

University Preparatory School

Panther Pride

APRIL 2015
THE AWARD EDITION



Important Dates

Early Release Days

May 4th
May 18th

School Holidays/ Breaks

Memorial Day

May 25th

Last Day of School

May 28th

Special Bell Schedules

Final Exam Schedule

May 26th-28th

Activities

Spirit Week

April 20-24

Open House

April 22nd

Spring College Trip

April 23-24

6th Grade Social

April 30th

Auction

May 1st

End of the Year

Dance

May 8th

Panther Afternoon

May 14th

Day on the Green

Rally

May 22nd

Events

8th Grade Graduation

May 29th 4:00 p.m.

12th Grade Graduation

May 29th 8:00 p.m.

Superintendent/Principal Erin Stuart's message:

Welcome to the "Awards Edition" of the U-Prep newsletter. I have attempted to include all of the recent accomplishments of our students and staff; however, I may have overlooked someone so please let me know. We can always add to an online journal—another advantage of electronic communication. Although not featured in an article, **Melia Matthews** deserves accolades for her perfect ACT score; she appeared on the front page of the Record Searchlight on March 27th (http://www.redding.com/web/redd/news/local-news/uprep-junior-gets-perfect-score-on-act-test_10775467). Quite recently we learned that four of our juniors achieved a score of 202 or higher on the PSAT test they took last October. Of the 1.5 million students who tested, 50,000 qualified to start the journey to become Merit Scholars. Ultimately only 8,000 students across the nation will be offered Merit Scholarships. It is amazing to have four students who meet these rigorous standards: Congratulations to **Erick Blankenberg**, **Karlyn Chin**, **Beau Forest** and **Melia Matthews**. And, since we are University Preparatory School, I've listed below the colleges where our current seniors have been accepted below:

Harvard University, Southern Oregon University, Chico State University, University of West Hartford, Sonoma State University, Columbia College, Art Institute of Portland, Savannah College of Arts and Design, Otis College of Arts and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Denver, Western Washington University, Oregon State University, Humboldt State University, Cal State Monterey Bay, Portland State University, Montana State University, Azusa Pacific, San Francisco State, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, UC Davis, UC Berkley, UC Los Angeles, Harvey Mudd College, Shasta College, CSU San Marcos, CSU San Diego, Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, University of Iowa, Blinn College, UC Santa Cruz, Saint Mary's College of California, William and Mary, Whitworth University, University of Utah, University of Nevada Reno, Simpson University, Vanguard University of Southern California, UC Santa Barbara, Lewis and Clark College, University of La Verne, Greenville College, Sacramento State, CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, University of California Irvine, Harding University, UC Riverside, UC Merced, Grand Canyon University, CSU Bakersfield, San Jose State, New York University, Drexel University, William Jessup University, De Anza College, Brigham Young University

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and celebrating with our students, families, faculty, and support staff as the school year draws to a close. As many of you know, Shelle Peterson will become the Superintendent/Principal of our wonderful school on July 1st and I will retire (again). It's been a privilege working with a fine and dedicated staff and getting to spend time with your amazing children.

Kind regards,

Erin Stuart

Staff Leaders Receive Honors

If you've been reading the marquee over the last several months, you've seen several student groups and staff honored for various accomplishments. This year our school honorees for Educators of the Year were Biao Cheng (high school) and Matt Williams (junior high). Mr. Williams, our junior high counselor, went on to win the Region 2 Educator of the Year award; this event is statewide and is sponsored by the California League of Middle Schools. He has implemented several important programs at U-Prep including Peer Mentoring classes, Bully Busters, and lunchtime intramurals. Although Mr. Williams did not capture the state title, he's still our number one.

The Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) takes nomination for teachers of the year in elementary, middle, and high schools in the spring and announces the winners before the beginning of the school year. As many of you know, Ana Mello, was SCOE's pick for the 2014-15 High School Teacher of the Year. Besides her expertise in the classroom, Mrs. Mello is a leader at U-Prep; she is the Math Department Chair as well as an Advanced Placement Calculus and Statistics teacher and Student Government advisor.

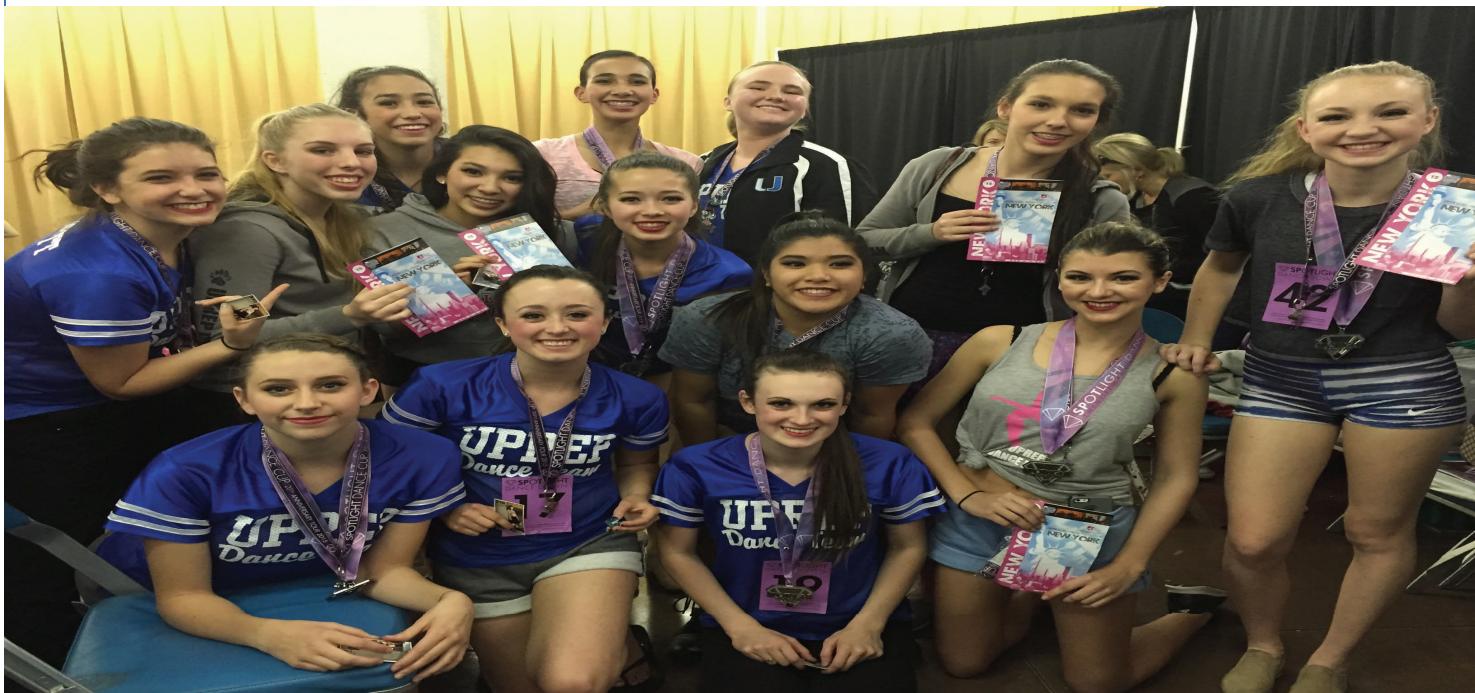
Recently our School Business Manager Molly Schlange was the featured Member in the CASBO (California Association of School Business Officials) School Business magazine. Mrs. Schlange was chosen because she embodies the qualities of excellent fiscal management: leadership, accountability, and collaboration. She recently completed the very competitive CBO Mentor Program sponsored by FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team); this program accepts only 25 participants statewide. Congratulations on completing the program and thank you for your leadership on both the local and state level.

DANCE TEAM DOMINATES ANDERSON COMPETITION, HEADED TO NYC THIS SUMMER

The U-Prep team consists of 15 girls who auditioned last May and committed to being a part of a competitive dance team that not only performs at rallies, halftimes, and other school functions, but also travels out of the area to take classes from professional dancers and compete against prestigious dance studios. Practices are held after school anywhere from 2-4 days a week depending on how many pieces they are involved in. This year we had 4 routines we learned at dance camp (held at UCSC in August) that we performed at school functions and 9 additional routines we are taking to out of the area competitions.

To kick off our season, we competed in a local dance team competition at Anderson High School in January. At this competition there were 6 schools from surrounding areas. We competed with 3 dances and took home a first and second place trophy. All of the team dances were performed at the dance department's annual Just Dance! on March 5th & 6th. During the weekend of March 22-23, the Dance Team competed in Reno, earning 6 Emerald and 3 Ruby rankings and one best of category. The team was also invited to NYC this summer to take classes with the Rockettes! This year's team includes Alyssa Brown, Sam Burke, Chloe Hudson, Natalie Jimenez, Anneliese Lewin, Asia McKim, Hannah Metheny, Jessica Neves, Claire Pe-witt, Emily Quaid, Mikiya Reuther, Jordan Sayabath, Maren Stratte, Shelby Stuckey, and Emma Yoshida.

Marissa Kinneavy, Fine Arts Department



Six U-Prep Seniors Receive Honor from Assemblyman Brian Dahle

First District assemblyman Brian Dahle honored six seniors for academic excellence; all of the students have a cumulative 4.0 GPA. Zachary Hamilton, Matthew Hatter, David McCallum, Sarah Murphy, Yasmeen Musthafa, and Lily Lauben received Certificates of Recognition at a January assembly.

---Kristen Haworth, High School Counselor

A Great Business Plan takes U-Prep YEP Team to a Second Place Finish

As a large part of the Business/Entrepreneurship Elective course, students worked on creating an innovative product and company. This includes the specific type of organization (i.e. sole proprietorship), management, marketing, customer demographic, finances and startup needs. One of the programs we work towards and that all students in the class compete in is the Shasta College Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), a program focused on the application of real world business practices through innovative business ideas and business planning. Six teams from University Preparatory School entered this YEP competition and 86 total teams from around the North State are competing. All of our teams made the first round of cuts, with 40 total teams advancing to the second round and one of our teams advancing to the final round which included the top five teams of the 86 participating.

We are very proud of the University Preparatory Team that made it to the top five in the North State for the YEP Competition. This team is comprised of Junia Lebek (Grade 11) and Lilly Griffith (Grade 12). Their product is *Give Life* and is a product that transfers charge from one electronic device to another. For example, if your cell phone charge is 10%, you may transfer a percentage of somebody else's phone to yours, with the *Give Life* product. The associated app enables the user to dictate the % of charge transferred. Each team prepared a full business plan and answered detailed questions about the product, the company and the finances. Our *Give Life* team Competed with the four other finalists on March 19 at the Cascade Theater and were awarded Second Place. They presented their business plan to 500 high school students and a panel of judges. Their elevator pitch is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9psd8IZyyw>.

Congratulations to Junia and Lilly – you did a great job representing U-Prep!

--Cathy Armstrong, English Department



Mock Trial Makes a Great Showing in County Competition

This year we had a team of 19 students taking part on the University Preparatory Mock Trial Team. This was our second year with a U-Prep Mock Trial team and we had an amazing outcome, as three of our students took top awards for the Shasta County Mock Trial Competition. The premise behind Mock Trial (organized as a statewide and national competition) is to provide facts of a case, based on current issues in the legal system. Students, along with coaching from community attorneys and a teacher-advisor, work for seven months creating a full prosecution and defense team, ultimately resulting in a competition among the Shasta County high schools in February. Though U-Prep did not take first place this year, we had 3 students win countywide awards: Sara Nune (12) won for County Witness, and Natalie LiVolsi (12) won Best Defense witness. Great job to the entire team!

--Cathy Armstrong

English Department



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MATHCOUNTS Team Takes First Place!

Beginning in September junior high students in the Mathcounts club start sharing ideas and preparing for the Mathcounts competition. In January the club held its annual school competition to decide which students would attend regionals, and who would represent U-Prep on the school team. Emily Littau, Tessa Wilburn, Sierra Klein, Ben Newcomer, and Fallon Gilbert progressed to regionals. Alex Woodworth, Patrizia Fox-Beaudet, Simon Bright, and Luke Handley won spots on the U-Prep team. Additionally Alex won the top score at the school level. At the Redding Area Mathcounts Competition, Alex Woodworth placed second overall in the individual competition, and led our team to a first place win. The U-Prep team now proceeds to Stanford University on March 21 to compete in the Mathcounts Northern California State competition.

--Michelle Oberlander, Math Department

Math Students Participate in 26th Trimathelon

University Preparatory School took seven students to the Twenty-Sixth Annual Shasta College Trimathelon. Competing in the Chalk Talk event were Jess Paoli and Tyler Younkers. They presented on the topic of "Math in Nature." Their presentation focused on the Sine function and how it appears in everything from light waves, sound particles, and waves. Brendan Carr and Chase Caten teamed up for the Applied Problem Solving event. They were tasked with solving problems that are realistic direct applications of mathematics. Holden Altemus and Ben Hall competed in the Dragon Slayer Derby solving problems that involved puzzles, logic, and critical thinking. Holden and Ben won second place in the derby. Holden Altemus, Brendan Carr, Beau Forest, Ben Hall, Jess Paoli, and Tyler Younkers paired up to compete in Estimation Golf. Teams were given short periods of time to estimate answers to mathematical expressions. Approximately forty students and teachers attended the event hosted by the Shasta College Math Department. Winners received trophies and prizes donated by Texas Instruments and the Shasta College Bookstore.

Ana Mello, Math Department

Art News with Wilhelm

This year I am proud to say that the University Preparatory School Visual Art students did an amazing job at the Annual Shasta Arts Council Juried High School Art Competition. Local artist Jim Phillips juried the show. He had the unbelievable task of sorting through 532 submissions as 15 high schools competed this year. Only 213 were selected to be in the show. We were honored to get 25 pieces into the show and four U-Prep art students attained awards. Curator awards were given to Brianna Kostielney for her gouache painting "London" and Erick Blankenberg for his mixed -media 3D piece "Ever Enduring. The curator of the Shasta Arts Council selects only 5 pieces from the show to be honored with this award. Erick Blankenberg also received a Merit award for his 3D found assembled media "Dry". The Merit award is awarded by the juror and this year Phillips only honored 6 students with this award. Lastly, Maggie Cox won the 2D Best of Show award for her watercolor portrait "Prisma". This Best of Show is considered the juror's number one pick of all pieces in the show. Congratulations to Maggie, Erick and Brianna and all students who were selected for this show. You all have been creating beautiful and inspiring work this year. I am proud to say I am your art teacher.

--Lura Wilhelm, Fine Arts Department



MUSIC STUDENTS PLAY AT REGIONAL AND STATE LEVEL

The Music Department would like to extend their congratulations to Ryan Yoshida and Aiden Gonczeruk for their acceptance and participation in the Nor Cal Junior High Honor Band on January 16th and 17th of this year. This is a unique honor and opportunity for band students in our region to play with the very best of the best. Not only did they perform admirably, but they represented our school with distinction and we are proud of their accomplishments. Additionally, further congratulations should be given to Aiden Gonczeruk for his acceptance and participation in the All-State Junior High Symphonic Honor Band on February 20th and 21st of this year. Considering how many music students there are in the state of California, this is a tremendous accomplishment for Aiden and we are fortunate to have fine students like these young men representing our music program.

--Brad Fowers, Fine Arts Department

Odyssey of the Mind

On February 21st, our *Odyssey of the Mind* teams competed in the regional tournament in Sacramento. Our 6th grade team competed against twelve other schools ranging from 6th grade to 8th grade. They received a 6th place finish overall, however they placed 3rd in their spontaneous problem. Our 8th grade competed against eleven other schools and victoriously placed 1st! We are extremely proud of both teams for their dedication and hard work. We look forward to competing next year.

Matthew Love, Science Teacher

Spelling Bee Spells Success for U-Prep Students

U-Prep had the school Spelling Bee on December 3rd. The overall winner of that was James McKellar. He went to the local Redding Searchlight Spelling Bee on March 7th. This was our regional qualifying bee for Scripps National Spelling Bee. Joseph Venturato placed first for 6th grade, Mason Ryan second. James McKellar won the first place for 7-8th and was the Grand Champion, Ben Newcomer placed second and Patrizia Fox-Beaudet third.

The county Junior High Bee was held on Thursday, March 19th starting at 4:00PM at Millville Elementary School. James and Ben participated in that competition. The elementary spelling bee was the day before. Mason and Joseph participated on that day.

These spellers have spent months dedicated to studying and preparing for these competitions. They have been guided by our parent volunteer Joy Fox-Beaudet. Mrs. Fox-Beaudet has volunteered for our Spelling Bee Club for three years! She has led weekly meetings and attended competitions to offer support. Thank you Joy for all your time. A huge congratulations to all the competitors!

SCIENCE BOWL TEAM HEADS TO NATIONAL COMPETITION

Practice makes perfect. After 5 months of weekly science bowl practice, a U-Prep team won the Redding Regional for the third year in a row. **Benjamin Hall, Yasmeen Musthafa, Matthew Hatter, Melia Matthews, and Christopher Huebner** will be traveling to Washington DC to compete with 63 other schools in the Department of Energy's National Science Bowl on May 3rd. It was an all U-Prep final in the regional tournament as the 2nd place team, composed of **David McCallum, Sara Nune, Erick Blankenberg, Luke Blankenberg, and Samuel Newcomer** had their only losses of the day against U-Prep's first team. U-Prep's third team also did well in the regional competition. **Beau Forest, Bronson van Opijken, Katherine Woodworth, Claire Reuss and May Dhanuka** won several matches against some of the other 13 other high schools that competed in the Redding Region Science Bowl competition, sponsored locally by Redding Electric Utility.

Cory Poole, Science/Mathematics Teacher

Music Student Opens the Little League Season

We would like to acknowledge one of our student musicians, sixth grader Sarah Richards, for her outstanding performance at the Little League Commencement Ceremony. The opening ceremonies included Sarah's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." Thank you to Sarah and the Little League for making this opportunity possible.

-Brad Fowers, Fine Arts Department

Latin Program Awards

U-Prep's Latin students performed very strongly at this year's national and state competitions.

National Latin Exam (NLE):

Of the 83 U-Prep students who took the NLE, 71 received a high-score award. At 85% of test-takers earning an award, U-Prep's award winners added up to more than double the national average of 38%. Go U-Prep Latinists!

5 students won a 4th place "Iron Medal" for a Cum Laude score.

4 students won a 3rd place "Bronze Medal" for a Magna Cum Laude score.

18 students won a 2nd place "Silver Medal" for a Maxima Cum Laude score.

15 students won a 1st place "Gold Medal" for a Summa Cum Laude score.

On top of those awards, 17 Latin 1 students also earned a 2nd place "Certificate of Achievement" award and 10 Latin 1 students earned a 1st place "Certificate of Outstanding Achievement" award.

The following students won first place Gold Medals:

INTRO TO LATIN TEST: Louis Ariagno, Eric Asbill, Ciara Benson, Gus Blankenberg, Kathryn Brackman, Eric Exley, Veronica Medina, Kendall Nadin, Soniya Patel, Allison Tilzey

LATIN 1 TEST: Sierra Klein, Taylor Wagner, Alex Woodworth

LATIN 2 TEST: Adam Barsness, Luke Blankenberg, May Dhanuka, Max Dometiev, Kevin Liu, Forrest Moore, Kutter Wright, Derek Younkers

LATIN 3 TEST: Ali Malik, Savannah Tate, Bronson Van Opijken,

PERFECT SCORES AWARDS: Eric Asbill, Luke Blankenberg, Forrest Moore

CA Junior Classical League State Competition (CA-JCL)

U-Prep won 3rd place overall for medium-sized schools at March's CA-JCL State Competition, as well as winning 2nd place in the state Spirit Competition.

U-Prep students won a total of 56 individual achievement awards, with 27 Of the 38 students who attended the Convention winning at least one award.

Fourth place Awards: 4 total

Third place Awards: 15 total

Second Place Awards 17 total

First Place Awards 20 total

First Place "Gold Medal" Award Winners:

Eric Asbill (grammar-1 test), Erick Blankenberg (large models + academic bowl), Gus Blankenberg (daily life test), Luke Blankenberg (small models), Kristine Cordy (sculpture), Paras Dhanuka (translation-1 test), Jaden Ji (sculpture + mythology test), Nathan Lervold (track-400 meters), Melia Matthews (textiles), Rylie Miller (track-100 meters), Forrest Moore (track-1600 meters), Kendall Nadin & Anna Pierce (impromptu art), Savannah Tate (vocabulary test), Alex Woodworth (transation-1 test + academic bowl)

Alex Woodworth also won the top score for middle school academics overall, and earned the highest middle school test score at the convention.

Nathan Lervold won first place in individual athletics at the high school level.