



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.

January 15, 2016

Dear Trustees,

It's been an exciting week with our middle school students using their iPads at school. KION interviewed students to understand how technology is being unitized to enhance their learning. The story was featured on Thursday evening. The students did a great job in explaining the role of technology in their learning along with staff members, Ms. Swift, Ms. Sebor, Ms. Lamont, Ms. Morales, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Showalter-Garcia to name a few. Main Street Middle School staff has embraced the technology and leading the way for digital citizenship.

Staff has been busy with professional development in writing and mathematic while preparing to pilot English Language Materials from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Read more about it in the Education section.



Ms. Berlanga honors Ms. Melissa Armer, Finalist for the California League of Middle School



Students of the Month:
Soledad HS: David Lee
Main Street MS: Benjamin Pajas



A new **Hartnell** course added to Soledad High School (SHS). The SHS students will be able to take "Introduction to Administration of Justice" on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Mr. Fabian Barrera has agreed to be the instructor for the course. We are thrilled at the collaboration of all parties involved. The course will start on January 26, 2016. If you are interested, please see your counselor.



Educational Services



ELA/ELD Pilot Training & Math Coaching

K-5 McGraw-Hill Pilot Training

On January 12, the ELA/ELD (K-5) pilot teachers that will be teaching the new series called "Wonders," were trained by the McGraw-Hill publishing company. The pilot teachers will receive these new materials: Reader-Writer Workshop books, Level Readers, Teachers Editions that are Unit specific, Trade Books, Vocabulary Cards, Practice Books, Work Station Activity Cards, Sound Spelling Cards, High Frequency Cards, Weekly or Unit Assessments, the Digital Portion, and the Homework application. All the materials come in a hard copy format and a digital format. This curriculum includes both materials for integrated and designated ELD instruction. The teachers in grades K-5 that will be piloting the McGraw-Hill the series are:



- Kindergarten- Natasha Mallobox, Rose Ferrero
- 1st Grade- Keegan White, Frank Ledesma
- 2nd Grade- Carly- RF, Susan Burke, Frank Ledesma
- 3rd Grade- Alicia Dominguez and Janelle Read-Cap, San Vicente
- 4th Grade- Yesenia Lopez, San Vicente
- 5th Grade- Serena Watton, John Francioni and Celia Solorio, San Vicente

6-12 McGraw-Hill Pilot Training

On January 14, the 6th through 12th grade pilot teachers were trained in the McGraw-Hill series. They discussed the books and the online components for StudySync. They were given an overview of the 4 Units that covered all the standards and they visited the online library which supports many different literature pieces. Lynn Fox, the trainer, showed them the coordination of the materials for both the ELA books and the ELD books and how they are very much aligned. This program includes all materials in print as well as online. It also provides materials for both integrated and designated ELD instruction. The teachers in grades 6-12 that will be piloting StudySync are:

- 6th Grade- Yvonne Gray, Frank Ledesma
- 6th Grade- Bridgett Scruggs, John Francioni
- 7th Grade- Melissa Armer, Main Street
- 8th Grade- Brenda Medina, Main Street
- 9th Grade- Sara White, Soledad High School
- 10th Grade- Silvia Johnson, Soledad High School
- 11th Grade- Allison Eckerson, Soledad High School

Math Coaching in our Schools

Chase Orton, our Math Consultant, was here from January 11 through January 15 to coach teachers at Frank Ledesma, Rose Ferrero, and Main Street. He helped teachers design math lessons that are aligned to our Go Math! and Math Links math curricula. He then observed teachers teaching that lesson and they debriefed on the outcome. He also helped other teachers pose a question that required a constructive response. They then calibrated together on the student response.



Special Projects

English Learners



Our schools recently purchased the English learner data analysis program: Ellevation. Ellevation will allow principals as well as

family student coordinators to:

- take a more detailed look at EL data
- use data to assist classroom teachers with lesson differentiation
- provide suggestions to teachers for personalized student instruction
- facilitate collaboration with all stakeholders (parents, teachers, administration, etc.) to ensure the success of all EL students
- support home to school connections; keeping parents informed of their English learner's progress (documents translated in several different languages)

Upcoming Events

Join Us!

District English Learners Advisory
Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 19th
Jack Francioni Elementary School
Library
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Community Collaborative Meeting
Tuesday, January 26th
Soledad High School Mission Room
9:00-10:30 a.m.

Cookies and Coffee with the Superintendent
Wednesday, January 27th
District Office
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Migrant Education Parent Advisory
Committee
Wednesday, February 3rd
San Vicente Multipurpose Room
7:00-8:30

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



Denise Estrella
Director of Special Projects
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SPECIAL EDUCATION

What is Self-Determination?

Self Determination is when a student can think ahead, make decisions, and accept consequences, on the path to become collaborative partners in their own education. Research shows that these students feel better about themselves, take more risks, ask for the help they need, and do better in school and life.

When Do We Teach Self-Determination?

The earlier the better. You cannot teach self-determination and self-advocacy too early. At any age you can start asking a child questions, encourage him to speak to their preferences, strengths, and what they can improve on. Start by giving children choices, allow them to think for themselves, and even suffer consequences when the consequences are small.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Matias Rocha, is an Instructional Aide at Soledad High School. Matias is a veteran aide and is very skilled at working with our young adult students. Matias (pictured at a training) is also a trainer for Handle with Care, which is the program the District uses to assist students who become a danger to themselves or those around them.



Business Department



Friendly Reminder:

Soledad Unified School
District Employees:

When submitting a reimbursement for meals, supplies, etc. please remember to attach an itemized receipt with your paperwork; otherwise the Per Diem amount will be process.

SITE MEETINGS

On Friday, January 8th the Cafeteria weekly meeting took place in the Business Office.

Among the topics of discussion was the formation of a Wellness Committee for the Soledad Unified School District. The Wellness Committee will be establish to promote and support healthy lifestyle choices to our students and staff members. The first Wellness Committee meeting will be this Friday, January 15th in the Business Office.



On Tuesday, January 12th Fernando Cubias attended the Mission Trails ROP at the Salinas Unified School District Office.

On Thursday, January 14th Cesar Vega attended The Governor's Budget Workshop in Ontario, CA. This workshop provides critical information for development of school agency budgets. The workshop focuses on the major policy issues and funding proposals from the Governor and the Legislature. It also provides and shows the Governor's commitment to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for the 2016-17 Budget Proposal.

New Rate for Mileage Reimbursement

The IRS has announced that the business standard mileage rate for transportation expenses paid beginning January 2016 will be \$0.54 cents per mile. The new rate for business miles is a 3.5 cent per mile decrease from the 2015 mileage of \$0.57 cents per mile.

Business Department Helpful Tip

For a Successful Tax Season:
Taxes are intensely personal, with every filer's situation different. But one thing remains the same in each tax case. The IRS demands certain things from all taxpayers. But filing taxes doesn't have to be an ordeal. And it can be less frustrating and less time-consuming if you have all the materials at your fingertips.

By being prepared, you'll be ready to file your return at the earliest possible moment. Make a checklist of what to do and what to gather for filing. Keep all documents in a designated spot so you can find needed items when the time comes to file. Set reminders to serve as a timeline of mini-tasks to accomplish. Finally, plan to file early, the IRS usually starts accepting returns around mid-January. And the earlier you file, the sooner you'll get your return.

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?

Please apply: <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/JobPosting/749671>

Applicants will need to create an account and use this password: **Soledad2016**.

Teacher Appreciation Scholarship

The University of Phoenix is starting 2016 with a Teacher Appreciation Scholarship! Teachers can begin the New Year with an opportunity to advance their degree and teaching career. For more details and scholarship application visit www.phoenix.edu/teacherscholar. Deadline to apply Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

**Please contact Penny Roberts at the University of Phoenix for any additional information:
penny.roberts@apollo.edu**

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Our current Soledad High School students are looking for current college students to be AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Mentors.

If interested, please apply through our link on EdJoin.org or contact Jesus Narez, AVID coordinator and counselor at SHS, jnarez@soledad.k12.ca.us for more information.

VACATION'S OVER! By Julia Turner

While observing the majority of elementary intern/induction teachers' classrooms this past Monday and Tuesday, I witnessed students engaging via multiple practices. In this pictured example, Ms. Basaldua's 5th grade SV students are participating in "Numbered Heads" - a Kagan Cooperative Learning strategy. For Numbered Heads, students are grouped, and each student is assigned a number in the group. The teacher poses a question for groups to discuss. Students know that one of them will be responsible for responding for the group. When time for discussion has expired, the teacher announces, "All number threes, please stand." The #3-student in each group stands and responds. Along with the two students standing in this picture, three additional students were standing. Each of the five students responded. Ms. Basaldua posed a second prompt for discussion followed by a numbered head to respond.

Overall, students engaged in a plethora of ways to demonstrate the 5 Cs, such as:

Communicating	Collaborating	Critical Thinking	Creating	Citizenship
Choral reading	Decision-making	Cognitive Organizer	Singing content	Discourse frame
Pair share	Centers	Justifying responses	Gesturing syllables	Simultaneous tasks
Group talk	Student class-leader	Transferring learning	Math puzzles	Stand & Deliver

Yes, vacation is over! My intern and induction teachers returned ready to move students forward!
Kudos to you - I am proud of you!



Technology



BANDWIDTH UPDATE

This week we had bandwidth issues and our Network Administrator JD worked hard to get it restored. We figured out the issue was a glitch on MCOE's system.

We are glad to report that all internet should be back to normal, even with the addition of all the iPads at Main Street.



MSMS iPad UPDATE

We have held sessions every day after school this week to accommodate those who missed iPad checkout last week. So far we have checked out about 660 iPads. We have about 40 left! We will be calling those who have not yet received their iPads to schedule appointments.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Ms. Sebor, teacher at Main Street Middle School, is a Level 1 Google Certified Educator! According to Google's website, the Level 1 status indicates that an educator is able to successfully implement Google Apps for Education into their teaching practice in order to enhance teaching and learning.



Ms. Sebor has done a great job of using the classroom iPads for instruction. A photographer from the Monterey County Herald went to her class to take pictures for a news story about MSMS iPad Deployment. Way to go Ms. Sebor!



M.O.T.F

Transportation

Beginning on January 25, 2016 the morning bus drop off for Main Street Middle School will be relocated to the back of the campus on Benito Street. This new location will serve both the drop off and the pick up for all bus riders from Main Street Middle School. This change is due to the commencement of construction activities for the new school. In the future Market Street between Benito and Main Streets will be very busy with street closures and delays.



Bond Construction



Site preparations for the new middle school have begun. An existing walkway from the classroom buildings to the asphalt basketball courts was removed. A new temporary walkway was installed. The old walkway was removed because it was in the vicinity of where the new gymnasium is to be constructed. A new temporary staff parking area has been completed. Three quarters of the existing staff parking on Main Street will be fenced off and demolition will begin on January 25th. A reminder for the future months ahead. Market Street will be very busy with construction vehicles and street improvements. There will be delays and closures. We will provide warnings prior to closures. If possible please use alternate routes.

Community

New Walk-In Hours! Monterey County Behavioral Health South County Clinics

Mondays- Thursdays
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(Last apt. at 2:30 p.m.)

*Walk-In Clinic is open to the public where Monterey County residents can be screened to determine eligibility for the mental health services.
Soledad Clinic: 359 Gabilan Street, Soledad,



YOU'RE INVITED
SOLEDAD COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

Host: SOLEDAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Phone: 831-678-6400
When: Tuesday, January 26 at 9:00 AM
Where:
SOLEDAD HIGH SCHOOL MISSION ROOM
425 Gabilan Drive SOLEDAD, CA 93960

EL CANTO DEL COLIBRÍ



MAYA CINEMAS

Feb. 5
6:30 pm

153 Main St.
Salinas

EVENTO GRATUITO
FREE EVENT

Film Screening
El Canto Del Colibrí
& Community
Dialogue

Proyección de
película y
diálogo
comunitario

Español con subtítulos en inglés.
Spanish with English subtitles.



El Canto del Colibrí es una película documental que explora la relación entre padres Latinos y sus familiares LGBTQ.

The Film El Canto del Colibrí is a documentary exploring the relationships between Latino immigrant fathers and their LGBTQ family members.

For more information:
Para más información:

Anna Rick (831) 757-5221
arick@crla.org

SAVING TODAY'S YOUTH SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 20, 2016

8:00A.M. - 3:00P.M.

CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY, SOLEDAD, CA

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THIS ONE DAY SEMINAR:



- HOW TO IDENTIFY GANG ASSOCIATIONS
- HOW TO IDENTIFY DRUGS AND SYMPTOMS OF USE



- CAUSES FOR YOUTH TO ASSOCIATE WITH GANGS AND/OR USE DRUGS
- WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT LOSING YOUR CHILD TO GANGS OR DRUGS



This seminar is designed for both parents and their children (boys only, 11 years plus) to attend together. Parents will learn the above topics and the youth will learn the consequences to a gang lifestyle and drug use as well as what it means to be in prison.

Law enforcement will teach the gang/drug course, inmates will share testimonials of their childhood experiences and the contributions to their gang involvement or drug use, and family members will speak about how gang associations and drug use have affected their lives.

THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND!

PLEASE CALL (831)678-3951 ext. 4044 TO RESERVE A SEAT, ONLY 100 PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Registration forms must be submitted by February 5, 2016, for approval to attend.

Registration forms must be submitted to:

Persons on Probation or Parole will be prohibited from attending.
Strict dress code will be enforced. No blue denim jeans, camouflage, or logos can be worn.

Spanish translation may be available upon request.

Life-CYCLE

For more information about this seminar, contact:
Ed Borja at (831) 678-5564
edward.borja@dcz.ca.gov



SB 75 - Full Scope Medi-Cal for All Children

Under a new law that will be implemented no sooner than May 1, 2016, children under 19 years of age are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits regardless of immigration status, as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements (Welfare and Institutions Code section 14007.8.) The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is working collaboratively with County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), county human services agencies, Covered California, advocates, and other interested parties to identify impacted children and to provide them with full Medi-Cal coverage benefits.



Maria Lopez from Child Health Disability Program (CHDP) will be presenting in the March Soledad Community Collaborative meeting.