



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



President
Marie Berlanga



Vice President
Gloria Ledesma



Board Clerk
Jodi Massa



Trustee
Jaime Fernandez



Trustee
Fabian Barrera

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.

September 4, 2015

Dear Board of Trustees,

This week has been a busy one, in particular I want to highlight the following items:

1. Some exciting news! Hartnell College is looking to collaborate with Soledad Community to build a Hartnell center here. They will be proposing a local bond to fund the center. Any monies from the bond will stay locally. Hartnell College President Dr. Lewallen will be sending out a letter to community members such as the Mayor, City Manager, the school board president and other key people for a meeting in Soledad. We will be hosting this meeting. More information will be forth coming.
2. Our administrative team received valuable training on documenting using the FRISK model, bullying, and discipline. FRISK is an acronym that stands for facts, rule, impact, suggestions/directions, and knowledge. Our District's attorney Mr. Mark Breese provided the training.
3. Our district team attended the first Migrant parent meeting on Wednesday to meet and greet our parents. They were very pleased that we were present to introduce ourselves and to offer our services.
4. Jack Franscioni Elementary had their back to school event on Tuesday night. It was well attended.
5. KION did a story on the work we are doing to support students in light of the drug busts happening in our community and South County. Both Aidee Aldaco and Frankie Berlanga did an outstanding job with the interview. Check out the video clip at KION.





Directors of Teaching and Learning Antonio Garcia and Dianne Witwer



Math coaching is happening here next week in many of our schools. Chase Orton, our math coach, will be working with the Soledad High math teachers on Tuesday, September 8th. On Wednesday, September 9th & Thursday, September 10th, he will be supporting the 3rd grade team at Frank Ledesma and the 6th grade team at Rose Ferrero on designing & teaching a math lesson. On Friday, September 11, Chase will support the Main Street Middle School math teachers.



NWEA training for our K-8 school leaders will take place on September 8th. 3 staff members from each school site have been invited to attend. The principal, the vice principal or learning director, and a teacher from each of the elementary schools and the middle school have been invited. This training will help us to better support our students in giving the assessment and to analyze the outcome.



Special Projects

My School Bus Experience



Last week I went on a little adventure! I rode Alfonso's bus, afterschool, last Thursday, August 27th. Along the way I met some friendly students from San Vicente, notice them peeking over the seat in front of me and one familiar face from Jack Francioni. Second grader, Angelina, kept me company for half the trip. It was an enjoyable experience and I was happy to share a ride home with some of Soledad's finest!

Upcoming Events

Migrant Education Parent Training

5 Steps to Diabetes Prevention, Session 1

Tuesday, September 8th

San Vicente Elementary School Multipurpose Room

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Community Collaborative Meeting

Monday, September 14th

Soledad High School Mission Room

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Title I Supplemental Educational Services Fair

Wednesday, September 16th

Soledad High School Multipurpose Room

6:30-8:00 p.m.

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



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

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Law

"A pupil shall be referred for special education only after the resources of the regular education program have been considered and, where appropriate, utilized."

(Ca. Ed Code 56303)

Referral for Assessment

If your child is referred for special education assessment, an assessment plan will be developed, and you will be contacted for signed consent of the proposed Assessment Plan. Assessment may begin as soon as the Assessment Plan is returned.

DISTRICT

Students from Mr. Lang's class at Soledad High School show their spirit for the upcoming school year. Mr. Lange's class had a spirit party and posed for a picture while showing their Aztec pride, with the #1 Aztec himself. Have a great school year!

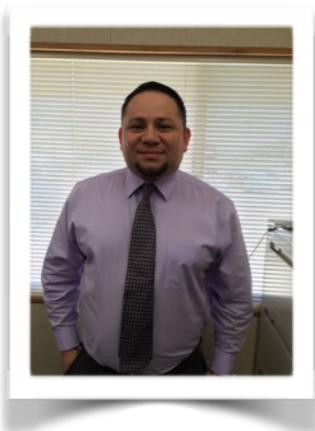
HIGHLIGHT



Business Department

PURCHASE ORDERS

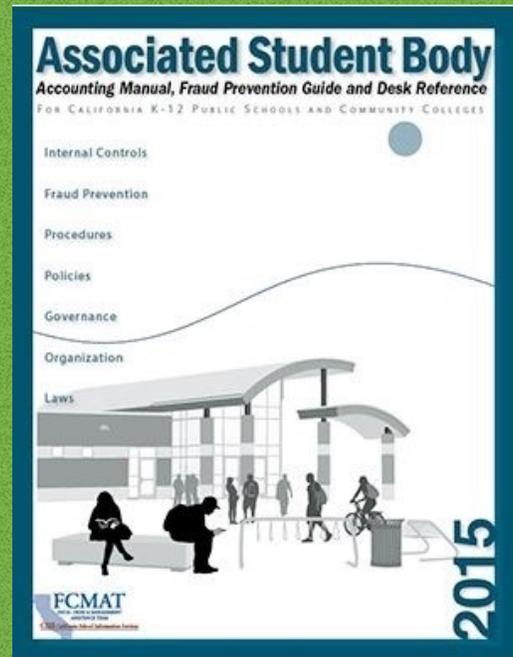
Please be sure that you have a valid (signed) Purchase Order before placing any orders with vendors. A valid Purchase Order will ensure that the items you are purchasing have been approved by both your site administrator as well as the Business Office. Purchase Orders also ensure that the funds needed for your items are available. For any questions, please contact the Business Office at 678-0786.



Fernando Cubias
Director of Fiscal Services

The Business Department would like to welcome Mr. Fernando Cubias as the newest member of their team. Fernando will join the Business Department as the Director of Fiscal Services. Fernando has prior experience as the Director of Fiscal Services for the El Monte School District as well as an extensive tenure working for the University of Southern California as an accountant. Fernando can be reached by e-mail at: fcubias@soledad.k12.ca.us or by phone at (831) 678-3950 x122.

2015 FCMAT ASB Accounting Manual



The new 2015 FCMAT ASB Accounting Manual is now available and is a great guide for those with questions in regards to ASB policies and procedures. Download the 2015 FCMAT ASB Accounting Manual at the following site: <http://fcmat.org/2015-asb-accounting-manual-fraud-prevention-guide-and-desk-reference/>

Human Resources



Mandatory On-Line Trainings

It is mandated by the state of CA that all employees of a school community complete Child Abuse, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Workplace Harassment trainings. A link has been sent to your email by Keenan & Associates that will connect you to these trainings. Please complete all trainings by Friday, September 19, 2015.

CalPers Open Enrollment
begins September 18th.
More information to come next week.

Please check your credential status to be sure it is current.

I Love my Work!

By, Julia Turner, New Teacher Support & Development Coordinator

During reflective conversations with me last week, teachers shared - with a degree of amazement - what they learned about creating a learning environment.

Mrs. Mariela Pérez (K-FL) experienced how using her voice strategically can affect the learning environment. While transitioning to a new task, Mrs. Pérez using a comfortable speaking-tone narrated a first positive student-behavior. "I like how Susana has put her math packet away and is facing Mrs. Pérez." The class began imitating the positive behavior. Mrs. Pérez narrated a second in a quieter tone; the class responded in both behavior and tone. By the third positive narration spoken in yet a lower voice, all students were quiet, were facing the teacher, and were poised for the next task. "I was surprised at how that worked so well." It was textbook!

Ms. Marely Pérez (5th-JF) facilitated learning about the Water Cycle rather than taught the Water Cycle. Mrs. Pérez assigned paired-students to read the first paragraph aloud to each other and afterward to extract two key facts from the text. An immediate buzz ensued as every pair read and agreed upon which two facts to write. When called upon to respond, students stood and delivered their important facts, which Mrs. Pérez wrote and displayed on the screen for the class to copy in their notes. Mrs. Pérez enjoyed the level of student-engagement with this reading strategy. "The students processed the information. I will do this again."

Ms. Labuschagne (PHS) shared the increase writing that her students produced when she raised her expectations for writing. Thumbing through several students' journals, she showed how every student met or exceeded her expectations. "Look at this one. This student would write very little at the beginning; now he began to write more and now is increasing his writing every day." Ms. Labuschagne was giddy with joy!

Each scenario emanated from coaching, either that day or prior, that I had shared with each teacher. I was thrilled witnessing their joy because these experiences make them stronger facilitators of learning.

During reflective conversations with me last week, teachers shared - with a degree of amazement - what they learned about creating a learning environment.

Mrs. Mariela Pérez (K-FL) experienced how using her voice strategically can affect the learning environment. While transitioning to a new task, Mrs. Pérez using a comfortable speaking-tone narrated a first positive student-behavior. "I like how Susana has put her math packet away and is facing Mrs. Pérez." The class began imitating the positive behavior. Mrs. Pérez narrated a second in a quieter tone; the class responded in both behavior and tone. By the third positive narration spoken in yet a lower voice, all students were quiet, were facing the teacher, and were poised for the next task. "I was surprised at how that worked so well." It was textbook!

Technology



TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Our District's Technology Acceptable Use Agreement is available on the technology website's main menu at:

tech.soledadusd.org

or here:

<http://goo.gl/iWnCn9>

Some Key Points in the policy:

- Users shall not use the technological resources and accounts to promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by state or federal law or district policy.
- Employees will always use good manners whenever writing messages on the Internet.
- No inappropriate language will be used in the messages.
- Employees understand that district may use software to track Internet activity on district owned computers and networks and that any work on the Internet may, but will not necessarily, be reviewed by other staff and administrators at school.
- Employees will not send or post messages using another employee's e-mail address or account, nor will they post or send any anonymous messages.
- Employees will never search for, download, or store information that is profane, pornographic, obscene, or that uses language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- Employees will tell the site administrator promptly if information, pictures or videos are received which are profane, pornographic, obscene, or offensive or if another user is deliberately searching for such information that is not allowed.
- Employees who publish Internet content must sign and abide by all provisions of the district's Permission Form to Publish Staff Internet Content.

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/TC3GP9N>