



# School News

Bass Lake School District - Yosemite Unified School District

Volume 6 Number 4

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## Administrative changes for next year at YUSD

When the Yosemite Unified School District opens for classes in the fall, each site will have a new principal.

These administrative changes were made after the Yosemite High School principal's position became open when Steve Raupp was promoted to district superintendent. As a result of that change, several other moves were made possible, and some administrators who had been given notice of possible release or reassignment were able to remain in the district.

Raupp, who has been serving as YHS principal and interim superintendent, will become the district's superintendent July 1. He has been the YHS principal for the past 10 years and a district employee since 1978.

He has been a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and athletic director during his time in the district.

Raupp is the 2008-09 Madera County Administrator of the Year.

He looks forward to his new assignment and says he knows he is leaving YHS in good hands as Assistant Principal Ed Van Hoose moves into the principal's position.

Van Hoose came to YHS two years ago as an assistant principal. He says he is honored that the YUSD Board of Trustees has "given me the opportunity to serve as principal of Yosemite High School."

This past year he was also principal of the Adult Education program and Campbell Community Day School.

He has taught at the elementary, junior high and high school levels and has worked as a

school administrator for 15 years, including assignments at junior high, high school, alternative education, and some district level responsibilities.

Dr. Randy Haggard will move from his position as principal of Coarsegold Elementary School to principal of all of the alternative schools in the district and the district's curriculum coordinator.

He earned his Doctor of Education degree in 2008 from the University of California at Davis through a program at California State University, Fresno.

Haggard came to the district in 1997 as an English teacher at YHS; in 1999 he became an assistant principal at YHS and was then named principal of Coarsegold Elementary in 2002. Prior to that, he had taught in Upland High School and Central High School.

"I am excited to take on the position of alternative education principal and director of curriculum for our district during these challenging times," he said. "I am convinced that our best days are ahead, and I am honored to be able to serve in this capacity."

Al Nocciolo will become the principal of Rivergold Elementary School after serving as the assistant principal. Prior to that assignment, he had been the special education director at Yosemite High School.

He has been in education for the past 34 years; 13 years as a principal and a total of 24 years as an administrator.

He says he looks forward to his new responsibilities as principal of Rivergold and he says it

will continue to be the same welcoming school that it has always been, providing "a wonderful and rich educational program" and "opportunities for student successes outside of the classroom and before audiences."

"Why can I say this?" he asks. "Because Rivergold School has wonderful teachers and support staff."

Bob Rose will move from principal of Rivergold School to principal of Coarsegold School.

He began his career in education in 1981 as a physical education specialist at Spring Valley.

He moved to Coarsegold School as a sixth grade teacher in 1983 and then to Rivergold as a fifth grade teacher when it opened in 1991.

He later served as the assistant principal at Coarsegold School and then was principal in Jamestown for one year.

He returned to Rivergold as the principal in 2001 and has spent the last eight years there.

"During that time the staff, students and parents of Rivergold have shown me what is possible if everyone works together," he said.

He said he is looking forward to working with "many old friends and even some former students," at Coarsegold.

"My goal is to help staff do amazing things for kids and to fully utilize the new multi-purpose room," Rose said.

"Coarsegold and Rivergold have a rich tradition of providing a well-rounded program that strives for academic excellence and I am proud to be a part of it," he concluded.



Diane Adney  
Administrator of the Year



Mary Beth Harrison  
Teacher of the Year



Jeff Grant  
School Employee of the Year

## Three honored by YUSD as outstanding employees

Yosemite Unified School District has recognized three employees as the district Administrator of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and School Employee of the Year.

They will all be honored during the Madera County Excellence in Education reception in Madera in October.

Diane Adney has been named the YUSD Administrator of the Year; Mary Beth Harrison, Teacher of the Year; and Jeff Grant, School Employee of the Year.

They were nominated by district staff members and selected by a district-wide committee.

Adney has been an assistant principal at Yosemite High School since 2004; next year she will be the school's only assistant principal. During this past school year she was also principal of Mountain View and Ahwahnee high schools.

She joined the district in 1997 as a teacher, working at YHS and in the alternative high schools.

She was the YHS activities director from 1998-2007.

Adney was described as "One of the most exceptional administrators I have had the opportunity to work with in my 34 years in education," by one district employee.

One of her main duties as assistant principal is student discipline. Another employee said "she is the best I have seen at this, treating students fairly and consistently, but more importantly, with a caring attitude and a sense of humor that students respond well to."

Harrison began work for Yosemite Unified in 1992 as a teacher at Evergreen High School, the district's independent study school.

As a teacher in that school, she is responsible for teaching all subjects to students in grades 9-12. She is the biology specialist for the alternative schools.

In addition to her teaching duties, she was instrumental in writing the school's self-study for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation review. EHS and Ahwahnee High School were both granted a six year accreditation with a three-year review.

She has been described as "a consummate professional, a dedicated educator who leads by example."

A former student wrote in a letter to Harrison that "you make me feel important and smart, and I know that I can tell you anything without you judging me or saying 'that's stupid.' I honestly never knew there were people like you out there!"

Grant is a journeyman tradesman at Coarsegold Elementary School. He started with the district in 2002 in the maintenance department where his duties have been many and varied.

He also substitutes as a bus driver and has coached some of the school's athletic teams. He was instrumental in the remodeling of the Coarsegold Elementary School offices this year and he helped design the kindergarten play ground at Rivergold School.

Grant has been called "one of the hardest workers I have had the privilege of working with."

He has also been called "the most reliable, hard working, versatile maintenance person with whom I have worked," and he is called "dependable, trustworthy, honest and good."

The three were honored at the district's end-of-the-year barbecue June 1.

## Badgers bring home Ginsburg Award for fifth year in a row

For the fifth year in a row, and the 14th time in the school's 32-year history, Yosemite High has brought home the North Sequoia League Ginsburg Cup for athletics.

This year, YHS accumulated a total of 250 points throughout the year, far out-distancing the second highest scoring school in the league, Sierra, which had 162 points.

YHS led the league for the fall and spring sea-

sons and was one point behind Washington Union for winter season (41-40).

Boys' and girls' year totals were far ahead of their closest competitor: Boys totaled 108 points, ahead of the Chowchilla boys who had 94 points; YHS girls had 142 points ahead of Sierra girls who had 99 points.

YHS won league championships in boys' and girls' cross country, girls' golf, volleyball,

girls' basketball, boys' golf, boys' and girls' swimming, and boys' and girls' track and field.

YHS had a six-year run of winning the trophy from the 1984-85 school year through 1989-90.

The Badgers regained the trophy from 1991-92 through 1993-94 and then went on their latest winning streak beginning in 2004-05.



PHOTO BY JUDITH ANN DURR

Victor Sandoval was the winner of a car, donated by Sierra Telephone, at this year's Yosemite High School Sober Graduation. On June 10, 238 students received their diplomas from YHS. Earlier, 14 had graduated from Glacier High School Charter, 39 from alternative education schools, and 16 from Adult Education High School.

## Nine retirees have a total of 203 years of service

Nine Yosemite Unified School District employees retired this year, taking a total of 203 years of service with them.

Mike Cole, a Yosemite High School teacher who was on the school's original staff when it opened in 1976, has taught Spanish and creative writing this past year.

Kathleen Anderson was hired in 1979 and has taught grades seven through 12 at Coarsegold Elementary, Rivergold Elementary, and Yosemite Falls Education Center.

Patty Franz started with the district in 1980 and has worked as an instructional aide in the kindergarten classes at CGES and RGE.

Karen Carrick has been with the district since 1982 as an instructional aide, cafe clerk, office clerk, clerk secretary, and financial analyst.

John McMillen was hired in 1984 as a custodian at Coarsegold Elementary School and is retiring as the elementary schools' director of

maintenance, operations, and transportation.

Sally Simpson has been a kindergarten and first grade teacher at CGES and RGE since 1987.

Ed Hamilton has worked as a custodian, bus driver and utility worker at Yosemite High School since 1991.

Carolyn Campbell started with the district in 1994 and was an instructional aide at Ahwahnee High School.

Bobbi Palmer has been a cook helper at YHS and RGE since 2001.

They were recognized at the June 1 district dinner.



Curtiss Lovett, right, owner of Outback Materials, was the Yosemite Unified School District's Golden Apple recipient this year. He was selected because of the numerous contributions he has made to the district over the years in materials, labor and cash donations. Kevyn Moberly, left, YUSD Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation, made the presentation at the annual awards dinner.

# Free and Reduced Meal income eligibility scales

Yosemite Unified School District has announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Each school and/or the central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria iden-

tified below will be used to determine eligibility for free, reduced-price, or full-price meal benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown here are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Children who receive Food Stamp (FS), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Kinship Guardianship As-

sistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside.

Eligibility for a foster child is based on a separate application and solely on the amount of the child's "personal use" income.

## Free Eligibility Scale Meals, Snacks, and Milk

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$14,079	\$1,174	\$587	\$542	\$271
2	\$18,941	\$1,579	\$790	\$729	\$365
3	\$23,803	\$1,984	\$992	\$916	\$458
4	\$28,665	\$2,389	\$1,195	\$1,103	\$552
5	\$33,527	\$2,794	\$1,397	\$1,290	\$645
6	\$38,389	\$3,200	\$1,600	\$1,477	\$739
7	\$43,251	\$3,605	\$1,803	\$1,664	\$832
8	\$48,113	\$4,010	\$2,005	\$1,851	\$926
For each additional family member, add:	+\$4,862	+\$406	+\$203	+\$187	+\$94

## Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale Meals and Snacks

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$835	\$771	\$386
2	\$26,955	\$2,247	\$1,124	\$1,037	\$519
3	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$1,303	\$652
4	\$40,793	\$3,400	\$1,700	\$1,569	\$785
5	\$47,712	\$3,976	\$1,988	\$1,836	\$918
6	\$54,631	\$4,553	\$2,277	\$2,102	\$1,051
7	\$61,550	\$5,130	\$2,565	\$2,368	\$1,184
8	\$68,469	\$5,706	\$2,853	\$2,634	\$1,317
For each additional family member, add:	+\$6,919	+\$577	+\$289	+\$267	+\$134

\* A household of one means a child who is his or her sole support. Foster children are one-member households only if the welfare or the placement agency maintains legal responsibility for the child. Household is synonymous with family and means a group of related or unrelated individuals who are not residents of an institution of boarding house, but who are living as one economic unit sharing housing and all significant income and expenses. This scale does not apply to households that receive Food Stamps, Kin-Gap, or FDPIR benefits or children who are recipients of CALWORKS. Those children are automatically eligible for free meal benefits.

\* In the Adult Care Component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, a household includes the adult participant and, if residing with the participant, the spouse, and any persons who are economically dependent on the adult participant. This scale does not apply to members of Food Stamp households, or recipients of Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid/Medi-Cal, or Food Distribution Program On Indian Reservations benefits. Those participants are automatically eligible for free meals.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing them of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits, households must complete an application and return it to the school for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Requirements for school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: For households receiving Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits - applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member. For households who do not list a

Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding Social Security number of an adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, the household member must indicate on the application that a Social Security number is not available.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by the sponsor/agency, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the sponsor/agency's hearing official. Parents or guard-

ians should contact their child(ren)'s school(s) for specific information regarding the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for a specific school, agency, or district.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.

# Yosemite Unified School District classes back in session August 17

Yosemite Unified School District will resume classes after the summer break Monday, August 17, Thursday and Friday,

August 13 and 14, are teacher work days.

First semester holidays are: Labor Day, September 7; Fall Break, October 19-23; Veterans'

Day, November 11; Thanksgiving, November 25-27; and Winter Break, December 21 - January 1. Classes will resume January 4.

# The Feds giveth; and the State taketh away

## SRINI VASAN CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

Economic chaos: The Feds Giveth, and the State Taketh.

That is the new sermon in the State of California which is trying to close the \$25 billion budget shortfall. Thank you Mr. President, but we will use that money (smartly) to close and fill the big hole - the budget gap.

I am not denying that the federal stimulus funds brought some relief. It stopped the bleeding to the extent that revenues coming from the feds offset revenue lost from the state. It is a band aid to stop that bleeding, but not a permanent cure. For the economic wound to heal, it is going to take a minimum of three years.

Okay, let us translate revenue shortfall and the federal stimulus funds. We received \$729,000 in SFSF (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund). I can hear you say "that is a large sum of money, why are you complaining, stop whining!"

Please allow me to explain. It is called a zero-sum game of offsetting state revenue funding through federal stimulus. Translated into simple English - because you, the district, are going to get money from the feds (giveth), the state is going to reduce (taketh) your funding by the same amount.

Since the beginning of the budget year (July 1, 2008), the governor has

imposed two cuts - one in December 2008 that took away \$300,000 and one in May 2009 that took away \$450,000. I am using the words "took away" intentionally.



you may get the money, but you may not be able to reap its benefits to its full extent.

For example, Fresno Unified - no, I am not envious, but only factual - will reap benefits that Yosemite Unified could not. Accepted that the needy ones need the most, how about those who are not starving but are under nourished?

The economic chaos has forced the district to make some painful decisions. The district has made staffing reductions. There will be a salary freeze for next year for some staff. And, operating expenses will face cuts. With the help and recommendation of the Budget Advisory Committee, where concerned citizens from the community participate, the district has identified areas where additional expenditure reductions will be made.

This committee will continue to be active and will be coming up with ideas and ways to use the resources most effectively.

The economic problem facing the district, the state and the nation is one that needs a lot of understanding and empathy from all parties concerned.

The district wants to thank the different bargaining units for working very closely and cooperatively with the district to keep it afloat and financially solvent.

So long until next time, and let us hope the economy turns around.

## Revenue decline (per student attendance)

	2008-2009	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010
	State Funding July 1, 2008	State Funding June 15, 2009	State Funding July 1, 2008	State Funding June 15, 2010
Revenue per Student	\$6,895	\$6,146	\$7,204	\$6,055

# Cafeteria Corner: New laws are complicating for food service

## IRENE KEENER FOOD SERVICE MANAGER

Our number-one job is to feed kids. The dilemma of providing good nutrition, while giving kids something they like and are willing to eat is a deceptively complex business. We are mandated by the state to offer meals that are low in fat and saturated fat. We are committed to this goal.

Next year we face an even greater challenge. Starting July 1, two new senate bills will go into effect, SB 12 and SB 965. These two laws greatly effect what we are able to serve a-la-carte at the high school. Many of the foods that our students love will be missing. Our Grab 'N Go area will become a full meal line which will cost \$3. We will still have the Sub Shop which will have two lines for faster service.

The snack bar is another area that will see big changes. All the chips will be baked instead of fried. All of the Hostess products will be gone.

We have already eliminated the soda; however there are further drink regulations that we will have to follow. This year we will only be allowed to serve water, 12 ounce Gatorade and 100 percent fruit juice drinks.

At the elementary

schools we are only allowed to serve water and 100 percent juice drinks; no Gatorade will be offered this year.

We are actively looking for new choices that our students will like and still meet the new regulations. Manufacturers are scrambling to produce new products to meet the requirements.

Feel free to call me if you would like a copy of the new laws, 683-2182.

Every school in California is facing the same dilemma. While we serve pizza, chicken nuggets, corn dogs and other kid-friendly foods, we have salad bars at all our schools offering fresh fruits and vegetables.

The "kid foods" are, in fact, a healthier version, using low fat cheese, chicken and turkey. They are baked rather than fried. No frying will be done next year at any of our campuses and only zero trans fat foods will be served. Non fat and low fat salad dressings, low fat gravies and mayonnaise to name a few as well as whole wheat breads, rolls and buns are all part of our pledge to serve your kids and ours' healthier lunches.

We are also vigilant

about food safety in all of our cafeterias. Our local Department of Environmental Health has inspected all of our kitchens and given us outstanding marks across the board. We have a copy of that inspection in each one of our facilities if you would like to look at it.

This year we are buying some of our produce from small family farms. It is called the "Farm to School Project." We also participate in the Super Co-op to help us maintain costs and purchase with the power of many other school districts.

Our wellness policy has been implemented and we will strive to continue to make it better.

Please feel free to call and come by to visit any one of our kitchens.

Every child is entitled to receive a nutritious and low cost breakfast and lunch at school.

This last year we have implemented a web site to make it easier for you to pay for lunches from the comfort of your home or office. The website is EZSchoolPay.Com. You need the zip code of your school and your child's lunch number to open an account; the money is credited to their lunch account. I can be reached by email at ikeener@yosemiteusd.com or by calling 683-2182.

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Earlene Ward, editor

# Memorial Day and Flag Day observed at BLES

LISA KERNAGHAN

On June 21, Bass Lake Elementary School students celebrated Memorial Day and Flag Day. Nationally, Memorial Day was celebrated on Monday, June 25, and Flag Day was celebrated on Sunday, June 14. Since both days are either holidays or vacation days for students, Bass Lake Elementary School decided three years ago to combine these holidays and celebrate them two days before the Memorial Day weekend. The Bass Lake Lions Club has partnered with the school, and Flag Day at Bass Lake Elementary is sponsored by the Bass Lake Lions Club.

This year, the cafeteria was decorated with patriotic art. The kindergarten and first grade made silhouettes of themselves in patriotic colors. The second and third grades produced



Boy Scouts Chandler Haas and Charles Kelly raise the new flag at Bass Lake Elementary School

and Alexis Russell made presentations on the history of the United States Flag and Flag Day. The second and third grade students had prepared state flags, and they shared the history of some of these.

tribute to his grandfather, a World War II veteran.

The celebration then moved outside, where The Bass Lake Lions Club presented Bass Lake Elementary School with a new flag, which had been flown over the nation's capitol. The new flag was raised, and the old flag removed from the flagpole and folded.

The finale of the ceremony was something that is rarely seen by students. Two flags from the U.S. Post Office and one flag from Bass Lake Elementary were retired. Boy Scouts Justin Ferguson, Chandler Haas, and Charles Kelly read the laws about how a flag should be retired, and the flags were ceremonially retired and burnt in accordance with the law.

Most students and adults never get to see a flag retired, and this was a special occurrence for all!

In closing, the Bass Lake Lions Club presented each student with a small United States flag and a sheet telling about the history of the American flag.



Boy Scouts Charles Kelly and Chandler Haas prepare to retire an old flag at Bass Lake Elementary School.

watercolors of the U.S. flag and state flowers.

The presentations began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The kindergarten - first grade class sang patriotic songs. Fifth grade students Emma Taylor, Hannah Cockerham, Jessica Fine,

Next, fourth and fifth grade students shared brief histories of each war in which the United States has fought. One student stated, "I didn't know that there were so many!" Then fourth grade student John Andrews presented a stirring

# OES student has six years of perfect school attendance

KATHLEEN MURPHY  
OES PRINCIPAL

Imagine dragging yourself out of bed every single morning, even on days you're not feeling yourself, to get to work on time because, as all adults know, attendance matters, particularly with employers!

Now, imagine doing this as a child in elementary school. Each semester, OES honors students who have perfect attendance. Students who have perfect attendance get the chance to earn a prize, such as a Blockbuster Video card, an iPod or even a bicycle.

On June 10, OES honored a student who not only had perfect attendance for the entire school year, but has had perfect attendance for the past six years.

Natalie Chamberlain, fifth grade student in



Natalie Chamberlain, along with her father Rick Chamberlain, is all smiles after being honored for six years worth of perfect attendance.

Sherrie Clark's classroom, was honored with a new bicycle, from the Sierra Oakhurst Kiwanis.



Wasuma Principal Nicole White and Lisa Gray are shown with the children and grandchildren of the Wasuma Watch DOGS.

# Watch DOGS program a big hit at Wasuma School

NICOLE WHITE  
WASUMA PRINCIPAL

The 2008-09 school year at Wasuma was the year of many new and exciting changes. The building project was completed, and Watch DOGS appeared on campus.

Watch DOGS is a national program that was championed by PTA member and Wasuma parent Lisa Gray.

The program was started several years ago by the National Center for Fathering partly in response to violence that was springing up in schools.

The Wasuma Watch DOGS are fathers and grandfathers who generously donate their time on campus. Their duties include volunteering in class, supervising on the playground, and circulating around the grounds in and out of



Wasuma students playing on their new kindergarten and primary grades playground, funded by a \$70,000 grant from the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians.



Wasuma Wildcat Timothy Franklin is shown with Watch DOG Jim Davis.

classrooms.

The children love it when Watch DOGS are on campus and they have even reached somewhat of a celebrity status as the young elementary students wave and cheer them on.

By year's end, Lisa Gray's organization and implementation of the Wasuma Watch DOGS program brought over 20 volunteers to the campus. Wasuma couldn't be more thrilled with this program.

More information

about the Watch DOGS program can be found at [www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com).

The new Wasuma playground is finished in both the kindergarten and primary play yards and it is awesome! One kindergartner was heard exclaiming, "Wow! We have a park playground" as the equipment installation was being completed.

Sentimentality rushed in as the old Wasuma dome was being dismantled but as the kids were piling on to the new equipment the dome was a distant memory. Chukchansi granted \$70,000 to Wasuma last November to build the new playgrounds.

Grants and projections were written with great care and consideration by PTA president Monica Miller and Past PTA president and second grade teacher Kim Meeks.

The team did a wonderful job making selections that would be exciting to all of Wasuma Wildcats and had a "WOW" factor.

The project was a success and the students will play on this new, beautiful playground for many, many years to come!

# Academic Achievement earns students bowling day

Each semester, Oakhurst Elementary School honors students who have earned Academic Achievement Awards because it is known that having a positive attitude towards school and demonstrating outstanding citizenship on a daily basis leads to academic achievement.

On June 1, 96 students in grades 1-5 were honored for their hard work

with a morning of fun at Sierra Lanes Bowling.

The students had a terrific time bowling and playing games in the arcade.

On the way back to school, a student asked Kathleen Murphy, principal of OES, if all the kids were going to have recess. She humorously replied, "You had an entire morning of recess!"



(From Left to Right) Fourth grade students Jacob Rounsivil, Caden McCoon, Guillermo Ramirez and Nick Biscaglio enjoy time on the lanes.

# 116 eighth graders graduate from BLSD

A total of 116 eighth grade students graduated from the Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District this year.

Each school held its own separate graduation ceremony.

Fifty-five students graduated from Oak Creek Intermediate School. Wasuma School graduated 33 eighth graders. Mountain Home School

had a total of 27 who received their diplomas.

One student graduated from Fresno Flats Community Day School.

Glenn Reid is BLJUSD superintendent and principal for FFCD.

Kirk Huckabone is principal at OCI, Nicole White is Wasuma's principal, and Mike Cox is Mountain Home School principal.

## Coarsegold Elementary commencement



PHOTO BY CHERYL AIREY

Dr. Randy Haggard, Coarsegold Elementary School principal, addresses the 8th grade class of 2009 during the commencement ceremony June 11.

## 8th grade, kindergarten students promoted during ceremonies

On June 11, Coarsegold School celebrated the promotion of its eighth grade class to the high school. The community provided several awards to recognize the special achievements of students in the areas of academic achievement, citizenship, and community service.

Brett Hedrickson was awarded the Excellence in Mathematics award by Sierra Telephone.

This is the fourth year that a Coarsegold School student has been recognized as the top math student from all the mountain schools that participate in this competition. "The perpetual trophy with 44 years of recognition for excellence in mathematics will remain in the trophy case in the Coarsegold School office for another year thanks to Brett's outstanding achievement,

and the expertise of Robert Jackson in preparing our students to excel," says Principal Dr. Randy Haggard.

Earlier in the morning on June 11, a group of kindergarten Cougars were promoted to first grade. Families joined teachers in celebrating this important milestone, with some special music by students and time to enjoy punch and cake afterwards.



PHOTO BY JUDITH ANN DURR

The Chukchansi Little Hawks Territory was dedicated June 10. This is a kindergarten playground at Rivergold School funded by a grant from the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, the Rivergold PTA, and Rivergold staff members. Principal Bob Rose is shown above with some of the students when they were allowed onto the equipment after the ribbon cutting. Taking part in the ribbon cutting were Rose; Mark Emerick from the Tribal Council; Joe Alberta, tribal community representative; and Tom Kokoska, tribal attorney.



Rivergold Elementary School sixth and seventh grade Gold Honor Roll fourth quarter, 2009.



Rivergold Elementary School fourth and fifth grade Gold Honor Roll fourth quarter, 2009.



PHOTO BY CHERYL AIREY

Coarsegold Elementary School kindergarten class of 2009 during commencement exercise June 11.

## Coarsegold principal moves to alternative education principal

### DR. RANDY HAGGARD

By now you may have heard that the Yosemite Unified School District Board of Trustees took action to transfer me to a new position for next year.

I will be serving as principal of the YUSD Alternative Schools, along with new responsibilities as the District Director of Curriculum.

I am excited to take on these new challenges, and I am confident that Coarsegold School will continue to thrive under the leadership of Bob Rose.

For the past eight years, Mr. Rose has been the principal at Rivergold School.



Coarsegold School will always hold a special place in my heart. I have learned so much here.

Thank you to each student, parent and staff member for sharing a vision of Coarsegold School as a caring community, and for building a place where children can learn and grow to be the best they can be!

## Coarsegold school offices closed during July; will open Aug. 3

This year, the Coarsegold Elementary School office will be closed during the month of July.

Anyone who has needs, or who knows of anyone who needs help with enrollment, should

contact the Yosemite Unified School District office in Oakhurst at Yosemite High School where staff will be available to assist; phone 683-8801.

The Coarsegold School

office will re-open on August 3 to prepare for school to start on August 17.

There will not be a summer school session at Coarsegold or Rivergold Schools.

## Spring performances feature students of all ages at CGES

This year at Coarsegold School, there were several student performances on the new Multipurpose Room stage.

Students in kindergarten - first grade performed on June 3, while students in second and third grades performed

May 28.

Each fourth grade class put on their own special evening performance, while fifth - eighth grades put on a special History Day "Wax Museum" of historical figures from their studies.

Dr. Randy Haggard, principal of Coarsegold Elementary, said "It was great to see students of all ages demonstrating their learning from what has been a great year at Coarsegold School."

The stage was completed earlier this year.

## Fourth quarter 4.0 Gold Honor Roll

Rivergold School students who were named to the fourth quarter 4.0 Gold Honor Roll are:

### 8th Grade

Stephanie Brown, Molly Casey, Matthew Davenport, Kayla Davis, Ryan Hill, Daniel Hooker, Robin Meister, Jordan Nelson, Heather Reichard, Danielle Reimer, Shane Smith, Sierra Smith, and Jake Wheeler.

### 7th Grade

Catherine Broyles, Bo Campbell, Stewart Carlson, Michaela Cates, Angela Du, Laurann Fowler, Harley Giles, Victoria Glanzer, Kylinn Gunderson, Ciera Johnson, Matthew Koen, Mariah Lincoln, Tiala Manning, Taylor Meyer, Brittany Mihall, Benjamin Nelson, Ericka Smith, Nicole Tapia, Erika Ward, Taylor Weaver, Christopher Wilson, and Jared Wood.

### 6th Grade

Aaron Bausch, Savana Besselièvre, Christen Cogdell, Katelyn Cooper, Oliver Curley, Wade Dunn, Ryan Emerick, Chloe Ferguson, Elisabeth Haggard, Grant Hall, Mitchell Hendry, Joelle Hogg, Kyle Kingsland, Abby

LeForge, Silvia Sanguinetti, Rebekah Urbano, John-Thomas Ward, and Katelyn Wentz.

### 5th Grade

Carlee Boomer, Alexander Bourdet, Brendon Bourdet, David Broyles, Andrew Carrick, Holden Cordle, Rose Curley, Angel Domingo, Hannah Finnegan, David Fuller, Joshua Hansen-Sedor, Garrett Hartsuyker, Kelea Kamalani, Dallin Mello, Savannah Nelson, Terrance Oldham, Anabel Padilla, Sienna Pillsbury, Wyatt Pittenger, Jamie Reichard, Sakura Schweizer, Sarah Scott, Gianna Sidota, Joshua Solso, Ryan Tapia, Holly Walsh, Katie Whitcomb, Travis Wood, and Trevor Wood.

### 4th Grade

Elena Cordle, Lucy Cummings, Griffin Encinas, Delaney Finnegan, Caden Flynn, Audrey Kenison, Katie Low, Savanna Luce, McKenzie Olivas, Sarah Parker, Cheyenne Peyton, Anna Posh-Lares, Mai Schweizer, Allyson Walsh, and Hannah Wimer.

## Rivergold eighth graders win variety of awards

Several eighth grade students at Rivergold School received awards at the end of the school year.

Those students are: Superintendent's Award (4.0 grade point average, seventh and eighth grades): Stephanie Brown, Matthew Davenport, and Danielle Reimer.

Principal's Honor Roll (4.0 GPA eighth grade): Matthew Davenport, Danielle Reimer, Stephanie Brown, Daniel Hooker, Jordan Nelson, Shane Smith, and Sierra Smith.

Student Achievement

Award, Madera County School Boards' Association: Heather Reichard, and Chris Kanaley.

Excellence in Mathematics Award, Sierra Telephone: Daniel Hooker.

Citizenship Award and Academic Improvement Award, Soroptimist International of the Sierras: Sierra Smith, and Reid Hillerman.

American Legion Scholastic Awards, American Legion Post 110: Danielle Reimer, and Fletcher Haggard.

Leadership Award, Rivergold PTA: Robin Meister.

Vision Academy Awards: Music - Jack Abel, and Fletcher Haggard; Art - Phillip Mommer, and Ryan Hill; Drama - Cooper Manley; and Dance - Destany Morgan, and Sydney Lorenzana.

Blue and Gold Award, Rivergold PTA: Shane Smith, Stephanie Brown, and Jordan Nelson.

Outstanding Athlete Award, Rivergold PTA: Kathryn Tovar, and Tyson Conti.

Golden Pen Essay Awards, the YELP: Maria Guedea.

All-Around Student Award, Rivergold PTA: Matthew Davenport.