



Yosemite and Coarsegold Districts School News



Volume 3 Number 1

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YHS California Distinguished School again; has exemplary career/technical program

Yosemite High School's distinction as a California Distinguished School will continue for another four years. The school first received this honor from 2001-2005. The current distinction will last until 2009. Additionally, the school is also honored for having an Exemplary Career/Technical Education (CTE) program.

Only eight percent of California's 2,300 middle and high schools received the Distinguished School award this year. Only 12 high schools statewide received the Exemplary CTE award.

YHS Principal Steve Raupp, board members and Superintendent Bill McCabe are in Anaheim today, May 20, to receive the awards at a recognition banquet.

Raupp is proud of the students and staff at YHS for the hard work they do on a day-to-day basis that allowed them to earn this award.

"It is wonderful to be named as a 2005 California Distinguished School and to receive the Career/Technical Education Award," he says.

"This recognition is a direct result of the hard work of our students and staff. To be recognized as one of the top high schools in California is quite an honor, and something that our students, staff, and community can be very proud of.

"I want to recognize the great job our students have done in the classroom and

particularly recognize their outstanding performance on the STAR testing. I would also like to commend our staff for their commitment to our students. The job that teachers do in the classroom is the primary reason for our success."

Throughout the state, approximately 465 middle and high schools were eligible to submit an extensive application for the Distinguished School award. The eligibility to apply is based on the school's Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress results.

Some 288 schools filled out the applications and 192 were selected. The applications were scored by a team of California Department of Education staff in partnership with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.

It was possible to receive a score of eight on the Distinguished School application; YHS received eight. The highest score possible on the CTE application was six; YHS received 5.5.

Two teams of staff members worked on the written application -- one team wrote the Distinguished School application and one wrote the CTE application.

The next step in the selection process was a visit by an outside review team to validate the written application. The team members reviewed documents, visited class-

rooms, talked to students, staff and community members before recommending that YHS be selected as a Distinguished School and selected for the CTE award.

Yosemite High is the only

CTE awards went to four schools in Los Angeles County and one each to schools in Lassen, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco and Solano counties.



Yosemite High School Principal Steve Raupp

school in Madera County to receive awards this year. Other valley schools to receive the Distinguished School award were: Clovis Unified, two intermediate and one high school (Buchanan); Merced County, one middle school and Tulare County, one middle school.

YHS is one of only two schools in the San Joaquin Valley to receive the CTE award; the other is Tulare Union High School. Other

Yosemite Joint Union High School District Superintendent Bill McCabe says he is extremely proud of Yosemite High School's success. "I commend Steve Raupp, the students and staff for their hard work leading to these awards," he said. "These are not awards based on a single snapshot, but are awards based on hard work over a period of years in many areas; they are both well-deserved."

Unification vote could be on ballot this November

The application to unify the Yosemite Joint Union High School District and Coarsegold Union School District is scheduled to be on the agenda of the State Board of Education (SBE) July 6.

If the SBE approves the application, district officials are confident the unification election will be held November 8.

Because of the timeline required by election code, this will be a very tight schedule. District officials have met with Madera County Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Sally Frazier and she has indicated her full cooperation in expediting the timelines.

SBE action is scheduled for July 6 and the next day Dr. Frazier will be notified by the SBE of its decision. If the state board approved the application, Dr. Frazier then must deliver an election order to the county clerk that same day.

People who want to run for the new governing board must file their papers during July and August. There is a window of 113-88 days to file before the November 8 election.

In August the sample ballot will be drafted and delivered to the county clerk.

After the November 8 election, the county election clerk can take up to 30 days to certify the results.

During November, State Superintendent of Public

Instruction Jack O'Connell, the Madera County Board of Supervisors, the YJUHSD and CUSD governing boards and the SBE are notified of the election results.

During November and December, if the proposal passes, the county board of supervisors directs and approves changes in district boundaries and notifies the State Board of Equalization.

In December 2005, the new board would be seated. From December to June, three boards would be functioning: The YJUHSD board, the CUSD board and the newly elected unified district board.

During the December-June transition period, the unified board would, among other duties, name the district, work with the current boards to transition and close out the old districts, secure interim funding, adopt an interim budget and subsequent year budget, establish a calendar of board meetings, select a district superintendent, adopt board policies and organize curriculum and administrative projects.

If the SBE approves the application in July and the voters approve the unification in November, the new unified district would be in effect July 1, 2006.

District officials say they are very appreciative of Dr. Frazier's willingness to work with them through this tight timeline.

Students see Every 15 Minutes, a re-creation of events following a fatal drunk driving wreck

A timely message was delivered to high school students May 2 and 3 when the Every 15 Minutes program was held at Yosemite High School.

The message was "Don't Drink and Drive."

The program was planned for the week before prom to remind students not to use alcohol on that special night. They were reminded by YHS Principal Steve Raupp to make good choices.

Every 15 Minutes is sponsored this year by the California Highway Patrol. Many other agencies also participate.

Many months of preparation went into the program. This was done in as much secrecy as possible so students would not know it was being planned. Some students were involved including those who worked on it as their senior project and those who were the "victims" in the scenario. All participated with the consent of their parents and all were asked not to talk about it to other students.

The first of the two days began with grim reapers visiting classrooms on the YHS campus every 15 minutes to remove a student who represented the person who is killed every 15 minutes by a drunk driver. The student's obituary was read to his or her classmates and a tombstone was placed on campus.

Five students were part of the vehicle wreck scene that was the May 2 assembly. Students from YHS, Mountain View, Evergreen and Ahwahnee high schools went to an open field at YHS where two wrecked cars had been placed. When they arrived they heard a call to 9-1-1

reporting a vehicle collision in which there were serious injuries.

CHP vehicles arrived on the scene with lights and sirens. Then other emergency services vehicles arrived -- Madera County Fire Department and Sierra Ambulance Service. The emergency services workers responded as they would to any wreck. They removed those who they could then used jaws of life to extract those who were pinned in the vehicle.

One student was pronounced dead at the scene; the driver of one vehicle was detained by the CHP on suspicion of driving under the influence. He was placed in the CHP car where he waited until all victims were on their way to hospitals.

The Madera County Sheriff's Department arrived to perform coroner duties on the deceased student. Sierra Funeral Chapel also arrived to remove the body.

The CHP helicopter landed near the scene and flew a seriously injured student to the trauma center. The other two injured students were transported to hospitals by ambulance.

Once all of the injured students were removed, the CHP performed a field sobriety test on the suspected drunk driver. After failing the test, the student was arrested on charges of felony drunk driving and vehicular manslaughter. Moments later, a call came through to say one of the injured students had died at Urgent Care in Oakhurst. The student's charges were increased to two counts of vehicular manslaughter.

The suspected drunk driver was taken to the Madera

County Sheriff's Department Bass Lake Substation where he was fingerprinted and booked.

All of the student participants left the school at the end of the assembly and went to a retreat where they spent the night. Their parents met at YHS that evening. Students and parents each wrote letters to each other, some of which were read at the assembly the next day.

The second day's assembly was the funeral for the dead students and the sentencing of the drunk driver, who had entered a guilty plea.

Two people whose lives had been forever changed because of a drunk driver spoke to the students during the assembly.

Some students and one parent read the letters they had written the previous evening.

During the sentencing, the drunk driver's attorney pleaded for leniency from the court, noting that the person had no other criminal charges, he was a good student and respected in the community and by his peers. The attorney argued that the drunk driver would punish himself every day of his life for what he had done and he did not need to be locked in a 9x9 cell to be punished.

The judge ruled that none of attorney's comments made a difference -- two young people were dead, two more were seriously injured, the drunk driver needed to pay for his crimes. The fictional sentence was 10 years in prison for each count of vehicular manslaughter to be served consecutively. The drunk driver would spend 20 years in prison where, the

judge hoped, he would think every day of the two lives he had cut short by drinking and driving.

One person who attended the assemblies was struck by how quiet the students were. "You could have heard a pin drop" most of the time, she commented.

Another person was especially touched by the comments of one of the student participants.

He spoke of how he thought this was just all going to be fun, then when he was actually in the car in the re-enactment of the wreck, he said it became "very real" and the fun aspect was gone.

YHS Web master Judy Durr, who photographed the entire event, said "I caught a picture of the group of kids in the car crash before they got into the vehicles and you can see they look like they are enjoying the day's events. However, it really took on a different dimension when they were actually in the vehicles and the drama of the event impacted their lives."

Principal Raupp says "The Every 15 Minutes program is a very powerful learning experience for our students. It helps students to see the consequences that can result from drinking and driving, and hopefully will help them to make good choices."

"I want to commend staff members Kellie Solomon, Diane Adney, Nancy Lusby and Tony Misner for their efforts in bringing this program to Yosemite High School.

"I also want to recognize three students - Heather Hyatt, Amy Stillman and Kristin Caitai - who took this on as their senior project."

The Every 15 Minutes Program has been presented at schools for the past several years; this is the second time it has been at YHS. Since the program began, the number of people killed by drunk drivers has dropped to one every 24 minutes.



JUDY DURR

Firefighters from Station 12, Madera County Fire Department, work to remove a victim from one of the wrecked cars at the Every 15 Minutes presentation at Yosemite High School early this month. Several agencies participated in the two-day program that is designed to impress upon high school students the importance of not drinking and driving.

Superintendent's Report

Bill McCabe



Today, May 20, is a special day for Yosemite High School and for the Yosemite Joint Union High School District. Board members, YHS Principal Steve Raupp and I are in Anaheim to accept the 2005 California Distinguished School award. We will also be accepting an award for an Exemplary Career / Technical Education (CTE) program.

As the district's superintendent, I am extremely proud of Mr. Raupp, his staff and the students at Yosemite High. They have worked hard to achieve these honors.

The California Distinguished School honor lasts for four years; YHS also received that award in 2001. The current award will be acknowledged until 2009.

YHS is one of 192 middle and high schools to receive the Distinguished School award and one of 12 high schools in the state to receive the Exemplary CTE program award.

To put the significance of these awards into perspective, note that there are 2,300 middle and high schools in the state; 465 were eligible to apply for Distinguished School and only 192 were selected.

A team of staff members spent many hours writing the two extensive applications for these awards and then the school hosted a visiting team that came on site to validate the written applications. The team had nothing but praise for the school, its students, staff and programs. In fact, they commented that they found wonderful things happening at the school that had not been mentioned in the application.

The school qualified to apply for these awards based on its Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress results. Out of a possible score of 10, YHS scored nine in state ranking and nine in similar schools ranking.

What all of this means is that Yosemite High School is one of the best schools in the state.

Knowing all of this, you can imagine my surprise to receive an e-mail a few weeks ago from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell telling me that, under new guidelines required by the federal government, the Yosemite Joint Union High School District had been placed in Program Improvement status under No Child Left Behind. None of our seven schools is in PI, just the district as a whole.

We are one of 114 districts in the state to be placed in that status under the new rules; prior to the new federal requirements, there had been 11 districts in the state in PI.

It took several calls to the California

Department of Education before someone could tell us why we had been put in this category. Finally, we were told that it was because on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) the prior year, only 94 percent of the socio-economically disadvantaged 10th graders had taken the mathematics portion. The No Child Left Behind requirement is that 95 percent of all students test and that 95 percent of subgroups test. Subgroups include socio-economically disadvantaged students, special education students and ethnic groups.

There were 300 students enrolled in the 10th grade district-wide on the day the CAHSEE was administered; 63 of those were socio-economically disadvantaged. One hundred percent tested in the district on the English-Language Arts portion of the exam; however, the next day when the mathematics portion was given, only 59 tested. That's 94 percent; had 60 students tested, it would have been 95 percent and we would not be in PI status. Simply stated, our district was placed in PI because one student did not take the math portion of the CAHSEE.

This year, I am confident that we will meet the 95 percent requirement and we will exit PI status. However, this points out the absurdity of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Being in year one of PI requires several things of us: We had to send a letter to all parents in the district informing them of the status; we have to add an addendum to our Local Education Agency Plan stating what we will do to have at least 95 percent of our students test and we have to set aside 10 percent of Title I money for staff development.

This means we take 10 percent of our funding to help students who need additional support and use it for professional development. We already have a substantial budget to pay for professional development and we do not need to use this 10 percent, but we are required to do so.

We are using time, energy and resources to jump through the hoops the state and federal departments of education require that could be much better used on other projects and programs.

Our goal is, and always will be under my administration, to provide the best educational opportunities possible for all of our students. We are proud of the comprehensive programs we offer and of the opportunities we offer to all of our students. I am always sorry when something comes along that forces us to take time, energy and resources away from those programs. That is what No Child Left Behind is doing.

Business Report

Srini Vasan, director of business services



A man cannot be too careful in the choice of its enemies - Oscar Wilde (1854-1900).

I have been reading that the governor's popularity is waning. Polls indicate that his approval rating is dropping at a fast rate. My intent here is not to write a political column but to tie my opening statements to state funding for education and how our budgets are impacted.

The education community is at odds with the governor. The issue is the \$2 billion the governor withheld with promises not to impact future funding if the state collected more revenue. Since then the money owed to K-12 education under Proposition 98 has gone up to \$4 billion.

It is not just the education coalition that is at odds with the governor but other state employees too. The governor may have inadvertently chosen his enemies but is betting on his charisma to take his voice to the ballots. If people choose to side with the governor in the November elections to limit funding to K-12 education, guess who is going

to lose? The kids.

State tax revenues have been coming in strong since January. Our district's budget revenue is the result of what we get from property taxes, state aid, other state revenues and local revenues. According to the funding formula we should see increased funding. The governor's May budget revision will have an answer.

Would I want to be in the governor's shoes? Definitely not. I am in my own shoes trying to balance the budget for the school districts with the following goals. Let me tell you a true story with regards to the first goal.

While trying to arrange a financial transaction, I was asked questions by the vice president of the bank with regards to the district's assets. What is the district's assets in dollars, she asked. I answered that the district's assets come to work every morning, work hard, help offer the best education in this community, and go home in the evening. The district's first goal is to retain all our staff because they are

our assets.

The second goal is to retain all educational programs. There are many other ways to have the district in the headlines of the local newspaper — definitely not by getting rid of programs.

The third goal is to improve and enhance our facilities. Investing in our business is a major key to attracting kids, because we want these youngsters in "our" schools.

The fourth goal is making this a fun place -- learning or teaching!

The governor has his work cut out because as chief executive his job is to balance the budget. May I offer him an advice? I would like to quote the famous Greek philosopher Antisthenes (445 BC to 365 BC). "Observe your enemies, for they first find out your faults."

And, if you want to make peace, talk to your enemies and not your friends. Dear people's governor, please reach out to help education.

Alternative Education News

Roberta Tackett, principal



As the seniors prepare for their Senior Project presentations and graduation, both staff and students have been reflecting on the experiences that have made this a memorable year.

In addition to providing a California standards based curriculum for all alternative students, the staff strives to provide enrichment activities for the students at all of the schools.

These events enhance and supplement the curriculum and provide "real world" experiences for students who might otherwise become isolated.

Field trips are a valuable adjunct to instruction and class work. Many of the events have included students from several of the alternative schools, while others were planned to meet the needs of a specific group of students.

One of the goals of high school is to prepare students for careers. The Ahwahnee High School staff makes a concerted effort to expose their students to all the post graduate opportunities available to them.

Ahwahnee juniors and seniors began the year by attending the Fresno Area College Night at Selland Arena. They met representatives from local, state and nationwide junior colleges, colleges and vocational schools. It was an eye opening experience as they began to realize that there are many paths open to them.

The students also attended college and career activities at the Madera Center and Reedley College. A field trip to Pelco Corporation was organized for all of the alternative schools and the students toured the plant and were advised about the importance of job preparation and good work habits.

All of this culminated with the local high school Job Fair where most of the AHS students who attended found jobs with local businesses seeking summer employees.

The Raymond Granite High School program emphasizes vocational activities. Classes include culinary arts, wood shop, landscape design and maintenance, and computer technology.

This spring students and staff toured the Columbia College culinary arts program. They were shown the campus, the dorms and the culinary program's facilities. During the tour the students were also given the opportunity to make bread and each

student took home the loaf of bread he/she made. As a result, one of the Raymond Granite students plans to attend Columbia College in the fall.

Raymond students are also involved in robotics projects as part of their computer technology class. The students build the robots and then program them to perform various tasks.

Providing cultural experiences is also a goal of the alternative education staff. Students have attended the theatre productions; Tour de Force is a repertory company that tours the nation presenting theatrical productions of well known high school literature.

In October students from Foothill, Ahwahnee, and Raymond Granite High Schools attended the production in Fresno. This was the first time most of the students had experienced a live theatre production.

For the past five years students from Ahwahnee, Foothill and Evergreen High Schools have also become regular attendees at the Fresno Grand Opera Youth Night Productions.

This world class opera has chosen to open the final dress rehearsal of each production to the young people of the area who would otherwise never have the opportunity to be exposed to opera in all its grandeur. Teachers are provided with information about the opera so the students are well prepared when they attend.

This year 25 students from the alternative schools shared a bus with the Yosemite High music students to attend Pagliacci, Gianni Schicchi, in March and Turandot in May. In addition, a patron of the opera donated three tickets for Ahwahnee High School students to attend the Placido Domingo Concert, one of three he will present in the United States this year.

A trip to the Monterey Bay Aquarium was a highlight for Mountain View High, Evergreen High and Foothill High students. The students attended a laboratory session with aquarium staff and then toured the entire facility. Studying the ecology of the plankton beds brought to life the concepts the students studied in class. Ahwahnee and Evergreen students also went to Yosemite to study geology and biology as part of the science curriculum. Evergreen High School teachers have created a new science center where each week

students participate in labs and hands on activities.

Health and fitness are also a part of student life. The Foothill High students go bowling every Friday and have joined the junior bowling association sponsored by our local bowling alley. Sierra Lanes staff members instruct the young bowlers to help improve their form. They challenged the Ahwahnee students to a tournament, so both schools benefited.

Foothill and Raymond Granite have also begun a volleyball competition. The young women in the Evergreen Teen Parent program and from Ahwahnee benefited from the self-defense instructor who presented a series of classes at EHS.

A very special bond has formed between the students at Mountain View High School and Ahwahnee High. Two Ahwahnee students who were previously Mountain View students chose to do their senior project on mentoring younger students. Long after the requirements of the senior project, the Ahwahnee students continue to meet weekly with the Mountain View kids, leading team-building, confidence and character building activities.

I am also very proud of our Mountain View teacher, Karen Falat, who has been recognized by Delta Kappa Gamma as "Teacher of the Year."

Alternative students also benefit from special events at Yosemite High School. The YHS staff graciously includes Ahwahnee, Mountain View and Evergreen students in beneficial activities they organize.

Challenge Day precepts have become engrained in the culture of Ahwahnee High School and is a springboard for discussion at all three of the school.

The recent Every 15 Minutes Program created a new awareness for many students on the effects of drinking and driving. The program will have a lasting impact on many alternative students. Kudos to the seniors who organized the program and the many agencies who participated to make it so realistic.

This has been a busy eventful year which will culminate in the Alternative High Schools' graduation on June 10, 2005, at 7 p.m. at Mountain Christian Center. Seventy students will be recognized for their accomplishments. Please join us as we celebrate.

Coarsegold School News

Randy Haggard, principal



Thank you to everyone in our community who has worked so hard to make the events of the last few weeks fun and exciting for kids. I especially want to thank our PTA for a wonderful Country Fair, and Teri Gambriel for making Heritage Days and the Rodeo a great experience for our students.

Students took the California STAR testing the week of May 9. I am sure that

everyone in our community would be proud to see how hard our students worked to prepare for taking these important assessments.

This exciting year is drawing to a close at Coarsegold School. We still have a very full calendar of events, so please check the events calendar on the school's Web site to keep up with all the news. Don't miss our 8th Grade Graduation ceremony coming

up on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. in the Coarsegold School Quad.

We always need volunteers, so please join us! If you have any questions or suggestions for how we can improve at Coarsegold School, please contact me at 683-4842, ext. 254 or by e-mail at rhaggard@coarsegoldusd.com. All school and district information is available on-line at www.coarsegoldusd.com.



A California Distinguished School

Rivergold School News

Bob Rose, principal



As the school year comes to an end I would like to thank all of the businesses, clubs and service organizations that provide support for our schools. We would not be able to provide the level of

programs and student awards without your support. We will be having a special event at Rivergold on Wednesday, June 8, 3-4 p.m. All parents and community members who have helped

out this year are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided. Please call Rivergold School at 658-7566 option 4 if you would like to attend. Thank you for another successful year! Live strong!

Yosemite and Coarsegold Districts School News

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Yosemite Joint Union High School District News



The Yosemite High School Chamber Singers sang the National Anthem at the Grizzlies' baseball game in Fresno April 13. They are shown above performing at the game with their director, Dr. Tony Mowrer.



Yosemite High School Principal Steve Raupp with Laura Darling, the district's Golden Apple recipient.

End-of-year concerts planned by choir, band in school's new theater

Yosemite High School's music department will present the final concerts of the school year June 2 and 7.

The instrumental music department's concert, under the direction of Randy Hyatt, will be Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the new theater at YHS.

The concert will feature the school's Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and

Percussion Ensembles.

The cost for each concert is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children and senior citizens or \$15 for families of four or more.

The choir concert, under the direction of Dr. Tony Mowrer, will be Tuesday, June 7, in the YHS theater at 7:30 p.m.

The band and choirs were to participate in music festivals in Anaheim May 14.

There will be a Summer Music Camp at YHS this year July 5-7 and 11-14 from 8 a.m. to noon with vocal and instrumental classes. This program is for all potential music students from grades 7-12. The fee is \$50.

Sign up by e-mail (choral: tmowrer@yosemiteuhsd.com; and vocal: rhyatt@yosemiteuhsd.com or call 683-4667 ext. 242 or 243.

Graduation dates are set

Schools within the Yosemite Joint Union High School District will hold graduations on the following dates:

Ahwahnee, Evergreen, Foothill and Raymond Granite High Schools: Friday, June 10, 7 p.m., Mountain Christian Center.

Glacier High School: Friday, June 10, 4 p.m., Oakhurst Community Center.

Yosemite High School: Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. YHS football field.

The YHS graduation will be followed by an all-night Sober Graduation party at Sierra Lanes. The event ends at 5 a.m.

This is free to YHS seniors. The evening will include food, prizes, games, contests, Sumo wrestling, a rock wall and bungee run.

Marty and Lela Mayhorth of Madera and Oakhurst Auto Mall have donated a used vehicle to be given away.

YJUHS honors Laura Darling with Golden Apple

Laura Darling was awarded the Golden Apple from the Yosemite Joint Union High School District at a dinner sponsored by the Mariposa / Madera County Charter of the Association of California School Administrators.

She was selected for the honor for her involvement in education not only at the high schools but throughout the mountain area.

Darling chairs the Eastern Madera County Showcase of Schools and the annual Pitman Award Dinner that honors Yosemite High valedictorians.

She has been a participant in Challenge Day at YHS and she serves each year on the boards for senior projects.

Darling was a member of the visiting committee to validate Yosemite High School's Distinguished School application.

An employee of Sierra Telephone, Darling works closely with Sherry Colgate, a former recipient of the

Golden Apple.

In a letter read at the awards dinner by YHS Principal Steve Raupp, Colgate praised Darling for her "hours of tireless work" on behalf of the schools in the mountain area.

Colgate also noted that Darling has "wonderful rapport with children."

Darling's husband, Jim, was also a guest at the dinner.

Each district also awards an ACSA scholarship to a graduating senior. YJUHS's scholarship recipient is Heather Hyatt. She attended the dinner with her parents, Randy and Jeannette Hyatt.

Heather was chosen for her outstanding school record that includes being on the honor roll for four years, in the band and cheerleading for four years. She was homecoming queen in 2004.

She was instrumental in the Every 15 Minutes presentation, working on it for her senior project.

Cinco de Mayo at Mt. View



Mt. View students made Mexican paper flowers on Cinco de Mayo and distributed them throughout the campus.



Chris Glove and Candis Adams are shown doing a traditional Mexican dance. Mt. View student Mayra Rameriz taught them three traditional dances for Cinco de Mayo. Everyone participated including Karen Falat, teacher; Roberta Tackett, principal and Lawna Porter, paraeducator.

Students in Karen Falat's ninth grade class at Mountain View High School observed Cinco de Mayo but learning about Mexican dress, food and dancing from one of their classmates.

Mayra Ramirez, originally from Mexico, took a homemade traditional Mexican outfit including beads, a top, head wrap and skirt.

She also taught the students, teacher, principal and paraeducator three traditional dances. Everyone

participated in learning the dances.

Students made Mexican paper flowers and distributed them throughout the campus. They also sampled Mexican chocolate and Mexican cheese with tortillas and a few of Mayra's favorite foods.

The class studied Mexico, its traditions, cultures and topography.

Everyone who had ever visited Mexico shared their experiences. "We learned the significance of various

Mexican traditions," comments the teacher, Karen Falat.

Cinco de Mayo is a holiday to celebrate the victory of the Mexicans over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

"I am so proud of my students," Falat said. "They have become more culturally aware over this school year and it has broadened their horizons tremendously."



Students from the alternative education program recently went on a field trip to Columbia College's culinary arts program. They learned to bake bread with assistance from one of the chefs at the school. Each student was able to take home a loaf of homemade bread. One Raymond Granite High School student, Brandi Johnson, has been accepted into the Columbia culinary program and will begin classes there in the fall.



Yosemite High School staff members were treated to a special breakfast recently by the Associated Student Body. A carnival theme was used with staff having an opportunity to play some games and win prizes. This is an annual event planned by ASB to honor the staff.

JUDY DURR

Coarsegold Union School District News



Cheer winners were (left to right): Makenna Hunziker, Cayla Bordwine and Jacob Gorba. Not pictured is Brittany Winn.

Mini Cheer Camp is fundraiser

JESSICA DIAZ
7TH GRADE STUDENT
 The Coarsegold Cheer Squad held a Mini Cheer Camp on Thursday, April 28. The Mini Cheer Camp was a fundraiser for the cheer squad.

The event was attended by 48 kindergarten through seventh grade students. The squad taught the students jumps, chants, a cheer and a dance. At the end of the Mini Cheer Camp, the students performed the cheers and dance for their parents. During the camp, the

Coarsegold cheerleaders looked for students with spirit and a positive attitude to win the Spirit Stick for their grade range. The winners were: Brittany Winn (K-1), Makenna Hunziker (2-3) Cayla Bordwine (4-5) and Jacob Gorba (6-7).



Coarsegold Elementary School students served as the color guard for Heritage Days at the Coarsegold Rodeo. They are shown taking the state flag into the Bohra Arena during the April event.

Spaceship Earth musical presented

Coarsegold Elementary School's primary students recently performed in a musical called Spaceship Earth. It was directed by third grade teacher Anne Hertwig. The set and costumes were

designed by Annie and Emily Penton as part of their YHS senior project and community service work. Songs included messages about Earth's preservation, natural resources, beauty,

conservation, and space exploration. Coarsegold School was able to present this program because of a grant from the Oakhurst Sierra Sunrise Rotary Club.

Dorothy Wells receives Golden Apple



Dorothy Wells is shown receiving her Golden Apple award from Coarsegold Elementary School Principal Randy Haggard.

Dorothy Wells is the Coarsegold Union School District Golden Apple recipient. She was honored May 9 at a ceremony in Chowchilla. She was selected for being a classroom volunteer for the last five years. Besides helping students and the teacher, Wells also supplies treats for holidays and always makes sure there are enough goodies for class parties. She helps students on an individual basis when she sees a need. "Mrs. Wells has gone above and beyond for kids," according to the nomination letter.

Coarsegold students share technology skills in Fresno, Mariposa counties

Coarsegold sixth graders have had several opportunities to share their technology skills all around Fresno and Mariposa counties. Jon Corippo and Tracy Hurd's sixth grade students have gone from Sanger Unified in the south all the way to Mariposa in the north. The training at Mariposa's Woodland school was spaced out over two Wednesdays in January, and included all of Woodland's fifth and sixth grade classes. The Woodland students learned how to "beam" documents wirelessly, use an electronic dictionary, word process using infrared keyboards, do animations, read ebooks and

even made their own electronic quizzes. The Mariposa training portion went so well that the Coarsegold students were able to make an unscheduled stop to train the fourth graders as well. On April 6 additional sixth graders went to SUSD's Fairmont school where they trained six different classes of seventh and eighth graders under the guidance of Mike Castillo. The Fairmont students took electronic quizzes on the constitution and weather and did Palm-based research and outlining on the Gettysburg Address and evolution. The training was successful enough

that Fairmont is looking into adopting Palms next year. Coarsegold's three student training teams were: Logan Alberta, Clayton Gambрил, Kathryn Voltmer, Alex Long, Brandon Fuller, Skyler Towle, Jessica Folsom, Eric Cruz, Kailash Black and Kelsey Eads. Corippo commented that the Coarsegold students were extremely well behaved and impressed both schools with their technology skills in a wide variety of disciplines. Another team of CG students was scheduled to share their skills at Yosemite High School May 6.

Rivergold students visit Catalina



Calliope Hologue and Margaret Mele snorkel in the Pacific Ocean during the school's trip to Catalina Island.



Jaimie Anstess and Ariel Campbell explore the kelp forest off Catalina Island.

This year, the eighth graders at Rivergold Elementary went on a field trip to Fax Landing on Catalina Island. They spent three days and two nights on the island with the Catalina Island Marine Institute.

The students explored marine biology and island ecology as they snorkeled and sea kayaked along the Catalina Island coastline. Studies included squid dissection, hands-on shark tanks and a night snorkel.

Rivergold students win state "Dizzy Derby" competition

A team of seven eighth graders from Rivergold School competed in Destination Imagination "Dizzy Derby," a national competition that teaches creative problem solving skills in completing a variety of challenges. The eighth graders designed and built a motor-

ized vehicle, wrote a skit, a song, and won second place in the regional competition, moving on to the state competition and winning first place for Madera County. The students who participated in this year's Destination Imagination events were:



Kindergarten students in Mary Gomez's class at Rivergold observed Mother's Day by sharing their poems and giving their mothers a makeover.

For up-to-date school information, visit the Web sites at: www.yosemiteuhd.com or www.coarsegoldusd.com