

At Rivergold School the "Race is On" to improve health and academic success. This year the school has set a goal to walk or run around the globe; they are currently 2,500 miles into the journey. The other aspect of "the race" is to help low performing students become more successful in reading and writing. This will be accomplished through the efforts of the entire Rivergold community including mentoring by grandparents and cross age tutoring.



Bob Rose

Rivergold is a school where leadership is developed through cross age activities. This includes physical education taught to primary students by eighth graders and literacy leaders in the middle grades who work with primary students.

"There is nothing like the caring look of an eighth grader as they help a little one and the respect that they receive in return," says Principal Bob Rose.

This year at Rivergold the Site Council and the staff has set the following student and program goals: Reduce Harassment and Bullying (Lessons in Character Program); help "at risk" students, all students who are Far Below or Below Basic in Language Arts will move up one performance band. (expand the Language / Arts intervention program to support these students); 100 percent graduation rate; 96 percent Average Daily Attendance; reduce tardiness by 50 percent; "Race is On" Physical Education Program; and

Art Smart Program (Fresno Metropolitan Art Museum).

Rivergold believes in a broad based program of enriching activities to help students stay connected to school, Rose says. The school offers instrumental and classroom music, art, dance, ceramics, video production, drama, cooking and various Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) activities like Destination Imagination teams.

"The Rivergold staff believes that a child is not a vessel to be filled but a lamp to be lighted," Rose says. "It is our ultimate goal to motivate students to be productive citizens and to promote lifelong health and learning."

The Rivergold PTA continues to be a very dedicated, supportive and integral part of the team, according to Rose. It sponsors several special events including the Reflections Art program, Science Fair and History Night.

It also facilitates the annual Hawk Festival and fundraisers to provide field trips and specific classroom needs. Each year the eighth graders experience three days of Marine Biology on Catalina Island. "It is exciting hands on educational experience where science is put into action," Rose says.

All staff members at Rivergold strive to instill the 5 R's of Rivergold: Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn, Reaching Academic Standards and Rising to their potential, Rose says.

"Rivergold is a family of learners where students, parents and staff work together so that Rivergold Hawks can fly high," the principal concludes.

Yosemite Falls is the same school from the past but is in a new location in a historical building of Coarsegold. The school was formally known as Coarsegold Home School and housed on the Rivergold School campus. It has moved to many sites and is now located on Highway 41 in downtown Coarsegold. The location was decided upon out of request from many of the families in the area, notes Principal Paula McCabe.



Paula McCabe

It is the sister school to Evergreen High School located in Oakhurst.

Yosemite Falls School is dedicated to providing a place in Coarsegold where all students feel valued and unique, McCabe said. "Our school is kindergarten through twelfth grade, offering students and parents a comfortable, consistent environment for learning," according to McCabe.

"Students are given creative opportunities to learn and to accomplish their goals. The curriculum and environment is built around character education, always touching on goals for the future with career education," McCabe said.

Students also are involved in physical education classes that promote healthy living as they prepare for the California Physical Fitness Test. The school supplies equipment, weight training and helps to develop life long skills for many sporting activities.

The students always look forward to ski trips, snow shoeing and dance revolution.

"Our curriculum is tailored to meet students' individual needs, Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504 Plan. We work closely with the Yosemite High School to assist our students in staying aligned with core curriculum and address standards each students learning style," McCabe said.

Students with special needs are addressed and the resource teacher meets with them on a regular basis.

On a weekly basis the school offers music appreciation classes. Students receive career, academic and personal counseling. Special days at the school range from science experiments to elective work and movie day.

Field trips are sponsored once a quarter but parents are encouraged to provide more for the student.

One of the big projects this year will be in the area of research, McCabe said. Students will be using technology, developing Power Point presentations and participating in history and science fairs. Many students will also be working on their Senior Projects.

The school will be offering opportunities for community and school service learning.

The academic subject of focus is mathematics. "We offer the assistance, classes and project base instruction by a credential math teacher," McCabe said.

The school offers tutoring for students in the school and those who attend other schools who would like assistance in a core subject.

"We are looking forward to a great year a hope to offer as much as possible to our students and families," McCabe concludes.

Meadowbrook and Campbell High are the fifth-12th grade community day schools in the district. The schools are state funded and provide a small class size with group and individual instruction for students who are placed in the school.

Community Day School serve "at risk" students, students who have been suspended or expelled from their base school, students with poor attendance and students who are placed by probation.

The school is to prepare all students academically to be successful and productive members of society by establishing interpersonal relationships, and providing services and support in a safe learning

community.

The students attend school for 360 minutes a day with direct instruction which is longer than the school day for other students in the district. A relationship based structure to the academic day encourages cooperation, de-escalation of crisis oriented behavior and the formation of skills that will serve the students when they transition back into their base school or comprehensive high school.

The school personnel work closely with law enforcement, mental health and the students' base school.

Paula McCabe is principal of Meadowbrook and Roberta Tackett is principal of Campbell.

Coarsegold Elementary School is building a caring community of successful learners.

In 1878, Coarsegold Elementary School (CES) began as a one room school in the rural Sierra foothill community of Coarsegold. To this day it retains some of the intimacy of that one-room setting. It is a place where diversity is embraced and mutual caring is the norm for students and faculty alike.



Randy Haggard

Today 566 students attend CES. Regular education students are joined by students with special needs who are served through Individual Education Plans. There are 35 students in Madera County Office of Education (MCOE) regional programs that serve students with special needs.

Students and staff at CES have created a culture of inclusion. Students from special education classes are full participants in the life of the school and regular education students eagerly join in and help students in classes for the severely disabled. Cross-age experiences go beyond traditional buddy-reading and tutoring to student government and leadership.

CES is a place where the staff continuously reflects on student progress and works as a team to meet the needs of students. Across grade levels and programs, the staff is supportive of each other in the service of students' learning needs. Their collaboration is showing results with improved student performance at all levels.

Strong leadership and a commitment to student achievement resulted in an Academic Performance Index (API) at 776 for the 2006-2007 school year. Professional development planned to support curricular changes has complemented significant reforms in reading/ language arts and mathematics to conform to "best practices."

The realization by staff that more needed to be done for students not yet proficient led to the most significant of these reforms. Through research and site visits, the

school community came to consensus to reallocate resources and create a Reading Lab to meet the needs of struggling readers in grades one-five who were not being served by the existing Reading Recovery intervention.

This reform allowed all students to receive differentiated instruction for 30 minutes each day in grades one-five.

The school has continued to expand differentiated instruction to mathematics in grades five-eight using the computer-based supplemental program Accelerated Math.

The instructional team 'customizes' the learning of each child to ensure that all children are successful in progressing toward attainment of the standards.

Attention is given to each child so that none are left behind. Staff engages in specific, professional discussion around assessment results using the 'data-driven decision-making' process defined by Dr. Doug Reeves from the Center for Performance Assessment. Decisions driven by these results modify instruction to meet the specific learning needs of children at each grade level.

Assessments provide meaningful feedback for instruction to make sure that students who are not yet proficient are progressing toward proficiency. "Coarsegold School has achieved a great deal in a short time, and we will continue to strive for improvement with this focus on learning," says Principal Randy Haggard.

"While we place special emphasis on academic needs, we concentrate on meeting all of the needs of students. We have programs in place to help them develop acceptable social skills including the Second Step program. Special needs are addressed in a multitude of ways, creating a truly caring community for our students.

"We are especially proud of the support we receive from the Coarsegold community and surrounding communities. This community support is a great indicator that we are meeting community expectations of a quality education for all students," Haggard concludes.

Yosemite Adult High School is for anyone 19 or older who has not earned their high school diploma.

The school is part of the Yosemite Community Education Center and is located adjacent to Yosemite High School on Road 427 between Evergreen and Ahwahnee high schools.



Roberta Tackett

YAHs offers a diploma completion program through independent study. The students meet one-on-one with their teachers for guidance

and instruction. Assignments are completed at home and are designed to require approximately 15 hours of weekly study.

General Educational Diploma (GED) preparation is also through independent study. This is an alternative to a regular high school diploma.

Roberta Tackett is principal of YAHs.

Both the diploma program and the GED program are free of charge to those 19 or older; however, a \$20 refundable book deposit is requested at the time of enrollment.

For more information, or to enroll, call Bobbie Savolskis at 683-8801 ext. 366.

Yosemite Community Education Center has three programs to provide educational opportunities to adults.

Yosemite Adult School, described in another article on this page, provides general education classes leading to a high school diploma and courses to prepare students for the GED (General Educational Diploma).

The third component of YCEC is community service fee-based classes. These are

not mandated by the state and are not tax supported, therefore students are required to pay a fee for each class.

The classes offered reflect high interest areas in the community and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Most are held in Oakhurst, however there will be some held at Foothill High School in Yosemite Lakes Park this year.

Registration for the Spring

2008 semester begins December 28 and is available at www.adultedreg.com/yosem site or by calling Lawna Porter at 683-8801 ext. 303 or by e-mail to lpporter@yosemiteusd.com.

Mail-in registration also begins December 28; mail the enrollment form and class fee to YCEC - Adult Education, 50200 Road 427, Oakhurst, CA 93644 (checks or money orders only, made payable to YHS. Do not send cash.)

The spring catalog is mailed to all homes in the area and is also available at www.yosemiteusd.com.

The semester begins January 14 and ends June 11. Classes are for varying amounts of time, as noted in the catalog.

Courses are offered in computer operator / software applications; community service; art and music; and public safety.

Two new classes are being offered in the spring: Getting to Know Your Car, and Citizenship Preparation.

There are also courses for people who are physically challenged, one offered in Oakhurst and one in Mariposa at Heartland Opportunity Center.

Roberta Tackett is principal of the YCEC.

For more information, call Lawna Porter at 683-8801 ext. 303.

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One of the growing programs at Yosemite High School is designed to teach students how to learn.

AVID, Achievement Via Individual Determination, is a class offered to all four grades that stresses how people learn.

Carole Calderwood is the AVID coordinator and this year she teaches 11th and 12th grade students. Gael Irizarry teaches 9th and 10th.

Calderwood says the program is designed for the 'C' student who is driven to succeed, wants to go to a four-year college, and is currently enrolled in college preparatory classes. "They really want to work," she says, noting that some go from being a 'C' student as a freshman to being an 'A' student as a senior. "They go from being shy to being extroverted," she says.

"We are looking for students who are trying but need strategies," Calderwood says.

AVID uses tutorials, which is a strategy where students walk through the steps to solve a problem and then write how they got their answer.

"If you make a mistake, you have to figure out how you made it," Calderwood said.

Students have to be able to read and understand their textbooks and they learn to analyze the text and find out what is really being said.

"They come to understand what the author is telling

them and why," she says.

Students learn how to really look at problems and figure things out. "They stop saying 'I don't get it,'" Calderwood said.

She said students feel good about getting up in class and telling their classmates how to solve problems.

They hope students will stay in the program four years; the teachers follow the students so they are with the same group all four years.

During the 11th and 12th grades, they concentrate on how to get into college. Calderwood says that 97 percent of students who enroll in AVID finish college; those who take study hall generally don't pass college, she said.

She also notes that students who take math and science classes as seniors are far more likely to finish college.

AVID works through the 'best practices' strategies. Every month, the teachers go to training for more of the best practices and during the summer where best practices in all subjects are taught.

One of the goals of the AVID program is to increase the percent of students who complete the requirements for the University of California or California State University. Last year, 34 percent of YHS seniors met those requirements; the state average is 37 percent.

Students interested in enrolling in an AVID class should see Calderwood in Science Room 102.



Burleigh Lockwood, who works at the Fresno zoo, recently gave students at Mountain Home School a presentation on local wildlife.



Connie Collins, right, recently visited Mountain Home School to help students with a pottery project. Also helping was parent Stacy Daley and teacher Mindy Klang.

Mountain Home Charter School is studying the Lewis and Clark expedition this year. They call this year long study project 'Exploring New Frontiers.' The purpose of this project is to ground students in solid historical study of the Lewis and Clark, Corps of Discovery expedition. "This singular, monumental event, crucial in the history of America and to the forming of our national identity is worthy of study in its own right," says Principal Mike Cox.

"However, it poignantly provides the launching point for many other tributaries of study including the westward movement, biographical research of influential American figures, Native American study, biology, cartography, epic literature, and the history of explorations including modern space travel," he says.

In this endeavor, Mountain

Home Charter is pursuing the idea of 'Exploring New Frontiers' through a multi-disciplined and multi-modal approach. "We are endeavoring to launch students not only into the study of Lewis and Clark but to provide the catalyst for their own experience of discovery and wonder," Cox says.

Exciting explorations will be available all year long. Recently Mountain Home students experienced the historical, musical ballads of Teresa McNeil who has produced a CD of original ballads telling with humor and drama the Lewis and Clark story.

The Shoshone Indian tribe was particularly important to Lewis and Clark. It was from the Shoshone that they obtained horses at a particularly desperate point in the journey. Students studying this event created beautiful Shoshone Painted Ponies.

President Jefferson tasked the expedition to identify, collect and chronicle the animal and plant life they encountered along the way. With this in mind, the Fresno Zoo sent Burleigh Lockwood, a recognized mammal expert, to speak to the students about the local animal population. Connie Collins, of Mariposa's Mountain Mud, worked with 60 students creating leaf impression 'slump' pot pottery. Students identified local leaves and used them in creating little bowls.

Jem Bluestein and his band are providing the music for evening family barn dances featuring music and dance styles from Captains Lewis' and Clark's era.

Many more exciting opportunities and activities are being planned to further enhance the discovery of this important point in American history, Cox said.



Students and their siblings dancing to the bluegrass sounds of Mountain Home Charter School parent Jem Bluestein & the Continental Drift. They play music from the Lewis and Clark era during family barn dances.

It is easy to find momentum at Wasuma at this point in the school year. Wasuma is proud to announce that the school was nominated for the California Distinguished Schools Award. Schools from all over the state were nominated and the school's application that describes the schools, interventions, and programs in great detail will be in competition with hundreds of other California schools.

According to the California Department of Education Web site "The California School Recognition Program was created in 1985 to publicize and reinforce the priorities of the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program identifies and honors many of the state's exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all regions of the state. Approximately five percent of California's public schools are selected each year, and no fewer than 40 counties are typically represented. The duration of the distinguished school honor is four years." (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/>).

The application process is rigorous and competitive. Wasuma's team of application writers has been hard at work preparing the application that was submitted on December 3. They will receive word as to whether or not they will be advanced to the next step in the application process in late February. The next step involves a site visit by county and state personnel who will be verifying that the application narrative was accurate and to meet staff and students and tour the site.

PTA worked hard at the annual Christmas Tree Lot. The school has established a new goal of revamping its playground to make it safer for the little Wildcats while at play. Plans to replace the slide and refurbish the impact material are being developed.

One of the school's favorite PTA fundraisers is also one of the easiest in which parents and community members can participate. Raley's and Vons each have a generous program that doesn't cost any money. Wasuma PTA would like to offer to assist anyone in signing up for either of these programs. Feel free to call 642-1585 for help with the following directions:

To sign up for Vons E Scrip- Go to escrip.com to enter your name and Vons card number and select your school of choice (Wasuma is a good choice but you can choose any school you'd like). If you use your phone number at check out instead of your Vons card, call 877-723-3929 to receive your Vons card number that you can then enter into the website.

You can sign up at Raley's in store. Ask for a 'Quality of Life Card' and ask to be registered under your school of choice (again, Wasuma is a good choice but you can choose one of the others as well).

These programs are very important to us. Once you sign up there is nothing you need to do or remember to do at check out. The stores donate a portion of your receipt to the schools at no cost to you. Believe it or not, these programs already raise \$11,000 dollars a year for Wasuma alone and with added registrations we're hoping to increase that amount each year. The money earned will help to fund projects such as the playground project mentioned earlier. Feel free to call 642-1585 and leave a message or ask for Mrs. White or Bill Bunnell if you need help signing up.



Noah Clements and Allison Bernardi were the STAR students from Mrs. Tompkins' second grade class.



STAR and BUG Award recipients are (front row left to right) Ally Alm, fifth grade; and Carley Baldwin, third grade. (Back row left to right) Jessica Rudd, fifth grade; Nick Moskaluk, fifth grade; and Alex Salazar, fifth grade.

When was the last time you were praised for a job well done? No matter how old we are, praise from a supervisor, a colleague, or a parent is welcomed and makes us feel valued, that all our hard work is noticed and appreciated. Receiving accolades, at any age, just adds that extra bounce in our step, comments a spokesperson from Oakhurst Elementary School.

At OES, students receive recognition in a variety of ways, be it academics, citizenship or for demonstrating model behavior. Students can earn a STAR Student Award or a BUG Award.

Each week at the Friday Flag Salute, they honor students at specific grade levels for their achievements in the classroom. Each child's name is announced, with their peers cheering them on. Students receive a STAR Student Award Certificate highlighting attributes written by their teacher such as responsibility, being a good citizen to their peers, completing all their classroom assignments and earning their Accelerated Reader

point goals.

Through an on-going partnership with the Oakhurst Sierra Kiwanis Club, children in third, fourth and fifth grade can now earn a BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Certificate. The BUG program is designed to recognize students who raise their grades to an acceptable range, and maintain or continue raising them from one grading period to the next. Recognition includes being placed on the school's BUG Honor Roll, along with receiving a certificate and BUG pin. Classroom teachers have discretion as to how their students can earn a BUG - from bringing up their homework grades, or Accelerated Reader points, or reading and math tests.

Friday Flag Salute is held every Friday morning at 10:15 on the basketball court. It's the school's way of being able to meet as a school community. The program includes the Flag Salute, STAR and BUG Announcements, school announcements and the grand finale of everyone singing the OES school song, written by third grade teacher, Jeannine Heitman.

The Parent Teacher Club (PTC) Spaghetti Extravaganza at Oak Creek Intermediate School (OCI) was a huge success! Food was provided by Di Cicco's Italian Restaurant of Oakhurst and many other area businesses contributed to a night of food, fun, and fellowship.

The PTC hosted the dinner, which included a silent auction and the Scholastic Book Fair, raising \$2500 for OCI. The evening was such a success that the PTC hopes to make this a yearly event to bring Oak Creek families and the community together.

The OCI gym was converted into a Mediterranean bistro for the evening. The tables were covered in red checkered table cloths and scenes of Italian countryside decorated the walls while

Italian music filled the air. Several students, including the new cheerleading team, served tables and helped clean up afterwards. The students wore Italian gondolier costumes and showed off their waiter skills with smiles on their faces and a warm hello to the guest. Several students read poems about autumn that they had composed, and the cheer leading squad performed two cheers for the audience.

The night ended with the silent auction and the PTC having served 400 dinners. "Many thanks to the generous people of our community and the talented parents and students who contributed to the Oak Creek intermediate School's night in Italy!" a school spokesperson says.



Rivergold School 7th grade Gold Honor Roll students who earned a 4.0 grade point average are, alphabetically: Stephanie Brown, Matthew Davenport, Maria Guedea, Sydney Lorenzana, Heather Reichard, Shane Smith, and Sierra Smith. Rivergold 8th grade Gold Honor Roll students who earned a 4.0 grade point average are, alphabetically: Lacy Brown, Giavonnie Campbell, Jamie Cogdell, Riley Cooks, Dana Day, Samantha Dominici, Kristen Emerick, Sarah Goodfellow, Nicholas Hansen-Sedor, Thalia Hologue, Syema Jakhar, Kayla Johnson, Jazmin Jones, Jessica King, Rebecca Kremer, Karley LeQuia, Kyle Lincoln, Bianca Lopez, Alexander Lynch, Vanessa Magee, Natale Nicolulis, Jack Sanders, Brianna Shockley, Matthew Thompson, Stephen Trippett, Jaimie Uhl, and Lauren Uhl.



Rivergold fifth and sixth grade Honor Roll students are, in alphabetical order: Erik Anderson, Aaron Bausch, Kylee Bernardoni, Bo Campbell, Emily Cardoza, Stewart Carlson, Janell Clark, Christen Cogdell, Carson Conti, Oliver Curley, Brody Daugherty, Angela Du, Ryan Emerick, Laurann Fowler, Harley Giles, Libby Haggard, Mitchell Hendry, Brooklyn Hostetler, Cierra Johnson, Kyle Kingsland, Mathew Koen, Mallory Landon, Abby LeForge, Mariah Lincoln, Donovan Lynch, Brittany Mihall, Ben Nelson, Shelby Pisel, Kylie Plantaz, Silvia Sanguinetti, Dominique Sidoti, Kaitlyn Sikora, Sierrah Slocum, Ericka Smith, Kimiko Smith, Tara True, Rebekah Urbano, Janeen Varian, Taylor Weaver, Katie Wentz, Andy Whitcomb, Christopher Wilson, Anthony Wisely, and Jared Wood.



Fourth grade Honor Roll students at Rivergold School are, listed alphabetically: Haydon Alford, Baylee Avina, Carlee Boomer, Alexander Bourdet, David Broyles, Calvin Cacy, Andrew Carrick, Aaron Clay, Nathan Conner, Holden Cordle, Rose Curley, Hannah Finnegan, Garrett Hartsuykerr, Riley Hillerman, Christian Low, Dallin Mellow, Savannah Nelson, Anabel Padilla, Jamie Reichard, Sakura Schwizer, Sarah Scott, Gianna Sidoti, Joshua Solso, Ryan Tapia, Zach Turl, Michael Warnert, Travis Wood, and Trevor Wood.

Everyday I see students and families who overcome tremendous odds. I have a challenge for all mountain area families that is outside the box, or should I say Xbox: Give as much as you get. All good things start with 'one,' one can of food, one book read, one homework assignment completed or one act of kindness.

Parents, help your child learn the gift of giving by supporting local organizations that help others in need. I would like to thank our

local Toys for Tots, Elks, and Manna House for providing toys and clothes for needy families throughout the mountain community. These are just a few of the many organizations that you can get involved with. If you do not know who to contact, call your local school and they will make sure that it gets to someone in need. We are so blessed in the mountain area. We have so much; show your kids that the holidays are more than a new entertainment system. Help someone this year that is in need. The spirit of giving is alive and well in the mountain community, you can make a difference with only 'one.'

At long last, we have great news to report on the Multi-Purpose Room stage construction project! Work is underway to remodel the facility, and the crews are making great progress. It is anticipated that the course of construction will be completed before the start of the 2008-2009 school year.

To this point, this project has been plagued by problems too numerous and too exasperating to recount in

this small space. I am so excited to see that the students of Coarsegold School, and our community, will soon have a facility which can accommodate performances which will enrich our students' educational experience. This project has tried everyone's patience, but I want to thank our board of trustees and our superintendent for 'staying the course' and maintaining their commitment to this project for our students and our community.

During the construction phase, there are sure to be

new challenges. Due to the location on campus, it will be much easier to maintain security, and minimize the impact of construction to instruction and to students. Food service will require some flexibility, but Irene Keener and the wonderful staff in our cafeteria assure me that they will be able to meet these challenges.

I will do my best to keep staff, students, parents and community members updated on this project as it proceeds, and we can all enjoy watching our new stage come to life!



Coarsegold teachers, left to right, Sherry Graves, Christel Biasell, Jessica Medrano, and Becky Cano are shown with Rotarian Gary Gilbert after receiving grant awards from the Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club.

Four Coarsegold teachers recently received \$2,600 to use to further their students' education and experiences from the Oakhurst - Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club. Gary Gilbert and Brad Ditton recounted the many, many people who volunteered enormous time and efforts to raise the \$100,000 that they gave that morning to Madera County schools.

"What most moved me was the tremendous and intimate feeling of community that permeated the air and our hearts," says Coarsegold teacher and grant recipient Sherry Graves. "Being a part of the Rotary meeting that day gave me a glimpse of what the Sunrise Rotary Club contributes: vision, pride in our people, purity of intent to lift others, and commitment

to students and educators," she said.

"I wanted to bottle what I experienced during that hour and share it with our students. That which the Rotary embodies is the essence of what we are daily attempting to impart to our children: the importance of community, serving, and doing all we can do to make the world a better place," Graves said.

Both the Coarsegold Elementary flag football and volleyball teams took home the first place trophies in each sport's Mountain Area Tournament of Champions.

The tournaments took place on the Yosemite High School campus and were comprised of teams from area elementary schools.

The girls' volleyball team, coached by Robert Jackson,

defeated Mariposa in the championship game. Coarsegold finished the entire season undefeated. Coach Jackson was quite proud of his team.

"These ladies played their hearts out. Their commitment to the team is immeasurable," Jackson said.

The Coarsegold flag football team avenged a league loss to Rivergold Elementary

by defeating the Hawks 30-18 in the tournament final.

The team, coached by rookie coach Jason Mercier, played stingy defense throughout the tournament and even posted a shutout. Coach Mercier said, "The team really stepped up their defensive effort which was the key to winning the tournament."



Students at Mountain View High School, under the direction of teacher Karen Falat, collected 927 pieces of clothing this year to donate to Manna House. Last year they collected 423 pieces. This is the fourth year the students have worked on the project and it was their best year yet, Falat said. She said the project is all about giving back. "No matter what you have, someone has less," she said. In addition to gathering the clothes, the students separate them into categories and count them. Falat said some students at Yosemite High School donated clothes to the school this year. "That was very nice," she said. The clothes were delivered to Manna House the week before Christmas.