



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 29, 2016

Dear Trustees,

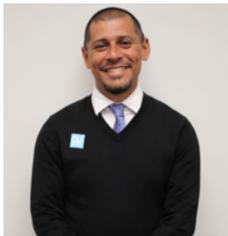
There are exciting things happening in our district. At Main Street Middle School, Dr. Hortencia Jimenez spoke to the ELAC committee about creating a culture of COMMUNITY. She demonstrated how powerful communities can be when we share our hopes, dreams, and struggles. Parents, MSMS Students, and siblings all presented their goals, hopes, dreams and struggles. Every person in the room spoke to the entire committee. It was truly an inspiring night.



Mr. Miguel Spoke about how he is using Character Education in the classroom, and Robert Chavez from Educando con Tabletas also spoke about the after school tutoring program we have here at MSMS. Each month the ELAC committee will host a new and exciting speaker and topic, so keep on the look out for our RED ELAC FLYERS that go home with students, and our telephone calls as well.

At San Vicente, students are incorporating the use of manipulatives to engage in learning and have a concrete understanding of concepts.





Educational Services



When Interviewing the Elementary Learning Directors this week, they said:

The Best Part of My Job...

"I love my job, the favorite part of my day is any time that I am interacting with the students; as I greet them in the morning, when I am visiting classrooms or walking through the campus, and as I am saying good-bye to the our students as they are dismissed in the afternoon. Anytime I am with the students is the BEST part of my day."

- Cathy Thompson, Learning Director, JF

The Best Part of My Job...

"The best part of my job is being able to build relationships with the students by letting them know I care about them and want the very best for them, and then being able to watch them grow and develop into little scholars each and every day... with the teachers and the staff by demonstrating there isn't anything I wouldn't do to make our school better place for all of us to work and for our students to succeed."

- Tommy Frank, Learning Director, RF

The Best Part of My Job

"I love working with the new teachers, walking through classrooms & giving feedback. I also am highly motivated to work with all staff members in order to help our students."

- Natalia Macias, Learning Director, FL



Secondary Math

Our amazing math teachers at Soledad High School and Main Street Middle School continued their collaboration with our Math Consultant, Chase Orton. This week he engaged Main Street teachers in Lesson Study to analyze Math Links curricula to incorporate best practices for student engagement and then followed up with co-teaching and/or observing teachers to provide feedback.

At Soledad High School, Mr. Orton collaborated with Mr. Dilger, the Math Department Chair, to coordinate classroom walkthroughs centered on best practices for student collaboration and classroom discussion. After participating in team walkthroughs during the school day, the Aztec math teachers came together to analyze the classroom observation data and determine what the instructional strategy(ies) they will commit to implementing before the next round of lesson inquiry. As a district we are committed to preparing all of our students for college and the 21st Century- our students' mastery math is a key to this success. Go Math!



Special Projects

English Learners

Main Street Middle School

Main Street held an English Language Advisory Committee meeting, Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 in the library. Guest speaker Dr. Hortencia Jimenez, professor of sociology at Hartnell college, lead parents and students in a cooperative group activity. Main Street students shared aspirations for their future as well as limitations that may prevent them from achieving these dreams. Parents were asked to share hopes & dreams they had for their students. Additionally parents were asked to consider barriers that prevent making these dreams a reality for students. In the end, all groups presented their ideas with meeting attendees. Great Job Main Street!



Upcoming Events

Join Us!

Community Collaborative Meeting
Tuesday, January 26th
Soledad High School Mission Room
9:00-10:30 a.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
destrella@soledad.k12.ca.us

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Scheduling IEP's

*IEP's must be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon place and time.

*The District must take steps to ensure at least one parent or guardian can participate at the IEP.

*Parents must be notified early enough to ensure attendance.

*Parents may invite representatives who have special knowledge of their child.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Bev Reichen, a Resource Specialist, helps a student at Main Street Middle School. Bev, is in her first year here in Soledad, but has a great deal of experience in special education, coming to us from the great state of Alaska. Bev, we are thankful you are here, and are thankful you are part of the Soledad team!

Who Attends the IEP Meeting?

*Parents

*Special Education Teacher

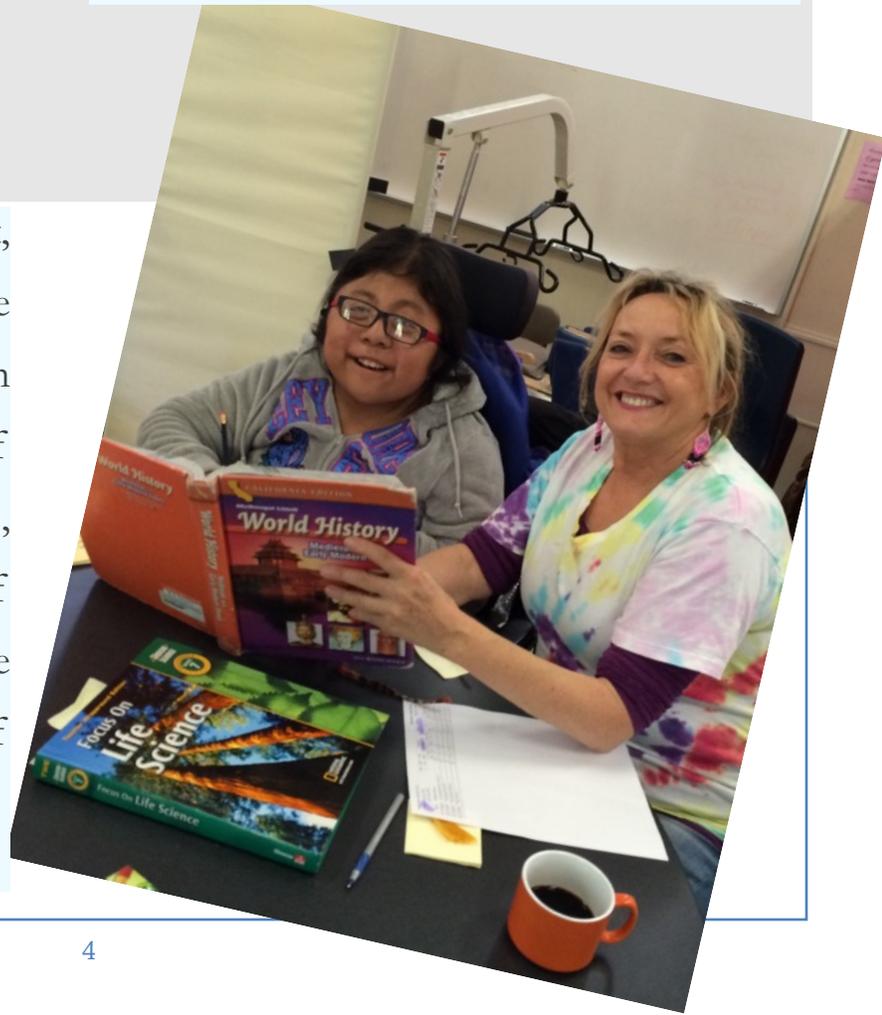
*General Education Teacher

*District representative

*Student (When appropriate)

*Individuals to interpret assessments

*Other Individuals or Agencies with special knowledge of the student



Business Department

Payroll Warrants:

Attention All SUSD Employees

Payroll cut-off is Wednesday, February 3, 2016. All payroll time sheets must be received by the Payroll Department by 4:00 p.m. on the due date.

SITE MEETINGS

A presentation for the ASB Works Accounting Software was set up for Friday, January 22, 2016. The ASB clerks from Soledad High, Main Street Middle School and the elementary sites joined us to see if this new software program has the tools needed to successfully operate student body activities. The software program currently in use for ASB accounting at Soledad High and Main Street Middle School is Black Bear.

On Wednesday, January 27, 2016 Esteban Rios and Aimee Beleu attended the Escape User Group meeting at MCOE. This is the first meeting of the 2016 calendar year; meetings will be established every fourth Wednesday of the month. The meetings will offer participants the opportunity for users to learn and give input on what they have experience with the software program Escape in addition to learning what's current and new in Escape.



Friendly Reminder:

Please remember to receive your items in Escape in order to expedite the payment process.

Business Department Helpful Tip

So are you ready to file your tax returns for 2015?

Here are some helpful tips according to the IRS website for choosing a tax return preparer:

- * Check the person's qualifications. The US Government requires all tax return preparers to have a Preparers Tax Identification (PTIN).
- * Check the preparer's history. Check to see if the preparer has a questionable history with the Better Business Bureau and check for any disciplinary actions and licensure status.
- * Find out about their service fees. Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of your refund or those who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- * Make sure the preparer is accessible. Make sure you will be able to contact the tax preparer after the return has been filed.
- * Never sign a blank return. Avoid tax preparers that ask you to sign a blank tax form.

Human Resources



Interested in Working at Soledad Unified School District?

Open Classified Positions:

Locations

Instructional Aides
Custodian (Part-Time)
Custodian (Full-Time)

Transition Center, Main Street Middle School
DW
DW

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

Intern Teachers:

Over the next few weeks, Lupe Munguia, our HR Coordinator, will meet with you to discuss your credentialing status.

All Teachers:

If you have any questions regarding your credential or placement, please contact our HR Coordinator, Lupe Munguia at lmunguia@soledad.k12.ca.us.

What if the Student Does Not Understand?

By Julia Turner

This question posed to me recently surfaces often as I talk with teachers about giving students the responsibility for learning. I have to frontload the vocabulary first? I have to explain the text first so that they will understand. Do you think there will ever be a time when students won't need scaffolding?

Common Core responds. Students must think! We educators have the privilege, then, of relinquishing being the purveyor of information, the keeper of questions, the acknowledger of correct answers. We have the joy of creating the common core ideal: the educator, the facilitator of learning; the students, active participants of their own learning. So, what if the student does not understand?

Two teacher words: cultivate thinking! Lateral problems, riddles, and puzzles nurture thinking. Prepare prompts that require thinking; probe their thinking, provide options for processing and making thinking visible!

Two student words: grapple and struggle! Grappling and struggling with content nurture thinking! Yes, students may complain, but like distasteful medicine heals, struggling and grappling nourish cognitive health. A student once told me, "You are the teacher, so you should tell us the answer." Little did he know that his remark would usher him into the labyrinth of determining how literary content of protagonist and antagonist relates to teacher and student.

Like the adage purports that learning to fish surpasses receiving a fish, cultivating thinking embraces that students will handle new learning because they learned to think, which will serve them for a lifetime.

Technology



NEW WEB FILTER

We will soon begin a trial to test a new Web Filter for our district. This new web filter is a powerful tool that will help us increase student online safety on and off campus. We are very excited to add a level of web filtering to our network.

CAASPP TESTING

CAASPP Testing began this week and has been very successful. All devices that were to be used for testing were ready to go. We are updating CALPADS daily with student rosters to make sure any new students get pushed to the testing system as soon as possible.

SUSD DISTRICT STUDENT TECH ACCEPTABLE USE AND STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY POLICY UPDATE

Before this policy can go home with parents, it needs to be translated to Spanish and board approved. This should happen by mid February. We want to ensure parents are able to talk to their students about the terms in the agreement and hope it creates a productive discussion on cyber safety.

MSMS iPADS

The Tech Department met with Main Street Middle School's Tech Committee and all staff during their staff meeting to get their feedback on having 1:1 iPads in the classroom. So far feedback has been positive, so this is great news!

M.O.T.F

Bond Construction

Blach Construction has been busy gearing up for Monday's official start day. Some activities included:

- Installing construction signs which include safety regulations.
- Play equipment has been removed.
- Site walk with district's maintenance and operations personnel to map out emergency shut off valves.
- Collaborating with district's architect and project manger to secure regulation permits such as an encroachment permit from the City of Soledad for utility installation.
- Meeting with sub contractors to insure a smooth construction mobilization.
- Collaborating with State Inspector of Record on upcoming construction activities.



Transportation

Bus #10 is getting a new engine. Bus #10 is one of our oldest buses so it was time to replace the engine to insure safety and reliability.

This school year the Transportation Department has made some major repairs. Bus #12 also received some major engine work. In the near future we will also be getting quotes to repaint some of our buses.

Operations

Custodians have been been working with pre measured chemical solutions at Rose Ferrero for the last three months. The district is experimenting with efficiency and cutting down on waste. The end result should be cost savings all around. Our custodians will need to give us feed back as to the quality of the chemicals and their overall effect in the classrooms and offices.



SOLEDAD FFA




WHO: ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
WHAT: SOLEDAD FFA FARM TOURS
WHEN: DURING NATIONAL FFA WEEK; FEB. 24-26
WHERE: SOLEDAD HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURE AREA
WHY: TO INCREASE AGRICULTURE AWARENESS WITH THE YOUTH

ADDITIONAL INFO: TOURS are 45 MIN; PLEASE CHECK IN THE FRONT OFFICE TO BE ESCORTED TO THE AG AREA.

Please email MS. WORD at RWORD@SOLEDAD.K12.CA.US TO SCHEDULE YOUR EDUCATIONAL TOUR.

OR CONTACT ALEX FOMBONA 6786400 EXT.104




Save the Date

Monterey County's 2016
Outstanding Women's Event
Sunday March 20, 2016
2:00 to 4:00 PM

Irvine Auditorium in the McCone Building at the
 Middlebury Institute of International Studies
 499 Pierce Street, Monterey, CA

The Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women is proud to honor women in
 Monterey County. To submit a nomination please visit our website at:
www.co.monterey.ca.us/csw

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS: FEBRUARY 5, 2016

For more information, including Sponsorship opportunities, please contact
 Yolanda Cervantes at 831-512-3239
 or email yolanda.cervantes@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook 



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT*
 FOR HEALTHY LIVING
 FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPRING BREAK CAMP 2016

The Y's day camps are safe and nurturing environments where your children will learn the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Led by trained YMCA staff, break camp will provide your kids with fun and inspiring activities that will help them build self confidence, self esteem and independence.

GRADES: K - 8
DATES/TIMES: March 28 - April 1, 2016; 7:00am - 6:00pm
FEES: Early Registration February 1 - 20, 2016

\$95 / week or \$20 / day	After School Program Participants
\$115 / week or \$30 / day	Facility Member
\$145 / week or \$40 / day	Program Member

After February 20, 2016

\$100 / week or \$25 / day	After School Program Participants
\$120 / week or \$35 / day	Facility Member
\$150 / week or \$45 / day	Program Member

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE.
 Visit our website for registration forms at www.centralcoastymca.org.
 Registrations can be emailed/mailed/faxed or brought into the South County YMCA.

WHERE: SOUTH COUNTY YMCA
 560 Walker Drive, Soledad, CA

CONTACT: Elyssa Sigala
 831.678.1239 or esigala@ymccentralcoast.org

The Y believes every child should have the opportunity to take part in our break camps, regardless of their family's ability to pay. Mexican American Opportunity Foundation and CalWork accepted. SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER EARLY.

SAMPLE OF ACTIVITIES:

Arts & Crafts	Walking Field Trips
Group Games	Rock climbing
Swimming	

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF SOLEDAD

 Gateway to the Pinnacles

SOUTH COUNTY YMCA • 560 Walker Drive • Soledad, CA • 831.678.1239 • www.centralcoastymca.org

2016 TRASHION SHOW

EVENT INFORMATION:

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Salinas Valley Fairgrounds: Orradre Building
 625 Division St. in King City, CA
Cost: \$55 each. Tables of 8 are available for larger groups.

****TICKETS ON SALE: MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016.
 CALL (831) 655-1334 TO PURCHASE****

The funds raised through this event will benefit hundreds of seniors throughout South County.

WHAT IS TRASHION SHOW?

Trashion Show is a high fashion competition that features unique, one-of-a-kind clothing made from recycled / re-purposed materials such as: candy wrappers, coffee bags, newspapers, chicken wire, 35 mm slides and much, much more. Let your imagination run wild—picture a beautiful gown made from recycled paper or a skirt fashioned out of Coca-Cola cans. The possibilities are endless.

FREE Compost Workshop
Saturday, April 9th 2016 in Soledad

Talleres Gratis de Compostaje en el Valle de Salinas

Come & Learn About:

- Backyard Composting
- Worm Composting

Convert your kitchen scraps into a nutrient-rich soil.

Venga y Aprenda:

- Hacer una pila de composta
- Hacer composta con lombrices

Convierta sus desperdicios de comida en rico y nutriente abono.



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Select one and register: online, www.salinasvalleyrecycles.org or email back this form or call 831-775-3000.
 Escoja uno y registre: internet, www.salinasvalleyrecycles.org o envíe forma por correo o llame al numero de arriba.

"The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Monterey County supports families and individuals affected by mental health challenges. NAMI is now in South County! Contact Bilingual Family Outreach Coordinator-Deanna Rivas at 831-402-4940 for more resources, community presentations, and more!"

