

November 20, 2020

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Re: District Newsletter and Happy Thanksgiving!

Good afternoon LTUSD friends and families,

Happy Thanksgiving! With the start to the Thanksgiving Break, LTUSD wishes to express our deepest gratitude to our students, families and staff for your continued confidence, fortitude, and partnership with us as we work through these difficult times together. We appreciate you, and we appreciate the sentiments and support we receive in return emails and voicemails. With each day holding a new set of uncertainties it's a nice feeling knowing that we too are appreciated. The new adage, "We are in this together," will never get old. Last night I typed a list of things I'm thankful for, and as the list grew and grew, and moved from the far and vast (the moon for making ocean waves), to the roof over my head (the heat in my house and the bickering teenagers), to our health, and lastly, the self-centered and guilty pleasures (puppy breath, a family movie without phones, a thousand-piece puzzle, and my planned re-creation of a cheeseburger pizza, yes), I reflected on how therapeutic it was to write the list in the first place. I'm 45, and I've never *written* my own "grateful for..." list and I think it's going to carry me for awhile! On the list, most sincerely, I wrote that I am very thankful for the leadership of our new Superintendent, Todd Cutler, who has steadily led this district through an indescribably difficult time. He too, is thankful for his warm welcome to the community and he made a short video recording today to share with you:

https://youtu.be/xzwAC2_Y2R8.

We hope that everyone in our small community decides to celebrate this week responsibly and with the "good of the group" in mind. Here are some great ideas for shacking up and reaching out at the same time:

Celebrating Thanksgiving...a message from the CDC: Traditional Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends are fun but can increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu. The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate with people in your household. If you do plan to attend a gathering, bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, and utensils; wear a mask, and safely store your mask while eating and drinking; avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen; and use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets. [Read More...](#)

Holidays During the Pandemic, a message from ChildMind.Org: As we head into the holidays, families everywhere are struggling to make plans appropriate for the pandemic. How do we celebrate when we can't be together as usual? How do we resolve differences of opinion about what is safe? How do we deal with more disappointment and frustration — and help our kids do the same? [Read more...](#)

IN THE SCHOOLS

Welcome Newly Elected Board Member, Val Mansfield. It is with great pleasure that LTUSD welcomes incoming Board Member elect, Valerie Mansfield, who will take her Oath of Office on December 15, 2020. Valerie will represent Trustee Area 4, the seat formerly held by Troy Matthews. Valerie Mansfield is a recently retired teacher from Sierra House Elementary where she taught from 1988 until 2020. Growing up, she spent summers at Fallen Leaf Lake and became a permanent resident of South Lake Tahoe in 1984. During her 32-year career as a teacher, and as a mother of 3 children, she volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, Brownie and Girl Scout leader, baseball coach, and many other endeavors in support of her kids and the community. At Sierra House Elementary, she served as the Choir Director, Weather Kids Coordinator, Spelling Bee Coach, and Ukulele leader. Valerie has always been a child advocate, believing that every single child deserves the opportunities for an excellent education and a bright future. Welcome Valerie!

A message from Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation...As Thanksgiving approaches, all of us at LTEF hope that you and your friends and families are safe, healthy and coping as well as possible with the turmoil that 2020 has brought us. Adapting to new technology while at the same time addressing the needs of each child is a huge undertaking. We are grateful to our educators, students and their families for dealing with all the extra educational demands caused by the COVID-19 pandemic... **To read more, please see attached letter from LTEF.**

FOOD SERVICES will operate only on regularly scheduled school days. Services are not offered over Thanksgiving Recess (11/23-11/27). The [revised meal pick up schedule can be found here](#).

Bread & Broth 4 Kids: Weekly food bags will now be delivered with the school bus routes on Wednesdays. On Friday bags will be available at South Tahoe Middle School. Weekend food bags can also be picked up M-Th from Choices for Children's office located at 1029 Takela Drive, Ste. #1.

Food Assistance Resources in South Lake Tahoe. This list, in English and Spanish, is updated to include specific dates, times, and locations where families in need can find additional food assistance.

PARENTS WANTED - JOIN US VIRTUAL! What: The Community Advisory

[Committee for Special Education \(CAC\)](#) is a mandated organization whose purpose is to advise the district on the unique requirements of individuals with exceptional needs. **Who:** Membership of the CAC includes interested parents of regular and special education students, representatives of public and private agencies, both regular and special education teachers, and others interested in the delivery of services to special education students. Seven meetings throughout the school year.

[New and improved Distribution Guidelines for requesting publication in school and district newsletters](#) Changes include the requirement that all flyers are disseminated electronically; organizations upload flyers to their own websites, Facebook, Google, etc.; a link and a short description of your event or notice in 100 words or less, and other changes...please see the new timeline and steps for getting your information published to District families.

[CAFECITOS Elementary Meetings will be held every Thursday at 5:30pm](#) for all elementary schools, combined. Parents will learn how to navigate the online school system and track their child's progress through Canvas.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Surge Preparedness Within Barton Health Keeps Care Accessible (Nov.18) The safety of patients and healthcare workers is Barton Health's top priority. The health care system has operations in place to continue to meet the demand for medical services as COVID-19 cases surge across the nation and Lake Tahoe. After preparation for the anticipated increase of patient volume this fall and winter, aspects of Barton's plan are being implemented to meet the needs for patient care. **Read more - see attached press release.**

The City of South Lake Tahoe requests your participation in the 56 Acres Master Plan for Recreation. Find out more here and please take the self-guided tour from November 2-20 or our survey: [Envision 56 Acres](#). This project is a collaboration between the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and the California Tahoe Conservancy to create a signature recreation and civic space in the heart of South Lake Tahoe. The first phase of the project was Lakeview Commons and a subsequent phase is the new Multigenerational Recreation & Aquatics Center under design now.

[El Dorado County Library](#) is offering free online tutoring to anyone with a library card. We are so excited to announce a new resource available through the El Dorado County Library called **Tutor.com**. **Connect with a live tutor for FREE from 3 pm to 10 pm EVERY DAY.** Get writing and resume help and access to thousands of academic and

career resources. All you need to access these amazing resources is a library card! Visit eldoradolibrary.org/tutor for more information.

Babysitting Readiness workshop - Everything you need to know to start a successful babysitting business including CPR and basic first aid. Sat, December 5, 9am-2pm www.ltccConnect.com or **see attached flyer**.

3rd Annual Turkey Trot presented by the Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless and the City of South Lake Tahoe. Each person who purchases a ticket and participates in the virtual race will receive a 2020 Turkey Trot T-shirt. Help us raise much needed funds for the homeless. **See attached flyer**.

Youth Volleyball League 2020/21: Kahle Community Center is excited to be offering a youth volleyball league for grades 3rd - 12th! All grade divisions will be co-ed. Games will be held at Kahle Community Center on weeknights. Registration begins 11/16/20 and League begins 12/14/20. **See attached flyer**.

Covered California Open Enrollment - If you need health insurance, Barton Health's certified enrollment counselors offer FREE enrollment assistance by phone to review Covered California health insurance coverage options and guide you to the right plan. **See attached flyer**.

NIXLE - Parent Texting Network from Drug Free Coalition As a parent, you are naturally concerned about your children's safety. As they grow older, one of those concerns centers on their potential exposure to drugs/substances of abuse and possible addiction. DFC provides a free parent texting network whereby you can choose to receive periodic texts (1-2 per month) identifying substance use trends seen locally in our schools and community, information about the drugs themselves, links to studies, and resources in our local area for assistance and treatment. **To join this texting network, simply text STDFC to 888777.**

South Lake Tahoe Mobile Pantry November 26 The Food Bank of El Dorado County holds their SLT Mobile Pantry / Free Farmers Market in St. Theresa's Church parking lot every 4th Wednesday (November 26) from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. If you or someone you know is in need of fresh produce and a week's supply of staple foods come on down!! We hope to see you there! For more info please email info@foodbankedc.org .

LTUSD's COVID-19 Resource pages - Includes links to information and resources for families and students; links to flyers regarding coronavirus and [what to do if your child has symptoms](#); and links to [LTUSD Community Resources Page](#) .

EDC Community Hubs, staffed with family engagement, literacy and health specialists, work to strengthen families and reduce isolation and stress. They can help with various social services applications as well. EDC Hub5 also maintains a Facebook group where it shares resources, information, parenting advice and activities:

www.facebook.com/CommunityHub5/.

UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra During the COVID-19 pandemic, you can help spread the word about Central Sierra resources to make sure everyone has enough to eat. **If your family, your neighbors, or anyone you know is in need of food, assistance is available!** Links to information about all Central Sierra food banks, WIC agencies, school meal sites, senior meals, how to **sign up for CalFresh/food stamps**, food safety, home cooking, home-based activities for families, and more are available on the following webpage, which will be regularly updated until the end of the crisis: **COVID-19 Community Resources**.

Foster & Kinship Care Education Program offers free training and community clinics on topics such as parenting, mental health, physical health and overall wellness. Upcoming trainings via Zoom include **Nurtured Heart Approach to Parenting Series, School in the Climate of COVID - how to help your child that is struggling, Surviving: Thriving Teens, Mental Health of Children and Adolescents, and more**. Most trainings are also offered in Spanish.

Messages from Live Violence Free - Upcoming Events, Podcasts, Trainings:

One Conversation Podcasts: Live violence Free has just launched **#OneConversation** Podcasts. We dive into self-care, healthy relationships, relationship challenges and more. Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwr0VoMpdWk&t=244s>

Una Conversacion Podcasts: Live violence free ahora ofrece podcast en Español. En este podcast tenemos una conversacion de qué es una relación de violencia domestica, La rueda de poder y por qué no se va la víctima de una relacion abusiva. Una conversacion, El podcast donde creemos que una conversación puede cambiar una vida. Escucha aqui: <https://j.mp/3nwoOPj>

One Conversation Campaign We need your help to end child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse in our community. **#OneConversation** can change someone's life. Learn about how to recognize the signs of abuse and how to talk to a victim and connect them with help. Together. we can end violence on the South Shore. <https://liveviolencefree.org/oneconversation/>

Crisis Intervention Training Live Violence Free is providing another free training for crisis intervention - it could be a real lifesaver! If you complete the 65.5 hour training online, you'll earn your state certification to be a Certified Crisis Counselor for free and have a good avenue for meaningful employment. You'll also be helping and supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence so they can heal. Sign up today!

https://liveviolencefree.org/get-involved/crisis-intervention-training/?fbclid=IwAR1GngtYi2IAhJle2HS78tiUQNhZsVSIAMgp_PYsExpIDJRxulO-mIFAWRg

Gift a Christmas

Live Violence Free Gift a Christmas program formerly known as “Adopt a Child” will move forward this year virtually. You can now gift a Christmas and purchase gifts from the comfort of your home. If you are interested in providing one of our clients with a smile and gifts, please call (530) 264-5321 to connect with the coordinator or for any questions. To Gift a Christmas, click on the link: <https://signup.com/go/XzYgnZp>

Links to your school sites and local education news:

[LTUSD Website](#)

[South Tahoe High School](#)

[South Tahoe Middle School](#)

[Bijou Community School](#)

[Tahoe Valley Elementary](#)

[Sierra House Elementary](#)

[Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet](#)

[Elevated Digital Learning Academy](#)

[LOCAL EDUCATION NEWS](#)

[DISTRICT CALENDARS](#)

[DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS](#)

[COVID-19 FLYERS, SELF-SCREENING FORMS, HANDOUTS](#)

Enjoy the weekend,

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