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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Aiming High: Elk Creek Schools Launch New Clay Target Team

Elk Creek Schools are excited to announce the launch of the Elk Creek Clay Target Team, a new athletic opportunity for students in grades 6 through 12! This fall, our team will be competing in the California Clay Target League's TRAP division, a sport that was recently featured in the 2024 Olympic Games. This unique sport prioritizes safety, fun, and marksmanship, and has been embraced by nearly 50,000 student athletes nationwide without a single reported injury since the league's founding in 2008.

The Elk Creek Clay Target Team will practice and compete at the West Hills Training Facility in Artois, giving our students the chance to engage in a sport that's new to many while representing our school with pride. Each student athlete is required to complete a comprehensive safety course, and all coaches undergo safety and instructor training to ensure a safe and supportive environment. The range is supervised by a certified Range Master, further emphasizing our commitment to safety.

This exciting new program is made possible through a generous donation from Robert Burt Construction to help with the cost of shells and clay targets as well as special funding

allocated for after-school programs, covering most costs associated with participation, including uniforms and equipment. This allows our students to experience a unique and engaging sport without any financial barriers, broadening their horizons and providing them with opportunities to develop skills such as focus, discipline, and teamwork.

In a broader context, Elk Creek's entry into the California Clay Target League marks a historic achievement for Glenn County. With the addition of our team, every high school in the county is now part of the league, making Glenn County the first in California to have 100% participation in this growing sport! This is a testament to the pioneering efforts of schools like Orland High School and Anna M. Canon, who were instrumental in bringing the league to California nearly a decade ago.

Our students will have the opportunity to compete against peers from all over the state, from Yreka to San Diego, all from the comfort of our own range at West Hills. This achievement highlights the dedication and spirit of our community and students, demonstrating that even the smallest schools can achieve great things.



Back to School Night Brings Community Together

Stony Creek kicked off the new academic year with a vibrant Back to School Night that brought together over 150 community members, families, and students. The evening began with an exciting ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of our new gym floor. The celebration continued with a captivating performance by Native dancers, showcasing their rich cultural heritage.



Following the festivities, families were invited to visit classrooms, meet teachers, and learn more about the engaging programs and opportunities available to students this year. The event also featured a delicious tri-tip sandwich dinner, providing a perfect opportunity for families and staff to connect and enjoy the evening together. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Elk Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Friday Night Live, and GPAC for their support and presence at the event, providing valuable information and resources at their tables.

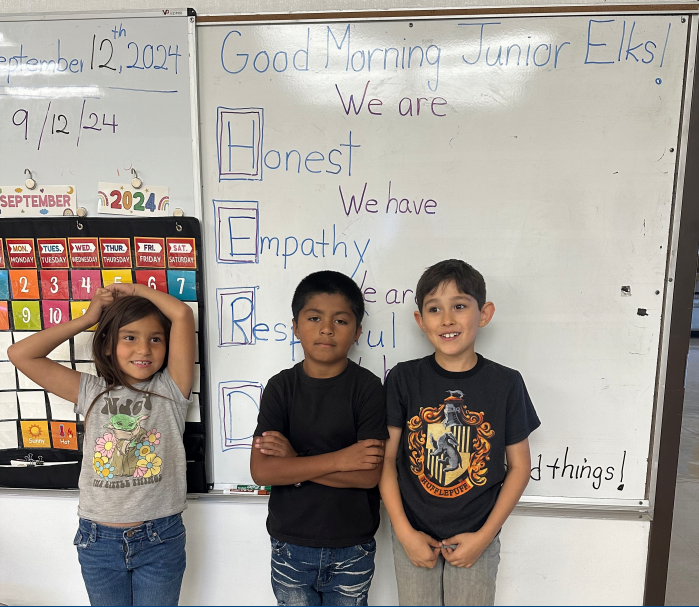


Thank you to everyone who made this Back to School Night a success. We look forward to a fantastic school year ahead!

Keep Up with the Herd: Follow Us on Facebook

Stay connected with all the latest news and events by following us on Facebook! Join our community online for updates, announcements, and highlights from SCJUSD.

www.SCJUSD.org



Farm Day Adventure

Every year, the Glenn County Farm Bureau hosts a special event known as Farm Day, a field trip offered to all fourth-grade students in Glenn County. This unique experience educates students about the importance of agriculture and its impact on their daily lives, highlighting the vital role that farming plays in our community and beyond.

This year, several of our third and fourth graders who have been demonstrating excellent citizenship as positive herd members were invited to attend, giving them a chance to explore the various aspects of local farming. Throughout the day

educational stations and served lunch to the attendees, demonstrating their leadership skills and commitment to supporting our community. Their involvement was a great example of how older students can positively impact younger students by sharing

students participated in interactive stations that covered topics such as crop production, livestock care, and the journey of food from farm to table.



their knowledge and enthusiasm for agriculture. We are grateful to the Glenn County Farm Bureau for providing this enriching experience.

They learned about the importance of agriculture in our community and gained a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into producing the food we eat. In addition to the younger students, several of our high school FFA officers were present to lend a helping hand. They assisted with the

Farm Day not only teaches our students about agriculture but also inspires them to appreciate and respect the vital role it plays in our lives. We look forward to participating in this valuable event again next year!

Join Our H.E.R.D.!

At Stony Creek Joint Unified, we take pride in our Elk H.E.R.D. values: **Honesty, Empathy, Respect, and Determination**. These core pillars guide everything we do and help shape a positive school culture.

- **Honesty:** We encourage our students to be truthful and trustworthy in all their actions.
- **Empathy:** Understanding and caring for others is at the heart of our community.
- **Respect:** We value treating everyone with kindness and consideration.
- **Determination:** We are committed to working hard and never giving up on our goals.

Together, these values form the foundation of our school, ensuring that every student can thrive and succeed.



Elk Creek Volleyball: A Season of Strength and Spirit

The Elk Creek High School Lady Elks Volleyball team has been showcasing their skills both at home and on the road this season. With dedication and teamwork, they have been competing in numerous games, representing our school with pride and determination. Under the guidance of Coach Kayleen, the team has continued to grow and improve, displaying impressive teamwork and resilience. Whether playing in front of a home crowd or traveling to away games, the Lady Elks continue to demonstrate their commitment and sportsmanship, making us all proud. Keep up the great work, Lady Elks!

JUNIOR ELKS DOMINATE IN SEASON OPENER

Middle school sports are back, and the Junior Elks Volleyball team is off to a fantastic start! Under the leadership of Coach Bloom, the team played their first home game against Walden Academy and delivered an impressive 3-0 sweep. This win highlights the dedication and talent of our young athletes, and we are excited about the bright future of athletics in our district. Thank you to Coach Bloom for his commitment to our students and for helping to reignite the excitement of middle school sports at Elk Creek.



Elk Creek High Earns Top WASC Accreditation

We are thrilled to announce that Elk Creek High School has achieved a prestigious 6-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the highest possible outcome following our recent review. WASC accreditation serves to assure the community that our school meets rigorous standards of quality and effectiveness, ensuring that we provide a high-quality educational experience that promotes continuous improvement. Our one-day visit went exceptionally well, with the visiting committee highlighting our strong educational programs, supportive school culture, and dedication to student success. Achieving this level of accreditation validates the quality of education we provide and confirms that we are meeting the highest standards of academic excellence and student support. We are proud of this recognition and excited to continue offering exceptional educational opportunities for our students.

4+1 Schedule Set to Transform Stony Creek

Big changes are coming to the Stony Creek Joint Unified School District! Thanks to the passage of Senate Bill 1440, a bill specifically crafted for SCJUSD, the district will be transitioning to a 4+1 school week starting in the 2025-2026 school year. Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed SB1440 into law, giving SCJUSD the unique opportunity to adopt this new schedule. The district believes this change will benefit students, families, and staff while maintaining the same number of instructional minutes as the traditional 5-day week.

Superintendent Pendell traveled to Sacramento to testify before both the House and Senate education committees, passionately advocating for the district's needs. In her testimony, she highlighted the challenges faced by our families and SCJUSD, which serves a rural area spanning 600 square miles and four small communities. Many families in the district struggle to attend important appointments — such as medical, dental, or mental health services — due to the long travel distances. Missing school for these appointments often leads to high absenteeism. "Our families have asked for more time to handle appointments and participate in cultural activities without sacrificing school attendance," Pendell explained. The new 4+1 schedule will help families by offering greater flexibility while keeping students in school more regularly.

Under this new schedule, students will only be required to attend school from **Tuesday through Friday**, with slightly extended school days to ensure they receive the required instructional minutes. SCJUSD is committed to providing the same quality education and the same number of learning hours as the current 5-day model. Importantly, the school year will still begin in August and end in May, meaning the overall calendar will remain largely the same.

Mondays will be a +1 optional school day. Rather than being a required school day, these +1 days will provide opportunities for field trips, enrichment, tutoring and credit and attendance recovery. Additionally, meal services will be available ensuring that students who rely on school meals are still provided for.

The benefits of the 4+1 school week extend beyond the students. By offering a better work-life balance, SCJUSD aims to attract and retain high-quality teachers — something crucial for rural districts facing teacher shortages. Teachers will also have additional time for professional development on Mondays, allowing them to grow professionally.

Superintendent Pendell emphasized that this shift is part of a larger effort to better serve the community. "This is about meeting the unique needs of our students and families. We're giving them more flexibility while ensuring that we keep them engaged in their education," she said. To measure the success of the 4+1 week, the district will closely monitor attendance, academic performance, and overall student well-being. Community feedback will continue to play a vital role, with public forums, surveys, and direct communication channels available for parents, students, and staff to share their input.

With SB1440 in place, SCJUSD will now focus on working closely with families, staff, and community members to create a detailed plan for implementation. The district is excited about the positive impact this new schedule will bring, helping students succeed while giving families the flexibility they need.





Stony Creek Joint
Unified School District

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**SMALL SCHOOLS.
BIG DIFFERENCE.**

Stony Creek Joint Unified School District is a small, rural district in Elk Creek, dedicated to providing personalized and high-quality education to its TK-12 students within a close-knit community.

530.968.5361

www.SCJUSD.org

Upcoming Events!

HOME VOLLEYBALL GAME VS. LOYALTON

Join us in cheering on our volleyball team as they take on Loyalton on Friday, October 11, at 4 PM in the Elk Creek High School gym. Let's pack the stands and show our athletes our full support during this exciting home game!

SENIOR NIGHT & HOME VOLLEYBALL GAME VS. HERLONG

Join us for an exciting volleyball matchup as our team takes on Herlong on Thursday, October 17, at 4 PM in the Elk Creek High School gym. Join us in the stands and cheer loudly to show our athletes how much we support them in this home game!

OCTOBER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The October school board meeting will be held on October 22 at 6 PM in the Elk Creek High School Library. We encourage all community members to attend and engage in important district matters.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Join us on Friday, October 25 at 5 pm for our annual Halloween Carnival hosted by ECHS Associated Student Body. This fundraiser includes carnival games with prizes and dinner. Come in costume for a fun evening in the elementary cafeteria.