

PUESD NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of John Raven

A Reminder to Pause Before Posting

Recently, some student behavior concerns have been shared on social media. We understand these situations can be emotional, especially when they impact students & school communities. We also ask our community to remember that these posts involve children, students who are still learning, growing, and often navigating challenges that are not visible to the public.

Behind the scenes, our teachers, counselors, and administrators work daily with families and outside partners to provide targeted supports, adjust interventions, and help students build the skills they need to succeed. At the same time, student safety remains our top priority. When incidents occur, we respond promptly, support those impacted, and implement appropriate interventions.

We respectfully ask everyone to pause before posting about students online and to remember that each situation involves a child. By working together with empathy and care, we help create school environments where students and staff feel safe, supported, and valued.

As we move into the remainder of the school year. I'm happy to share updates on the work currently happening across our district. This newsletter highlights efforts underway in our various departments and the ways we continue to support our students, staff, and families. Thank you for your partnership as we move this important work forward together.

Supporting Student Behavior & School Safety

Ensuring our schools are safe, supportive places for learning is a top priority. To support student success & consistent, positive responses, our district has been actively strengthening our approach to student behavior.

While we know there is always room to grow, we want families to know that this work is already underway. Our district has been actively partnering with behavior support specialists who have been on our campuses working directly with staff and students.

Two key partners supporting this effort are:

- Angela Beyers, a behavior specialist many families may recognize from the Behavior Presentation for Parents held in December, who is supporting our middle school and TK-1st grade teams with positive behavior strategies.
- BICC (Behavior Intervention, Coaching, & Consulting), which is providing districtwide coaching and guidance to strengthen systems, support staff, and build positive school cultures.

As staff continue learning alongside our partners, our focus remains on proactive supports, clear expectations, and creating learning environments where students feel supported, staff feel equipped, and families feel confident in our schools.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting our students & school communities.



Parent Survey Coming!

In the next two weeks, families will receive a brief parent survey that will help guide the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the upcoming school year, and we strongly encourage all parents and guardians to take a few minutes to complete it. This is your opportunity to share feedback about what is working well and where we can continue to improve for our students, and your voice plays an important role in shaping programs, services, and priorities across our schools.

- + T - Is it TRUE?
- H + Is it HELPFUL?
- I + Is it INSPIRING?
- N + Is it NECESSARY?
- K + Is it KIND?



A Joyful Close to 2025 and an Exciting Year Ahead for Pioneer Elementary!

Pioneer is off to a fantastic start in 2026 and closed out 2025 on a high note! We wrapped up December with a joyful schoolwide sing-along and a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Students enjoyed cookies and milk while listening to Santa read a story, making it a memorable way to celebrate the season together.

This month, we are kicking off our winter fundraiser with Nothing Bundt Cakes. All proceeds directly support school field trips, campus projects, and additional classroom supplies. Additionally, yearbooks will be on sale from January 26 through March 13 for \$27. Be sure to order yours so you don't miss out!

Our annual Kindness Week will take place the week of February 9. The Kindness Crew will be hosting a variety of activities and themed dress-up days throughout the week. Kindness Week will conclude on Friday, February 13, with our Annual Starbucks Sleeves Event. Please remember to stop by our local Starbucks to support this meaningful tradition.

Students in grades 3–5 are invited to participate in this year's school yearbook cover contest. The theme is "Together We Win!" with a sports and school spirit focus. Artwork must be submitted on 8.5 x 11-inch paper in vertical (portrait) orientation. The submission deadline is February 20th.

Finally, be sure to watch for information and sign up for our monthly Coffee with the Counselor event. Our school counselor, Mrs. Uribe, shares valuable social-emotional topics and practical tips to support families.



Happy New Year from Frontier Elementary Mustangs!

The Frontier staff is excited to return refreshed after a restful winter break and ready for a strong start to the new year. December was a very busy and joyful month at Frontier, as students had the opportunity to shop for Christmas presents for their family and friends at the PTC Holiday Shop, participated in fun holiday dress up days, enjoyed a special visit from Santa Claus complete with hot cocoa and chocolate chip cookies provided by the Frontier PTC, and showcased their talents during the annual TK and Kindergarten winter program. On the last day before Winter Break, the entire school came together for the annual schoolwide sing-along in the cafeteria, where Ms. Clement, Frontier Kindergarten teacher, was honored for her dedication to organizing this cherished annual event. In addition, teachers and administration held Status of the Class meetings to review academic data and collaborate on student supports for the remainder of the school year. The Frontier Staff look forward to continuing this positive momentum as we move ahead together into the new year!



This Month in Pictures!



Pioneer Elementary PTC helping distribute milk and cookies during our visit with Mr. and Mrs. Clause!



Frontier Elementary’s annual TK & Kindergarten winter program, run by Ms. Clement!



A Pioneer UESD school bus, with a stocking decorated by Latchkey students in the Hanford Christmas Parade!



Pioneer Middle School students’ annual food truck project designs underway!

Exciting Updates from the MOT department!

We have successfully installed tankless water heaters at both the Middle School gym and Pioneer Elementary kitchen. These water heaters are on a grant from SCE at no cost. Along with two new dishwashers, one for Frontier and Pioneer Elementary.

Pioneer Middle School: Hands-on learning in Action!

As Pioneer Middle School returned from winter break, students hit the ground running with engaging, project-based learning. In Society Simulations (SIMS), students launched into their annual Food Truck Project, where they design every aspect of a business, from the type of food they sell and pricing structures to operating costs and the creative design of their own food trucks. This hands-on experience blends creativity, math, and real-world decision-making. To culminate the project, students from Mr. Gelsi’s and Mrs. Rutter’s SIMS classes, along with staff members, will be invited to visit the classroom and use “fake money” to support the food truck concepts they find most appealing. This project is just one of the many hands-on learning experiences that make learning at Pioneer Middle School engaging, relevant, and student-centered.

Latchkey: A Fun-Filled Summer & Strong Start to Fall

Our students had a festive month! Latchkey students loved decorating a stocking that was proudly displayed on the school truck in the Hanford Christmas Parade. Preschoolers enjoyed their very first bus ride and field trip to hear a Christmas story. We also had a wonderful turnout for our Christmas program—our students did an amazing job singing and visiting with Santa!



We Love Our Families!!!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our families for your continued support of our schools, staff, and students, your partnership, encouragement, and involvement make a meaningful difference each day across our campuses, and we are grateful for the trust you place in our educators and the commitment you show to helping every child succeed.

A BIG
thank
you



We All Belong Here at Pioneer

At Pioneer, we are committed to making sure every student feels safe, valued, and proud of who they are. Across our schools, students are learning what kindness, respect, and inclusion look like in everyday actions by celebrating differences, listening to one another, and making sure everyone is included.

We also encourage students to use their voices. Simple phrases like “That’s not okay” or “You can play with us” help children stand up for themselves and others in positive ways. When situations feel too big, students are reminded to seek help from a trusted adult.

Families play an important role in this work. Talking at home about kindness, celebrating what makes your family special, and encouraging children to speak up all help strengthen the welcoming community we are building together.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure Pioneer remains a place where every child knows we all belong here.

