that competition will go on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington D.C. We wish them all GOOD LUCK!!!

Washington Union High School's Zavia Barlow Breaks Long Held Women's Basketball Record



Above: Yvette Roberts congratulates Zavia Barlow on breaking record.

On Friday January 27th, the Washington Union High School gym was filled with spectators who eagerly anticipated watching a school scoring record be broken by student athlete Zavia Barlow. Before the game began, Barlow was 21 points away from breaking Yvette Roberts' record of 1,378 points scored for women's basketball at WUHS.

to play at Fresno State and set yet another record in scoring for the University. Roberts went on to play overseas and was later awarded Fresno State's Top Dog Alumni Award. She now resides in Fresno and was able to come see Zavia beat her scoring record.

The energy in the gym that night was contagious. Students filled the student section, holding pom poms and a 21 point countdown to update the crowd on how close Barlow was to breaking the record. The Barlow family, who never misses a game, was in attendance and eagerly celebrated every bucket their daughter scored. Slowly the 21 points, became 15, then 10 and soon enough 0.

new title as the school's point record holder. Barlow finished the game with 28 points and she and her family were recognized following the game with crowd cheering and photos.

Barlow plans on attending Grand Canyon University and pursuing a degree in Business Administration following graduation. Congratulations Zavia!



Above: The Barlow family faithfully attended all of Zavia's games!

Roberts, WUHS class of 1985, was a Central Valley standout. After setting a scoring record for WUHS she went on

Roberts came down from the bleachers during a time out and handed Barlow a plaque, congratulating Barlow on her

7950 S. Elm Avenue, Fresno, CA 93706-6099

Kindergarten Registration Events to Take Place at District Elementary Schools

Kindergarten Registration will take place at both American Union and West Fresno Elementary schools for the 2017-18 school year. The following registration events will take place this Spring:

American Union Elementary School **Kindergarten Registration and Orientation**

Date: 5/15/17

Location: American Union

Time: 5:30p.m.



West Fresno Elementary School **Kindergarten Registration**

Date: 4/6/17

Location: WFES Library

Time: 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.



West Fresno Elementary School **Preschool and Kindergarten Registration**

Date: 4/7/17

Location: West Fresno Preschool

Time: 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.



Registration Checklist:*

- ✓ WUSD Registration Forms
- ✓ Proof of age, *such as a birth certificate*
- ✓ Proof of residency, *such as a recent PG & E bill*
- ✓ Immunization Record
Polio, DPT, DTAP, MMR, HEP B,
Varicella, TB
- ✓ Tdap (*all 7th-12th grade students need current booster*)
- ✓ Proof of a Physical (*within the past year*)
- ✓ Proof of Dental Evaluation (*within the past year*)

* Please visit the school office for a complete registration checklist

