

May 5  
2023

# TUSD NEWS

Tracy Unified School District



Published the first Friday of each school month

Superintendent's Office



## Board Meetings:

May 9, 23

**ERWs:** May 3, 10, 17

May 24 (K-5, K-8, 6-8)

## Minimum Days:

May 19 (K-5, K-8, 6-8)

May 23, 24, 25 (9-12)

May 26 (K-12)

**Last Day of School 2022-23:** May 26

**First Day of School 2023-24:** Aug 7

## Job Fairs: (certificated)

June 3, 9:00-12:00 Freiler

June 15, 4:00-5:30 TCSJ

**TUSD Info Page:** [View Here](#)  
(Formerly the COVID page)



Visit our social media pages!

Select the Icon of the page you would like to visit



## In the Spotlight

Please take a moment to read through our school's learning activities and exciting events below! Follow this link:

[In the Spotlight page](#)

## Dr. Rob Pecot, Superintendent

As the 2022-2023 school year comes to a close, I would like to take this time to thank all of those who made this year a success. Throughout the year, I have witnessed students, parents, staff, and the community working together to bring a positive educational experience to the Tracy Community. Our educational system does not work without active participation from all parties, and in TUSD this occurs daily.

Students, thank you for your curiosity and eagerness to learn. Education is paramount to your future success. By consistently trying your best and being receptive to new things you are doing your part in maximizing the opportunity that you are being given here in TUSD.

Parents, thank you for your commitment to your child's education. When we as educators are able to have open dialogue with parents, it enhances and leads to enriched experience for your child. As a Unified School District, we appreciate the partnership that exists between parents and staff.

Staff, thank you for your commitment to the Tracy Community. As a staff you influence thousands of individuals yearly. Your impact is significant and underappreciated. Without your tireless dedication countless students would not receive the quality instruction, guidance, and support you provide.

Tracy Community, thank you for entrusting us with servicing the youth of Tracy. We appreciate your thoughtfulness, inclusion, and willingness to support our school district. You have helped us keep our community safe, celebrated, and well provided for.

Working for and with the Tracy Community gives me great pride. Again, thank you to everyone for the wonderful year. I hope that everyone can recharge and reenergize in their own way in the next few months, because the 2023-2024 school year is just around the corner.

## Continuous Improvement State & Federal Program Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

Tracy Unified School District continues to implement the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Plan. The California Department of Education plan calls for an expansion of the age requirement for students attending TK. Currently students must turn five between September 2 and February 2. Next year this window will increase to September 2 through April 2. It will continue to increase every year until 2025-26 when all students who turn four by September 1 will be eligible to attend TK. This is great news, as we will be able to serve more students at an earlier age. TUSD is planning to add three additional TK classrooms next year, dependent on enrollment. The formal enrollment process for Transitional Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 School year began on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. For any TK-related questions, please contact the School Readiness Office at 209-830-3294.

## Expanded Learning Opportunity Program & Boys and Girls Club

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) provides funding for afterschool and summer school enrichment programs for transitional kindergarten through sixth grade students. "Expanded Learning" means before school, after school, summer, or intersession learning programs that focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of pupils through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. With over 2,000 TUSD currently students enrolled, we are excited to continue our TK-12<sup>th</sup> grade safe and structured after school programming with our Boys and Girls Clubs partner at all 14 school sites next year.

## Tracy Earth Project and TUSD Partner Up for Earth Day!

The community of Tracy came out to celebrate *Tracy Earth Day: The Power of the Bike*, on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. When The Tracy Earth Project told us about the plans for the day as



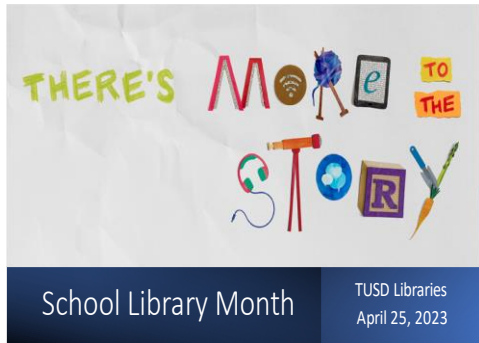


The major project for the Maintenance team to accomplish this summer is the rehabilitation of the restrooms at West High School and Williams Middle School. The project consists of new partitions, stainless steel air dryers, new sinks and faucets and new paint and epoxy floors. Giving the restrooms a much-needed facelift will help the overall aesthetics of the restrooms in hopes that the students will not cause as much damage as they have in the past.

After these projects are complete Maintenance will focus on the reduction of work orders and general curb appeal prior to the 23/24 school year.

## Library Month

April was School Library Month and TUSD celebrated the impact of school libraries on students' learning and achievement. Our theme was, "There's More to the Story" because whatever you think you know about library services, we have even more to tell you!



TUSD Library staff presenters focused on two of the [9 evidence-based library practices](#) that increase student achievement: extended library and staff hours and larger, newer collections. With more open hours, classes are able to visit the libraries more often, many libraries have lunch time activities, and more libraries are offering after school programming, like book groups, book-related art activities, and writing workshops. Across TUSD, library collections—both print and digital—are updated, and more books are relevant and engaging to students.

The Board approved a resolution to recognize and celebrate April as School Library Month and the important role of school libraries for our students' achievement. Individual school libraries celebrated the occasion with book fairs and book giveaways, so students could own "forever" books at home; engaging displays to show off our updated collections; special visitor read alouds; and library staff took part in "Secret Pals," sending handmade messages of affirmation and celebration of the work we do as a staff to support students' academic and personal learning.



well as the Earth Day Challenge, we couldn't stay away. As a STEM district, there are many aspects to our Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade initiative: Engineering Design Challenges, Computational Artifacts, and students collaborating to solve real world problems. In addition, we have something called, "A Community Collaborative," where we strive to connect STEM professionals with our students and their families. We want every student to have opportunities to experience engineering and computer science (which they do) as well as associate being a problem solver, a critical thinker, a scientist, and an engineer with their own self-identity.



Our partners showed up with a host of STEM professionals and shared their passion. SEI enticed even the most shy to learn about solar energy and how it can be harnessed with solar cars and solar tilt panels. Lawrence Livermore National Lab joined us with two separate teams of scientists who taught the community about energy, their groundbreaking fusion, and sustainable energies. The energy bike matched the theme of the day perfectly and met our STEM goals of understanding how science is used to solve problems. Riding the energy bike and watching how many light bulbs one could light up really illustrated the differences between bulbs when it comes to energy expenditure. Quest Science Center of Livermore invited us all to design and test our rockets by launching them with the compressed air of bicycle pumps. Sandia National Lab tailored their activities to our green energy theme and gave everyone coding fun with the Ozobots! And The Boys and Girls Club of Tracy sponsored interactive STEM activities like studying the viscosity of slime and creating terrariums with real plants. We appreciate the effort, planning, follow through, and excitement of so many that made this event such a success.



Food Services will be serving breakfast and lunch at nine school sites to students enrolled in the TUSD and SJCOE summer programs. In addition, we will be serving breakfast and lunch at four school sites to children participating in the Boys & Girls Club summer program. Lastly, we will be serving breakfast and lunch at three school sites (West, McKinley, and Bohn) to all children ages 2-18 for our community feeding summer program.

## Facilities

Work has begun with the first incremental project at Villalovoz. The work includes the installation of the security perimeter fencing along with the campus front entrance's accessibility compliance upgrades.



#Several sites are receiving portables this summer to help with program growth at sites.  
#Tennis courts at all three High Schools will be updated this summer.  
#Tracy High and West High will have their pools replastered this summer



## Bell Schedule Updates for 2023-24 School Year

- All Early Release Wednesday will transition back to Early Release Mondays beginning August 7, 2023. Please refer to the school website for the 2023-24 bell schedules and specific release times. Bell schedules for 2023-24 school year will be posted in June.
- All Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten classes will continue as full days in TUSD. Please refer to your site's school website for the 2023-24 bell schedules' specific start and release times. The State of California will continue to implement the Extended Learning Opportunity Program for all TK-6th grade students in the 2023-24 school year and Tracy Unified School District is happy to announce the transition has been successful.
- All Tracy Unified School District Comprehensive High Schools will continue with late start time, beginning after 8:29 am for the 2023-24 school year. This transition is in accordance with the California Senate Bill 328. Please refer to your site's school website for the 2023-24 bell schedules' specific start times as they are different for each high school. Bell schedules for 2023-24 school year will be posted in June.



# Book Release Party at Central Elementary School Library

To cap off the month of celebrations, Central School had a Release Party for the release of *Dog Man #11*, including Dog Man-related activities, a book raffle for five winners, and a special appearance by Dog Man himself!



## EASIE Grant

Are you interested in learning about services that are available to TUSD Native American/Alaskan Native students? Please join us at our public meeting to learn about resources that are available to students and to provide input on the 2023-24 EASIE Grant:

**What:** Public Meeting for EASIE VI Grant  
**Date:** May 3, 2022  
**Time:** 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** General Conference Room,  
Tracy Unified School District  
1875 W. Lowell Avenue  
Tracy, Ca. 95376

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Sue Murdock at [smurdock@tusd.net](mailto:smurdock@tusd.net).

## Informational Links

Keeping you in the Know  
*Superintendent's Office*

[Board Meeting Info](#)  
[Employment Opportunities](#)  
[TUSD Info Page](#)  
(Calendar, Bell Schedule, Programs, etc.)

### Staff Portal Links:

[Calendars](#)  
[Bell Schedules](#)  
[E-forms](#)  
[Phone Directories](#)

#Solar arrays at North School and TLC sites are at approximately 90% and should be fully commissioned early summer.

## Human Resources

TUSD would once again like to thank our retirees for their many years of dedicated service to our district, students and families. This year's retirees have a combined total of over 700 years of service to our District. We thank them for their dedication and wish them the best in their retirement.

**Teacher Recruitment Events:**  
There are two recruitment events happening in June. These events are for certificated staff, including teachers, SLPs, and school psychologists.

**TUSD Recruitment Event**  
**Date:** June 3, 2023  
**Time:** 9:00 - 12:00  
**Location:** Art Freiler Elementary School

**Teachers College Recruitment Event**  
**Date:** June 15, 2023  
**Time:** 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Teachers College of San Joaquin  
(2721 Transworld Drive, Stockton)



## Employees of the Year!

9-12 Certificated: Stacy Browne  
6-8 Certificated: Maralee Thorburn  
K-5 Certificated: Karen Reading  
9-12 Classified: Grace Maroufkhani  
6-8 Classified: Marissa Feller  
K-5 Classified Arturo Gonzalez  
Management: Susan Hawkins  
60 Years of Service awarded to  
Mr. Richard Giambastini! Wow!!!!

## COVID 19

The latest updates  
*Superintendent's Office*

Our vendor who has been conducting COVID testing at Tracy Charter School will no longer be able to test anyone. With the decline in people testing, they are no longer able to operate our site.

If you are a staff member and need a COVID test, we still have tests available in our school site offices. Many of the tests show an incorrect expiration date, per the FDA. Please check our [information page](#) that shows revised expiration dates.

**For public testing and vaccine opportunities: Please sign up and schedule at <https://myturn.ca.gov>**



The Governor releases his revised budget proposal for next year during May known as the May Revise. We know that state revenues are down substantially, partially due to changed tax filing changes. This leaves some uncertainty regarding the state budget and more specifically TUSD's budget.

With revenues down, the Governor has a few options with closing the gap between revenue projections and actual revenue receipts, including:

- Increasing State Revenue – This could include raising tax rates or modify state tax rules.
- Supplementing State Revenue – most recently, the state supplemented revenue by instituting cash deferrals of payments made to school districts. This shifts the cash flow burden to school districts.
- Decrease Expenditures – cutting proposed state budget expenditures, thereby reducing school district revenue.

We will learn more at the School Services of California May Revision Workshop on May 19, 2023.

## 2023-2024 Calendar

## Work for TUSD!

Current Job Openings  
*Human Resources*

Are you looking for a new job opportunity? Check out our current openings: [JOB OPENINGS](#)



**COME JOIN OUR TEAM!!**  
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