

Spring 2022

# In Focus

News from your community's school district

**Thank you to the Thermalito community for your support of Measure Z, our 2018 school bond measure. These funds allowed us to improve many of our facilities to benefit our students and our community. In addition to funding from Measure Z, the district has secured almost \$4 million in additional grant funding to support these improvements.**



## Poplar Avenue Elementary School

The largest Measure Z project was the modernization of Poplar Avenue Elementary School. This project included a remodel of the cafeteria/multipurpose room as well as the library, school office and restrooms.

An outdoor amphitheater area was added as was a new restroom building. The parking lot was expanded and redone. New fencing, landscaping fresh paint completed the picture at this school.



# Thermalito Union Elementary School District



With Measure Z funds, **TLC Preschool** moved from the Poplar campus to a new, expanded location, which includes six brand new classrooms and a new play yard. We look forward to operating an additional classroom in Fall 2022 to support our preschool students with special needs. The new campus also welcomed Trixie, a Golden Retriever who has been trained as an emotional support dog, shown here with her owner, TLC Director Robyn Solansky.

**Nelson Avenue Middle School** received a fresh paint job and 12 new HVAC units funded with a combination of Measure Z and a grant from Butte County Air Quality Management District. A grant from the North Valley Community Foundation will also help fund a replacement of the greenhouse.



**Sierra Avenue Elementary School** added two new portable classrooms, new paving and 15 new HVAC units funded with a combination of Measure Z and a grant from Butte County Air Quality Management District. Shown here are two students in the Sierra Thunderbird's Nest, an area for social/emotional support, which is housed in one of the new classrooms.

Measure Z allowed all five campuses to get a makeover, even at our newest site, **Plumas Avenue Elementary School** where the parking lot was expanded and a new digital announcement sign and perimeter fencing were added.





Six new electric buses are a great addition to the **Maintenance/Transportation yard** where a new shade awning was installed along with chargers for the district's new electric buses. These buses were purchased with two grants, one from the California Energy Commission and the other from Butte County Air Quality Management District. They went into service in February and are popular with our students and bus drivers.

More projects funded by Measure Z and other grants are in the works, including the addition of **backup generators** to all school sites (needed due to Public Safety Power Shut-off), a new **fitness course** to Nelson, and the planting of **many more trees** on our campuses through the ReLeaf Grant.



## Teachers share about student learning

This year, teachers are participating in **math fact fluency workshops** with Butte County math expert Michelle Sanchez. These toolkits help students develop fluency with their number facts while also building understanding of how and why the operations work.

*"Math Fact Fluency is more than just memorization and worksheets, and I appreciate that the toolkit and the training acknowledge that."*

*Lisa Sherman, 5th grade teacher at Poplar Avenue Elementary School*

Thermalito started **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** training in 2019 and continues to build and implement it in classrooms. UDL is a way of thinking about teaching and learning that offers flexibility in how students access material, engage with it and show what they know. UDL is a focus of our district-wide professional learning, and all staff are participating in sessions to deepen their knowledge and use of this framework in their classrooms.

*"Choice and voice! This year in my ELA classes, I've reworked lessons to include more opportunities for students to choose how they'll learn or how they'll show what they've learned. Small changes, like providing each student with a list of writing prompt options in lieu of one prompt for the whole class, have boosted student engagement and ownership. In larger projects or unit assessments, I've had students choose from a menu of options. Not only has it helped with engagement, but I've also observed students to be more self-directed and self-aware as they make choices that best fit their individual skills and learning styles."*

*Alece Feldhaus, special education teacher at Nelson Avenue Middle School*

## Science of Reading workshops:

This year Tammy Duggan, Thermalito's new Coordinator of Instructional Programs, is providing K-5 elementary teachers with an in-depth training on the Science of Reading.

This approach is based on the science of how the brain works when learning to read, and uses systematic, direct instruction to deliver content.

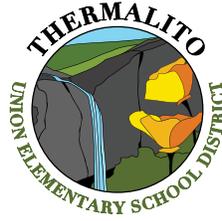
Teachers are participating in workshops about key reading skills like phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. The ongoing goal is to ensure staff is trained in the most current practices in order to best support all of our students in becoming successful readers.

# Mark Your Calendar

Discover the new, modernized campus at Poplar Avenue Elementary and see our district's new electric buses!



- Bounce house
- Hot dogs/hamburgers



## In Focus

News from your community's school district

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**April 23: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**  
**Poplar Avenue Elementary Campus**

Thermalito enrolls about 35 **Transitional Kindergarten (TK)** students each year. Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, eligibility for this program will begin expanding to include younger students, and transitional kindergarten classes will move to a new home on our expanded TLC campus.

Riverbend Virtual Academy is the new name of our **independent studies program**. Starting this fall we will have a new online curriculum covering all core content areas. In addition we will be offering weekly tutoring, individual check-in meetings with teachers, and opportunities for hands-on science labs.

*For more information about either program, contact Tammy Duggan, tduggan@thermalito.org*

## Social-emotional learning at TUESD

At Thermalito Union Elementary School District, supporting the well-being of students and staff continues to be a focus of our work.

This past August, staff began their school year by participating in a variety of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) workshops to continue to build their knowledge and skills in best practices to use in their classrooms.

The goal of our staff is to build supportive relationships with students by designing instruction using research-based SEL signature practices for student academic and emotional growth.

## Tutoring available to provide extra help

Tutoring is available for all students who need extra help. If you feel your child would benefit from extra tutoring, please contact your child's site principal for more information. We're eager to help—we want success for every student!



**Check out our job opportunities at <https://bit.ly/TUESDjobs>**