

DON'T FORGET: ELECTION DAY
IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6.



NEWS ABOUT STUDENTS AND
SCHOOLS IN THERMALITO
UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Thermalito *in focus*

INFORMATION ABOUT BALLOT MEASURE Z

By Cody Walker

*Assistant Superintendent of Business
& Operations*

Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Thermalito Union Elementary School District (TUESD) is placing a general obligation bond measure on the upcoming November 2018 ballot in order to modernize and renovate our schools. Measure Z is a \$4.5 million general obligation bond program that is intended to address the needs of our student population.

While facilities have been well-maintained, aging classrooms are in need of upgrading since many do not meet 21st-century safety, education and technology standards. Measure Z will allow TUESD to improve the quality of the school facilities and the environment in which our students are educated.

Today, the scope of improvements needed at TUESD is far more than the current funding sources available could address. The per-pupil funding that the district receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading, modernizing, and repairing facilities.

Over the last several months, with input from a variety of stakeholders, the district has analyzed projects needed. Examples of the specific types of

projects identified include:

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs.
- Upgrading inadequate electrical systems.
- Repairing or replacing deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems.
- Modernizing/renovating outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities.
- Repairing or replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.
- Improvements to parking lots and drive-ways.

Measure Z will provide our students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities, many of which are also used by and available to the community.

If Measure Z does pass, it is projected that property owners in the District will be taxed at an average rate of approximately \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value).

If Measure Z does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate, and funds that could otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at each school.

By law, all funds have to be spent locally, cannot be taken by the state and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries. Measure Z accountability measures include annual independent audits, and an independent citizens' oversight committee to ensure that bond funds are properly spent.

Test scores rising

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) is one measure to gauge student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The CAASPP tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems. Because CAASPP tests are given statewide, they provide an opportunity to measure the skills of all students within the same academic standards.

Thermalito's overall results in spring of 2018, for all student groups, showed an increase of 8% in English language arts/literacy and a 2% increase in mathematics. A few grade levels increased an amazing 14% to 17% in ELA/literacy.

Most all grade levels increased from previous years in both content areas. Some of the reason for this growth is the ongoing grade level collaboration where teachers discuss common pacing and assessment data, early student interventions and best instructional practices.

Innovative preschool program offers dual language immersion



Learning in two languages—Teacher Zang Lee helps students in TUESD’s new dual-language preschool class; students learn in both English and Hmong.

Preschoolers in TUESD have a unique opportunity to spend their school days immersed in both English and Hmong thanks to an innovative new dual-immersion language program in the TLC Preschool program. For information about program openings for preschoolers, call 538.2950.

“We were able to use state Child Development Expansion funds to add a full-day preschool program this year,” says Robyn Solansky, “And, while we were doing that, we added a dual language program to benefit our community’s students and families.

“This is ideal for families who want their children to maintain their cultural and language ties to Hmong yet continue in their proficiency with English,” Solansky points out. “We’re putting the language into the classroom, side by side with English to create a very rich educational environment.”

Non-Hmong students also benefit from the dual-language program, Solansky says. “Studies are clear that learning a second language helps build cognitive development as students take in both languages and interchange them. They hear more language and they grow in their understanding.”

Xoxwm Nyob Rau Hauj Daim Ntawv No –

Hu rau TUESD lub Office, 538.2900, yog xav tau daim xovxwm uas txhais lus Hmoob:

Tsab ntawv hais txog diam ntawv xaiv tsa Measure Z

Cov qhab nia xeem ntawv nce

Tus Tub ceev xwm pab tsev kawm ntawv

Lub hoob Preschool ua qhia ob hom lus

Ntsib cov neeg ua haujlwm tshiab

Chaw ua si tshiab rau cov tub ntxhais kawm ntawv

Pab neeg ua haujlwm tawm suab (Student Advocate Team) npaj kev si raug zoo thiab vam mee rau cov menyuum kawm ntawv

Increased safety and creating positive interactions with law enforcement are results of new district program

“I haven’t had a ‘routine’ day yet,” laughs Oroville police officer Eric Hutton of his new position as school resource officer for Thermalito Union Elementary School District. “Every day has been different and every day has been busy.”

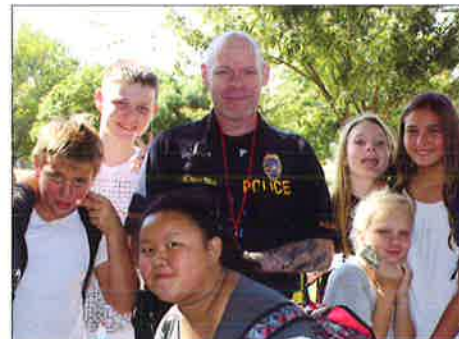
Hutton, a 17-year police veteran—and a Thermalito resident—is the district’s assigned police officer as part of a three-year contract with the Oroville Police Department.

“Officer Hutton spends about 80 percent of his time here at Nelson Avenue Middle School,” says NAMS Assistant Principal Jeff Kuhn, “But he’s right here in the district and can be at any other campus, if necessary in minutes.”

Much of Hutton’s time is spent with improving school attendance.

“Regular school attendance really helps pave the way for easier success in high school,” says Hutton. “Not only do students need to be in school to learn but regular attendance develops positive habits that will help them in their future.”

Additionally, Hutton’s presence at TUESD schools provides increased safety as well as positive interactions with law enforcement—an experience that some students may not have previously had, says Kuhn. “Our students benefit from that connection and the resources he can provide.”



Safety on campus—School Resource Officer Eric Hutton splits his time among TUESD’s school sites. Creating positive relationships between law enforcement and students is one of his priorities as he interacts with Thermalito students.

Have you met these new TUESD employees?

We welcome these employees who enable the district to meet its mission to inspire, educate and challenge our students, empowering them to succeed in an ever-changing world.



PLUMAS AVENUE—Left to right: Jesse Bracey, student advocate; Greg Lopez paraeducator/tech lab; Rachel Bryson, campus supervisor; Brenda Szego, secretary.



NELSON AVENUE—Left to right: Gregory Grant, music teacher; Jocelyn Cain, teacher; Connie Dragos, child nutrition site lead; Monica Valencia, child nutrition.



POPLAR AVENUE—Left to right: Willow DeFranco, teacher; Arika Elderkin, paraeducator; Christiana Stark, paraeducator; Tiana Grap, teacher; Julie Vang, paraeducator.



COMMUNITY DAY—Left to right: Jeremiah Gawthrop, teacher; Jason Davison, teacher.



TLC PRESCHOOL—Left to right: Janet Lee, teacher; Angela Brown, paraeducator.



MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS / TRANSPORTATION—Kevin Waugh, director.



SIERRA AVENUE—Back row, left to right: Danielle Hildebrand, teacher; Cindy Johnen, teacher; Lisa Shaw, principal. Front, left to right: Brooke Sears, teacher; Amber Saetern, paraeducator; Kristin Drake, teacher; Nanette Berryman, paraeducator; Christina Chase, child nutrition.



TRANSPORTATION—Melody Wescott, bus driver.



DISTRICT—Victoria Caporale, school nurse.

NOT PICTURED

Poplar: Rebecca Stevens, teacher

District: Holly Gatti, speech

CDS: Amy Parker, para educator

NAMS: Dirk Damon, campus supervisor; Sandra Branson, para educator

Plumas: Lareen Ferguson, child nutrition

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Student Advocate Team builds relationships for student success

Thermalito has a phenomenal new student advocate program, funded through the California Department of Education Learning Communities for School Success Program (LCSSP) three-year grant.

Every day student advocates at each school site are building positive relationships with students and families to promote active participation, engagement and connectedness in school.

Advocates greet students as they arrive at school, connect with them during recess and often eat lunch with them. Weekly team meetings occur at each school with the student advocate coordinator, principal and counselor. During these meetings, team members focus on students who may be struggling with attendance or social/emotional issues.

Advocates are current Thermalito employees who believe in this program; they receive ongoing training in the Nurtured Heart Approach and Check and Connect program. Advocates are building school connectedness which will improve attendance, and, in turn, improve student success.

Thermalito has seen a 3% increase in attendance (up to a current 97.06%) and nearly an 11% decrease in chronic absenteeism (students absent 10% or more during the school year.) Already school sites are celebrating days of record attendance!



Lots of fun on TUESD playgrounds!

Students at Poplar and Thermalito Learning Center are enjoying new playground experiences, following this summer's installation of new equipment on the campuses.

"Both sites badly needed new playground equipment," notes Cody Walker, TUESD Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations. "Using one-time state funding, we were able to upgrade these two playgrounds.

"Our students are loving the new play structures, swings, race track and play kitchen."