



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.

November 6, 2015

Dear Board of Trustees,

Our CNA program is off to a great start. The first cohort graduated on Tuesday November 3, 2015. The graduation ceremony took place at Eden Valley's flower garden. The students and staff did an outstanding job. Exciting news: We are ready for the next cohort to start.

Staff has been busy working with our JPA in applying for grants to support adult education and CTE/ROP pathways for the high school. We are looking at ways to tap into the funds to include middle school in the pathway grant as well.

District IT department has been attending meetings with MCOE to learn about having a district LTE tower to provide wifi services to our students in a two mile radius. Once we have more information regarding the tower, we will meet with City of Soledad Leadership to ask to form a partnership to support the community with free wifi service.



We are in the process of partnering with the Panetta Institute and Monterey County Reads Program to have our NJROTC junior and senior cadets tutor first grade students at our elementary schools. Mr. Breland, Captain Gomez, and Mr. Guzman met with Mrs. Sylvia Panetta, Director of the Panetta Institute to learn more about the tutoring program and to hear from the Monterey High School Principal and the ROTC Commander about their successful implementation in Monterey and Seaside High Schools. We think this fits with our district vision of establishing a tutoring internship program. We still need figure out the logistics and to survey our elementary principals and first grade teachers to gauge interest. If all goes well, we plan to launch the program this coming February.



Educational Services



Doug Fisher Workshop

Many of our teachers attended the Doug Fisher Workshop at MCOE on Friday, November 5th. His focus was on "Better Learning Through Structured Teaching." One highlight was about more learning takes place when:

- 1) Students are in small groups
- 2) Teachers build relationships with their students
- 3) Classrooms allow discussions
- 4) Teachers have clarity on what they are teaching
- 5) Students establish expectations



LCAP Charts

LCAP Charts will be hung up in every school reminding us of the 5 Goals that we are working on this year. They are:

- Goal 1: Increase the Graduation Rate for all
- Goal 2: Proficiency for all
- Goal 3: Safety
- Goal 4: Community & Family Engagement
- Goal 5: High Quality Staff



EDUCATION WEEK

INSTRUCTIONAL ROUNDS:
Professional Development Through Observation

FREE CHAT:
Thursday, August 29, 2013
4 to 5 p.m. ET



Secondary Schools Spotlight

Data driven instruction is widely recognized in the field of education as one of the most powerful levers that impact student learning.

Main Street Middle School teachers and administrators spent their collaboration time this week analyzing both NWEA and CAASPP data to best understand their

student learning needs and to provide meaningful focus to their professional development. Up the street at Pinnacles and Soledad High Schools, staff will be engaged in analyzing their first NWEA data next week to likewise inform how to best support student learning.



On Wednesday, November 4, the first ever Main Street Middle School College Fair was held. It was an amazing success thanks to the work and leadership of Jennifer Caceres and Mayra Amador! UC Berkeley, UC Merced, CSUMB, and Hartnell College, to name of few, had admissions representatives in attendance. Kudos to the Main Street staff for creating an amazing opportunity for their Trojans to increase their college awareness.



Special Projects

English Learners

Increase Academic Vocabulary

Last week I attended a Kate Kinsela training at MCOE. Part of her presentation included increasing EL student's academic vocabulary. Here is another resource or article with ideas for increasing academic vocabulary in your classrooms:

<http://www.ncte.org/library/nctefiles/resources/journals/vm/0204-may2013/vm0204how.pdf>

James Showalter-Garcia is the Family Student Support Coordinator at Main St. Middle School. James assists with Main Street's EL students, foster youth, & homeless youth, & ASP. Since joining the staff Mr. Showalter-Garcia has supported EL students in the classroom & advocated for EL Special Education Students. James currently resides in Santa Cruz and in his free time enjoys spending time at the beach and hiking. Thank you James for your dedication to Main Street's students!



After School Program

Staff Spotlight



This is Isabel Cantu, part time Clerk/Typist for the After School Program and mother of two students enrolled in our district. Isabel provides clerical support to the elementary and middle school after school program staff by maintaining our attendance system and creating reports to keep us in compliance with the After School Education and Safety grant. Last spring she volunteered at the Soledad Education Foundation Carnival and designated Main Street's After School Program as the benefiting classroom. Thank you, Isabel!

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource Specialist Program

This program is designed primarily to serve students with mild disabilities whose IEP teams have determined that they can successfully access and participate in the general education setting for a majority of the school day however, require accommodations and specialized instruction a portion of the day.

Special Day Class

These classes are primarily designed for students with mild to moderate disabilities whose IEP teams have determined that they require specialized instruction for a majority of the school day. The primary goal is to return the students to the general education setting when appropriate.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT

Catalina Arroyo, is an Instructional Aide at San Vicente Elementary School. Catalina works with our littlest students in the pre-school program. Our little ones love coming to school, Catalina is one of the reasons why. Thank you Catalina!



Business Department

PAYROLL WARRANTS

Vanessa Guajardo joins the Business Office team back from maternity leave. Congratulations on her new Bundle of Joy

SITE MEETINGS

Cesar Vega and Fernando Cubias attended LCFF Workshop in Sacramento this Wednesday, November 4th. Step-by-step explanation of the funding provisions were discussed. In addition, this workshop provided attendees with tools needed to plan for the future and how to handle operational issues, budgeting, staffing, and collective bargaining.

On Thursday, November 5th a meeting was held to discuss and review procedures for the Soledad Unified School District's Great American Shake Out. Among the attendees were Cesar Vega, Fernando Nieto, Julie De La Torre and Valerie Mansfield. The purpose for this meeting was to identify any flaws in the system currently established and to see what we can do to improve them.

MAA RANDOM MOMENT TIME SURVEY

Please be sure to check your e-mails 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 Santa Cruz COE, funding may be altered for failure to complete these surveys. If you have any questions please contact the Business Office.



REMINDER OF UPCOMING AUDIT

Vavrinek, Trime, Day & Co., LLP will be conducting our final audit for the 2014-15 school year. They will be visiting the District Office and Sites from November 30th through December 2, 2015.

Dates and times for site visitations will be provided this upcoming week by the Business Office.

Friendly Reminder:

Time sheets are due November 4th to all sites and November 6th to the District Office.

Travel and Conference Request:
All conference, meeting or workshops must be approved in advance. Travel request forms must be submitted along with supporting documentation to your supervisor for approval.

Human Resources



Continuing Education

SUSD has established MOUs with the following Colleges and Universities to offer tuition breaks if you are interested in obtaining your Bachelor's, Master's, Teaching Credentials, or other certifications: *Brandman University, National University, University of Phoenix*. Please reach out to Lisa Kleinhofer at lkleinhofer@soledad.k12.ca.us if you would like more information.

Keenan Safe Schools

If you are a new employee to our district, please be sure to complete the Keenan Safe Schools trainings. It is mandatory that the following trainings are completed within the first 6-weeks of hire.

- Blood Bourne Pathogens
- Child Abuse
- Workplace Harassment

If you need support in completing these trainings, please contact Nancy Terrones.

Open Positions

Learning Director	SHS
Family Student Support Liaison	SHS
Accountant	DO
Campus Security	SHS
Clerk Typist	Elementary/MSMS
Art Teacher	MSMS
Science Teacher	SHS
Math Teacher	SHS
Custodian II/Bus Driver	DW
Health Aide	JF
Plant Manager	DW
Plumber	DW

To apply, please go to soledadusd.org or find us on EdJoin.org

PREVIEWING TEXT: A HABIT OF MIND by Julia Turner

In last week's article, we presented various modes of thinking as articulated by the YR1 intern-teachers while engaged in "play" and concluded the article with the pièce de résistance: application to instruction. Do you deliberately with metacognitive forethought plan academic tasks that require your students to think in these multiple ways? How will you cultivate students' habits of thinking?

In the upcoming seminar, intern-teachers will deliberate on specific strategies that engage students in reading and comprehending informational text, a mainstay of learning. Again, we will preview text. One preview procedure will focus on text-dependent questions. While reading questions before reading the text, students will garner much information about the text. For example, from the text-dependent prompt (inset at left) about "The Donkey, The Rooster, and The Lion," the student may extract at least five elements about the story. (genre: **fable**; task: **relate** [identify and tell]; character: **donkey**; what: one consequence of donkey's **attitude change** [one result; consequence is **singular**]; **inference**: If the donkey changed his attitude, he had a different attitude at the beginning; where will the answer come from: the **text** [relate].

In this fable, relate the consequence to the donkey's change of attitude.

Processing each question with this type scrutiny provides students with details and may engage students more readily and more thoughtfully into reading the text. Creating question-preview a pre-reading routine installs a brain-hook, upon which while reading the text, students could hang new text information. Establishing previewing text as a learning protocol cultivates students' habits of thinking.

Technology



EMAIL LISTS

Staff, recently a mass email was sent to each school individually by Annette Trujillo, Tech Director, in an attempt to identify who did not receive the email. We want to make sure you are on the email list of your school site. Please check your email and notify atrujillo@soledadusd.org if you did not receive the email.



BEST APPS FOR CLASSROOM

Educators, check out this great resource that lists 52 of the best apps for the classroom.

<http://www.teachthought.com/uncategorized/52-of-the-best-apps-for-classrooms/>

STUDENT EMAILS

Teachers, we are still working on getting each of you your student's email addresses. Remember we are starting with secondary schools and working our way down by grade level. In the meantime, you can look up your student's email address by finding them in the "To" field when composing a new email address. All student emails begin with their first initial, first 5 letters of last name, and their PERM ID. Thank you for your patience with this project.



TEACHER SURVEY

Teachers, please take the time to fill out our **anonymous** Technology survey. Your input will help us improve and plan more PD/training.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6NPHZNH>

MOTF

Facilities



Winter sports is just underway for the Soledad High School Aztecs. The wrestling squads have a permanent location to practice. We have made some alterations to a room inside the multi purpose building. The carpet was removed, concrete was sealed and plywood installed ready to receive wall padding just like the picture on the left. The colors will be Aztec color, however. Wall Padding will be installed over the Thanksgiving break.

Operations

Our Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Department insures its doing its part to help with environmental issue. The Department of Toxic Substance Control monitors our used oil disposal practices. M.O.T. follows strict guidelines to insure waste is separated and locked. They also insure waste is picked up routinely. The M.O.T. department also uses recycled water

when washing down equipment and vehicles. Vehicles and equipment are washed over a drain which sends the water through screens and filters and eventually is stored in a clean tank. This practice insures we conserve water, and we are not sending toxic liquids down storm drains and contaminating reservoirs.



Facility Use

A friendly reminder about completing and submitting facility use forms for all events. The district office needs to approve all uses including after school events especially if money will be collected.