



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.

Dear Trustees,

March 4, 2016

A lot of wonderful things happened this week. Our students and staff continue to be amazing. Here is just a small snap shot of what's happening.

--Schools have been celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with a variety of activities including reading their favorite Dr. Seuss' book. Mr. Guzman, Dr. Witwer and I got to read with Ms. Madsen's first graders at Jack!

Aztec Soccer teams played highly competitive games and did a great job. Thank you for a great season!



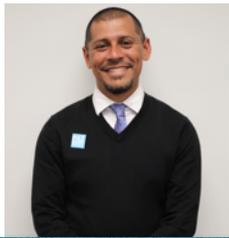
Mr. Galvan read "Cat in the Hat" to Rose Ferrero's students.



San Vicente PTO put in hours of work in the San Vi garden. Please stop by and take a look.



For up to date information, please follow me on twitter at <https://twitter.com/>

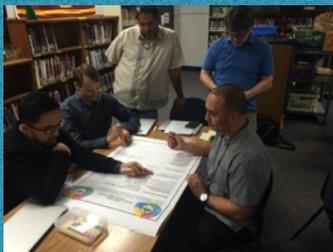


Educational Services



LCAP Charts and Input from each School Site

Each school has received LCAP Goal Charts and is gathering input from all of their teachers, their Site Councils, and their students. The object is that we gain input from all of our stakeholders on these goals. Last month we gathered input from our District Curriculum Council and we will soon be holding community stakeholder meetings to receive additional input on our 5 Goals.



Mission Trails ROP Dinner

On Wednesday, March 2, Soledad Unified School District hosted the Mission Trails Regional Occupation Program Executive Board meeting in the Mission Room. Teachers and district leaders from Greenfield, Gonzalez, Pacific Grove, North Monterey County, and Salinas convened to collaborate around how can we further develop the ROP and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs in our district. One of our LCAP goals is centered on preparing our students for a career in high impact, high wage industries. Our collaboration with our regional partners allows us to share and discuss resources and best practices for developing ROP/CTE programs, professional development as well as creating leadership opportunities for our students-like our FFA and Skills USA student clubs.

The highlight of the evening was when our teachers and students presented Soledad High School's CTE/ROP programs. At Soledad High School students have an opportunity to join one of three Academies in the 10th grade: Agriculture, Health & Public Service and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Each academy houses unique ROP/CTE courses that provides students an opportunity to become aware and equipped with industry specific knowledge and skills to help them succeed after graduation. We currently offer our students more than 20 CTE/ROP courses. A big thank you to Ms. Austin, Mr. Cooper, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Muro, Mr. Hughes, and Ms. Word who assisted with hosting and putting together the SUSD presentation. Below is a picture of some of our Skills USA Club participants- many of whom will be traveling to San Diego later this month to compete in the Regional Championships. Wish them luck! We are proud of all of the hard our staff at Soledad High School is doing to ensure our students are Career Ready!



Special Projects

English Learners

Classroom Highlights

On a recent visit to San Vicente School I was able to watch fourth graders use iPads to access information about unfamiliar words. Students in Miss Gonzales' fourth grade room were told to look up the word "grindstone." After reading and discussing the definition students were again asked to use their iPads to find images of grindstones. Great use of technology and very helpful strategy for our English learners.



After School Program

Part of the after school program includes enrichment lessons such as preparing healthy snacks. Featured below, Frank Ledesma Elementary ASP students proudly display their peanut butter snails and other tasty creatures:



Peanut Butter Snails

- 2 Medium celery sticks
- 1/2 cup Peter Pan creamy peanut butter
- 3 apple rings cut in half
- 4 pretzel sticks broken into thirds
- 12 mini semisweet chocolate morsels



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



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

SPECIAL EDUCATION

What is the Purpose of Assessments?

*Gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information, that may assist the IEP team in determining:

-Whether the child is a child with a disability; and

-The content in the child's IEP is appropriate for educational benefit

What Areas Should Be Assessed?

*The child is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disabilities as known at the time of testing; to identify all of the student's needs.

*No single measure is used in determining whether the student requires special education or determining educational program.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

John Ryan, Teacher at the Adult Transition Center, is in his first year back with Soledad Unified after a short time away as a principal for the Monterey County Office of Education. Mr. Ryan is a seasoned veteran with much experience that he brings back to our District. We are thankful you have returned Mr. Ryan, and are thankful for all you do!



Business Department



Friendly Reminder:

When submitting a reimbursement for meals, supplies, etc. please remember to attach an itemized receipt with your request paperwork; in addition to any paperwork authorizing you to attend the function if attending a conference. This will assure and expedite the process of receiving your reimbursement in a timely matter.

Payroll Warrants:

All SUSD Employees

Reminder: Miscellaneous time sheets are due to the sites tomorrow Friday, March 4, 2016

SITE MEETINGS

On Tuesday, March Cesar Vega and Fernando Cubias attended the monthly DLT meeting held at the District Office. Among the topics of discussion for the Business Department were issues with the billing addresses. All sites should be using the District Office address as the billing address. DLT meetings are a great opportunity to maintain open communication with our school sites.

The ASB workshop held on Thursday, February 25 and hosted by Karen Hennessy-Director of District Advisory from the Monterey County Office of Education was a great success. The ASB clerks who attended had the opportunity to ask questions regarding their particular situation and gives the Business Office staff a chance to stay updated on the Federal and State regulations regarding ASB.

Business Department Helpful Tip

Public Service and Volunteer Opportunities

In the summer of 2009, President Obama called on all Americans to make volunteerism and community service part of their daily lives. The challenges our nation faces cannot be solved by edicts or quick fixes from Washington alone. We can rebuild our schools, but we need people to be mentors and tutors in those schools. We can modernize our health care system, but we need volunteers in our hospitals and communities to help care for the sick and help people lead healthier lives. Don't miss this opportunity to have the satisfaction of incorporating service into your life and making a difference in your community and country. If you would like more information on how you can get involved, you can log in at www.usa.gov website under Public Service and Volunteer.

Human Resources



STA Reminder: *Column Advancement on the Salary Schedule*

The employee shall notify the district in writing no later than **April 15, 2016** of his/her intention to change salary status for the ensuing year (i.e. Column I to Column II).

You should review your STA Master Agreement, Article XII – Compensation, Section 5 and 6, Salary Advancement, for more specific information.

Brandman University is presently offering scholarships to teachers who you are interested in pursuing a **career in administration**. Please see the informational flyer on our website to see how you might be able to take advantage of up to **\$4,000 in scholarship monies**. If you are interested you must apply to the University by 3/15/2016. Any questions please direct them to **Dr. Donna Fearnside at defearns@brandman.edu**.

CalState
Teach
Information
Session

March 14th
at 3:30pm
in the
C&I Building

Please join
us to learn
how to
become a
teacher!

Reflecting on last week's Curriculum Instruction Symposium and to its abiding theme of teachers' privileges and mandate that we impact our students' lives, I recall the poem I composed a couple of years ago.

Unlock the Future Today

With fragility of heart, with timidity coursing their veins,
With anxiety inciting their consciousness -- seated before Teacher,
Tomorrow's professionals tremble.

Replete with uncertainties, surnamed by myriad faces
Longing for knowledge, guidance, release -- hoping before enlightenment,
Tomorrow's professionals attend.

Awaiting the *sign*, holding dear their world in abeyance,
The door, at best ajar just enough to allow entrance -- engaged by a caring Teacher,
Tomorrow's professionals open.

With learning flowing through heart-chambers, lingering for approval,
With thinking undulating -- inward and outward and back again,
Tomorrow's professionals excel.

Requiring steadfastness, dedication, perseverance, gentle strength, no paucity of tears,
O Teacher, stanced between them and tomorrow -- in your hands,
Tomorrow's professionals abide.

*Living the achievement, daring high expectations,
Celebrating their cognition, self-inspired by metacognition --
Recalling the Teacher before whom they once sat,
Tomorrow's professionals give thanks.*

Technology



STORAGE SPACE ON YOUR STAFF MACBOOK AIR'S



Are you at or near your Macbook's storage capacity? If so, one of the common reasons why this happens is you might have too many photos stored on your Macbook. Did you know Google Photos offers free, unlimited photo storage, online? You can use your school google email account to login to photos.google.com and start uploading all your school/district related photos there. For personal photos please use your personal gmail account (if you don't have one, you can create a personal one for free at gmail.com). After uploading these photos online, delete them from your Macbook, empty your trash, and voila! More storage space on your Macbook.

If you have any questions please submit a Technology helpdesk request and your Tech will be happy to assist.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT AND STUDENT INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

All students will soon each receive a copy of our district's Student Technology Acceptable Use Agreement and Student Internet Safety Policy. In it students will learn about cyber citizenship and our district's policies and guidelines regarding internet and technology use. All students are to sign the policy and take the policy home to have a parent sign as well. Policies will be sent in English and Spanish.

DISTRICT CABLING PROJECT

During the days of March 16-17, we will be hosting a site walk with different vendors who will be submitting proposals for our cabling project. The number of vendors that will show up is unknown at this time, but Tech Director will be notifying all site Admins with more details. The main purpose of the site walk is for vendors to take measurements for an accurate cost proposal. We will minimize our impact on instruction as much as possible, but we will most likely be visiting all classrooms that have our network equipment installed (IDF).

MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, FACILITIES & BOND



Frank Ledesma play ground padding received some much needed patching. The patching method used is a base compound with rubbery toping. The play structures and padding is over 10 years old. In the near future we will receive quotes to replace the entire padding area



New shaded structures were installed at the varsity softball fields. The shade structures were installed at the dugouts. Cement flooring was also installed to keep the dust down. The shade structure will be painted in the near future.



During our construction activities at Main Street Middle School, a major sidewalk which is heavily traveled by our students had to be closed. The construction activity was in close proximity of the sidewalk. This posed a safety concern for pedestrians.

Field Trips

As the weather gets warmer the field trip requests increase. Please remember while on the bus, staff and students are under the direction of the bus driver. It is important that trips board on time, both to and from your destination. We will be monitoring the return times and adjust if necessary, as we need to be able to provide home to school transportation and many requests are being submitted that do not return until after school hours. This does not apply to athletics

With this in mind, we have an exciting trip coming up for all district 3rd graders, "Farm Day" which is Wednesday, March 9th. We will be transporting 511 students, staff and chaperones to and from King City for this event. Be Safe and have Fun!





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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOAL!

Teen Indoor Soccer League

AGES: Co-ed, Ages 13-17
SEASON: April 11 – May 27, 2016
DAY/TIME: Thursdays and Fridays
 6:00pm, 7:00pm & 8:00pm
FEES: \$150 / team (10 players maximum)
 Financial assistance is available.
WHERE: SOUTH COUNTY YMCA
 560 Walker Drive,
 Soledad, CA
CONTACT: Elyssa Sigala
 831.678.1239
 esigala@ymcentralcoast.org



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THE CITY OF SOLEDAD

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POR LA FORMACIÓN DE NIÑOS Y JÓVENES®
POR UNA VIDA SALUDABLE
POR LA RESPONSABILIDAD SOCIAL

GOAL!

Adolescente liga de fútbol sala

EDADES: Niños y niñas, edades 13 - 17
TEMPORADA: 11 de abril - 27 de mayo, 2016
DIAS & HORARIO: jueves y viernes
 6:00pm, 7:00pm & 8:00pm
CUOTAS: \$150 / equipo
 (10 jugadores como máximo)
 La asistencia financiera
 está disponible.
DONDE: LA YMCA DEL CONDADO DEL SUR
 560 Walker Drive,
 Soledad, CA
CONTACTO: Elyssa Sigala
 831.678.1239
 esigala@ymcentralcoast.org



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MARCH 15, 2016

10 AM to 1 PM

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SALINAS



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ROCIO RODRIGUEZ
rocior@cet2000.org
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