



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



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Marie Berlanga



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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,

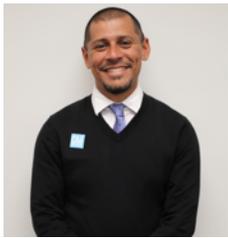
February 11, 2016

Thank you for the student and staff recognition at the board last night. We are blessed to have such amazing students attending our schools and phenomenal staff providing great services. As you know it has been an exciting week. We received a new salad bar donation from Braga Farms. The press release took place at Soledad High School at 11 a.m. on Friday. In attendance were Marie Berlanga, Simon Salinas, Rodney Braga, Margaret D'Arrigo from Taylor Farms, Principal Austin, and district staff. In addition, ASB representative Katerina and Kevin were present to thank Mr. Braga for the donation and Speak to the media.



After the ceremony we took our guests to visit the Agriculture academy and the FFA animals (pigs, sheep, steer, and chickens) housed on campus. Ms. Word and Mr. Clifford shared the incredible work our students are engaged in. Students have survived 100 days of school. Many activities were happening at each elementary school. Creativity was in abundance as students demonstrated the number 100 with many objects. Here we have 100 year old Teacher, Mrs. Quezada who has survived the milestone as well.

Congratulations to Ms. Bassetti's 6th grade class for winning a trip to Chevron STEM Zone ATT Pro AM . An experience and an adventure of a life time was enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for pictures in next weeks bulletin.



Educational Services



Hand Scoring for the Interim Assessments



The Elementary Principals are conducting training for their teachers on the Hand Scoring process involving the Interim Practice Tests. This hand scoring process involves only the sections of the test that are included in the Performance Tasks for English Language Arts (ELA) and for the Performance Tasks for Math. The Computer Based portions of the test will be scored through the TOMS system.

The value of the hand scoring process is that it helps the teachers look at rubrics specific to each prompt and to look for key words that are critical to answering the test questions. The collaboration that will be occurring with the teachers during this scoring process is the critical part. The teachers need to agree upon a score that meets the criteria of the rubric

for both ELA and Math before the prompt can be scored.

The teachers will also be looking at the Training Guides and the Exemplars that go along with each of the ELA and Math prompts. The Interim Tests are offering a great opportunity to our students to get extra practice and for our teachers to better prepare our students for the spring test. The Interim Tests have offered a great opportunity for students to practice and for our teachers to better prepare our students for the spring test.



Assistant Principal Curriculum District Leadership Team

On Wednesday, February 11, our site Learning Directors/Assistant Principals participated in their monthly professional development. As part of our LCAP goal of having "Highly Qualified Staff", developing the skills and capacity of our administrators is key to ensuring proficiency for all of our students at each site.

Our CDLT meeting this month was focused on CAASPP preparation and analyzing student discipline data. Administrators will be working with their site teams to continue preparation for our yearly state assessments that will be staggered across mid April to the end of May. A training for other site support is planned for early March.

As part of our commitment to the implementing our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system, our administrators used SWIS and AERIES to analyze disaggregated discipline data to evaluate their site's success in maintaining a positive and academic school culture. Day 3 of our District-wide PBIS training series is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16.



Special Projects

English Learners

Teaching Channel

I recently came across an article on the Teaching Channel website, under teachers voice blogsite. "5 Key Strategies for ELL Instruction", written by Rebecca Greene, presents five basic ideas for developing language practices that are critical for English learners in developing their content knowledge. In her article, Greene suggests the use of: scaffolding instruction, purposeful grouping, background knowledge, extended discussion, & valuing linguistic differences to assist EL students meet the state's ever increasing language demands and academic content standards. Check out this article for practical EL strategies and other useful resources found near the end of article.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2013/10/25/strategies-for-ell-instruction/>

Migrant Education

Dental Month
Thursday, February 11



23 students at San Vicente schools went to a dental check-up hosted by Big Smiles. Students received free toothbrushes & paper explaining the work they had done.

Christina's Smile



Then seven migrant students got to visit Christina's Smile in Salinas for advanced dental care.

Erin Ramirez
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SPECIAL EDUCATION

Placement in SPED

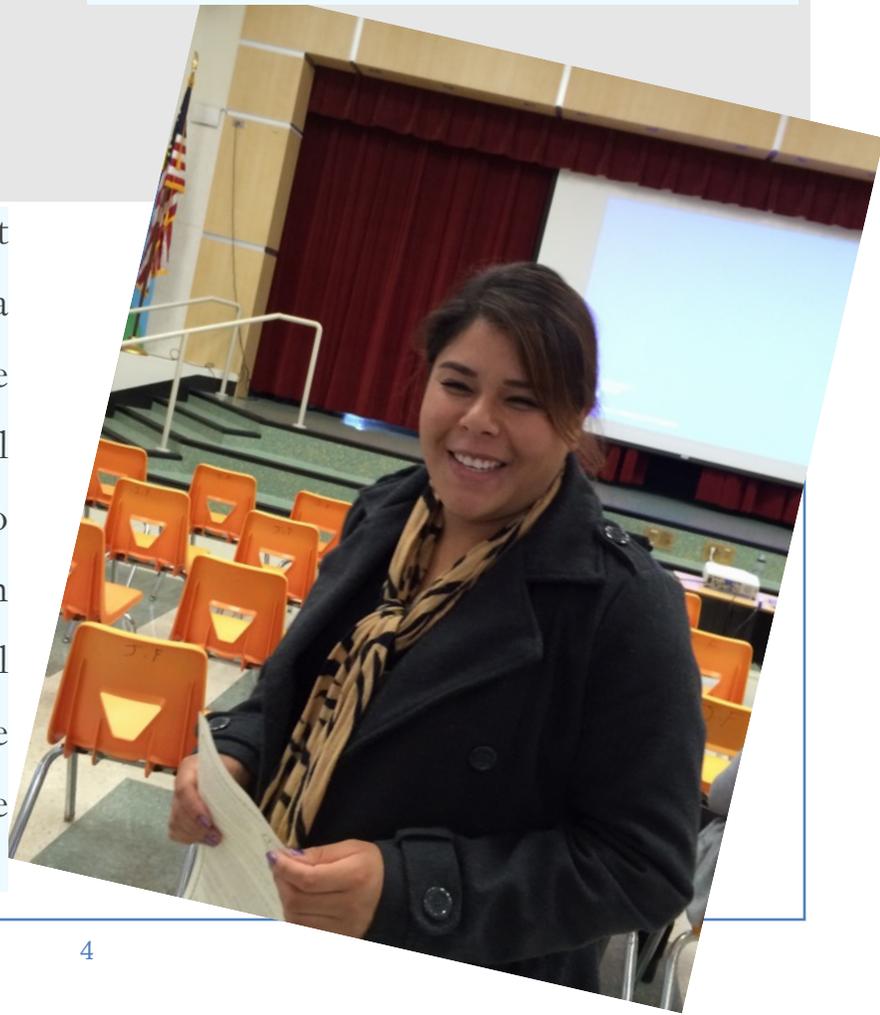
- *A placement in SPED must be in writing
- *It must be calculated by the team that the child will have educational benefit
- *The placement must be in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
- *Student must be mainstreamed in the general education setting to the maximum extent possible.

The Placement Offer Must Include:

- *A description of each service provided to student
- *Location (type of classroom)
- *Personnel (titles, not names)
- *Delivery Model (e.g. individual or small group)
- *Frequency and duration of service (must be specific, not as needed)

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Samantha Uribe, Instructional Aide at Jack Francioni Elementary, taking a second here to take a picture at the monthly training for Instructional Aides. This monthly training is to increase knowledge and skills in working with our students with special needs. Samantha has been with us one year, and we are very happy to have her. Thank you Samantha!



Business Department

Payroll Warrants:

All SUSD Employees

Reminder: Payday is Monday, February 29, 2016.

SITE MEETINGS

On Tuesday, February 9, 2016 Cesar Vega met with the Coordinators and Administrators of the After School Program and the Administrators of the Cafeteria to discuss procedures to follow during snack time for the ASES students. The meeting was important as Soledad Unified School District is committed to providing healthy and nutritious meals and snacks to our students during and after school.

On Thursday, February 11, 2016 the Soledad High School hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of the Salad Bar donation from Braga Farms, United Fresh Produce Associates and Moxy Marketing.

Representatives from all three companies along with Soledad Unified School District representatives join the press release. We are excited for our High School Students that will have the opportunity to try a fresh salad during lunch.

This Thursday, February 25th the Business Department will host an ASB Training at 8:30 a.m. in the C&I Building. We welcome all school principals, ASB advisors and secretaries to join us.

Friendly Reminder:

Attention All School Sites:

When dealing with a new vendor with multiple addresses, please make sure to double-check with the Business Department which address to choose for that vendor. This will assure the vendor is paid in a timely manner.

Business Department Helpful Tip

[Tips on How to Prepare for Disasters and Emergencies according to the The US Department of Labor:](#)

Emergencies and natural disasters can cause anything from mild to devastating damage. [Ready.gov](#) offers information on how to prepare and respond to a natural disaster or emergency.

The Department of Labor assists in recovery efforts in the communities affected by severe storms, floods and other natural disasters such as an earthquake here in California.

The Department of Labor provides income and job assistance after a disaster. There is several programs at the Federal and State level individuals can apply for those whose employment is affected by a natural disaster.

Lastly, remember to also build on your personal emergency fund. It is crucial to be always prepared in case of an emergency.

Human Resources



If you are interested in pursuing a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, please attend one of the following information sessions hosted by **CalState Teach**:

Tuesday, February 16th at 4pm in the Mission Room at Soledad High School
Monday, March 14th at 4pm in the C&I Room at the District Office

National University is Coming to Soledad!

We are very excited to announce our recent partnership with National University and Soledad. We are very excited to announce our new partnership with National University to begin a Teacher Preparation program and an Educational Administration Preparation program in Soledad this summer. This opportunity will provide an ease of access to obtaining the necessary credentials to all of our budding administrators as well as our aspiring educators.

To get started, we are actively recruiting Adjunct Faculty to teach in the National University program. If you hold a Master's Degree, you are eligible to apply. You will need to apply online as well as forward an updated resume to the program director, Dina Pacis at dpacis@nu.edu. The process for hiring including required training can take up to 3 months. **For instructions to apply, please contact Lisa Kleinhofer at lkleinhofer@soledad.k12.ca.us.** If you should have any questions about the program, please direct them to Dina Pacis.

The exact dates of the program are TBD but we will be ironing out the details in the coming weeks and will keep you posted once they are determined. We look forward to this new venture and welcoming and supporting the next generation of educators into our district!

The Past Speaks: Wisdom from New Teacher Orientation Days 2015

The person not determined to cultivate the habit of thinking misses the greatest pleasure in life.
(Thomas Edison paraphrased)

From posters papering my office walls, the new teachers' collaborative wisdom speaks!

Learning

Project-based embeds the 5 Cs and prepares students for global citizenship.... Routines, challenging content, flexible lessons, and students advancing are critical for a dynamic instructional setting.... While meeting the California CC standards, students become self-directed learners.

Metacognition

It is important for students to metacognize because it leads to students becoming successful independent thinkers, to their developing effective communication skills, to their decoding and interpreting thoughts, and to their making meaningful connections during the learning process.

ELL Strategies Across Curricula in Every Classroom

learning objectives visuals sentence frames language-rich environment strategic pairs/groups

Creative/Innovating

Metaphor/simile, illustration, poetry, and song move content from the linguistics to the figurative, creating differentiated pathways for learning... Processing content via William Glasser's multiple intelligences creates innovative thinking. (Shocking themselves, the teachers related the 5 Cs using mathematical intelligence.)

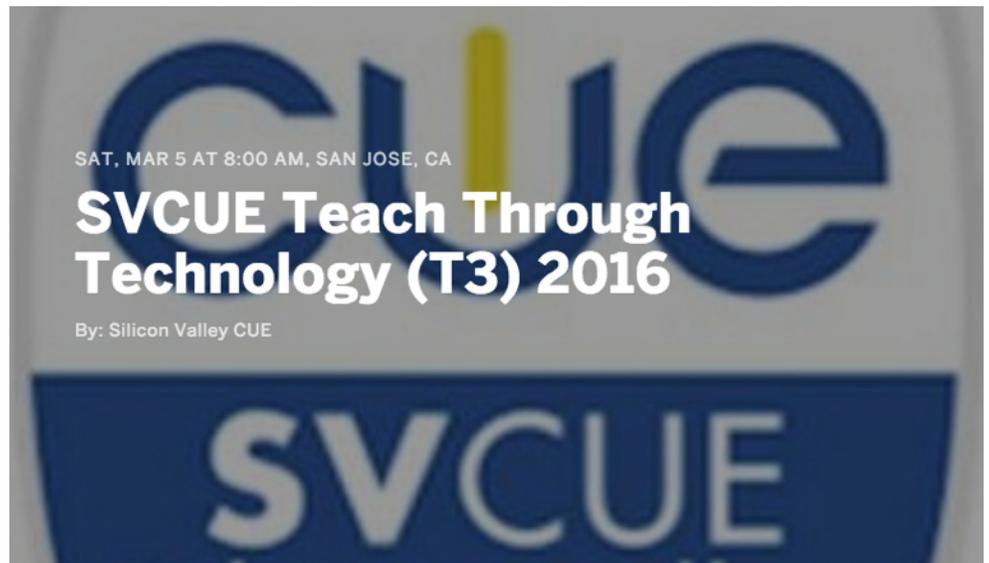
Technology



TECH ED OPPORTUNITY

Per the website (<https://goo.gl/tS1jMK>):

"The wide range of training sessions are geared for school and university personnel, parents, and other individuals who want students to more effectively use technology for learning."



AERIES UPGRADE

This week we have been working on installing our Aeries upgrades on our Aeries server and enhanced security features on the server. Due to this, many staff members who had their passwords saved on their web browser no longer had this password saved for easy login, and forgot what the password was. Please email tech support for all password reset requests.

STUDENT DEVICE INSURANCE

February 15th is the last day for any student to sign up for the voluntary iPad insurance plan that will cover from now through summer break.

M.O.T.F

Transportation

Valerie Mansfield has been on a journey of self transformation. Valerie has been our Transportation Dispatcher for the past year and a half. At the beginning of 2015 Valerie made a descion to change her life style. Valerie decided to make specific changes in her eating and nutrition habits. You can see her hard work and sacrifice has paid off. Valerie's transformation has had a positive impact on her colleagues as well. Her positive attitude has rubbed

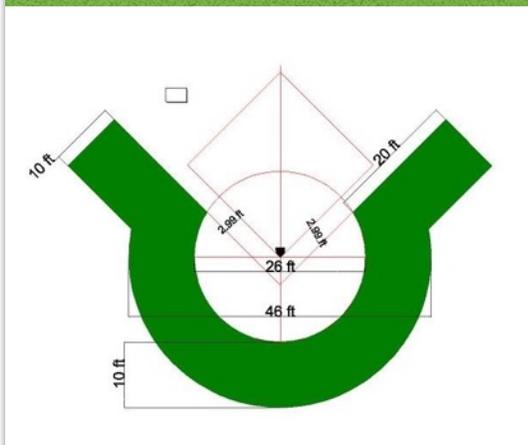
off. Please congratulate Valerie on her transformation when you see her.



Operations

Soledad High School's Varsity Baseball Field will be getting a minor facelift around home plate. Grounds crews have been busy preparing the baseball diamond for the upcoming season.

This year , however, Head Varsity Baseball Coach Damien Ryan and with the help of Athletic Director Mel Kuchta came up with the idea of installing a Halo around the home plate. This Halo is similar to the inserted picture. The Halo will bear the initials S. A. and school colors. In order to for the installation to be complete, concrete will be installed exactly like the diagram. Good Luck Aztec's.



**Teen Depression Through 3 Lenses:
Young Adult, Parent, Clinician**

FREE WEBINAR
NEW IN 2016!



DESIGNED FOR TEENS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND STAFF, YOUTH WORKERS, AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN TEEN MENTAL HEALTH

Tuesday, March 1st
7-8:15 PM ET, 4-5:15 PM PT

Live webcast discussion with
Dr. Mary Fristad, an expert in teen depression
Colin, who has struggled with depression
Sheila, Colin's mom, who has supported him
and has also survived the loss of another son to suicide

Register at www.familyaware.org/trainings

Can't attend the live webcast? Register today and watch the recording at your convenience.

the Soccer Sign-Ups!

Co-ed, Ages 3-12

Financial assistance available!

Contact: Elyssa Sigala,
678-1239

EDUCATION: The Path to Success **PARENT CONFERENCE** *for parents of all ages*

Preparing your children for success in college and careers at every step.
Learn what you can do **now** to help your children.

IMPROVING EDUCATION OUTCOMES, FROM CRADLE TO CAREER



SATURDAY • February 20, 2016
Hartnell College, 411 Central Ave., Salinas
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

- FREE Breakfast and Registration: 8:00 am - 9:00 am
- Welcome & Educational Sessions: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Closing, Prize Drawing (*Must be present to win*): 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm
- FREE Lunch and Resource Fair for all age levels: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Meet College and University Advisors

- **ATTEND TWO WORKSHOPS** (Conducted in Spanish and English)
- **ENTER TO WIN ONE OF TWO \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS**
• Available only to a Monterey County high school junior or senior student
- **FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE** (See registration page for details)
- **FREE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM EVENT**
• Resister or contact MCOE at 831-755-6404 by February 12 to receive free transportation
- **REGISTER ONLINE TODAY OR CALL 831-755-6404 BY FEBRUARY 12**
• Register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/tr/confer2016>



DADS IN ACTION

workshops

Castroville Library

11160 Speegle St. Castroville
Feb. 3, 10, 24. March 2, 23 y 30
Wednesdays and Fridays 6-8 P. M.

Greenfield Library

315 El Camino Real, Greenfield
Feb. 2, 9, 23. March 1, 22 and 29
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 P.M.

Alisal Family Resource Center

1441 Del Monte Ave. Salinas
April 4, 11, 18, 25. May 2.
Mondays 6-8 P.M.

Info: **Víctor Almazán**
valmazan@monterey.k12.ca.us
(831) 755 0846



Deadline to Register is February 12th!

Dads In Action!
For a copy of the bilingual flyer and brochures, please visit my website at sp.soledadusd.org

