

# THE *Petaluma School District* PathFinder

November 2009

Volume 12, No. 2

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

By Greta Viguie



November brings with it holiday celebrations and opportunities for reflection. As I reflect upon my school site visits this fall, I am very thankful to be working in a District with such dedicated professionals who are truly devoted to the success of

each and every one of our students. Your daily caring support and encouragement is making a positive difference for each student whose life you touch.

In this month's Pathfinder, you will read about the work of varied collaborative groups in our schools and community. A common thread that runs through their work is a common desire and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders as a team toward the shared goal of supporting all students to be successful.

The District continues to partner with community organizations and businesses to benefit our students and educational programs. Beginning this month, the Petaluma community is launching the Ready by 21 Challenge. Youth serving agencies and organizations from across our community are meeting to have conversations about how each stakeholder in our community supports youth to be successful and thrive.

For information about how you can participate in these community dialogues, please contact Ellen Lewis, Community Entrepreneur, 778-4702 or Pat Landrum, Healthy Community Consortium, 778-4651.

With the support of the K-12 Curriculum and Staff Development Councils, teachers and administrators in the District are working together to take collaboration to a higher level in professional learning communities where teachers and administrators are focusing on outcomes for adult and student learning, utilizing systems and structures for productive collaboration, talking about their practice in a focused and systematic way relative to student learning, and fostering an adult culture that, at its core, craves learning and improvement. In professional learning communities, teachers and administrators are engaged in continuous inquiry, reflective dialogue, collaboration, and de-privatizing practice.

In this Pathfinder, teachers and administrators share their stories of collaboration. Articles feature the development and use of common formative assessments for English and mathematics by teachers from across the district in grades 7 and 8,



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## CASA GRANDE LIBRARIAN NAMED NATIONAL LEADER

By Linda W. Braun, YALSA President

Casa Grande High School Librarian Anna Koval was selected by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) as a 2010 American Library Association



(ALA) Emerging Leader. Anna is one of two YALSA members to receive funds to participate in the Emerging Leader program.

ALA's Emerging Leaders program is highly competitive with librarians from around the country applying to

participate. As the program wiki states, "The Emerging Leaders program enables newer librarians from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups; network with peers; gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts them on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership."

YALSA provides support for two members to participate in the program as the Association believes it is extremely important to help guarantee that librarians have opportunities to gain leadership skills and to increase their ability to serve teens (and their communities) successfully.

Congratulations to Anna and to the Petaluma City School System for having a national leader on the staff.

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## JUNIOR HIGH MATH AND HISTORY DEPARTMENTS REACH AGREEMENT ON COMMON BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

By Toni Beal and John W. Lehman, KHJS and PJHS Principals

Cross-Town collaboration was the theme of the September 2 shortened Wednesday when teachers from Kenilworth met with their counterparts at Petaluma Junior High to discuss curriculum. This was the next step in the process started the previous year when the four core departments met to begin the process of aligning standards-based instruction and sharing examples of formative assessments.

The English departments broke out by grade levels with 7th grade working to complete initial assessments for Expository writing including a six point Rubric along with a writing prompt. Their colleagues in 8th grade completed the same task for Persuasive writing. Both schools have now administered the writing sample to all of their respective students and are in the process of grading them as a team. The same assessment will be administered again in the spring to serve as an indicator of growth. At that time the two schools are planning to read and score the papers collaboratively to reinforce district-wide expectations and hone their assessment skills.

In mathematics, agreements were reached for Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1. In the adoption process that began 2 years ago, the 8th grade math departments chose different Algebra 1 publishers. Petaluma Junior chose Prentice Hall and Kenilworth, CPM. Despite this difference, teachers were able to come to an agreement on common standards for both the Algebra Concepts and Algebra 1 classes, with a timeline for completing these standards. Using the CST release questions, teachers then identified items that corresponded with these standards.

## COMMON BENCHMARKS ASSESSMENTS (Cont'd)

The result is an Algebra 1 semester benchmark assessment that can be piloted this December. In addition, this Algebra 1 semester assessment can be used as a final benchmark assessment for the Algebra Concepts classes.

Teachers plan to meet in March to review results and make adjustments if needed. The common Algebra 1 assessment has been sent on to the Casa Grande and Petaluma High math departments to determine if it can also be used as the basis of a common benchmark assessment for Algebra 1 classes district-wide.

Seventh grade math teachers from both schools followed a similar process to develop a common semester benchmark assessment for Pre-Algebra. In this case, both schools utilize the same book, making it easier to collaborate on teaching strategies and formative assessments. Teachers were able to agree on a pacing schedule for the first semester and then used this to identify the key released CST questions that matched these standards. Two benchmark assessments were developed as a result of this process, one for 1st semester and one for 2nd. Both assessments will be used as a pilot and teachers will discuss the results during the March horizontal articulation Wednesday.

Just down the hallway, the PJHS and KJHS 7th and 8th grade Social Studies Departments met. In the last two years both schools made new textbook adoptions, they, like the Math Department, chose different texts. However, the difference in textbooks didn't deter anyone from focusing on the goals of the day, to agree upon and create common assessments that both sites can use. For the first part of the meeting, members of both departments compared the CST Blueprints to the Petaluma City Schools Power Standards for 7th and 8th Social Studies. A spreadsheet had already been created showing correlations between the CST and the Power Standards. Using this data, the Departments were able to focus on and make agreements about specific changes they would like to see to the 7th and 8th grade Power standards.

After agreements on the Power Standards were reached, the Departments broke out into grade level teams. It was agreed upon by both 7th and 8th grade teachers that they would create a common formative assessment to be given at both sites. After each grade level decided upon a unit to focus on for the assessment, work began on creating the pilot exam.

*Let's welcome...*

### NEW CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES

<b>Crossroads</b>	<b>Mary Lim</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>Grant</b>	<b>Jean Groh</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>KJHS</b>	<b>Dora Ballard</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>Penngrove</b>	<b>Jennifer McDonald</b> <i>Teacher</i> <b>Samara Stevens</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>PHS</b>	<b>Dennis Richardson</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>Special Services</b>	<b>Stacey Evans</b> <i>Nurse</i> <b>Molly Nagel</b> <i>Teacher</i>
<b>Valley Oaks</b>	<b>Danna Rocca</b> <i>Teacher</i>

### NEW CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

<b>Casa Grande</b>	<b>Joshua Hunt</b> <i>I.A. Special Ed</i>
<b>Grant</b>	<b>Kathryn Herbst</b> <i>Noon Supervisor</i> <b>Eileen Marshall</b> <i>I.A. Special Ed</i>
<b>MCS@CV</b>	<b>Deanna Olomon Howard</b> <i>I.A. Special Ed</i>
<b>McDowell</b>	<b>Diane Luis</b> <i>Noon Supervisor</i>
<b>McKinley</b>	<b>Mildred Haubenstricker</b> <i>Noon Supervisor</i>
<b>Penngrove</b>	<b>Kerry Favia</b> <i>I. A. Special Ed</i> <b>Chelsea Nahai</b> <i>Full Inclusion Assistant</i>

### NEW ADMINISTRATORS

<b>McNear</b>	<b>Jason Sutter</b> <i>Principal</i>
<b>PHS</b>	<b>Kimberly Kern</b> <i>Assistant Principal</i>

### IN MEMORIAM

**Michael Casanovas** - Bilingual Instructional Assistant who worked for the District for 9 years, passed away in October.

## COMMON BENCHMARKS ASSESSMENTS

Continued from page 3

By the end of the meeting each grade level had created an assessment that will be loaded into Edusoft and given at each site before the next horizontal articulation meeting in March. The teachers all agreed that at the meeting in March, they will bring their data so the results can be studied.

The science department similarly broke out by grade levels to create common assessments, 7th grade for Cell Biology and 8th grade for Physics and Chemistry. The 7th grade effort resulted in an eighteen question test that will be put into Edusoft for both schools to access. They agreed to continue their efforts to create similar tests for Genetics and Evolution at their next meeting. The 8th grade created a pre-test with an emphasis on physics and chemistry, each consisting of thirty questions. These tests will be placed on edusoft as well.

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### **CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP/CALIFORNIA JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION (CSF/CJSF) NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SPRING CONFERENCE**

Hosted by Petaluma High School on March 21, 2009

By Stephanie Dietrich, Adviser and 50 student members of CSF from Petaluma High School

Over 200 people from 19 different schools walked the halls and walkways at Petaluma on a chilly Saturday morning to meet fellow CSF/CJSF members while attending the spring regional California Scholarship/California Junior Scholarship Federation conference. Following the theme "CSF/CJSF at the movies", the day began with a club photo opportunity with the "police car" from American Graffiti (courtesy of Cruisin' the Boulevard, Inc). Opening ceremonies included the presentation of the flags by members from Boy Scout Troop #2. Following the introduction of award candidates, attendees were offered a variety of workshops to attend throughout the day. Not only did these activities allow students to meet members from other clubs, it provided Petaluma High School (PHS) an opportunity to showcase programs at our school. PHS is rich in Career Technical Education classes. Not all college bound students are afforded these opportunities in their busy schedules, so the following ROP workshops were offered by staff at our school: floriculture, basic car mechanics & designing your own car fob medallion using state of the art manufacturing machinery. Other workshops included: A Myth Busters style rocketry unit, a tour of our wildlife museum, discussion of college funding sources from the financial Aid officers from Sonoma State & Dominican Universities, plus a final opportunity to test one's knowledge of movies playing Jeopardy! Petaluma High cast members from Chicago treated participants to the Cell Block Tango scene from the musical to add to our movie theme.

After hundreds of hours of planning, preparation, and implementation, Petaluma High has received nothing but rave reviews from advisers and state board members on our conference. The Balfour representative (the company that provides CSF products) remarked that we were a first to include one's community. It is with the support of the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), ROP (Regional Occupational Program), Petaluma Sunrise Rotary (lunch), Fishman's Supply Co., (all paper products), Petaluma AAUW (breakfast), Clover-Stornetta (milk & ice cream cups), Noah's Bagels, Safeway (food & workshop materials), Petaluma Market, Long's Drugs (photos), Cal-West Rentals and our science department, that PHS was able to put on such a fantastic event.

## CSEA'S MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER

By Loretta Kruusmagi

It is my privilege and honor to tell you a bit about CSEA's Members of the Quarter who were chosen by our selection panel. The members I am speaking about are **Keith Kawaoka** and **Marty Truex**.

**Keith Kawaoka** started working for Petaluma City Schools in February of 1989 as a Grounds Worker, in September of 1990 he became a Maintenance Worker and then in July of 1999 he became the Maintenance Specialist/ Electrician.

**Marty Truex** came to Petaluma City Schools in April of 2000 as the Maintenance Specialist/Low Voltage Electrician.

**Keith** and **Marty** are quite a team! They maintain and repair the district's fire alarm, intrusion alarm, phone and bell systems and complete requests for new electrical lighting. Our district has benefitted financially from their expertise as it alleviates our need to hire outside contractors.

They were nominated for this honor by Kimberly Jensen, one of our Valley Vista teachers. She sent a letter of appreciation letter to Julia St. John, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

In her letter, Kimberly stated, "After submitting a work order regarding covering cords, in less than a week **Keith** and **Martin** visited my classroom to see what needed to be done. They asked some questions about the use of my overhead and about my intended use of the Leap Pad station. Within days, they returned with materials and took care of the tripping hazard from my overhead projector. They deliberated more about the best way to make the Leap Pad station safe and easy for the students to use. **Keith** and **Martin** informed me they had a better idea and would return. They were careful to make sure that they knew when the students would be in class and not interfere with their learning.



Marty Truex, Maintenance Specialist  
Low Voltage Electrician

So often we talk about being a "District Family" and all of us working to help the students of our community. **Keith Kawaoka** and **Martin Truex** put this talk into action. These valuable employees truly displayed their commitment to students and extraordinary professionalism from start to finish. Because of their efforts, the safety and education of my students will be enhanced this year. I am extremely grateful."

On behalf of CSEA Petaluma Chapter #212, we congratulate them! They truly exemplify CSEA's mission to improve the lives of members, students and community.

## CASA GRANDE HOSA CHAPTER



The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapter at Casa Grande is an illustration of how the smaller learning communities are responding to student interests. Teachers with the Health Career Pathway, in particular Jennifer Titus, brought the HOSA program to Casa Grande High School as a national career and technical student organization designed especially for students who are interested in health careers.

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation and recognition exclusively for secondary and post-secondary/ collegiate students enrolled in Health Science Technology Education programs.

Now in its third year, HOSA students volunteer at the McDowell Healthy Start event, the Hopice Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the Petaluma Bounty Harvest, and other events as well as take an active role in campus activities. Each year students raise funds to support Autism Speaks, the national HOSA project. Recently installed Officers for this year include:

Dominique Pierremont - President  
Javier Martinez -Vice President  
Christina Debrunner - Secretary  
Lawerence Buot - Treasurer  
Lydia Messele - Historian  
Prisma Barajas-Historian

Leadership opportunities for students not only include the campus organization but students attend the upcoming Fall Leadership Institute, area and regional competitions related to health occupations, skills, and leadership. Javier says he is involved because there is such a demand for health professionals, he thinks students can learn about the various careers available through participation in HOSA. Christina wants to become a nurse and likes being in a club with other students with the same interests. Clearly this club has great appeal as more than 50 students have gotten involved this year.

# Welcome new Officers!

**MISSION STATEMENT PINS FOR SERVICE THROUGH 2008/2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

**15 Years**

Heather Archibald-Campbell  
Jane Baldwin  
Lee Boyes  
Diane Brutcher  
Joyce Cabral  
Cheryl Camotta  
Stacy Fabian  
Kelleen Hay  
Michelle Holohan  
Jacalyn Hoppes  
Pamela Hubacker  
Rick Krist  
Andrea Neufeld  
Nancy Pipkin  
Leslie Ransom  
Ted Russo  
Kimberly Sharp  
Janey Smith  
Charles Wattenberg  
Karen Wilson  
Nancy Wright

Petaluma High  
Petaluma High  
Petaluma High  
McKinley  
Educational Services  
Petaluma High  
Casa Grande  
Grant  
Casa Grande  
Valley Vista  
Casa Grande  
Petaluma High  
Valley Vista  
Casa Grande  
Special Services  
Kenilworth  
Casa Grande  
Petaluma High  
Crossroads  
Petaluma High  
Petaluma Junior

**20 Years**

Fred Allen  
Luis Alves  
Mary Blakeslee  
Kylee Cecchini Haynes  
Christy Defanti  
Blanca Fuentes  
Robert Liroff  
Coleen Maloney  
Jennifer Rose  
Susan Stockham  
Wendy Tegnell  
Bobbin Tobin  
Connie Williams

Penngrove  
Casa Grande  
Petaluma High  
Petaluma High  
Human Resources  
McDowell  
Petaluma High  
Penngrove  
Kenilworth  
San Antonio  
Casa Grande  
Petaluma High  
Petaluma High

**25 Years**

Valerie Joyner  
Jo Ann Manning  
Mitchell Samios  
Rusty Sims  
Jeff Stanley

McNear  
Grant  
Maint. & Oper.  
SMHS/Carpe  
Kenilworth

**30 Years**

Donna Brians  
Elena Cahill  
Bob Hermann  
Richard Hill  
Mary Hinojosa  
Robert Pawlan  
Dave Poteracke  
Kathy Shields  
Dave Thomas

Business Services  
Special Services  
Petaluma Junior  
Casa Grande  
Kenilworth  
Petaluma High  
Petaluma High  
McDowell  
Petaluma High

*PLEASE CONTRIBUTE  
TO YOUR NEWSLETTER*

*The Pathfinder is seeking to share  
your stories of collaboration focused  
on increasing student achievement  
for all students and closing the  
achievement gap.*

*Please contact Ron Everett at  
778-4618 or via email:  
REverett@pet.k12.ca.us*

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## K-6 STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARD PILOT

By Eileen Rohan, Director of Educational Services

The Standards-based report card pilot is rolling out this grading period. After two years of exploring various incarnations, the report card committee has developed a model that they are confident will reflect students progress towards meeting standards and will clearly reflect that progress to parents.

The report card committee reconvened in January of 2009 to review and continue the work that began in 2008. Their primary goal was to review the many versions of the report cards used throughout the district for elementary students and to recommend revisions that more specifically report to parents how a student is progressing. The final outcome of the work was to create a standards-based report card.

In March of last year, a proto-type of a standards-based report card was developed and shared by a sixth grade teacher. This report card was based on Petaluma City Schools' power standards. This provided the committee a place to begin their conversation.

A team of teachers met throughout the year to draft, review and revise to create a product ready for input from the entire elementary staff. At the recommendation of the report card committee all teachers in the district were invited to a District Study Group to review the work of the committee.

On April 22, all elementary teachers met to discuss and provide feedback in grade level teams. With a report card committee member as facilitator, each grade level breakout came up with its own chart providing input for further revisions. Notes from those meetings were used as the basis for the next major revision to the pilot report card.

The committee felt that some teachers should "pilot" the standards-based report card. Thirty-eight teachers have volunteered to do so.

These teachers will pilot the report card this year and meet throughout the year to share their experience. They will report their findings to the report card committee.

The report card committee will host another grade level team meeting in the Spring 2010 to share out the information from the piloting committee and solicit feedback and input from grade levels. The input from the "pilots" and the grade level meetings will help to further refine the report card for a continuation of the pilot for the 2010-2011 year.

With the leadership of elementary teachers, District-Wide Study Groups have been established to support piloting teachers implement the pilot.

The development of Petaluma City Schools' Standards-based report card was truly a collaborative effort demonstrating the power of teams working together toward a shared vision. The committee consisted of:

Matt Caamano	Tracee Mainaris
Mary Beth Cohen	Kelly Matteri
Lori Deen	Mark Mortensen
Catina Haugen	Mary Reynolds
Jeanie Heaslet	Eileen Rohan
Leslie Ihrig	Adrienne Soares
Shelly Kincaid	Judy Sovel
Sandra Larsen	Maria Stranzl
Judith Martin	Erin Wilson

The formatting was done by Bobbi Griovski who developed the electronic version so that it is accessible to teachers to complete electronically. Beatriz Cseszlyar translated the document into Spanish so that it is accessible to Spanish speaking parents. And of course, all of the elementary teachers and principals contributed ideas and revisions. It is with great pride that we roll out our pilot report card.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Web Site:** [www.petalumacityschools.org](http://www.petalumacityschools.org)  
**Job Hot Line:** 707.778.4903

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2009 CREDIT RECOVERY

By Carol T. Waxman, Petaluma Adult School Principal

When the district budget committee made the difficult decision to cancel summer school last May due to budget cuts, there was concern on many levels. It was a crunch, but working with the high school counselors, Educational Services and the intended co-principals David Stirrat and Eric Backman the project was handed off to Adult Ed.

Adult Ed was able to shift some funding to provide for a limited Summer High School 2009 Academy last summer for 2009 seniors who were credit deficient and 2010 seniors who were significantly credit deficient. Fifty-six students enrolled, 52 persisted and passed with C's or better for full credit, and two received partial credit. In the office, Erika Schiefer and Silvia Gallagher met all the deadlines for registration, enrollment, attendance, tracking, and grading.

With David Putney's support, classes were held at San Antonio from 1:00 to 5:30 in the afternoons. Custodian Efren Flores streamlined the opening procedures, so that Rebecca Lofton, Kay Drew, and Denny Plyler were able to teach social studies, English, math and art. Nancy Emanuele and Carol Waxman shared the supervi-



Summer school graduates from left to right: Amy Winters, Bryanna Shyne, Michael Pinto, Abraham Jimenez, Carime Barahona, and Karen Araiza

sion and support duties, finding multiple challenges and opportunities along the way. Thanks to Petaluma High, San Antonio and Adult Ed's night school resources, enough books were on hand. This summer school class produced 11 graduates who celebrated with friends, family, teachers and staff at a sweet graduation ceremony on July 23.

Providing the summer academy, a credit recovery safety net, was a tremendous professional learning opportunity for all involved.

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### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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the development and pilot of an elementary standards-based report card, and the development and implementation of a summer school credit recovery program. These are just a few examples of collaboration in our district. In future Pathfinder articles, please share your story of collaboration so that others may benefit from your learning.

I look forward to visiting your classrooms and at seeing you at school events and programs this fall.

Sincerely,

*Greta Viguie*

