

Department of Family and Community Services

David Hernandez, Director

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 15, 2016



A Parent's Best Resource Connection
The PRCs bring together a host of diverse programs and services under one roof, creating unique and centrally located services and resources dedicated to helping families with children.

Monday-Friday
8:00-11:30 AM
2:30-6:00 PM

Lincoln Elementary
RM. 707
650 Liberty Lane.
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-4600 Ext 1707

Madera South H.S.
Portable 2
705 W. Pecan Ave.
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 675-4450 Ext 1082

Monroe Elementary
RM. 27
1819 N Lake St.
Madera, CA 93638
(559) 674-5679 Ext 227

Sierra Vista Elementary
RM. 35
917 E. Olive Ave.
Madera, CA 93637
(559) 674-8579 Ext 177

The Directors Message:

Happy New Year, MUSD Staff and Families!

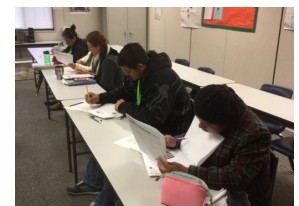
The Family and Community Services Department is dedicated to keeping the families of Madera Unified School District's students connected with the latest resources and information needed to support the children's education and the families lifelong success. With half the school year under our belt, I hope this finds your students and families getting into the swing of the new year with education being at the top of the list. One of the great things about MUSD schools is all the opportunities students and parents are given to connect with our schools and community.



The New Year brings an opportunity for parents to recommit to staying more connected to their children and to their school. Well-informed, engaged parents make a vital difference in helping students and schools succeed. When families, schools and communities work as partners, student achievement is boosted and children are better prepared to lead happy and productive lives.

The following are a few tips for connecting children, families and schools:

- Ask questions about school activities such as, "What are three new things you learned today?" rather than "How was school?"
- When possible, try to set aside just 15 minutes to go to your child's school, visit your child's classroom or talk briefly with the teacher.
- Attend the next Parent Teacher Club (PTC) meeting. Just showing up is the first step to staying connected!
- Encourage your friends and family to join PTC. The simple act of joining your local PTC strengthens our voice in speaking up on behalf of children and families.



New Parent Engagement Programs Beginning January 2016!



NASA STEM GRANT

MUSD will be offering Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education to MUSD afterschool program students, 1st -12th grades. This project is in collaboration with Fresno State Kremen School of Education's Office of Community Based Learning.

The NASA grant will focus on providing education and awareness on STEM while helping students to continue their studies at all levels of the higher education continuum and earn advanced degrees in STEM critical fields.

SCHOOL SMARTS ACADEMY FOR PARENTS

School Smarts Academy is a parent engagement program with an operating principle of inclusion — reaching across all parent groups and bringing them together in support of their common interest in helping children succeed. The program includes a (7) seven-session parent academy with sessions on education, communication and leadership. Each session includes instructional art activities that reinforce key lessons which help build a sense of community and underscore the importance of a complete education that includes the arts.



ValleyPBS READY TO LEARN

Ready to Learn is a parent education program that provides parents the resources, skills and confidence, to step into the role of being their child's first teacher. The program operates through a series of six workshops that will provide parents with teaching techniques that they can implement immediately at home. Parents will learn how to use easily accessible teaching tools, including free educational PBS Kids television

programming, story books and hands-on activities to teach their children fundamental academic, life and critical thinking skills that contribute to future success in school and life.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Strengthening Families Program is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and to improve social competencies and school performance in children. The program is comprised of fourteen (14) 1.5 hour workshops. The Parenting Skills sessions are designed to help parents engage in structured family activities, practice therapeutic child play, conduct family meetings, learn communication skills, practice effective discipline, reinforce positive behaviors in each other, and plan family activities together.



Parent Of The Week

Susana Conseco is being recognized as the "Parent of the Week" for her dedication to community and parent involvement. Susana serves on the MUSD's Wellness Committee, ELAC and is a volunteer at the Sierra Vista Parent Resource Center. She is currently teaching a basic computer class at Sierra Vista to help parents learn to navigate the parent portal. Susana is a true example of what community leaders do in support of providing greater learning opportunities to our parent population.