

Friday Memo
October 30, 2015

Upcoming Events – Bruce Harter

October 31: Sylvester Greenwood Academy Grand Opening, 10:00 AM
November 2-9: Elementary Parent Teacher Conference Days, Minimum Days
November 2: Special Education CAC, Cameron School, 7:00 PM
November 3: Elementary Parent Teacher Conference Day, No School for Elementary Schools
November 4: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM
November 5: Assembly Member Thurmond's Academic Townhall, DeJean, 6:00 PM

Next Week's Board Meeting – Bruce Harter

Closed Session for Wednesday's November 4 meeting begins at 5:00 PM.

What's Happening with Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)? – Nia Rashidchi

Over the last year, the VAPA Committee has been diligently working on creating a Strategic Plan for WCCUSD Arts.

The WCCUSD VAPA vision for Arts Education is as follows: through a robust, VAPA standards based and California Standards aligned curriculum, which is articulated from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade, students will acquire fundamental and evolving skills, knowledge, and experience in the Arts enhancing each student's readiness to enter the college or career of choice. Students will deepen their understanding of our world through enhanced ability to communicate, collaborate, create, and think critically.

The comprehensive arts plan will be presented to the Board of Education during the November 18 meeting.

Other districtwide arts activities include: our first ever Pizza and Planning professional development meeting focused on the arts; facilitating art workshops with the Richmond Art Center to support the WCCUSD Mobile Fab Lab Design Challenge, and meeting and planning with the elementary and secondary music teachers for the winter area festivals and the March All District Music Festival.

Finally, we are continuing to map out the programs available at each site, calibrating the number of students who are being served, offering ongoing support, and supplying materials and equipment needs.

Please visit our Visual and Performing Arts website at the following link:

<http://www.wccusd.net/Page/4695>

2014-15 Staff and Student Survey Dashboards Available - Nicole Joyner

The LCAP Staff and Student Survey dashboards located at <http://www.wccusd.net/Page/5387> now include results for the 2014-15 surveys.

The *LCAP Staff Survey* dashboard (Figure 1) shows results for the survey administered to all certificated and classified staff in the district. Topics include school practices, communication, safety, training, working conditions, and evaluation. Survey response rates increased 18% from 2013-14 to 2014-15, with 1,538 responses from certificated and classified employees. In 2013-14, 19% of certificated staff disagreed with the statement “at my school, our collaboration time is often taken up with completing assignments that come from the district.” The number increased to 23% in the 2014-15 survey.

Another positive trend was clear in the response to the statement “rules for dealing with students consistently and fairly are followed by administrators.” In 2013-14, 47% of staff agreed with this statement; in 2014-15, 53% agreed.

The **LCAP Student Survey** dashboard (Figure 2) shows results for the survey administered to all 4th, 6th, and 8th grade students. Survey topics include school climate, safety, student engagement, and classroom practices. The 2015 LCAP Student Survey received nearly 5,500 student responses.

Survey results demonstrated that the district is creating a college and career-positive environment, with the vast majority of students across 4th, 6th, and 8th grade stating that they plan to go to college or some other school after high school (Figure 1 below).

A positive trend was clear in school climate for eighth graders. In the 2013-14 student survey, only 87% of 8th graders responded positively to the question, “Do the teachers and other grown-ups at school care about you?” This number increased to 91% in 2014-15.

Division of State Architect (DSA) Approved vs. Non-DSA Approved Buildings – Lisa LeBlanc

In response to Board Member Block’s question regarding the difference between DSA versus Non-DSA approved buildings, we reached out to the District’s architects who provided the following information:

- California public schools are “essential services” facilities, along with police, fire and hospital facilities, subject to a higher building standard and stronger structural elements (foundations, columns, beams, anchorage, bracing and connections)
- Fire protection requirements (structural elements, walls, sprinklers, hydrants) can often be at a higher cost for DSA approved buildings
- State Department of Education reviews State funded schools which often adds additional review fees and construction requirements including measures to insure safe path of travel of students above and beyond accessibility requirements
- Testing and inspection requirements are more stringent and more costly
- Geotechnical (soil) requirements on school buildings are more stringent
- DSA is the only regulatory agency in CA that oversees compliance with the Field Act
- Prevailing wage requirements impact project cost on school buildings
- Public Contract Code low bid requirements may sometimes impact cost
- DSA develops its own interpretation of regulations which may impact cost

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

- Local requirements, such as Project Labor Agreements, may impact cost of school projects

Access the Latest in WCCUSD Accountability & Assessment News – Nicole Joyner

Accountability & Assessment News is a monthly newsletter highlighting the latest developments in assessment, data, and the LCAP in West Contra Costa Unified School District. Subscribe to the online version at <http://bit.ly/access-news> to stay up-to-date. The printer-friendly October newsletter is attached.

Current Certificated Openings-Ken Whittemore

Please find listed below the latest certificated hiring update. Provided is the school and grade, reason for vacancy, and current status. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

School/Grade	Reason for Vacancy	Current Status
Kennedy Counselor	Late September Resignation	Interviews being held
Greenwood Academy Counselor	Late September Resignation	Interviews being held
El Cerrito .80 English	Late Resignation	Job offered, declined by candidate, continued posting
Cameron SH DHH Lift	Currently not filled	Position offered 10/28
Greenwood PE	New Position	Interviews being held
Itinerant School Nurse	Continuing Opening	Posted and recruiting

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Figure 1: LCAP Staff Survey Dashboard

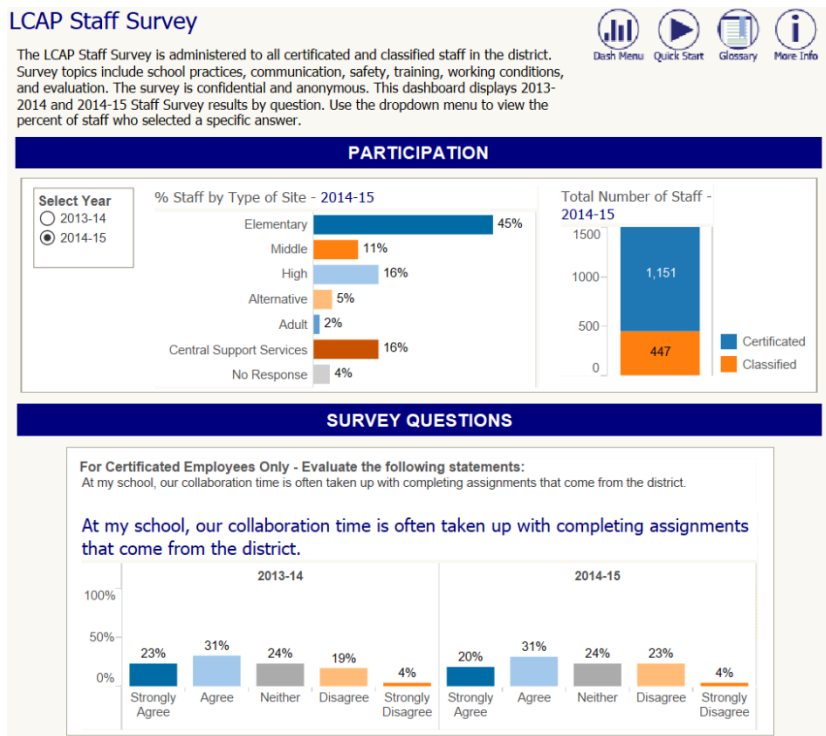
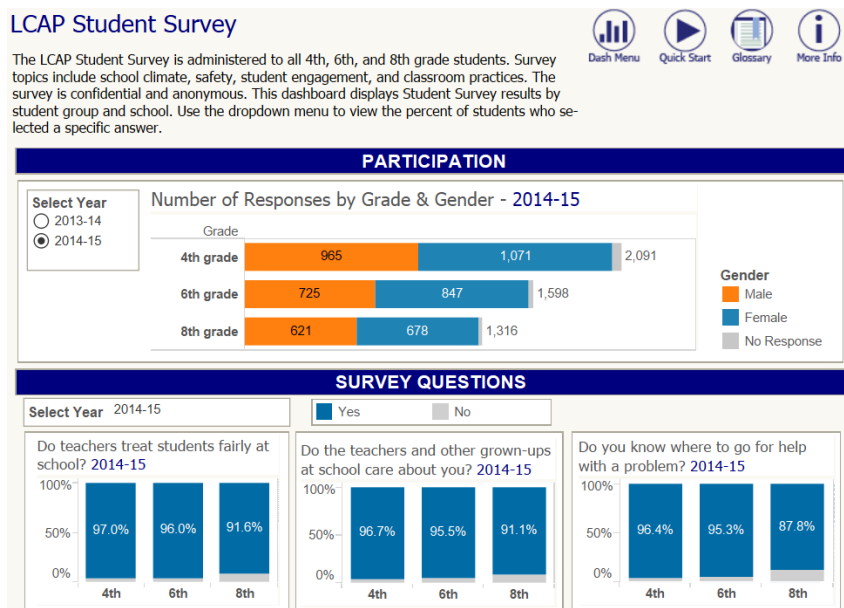


Figure 2: LCAP Student Survey Dashboard





Accountability & Assessment News



The latest West Contra Costa Unified School District news in assessment, data, and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Subscribe to the online version at <http://bit.ly/access-news>.



SBAC Results

View WCCUSD results in English Language Arts/Literacy and Math and see how our scores compared. **Page 2**

College & Career Day

Students across WCCUSD wore college t-shirts and heard from guest speakers while 8th – 12th graders took the SAT Suite of Assessments. **Page 3**



Big LCAP News

The 2015-16 LCAP was approved, we launched a new user-friendly LCAP website, and the first DLCAP meeting kicked off on Sept 29th. **Page 4**

Data Highlights

How do 2014-15 scores measure up? Take a look at the PSAT data dashboard to see how WCCUSD students performed on the PSAT in 2014-15. **Page 4**



SBAC Results Released

Results were released online for the computer-based Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments in English Language Arts / Literacy (ELA) and Mathematics. These tests required students to explain how they solve problems, think critically, and write analytically. They will be used as a baseline to align classroom teaching with what students need to know when entering college or the work force.



Students who have met or exceeded the standard are considered to be college and career ready, or have demonstrated the skills needed for success in future coursework. Here's how WCCUSD students performed:

SBAC Performance Levels - District Comparison

English Language Arts

School District	% Met or Exceeded
State of CA	44%
Sacramento City	35%
San Leandro	34%
Hayward	32%
West Contra Costa	32%
Antioch	31%
Pittsburg	30%
Oakland	29%
Emery	27%
Vallejo City	25%

Math

School District	% Met or Exceeded
State of CA	33%
Sacramento City	29%
Oakland	23%
West Contra Costa	23%
Emery	22%
San Leandro	22%
Hayward	21%
Pittsburg	21%
Antioch	19%
Vallejo City	17%

WCCUSD Overall Achievement Performance Levels by Grade in ELA

	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	11th Grade	All
Standard Met / Exceeded	27%	30%	36%	37%	29%	30%	41%	32%
Standard Nearly Met	26%	21%	22%	32%	24%	31%	27%	26%
Standard Not Met	47%	48%	42%	32%	46%	39%	32%	41%

View all Results Online:
bit.ly/sbac-scores

WCCUSD Overall Achievement Performance Levels by Grade in Math

	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	11th Grade	All
Standard Met / Exceeded	28%	26%	23%	24%	23%	16%	16%	23%
Standard Nearly Met	26%	33%	27%	30%	26%	23%	19%	27%
Standard Not Met	47%	41%	50%	45%	51%	61%	65%	51%



College & Career Day

On Wednesday, October 14, grades K-7 hosted special activities for College & Career Day while 8th - 12th graders took the SAT Suite of Assessments.

Olinda Elementary invited Guest speaker Dona DeRusso from Contra Costa College to share the importance of going to college.

Lupine Hills Elementary played the UCLA fight song during morning announcements and held individual and small group conversations with fifth graders about California colleges & universities.

Stege Elementary invited an attorney to speak about colleges and show UC Berkeley and Grambling State campuses. Students listed their future career and took pictures.

SAT School Day

Students in 8th – 12th grade took the SAT Suite of Assessments. Teachers, counselors, and school administrators oversaw 10,005 tests:

- **PSAT 8/9** (formerly called ReadStep) tests 8th and 9th graders to establish a baseline for college and career readiness
- **PSAT/NMSQT** tests 10th and 11th graders; it prepares students for the SAT and helps identify scholarship opportunities
- **SAT** is given to 12th graders and tests the subject matter learned by students in high school; it fulfills college entrance exam requirements

After the Test

Students who took the SAT Suite of Assessments on October 14th will receive their scores in mid to late January 2016, and district wide PSAT results will be posted on the [Student Achievement Data Dashboard](http://www.wccusd.net/dashboard) at wccusd.net/dashboard under the PSAT tab.

Make Up Day

Seniors who registered for SAT School Day but missed the SAT administration can still take the test for free on Saturday, December 5th at El Cerrito High School. Students can reschedule by contacting their school counselor or calling College Board to reschedule at 1 (866) 630-9305.

Learn More

Learn more about the PSAT 8/9, PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT online at <https://www.collegeboard.org/>. View PSAT results for the past five years on the WCCUSD [Student Achievement Dashboard](http://www.wccusd.net/dashboard) under the PSAT tab. Scores for 2105-16 will be added in January when results are received from the College Board.



Olinda Elementary Class of 2032

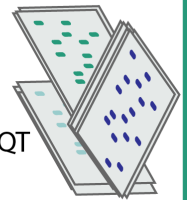


Stege Elementary Career Wall

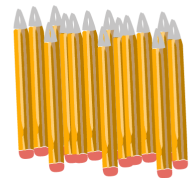
What does it take to host College Day? This year, WCCUSD ordered:

10,005 Tests

4,180 PSAT 8/9
4,080 PSAT NMSQT
1,745 SAT



10,000 Pencils



800 Calculators
to supplement current supplies



Big News on the 2015-16 LCAP

It's official - the [Approved 2015-16 Local Control Accountability Plan](#) is now available.

We're already planning for the 2016-17 LCAP, and the District LCAP Committee held its first meeting of the year. Understanding the LCAP and joining us for meetings is easier than ever with a range of online resources hosted on the new [LCAP website](#) at wccusd.net/lcap:



[LCAP Documents](#): hosts all official LCAP documents including drafts and appendices; a link to the Interactive LCAP, which allows users to view actions & services, expenditures, and expected annual measurable outcomes by goal; the interactive draft also shows supplemental/concentration funding information by school.

[DCLAP Committee](#): shares committee information including composition, operations, and relevant documents.

[LCAP Meetings](#): includes the dates, location and map, time, agenda, and minutes for LCAP meetings by school year with this school year listed first.

[LCAP Additional Information](#): contains Board presentations, meeting handouts, LCAP questions & responses, and other supporting documents.

[LCAP Dashboard](#): uses data snapshots to show the district's progress towards the five LCAP goals.

[LCAP Infographics](#): offer an in-depth look at LCAP allocations by district and by school site.

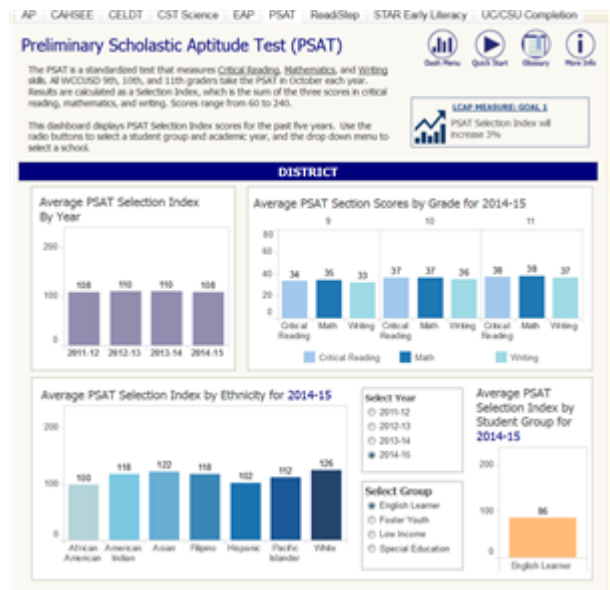
Join us for a meeting and take part in the conversation on how to improve student outcomes for our students. Meeting dates are available at <http://www.wccusd.net/Page/5601>, or by phone at 510-307-4502.

Data Highlight: How do 2014-15 scores measure up?

The PSAT is a standardized test that measures Critical Reading, Mathematics, and Writing skills. All 10th and 11th graders in WCCUSD took the PSAT/NMSQT on October 14th, and 8th and 9th graders took the new PSAT 8/9. The 2015 PSAT administration will be added to this dashboard in January when the results are received.

Take a look at the PSAT tab in the [Student Achievement](#) dashboard at wccusd.net/dashboard to see how WCCUSD students performed over the past four years. You can view results by ethnicity, school, and student groups (including low income, foster youth, special education, and English learners). The dashboard also allows you to view results by district and by school site.

Results for the 2015-16 PSAT will be added to the dashboard in January when the scores are received from the College Board.



Public Records Request Log 2015-2016
Week Ending October 29, 2015

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
6	7/15/15	Fatima Alleyne	#1- District Budget for Administrator Appointments #2- Job Descriptions / Announcements for Teachers and Teacher Aides' appointments posted as Parcel Tax Appointments #3- Health documents for Washington Elementary 5/31 – 6/5/15	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
7	7/15/15	Fatima Alleyne	#1- Salaries for Superintendents and Administrators #2- Lozano Smith Attorneys' Invoices 1/2012 – 7/15/15	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
30	10/9/15	Betsy Brazy Law Office of Betsy J. Brazy	Fagen, Friedman Fulfroost Attorneys / Invoices, payments, costs, Agreements for services rendered in WCCUSD v. Natalia Quintero	10/29/15 Documents mailed COMPLETED
31	10/12/15	Glenn Snyder Sheet Metal Workers Union	Alvarado Adult School / Restroom Remodel Project	Gathering / Reviewing Documents
32	10/12/15	Fatima Alleyne	Lozano Smith Attorneys / All Invoices, Contracts and Expenses paid beginning January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
36	10/15/15	Nicole Williams	Common Core Standards Test Results by race, gender and school site	10/28/15 Letter/Information mailed COMPLETED
37	10/16/15	Jessica Scott CC Electrical Compliance	Human Resources Department / Improvement Project – Payroll Records	10/29/15 Documents mailed COMPLETED
38	10/16/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2012-2013 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
39	10/16/15	Rhem Bell United Teachers of Richmond	Charter School / Teachers' Data	Gathering / Reviewing Documents
40	10/23/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2009-2010 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
41	10/26/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2008-2009 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	Acknowledgement letter sent Assigned to Attorney
Public Records Request Log / Ongoing 2014 - 2015				
87	11/18/14	Fatima Alleyne	Washington School Budget / SSC SY 2009 -to- 2013	4/3 and 5/18/15-Contacted Requestor to review documents Requestor to schedule apt. to review
176	3/23/15	Michael Strub Jr. Irell & Manella LLP	CA Healthy Kids Survey / CA School Climate Survey / CA Student Survey / LCAP / Student Information / Suspensions / Expulsions / Employment Information	Extension Invoked In Progress / Ongoing Gathering / Reviewing Documents **Documents being sent via email after review
197	5/19/15	Timothy Adams Schoolie	WCCUSD Student Information/Records for the past 5 years	Extension Invoked In Progress / Ongoing Gathering / Reviewing Documents **Documents being sent via email after review