

Tulare County
Office of Education

Tim A. Hire, County Superintendent of Schools

news
galleryweek

March 6, 2024

Annual Student Art Exhibition open for viewing

As a part of Arts Education Month, the annual Student Art Exhibition opened last week –showcasing hundreds of art pieces from students across the county. Over 500 pieces from 38 participating schools are available for virtual viewing at tcoe.org/ArtGallery.



Open to students in grades PK-12, the annual Student Art Exhibition showcases the county's gifted young artists. Entries are judged by local artists and select pieces receive a Best of Show award. Last year, over 200 pieces were recognized with Best of Show honors.

The exhibition includes visual and media arts in 2D, 3D, and digital.

Photo above:

~ Over 500 student art pieces, such as *The City at Night* by Freedom Elementary School fourth-grader Blanca Hernandez, can be viewed in the virtual Student Art Exhibition throughout March.

Theatre Company hosting information meeting Monday for upcoming summer production of Freaky Friday



TCOE's Theatre Company is hosting an informational meeting regarding auditions for the upcoming summer production of *Freaky Friday*. The meeting will be held Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at TCOE's Planetarium and Science Center (11535 Avenue 264, Visalia, CA 93277) for students to receive additional tips and instructions about the production and auditions.

Students auditioning for *Freaky Friday* will need to attend one of two vocal and acting audition days, as well as, a dance audition day. Vocal and acting audition days will be held on April 29 and 30, while the dance audition day will be held on May 1. Everyone must participate in all three disciplines involved in the audition (vocal, acting, and dance) to be considered for casting.

Freaky Friday auditions are open to students who will complete 6th-12th grade this spring (Spring 2024). Information regarding a preshow opportunity for younger students will be released soon.

For more information about the summer production, visit tcoe.org/TheatreCo/callboard, or contact Bethany Rader at bethany.rader@tcoe.org.

About *Freaky Friday*:

When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. *Freaky Friday*, a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

Tulare student-athletes recognized for good sportsmanship



In partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Greater Tulare, TCOE's CHARACTER COUNTS! Program recognized this winter's Pursuing Victory with Honor (PVWH) student-athletes at a breakfast on Tuesday.

Kevin Covert, Kiwanis member and Tulare Joint Union High School District administrator, shared that their club decided about 10 years ago to create the recognition program for student-athletes. "We chose to recognize student-athletes not for making touchdowns or scoring goals, but for their sportsmanship, because campuses are built on students who have great character," he said.

Tulare student-athletes, nominated by their coaches, are recognized during the fall, winter, and spring seasons each year for their sportsmanship. The awards they receive include a certificate, a PVWH pin, a PVWH shirt, a PVWH patch, and a lawn sign that reads "An Athlete of Character Lives Here."

Below are the honorees for Tulare high school winter sports.

Tulare Western High School

Reese Mendes, Girls Soccer

In considering Reese's character, coach Scott Rogers said that she checks every box and represents every Pillar of Character. "Reese is a player who has shown great improvement while maintaining a great attitude," he said. "She also maintains one of the highest GPAs on the team." Rogers said that if you polled any of her teammates, they would tell you that Reese is the best teammate on the squad.

Ivan Mata-Ruiz, Boys Soccer

Ivan is a senior who has played for two years on the varsity team. Coach Michael Capote nominated Ivan for the Pursuing Victory with Honor Award after seeing his character while coaching younger students in the local youth soccer league. Ivan bonded with the 4th-6th grade boys on his team at Mission Valley Elementary School. While the boys' team lost in the championship, Ivan remarked, "I'm going to miss all these little guys." Capote said, "Seeing how well he interacted with the younger athletes was great."

Tulare Union High School

Arieana Gutierrez, Girls Wrestling

"Arieana was the obvious choice for this award," said Coach Joseph Perryman. "I could write a paragraph about her for every Pillar of Character. She will help any student, and she's the hardest worker, showing up early and staying late. She helps me with supervision, even the boys. She's a leader."

Nathan Cordova, Boys Wrestling

Nathan is a sophomore on the wrestling team who qualified for masters this year. Coach Chino Williams said that Nathan also checks all the boxes in terms of character. He is hardworking and never gives his coach any attitude. "He is always 'yes, coach' and 'no, coach.' He will do anything that is asked of him."

Mission Oak High School

Isabela Zepeda Fernandez, Girls Basketball

Isabella is a senior and a leader on the girls basketball team. She is one of a handful of girls who has volunteered to run the Tulare County Sheriff's summer basketball league in Pixley for several years. "She and the players have become like big sisters to the children in Pixley," said Coach Dave Caetano. "She is one of the politest and kindest people you'll ever meet."

Oswaldo Garcia, Boys Wrestling

After trying for several years, Coach Zee Enriquez recruited senior football player Oswaldo Garcia to the boys wrestling team. "He's doing an amazing job," Enriquez said. "It's very rare to meet someone as respectful as Oswaldo. I've been involved in wrestling for 40 years and he is one of the most respectful wrestlers in the thousands of kids I've coached."

Crowds brave wind, rain to attend STEAM Expo, Science Fair



On Saturday, hundreds of children and their family members visited the annual STEAM Expo in the Redwood Conference Center to enjoy dozens of fun, hands-on activities designed to introduce the young visitors to science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The weather forced the event inside, but that didn't discourage families. Attendees programmed robots, built straw rockets and popsicle harmonicas, and launched their own hot air balloons. In the Cardboard Challenge area, they let their imaginations run wild as they created costumes, castles, flower bouquets, and games.

Upstairs from the STEAM Expo, visitors viewed 50 student-created projects entered in the annual Tulare County Science & Engineering Fair. Developed by students in elementary, middle, and high school, each entry applied science to address real-world issues. The projects explored issues in Earth and Space Sciences, Life Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics, and Chemistry.



At the end of the STEAM Expo, a ceremony was held, giving plaques to the top projects in each category and announcing the students who will advance to the California State Science and Engineering Fair, being held virtually April 16.

Students Advancing to the California State Science and Engineering Fair



Carter Christenson

Westfield Elementary School, Porterville
“Deep Water”

Ryland Lang

Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers
“Roses Are Red, Violets Are Blue. Does Stroop Affect You?”

Henry Mathiesen

Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers
“Bacteria Growth on Chromebooks”

Aazara Hirani

Westfield Elementary School, Porterville
“Is Drinking Water Drinkable?”

Evelyn Oprea

Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers
“The Cat’s Meow”

Jayden Tang

Westfield Elementary School, Porterville
“Solar Power Vs. Electricity”

People’s Choice Awards:

Jayden Tang – Most Educational

Westfield Elementary School, Porterville
“Solar Power Vs. Electricity”

Andy Bernal and Carlos Hernandez – Best Presentation

Alpaugh High School, Alpaugh
“Infinity Mirror”

Xiomara Iribe Chaidez and Janeth Lopez Cano – Most Innovative

Alpaugh High School, Alpaugh
“Compare Electrolytes in Sports Drinks and Orange Juice”

Budding Young Scientist Award

Kevin Tang

Westfield Elementary School, Porterville
“Cricket Viability Test”

A complete list of winners is available at tcoe.org/STEAMExpo/fair/results.

Photos above:

~ A family prepares to guide a Sphero indi bot along a path. Each of the colored squares gives the cars a particular direction – left turn, right turn, spin, slow down, and more.

~ Visitors to the STEAM Expo enjoyed the Cardboard Challenge area, creating games and costumes.

~ Four of the six winners advancing to the California State Science & Engineering Fair next month are (l-r) Jayden Tang, Carter Christenson, Aazara Hirani, and Evelyn Oprea.

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To receive the News Gallery Week, sign up [here](#), or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 733-6172.