

CUSD NEWS



Important Dates:

- No School, November 25 - November 29
Thanksgiving Holiday
- Annual Organizational & Regular Board Meeting - December 17 @ 6 p.m.
- No School, December 23 - January 10, 2020
Winter Break

Working With Heart

All of us who work in the District have a distinct advantage in our work. We make it our service and even our passion for setting up all kids for success.

What we do daily becomes "work" or drudgery when disconnected from purpose. We have a distinct advantage in our career or calling. That is, we have a daily reminder of the presence of our purpose: kids!

There are few greater careers in life than having the privilege to affect and influence the next generation. Our students' success or failure is heavily influenced by the attitudes, beliefs, actions, and expectations of the adults that influence them day after day, year after year, for fourteen solid years!



What we do daily becomes transforming as we make a difference in young people's lives. Whether it is making a delicious lunch, serving up a smile, providing an encouraging word, making their spaces safe and clean, teaching a lesson that inspires learning and growing or transporting kids with skill and care, we have an important purpose and mission.



Every day we get up and have a joyful, but weighty opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of young people. A heart full of purpose can touch and help transform the hearts of a generation.

Meet our Staff



Andrew Saldana

What is your work history, including at CUSD?

My work history is primarily with Corcoran Unified School District. I am currently in my 9th year in the classroom. I was a substitute teacher for six years and am now in my 3rd Year as Mission Community Day School Teacher Junior High at Kings Lake. I am also in my 7th year as Head Varsity Wrestling Coach at Corcoran High School.

What is most rewarding to you when working with students or in your job?

To me, the most rewarding part of my job is watching my students grow from within. I'm slowly seeing my students develop positive character traits such as accountability, responsibility, and empathy. Seeing this growth development is the most rewarding part of my job.

What special project(s) are you working on with the students or in your job?

A project I have implemented in my classroom is developing a Social Contract. The contract was developed by my students. It has been effective in regard to the students being accountable for their actions. The students are constantly reminding each other any time the contract is violated. It is worked out really well, and I plan on continuing to use it.

Who has been the biggest inspiration in your life?

The biggest inspiration in my life has been my children. They are my inspiration/motivation being called dad is the best title I can have.

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am a life long resident of Corcoran. I went through all the schools in the district. I graduated Corcoran High in 2002, went to West Hills Lemoore, and attended CSU Chico graduated from Chico State in 2008. I coach youth soccer/softball and of course, wrestling. I am also working towards a Masters Degree in Education through National University. I have three children Savannah 9, Sophia, five, and Samuel is a newborn. In my spare time, I love to go fishing, barbecue, and hanging out with friends and family.

If the world were listening, what would you say?

If the world were listening, I would tell the world to chill out. Respect one another and accept each other for our differences; these differences are what make us unique and individuals. Everyone has their place, think before you judge and put yourself in someone else's shoes before you pass judgment. Everyone has a story.

"Andrew has one of the hardest classes in the district, yet he comes to work every day with a smile and a great attitude and outlook for the students. He knows each of his students very well. Andrew has a good handle on what each of his students is needing to get on track. But in a job like his every student is at times their island and the patience he possesses is perfect for the clientele that he serves. He is always willing to help out extra and continuously checks in to see how I'm doing is that I am new and care deeply for the kids as well. I was pleased to recognize Mr. Saldana for his efforts because, at times, the things that teachers in his position do go unnoticed and unappreciated."-Brian **Brazier, Kings Lake Education Center Principal**

Around the District



CUSD

STAR STUDENTS

The Star Students were recognized at the November 12, 2019, Board Meeting.

Pictured back row: Board President Patty Robertson, Vice President Bobby Toney, Clerk Sammy Ramirez, and Trustee Karen Frey.

Front Row: Christopher Alanis Garcia, Neto Leon, Zachary Hemans and Grant Meik.



**AFJROTC
COLOR GAURD**



U.S. AIR FORCE

This was the first year the AFROTC Presented the Colors to our Board at a board meeting. Presenting the Colors is a military tradition dating back to the beginning of our country. When the Color Guard performs, the four cadets form a line. The cadets on the ends carry rifles, while the middle cadets carry the flags. It was an honor to have them.



Around the District



Congratulations to Coach Ramirez and his staff for once again capturing the 2019 ESL Girls & Boys Varsity League Titles!



GO PANTHERS!



**John C. Fremont
Students participate in**



Miss Pimentel, Mrs. Puga, and Mrs. Early's 2nd-grade classes participated in Socktober. These students learned what it was like to support those in need in their community. Participation was as easy as donating a pair of socks that were sent to the Corcoran Emergency Aid. Thank you, John C. Fremont students for making a big difference!



Around the District



Cafeteria Ladies get into the



John C. Fremont



Bret Harte Elementary



Corcoran High School



Hard work is not the key to success . . .

Heart work is.

~ Sam Horn, Author



What does it mean to work with the heart? That means being driven by what you want to do, not what you have to do. I remember looking forward to mowing my lawn after we were able to scrimp up enough money to buy our first home. There was a purpose attached to something representing my family and me. I remember actually looking forward to working extra hours on the odd jobs because I knew there was a purpose to provide more for my family. I remember spending hours writing curriculum and creating a curriculum, using software to create video simulations and demonstrations for my students. I knew what it could do to create interest, enthusiasm, and learning. I had a personal relationship with the kids I was responsible for teaching and motivating, and I could almost see their faces as I spent those extra hours to create lessons that made a difference.

In the same way, I see our food service staff put their heart and soul in their work looking forward to those faces light up when they see the food presented before them. I see teachers working with other staff members, poring over achievement data, then building personalized lessons to move our kids to the next level of learning. I walk in those classrooms and see the sense of pride and achievement as they coach their kids to improvement and success. They do it with heart and passion.

I see secretaries, aids, and community contacts who greet students, staff, and parents with smiles and a welcoming voice demonstrating how they love what they do and who they serve. I see custodians, maintenance, and grounds workers take pride in their work. They emanate a sense of joy and appreciation in making a difference in developing an attractive, clean environment for kids and staff.

At the end of the day, our CUSD family feels as though they are hardly working because they are people who are constantly "heartly working!"

