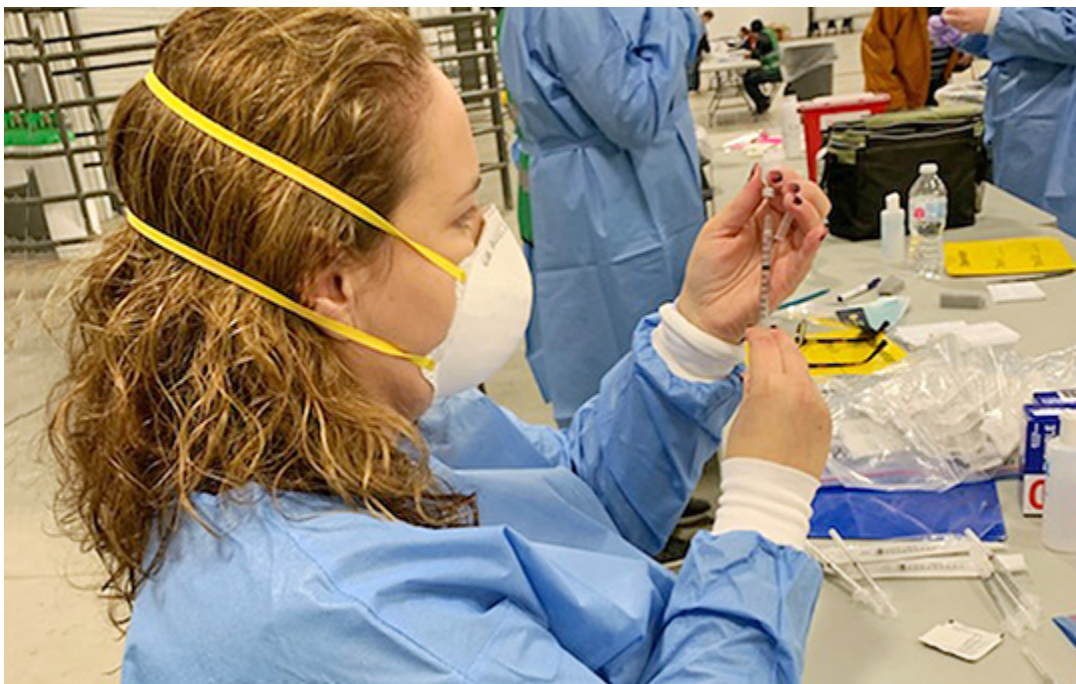


news galleryweek

May 12, 2021

Celebrating school nurses for their efforts this year

Editor's Note: Today, May 12, is National School Nurse Day.



“The COVID-19 pandemic has forced educators to reimagine learning, particularly as some students began returning to campus last fall,” said Tim Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools. “Key to any discussion about student safety are school nurses. They have trained educators and parents on safety protocols, interpreted state guidelines, and supported students with special health needs.”

The Tulare County Office of Education employs 12 Credentialed School Nurses working in Special Services and School Health Programs. With assistance from additional Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), these healthcare professionals serve 37 of Tulare County’s 43 school districts, the SCICON outdoor education program, and 93 special education classrooms with more than 1,000 students.



As the pandemic unfolded last spring, school nurses converted their standard trainings to Google Classroom and Zoom presentations. New virtual COVID-19 presentations for educators, parents, and staff were quickly developed to include district policies and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, the California Department of Public Health, and the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration. All this was done while conducting health assessments on nearly 900 students and helping to develop health/emergency action plans for 650 students.

As the COVID-19 vaccine became available, the Credentialed School Nurses and LVNs participated in vaccination clinics throughout Tulare County. Working with Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, the nurses provided support at 11 clinics, helping to vaccinate thousands of educators and members of the public.

Now in the second year of the pandemic, the work of school nurses continues as they help district administrators assess and plan for the day when schools will be fully reopened. "I hope you will take a moment today to thank and celebrate school nurses for the tremendous role they have played in supporting student learning during the pandemic," said Mr. Hire.

Photos above:

~ School Health Programs Credentialed School Nurse Julie Urena sets up biologicals for a COVID-19 vaccine clinic – one of 11 clinics held in partnership with Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency.

~ Credentialed School Nurse Ana Borba is pictured checking a student's temperature. The School Health Program provides nursing support for 37 of Tulare County's 43 school districts.

High school students encouraged to apply for summer internships at Circle J-Norris Ranch



This month, Circle J-Norris Ranch is seeking applications from high school students who want to serve as research technicians in June. Up to 10 students may be selected to help establish research plots for the program's Long-Term Oak Forest Inventory – an ongoing project that serves both Tulare County students and researchers within the University of California system.

Under the supervision of Lead Teacher Nancy Bruce, students will work five hours each day June 7-10 using GPS coordinates to locate, mark, verify, and label study plots on the ranch. The internships pay \$200 per student.

High school students interested in applying for a research technician internship are encouraged to email a letter of interest to Nancy Bruce at circlej@ocsnet.net. The deadline to apply is May 21. The Circle J-Norris Ranch is the field study site of the SCICON program and home to the UC Merced/SCICON Field Station.

UPHS student advancing to National History Day competition

Last week, eight young women from University Preparatory High School (UPHS) competed virtually in the National History Day – California event. The students – Mia Giannandrea, Rebecca Eastham, Charvi Reddy, Zoe Townsend, Sophia Weber, Hannah Wegley, Hollen Wegley, and Addison Reardon – entered six projects in the state competition, having advanced from the county competition.

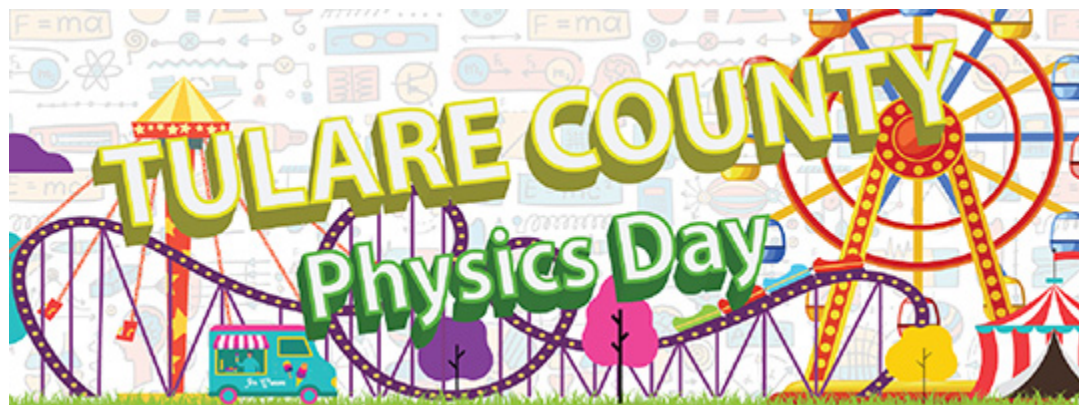
UPHS junior Charvi Reddy was selected as a state champion in the Senior Individual Website category. Her project, *Rachel Carson's Not So Silent Spring: Advocating For The Environment By Revolutionizing Science Communication*, examined the work of the late marine biologist in communicating the importance of environmental protection. Charvi's project will advance to the national competition, which will be held virtually June 13-19.



Photo above:

~ UPHS junior Charvi Reddy was a state champion in the National History Day – California competition last week. She will compete virtually in the national competition next month with her Senior Individual Website project, Rachel Carson's Not So Silent Spring: Advocating For The Environment By Revolutionizing Science Communication.

Event organizers make hands-on physics activities available online



Traditionally, Tulare County Physics Day is held at the Porterville Fair in May. Eighth-grade students from across the county spend the morning working hands-on to build towers and bridges, load barges, and launch rockets.

While Physics Day has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the second year in a row, event organizers have developed a number of online physics activities teachers, parents, and students can use in the classroom or at home. Visit sites.google.com/ersconnect.org/virtualphysicsday/home to access five fun physics activities that can be completed with simple items such as straws, tape, foil, and string.

Reading Revolution

Last week, four teams competed virtually in the elementary portion of Reading Revolution. Students battled it out in the four-part literacy competition based on a 14-book list assigned at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

Overall Team Awards

- 1st Place – Readin' Books, Sequoia Union Elementary
- 2nd Place – Readin' Books: America Runs on Readin', Sequoia Union Elementary
- 3rd Place – Book Tigers, Shannon Ranch Elementary

Heads Together Competition

Heads Together is a *Family Feud*-style competition where teams are asked questions about the books they have read. Teams have a chance to steal points if competitors cannot answer the question correctly.

- 1st Place – Book Tigers, Shannon Ranch Elementary
- 2nd Place (tie) – Readin' Books: America Runs on Readin', Sequoia Union; Readin' Books, Sequoia Union; The Bibliomaniacs, Cutler Elementary

Convincing Characters Competition

In Convincing Characters, students portray a character from one of the books they have read, trying to convince judges to read the book of their choice.

- 1st Place – Readin' Books, Sequoia Union
- 2nd Place – Readin' Books: America Runs on Readin', Sequoia Union
- 3rd Place – Book Tigers, Shannon Ranch Elementary

Stand and Deliver Competition

Stand and Deliver is another head-to-head competition with teams vying to answer 20 questions as quickly as possible about the books they read.

- 1st Place – Readin' Books, Sequoia Union
- 2nd Place – Readin' Books: America Runs on Readin', Sequoia Union
- 3rd Place – The Bibliomaniacs, Cutler Elementary

Full Circle Competition

The culminating event, Full Circle, has students answering 20 questions about the books they read this year. Each student answers the questions individually, but is able to consult with other team members.

- 1st Place – Book Tigers, Shannon Ranch Elementary
- 2nd Place – Readin' Books, Sequoia Union
- 3rd Place – Readin' Books: America Runs on Readin', Sequoia Union

Cover That! Artwork Competition (optional)

In this optional competition, students were able to choose any of the books they read and redesign the cover based on their interpretation of the story.

- 1st Place – Katelyn Ledbetter, Cutler Elementary
- 2nd Place – Michela Pasquini, Shannon Ranch Elementary
- 3rd Place – Kadence Hetherington, Shannon Ranch Elementary



Photo above:

~ Katelyn Ledbetter, a student at Cutler Elementary, was the winner in the Cover That! portion of Reading Revolution. Students who participated in Cover That! were challenged to create a new design for the cover of one of the 14 books assigned as part of the competition.

Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
 - [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
 - [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)
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