SPOTLIGHT

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REVIEW

2014







Integrating
Changes
Embracing
Innovation



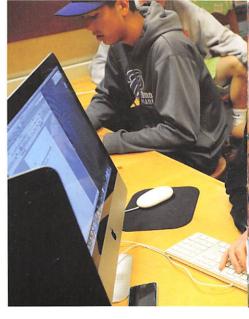












**ETTER BOARD PRESIDENT & SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Piedmont Community, Families and Friends,

We are pleased to present *The Spotlight*, a review of the Piedmont Unified School District with highlights of our work this past year and goals for the coming one. Educating students to learn, thrive and engage in our rapidly shifting and complex world means proactively embracing innovation and change. For Piedmont, the 2013–2014 school year was one of innovation, change and, at times, challenging transitions.

By national, state and local measures, Piedmont continued to hold steady as one of the top-ranked K-12 districts (see pages 6-7). To sustain this standard, we remain committed to leading the way—not catching up—with the dynamic growth taking place in education today.

From the sweeping transformation brought about by the nationally mandated education standards known as the Common Core, to Piedmont's own adoption of 1:1 technology, computer science and social-emotional/service-learning curriculum, staff embraced and implemented changes throughout the District (see pages 4–5). At the administrative level, the Board oversaw staff transitions and welcomed talented new personnel to the PUSD team.

As programs develop and staff settles in, we will engage in ongoing evaluation and planning. With a focus on continuous improvement, resilience, creativity and patience, we believe Piedmont is entering this new era of education from a position of strength.

The state is emerging from the recent economic recession, however the Board continues to budget cautiously with an emphasis on long-term financial stability (pages 8–9). The result is a 2014–2015 budget that contains costs while supporting valuable programs designed to educate students to be knowledgeable, curious and responsible citizens of the 21st Century world.

As we venture down the road ahead this year, we would like to recognize our extraordinary community, whose support through parcel taxes, donations and volunteerism helps sustain this dynamic K-12 experience. Thanks to you and our dedicated team of educators, Piedmont schools continue to be a wonderful place to grow and learn.

Sincerely,

anchea Swenson

Andrea Swenson

President, PUSD Board of Education

Constance Hubbard

Superintendent, Piedmont Unified School District

Learning

not a fixed

destination.

is a journey,







LCAP {LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN }

New this year, the state of California requires every district to adopt a Local Control Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Its purpose is to demonstrate that spending aligns with state requirements, district goals and local priorities—which in turn have been shaped by parent and community input.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

October 5, 2013

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Parents, students, staff and community collaborated to help articulate priorities, values and a collective vision for the Piedmont schools. Themes from the workshop:

Resilience

Community Building

Maximize INDIVIDUAL Potential

LEARNING FXCFL

Program

WHOLE community

Cultivate Global Citizenry

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LCAP GOALS:

· Common Core aligned curriculum

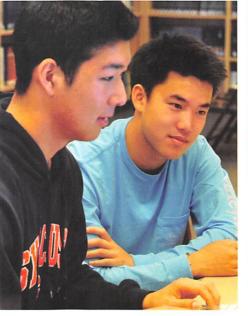
Adaptability

- 21st Century technology tools for teachers and students
- · Teacher evaluations that include student data, peer reviews, portfolio development, and student and parent feedback
- K-12 Computer Science Teaching Standards (CSTA) aligned curriculum
- · Opportunities and access to professional development for teachers and staff
- "Second Step" social/emotional curriculum for elementary students
- Classroom-based service learning opportunities for high school students
- Commitment to reduce student stress and increase healthy behaviors at the secondary level
- Strong community partnerships that support long-term plans for physical and financial capacity

PUSD'S GOALS & COMMITMENTS

- · We are committed to cultivating a learning community where students are engaged in their learning, strive for excellence, and are supported to achieve to their fullest potential.
- · We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment where every member of the Piedmont schools feels respected.
- · We are committed to fostering a comprehensive educational program that equips students to live in a diverse and changing world.

The Spotlight, an annual review of the Piedmont Unified School District, is produced in collaboration with The Piedmont Educational Foundation and the Associated Parent Clubs of Piedmont.



"Student learning and

engagement really took off

when I introduced Common

earlier this year. Finally, kids

problems, debate and justify their answers, come up with

creative solutions, and pose

higher-level questions on an

everyday basis."

STEPHANIE ROTH **PMS Math Teacher**

get to dig deep on group-worthy

Core-aligned curriculum





PUSD COMMITMENTS,

THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS

IT'S ABOUT APPLYING WHAT'S LEARNED

The rigorous new education standards are about more than memorizing content. They place a greater emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving, communicating, collaboration and project-based learning.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In spring 2014, time, energy and patience were spent as staff and families explored options for integrating the Common Core standards into Piedmont's classrooms. Enthusiastic about the changes, staff will continue to work on aligning curriculum and teaching practices with the new standards. With funding from PEF, the District's new Director of Curriculum and Instruction will help facilitate the transition. Ongoing evaluation and improvement remain a priority.

A Math Leadership Committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of the new Common Core math standards. The Committee is made up of parents, teachers, students, and administrators, including experts from the Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI), a consortium of math educators.

Number of community meetings related to Common Core held in 2013-2014

ATTRACTING & RETAINING THE BEST & BRIGHTEST EDUCATORS

Piedmont hires and supports teachers and administrators who actively seek professional growth through advanced degrees and a range of educational experience. Piedmont welcomes new and returning staff to the following leadership positions:

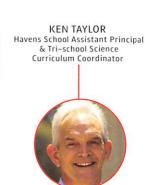


















VISION & GOALS

CULTIVATING ENGAGED & RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

All three ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS are incorporating Second Step, nationally recognized socialemotional curriculum that emphasizes empathy and teaches problem-solving skills for academic success and social well being.

The MIDDLE SCHOOL is implementing a program called Scot's Camp where 8th grade students help introduce 6th graders to Middle School campus life, further building on Second Step ideas such as being an "Upstander" and how to show respect to others and oneself.

At the HIGH SCHOOL level, new PHS principal Brent Daniels (2) and Millennium HS principal Ting Hsu Engelman helped to introduce a service learning program. Students collaborated on gradewide projects developed around a central theme: Freshmen (environment / stewardship of natural resources) built 50 solar cookers and water filtration kits to send to Sierra Leone, Sophomores (discrimination /social justice) created over 80 Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and wrote 225 letters of advocacy, Juniors (poverty / homelessness) made 157 care packages for homeless teens and Seniors (economic disparity) made 700 sandwiches, 200 hygiene kits, and 100hand-painted postcards for a low-income senior center.

> Community services hours completed during the 2013-2014 academic year for all of PHS

28,771

LEADING THE WAY WITH TECHNOLOGY

Piedmont is meeting that challenge."

ADOPTING NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS

PUSD recently became one of the first K-12 districts in California and the country to adopt the Computer Science Teachers Association's (CSTA) K-12 Computer Science Standards.

21st CENTURY TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

PUSD is adopting a 1:1 student to mobile device ratio for all 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, and 11th graders, and providing keyboarding equipment for 2nd and 3rd graders and tablets for kindergarteners and 1st graders.

Note: All technology initiatives were enabled by the significant infrastructure upgrades funded by matching modernization funds from the Seismic Safety Bond Program.

"The notion of what it means to be college and career ready has been reshaped

by a world where access to technology and connectivity are becoming ubiquitous. STEPHANIE GRIFFIN (1) District Technology Coordinator

"SCOTS CAMP was developed to provide a school-wide orientation program for all 6th graders that focuses on three main themes: Getting to Know PMS, Team Building and Character Education. Two of the components we are most excited about are providing leadership opportunities for 8th grade students who will take on the role of "camp counselors," and educating our 6th grade students about our technology policies and digital citizenship as we embark on our 1:1 Chromebook pilot next year."

RYAN FLETCHER (3) **PMS Principal**







EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS & STUDENT OUTCOMES

UC ELIGIBILITY

How many students qualify for entry into the UC system?

94% of PHS students in 2013 (up from 91% for PHS in 2012)

> compared to 80% in top quartile of California high schools and 38% average rate for all California high schools.

"Cultivating a
learning
community
where students
are engaged in
their learning,
strive for
excellence,
and are supported
to achieve
their fullest
potential."

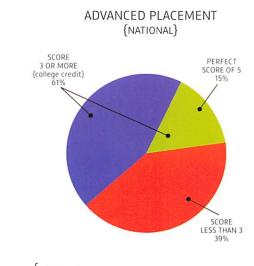
2014-2015 PUSD GOALS & COMMITMENTS In an age of accountability, standardized tests provide us with measurable evidence of the quality of a Piedmont education, demonstrating that our schools remain among the best locally and nationally.

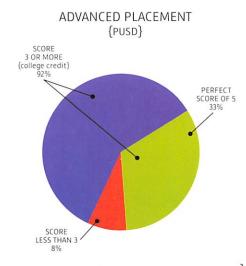
PIEDMONT RANKS #1 IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

California's state assessments rank Piedmont as the 4th highest scoring K-12 district in the state and the highest in Northern California, surpassing all districts in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties.

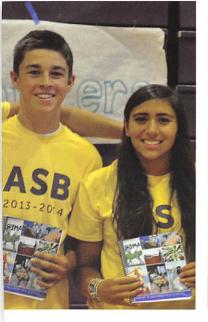
PIEDMONT IS STRONG ON NATIONAL MEASURES

In contrast with regional comparisons, Advanced Placement, SAT and ACT assessments provide a national yardstick that demonstrates the rigor of Piedmont's high school program and our students' college-readiness.





ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM AND SCORES The PHS curriculum includes the following AP courses: English, Biology, Environmental Science, US History, European History, Music and Calculus AB and BC. Participation in these courses continues to be strong and test scores equally so. Compared to a national average of 61%, 92% percent of the students earned a score of 3 or more, 68% 4 or 5. A third of all PHS AP test takers received a perfect score of 5.







A STRONG, STABLE PATTERN OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

PHS seniors continue to matriculate to diverse, highly selective colleges and universities throughout the country and beyond. PARTIAL LIST FOR 2013 & 2014

Arizona State University Art Institute of Chicago Auburn University Bard College Bates College Beloit College Berkeley City College Boston University Bowdoin College Brandeis University Brigham Young University, Idaho Brown University Bryant University California College of the Arts Carleton College Carnegie Mellon University Case Western Reserve Central College Chapman University Colgate University College of Alameda College of Marin College of Wooster Cuesta College Denison University Diablo Valley College Drexel University Duke University Emerson College Emory University, Oxford College Evergreen State College Evergreen Valley College Georgetown University George Washington University Gonzaga University Goshen College

Grinnell College Hamilton College Harvard University Haverford College Hobart & William Smith College Johns Hopkins University Indiana University, School of Music Kenyon College Laney College Lewis and Clark College Linfield College Loyola Marymount University Loyola University New Orleans Macalester College Maryland Institute College of Art Massachusetts College of Art & Design Merritt College Miami University, Ohio Middlebury College Mills College Massachusetts Institute of Technology Montana State Mount Holyoke Mount St. Mary's College New York University Northeastern University Northwestern University Oberlin College Occidental College Ohlone College Penn State University Princeton University Purdue University Quest University Reed College San Mateo College Santa Barbara City College

Santa Clara University Santa Monica College Santa Rosa Community College Savannah College of Art & Design Scripps College Skidmore College Stanford University St Mary's College Syracuse University Trinity College Tufts University Tulane University University of Arizona University of Colorado University of Delaware University of Hawaii University of Illinois University of Maryland University of Michigan University of Oregon University of the Pacific University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh University of Portland University of Puget Sound University of San Diego University of San Francisco University of Southern California University of Vermont University of Virginia University of Washington Vanderbilt University Vassar College Washington & Lee University Washington State University Washington University, St Louis Wellesley College

Whitman College Willamette University Yale University University of California UC Berkeley UC Davis UC Los Angeles UC Riverside UC San Diego UC Santa Barbara UC Santa Cruz California State Universities CSU Long Beach CSU Monterey Bay CSU Northridge CSU San Diego CSU Sonoma California Maritime Academy Cal Poly Pomona Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Humboldt State University San Diego State University San Francisco State University

Wesleyan University

Sonoma State University International Universities

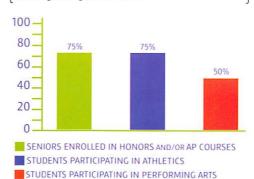
San Jose State University

Bocconi University, Milan American University of Paris, France McGill University, Canada University of British Columbia, Canada University of Bristol, UK University of Glasgow, Scotland University of Glasgow, Scotland

Of the 1600 open enrollment high schools listed in *Newsweek's* Best High Schools of 2013, PHS is number 70 with SAT scores that are the 33rd highest.

Our ACT scores are the
th highest in the country—ahead
of comparable top-ranked high schools
like Palo Alto, Gunn and San Marino high
schools in California, and Bronxville
High School in New York, and New
Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois.

Piedmont schools are about more than test scores. Student learning includes sculpture, ink drawings, poetry, scientific models, statistical and multi-media presentations, and performances that feature singing, dancing, acting and athletics.



KEY FACTS



2,644 students

213 staff members, including 177 certificated teachers, 139 classified staff, 24 student services staff, and 12 administrators

5 teachers have PhDs

58%

of teachers have a master's degree

of teachers have a bachelor's degree plus 60+ units of study

PUSD teachers have an average of years of experience







FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

What comprises a fiscally responsible, sustainable model of educational excellence?

LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN {LCAP}

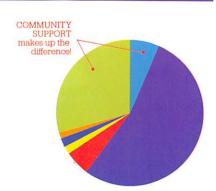
The Board and administration develop the annual budget, multi-year projections and the LCAP with input from the public at Board meetings three times a year. Feedback and reports from site councils, parent clubs, budget committees, and independent oversight committees are weighed when building the annual budget and LCAP.

The District takes a proactive and flexible approach to managing government mandates and planning despite years of diminished state funding. Throughout the recent economic recession, Piedmont managed to sustain a robust program while keeping expenses essentially flat, thanks to the efforts of staff and support of community. Still mindful of potential volatility, sustainability continues to shape the Board's decision–making.

NEW FUNDING FORMULA DETERMINES PIEDMONT'S SHARE OF STATE FUNDS

New this year, Governor Brown's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is designed to equalize base funding to school districts across the State, while simultaneously providing significant supplemental revenue for districts with higher proportions of English learners, students from lower-income households, and foster youth. Because the number of our students who fall into these supplemental funding categories represents less than two percent of PUSD students, Piedmont will receive approximately \$6,407 per student in 2014–15. While an improvement over 2013–14 funding levels, Piedmont remains one of the lowest funded districts in the state.

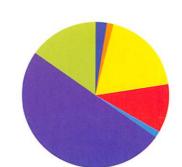
Also included in the Governor's budget is a call for increases in employer-paid contributions to employee pension benefits programs (CalSTRS and CalPERS). Mindful that this will adversely affect school district budgets statewide, Piedmont is proactively planning to be able to manage any increases in the coming years.



PUSD SOURCES OF FUNDS

{2014-15 ADOPTED BUDGET}

- APCP/PEF/Support Clubs 6.59%
- LCFF 53.55%
- Special Ed/Other Revenues 5.48%
- School Support Tax 29.6%
- State 1.48%
- Federal 2.02%
- Lottery 1.28%



PUSD EXPENDITURES

{2014-15 ADOPTED BUDGET}

- Books & Supplies 2.53%
- Post Employment Benefits 1.51%
- Employee Benefits 18.73%
- Services/Operating Expenses 10.69%
- Transfer to Other Funds 1.53%
- Certificated Salaries 49.96%
- Classified Salaries 15.06%

Piedmont's day-to-day operations are supported by a \$33,773,730 million general fund budget, which includes income from the state and federal governments, the school support tax, and contributions from school support organizations and private donations.







MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE

Last year Piedmont voters approved Measure A, a parcel tax providing a stable source of funding for the next six years. In keeping with the community's longstanding tradition of supporting public education since 1985, this tax is locally controlled and accounts for approximately 30% of the District's annual budget. Additionally parents and the community generously donated in excess of \$2.1 million for ongoing programs this year. Together these contributions help to make up the gap where the state has disinvested.

KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS STRONG - NOW & IN THE FUTURE

FACILITIES

Providing a learning environment that is responsive to the needs of students—and one that is safe and accessible to all—continues to be a priority.

Thanks to the success of the Seismic Safety Bond Program, the District was able to receive matching funds of \$17 million to help fund additional infrastructure work. Among the completed projects this year are:

- Centrally-managed and basic wi-fi networks
- High speed data connections and two-way communication systems
- · Beach & Wildwood roofing projects
- Elementary playground and shade structures
- Elementary safety gates, fences, locks and alarms
- PMS Learnscape (outdoor "green" teaching space), partially funded by PEF
- PMS HVAC replacement, flood damage and storm drain repair
- Orchestra pit filler for the PHS Alan Harvey Theater
- Geostudy, modernization & safety plans for the PHS Alan Harvey Theater

FUTURE PROJECTS

We are disappointed with the loss of Measure H to upgrade the high school's Alan Harvey Theater, the last of the District facilities in need of significant structural modernization and life-safety upgrades. As with previous bonds for Witter Field, and for seismically safe schools, we thank the community for their earlier investment. We hope that at some future date, efforts to modernize Alan Harvey Theater for safety and 21st Century learning will be likewise supported.

In the meantime, remaining modernization funds along with generous support from PEF, Parent Clubs and community members will help to offset non-structural improvements in the theater like the seating, stage, roof and storage. Other school site modernization projects are on hold until these pressing needs are addressed.

As we consider long-term plans for all our facilities, the Modernization Steering Committee plans to conduct a "facilities use and satisfaction" survey, and will collaborate with other stakeholders and the City to determine future needs.

support? LIBRARIES **ELEMENTARY COUNSELING**

> MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING 50%

How much

community

essential program

is funded by

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CURRICULUM 70%

1:1 CHROMEBOOKS (for K-5)

public meetings

related to program, planning

and budgets

held in

2013-2014

100%

100%

100%

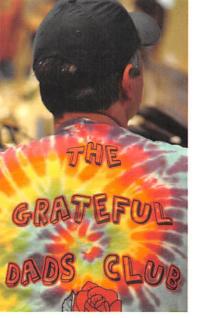
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 50%

ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM AIDES 50%

MUSIC/ARTS (excluding fine arts graduation requirements 100%

ELECTIVES (excluding graduation requ

100%







COMMUNITY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

THE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Each fall Piedmont families generously donate to The Giving Campaign, the single largest school fundraiser-raising almost 7% of the District's operating budget. Run by the Associated Parent Clubs of Piedmont (APCP) and The Piedmont Educational Foundation (PEF), the Giving Campaign directly supports programs like library, counseling, art, music and the elective options at the middle and high schools-programs long ago cut at neighboring schools. Look for Giving Campaign materials to arrive in mail at the end of September.

> This publication was created by volunteers, with significant in-kind donations from: KRISTEN MALAN DESIGN & JENNIFER FOX PHOTOGRAPHY

VOLUNTEER

Community support and volunteerism are critical to sustaining a dynamic public education experience. Piedmont is fortunate to have a strong network of school support organizations coordinating many parent volunteers—in classrooms, libraries, at lunch, after–school enrichment, Book Fairs, drug and alcohol awareness programs, Diversity Day, the College & Career Center, Site Councils and more. Attend monthly Parent Club meetings to learn more about what's happening at your child's school, or contact your Parent Club President. Visit The Piedmont Portal (www.PiedmontPortal.org/volunteer) to learn about the many ways to get involved.

STAY INFORMED WITH THE PIEDMONT PORTAL

An online school/community website, the Piedmont Portal is a centralized hub where local groups share announcements, event calendars and other important information. A weekly Portal e-bulletin with information about related events and activities is distributed every Wednesday to all families and subscribers. Visit www.PiedmontPortal.org to learn more.

SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUPS

PEF – Piedmont Educational Foundation
APCP – Associated Parents Clubs of Piedmont
Beach Parents' Organization
Havens Parents' Club
Wildwood Parents' Club
Piedmont Middle School Parents' Club
Millennium High School Parents' Club
Piedmont High School Parents' Club

Education Speaker Series DTAC – District Technology Advisory Committee

CHIME – Citizens Highly Interested in Music Education

PAINTS - Promote Arts in the Schools

PRAISE – Piedmonters for Resources, Advocacy & Information in Special Education

ALPS – Advanced Learners Program Support

PADC - Piedmont Appreciating Diversity Committee

PAAC – Piedmont Asian American Club

PLS - Piedmont Language School

PPN - Piedmont Parents' Network

Dress Best For Less

PHS Boosters

PMS Boosters

Beach Dads' Club Havens Dads' Club

Wildwood Dads' Club

"We look forward to a great year with incredible students who are supported by this extraordinary

school-community partnership."

CONSTANCE HUBBARD PUSD Superintendent







DID YOU KNOW...

1,218 Piedmont families and school supporters donated to the Giving Campaign,

Dress Best for Less donated over \$115,000 to the PEF Endowment Fund,

509 people participated in the Wellness Center's FallFest 5K,

Funded by PHS Parents Club, PHS teachers received National Board Certification this year,

The Hats Off! Spring Fling tri-school fundraiser raised \$500,000,

Over 500 pounds of crab were cracked by Wildwood Dads,

The Piedmont Middle School Maker Club created $oldsymbol{\perp}$ Hovercraft during lunch,

72 golfers teed off at the Highlander Classic Tournament,

Volunteers collectively donated **O** hours through APCP, PEF and support clubs,

Over 700 tickets were sold for the Education Speaker Series,

The Bird Calling Contest celebrated its 49 th year,

1,532 pancakes were flipped by the Beach Dads,

The PMS Learnscape Lunchpark opened, celebrating with 600 donated popsicles,

531 Havens kids got new bouncing balls donated by the Havens Dads Club...

...THIS YEAR!

2014-201 AT A GLANC

SEPTEMBER

PHS Boosters Highlander Classic Wellness Center Fall Fest 5K Tri-School Harvest Festival PAINTS Chalk Art Beach Dad's Pancake Breakfast PAAC Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

OCTOBER

Education Speaker Series Homecoming Wildwood Dad's Pumpkin Patch

NOVEMBER

PEF Empty Nest Party Piedmont Turkey Trot SCRIP Party

IANUARY

MLK/PADC Celebration Havens Dads' Poker Night

FEBRUARY

Wildwood Dad's Crab Feed PEF Film Premiere PAAC Lunar New Year Celebration

MARCH

PMS March Mingle PADC Yoshi's Night CHIMEapalooza

APRIL

Spring Fling Bird Calling Contest

MAY

PAINTS Birdhouse Gala Piedmont Makers Faire

Tri-School Dad's Clubs Softball Tournament Graduation — Celebrations APCP Summer Enrichment and AISCE





PO BOX 11192 PIEDMONT CA 94611

IT'S THE JOURNEY THAT COUNTS

The journey beckons in ELEMENTARY SCHOOL with the expanding capacity for reasoning and critical thinking. Students explore math, science and language arts through the experience of gardens, libraries, poetry, music, tide pools, paints, technology—and more.

With the deepening knowledge of core subjects, MIDDLE SCHOOL students experience new beginnings during a time of tremendous social and emotional change. Rigorous, comprehensive and student-centered, PMS challenges students to think independently, creatively and critically—and to balance their growing freedom with their growing responsibility to self and other.

In HIGH SCHOOL, students explore everything from APs and electives to extra-curriculars and sports. Along the way, there are challenges and triumphs—robotics constructed and awarded, poetry whispered and shouted, athletic contests won and lost, service projects next door and across the globe, Hamlet performed near (Alan Harvey Theater) and far (Edinburgh Fringe Festival).

PUSD celebrates all learners as the journey continues.







