As we approach the midpoint of the first quarter, students are immersed in the usual work of the fall season. VUSD works to support the needs of the fall such as school carnivals, fall sports, and preparing for parent teacher conferences. Our staff can expect that behind the scenes, District staff is working behind the scenes to create an inclusive, positive, and safe climate and culture through venues such as VUSD’s student, staff, and community task forces, and the Equity and Student Services Forums. We held seven “Visit with VUSD” sessions at restaurants and coffee shops around Visalia where we listened to and learned from parents and community members on topics such as homework, facilities, transportation, and special education. These are just a few highlights of the things that VUSD has accomplished over the course of the last few months.

As we plan ahead, we are excited about a number of developments. As part of our commitment to provide the best possible education for the children of our community, the District is currently actively seeking the input of parents and staff on the design of our newest high school and the development of our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). We are working hard to improve achievement in reading, math, and college-and-career readiness for all students. We are implementing new standards and framework for the Next Generation Science Standards across all grade levels. We have also received grants that will help us support the development of a new generation of educators.

In this newsletter, you will find information regarding a few of the things we are working on that will allow us to better serve the children and families of Visalia. We have many reasons to be optimistic about our future and our ability to fulfill our mission of providing our students with an education that affords them the best opportunities for the future so they may live lives of hope and purpose.
No one is born knowing how to teach. Becoming a teacher is one of the most complex intellectual and emotional journeys an individual can undertake. A successful journey begins with support, guidance, and community. CSU Fresno Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is partnering with Visalia Unified School District to build a foundation of support as student teachers from CSUF become the future teachers for the students in VUSD. Through this partnership, student teachers have the opportunity to learn in a laboratory school setting on our Manuel Hernandez Elementary School campus.

“This has been an amazing experience for VUSD and the CSUF students. It is an exciting opportunity to build capacity for student learning and relationships. I am so thankful for these experiences and collaboration between VUSD and CSUF,” Andres Gomez, Principal of Manuel Hernandez Elementary School.
Thank You Measure A!

ROBERT GROBER
Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

Measure A is the District’s local government bond that passed in 2018 with over 60% of the vote. Measure A only needed 55% of the vote to pass, but did so with the overwhelming support of our community, which in turn will bring facilities improvements to the students of Visalia Unified School District. The $100 million bond program to bring more than $225 million in projects for our students. The District’s modernization schedule is to have new middle school science labs up to the same standard regardless of their age. Students at the beginning of instruction may not know many of the scientific concepts. Students will develop an understanding of the concepts through engaging in scientific practices and making sense of their learning. Students will participate in productive struggle in which they will re-evaluate and re-build their ideas to better understand the scientific understanding in order to support our students and teachers. We adapted new materials for our science labs.

During the 2018-2019 school year, teacher surveys of all 43 school sites were critically reviewed a large number of instructional materials that were screened by the California Department of Education. Our adoption team spent many hours using a standards-based review to evaluate the various materials. At the end of the review process, we chose science materials that enable students to actively learn science! Students are not only learning science but also doing science! The PTA provides tools and resources—such as our Connect for Success initiative—that help students, parents and schools support their learning, which translates into college and career success in the future.

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PTA - We stand for children

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PTA’s AREAS OF FOCUS
Student and School Success — All students should receive a world-class education and prepare themselves for the world of work in college and career. PTA programs like Take Your Family to School Week, Family Reading Night, Family Literacy Experience and School of Excellence are examples of how PTAs can help families to build a strong educational foundation in their children’s education and support their learning, which makes a difference for student success and school improvement.

We should have a healthy and safe place to live, learn and thrive. PTA provides tools and resources—such as our Connect for Respect initiative—that help students, parents and schools.