



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



President
Marie Berlanga



Vice President
Jodi Massa



Board Clerk
Josie Perez-Aguilera



Trustee
Jaime Fernandez



Trustee
Javier Galvan

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.

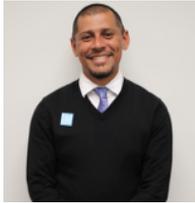
December 18, 2015

Dear Trustees,

This was a short week of school for students and teachers. We wish all safe travels, happy holidays and best wishes for the new year. The next two weeks we will not have a newsletter because most staff will be off to enjoy their family and friends. We will have staff from MOTF and District office working over the break. The District office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st. The District office will be open for business during regular business hours on Dec 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th, and 30th. All administrative staff and support staff will be back to work on January 4, 2016 and teachers return on January 7th, 2016.

Main Street Middle School's iPad rollout to students will start on January 4, 2016. Staff has sent out notices and placed information on their marquee. The MSMS Technology committee has been planning professional development to support the iPad rollout which staff will receive on January 7, 2016. We are excited to ensure all of our students receive the much needed technology to use. The bandwidth to support the devices is in the works-- unfortunately we have to wait for AT&T to make that possible. Staff will continue to work with AT&T to increase access to bandwidth to ensure students have access to instructional technology at all times during the school day.





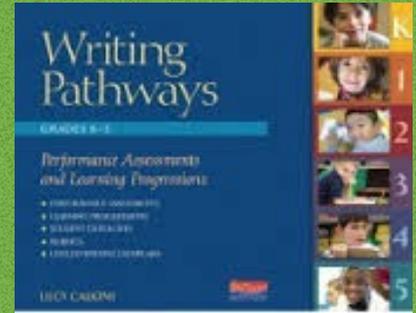
Educational Services



District-Wide PD on January 7 & 8

Elementary Schools

On January 7th the elementary schools will focus on writing. The presenters from the Santa Cruz Writing Project will be giving an overview the new Lucy Calkin's writing materials that have been purchased for each of our K-8 teachers. This training will be held at Frank Ledesma from 7:45-3:25. A continental breakfast will be served at 7:45 in the Multi-Purpose room that morning and the writing sessions will start promptly at 8:15. The English Language Arts' teachers from Main Street will also be joining us.



On January 8th each elementary school will hold PD at their sites. The teachers will start the morning by conducting data walks and chats. Then they will move into the introduction of the new Interim Assessments by setting up their passwords and exploring the new tool. The remainder of the day will be filled with grade level teams planning for the 2nd Trimester. Throughout the day the principals will be meeting with each grade level team to support their planning in each curricular area.

Secondary Schools

The Mighty Trojans are on the rise! The focus for the Main Street community will be on PBIS and Culture building as well as teacher-guided differentiated professional development. Special kudos technology committee and the admin teams for their preparation for iPad Deployment on January 4 and January 5.



Along with developing their PBIS programs, the magnanimous Soledad High School and Pinnacles High School teams will be hard at work with analyzing data and writing their Action Plans for their WASC Self Study Report. They're beginning to see the light at the tunnel for all of their hard work to prepare for the April visits.



ELA/ELD Pilots for K-12



The selected ELA/ELD Pilot teachers will be trained with their new materials in January, 2016. As soon as the Pilot teachers are trained, they will begin the pilot programs in their classrooms. Teachers in all of our K-12 sites will be piloting the McGraw-Hill and Houghton Mifflin series as these two programs offer the K-12 consistency in instruction that is needed for all of our students. These new materials for the selected Pilot classrooms are being ordered and will arrive after our Winter Break.

Special Projects

English Learners

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is a useful tool for teachers to examine what students understand & have learned. Formative assessment, while good for all students, can be especially useful in quickly assessing what your English learners have learned during a lesson or immediately following the lesson. Below is an article written by Margaret Heritage, regarding formative assessment and additional resources containing examples of formative assessment.

http://www.pdkmembers.org/members_online/publications/Archive/pdf/k0710her.pdf

- Margaret Heritage article

<https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/12-awesome-formative-assessment-examples>

- 12 Formative Assessment Ideas

<http://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/assessment/10-assessments-you-can-perform-in-90-seconds/>

- 10 Formative Assessments that can be completed in 90 seconds

Have a wonderful winter break. Enjoy yourselves as well as time with your families. See you next year!

CSUMB Code Day



On Friday December 11th, migrant education students from across South County participated in the Code Day at CSUMB, including 7 from Soledad High School. Students listened to presenters from the CSIT-in-3 program, interacted with a student panel, participated in two hands on coding activities, ate a buffet lunch in the student commons, and took a campus tour.



Erin Ramirez
Coordinator of Special Projects
eramirez@soledad.k12.ca.us



Denise Estrella
Director of Special Projects
destrella@soledad.k12.ca.us

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Defined:

"Special education" means "specially designed instruction," provided "at no cost" to the parents, that it is intended to meet the "unique needs" of a child with a disability, including: Instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, as well as physical education.

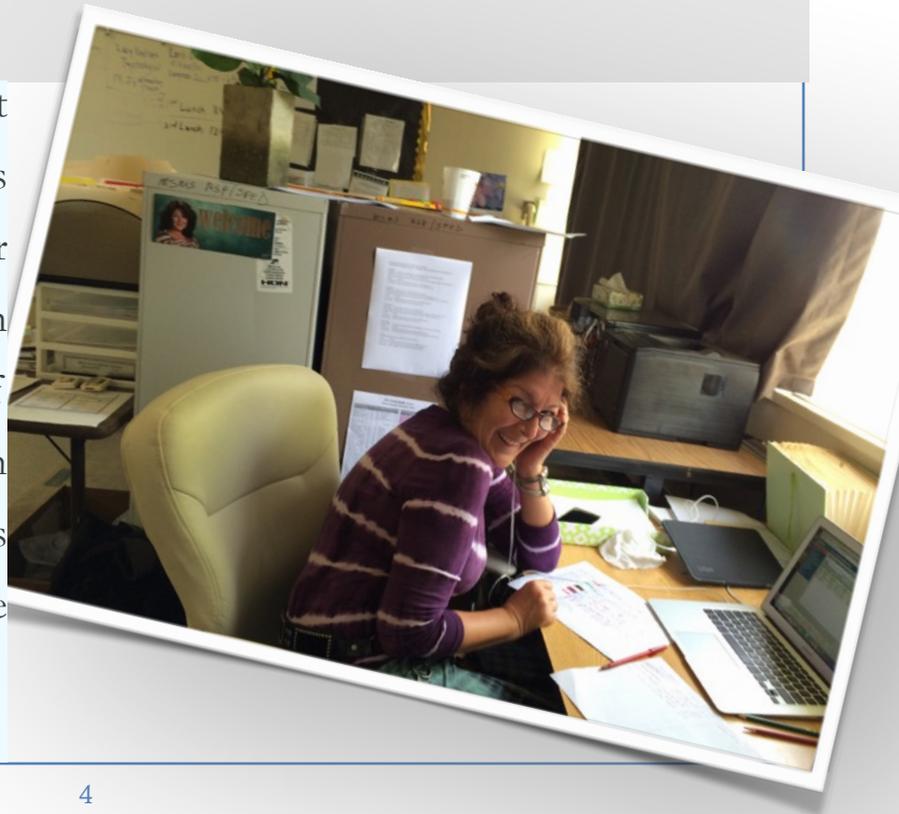
"At No Cost" and "Unique Needs"?

"At no cost" means that all specially designed instruction is provided without charge, but it does not include fees normally charged to students without disabilities.

"Unique needs" refers to more than academic subjects, and includes social and emotional needs that affect academic progress and socialization.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Elisa Olvera, is a Resource Specialist at Main Street Middle School. This is Elisa's first year working in our District. Elisa comes to us as a veteran teacher with several years of experience working with students with special needs. Her experience shows with the success she has had with the students she serves. Thank you Elisa!



Business Department



PAYROLL WARRANTS

Pay Day is Wednesday,
December 30th.

Payroll Department will be
available for any questions December
21st-23rd and December 28th-30th.



Soledad Unified School District Business Office

The Business Office will be open
December 21st-23rd and
December 28th-30th should you
have any questions regarding
payroll, accounts payable, etc.

SITE MEETINGS

On Monday, December 14th and Tuesday,
December 15th Aimee Beleu met one on one
with the elementary and middle school ASB
clerks. The meetings were set up to get
acquainted with the ladies and to learn the
process of how they track accounts and
expenses at the sites. Aimee also visited the
Cafeteria and learn the system e-trition, used for
tracking student lunches. In addition, she met
with Kathy Radillo from the High School who was
very helpful and offered an extensive ASB
training. We would like to thank the ladies for
being so kind and helpful.

MAA RANDOM MOMENT TIME SURVEY

Please be sure to check your
emails regularly. Some staff may receive an
e-mail notifying them that they must complete
a Random Moment Time Survey. Please be
sure that you fill these surveys out as soon
as possible and as honest as possible. As a
member of the Monterey COE, funding may
be altered for failure to complete these
surveys. If you have any questions please
contact the Business Office.

Business Department Helpful Tip

Having control over your money is
important, both for your financial well-
being and for your peace of mind.
Creating a budget with the help of a
template can help you feel more in
control of your finances and allow you
to save more money for your short- or
long-term goals.
Check your financial institution's web
site, many contain helpful tools you
can take advantage and utilize to
track your spending this holiday
season.

Human Resources



FUTURE TEACHERS of SOLEDAD

Are you a twelve grader at Soledad High School who would like to tutor students at our elementary schools and earn some money for college?

To apply, please click here to apply: <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/749671>

Applicants will need to create an account and use

Open Positions - Classified

Family Student Support Liaison	SHS
Campus Security	SHS
Clerk Typist	Various
Custodian II/Bus Driver	DW
Health Aide	JF
Plant Manager	DW
Plumber	DW

To apply, please go to soledadusd.org

Welcome to our New HR Coordinator!



Please join us in welcoming Lupe Mungia to the SUSD's HR Department. Lupe joins us with 17 years of human resources experience with a neighboring school district.

She looks forward to serving the staff and school community of the Soledad Unified School District.

Please feel free to contact her with any certificated credentialing inquiries or any other human resources questions.

“Only the strong survive / You gotta be strong / You gotta hold on!” say the lyrics of a 1968 hit song.
By, Julia Turner

Our induction and intern teachers have just completed a high-powered semester, which engaged them in mentally strenuous programs while they taught their twenty-four elementary students or their hundred plus secondary students.

Induction teachers through Riverside Center for Teacher Innovation completed monthly learning cycles, comprising weekly online sessions of instructional and discussion, weekly assignments, weekly collaboration with their site coaches. They considered topics as Building Community, Management, Social Emotional Learning, Common Core Standards. Via this two-year program, they become eligible for a permanent teaching credential.

First and second year intern-teachers have participated in seven after school seminars with me; these seminars emphasized the district's two-fold protocols: 5 Things and 5 Cs. Teachers experienced a myriad instructional and student-engagement practices aligned to these protocols. Additionally, YR2 intern-teachers participated in a full-day seminar comprising classroom observations (at FL and SHS) focused on the 5 Things and 5 Cs and planning lessons. In each seminar, the goal has been that teachers apply and embed their learning into their instruction. Furthermore, intern-teachers are enrolled in credentialing programs; they are students themselves. Completing these programs, intern-teachers will attain their probationary teaching credential.

Our novice teachers have assumed tremendous responsibility to acquire all they can to comply with state, district, site mandates and expectations while providing the best instruction possible to their students. By their diligence, perseverance, and endurance, SUSD novice teachers do manifest that teaching is for the strong!

Technology



HOURLY OF CODE

There were many teachers who signed up to participate in Hour of Code! Many kudos to those who have begun introducing this important skill to your students. Please try to do this on a weekly basis to sharpen our student's skills. We were able to get some pictures of some students in action. Students had a lot of fun and were really enthusiastic to learn.



STAFF PD FOR MAIN STREET IPAD DEPLOYMENT

This Thursday, December 17th, we held trainings for the staff who will be assisting with Main Street's iPad Deployment. This was a great time to get everyone on the same page and update everyone on the process for this deployment.



M.O.T.F

Transportation

The Transportation Department is looking to add a used van to their fleet with board approval in January. This van, pictured, would be available for sports and other school activity travel. This will alleviate some of the congestion we are currently experiencing with with two remaining suburbans.



This Ford 2015 van will hold 10 passengers quite comfortably. We look forward to adding this vehicle to our fleet.

Room number installation at Gabilan School will be completed over the winter break. Gabilan has always had stenciled room numbers. Classrooms have recently been painted. So separate room number plaques will help. San Vicente portables will be next.



Some of our classroom portables are receiving some much needed roof repairs during the winter break. Our classroom portables at San Vicente, Gabilan, Main Middle, and CEC are between 15 and 25 years old in age.



This is becoming challenging to maintain. Some of our older portables, which are experiencing roof issues are going to receive roof repairs over winter break. The picture on the left is a large opening in room 13 at Gabilan. Most roof issues are no where near in comparison. You can see there is some prep work that has been completed and is ready to seal and weld a new roof sheet to complete the repair.