



Soledad USD Superintendent's Weekly Report to the Board of Trustees



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Our goal is to eliminate the opportunity gap while creating every student to be a civic and digital citizen who is prepared to be college and career ready.

Dear Trustees,

April 29, 2016

Paw Panther is San Vicente's certificated PBIS Mascot. He is helping students learn the school's 3 expectations. He participates in school activities and helps create a positive school climate. He is an ex officer member of the school's PBIS committee. Paw Panther publishes a quarterly newsletter (Pre-K to 6th), holds contests to promote literacy, and recognizes students for "pawsitive" behavior. He also helps teachers create a focal point for discussing conflict resolution and modeling appropriate manners. In addition, he maintains a Twitter account and subs for the Principal when she leaves the building.



I got to join Soledad HS JROTC for their field trip to Alcatraz. Our students prepared for the trip by learning all about Alcatraz's history and events leading up to becoming a national park. They were respectful, fully engaged in the tour, required very little direction and extremely polite. I was absolutely blown away! I am very proud of how they represented our district and community.



On Monday after school, a group of our teachers met with Ms. Kleinhofer and team to provide input regarding the teacher evaluation tools. They plan to meet again next Monday to continue their work. It was a very knowledgeable and dedicated group! In addition, on Monday evening, the LCAP advisory committee met with Mr. Guzman to provide input on the annual update to the district's LCAP plan. (Pictures are available on twitter account)

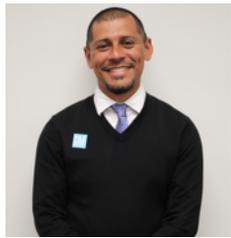


Gabilan Elementary School celebrated a school wide Zero Tardy day with sliming Mr. Douty. Mr. Douty agreed to get slimed only if everyone was on time.



All sites celebrated our Administrative Assistants for Administrative Professionals Day. I posted some pictures on the twitter account if you are interested.

For up to date information, please follow me on twitter at <https://twitter.com/soledadsupt>

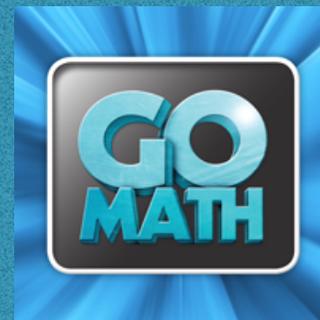


Educational Services



6th Grade Math Meeting

This week our 6th grade teachers met with the "GO MATH" Representatives on Thursday, April 28 after school. Since our district had not adopted a math program for 6th grade, they saw an overview of the Middle School Version of "Go Math." The Middle School Version included more rigor, real life experiences, and animation videos. The 6th grade teachers decided that they liked the Middle School Version of "GO MATH" so the goal will be to order these materials so that they can start using it in the fall. We agreed to have an in-depth training before school starts so that all 6th grade teachers are trained and ready to teach the new Version in August.



ELA/ELD Pilot Teacher Meeting

The ELA/ELD Pilot teachers from grades K-12 will be meeting in the C & I Building on Thursday, May 5th at 3:30 to discuss the following criteria of the pilot programs: (Houghton Mifflin & McGraw Hill)

- 1) Alignment of CCSS
- 2) The ELD Component
- 3) Phonics & Vocabulary
- 4) Technology Tools
- 5) The Pacing Guide
- 6) The Assessments
- 7) The Writing Component
- 8) The Homework Part
- 9) The Differentiated Instruction portion.



We will compile their findings from the above criteria for each program and put together presentations for all the teachers to hear on May 16. The teachers will vote on the program of their choice on May 17.

Pinnacles High School WASC Visitation



The Pinnacles team has successfully completed their WASC visit! Although we will not know the final outcome of the WASC visit until July, the visiting committee praised the growth in providing academic rigor, parent engagement, and student support services compared to the previous WASC visit. The entire Soledad community is immensely proud of the hard work and dedication of our PHS staff. Go Eagles!

Special Projects

English Learners

Family Student Support Coordinators

Our Family Student Support Coordinators are a dedicated group of leaders that support our special populations. Some of these populations include English learners, foster youth and homeless youth. We appreciate their dedication to their students and their school sites. Have you ever considered being an educational leader? We are currently recruiting candidates from our District for the family student support coordinator pool. Please see our posting on the district website. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to contact myself, Erin Ramirez (Special Projects Coordinator) or Lisa Kleinhofer (in HR).

Adult Education

Congratulations to Soledad Adult School teacher Francisco Pinedo, whose class was featured as an ESL/Digital Literacy success story on the state-wide CASAS website:

"Francisco Pinedo, an instructor at Soledad Adult School, awards certificates to his students for completing a level on the CASAS test and posts pictures of these students. The students with bigger pictures not only completed a level but advanced a level. Soledad Adult School makes a yearly calendar of CASAS testing and makes sure that every student knows when CASAS testing will take place. In Francisco's class, 95% of his students take a post test."



Erin Ramirez
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Denise Estrella
Director of Special Projects
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SPECIAL EDUCATION

Academic Benefits to Inclusion

Some parents of students with disabilities fear that their children may not be able to learn in the general education setting. However, a well designed inclusion classroom, using inclusion strategies and modifications has shown success for students with

More Benefits to Inclusion

In the general education classroom, higher expectations benefit students with special needs as well. The positive academic role models of non-disabled peers help

Are you interested in answering the call to leadership?

Please apply online via EdJoin.org to become a Family Student Coordinator at our schools. This is a wonderful opportunity to make an impact in Soledad!

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Sandra Pool, is a Resource Specialist at Rose Ferrero Elementary School. Sandra has been with Soledad Unified School District for several years, which shows in her strong skills with working with our students with special needs. Sandra uses interventions and strategies to help students in special education meet their potential and to be successful. Thank you for all you do Sandra!



Business Department



The Business Department and Food Services

Summer is soon approaching and with that in mind, The SUSD Food Services is preparing to serve and feed our students. This summer SUSD Food Services is participating in the Seamless Summer Feeding Program which gives access to low-income children and youth the opportunity to enjoy a healthy meal when school is out. Frank Ledesma School, Main Street Middle School and Soledad High will be the designated sites.



The Fiscal Report

How Do We Locally Determine an Adequate Reserve Level?

In California school finance we use a certain set of official terms for our reserves. To start with, the term "fund balance" means the total amount of funds available at either the beginning or end of an accounting period. The fund balance can be made up of the following: non spendable amounts, restricted amounts, committed amounts, assigned amounts, and unassigned amounts.

The state has established a set formal "Criteria and Standards" to guide the development and review of local school agency budget reports and for monitoring their fiscal stability. For more information on the criteria and standards refer to the School Services of California Site.

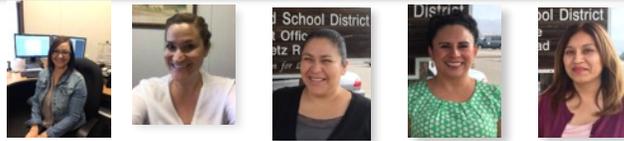
*-Sheila G. Vickers Copyright c 2016
School Services of California, Inc. Posted 4/8/2016*



**Business Office Friendly Reminder:
Attention All Employees**

*** Pay Day will be Friday, April 29, 2016**

Human Resources



Certificated Staff Needed for Evaluation Input!

On Monday, May 2nd from 3:30-4:45 p.m., the district will be hosting the second certificated evaluation workshop to analyze and enhance our current tool. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Lupe Munguia at lmunguia@soledad.k12.ca.us.

Let the University of Phoenix Pay for your Ed.D!

- The University of Phoenix is showing their appreciation for ALL teachers by offering a scholarship opportunity. Only the first 100 eligible applications will be considered for the Educator Appreciation Scholarship.
- Apply now for the chance to receive full-tuition toward a Doctor of Education degree.
- For more information and to apply, please visit phoenix.edu/educatorscholar



METACOGNITION ~ A WONDER TO WITNESS!

Quiet Reflection

Pre-reading Preview

Questioning

Annotation

Spiraling

The person not determined to cultivate the habit of thinking misses the greatest pleasure in life.

(Thomas Edison paraphrased)

In 2007-09, pursuing a master's degree at CSUMB, delving into the anatomy and brain-work of *metacognition*, I discovered the word *metacognition*, though coined twenty years earlier, not a common term in mainstream education. A professor responded incredulously hearing of my research on metacognition and achievement in a high school setting. In Spring 2009, I (the only non-college professor attendee) presented my research in a conference workshop at MPC attended by junior college professors. At the completion, several expressed how they wished their college students could demonstrate thinking such as I had shared of my students. Since 2009, *metacognition* has maneuvered its way into texts about teaching and learning -- but sadly not yet into the classroom even with the advent of Common Core. The metacognitive strategies listed in the title educe self-reflection, planning, self-monitoring. If you care for more details of them, please contact me. I would be so pleased to meet with you.

My students – English learners to Advance Placement – not only learned the meaning of metacognition (they loved that “big word”), they also imbibed the significance of their metacognitive processing. I love this story: an EL student taking the CAHSEE placed his head on his test booklet. The counselor, having walked over to him, tapped him on the shoulder and told him that he needed to continue his test. Looking up at the counselor, he confidently replied, “I am taking a metacognitive break!” Eduardo knew his thinking options; he self-monitored. He could have given-up in frustration over the long readings or could have summoned what he knew he could do and regroup. He chose putting his head down to think and regroup ~ not to sleep as the proctor had assumed. (Eduardo relayed this story to me.)

Students engaged in metacognitive processing transform from those who wait for the answer into those who think for themselves, articulate their thinking processes, and produce. Evincing one of the tenets of the 5 Things, metacognition engages students in processes, not just the content. Two of my students wrote after three months of metacognitive engagement, “Writing metacognition has made me a better scholar because now I am able to think a little faster.” “I realized the more I thought about what I was writing the more I understand it.” A wonder to witness!

Technology



TECH PD SURVEY

Teachers, please take a moment to fill out this survey to help us plan a consistent schedule of Tech PD for next year:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKRYRRQ>

WIRING UPDATE

We are currently talking to MOT department regarding the possibility of getting some upgraded wiring in our grades 3-6 classrooms to help with wifi speed next year. This will help our wifi speed until we complete the project next year.



Safety in numbers

All kids should feel safe at school and in their communities. Sprigeo gives kids, parents, schools and their communities, a suite of reporting and training tools for creating and sustaining safe communities. Together, we'll empower people to speak out and spark change.

THE PROBLEM

THE SOLUTION

ANONYMOUS REPORTING APP

Within the next few weeks, we will be deploying the Anti-Bullying App "Sprigeo" to all our students. This app will be on all iPads and has the ability to file anonymous reports with the app. This app will allow any student to report any type of incident, such as bullying, threats, fights, etc, that they normally would not feel comfortable reporting. We hope this encourages all students to feel safe reporting any incidents anonymously. Once a student submits a report, an email notification will immediately be sent to that school site's Admin team.

We are currently testing the system with a free pilot for three months. If we find our staff and students like it, then we can look into a permanent purchase.

This week we held trainings for all our Admin staff, Principals, Vice Principals, Counselors, Coordinators, etc, on how to use the system once a report is submitted.

MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, FACILITIES & BOND



Main Street Middle School Construction

Foundation pads for the new Main Street Middle School have been installed to grade. The picture illustrates a base rock fill, that was imported to ensure high quality compaction at the four building pads. During increment 2 foundation footings will be dug, and concrete will sit on this base rock.

BUS RATE UPDATE

In last week's newsletter the bus rates were quoted incorrectly. Good news is the corrected information i received from accounting works in the field trip requestors favor. Please find the updated information below and note these are the rates that are being charged and have been since last year.

- Zone 1 Between 1 to 50 miles roundtrip \$400.00
- Zone 2 Between 51 to 100 miles roundtrip \$800.00
- Zone 3 Between 101 to 125 miles roundtrip \$1,000.00
- Zone 4 Between 126 to 200 miles roundtrip \$1,200.00



Action OPEN HOUSE

INSPIRING CHANGE

Noche de Inauguración

Please join us to learn about exciting new programs and upcoming opportunities in your community including:

- Family Programs
- Support Groups
- Information & Referral
- Adult Education
- Case Management

Por favor acompañenos para aprender sobre nuevos programas emocionantes y oportunidades próximas en su comunidad, incluyendo:

- Programas para Familias
- Grupos de Apoyo
- Información y Referencia
- Educación de Adultos
- Servicios Sociales

Thursday May 12, 2016

Jueves 12 de Mayo, 2016

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Greenfield Community Center
1351 Oak Avenue
Greenfield, CA 95607

Centro Comunitario de Greenfield
1351 Oak Avenue
Greenfield, CA 95607

Help inspire us by giving name suggestions on the Idea Wall!

¡Ayudar a inspirarnos dando nombre sugerencias sobre la Idea de Pared!

For more information, call 831-783-1244 ext. 105

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1351 Oak Avenue, Greenfield, CA 95607

Strengthening Families Family Tree Activity

Each branch represents a member in the family and the leaves list strengths. The roots represent each grandparent. The tree trunk lists three family strengths. Each family presented their family tree.



“POWERFUL. BURIED ABOVE GROUND will contribute to reshaping the way our society thinks about mental health issues. It will move viewers and dispel the myths and misconceptions about PTSD. — ROSALYNN CARTER, FORMER FIRST LADY”

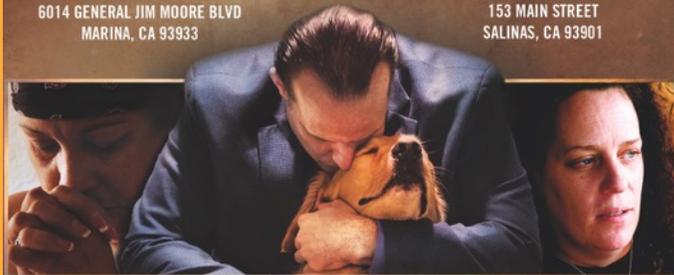
BURIED ABOVE GROUND

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

NAMI MONTEREY COUNTY PRESENTS A TWO-DAY FILM EVENT RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
FEATURE FILM SCREENING | DIRECTOR BEN SELKOW IN ATTENDANCE FOR Q&A | SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 @ 6PM
BLACK BOX CABARET
6014 GENERAL JIM MOORE BLVD
MARINA, CA 93933

THURSDAY, MAY 12 @ 6PM
MAYA CINEMAS
153 MAIN STREET
SALINAS, CA 93901



Directed by Ben Selkow, BURIED ABOVE GROUND is an inspirational documentary that follows an Iraq War veteran, a survivor of domestic violence, and an evacuee from Hurricane Katrina over a six-year period as they try to unburden themselves from the paralyzing lock of their past traumas. Their courageous battles for recovery illuminate a global health condition that is misunderstood, underreported, and often left untreated.

Sponsored by NAMI Monterey County, with generous funding from CAL-MHSA's Each Mind Matters Initiative, in cooperation with the Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County, the Monterey County Behavioral Health Department, CSUMB Health and Wellness Services, and the CSUMB Veterans Services Center.



FREE ADMISSION

www.BURIEDABOVEGROUND.tv | www.facebook.com/BuriedAboveGroundFilm

“IMPACTANTE. ENTERRADO SOBRE LA TIERRA ayudará a cambiar la manera en que nuestra sociedad ve a los problemas de salud mental. Esto ayudará a influir a los espectadores y ayudará a disipar los mitos y ideas erróneas acerca del trastorno de estrés posttraumático. LA EX PRIMERA DAMA ROSALYNN CARTER”

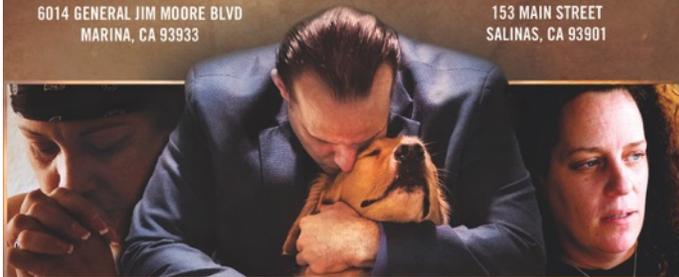
“BURIED ABOVE GROUND”

ENTERRADO SOBRE LA TIERRA
UN DOCUMENTAL SOBRE EL TRASTORNO DE ESTRÉS POSTRAUMÁTICO

NAMI MONTEREY COUNTY CELEBRA EL MES DE LA SALUD MENTAL CON 2 EVENTOS DE CINE
PROYECCIÓN DE CINE | DIRECTOR BEN SELKOW EN ASISTENCIA PARA Q&A | TRADUCCIÓN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE

11 DE MAYO @ 6PM
BLACK BOX CABARET
6014 GENERAL JIM MOORE BLVD
MARINA, CA 93933

12 DE MAYO @ 6PM
MAYA CINEMAS
153 MAIN STREET
SALINAS, CA 93901



Dirigida por Ben Selkow, “ENTERRADO SOBRE LA TIERRA” es un documental que sigue a un veterano de la guerra de Irak, un sobreviviente de abuso doméstico y un evacuado del huracán Katrina. El documental cubre un período de seis años en donde los 3 individuos intentaron escapar sus traumas del pasado. Sus batallas personales iluminan la condición del Estrés Posttraumático, un problema de salud que se ve globalmente pero que es mal entendido. Es un problema que típicamente no recibe atención ni tratamiento.

Patrocinado por NAMI Monterey, con la generosa financiación de la iniciativa Each Mind Matters de CAL-MHSA, y en cooperación con el Centro de Veteranos de Transición del Condado de Monterey, el Departamento de Salud Mental del Condado de Monterey, CSUMB Servicios de Salud y Bienestar y el Centro de Veteranos de CSUMB.



ENTRADA ES GRATIS

www.BURIEDABOVEGROUND.tv | www.facebook.com/BuriedAboveGroundFilm