

El Tejon School District News

District News — March 2009

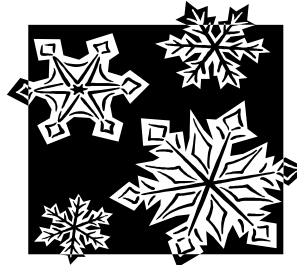
Shelly Mason, Superintendent

As you know, we had a few Fridays in February when the weather demanded that we get students home immediately. Our local weather changes in an instant, and we had difficulties even moving quickly enough. Because of where we live and the distances between homes and schools, combined with the variety of conditions that may arise and change suddenly, it is critical for you and your family to have a set plan for emergency dismissals from school.

- Each of your children must know *exactly* what you want them to do in the event of an early or emergency dismissal!
- Create a plan for your family so that every child knows what they are expected to do. This *must* be a plan that does not include waiting at school for you to pick them up, or calling you on the phone to make arrangements. Depending on the circumstances, these may not be options.

We appreciate your attention to this most important matter.

Our school calendar has 6 snow days built into it. We have already used 7 snow days! The District will be applying for a waiver for extra days. If this waiver is granted, it means that we would not have to make up any additional snow days. Keep your fingers crossed!



Bond Construction Updates

We are moving forward in our Bond Construction process:

- New Bond Oversight Committee members will be appointed at the Board meeting on March 11th. This committee will meet on March 18, 2009 at the District Office.
- Construction plans are currently in the approval phase at the School Facilities Division of the California Department of Education.
- Soils engineering, percolation testing, and fault assessment studies are set to begin in order to

prepare the required geotechnical reports.



EL TEJON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 2009
Calendar of Events

Saturday 3/7

*Baseball Tournaments at Taft High School

Monday 3/9

*FFA to Sectional Parli Pro Competition at Ridgeview High School

Tuesday

*FP School ELAC Meeting in FP School Staff Lounge at 8:30 a.m.

*Baseball & Softball at Vasquez High School 3:15

*FFA to Sectional Parli Pro Competition at Foothill High School

*Golf at Tierra De Sol Golf Course in California City 1:00

Wednesday 3/11

*ETUSD Board Meeting at 7:00 in the FMHS Library

*FMHS ELAC Meeting 3:15 in the FMHS Library

*Baseball at Shafter High School 3:30

Thursday 3/12

*Varsity Softball Tournament at Bakersfield High School

*Junior Varsity Softball Tournament at Shafter High School

Friday 3/13

*End of 3rd Quarter

*Junior ASB Film Festival 7:00-10:00

*Varsity Softball Tournament at Bakersfield High School

*Junior Varsity Softball Tournament at Shafter High School

What is Prevention Education? - Paula Harvey, Coordinator of Curriculum and Programs.

Prevention Education is a type of curriculum that focuses on the prevention of violence in and around schools, and the prevention of the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. This involves parents and communities, and is coordinated with Federal, State, school, and community efforts. The goal is to create schools that are safe and drug-free learning environments that support student academic achievement.

The El Tejon Unified School District works with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools to develop and provide programs and opportunities that teach students to make healthy choices and avoid high risk behaviors. Our staff participates in many programs and trainings. All of our schools teach the six pillars of character through a program called Character Counts, the most widely implemented approach to character education in the nation.

At El Tejon School, Student

Ambassadors work hard to promote an environment of friendship and safety, working with their friends to discourage and prevent bullying. We call this program "Badger Pride." Eighth graders learn how to say no to drugs through a program called Project ALERT. This class successfully addresses tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and inhalants, the substances teens are most likely to use.

At the high school level, a similar program, "Too Good for Drugs and Violence" is used. Additionally, students can participate in a peer helping class and our Friday Night Live club. Both develop activities and community service projects that highlight the dangers of high-risk activities and work to create healthy, positive alternatives.

We are also exploring a new program called "Teaching Pro-

social Skills." This curriculum promotes positive social behavior by addressing factors that contribute to aggression in adolescents, including lack of social and coping skills, impulsiveness, and reliance on aggression to meet daily needs. Students who work through this program, which we hope to begin in the fall of 2009, will gain an understanding of what it takes to succeed in the world.

Every two years, we administer a survey to students in the 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades called "The California Healthy Kids Survey." The results of the survey guide our district in determining which prevention programs will best meet the needs of the students in our district. We will be administering this important survey in the Fall of 2009.

Frazier Mountain High School - Dan Penner, Principal

Frazier Mountain High School is currently participating in an accreditation process known as the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Review. The entire staff at FMHS has been working diligently in teams to complete a self-study and a detailed report. Later this month, a team of educational leaders from high schools in California will visit the school in order to observe, meet with staff and parents, and evaluate our progress. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate and highlight our accomplishments and successes, as well as formulate an action plan of improvement so that we can continue our quest for excellence.

Parents are invited to attend a reception as part of the WASC process at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March

22nd in the FMHS Library. You are also encouraged to contact us for more information about how you can be involved in this process.

The winter sports season has come to an end. The girls' basketball and soccer teams both made the playoffs, each winning their first game and advancing to the second round of CIF playoffs! The season concluded last week with a Winter Sports Banquet held on February 26th honoring of all of our athletes from basketball and soccer. Thank You to the athletic booster club for all of your support, and Congratulations Falcons!

On February 7th, 7 students represented FMHS at the Kern

County Academic Decathlon at Bakersfield High School. This year's team members were Tommy Biering, Scott Fleming, Donnis Borlace, Abby Lenz, Josh Arreola, Aly Overs, and Joey Teare.

On March 3rd, leaders from Friday Night Live, Peer Helping, and ASB participated in the Leaders in Life Conference at the Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield. This conference is designed to get teens together from schools across the state to discuss current topics and issues facing young adults today. We are very proud to represent the mountain communities at this exciting event.

March Calendar of Events (continued)

Saturday 3/14

*Academy Car Wash at Flying J 10:00 – 2:00
*Varsity Softball Tournament at Bakersfield High School
*Junior Varsity Softball Tournament at Shafter High School
*Varsity Baseball at Maricopa High School 11:00

Tuesday 3/17

*Kern County Science Fair in Bakersfield
*FFA Booster Club Meeting at Coffee Cantina 6:00
*Fox's Spring Portraits at FP School
*Baseball at Home vs McFarland High School 3:15

Wednesday 3/18

*El Tejon 8th Grade Field Trip to Kern County Courthouse
*Golf at Bishop 1:00

Thursday 3/19

*Academy Seniors to Santa Barbara Mission & Maritime Museum

Friday 3/20

*El Tejon School Report Cards Go Home!
*FFA to Regional Parli Pro at College of the Sequoias
*ASB Walkathon
*Baseball & Softball at Home vs Vasquez High School 3:15

Saturday 3/21

*Drumline Competition at West High School

Sunday 3/22

*WASC Site Visit – Parents Invited to Reception in FMHS Library 4:30 – 6:00

Monday 3/23

*WASC Site Visit
*FFA to South Valley Sectional Awards Banquet
*Kindergarten Registration Packets available at FP School

El Tejon School and Frazier Park School - Dena Kiouses, Principal

At Frazier Park School and El Tejon School, students continue to excel! At both schools, students and teachers are concentrating on mastering California Content Standards.

At Frazier Park School, students are working diligently to reach their Accelerated Reader goals. Students are also striving to improve classroom attendance. Thank you to Pam Jarecki, Angelique Donovan and Michi Knight, and other PTSO parents for the outstanding Book Fair. What a great service to our school.

At El Tejon School, Badger Pride continues to grow with new students joining at each meeting. On February 5, students from the District displayed wonderful Science Fair boards and experiments. The support and commitment we received from the community was huge—Thank You to the many who attended. Thank you also to teachers and especially Mrs. Bloom, for your hard work and dedication to our students. What a great night!

Focus on Kindergarten

Happy March from the kindergartners and their teachers at Frazier Park School! We continue to be very busy in the classroom as we prepare for first grade. We had an exciting February which included a celebration of the 100th day of school, a trip to our local post office to mail our own Valentines made in the classroom, and learning about heart health and our country. We appreciate your cooperation and support at home in all of our endeavors.

Science Fair Updates

By Andria Bloom

Students in the El Tejon Unified School District worked hard on this year's science fair project. Our district Science Fair took place Thursday, February 5th in the El Tejon gym. Many students and parents attended this event and were treated to an educational experience covering a vast array of scientific topics. One of the most exciting things to note about this year's competition is that it was the first year our district had high school level entries. Congratulations to the following students who will represent our district at the Kern County Science Fair on March 17th: Madelyn Hon, Emily Oliver, Brianna Edwards, Lilly Hallmark, Xiola DuBose, Rachel Oliver, Jamie Bizzini, Laura Jennings, Maribeth Villanueva, Forrest Csulak, and Josh Arreola. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our expert science panel for volunteering their time to our students: Brian Hallmark, Bradford Oliver, Lisa Arreola, and Dr. Greg Wilkerson.

El Tejon School is proud of our first-year AVID accomplishments. At the last School Board meeting, AVID students Adriana Calderon, Natasha Anderson, Dana Jens, and Krista Chelafalo, parent Marta Calderon and teachers Sara Haflich and Tery Schantzen made a presentation that impressed the board members and the audience. I look forward to another exciting AVID year as we continue to add to our existing program.

A message from Angela Witham,

ETUSD Library Coordinator

I would like to thank Mrs. Haflich and her AVID students as well as the hardworking Frazier Park PTSO Friends of the Library for their assistance in shelving books and making the library a great experience for our students. The students, teachers, and I really appreciate all of your hard work.

Pine Mountain Learning Center - Mary Griffin

The students at Pine Mountain Learning Center are having a great year! We have gone on field trips to a dairy and pistachio farm, to the Oil Museum in Taft, to the LA Zoo and to the Western Heritage Museum. We have an overnight trip planned to Fort Tejon for grades 3-6. In addition to these "being there" experiences, we have taken local hikes and explored the school

environment with our "Nature Buddies".

Each day we start with a school-wide flag salute outside and a citizenship pledge based on our "Lifelong Guidelines". Each month we have an attendance award assembly and a "Student of the Week" assembly that recognizes students for their use of the LIFESKILLS.

General Homework Tips for Parents

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going

- **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.**

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

March Calendar of Events (continued)

Tuesday 3/24

*WASC Site Visit

Wednesday 3/25

*WASC Site Visit

Thursday 3/26

*El Tejon School Honor Roll Assemblies

*Varsity Softball at Santa Clarita Christian 3:15

*Golf at Kern Valley 1:00

Friday 3/27

*FFA to Regional Prepared Speech Contest at Bethel Assembly of God

*Varsity Baseball vs Boron High School at Clear Channel Stadium Bakersfield 3:15

Tuesday 3/31

*Academy Seniors Dinner at 6:30

*Softball at Home vs Arvin 3:30

Wednesday 4/1

*FMHS SSC Meeting 3:15 in the FMHS Library

*Golf at Desert High School 1:00

Thursday 4/2

*Athletic Booster Club Meeting at Caveman Cavey's 6:30

*Varsity Baseball & Softball at Miramonte High School

*Junior Varsity Baseball & Softball at home vs Miramonte

Friday 4/3

*Varsity Softball Tournament at Wasco High School

*ASB Spring Social

Saturday 4/4

*Varsity Softball Tournament at Wasco High School

*Drumline Competition at Centennial High School in Bakersfield

*Academy Senior Car Wash at Flying J 10:00 - 2:00

**Monday, April 6
to**

**Monday, April 13
SPRING BREAK
NO SCHOOL**

**El Tejon
Unified School District**

P.O. Box 876
Lebec, CA 93243
Phone: 661-248-6247
Fax: 661-248-6714

**All Children Will Learn
Because of
What We Do!**



El Tejon Unified School District's Newest Administrators

MRS. DENA KIOUSES, Principal of Frazier Park School and El Tejon School

Dena Kiouses is originally from Ventura, California. When she moved to Bakersfield, she attended CSUB earning a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies. She also holds a master's degree in education from the University of La Verne. Mrs. Kiouses has been in education for 10 years, and she has taught at the primary, intermediate, and middle school levels. At Rosedale Middle School, she taught math, language arts, and reading. Mrs. Kiouses has served as a mentor to new teachers, and she has also been a presenter at several math conferences. During her tenure in the Rosedale School District, Dena also worked in a variety of administrative positions.

Dena enjoys traveling, camping, and kayaking with her family. She considers education to be a lifelong journey and believes having the opportunity to help young people along their journey is a privilege. Mrs. Kiouses is very excited about the challenges and rewards of her new position as principal at both El Tejon and Frazier Park Schools, and she looks forward to being a part of the local community.

MR. CHARLES "BUCK" WEBER, Assistant Principal of Frazier Mountain High School and Principal of El Tejon Continuation High School

Charles "Buck" Weber is originally from Pacific Palisades, California. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in History and Single Subject teaching credential in Social Studies from Cal State Northridge in 1984. Mr. Weber then taught for Los Angeles Unified School District for the next eleven years. His experiences included teaching Advanced Placement to remedial social studies classes, and being the 10th–11th grade humanities teacher. He also coached girls' softball, girls' soccer, football, boys' soccer, and swimming. Mr. Weber transferred to the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District in 1995 and taught Social Studies, coached volleyball, baseball and was the school-to-career coordinator for six years. He earned his Masters Degree and Administrative Credential in Education Administration

from Azusa Pacific University in 2003, and served as high school assistant principal for five years. He was recruited in 2006 to become the 2nd thru 9th grade Director of Operations and counselor for Ivy Academia Charter School in LAUSD.

Buck enjoys reading, gardening, and cooking. He considers education to be the primary stepping-stone to maintaining a democratic society and loves seeing students get their "A-Ha" moments as they master something new. Mr. Weber appreciates the opportunity to expand his skills while working in one of the most picturesque areas in Southern California.

