With our new District Radio Communication System that phrase will soon be as obsolete as “Roll up the window”, “Hang up the phone” and “Turn the channel”.

At the beginning of last year we applied for and were granted new radio frequencies by the FCC. We are switching from VHF to UHF frequencies to improve performance inside and outside of school buildings with various construction types and topography. Additionally, we are purchasing repeaters and other supporting equipment to assist radio communication during a disaster or other emergencies. The scope of work is large and entails the purchasing and programming of over 900 radios, installation of supporting equipment, and training on radio communication etiquette and protocol to conform with FCC regulations.

At the March 5th Board Meeting the contract for purchasing the radios and equipment was formally approved. The radios have been purchased and are currently being programmed and delivered to sites.

Each site will be receiving a base radio and supporting accessories to use in the event of a disaster to communicate with the EOC (Emergency Operations Center - at Maintenance). Each site will also receive new handheld radios with accessories. The initial purchase of handheld radios and future repairs of only the assigned radios will be funded from our budget.

The current number of radios per grade level (with few exceptions) are 13 for elementary, 16 for middle and 40 for high schools.

Sites who currently have radio orders through Purchasing will find that the order has been cancelled as those radios will not be compatible with the new system. If there is an urgent need for those radios, please contact my office for support and we will provide temporary radios until the new system is in-place.

We are all very excited about the new system and look forward to working with each site to ensure success.

Please do not hesitate to contact Maintenance with any questions or comments you may have.
Deep Cleaning Crew

The Deep Cleaning Crew aka Evening Crew, consists of two detail oriented team members, Ray Villanueva and Jorge Villegas. For the most part they work behind the scenes, after the school day has ended. Although they are only a crew of two and their responsibilities are vast, each of our sites get the highest level of service.

They take care of deep cleaning and renovating classroom floors, carpet extractions, stripping and refinishing tile flooring, bringing back that fresh new look to flooring that takes a daily trampling.

When there’s an infestation of lice or fleas the evening crew will clean, sanitize and disinfect the class, insuring the problem gets taken care of and the room is ready for students before the start of the next school day.

Ray and Jorge are responsible for training all new custodial staff in proper cleaning methods; passing on advice and sharing what they’ve found most effective throughout their years of experience.

In emergency situations; plumbing backups, vomit, large spills, any situation that is more than the on-site custodial staff can handle, Ray and Jorge will come out to assist with the clean-up.

As our Year-Round Schools generally have less that one student-free week between school years, Ray and Jorge provide much appreciated extra man-power to get the year round sites cleaned and ready for the new school year.

Along with all this they also take care of vacuum repairs, maintaining dilution centers at each site, (Dilution Center noun; dispenser containing cleaning chemicals.), after hours emergencies; they pretty much can handle anything that may come up at the sites after hours.

You may never see them, but their presence is evident.

Take Home Tips

There are some who sit through traffic, anxious to get home and start dusting and cleaning, for the rest of us there’s micro-fiber. A micro fiber cleaning cloth and a pail of water can cut your cleaning time down tremendously. Use them for cleaning counters, sinks, windows, mirrors, furniture, floors, cars…. almost everything.

To clean counters and sinks just wipe with a damp cloth, to polish windows and mirrors spray with a glass cleaner and wipe with a micro-fiber cloth. Dust furniture with a dry cloth or if you prefer spray furniture with a polish then wipe. Most hard surface flooring can be cleaned by attaching the cloths to a mop head, use as a dry dust mop or with your favorite cleaner for a more thorough cleaning. Micro fiber is ideal for cars from the collectible in the garage to your commuter car, they are lint free, non abrasive and can be used for cleaning and drying.

When they get dirty just wring out in a pail of water, when immersed in water the cloth will release the dust and dirt it has collected, wring them out and continue to clean. No need to change the rinse water, the cloths will not pick up dirt from the water.

Micro fiber is hypo allergenic and since they can be washed 100 times they are very economical. When washing do not use fabric softener or softening sheets in the dryer, this will diminish the cloths ability to grab and hold on to dirt.

Don’t forget ceiling fans, light fixtures and other high areas where dust likes to collect. Always dust from the top down, you don’t want to knock dust down on the table you just polished by dusting the shelf above it.
It’s all about saving energy and in turn money, and the first 2 projects of Paul Parker’s (our Energy Manager), lighting retro-fit and pool covers are doing both, freeing up money from utility bills to be spent on more tangible items. Since our previous newsletter, new pool covers have been installed at 2 of our high schools and the lighting retro-fit has been completed at all but 2 of the 27 designated schools.

A simple yet substantial cost savings has come from new pool covers at Centennial and Santiago High Schools. As a result of the new covers, the December gas bill at each school was reduced by over $3,000. SoCal Gas reimbursed 1/2 the cost of the covers, the other half will be paid off from the savings within 7 months, after that the total monthly recurring savings will be money in the bank. Along with the savings on the gas bill our chemical and water costs will also be reduced.

The lighting retro-fit project was done through the Edison Public Schools Program with no out-of-pocket cost to the district and we’ve already begun seeing the savings.

Upcoming projects include HVAC replacements and water conservation efforts, both promise to bring substantial savings.

Some things to remember about the program:

- **Plastic bottles and aluminum cans** need to be empty and placed in trash bags
- **Cardboard and clean paper** (not garbage) should be boxed or in trash bags
- **Boxes** broken down and stacked
- **Newspaper** stacked and boxed

Do not place the following in the recycle bin:

- **Food contaminated paper, plastic etc.**
- **Metal Objects**
- **Glass**
- **Styrofoam**
- **Wood**
Where’d you go?!?!

When I tried to put a work order in this morning I ended up with some Dude, and he doesn’t even know about the work orders I gave you last year. What am I supposed to do, re-enter them with him? I doubt I have all that information anymore???

Lost without You

Dear Lost,

As did many of our co-workers, I too decided to retire from CNUSD in June. This will be my last article before I head out so let me introduce you to my replacement, School Dude. -

Take Care

Dear OPRA....

Hello everyone, my name is School Dude, feel free to call me Dude if you’d like (all my friends do).

Although I don’t have the work orders you gave OPRA last year the Maintenance Staff does and they will be completing those work orders as soon as they can.

There are a few differences you’ll notice with my system. For starters what OPRA called Job Type, I call Craft, if you have any questions with what Craft to use just call the office. Also, after you submit a work order you cannot make any changes to it, let the office know and they can make changes, additions or cancellations for you.

If you have any questions about your work orders from last year just give the office a call, they can look them up in an archive data base.

I look forward to working with you and as always, if you have further questions give the Maintenance staff a call at 736-3316.

Sincerely,

School Dude

Andrew Sterner, Director, Support Services
Susan Shekels, Secretary
Paul Parker, Energy Manager
Sam Kebbas, Supervisor-Electrical-Alarms-HVAC
Terry Long, Supervisor-Plumbing-Deep Cleaning-Custodial
Ernie Marez, Supervisor-Irrigation-Grounds-Heavy Equipment
Sam Morrison, Supervisor-Carpentry-Paint-Locksmith-Welding
Isabel Felix, Clerk-Work Order System-Maintenance Dispatch

Phone 736-3316  Fax 736-7199

Support Services

Please Post
Thank You
Also available at: http://www.cnusd.k12.ca.us/page/17364