Board Highlights
May 27, 2016

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Teacher Ms. Alma Rossete of East Union High School shares her newly established Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture class’ final project. Students created their own ‘island’ and presented to their classmates the experiences and problems encountered during their visit. Feliz viaje!

Joshua Cowell celebrates WE Day

WE Day is a celebration of youth making a difference in their local and global communities. At Joshua Cowell, students in grade groups chose a charity to donate to. Primary grades chose the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Intermediate grades chose FAVA Foundation (Fibro Adipose Vascular Anomaly), and Jr. High selected AGAPE Foster Services. Students showed selflessness and compassion and as a community, experienced the power of WE to make a difference.

“You have the power to make a difference both locally and globally. We’re showing the world that WE is so much stronger that me.” First Lady, Michelle Obama.
**Community Outreach & Innovative Programs Dept.**

**School Events with attachments**

**Friday, May 27, 2016**

**Lathrop High** celebrates the first in school history, American Degree recipient.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs). The American FFA Degree is awarded at the National FFA Convention & Expo each year to less than 1% of FFA members making it one of the organization’s highest honors.

*Congratulations Lathrop High graduate, Alli Plata!*

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**Weston Ranch High School’s** Advanced Art class with Ms. Kira Eadington, shares with us ceiling tiles students created as their final project.

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**Community Outreach & Innovative Programs**
Community Outreach & Innovative Programs Dept.

School Events with attachments

Friday, May 27, 2016

Knights of George McParland were recognized for student attendance, sports, and academic music and art. Congratulations Knights, on your many accomplishments!

During the Tall Tales and Heroes musical play performed by 3rd graders of McParland, audience members traveled back in time with: Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill, Slue Foot Sue, Davy Crockett, Calamity Jane, John Henry and Paul Bunyan. A rip snortin’ good time was had by all!
School Events with attachments

Friday, May 27, 2016

8th graders of McParland took a field trip to the famous AT&T Park. Home of the World Series Champions of 2010, 2012 and 2014 San Francisco Giants. The guided tour brought the Knights through the dugout, field and press box, and also included a showing of the Championship trophies.

7Walter Woodward’s performance of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.
It was hardly a surprise that Si Jie “Jessica” Tang was valedictorian for Manteca High’s Class of 2016.

After all, she had an unbelievable 4.89 grade point average and was already Ivy League-bound – she chose Yale over Stanford.

Edvin Pepic is honored to be salutatorian. He had a 4.7 GPA and will be attending UCLA in the fall – he’ll be joining his brother Mahir Pepic, who was last year’s co-valedictorian, as a Bruin.

Besides the classroom, Tang and Pepic both played tennis for the Buffaloes.
Pepic missed playing his senior year due to his work schedule as the Give Every Child a Chance site coordinator at Woodward Elementary School. Prior to that, he was a doubles player for a MHS program that won a pair of Valley Oak League titles and one Sac-Joaquin Section finalist.

Those moments were highlights of the past four years for Pepic, who will be studying Political Science before going into Pre-Law.

He’s the son of Sanela and Ejup Pepic.

Jessica Tang is the daughter of Pei Fen Chen and Rong Bo Tang. She took up tennis in her junior year and played first doubles.

Tang spent three years on the MHS swim program. Her events were the 100-meter breast stroke and the 100 freestyle.

She prides involvement with Academic Decathlon among her fond moments of the past few years, in particular, last year.

“We made it to state for the first time in 10 years,” said Tang, who noted that the state event was held in Sacramento.

She was co-captain for the MHS Academic Decathlon team that captured the county competition.

At Yale, Tang is looking to major in Molecular Biology with a neurobiology tract.

For now, she and Pepic are looking forward to Friday.

They’ll be leading their fellow classmates into Guss Schmiedt Field for graduation scheduled for Friday, May 27, beginning at 7 p.m.

Both were nervous about addressing those in attendance.

“I’d like to do something comical,” said Tang in trying to prepare her speech.

Pepic is also looking to go more tongue in cheek with his speech but with a little bit of a serious note towards the end.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/134926/
Debbie Mitzman has been at Sierra High since its opening in 1994. In those past 21 years, she’s taught English classes – namely, Advanced Placement, English Honors and Reading Proficiency – not to mention those learning English as their second language. Mitzman also taught at Lathrop Elementary, New Haven, and Stella Brockman. All told, she tallied 40 years with the Manteca Unified School District. A Beatles fan, she finally earned her “Ticket to Ride,” retiring at the end of the school year.

Mitzman will be missed.

“Over the past 40 years, Mrs. Mitzman has educated and inspired thousands of students and staff members,” said the letter from the office of Principal Steve Clark. “Her enthusiasm and demand for excellence in the classroom has been remarkable and unwavering.”
“Her connection, love, and passion for music – and the Beatles – will undoubtedly accompany her through her retirement years, which is fitting considering that she has connected so many to a good book or favorite author and to develop a love for reading.”

Mitzman is a 1975 graduate of University of the Pacific, where she earned a degree in Liberal Studies and multiple subject credential.

She taught second to eighth grades at three MUSD elementary school sites. In 1978, Mitzman attained a Single Subject Credential in English. It was that year she was named Manteca Educators’ Association Teacher of the Year. She was recognized as a San Joaquin County A+ Teacher in 2008.

In addition, Mitzman was honored by the San Joaquin County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission as the Outstanding Youth Service Educational Professional. She has been a presenter for two years at the California Peer Resource State Conference.

At Sierra, Mitzman helped bring the Yellow Ribbon Program for Suicide Prevention and Awareness to campus – via SHS Peer Resource – and was the co-chair for years for the English Department.

The school sent her this message: “So, Mrs. Mitzman, may your retirement bring you joy and happiness knowing that you made a difference in the lives of many – and may you have ‘Strawberry Fields Forever.’”

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/134948/
Graduation at the Manteca Unified’s be.tech Charter High School was held outdoors for the first time Tuesday, having more than doubled in size from the previous year.

VINCE REMBULAT / The Bulletin

Not too many people gave Marissa Lafayette much of a chance a few years ago.

She was behind in her studies and was dealing with family issues. “No one thought I was going to walk with my class,” said Lafayette at Tuesday’s be.tech Charter High School graduation.

She not only received her diploma but finished a year earlier.

“I did nonstop homework for the last nine months,” said Lafayette, who delivered the message to never give up to the 107 graduates at the fourth annual event held outdoors for the first time in the Manteca Unified School District complex.

The reason for that, according to Karen Olson of be.tech’s be.cuisine, is the growth of the public charter school in recent years.
The be.tech program offers students with career path options in Industrial Arts, Culinary Arts, Nutrition Education, Hospitality & Tourism, First Responders and Computer Programming & Game Design.

They’ve also learned English, math and history, for example, while focusing on their career paths.

“We’ve knocked out our classes in order to secure our future,” said Cathaline Romero, who also received a $500 scholarship from the Manteca Police Chief Foundation.

She earned that first-place prize from an essay submitted to Police Chief Nick Obligacion, who was guest speaker.

He and Patty Page, the district’s director of Nutrition Services, received community recognition from Principal Diane Medeiros for their contributions to be.tech.

“This is a great program,” Obligacion said. “Students learn skills that they can immediately use or further their education.

“I’ve watched (be.tech) grow to what it is today.”

Among the students receiving recognition were Alex Martell, Dexter Monroe and Monica Manzo for Educational Excellence.

Jennifer Banuelos Contreras, Michael Barros, Nathan Corry, James Delgado, Sanders Garcia, Dakota Goddard-Hauk, Dulce Gonzalez Reyes, Christopher Irada, Owen McLarty, Isabelle Munoz, Tiana Muschott, Kerynne Powell, Victor Robles, Katerina Torres and Romero were also honored for academic and / or citizenship, or career technical education achievement.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/134971/
Shasta, Sequoia, Cowell & Lathrop Promote Students (Manteca Bulletin)

TOP PHOTO: The 8th graders of Shasta Elementary pose for a class picture inside of the Manteca High School gymnasium. BOTTOM PHOTO: Marcos Mendoza and Frederick Cruz share a moment before the start of Shasta Elementary School’s 8th grade promotion at Manteca High Tuesday night.

Jason Campbell
jcampbell@mantecabulletin.com
209-249-3544
May 25, 2016
Shasta Elementary School students got their first taste of what high school will be like on Tuesday night when they crowded into Manteca High School’s Winter Gymnasium to say goodbye to their elementary education.

As part of the school’s promotion ceremony, students were honored for their academic achievements and given the chance to reflect on their nine years as elementary students – something hit on in Emily Agbayani’s speech to the parents, friends, and family members in attendance.

The Shasta students will attend Manteca High School next year.

SEQUOIA

Their days as Tigers have to an end.

The Sequoia Elementary School 8th grade class took their final steps as elementary students Tuesday afternoon at Manteca High School in ceremony that marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one – taking place, appropriately, on the campus that many of the students will be attending as high school freshman next year.

Malana Sagapolu led the crowd inside of Manteca High’s Winter Gym in the Pledge of Allegiance while she joined Bianca Dungca in welcoming the family and friends of the students to the ceremony.

Sagapolu also joined Jennifer Aguilar, Beatrice Dungca, Julia Moreno and Vanessa Plascencia in delivering the Valedictorian’s speech to the students who were promoting.

LATHROP

It was one of the first schools in the district to scrap the traditional “graduation” plan for students who were going on to high school.

And on Tuesday, Lathrop Elementary continued its morning breakfast tradition for promoting its students onto the next phase of their educational career with a ceremony that packed the school’s multipurpose room.

Students and families were welcomed by Channel Pien and Jasmine Gandarilla who also led them through the Pledge of Allegiance and Heaven Gonzalez gave the student speech that highlighted the years that were spent on the campus and the memories and friendships they would carry with them for life.

Lathrop High School Principal Mike Horwood once again gave the commencement address to the students who will be under his direction in the fall.
COWELL

Some of the students spent nine years walking onto the Joshua Cowell Elementary School campus as students.

And on Tuesday afternoon, they said goodbye.

With speeches by Student Body President Jayda Jackson, Student Body Vice President Sahar Hakim and Activities Commissioner Rae Lene Finley, the students who will be moving onto high school in August heard about the experiences they all shared and the journey they’re about to embark upon as they move on to the next chapter of their life.

The crowd was welcomed by Activities Commissioner Victorian Villalvazo, and also heard promotion speeches from Kiersten Melan and Mikayla Sarmento.

To contact reporter Jason Campbell email jcampbell@mantecabulletin.com or call 209.249.3544.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/134974/
Golden West Promotes 65 Students into High School (Manteca Bulletin)

Vince Rembulat
vrembulat@mantecabulletin.com
209-249-3537
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Some 65 students at Golden West Elementary School took their first step towards high school.

That’s the number receiving their eighth grade promotion certificate Tuesday at the special event held in the school’s Multi-Purpose Building.

They were led by Esmeralda Calvillo and Lourdes Ceja, who made the Principal’s Honor Roll with identical 4.0 grade point averages for the past year.
Ceja also addressed the Class of 2016 with her student speech, “Looking Back.”

Principal Sheri Gates was away attending a family graduation. Instead, Vice Principal Jennifer Taylor had the honors of presenting the class for their promotion papers.


http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/134973/
Jagveer Singh didn’t ask for his fellow East Union graduates to go out and change the world.

But what the valedictorian did do when he had his moment to speak to his peers and leave them with lingering words at the school’s commencement ceremony Thursday night at Dino Cunial Field.

Just be crazy enough to think that you can change the world.

While his address was littered with insights and information that the first generation American shared with his fellow graduates, he ended with a quote from Apple founder and tech visionary Steve Jobs that has come to represent the entire ethos of the Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who are actually changing the people interact across the globe.
“People who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world are the ones who usually do.”

It was a lofty proclamation to cap of a speech to the packed stadium, but considering Singh’s background, it makes perfect sense.

When he started kindergarten at Brock Elliott Elementary School, he didn’t speak a word of English. And in his 13 years since then in Manteca Unified, he not only mastered the language and a culture that was foreign to his family, but he managed to hold an impeccable academic record during the process.

His story, he said, was rife with challenges. But at the end of the day, everybody has a chance to get back up from their stumbles and make course corrections that can have a lifetime’s worth of impact.

“We’re always going to have the opportunity to get back up, improve upon ourselves, and make a difference to the people around you,” Singh said to his graduates.

And he wasn’t the only speaker who drew from his familial roots to tell a story that was classically American – about later generations making the most of the opportunities that weren’t available to previous generations in other countries.

Co-salutatorian Aiko Jones talked about how every summer she would bring her end-of-the-year report card back to her grandfather in Japan who would muster up an “I’m so proud of you” in his best broken English – something that resonated with her as she spoke to her classmates, family and friends.

“Don’t forget what you worked so hard for these last 12 years,” Jones said. “So to the Class of 2016, I wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.”

Caitlin Oberman, who served as the Co-Salutatorian with Jones, was a little more pointed in her comments.

“People say that these are supposed to be the best four years of our lives,” she said. “And I hope that is only a fallacy. It’s always good to look back, but we need to strive to make each new day better than the last, enjoy the moments, and take the life changing opportunities as they arise.”

It wasn’t just the scholarly students that had the opportunity to address the crowd either.

Every year East Union holds an open tryout for one senior to speak at graduation, and this year the honor went to Brenda Hinton – who started her high school career at Pacheco High School in Los Banos.

And she wasn’t in a very good place with her studies when she arrived at East Union.
While her speech was somewhat interrupted by what appeared to be a medical emergency in the crowd, Hinton talked about how she started with literally no points in her Biology class and through her exposure with quality teachers and classmates on campus, changed her entire attitude and outlook on what she wanted to get from her education.

It didn’t take long before she ended up with a 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

“I’ve met some amazing people since I’ve been here, and everybody out there has a story and has people that helped them get to where they are today,” Hinton said. “It’s about making choices and I can stand here today and say that I’m proud of the choice that I’ve made here at East Union.”

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/135015/
Kaitlynn Gov experienced an awkward moment at Thursday’s commencement exercises at Weston Ranch High.

The salutatorian for the Class of 2016 had her graduation cap blow off her head from a strong gust on her way to the dais.

She played it off, calling it a “failed” but timely moment.

For failing is a part of the process in growing and achieving in life, according to Gov.

“So get ready to fail, fail, fail. But be ready to get up time after time again,” she said to graduating group of 262.

This special event was a celebration of achievement, first-year principal Francine Baird said.

It wasn’t just families who made this day possible but rather the entire community of southwest Stockton, she noted.

Graduation was also about the moment.
“We’re living our future memories,” said valedictorian April Vang.

What’s next?

“We will take different and unique paths in our lives,” said Vang, who also pointed out to her classmates the importance of remembering their origins.

She and Gov were recognized as the top academic students at the school. They were joined by the likes of Fernando Aguila, Semhale Danfa, Mariz Dano, Arcel Dimaano, Jillian Foronda, Alex Gonzalez, Lezly Gonzalez, Pavandeep Janday, Jose Lupian Deltoro, Lauren Macatangay, Alexandra Navarro, Lizbeth Ortiz, Sabrina Rahgozar, Karla Ramos, Joana Ramirez Vazquez, Aveneet Rekhi, Samantha Sanchez, Manvir Sangha, Charles Udeze, and Aileen Velasquez.

Each sported California Scholarship Federation gold cords.

Senior class President Sabrina Martinez, in addition, shared her fond memories.

She recalled the Friday night football games over the past four years on this very venue.

Martinez looked back at the “intense” basketball games and even the halftime routines by the cheerleaders.

“These memories are who we are,” she said.

To contact reporter Vince Rembulat, e-mail vrembulat@mantecabulletin.com.

http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/135014/
Athlete of the Week (Manteca Bulletin)

Scott Tolman, Sierra swimmer

Winning a medal at the CIF State Swimming Championships is an achievement in its own right. But Scott Tolman won two on Saturday, and also walked away with an achievement that very few high school swimmers can ever say that they’ve been honored with — a chance to represent their country at the Summer Olympics.

Tolman, a Sierra High School senior, qualified for the US Olympic Trials and will stand a chance to compete to make the United States swim team and compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Tolman has committed to California Baptist University in the fall, and qualified for the Olympic Trials based on his time at the State Championships, which he swam at last year as a junior.
Calla High Graduation (Manteca Bulletin)

TOP PHOTO: Calla High graduate Alicia Valdivia, left, starts to line up before Friday’s graduation ceremonies at Calvary Community Church. BOTTOM PHOTO: Graduates Devillyn Jackson and Joel Manzo look over Principal Kathy Crouse’s gown signed by members of the Class of 2016.
LEFT PHOTO: Calla High graduates wait for the processional to start.
PHOTO BELOW: Part of the Calla High Class of 2016.

HIME ROMERO/The Bulletin

LEFT PHOTO: Calla High graduate and student speaker Kayleigh Spragins addresses the gathering. TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Daniel Decker, center, gets ready to lead fellow graduates into the auditorium. BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: Calla High teacher Natalie Pyers is all smiles as she chats with graduates.
Cowell School  (Manteca Bulletin)

LEFT PHOTO: Gary Orr fixes the tie of John Badilla Tuesday afternoon prior to the start of Joshua Cowell’s 8th grade promotion ceremony. RIGHT PHOTO: Isabel Barraza and Muskan Saini take a selfie before walking into the Joshua Cowell promotion ceremony.

Lathrop School  (Manteca Bulletin)

LEFT PHOTO: Brianna Salcedo and Chloe Pasillas wait to make their entrance to the Lathrop Elementary School 8th grade promotion ceremony. RIGHT PHOTO: Andrew Rodriguez makes sure his lei is perfectly in place before marching into the Lathrop Elementary multipurpose room.
TOP PHOTO: Woodward School eighth grade graduate Ella Washburn, center front, poses with her classmates for their official photograph on Wednesday. BOTTOM PHOTO: Graduates pose for a fun photo.
TOP PHOTO: Woodward School Principal Sherrie Jamero, right, gets some candid shots on her iPhone for the Manteca Unified School District website during Wednesday's Woodward School eighth grade promotion exercise. BOTTOM PHOTO: Woodward School graduate Dy'Lon Valentine, right, stands with classmates waiting for the ceremonies to start. See additional school promotion stories and photos on Pages A7 and A8. Others will appear in upcoming editions.

HIME ROMERO/
The Bulletin
TOP PHOTO: The 8th graders of Veritas Elementary School pose for a class picture. BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO: Arneet and Jazpreet Kaur use their phones to check their hair before walking in to the Veritas Elementary School 8th grade promotion ceremony Tuesday evening. BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO: David Hook takes a break before the start of the ceremony at Veritas while Jessica De Los Santos looks around.
TOP PHOTO: Dominic Rea, Tyler Gallion and Gabriel Ramirez share a laugh before making their way into the Sequoia Elementary promotion ceremony Tuesday afternoon. BOTTOM PHOTO: Malana Sangapolu and Julia Moreno take a moment to listen to instructions before the ceremony begins.

JASON CAMPBELL/
The Bulletin
LEFT PHOTO: Tarun Singh, Noe Martinez, Jonathan David and Gabriel Gutierrez pose for a picture in matching bowties before ending their time at New Haven Elementary School Tuesday night at Stella Brockman’s Multipurpose Room. RIGHT PHOTO: Frank Clark and Ryan Ward check the time before making their way into the New Haven Elementary 8th Grade promotion ceremony Tuesday evening.
The Nile Garden School choir performs "Touch the Sky" during Wednesday's eighth grade promotion ceremonies.

Graduates stand during the presentation of the class. RIGHT PHOTO: Student Sarah Marlin gives her speech.

HIME ROMERO/ The Bulletin
TOP PHOTO: Getting ready for Brock Elliott School’s promotion exercises Wednesday in the Sierra High gym are eighth graders, from left, Axel Rios, Katelyn Finnicum, Kanani Drummond, and Jazmine Escobar. ABOVE PHOTO: Graduates stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. RIGHT PHOTO: Brock Elliott graduate Arianna Kurys gets ready at the back of the line of her classmates.
Neil Hafley Promotes 109 Eighth Graders (Manteca Bulletin)

LEFT PHOTO: Parents took cell phone photos of their youngsters prior to this special event for eighth grade students. RIGHT PHOTO: Jack Hutchinson makes his way down the aisle during the processional of Neil Hafley Elementary School’s eighth grade promotion ceremonies.