



# Plumas Lake Elementary School District Community Newsletter

March 7, 2014

## PLESD's Technology Initiative

Goal 1 Device for Every 2 Students by 2015-16

The PLESD School Board and Administration has made student technology a priority for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. The State provided the District over \$200,000 to improve technology in the next two years in conjunction with the implementation of the California Common Core Standards. The Districts Plan has 3 goals focused on 1) expanding students knowledge, 2) preparing teachers, and 3) expanding infrastructure. The overall goal is:

**Students will expand their use of information and technology resources in authentic learning opportunities.**

Phase 1 2013-14:

- Hired Director of Innovation and Instructional Technology, Brian Briggs
- Chose seven teachers to be Innovators and pilot new devices.
- Purchased 200 Chromebooks (seven class sets for Innovators)
- Became a Google District—students have Google accounts managed by the District.
- Implementing Staff Development in multiple areas.



Phase 2 Summer 2014:

- Chose seven additional Innovators
- Purchase 200 more devices— some Chromebooks possibly some tablets or other devices.
- Upgrade school site infrastructure to support technology.
- Continue Staff Development opportunities.



Phase 3 Jan 2015:

- Purchase 200 more for a total of 600 devices for approximately 1200 students (1:2 ratio).
- Staff Development

## Dr. Roberts Named Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Jeff Roberts was honored and named Superintendent of the year for the Colusa, Sutter, and Yuba Counties chapter of the Association of California School Administrators. He will now be considered as a finalist for the Region 2 Superintendent of the Year which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter and Yuba.



Dr. Roberts began leading PLESD in March of 2009 and has led the District through the most difficult time education has ever seen. He exemplifies an educational leader. His vision of greatness and strategic implementation of educational initiatives and 21st Century Learning Skills has changed the culture of learning and district wide academic expectations of PLESD. Jeff's dedication and perseverance to achieve educational excellence has earned him this honor.

"We are very proud to have Dr. Roberts recognized as Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Roberts is an invaluable asset to our district leveraging his educational experience and highly effective leadership." David Villanueva, Board President

"Dr. Roberts wants a district that isn't just good but is GREAT - and that goes beyond the test scores. Dr. Roberts continually works to ensure the students, teacher and administrators have the support they need to achieve this greatness. He is constantly evaluating the programs, structure and support within his district to find ways to improve change and make better the environment for our students. We are lucky as a district to call Dr. Roberts our superintendent." Michele Perrault, Board Member

"It was clear in the beginning that Dr. Jeff Roberts believed in the success of ALL students. Not only did he believe that all students can be successful; he had the ability to make every teacher and staff member alike believe the same thing. He had ideas, dreams, and plans for our district and he saw them through. His presence, his positive attitude, his belief in our district and the work that he has done has made us GREAT." Sarah Faringer 1st Grade Teacher, Cobblestone School.

## Riverside Meadows Multipurpose Room Gets a Facelift

Over the last several years, the students at Riverside Meadows have asked for some improvements to make their campus feel more like a middle school. As economic times have begun to change, the PLESD School Board reached out to the District Leadership and Student Council students to ask for their input. Students expressed wanting to make the multipurpose room feel more like a middle school gym. The Board approved the following upgrades: 1) Painting the walls the school colors (Labor Donated by Bayside Church) 2) Purchasing new crash mats with logos, 3) award banners highlighting student achievement, and 4) a school flag. These projects were completed in January. Phase two of this project will be discussed in the coming months.



To the left is one of the two new "crash" mats behind each basketball hoop. In the center Raymond Telly and Mercedes Azevedo are holding the new flag. On the right is one of the 7 new banners hanging in the multipurpose room to celebrate student success.

## Superintendent's Message

I would like to thank all of the amazing people that work in Plumas Lake ESD. I was honored with a personal award that was truly earned by the over 100 employees of our District.

It is exciting to see developers begin to build houses once again. In February, the **School Board took action to allow builders to pay the school fees at the end of the building process instead of the beginning.** This allows builders to provide less up front cash and wait until houses are sold or closer to occupancy to pay the fees. The Board refinanced most of the school building loans two years ago which allowed the District to be able to afford to receive less building fees until the housing market improves. The more building that happens now the less we need in 2-3 years.

Hopefully you will read the other articles in the newsletter to learn about our Technology Initiative, the improvements at Riverside Meadows, the Common Core and the LCAP. It is an exciting time in Plumas Lake with a lot of change occurring for teachers and administrators.

I know that I have the right people working with me and that We Will Be Great!!!!

Jeff Roberts, Ed.D. Superintendent

## California Common Core Standards

PLESD has been focused on preparing for the transition to the new California Common Core Standards that begin in the 2014-15 school year. The question the District gets asked most often is "How are the California Common Core Standards different from those we have now?"

For California the actual knowledge that students are being asked to learn is very similar to what they learn now. Some curriculum may be moving to a different grade level or being taught at the end of the year instead of the beginning of the year, but what students are learning is mostly the same. It is how students show what they are learning and how they use the knowledge to problem solve.

PLESD teachers and administrators are working very hard to make this a smooth transition for your students. Much of our collaboration time during early release Monday's is being devoted to planning lessons, creating scope and sequences for the new standards, and working our teaching practices to better refine the questions and activities that are being asked of your student. We are also using staff development opportunities to better train our teachers to be successful.

## New State Assessment

California has determined that all students in grades 3-8 will be assessed using the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. This is a computerized testing system.

**THIS YEAR WILL BE A FIELD TEST.** All students will take a shortened version of the test in April or May of this year. No results will be available for students, parents, teachers, or the District. The State is calling this a "Test of the Test." During the 2014-15 school year the test will be given and scores will be reported.

**2014-2015 Registration is Now Open.  
Please Pick-up Packets from the School Site**

### PLESD Leadership

#### School Board

David Villanueva      Derek Bratton      Dora Buck  
Craig Bommarito      Michele Perrault

#### Superintendent

Jeff Roberts

#### Principals

Jim Walters– Rio Del Oro  
Marcie Nichols– Cobblestone  
Jason Hofhenke– Riverside

District Office: 743-4428  
Rio Del Oro: 749-0690  
Cobblestone: 634-9723  
Riverside Meadows: 743-1271

## Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

The State of California has embarked on the biggest school finance reform in recent history, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). This system completely changes the way schools are funded. LCFF gives more money to districts with students who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program and are English Learners. Part of the LCFF is a new District plan that must be created with input from all stakeholders. This plan is called the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Thank you to all of those who participated in the input meetings held several months ago– the data collected in those meetings helped write the District's draft goals. More work is to be done on finalizing these goals and we encourage parents to watch for ways to be actively involved in the formation of this plan.

The LCAP goals are broken into four different major categories with several subcategories having multiple goals for each area:

### Student Achievement, Conditions of Learning, Pupil Engagement

1. PLESD will provide students with a rich learning environment of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity in order to be college and career ready. Students will meet or exceed common core standard proficiency as measured by state and local assessments.

a. PLESD will implement the California Common Core standards in ELA and Math for all grade levels. Implementation will be measured through classroom observations as well as standard proficiency on district and state assessments.

b. PLESD will develop and implement an assessment system that supports the California Common Core. The implementation assessment system will be measured by collecting anecdotal evidence collected showing creation, implementation, and utilization.

c. Students will be proficient with 21st century tools in order to be college and career ready. Implementation will be measured through standard proficiency on district and state assessments.

d. PLESD will provide the necessary professional development for teachers to plan and provide relevant, quality instruction that engages all students and causes learning. Student engagement and learning will be measured through classroom observations as well as standard proficiency on district and state assessments.

e. PLESD teachers will plan and provide relevant, quality instruction that engages all students and causes learning. Student engagement and learning will be measured through classroom observations as well as standard proficiency on district and state assessments.

### Pupil Engagement and Course Access

2. PLESD will provide students multiple enrichment opportunities outside of the core academic subjects.

3. PLESD will put in place programs that will try to raise the Average Daily Attendance as measured by P2 data.

### Parent Involvement

4. PLESD will create partnerships and develop shared relationships with both parents and the community in order to ensure the academic, social and emotional success of PLESD students.

### School Climate

5. PLESD will be proactive in fostering a safe and healthy learning environment, and will assist students and families with social and emotional distress by providing multiple prevention and intervention programs. Implementation will be measured through multiple measures including but not limited to AERIES data and surveys.