Colusa County families benefitted this year from the 31st Annual Thanksgiving Basket Brigade created by Grandmaster Azad of Chico's Azad's Martial Arts Center. 127 families in need received an entire Thanksgiving dinner complete with turkey and pumpkin pie, put together by staff members of the Colusa County Office of Education, Pierce Joint Unified School District, Colusa Unified School District, Maxwell Unified School District, and Williams Unified School District. Food for the baskets was donated by community sponsors or purchased using money donated to the martial arts center. While in its first year assisting families in the Colusa County area, the Thanksgiving Basket Brigade also held events in Chico, Paradise, Orland, Hamilton City, and Thermalito.
Happy Holidays Colusa County!

As we approach the holidays, we are reminded that it’s a time to celebrate family, friends, and the many wonderful things in our lives. For many of us it is also a time to honor our cultural heritage or to remember people important to us, both those who are with us and those we wish were with us. It’s a time to reflect back on the year, and think of all that has been accomplished and of what is yet to come.

To those working at our school districts and to the employees of CCOE, I want to say thank you. The wonderful accomplishments our students have made thus far this year is due in part to your hard work and dedication. You are truly our greatest asset. It’s your teamwork, diligence, creativity, ingenuity, and perseverance that make our county great.

I’m looking forward to this second half of the school year, as I’m sure it will continue to be full of challenges, opportunities, and surprises. I have confidence that they will be faced with as much grace, resourcefulness, and dedication as has been displayed this year.

As we move into 2023, it is also important to know that you are not alone. Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” Lean on one another should you need it, and don’t be afraid to ask for help should the situation arise.

May you have a peaceful, joyful, and safe holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

CCOE featured at Napa COE Leadership Summit
"And Literacy For All" Initiative

Superintendent of Schools Michael P. West, "And Literacy For All" Literacy Coordinator Stefani Santana, and Communications Director Alissa Maas were invited to attend the Napa County Office of Education’s 2nd Annual Superintendent’s Roundtable on November 2. At this event, Superintendent West sat on an Early Bilingual Literacy panel, in which he spoke about CCOE’s "And Literacy For All" Initiative.

"And Literacy For All" is a countywide literacy project that promotes bicultural reading and writing skills to all Colusa County residents. This is done through the utilization of mobile technology with the Footsteps2Brilliance, Inc. early learning platform. Book giveaways for children, parent trainings, professional development for educators, and the Early Literacy Certification program are also facets of the initiative.

For information about signing up for your free Footsteps2Brilliance account, contact Literacy Coordinator Stefani Santana at (530) 458-0350. To learn more about the "And Literacy For All" initiative, visit www.andliteracyforall.net.
A lifelong Colusa resident, Madison Martin was appointed to the CCOE Board of Education as the Trustee of Area 2 eight months ago, and currently holds the position of Vice President of the Board. Service-oriented, Madison has always had a desire to get involved in the community, and as a parent feels empowered to contribute to the public-school system.

“I love hearing about all the excellent, positive things happening [with] our children in Colusa County,” she said. “Being on the CCOE Board of Education is a fantastic way to get an overview of what is happening in all schools in Colusa County.” An advocate for children’s education, Madison is compelled to ensure families of Colusa County receive a fantastic education while following a system of checks and balances.

Married to John Martin, Madison and her husband have “two beautiful girls” (Macie aged 3 & Mallory aged 1), a Chocolate Labrador dog (Mr. Bear), and a black kitten (Masha). The family loves living in Colusa. “I enjoy the wonderful values our Colusa County education system has,” she said. “It is a very family-friendly atmosphere [and] we have such wonderful opportunities for our children and community to enjoy a safe and fun way of life,” she continued.

When not spending time with family or conducting Board duties, Madison completes coursework towards her Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Education at CSU Chico. She will begin her Master’s Program next fall. “After graduation I look forward to applying [my degree] positively back into Colusa County,” she stated. Madison also loves going on family camping trips, reading, running, and attending community events.

Welcome CCOE New Hires!

Maria Zuniga Sierra
Custodian
Facilities

Dyanna Santana
Intervention Aide
Educational Services

Kasandra Cunha
Health Assistant
Special Education

Staci Bagley
Paraeducator
Special Education

Allison Bruggman
Paraeducator
Special Education

Ruby Huerta Ramirez
Paraeducator
Special Education

Brenda Landeros
Paraeducator
Special Education

Amanda Rivera
Paraeducator
Special Education

Yesenia Chavez
Receptionist
Administrative Services & Children’s Services

We are hiring!
Full-Time, Part-Time & Substitute Employment Opportunities. Contact Human Resources at (530) 458-0350 or scan the QR code to see current job openings!
The Colusa County Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) was established in 1991 with the purpose of promoting and enhancing developmental services in the county. The main objective of LPC is to identify countywide child care priorities and navigate the intention of policies to meet the needs identified within those priorities. Through trainings, collaborations and the provision of supportive services, the LPC serves as a forum to address the child care needs for all families in the community and for all types of child care, both subsidized and non-subsidized.

The LPC is currently seeking volunteers to serve as council members, and memberships are tailored to include all child care parties. These memberships include Child Care Consumer, Child Care Provider, Public Agency Representative, Community Representative, and Discretionary Member.

Currently, the council has membership vacancies for:

**Child Care Consumer**: Someone who currently receives or has utilized child care in the past 36-month period prior to application submittal. This includes child care at child care centers, in-home providers, or ASES programs.

**Child Care Provider**: Someone who provides child care services or represents persons who provide child care services.

**Community Representative**: Defined as a person who represents an agency or business that provides private funding for child care services, or persons who advocate for child care services through participation in civic or community-based organizations. Representatives are not child care providers and do not represent an agency that contracts with the California Department of Education to provide child care and developmental services.

**Discretionary Member**: A person who may or may not meet the membership categories of representation in the other four categories.

Once a membership category has been chosen, those interested can complete an application for LPC membership [here](#). The form can then be [emailed](#) to the LPC Coordinator Bianca Talamantes or mailed to the address found on the application. The membership application will then be further reviewed by the council, the County Board of Supervisors and/or the Superintendent of Schools to determine membership approval.
Arbuckle Family Action Center Food Distributions

- **December 7, 11:00am**
  Eat Well Yolo-Produce

- **December 9, 11:00am**
  Grimes USDA-Emergency Food Assistance

- **December 12, 11:00am**
  USDA-Emergency Food Assistance

- **December 13, 11:00am**
  Senior Food Boxes

- **December 21, 11:00am**
  Eat Well Yolo-Produce

**Located at:**
812 King Street
Arbuckle, CA

**Contact:**
(530) 476-0822

**Coordinator:**
Kim Owens

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Williams Family Action Center Food Distributions

- **December 2, 12:00pm**
  USDA-Emergency Food Assistance

- **December 7, 12:00pm**
  Eat Well Yolo-Produce

- **December 13, 12:00pm**
  Feeding America

- **December 21, 12:00pm**
  Eat Well Yolo-Produce

CSFP Boxes will be distributed when available and as space allows

**Located at:**
1404 E Street, Rm 102
Williams, CA

**Contact:**
(530) 473-4311

**Coordinator:**
Betty Huson

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To stay up to date on First 5 Colusa programs and events, follow the [First 5 Colusa](#), Arbuckle Family Action Center, and Williams Family Action Center Facebook pages!
“AND LITERACY FOR ALL”
WINTER CHALLENGE

December 19, 2022 – January 30, 2023

Complete one worksheet of Footsteps2Brilliance activities and receive a certificate & literacy kit!

Visit www.ccoe.net to download your child’s literacy worksheet. For more information, or to sign up for your free Footsteps2Brilliance account, contact Literacy Coordinator Stefani Santana at (530) 458-0350.