California Schools Eye Vision for Future with April Bond Issue

From Mr. Dwight Sanders, district superintendent

Our district’s vision is to create the best and safest school system possible for our students to ensure that they can be successful in school and in life. Through a collaborative process including input from students, parents, patrons, and staff, we have devised a facility improvement plan that meets the needs of our students, our district, and our community for now and into the future. Now, partnered with architects and engineers, we have strategically fine-tuned that plan.

District residents will be asked to show their support of the 1,400 students who currently attend the district’s schools and the thousands of future Pintos who will walk the hallways of our schools for decades to come. Our district is blessed to have a community that has shown a long and well-documented history of support for our schools and our children and has allowed the district’s mission of “Equipping Today’s Children for Tomorrow’s Challenges” to be realized. For that the district and our students say “thank you.”

On April 7, residents will be challenged to again show their Pinto Pride and support Proposition 2020-Vision for the Future, which will appear on the ballot as a no tax increase $10.75 million bond issue to accomplish necessary district-wide facility improvements and upgrades with which we can all be proud.

The following are highlights of the five primary areas of facility improvements that will be realized with the passage of this bond issue:

1. Safety upgrades for students and staff through building security improvements
   - New digital surveillance camera systems for the Elementary and High School buildings (MS system has already been upgraded)
   - Addition of secured vestibules at the main entrance of each building for a more secured entrance for visitors
   - New drop off/pick up area on the north side of the elementary school which will significantly cut down on traffic on Owen Street
   - Install lockout devices on every classroom door providing a secondary lock and a more secure classroom locking system

2. Technology infrastructure upgrades to meet the needs of our 21st century learners
   - New network infrastructure including new access points, switches, and cabling as necessary to keep up with the ever-changing world of technology and allow for wireless connectivity throughout all buildings. It is critically important to maintain state-of-the-art equipment in an environment of one-to-one technology devices

3. More than 20 new instructional spaces to address current overcrowding issues with new construction of a 2-story building between current ES and MS

4. New security improvements
   - Safety upgrades for students and staff through building security improvements
   - Technology infrastructure upgrades to meet the needs of our 21st century learners
   - More than 20 new instructional spaces to address current overcrowding issues with new construction of a 2-story building between current ES and MS

5. Show-Me McLiteracy Night/4-8
   - CES cafeteria 6-7
   - 2020-2021 Kindergarten Information Night
   - CES Literacy Night 4-8
   - 2020-2021 Kindergarten Registration in CES cafeteria 3:30-6:00
   - Lincoln University Ag Contest
   - Area & State FFA Officer Selection @ Stover

For athletic event times, go to the athletic calendar on www.californiak12.org
STEM creates new learning experiences

By McKayne Barbour

A current trend in education is science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities. These types of activities engage students in problem solving and teamwork. Elementary technology teacher Stacy Allee helps fourth graders Ella Furcinite and Caroline Martin work on their Ozobot robot. Using color coding, the robot must get from one side of the paper to the other. Coding with Ozobots encourages programmers to use logic and algorithms to complete a series of instructions to accomplish a task. Learning through robots can also help students to use a hands-on approach to construct ideas and solutions. Programmers learn to be critical thinkers, and it helps build problem solving skills.

Elementary students perform with high school dance squad

By Brookelynn Waldrop

The California Mini Dance Camp is an opportunity for pre-K through fifth grade girls to dance alongside the high school dance squad during one of the home basketball games.

Kate Lootens, the dance squad coach, said, “The high school dancers teach the choreography to the campers. As the coach, I chose the music, created the choreography, and taught it to the high school squad.”

The dance squad members play an important role in the dance camp. The members divide into different groups with the campers. They are in charge of teaching choreography, supervising breaks and snacks, and making sure the attendees are having fun.

The camp lasts two and a half hours, and the performance is at halftime of one of the home boys basketball games. This year 25 girls participated in the dance camp.

When teaching primary school students, there could also be challenges to overcome.

“The campers were very enthusiastic about dancing, but it can be very difficult to keep their attention. We included coloring pages and snacks to help break up the time. We also let campers perform in small groups so they could watch each other,” said Lootens.

The mini dance camp is a great way for elementary school students to be involved and have a fun time with their peers.

Lootens said, “The attendees definitely had fun. While it is a long day for the high school dancers, it is a great experience to dance with friends and then get to perform in front of a big crowd.”
In my room ... Online safety course helps kids stay safe on Internet

By Chris Cassil

Online safety isn’t something people should ignore. At California Middle School, Jill Meisenheimer gets to teach kids about how to safely use the internet and what they should avoid doing while they’re online.

Meisenheimer has been teaching online safety classes for the past nine years. She says the class is a good reminder for students of all the benefits and dangers the internet offers.

“The purpose of this class is to teach young students how to avoid sharing too much about themselves, and how to use the internet properly and safely,” said Meisenheimer.

This class started being offered around the time that texting and smartphones became available and continues to be important since the district is using technology more heavily.

As a member of the class, Amelia Motley said an important online safety rule is “Don’t talk to strangers online!”

All three grade levels have benefited from the class in the past. However, this year only sixth graders have it in their schedule due to conflicts.

Meisenheimer said, “The school has a great firewall keeping all of our students safe on the web. However, it is up to the students to make good choices while they’re online; and up to the parents to monitor its use once the students are at home.”

Stable store rewards good behavior

By McKayne Barbour & Nathan Ahart

The CMS Stable Store rewards students who are respectful, responsible, and good learners. Kids earn tickets through being responsible and showing respect. Stable stands for “Standards Targeting Attitude, Behavior, Learning Everyday.”

The Stable Store has been in the middle school for about 13 years. Students can buy items ranging from pencils and pens to gift cards and Bluetooth speakers.

Students are able to buy items from the store during ninth hour on the last week of the month. Each grade level has a different day to go during the week.

The funds for the store come from the Middle School Activity Fund. The money for that comes from fundraisers that go through the middle school.

Marcia Bibb, counselor at the middle school, explains how the store motivates the students.

“I think it affects kids more at sixth grade level than the eighth grade level. I do think there are kids who are motivated by material things and they get the chance to do that."

Marcia Bibb explains that at the end of each quarter, students are allowed to do activities instead of buying stuff from the Stable store itself.

The activities usually cost 30 or 40 tickets. First quarter was a free recess outside, second quarter was a dodgeball game in the gym, third quarter is a movie and free popcorn and fourth quarter will be a trip to Sonic.

Each teacher can give out tickets for anything they deem appropriate says Jane Bishop who teaches sixth grade science. Suggested behaviors are turning in homework on time, being responsible, being respectful, helping others, cleaning the cafeteria and other acts of kindness.

The Stable Store program would not be as successful as it is without the support of Scholastic Book Company in Jefferson City.

Bishop said “each year they donate books, school supplies and trinkets that increases what we can offer our students.”

Hard workers open to ideas for positive school culture

By Jordan Bondurant

Peer helpers are middle school students who work to make the school a better place. After becoming members through an application process, they work concession stands, plan/pay for/sponsor all Red Ribbon Week activities, sponsor the middle school Giving Tree, give new student tours, work sixth grade orientation, and work CMS registration in the fall. Under the leadership of Marcia Bibb and Jennifer Porter, peer helpers want to help others and are open to ideas on how to do that with their resources.

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Mass Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks.

Contact Information:
Mass Media Class, California High School, 1501 W. Buchanan, California, MO 65018 or (573)796-4911
Printed by Central Missouri Newspapers, Inc, Jefferson City, MO
Online archives: www.californiak12.org

American Heart Association Dodgeball for the Heart

Wed, Mar. 11
(during 9th period)
Students must raise at least $10 to participate in the tournament against the CMS faculty. Help save a life and raise funds for this great cause.

CMS students make a difference in Africa

A fundraiser to dig a well in Africa

Middle school students can sign up to participate individually or as teams

3:15-5:00 p.m.
Friday, March 13
CMS

Students dance the afternoon away!

By Chris Cassil

CMS had a dance after school Thursday, Feb. 13 for its sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Many were seen laughing and dancing with their friends while others were really getting into the music. The DJ’s were Lydia Banderman and Cole Kirksey from the high school student council.

The dance had a great turnout with 130 kids attending. The middle school student council, who sponsored the dance, raised $200 for the high school STUCOs Polar Bear Plunge endeavor.
April Bond Issue
cont. from pg 1
- Demo of 1954 part of ES as well as the metal building—many old rooms are 200 square feet smaller (or more) than the new rooms which will be 860 square feet with built-in storage
- Old rooms struggle to maintain appropriate room temperatures because of old and inadequate heating/cooling systems
- Old rooms have secondary exits to the outside making them less secure and more susceptible to intruders
- Many new classrooms will have restrooms, sinks, and water fountains in the classrooms protecting instructional time
- Old Multipurpose Room also serves as a corridor making it inadequate for indoor recess and other activities. New MPR will be equivalent in size but be a dedicated space without serving as a hallway to other parts of the building

4. Energy conservation upgrades including new HVAC, lighting, and refrigeration equipment
- Transitioning from aging heating/cooling equipment with expensive maintenance costs to new energy efficient systems
- Replace 1993 Chillers and Boilers at the high school with new, energy efficient units
- Eliminating one 1954 and two 1974 inefficient boilers at the ES
- Eliminating all window air conditioner units throughout the district with quieter and more efficient systems
- Replacing all fluorescent lights with more efficient LED bulbs throughout the district including relighting the Performing Arts Center
- Replacing much of our aging kitchen refrigeration equipment to eliminate costly operating and maintenance expenses

5. Parking lot and sidewalk expansions district-wide including improved drop off and pick up zones
- Replace north and east lots at the high school
- Install hard surface drive between horticulture and agriculture buildings
- Replace the sidewalks on the north and east sides of the HS
- Expand parking lot behind the MS
- Hard surface the gravel lot across from the MS building
- Hard surface the gravel lot behind the ES
- Replace the sidewalks in front of the ES and MS
- A new parking lot will be added on the demo site on the north side of the elementary school, eliminating the need for staff to park on Owen Street or in lots of churches and other neighboring businesses. This will also include a much improved drop off/pick up area

While this is not an all-inclusive list of projects to be accomplished with this bond issue, these are the most critical needs to be addressed.

In my room . . . Archery and air rifflery hit CHS
by Brooklynn Waldrop
CHS has been teaching archery since 2012 and air rifflery since 2017.

Both archery and air rifflery units are taught by Julie Bailey to freshmen girls. Bobby Sangster and Ron Lebel teach archery to fresmen boys and advanced P.E.

Each unit lasts two weeks with the students grad- ed on participation and a written test over the rules and regulations.

In order to teach these units, the physical education teachers attend an eight-hour training per course followed by certification tests.

“In order to maintain certification, the instructors must continue to teach the course each year. If instructors do not teach the course, the certification will not be renewed until the instructor goes through training again,” Bailey said.

Many safety precautions come with these units. Each student who participates has to watch safety videos over the entire course and must take a written test over the rules before shooting. The range setup is uniform for all schools and includes designated areas for both waiting and shooting. Whistle commands are used on the range.

Bailey said, “These units are probably less dangerous than other activities in P.E. because of the strict guidelines and established safety protocols.”

Some of the key ideas of these units are to teach shooting sports safely and develop youth involvement. These units also focus on giving students who may not be involved in other sports the chance to participate.

Generally speaking, all of the students enjoy the target shooting.

“The ones who don’t enjoy the units as much are the ones who feel they are not ‘good enough’ at shooting. Parents that have spoken to me are also excited that we are able to offer shooting sports in the P.E. curriculum,” said Bailey.

Some students don’t participate in shooting sports outside of school; so archery and air rifflery units in P.E. are great ways for students to be involved in those types of activities.

The California Board of Education is challenged with ensuring that student needs are met now and in the future. The bond issue they have carefully crafted to put before the voters requires a super-majority to pass. We simply ask that all citizens of our community educate themselves about the various aspects of this bond issue and the benefits that it will provide to our students, our district, and our community and then vote on April 7.

Please feel free to call (796-2145), email (dwight.sanders@californiak12.org), or stop by Central Office (211 S. Owen St) to share your thoughts or to get additional information on our facilities improvement plan. There will also be a number of community events that will provide in-person opportunities for shared dialogue on our plan. You can also get additional information by accessing our district website at www.californiak12.org by clicking on “Bond Issue Information” or the Proposition 2020-Vision for the Future Facebook page.

Again, this is a no tax increase bond issue. Together, we can ensure that our children are well equipped to move on to the next phase of life, arming them to be college, career, and future ready.

Friends of Music BBQ
By Nathan Ahart
The Friends of Music Barbecue, an annual fundraiser to help the high school band and choirs, took place Sunday, Feb. 23. Tyler Edwards, district band director, explained that “the money goes to help fund performance travel, equipment, music, and other necessities active music programs have.”

This fundraiser is a joint effort between the choral and band programs, and the students and parents are heavily involved. Students sell tickets in advance and sign up to clean tables, serve the meal, and refill drinks.

Seniors Jenna Berendzen, Makayla Schanzmeier, Hailey Schepers, Darby Hudson, and Alyssa Sabartinelli prepare to serve pulled pork, smoked turkey, baked potatoes, and sides. Take-out is an option for those on the go.

National Honor Society Induction
Monday, March 9
6:00 p.m.
California Performing Arts Center