

We have 95 days to:

Develop competent readers, writers, and mathematicians

Cultivate scientists, explorers, innovators and communicators of learning

Foster compassion and empathy for others

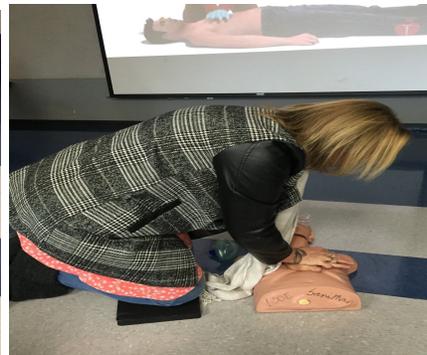
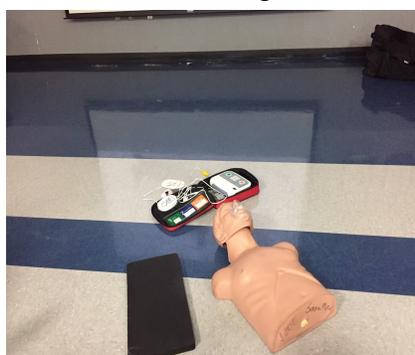
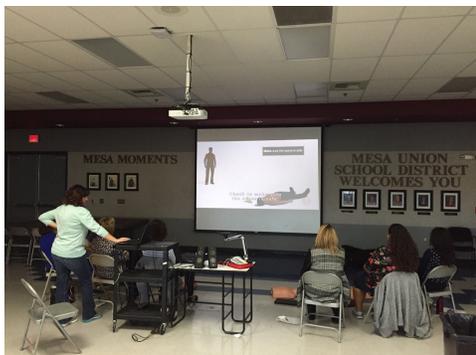
The school farm has a working irrigation system, fencing should be completed by Saturday, and plants are beginning to decorate the landscape.



Mr. Turner had the opportunity to teach first graders in Mrs. Vollmert's class how to use counting strategies (e.g., counting, skip counting) to solve simple math computation. I enjoyed working with our first graders immensely.

Dr. Bluestein and I joined the Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) monthly meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The PFO has reported that they have reached 65% of their fundraising goal. They have raised \$47,000. To reach their goal they need to raise an additional \$28,000. The PFO's Jog-A-thon typically raises somewhere between \$30,000 to \$40,000, which should allow the PFO to reach it goals. The PFO leadership also reported their appreciation of Board Trustee recognition at November's Regular Board Meeting. This year's PFO leadership has done an outstanding job of increasing membership, financial earnings, and no-cost activities for families. Friday's Family Night is one example of no-cost activities that supports the development of community, parent education, and fun.

Classified staff renewed their CPR certification through the American Red Cross this week.



California State University Channel Islands announces a new STEM initiative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Odyssey is an effort from California State University Channel Islands to develop (STEM) resources through Ventura County through partnerships between universities, school districts ,county education offices and community and business leaders.

Middle school teachers participated in the second segment of English Language Development training provided by Ventura County Office of Education content specialist Armando Zuniga. Key themes included: meaning making, effective expression, foundational skills, content knowledge and language development.

Mesa Union's Parent English Learner and Parent Advisory Councils met on Thursday. The two Councils continue to focus on parent and stakeholder engagement. The District's LCAP Survey developed by both groups. will be released in January of 2017. I look forward to sharing the results with Trustees. Planned 2016-2017 activities are geared to support parent education, student academic success, and recreation.

Mesa Union School, in partnership with the Parent Faculty Organization, hosted the school's December Family Night.

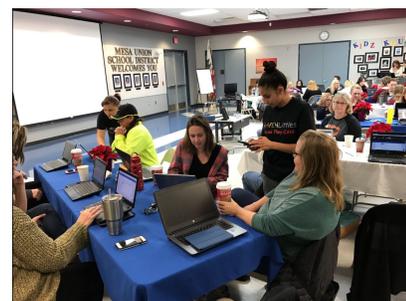


Families and students enjoyed dinner, popcorn, cotton candy and candy canes while watching the movie Polar Express. Families and students also made a variety of crafts and snow.

Parents participated in three mini-workshops where they learned how to use Google Apps, tweet, and take advantage of a new free app called Bedtime Math.



Mesa Union School District hosted nearly 50 primary elementary teachers throughout Ventura County as they learn how to integrate technology in their TK-2 classrooms. Here is a blurb from the Google Apps for Education for Littles workshop hosted by Christine Pinto.



Mesa Union is working on developing “Compassion” within our school community through “Acts of Kindness.” On Saturday, Mesa Union will be modeling our fifth “C” by distributing holiday meals, coats, clothing and gifts to 35 families in our school community. These efforts have been supported through donations of turkeys, hams, and other traditional food items as a result of Mesa School’s Food Drive. Families and staff have also generously provided gifts, coats, and clothing to be shared with families in need. I am so grateful!

Fourth grade classes met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Michael Glenn in front of the school near our butterfly garden area. Mr. Glenn spoke to the students about ethnobiology, or the what/how the native peoples of our area used the native plants indigenous to the area for their daily living. It was a fascinating talk and the students in Ms. Mitchell’s class asked excellent questions about that and the schoolyard habitat that has been established in the front of the school. The work done by students to make this habitat grow and flourish has really been enriching to them. It was created by students, for students, is ecologically sound, provides habitat for local native plant and wildlife species, acts as an outdoor classroom for our school, and is integrated into the curriculum and designed to encourage long-term stewardship.



Dr. Bluestein had lunch with dozens of our super students that met their Accelerated Reader (AR) goal for November. We dined *al fresco* picnic style on the lawn area near the junior high school and the ag field. This month, I chatted with the students about what they were reading outside of school for pleasure and I told them what I was reading as well. A few of the students were telling me that they were reading the book, Smile, by Raina Telgemeier, and then a few others added that they already read that book. Smile is an autobiographical account/memoir of the author as she goes from sixth grade to high school. It was a nice lunch on a beautiful day outside with great kids.



Dr. Bluestein had another lunch date with students on Tuesday, this time with the four winners selected last month for their work on excellent essays written about what Red Ribbon Week (RRW) means to them. The four students were: Olivia Navarette, Kyla Sahagun, Kylie Lan, and Seanna Petersen. We had great conversation about our pets, and then about the strangest food we have ever eaten. I recounted my strange lunch last month at a Spanish restaurant where I was served a plate of white asparagus with mayonnaise. Here’s the tweet about our lunch together.



The character trait of the month for the Principal's Award was perseverance. Many, many parents attended both assemblies and it was a great pleasure to preside over these assemblies and recognize the many super students at Mesa School. Thanks to our marvelous PFO that was on hand for both assemblies with complimentary warm Krispy Kreme donuts and hot coffee. The PFO also set up tables selling Mesa spirit wear, which has been very well received by our community and were selling like hotcakes. After the Student of the Month assemblies, I joined our 7th grade classes on their curricular trip to the Oxnard Performing Arts Center to see a performance of *The Nutcracker*, one of my favorite holiday shows. It was such a treat to enjoy the show with our 7th graders, and I have to say that of the many schools represented at the performance, the Mesa students were the most behaved. During the show, you could see that our students were prepared and watched in rapt attention.

