



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



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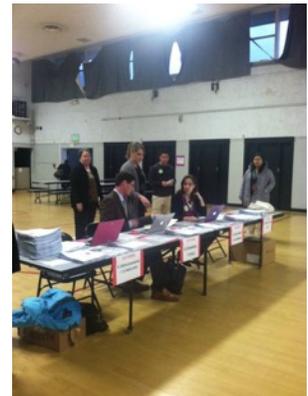
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Javier Galvan

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.

January 8, 2016

Dear Trustees,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great break and best wishes for the new year. We started the week off with Main Street Middle School deploying iPads to all current 7th and 8th graders on Monday, January 4, 2016 and Tuesday, January 5, 2016. All staff returned to work on January 6, 2016 for professional development. The high schools will be working with Core Innovate on their WASC report along with academies and master schedule. The elementary schools will be receiving professional development from UC Santa Cruz Writing Project. Middle school staff will participate in Writing Project, PBIS and Technology Professional development presented by their peers. Ms. Jodi Massa, Mr. Javier Galvan and Mr. Jaime Fernandez stopped by to see the training.



We look forward to our students returning to school on Monday, January 11, 2016. We received four applications from our high school students who are interested in conducting an internship in an elementary classroom and hopefully become a teacher in the future. The HR staff will work with staff to set up interviews and training for the interested students. We hope to have more join as the year continues.



Our MOTF staff has been working very hard to get all of the classrooms and schools ready for students and staff over the winter break. Our schools look great--Thank you so much for your hard work.



Educational Services



District-Wide PD on January 7 & 8 & Upcoming Events

Elementary Schools

The Elementary School teachers were trained by the Santa Cruz Writing Project at our District-Wide Professional Development which was held on Thursday, January 7 at Frank Ledesma. Three sessions were held and they included the following groups:

1. Session in the Multi: K-2 Teachers
2. Session in the Library: Grades 3-5 Teachers
3. Session in Rm 18: Grades 6-8 Teachers:

The presenters gave an overview of the new Lucy Calkin's Writing Units that each teacher received. They also discussed how Writer's Workshop should be conducted in the classrooms. The teachers were shown how the writing units include the different genres, rubrics, exemplars, and student checklists. Writing is very important now with our new common core standards.



Math Coaching in the Elementary Schools

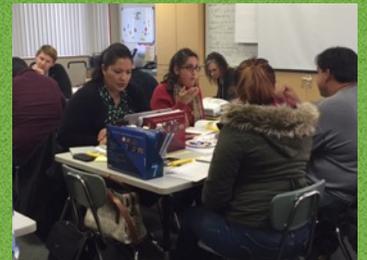
Chase Orton, our Math Consultant, will be here January 11-January 15 to coach several of our Elementary Schools. Next week, he will be working with them on Lesson Inquiry & Performance Task calibration.

ELA/ELD Pilot Training

On January 12-13, the K-12 teachers that are piloting the McGraw-Hill series will be trained from 8:00-3:25 each day which will grade level planning time.

Secondary Schools

Main Street English and Special Education Teachers joined their 6th grade colleagues on Thursday to participate in the Lucy Calkins Units of Study Writing PD facilitated by the Central California Writing Project. Teachers also had the opportunity to participate in teacher-designed and teacher-led professional development. Teachers were able to choose from various workshops to meet their professional needs- English Learners, SPED, Google Classroom and Webpage Design. Day 2 of PD focused on continuing their efforts to engage students in creating a safe and creating learning environment. Presenters from Unity Through Creativity demonstrated how to strengthen student engagement through collaboration and the arts.



Pinnacles High School team collaborated around the development of their WASC Self Study Report. With a little more than three months before their formal WASC visit, they're working closely with Julia Turner eloquently capture the great work and vision for Pinnacles High School.



The Aztecs did profound work around developing the effectiveness, identity, and impact of their academies as well as writing. Led by our CoreInnovate consultants, Jane Patterson and John Match, teams collaborated to understand fundamental tenets of effective academies, and specifically honing in on the power of teacher collaboration and master scheduling.

During the Writing PD, teachers learned how to use on-line tools to assess and provide effective feedback for student writing. They also engaged in rich discussion when they used a common core aligned rubric to score writing across all content areas.



Special Projects

English Learner Apps



Many of our Main Street Middle School students have recently received their iPads and many more will be receiving them in the weeks to come. Students can use these technology tools to complete assignments, research topics, and learn more English. Below are some recommended apps for learning English.

Apps & Internet Site

Duolingo

This app can be purchased or used in free demo mode. Duolingo teaches users 7 new words per lesson on individual topics.

Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone can be purchased and used in demo mode for free access. Users learn basic words, forming phrases and then sentences.

Fluent U

An app that uses media to teach users English through videos, music, commercials, news, & talks. This app can be used in free mode and costs money.

<http://www.spanishdiet.com/>

This site can be used to learn Spanish as well as access accurate translations of English to Spanish or

Cops' Giving Tree



Many merry families attended the 6th Annual Cops' Giving Tree event held on December 18th at South County YMCA. Families were treated to a holiday dinner, gifts for the children, a bike for each family, and a holiday portrait.

Many thanks to the Family Student Support Coordinators and Liaisons who referred families for the event, and to Intervention Program Coordinator Aidee Aldaco for her hard work in organizing the event. Most of all, thanks to the officers of the Soledad Police Department and Correctional Training Facility for their generous financial support and time sponsoring the event.

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

What are Related Services?

Related Services which are sometimes referred to as "Designated Instruction and Services" are defined as transportation and other developmental supportive services to assist the child in benefiting in special education. However, a child cannot receive SPED services if it is determined that the child only needs a related service.

When Does a Student Need SPED?

If a student is receiving educational benefit in the general education setting, then he or she is not entitled to special education. If an impairment can be accommodated in the general education classroom, the law does not entitle a student to special education services if we find the discrepancy can be corrected in the regular classroom.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Several of our Special Education team members took time during their break to come in and be trained on Handle with Care. Handle with Care Training is effective methodology and techniques of deescalation and physical restraint, for students who put themselves in a position of harming them self or those around them.



Business Department



Friendly Reminder:

- Please remember to receive your items in Escape in order for the Business office to expedite the payment process.
- Purchase Orders: If you are the requisitioner of a purchase order, when submitting a PO do not choose Direct Payment under Order Type. The Business Department is not able to see or process any PO's with Direct Payments.

SITE MEETINGS

SUSD Accountant Aimee Beleu met with the school ASB Clerks from San Vicente School and Soledad High last week to get up to speed on ASB accounting. She also met with Cafeteria staff to learn more about the program E-Triton in order to understand the accounting process at their end.

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.

SUSD CalSTRS Audit

CalSTRS Audit Services has selected SUSD for review. The objectives are to determine if the District has reported creditable service and compensation to CalSTRS in compliance with the Teacher's Retirement Law and if the District's payroll and personnel records support the District's member information reported to CalSTRS. Joining us this week is Alma Aguirre, auditor from CalSTRS.



Business Department Helpful Tip

Planning for retirement is a life-long process that gets more and more difficult as you approach retirement age. You have to make timely decisions about your investments and your future expenses.

One smart tip to help you in this process is to maximize your retirement saving by taking advantage of your employer's retirement options and making smart retirement investing decisions.

Make it automatic-Set up your account to automatically withdraw as much money as you can from your paycheck each month.

Don't limit yourself to your employer's plans. If you can save more money by also investing in an IRA or even a personal stock account for retirement, don't hesitate.

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.

ON OUR WATCH by Julia Turner

Dr. Boyd keeps us abreast of current state and federal educative information. This week, Dr. Boyd forwarded to us a letter - ED DCL 12.31.15-final.pdf - from the U. S. Department of Education Superintendent Arne Duncan, in which he writes "to enlist [our] help, as educational leaders, to ensure that [our] students are free from discrimination and harassment based on their race, religion, or national origin." This letter stirred a visceral response within me, welling within me the power of the teacher.

I share with our new teachers the awesome privilege and responsibility we clothe ourselves in order to stand before our students each day. Teaching is a calling, a mission. Veteran teachers who imbibe teaching as a calling understand this meaning; for new teachers who may not understand yet "the call," we give ourselves. It is no cliché that we can make a difference! May we forever hold dear our purpose!

As one who experienced discrimination from both peers and teachers in the 60's, I know the piercing pain of prejudice and can still remember the ugliness of those belittling episodes. Our students must not experience that pain on our watch!

I am grateful for a father who stood up for me, who would not accept the mistreatment to me, who campaigned not only for me and my siblings but also for African American children in early 1960's-Buffalo NY. Also, I am grateful for the power of the teachers who presented themselves as role models to me, who made the classroom a safe place for me when I was a minority of one, and who expected me to excel when I was in a Los Angeles inner-city non-diverse high school classroom. My constant prayer throughout my calling has been that I may stand in the gap, as my did father and teachers, for my students; so they feel safe and know they can excel. My prayers have been answered in a multitude of ways and times.

On our watch, as I continue supporting new teachers, I will ever diligently hold the banner for the learning environment that supports and advances all students and that lauds diversity.

Technology



STUDENT IPAD INSURANCE

All Soledad High and Main Street students can sign up now for an iPad protection plan that starts now through the summer vacation, to cover their iPads. Parents can visit www.myschoolipadportal.com to sign up.

MSMS IPAD DEPLOYMENT

On January 4th and 5th, we had our most successful iPad deployment to date! Everything went smoothly and we were able to get 431 iPads checked out to Main Street's students. Thank you to all the staff who helped make these days a success! We will continue to hold mini sessions or schedule by appointment until all students have their device, and next step will be getting their devices ready for NWEA testing.



Ms. Vasquez and Ms. Macias are leading a session.



Mr. Douty and Mr. Lopez walking the session through the video.



Mr. Showalter-Garcia and Dr. Estrella leading a session.



System Admin Greg Quitevis provides Tech Support for a student setting up his iPad.

Parents and students checking into the sessions and waiting to be taken to the next session.

