

**West Contra Costa Unified School District**  
*Office of the Superintendent*

**Friday Memo**  
**March 18, 2016**

**Upcoming Events – Bruce Harter**

March 19: First Annual West Contra Costa Unified School District Elementary Spelling Bee, Verde Elementary, 10:00 AM  
March 21: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:30 PM  
March 21: Bayside PTA, TBD, 7:30 PM  
March 22: LCAP Committee, Kennedy Library, 6:00 PM  
March 23: Every Kid in a Park Launch Event, Craneway Pavilion, 9:30 AM  
March 24: Open House, Middle Schools, Times Vary by Site  
March 24: CBAC, Alvarado, 6:30 PM  
March 24: Ed Fund Volunteer Appreciation Party, Ed Fund Offices, 7:00 PM  
March 26: Ed Fund Road to College, DeJean Middle, 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
April 1: CCTA Overpass Groundbreaking, Riverside Elementary School, 10:00 AM

**Teacher Recruitment – Ken Whittemore**

In preparation for the 2016-17 school year, the Human Resources department is in full recruitment mode at this time. Human Resources is scheduled for 25 different job fairs this Spring, along with weekly interviews being held every Thursday in the HR Conference Room.

The District has already attended job fairs at Stanford, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Fresno, Utah State, Brigham Young, and the County Office of Education. The job fair season will continue through the end of May as we work to fill each open position.

If you have any questions on recruitment, please feel free to contact me.

**Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Update – Nia Rashidchi**

*District Events*

In December, there were numerous performances at our secondary schools and Winter Feeder Area Festivals for instrumental music. Dance performances took place at El Cerrito and De Anza High Schools, Drama presentations at Richmond and Pinole Valley High Schools, and Orchestra and Band performances at Hercules Middle and High School. Additional performances featuring Concert, Symphonic, and Jazz Bands were presented at El Cerrito, Richmond, JFK, De Anza, and Pinole Valley High Schools as well as Pinole, Crespi, Korematsu, DeJean, and Helms Middle Schools.

The second VAPA Pizza and Planning session open to Pre-K–12 teachers took place at De Anza High School in January. The well-attended event centered on using works of art as a subject for close reading, and on using familiar melodies as a song writing tool for language arts/literacy.

On March 3, 2016, the Music Department presented the All District Music Festival at the Richmond Auditorium at 7:00 PM. The Festival featured honor ensembles representing Elementary Band, Middle School Band and Orchestra, and High School Band, Orchestra, and Choir.

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*Community Partner Workshops*

The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Richmond Art Center conducted arts integration workshops for teachers from 16 elementary schools. This is in alignment with the district's effort to develop our capacity to use arts activities as a vehicle for accessing core academic instruction in elementary grades.

*Upcoming Events*

Preparations are underway for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Student Art Show at the Richmond Art Center featuring middle and high school student art projects. The exhibit will be open March 19 to April 24, 2016. The reception and ceremony will take place on April 14, 2016 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

Finally, we are supporting elementary sites with their instrumental music programs and beginning to plan for another round of Feeder Area Music Festivals later on this spring.

For continual updates and event information, please visit our Visual and Performing Arts website at the following link: <http://www.wccusd.net/Page/4695>

**Information Technology Academy hosts community "Free Fix Day" – Wendell Greer**

Below is a message from Ben Gill, the Information Technology lead teacher at DeAnza High School.

Students will help bridge digital divide in the Richmond community. The DeAnza High School Tech Academy will be holding a Free Fix Day on Saturday, March 26th, 2015. This will take place at DeAnza High school in the cafeteria from 10 am to 2 pm. As a non-profit, public high school, our goal is to help bridge the digital divide by providing this free service to the community. The Tech Academy Students will be available to diagnose and repair machines with minor issues. Some of the repair services available will be:

- Virus removal
- Operating System Installation
- Laptop Repair
- General Computer Issues

For more info please contact Ben Gill, Information Technology Academy Lead Teacher at [bgill@wccusd.net](mailto:bgill@wccusd.net) or 510-231-1440 ext. 27046

**Secondary Reading Intervention—READ 180 & System 44 – Nia Rashidchi**

*Secondary Reading Intervention Overview*

- Read 180 and System 44 are secondary reading intervention programs for the district,
- These programs are comprehensive, research-based interventions which use a blended learning model,
- The program was updated and expanded starting in 2014-15 as a required component of the middle school Project Read grant,
- Formal mid-year and end-of-year data reviews are completed by Scholastic/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as part of the grant,
- Secondary Educational Services coordinates the implementation of the program,

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- Our district coach facilitates teacher participation in ongoing training and professional development days with peer observation and goal planning, known as “cadre days,” as well as extensive data-driven coaching,
- We currently have 20 teachers teaching 25 sections across 13 schools for 353 students, and
- Mainstream, Special Education (RSP, NSH, and SH), and EL students are in these classes.

*READ 180 and System 44 Data, Comparing 14-15 to 15-16*

- We have doubled the number of students who are in System 44 to 85 students,
- We have increased the number of students in READ 180 by 12% (and doubled it compared to the beginning of 2014-15) to 268 students,
- We have increased the number of students who met baseline implementation data by 26%, and
- We are currently on track to double the amount of time that students spend on the instructional software.

**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.

**Public Records Request Log 2015-2016**  
**Week Ending March 17, 2016**

	<b>Date of Receipt</b>	<b>Requestor</b>	<b>Requested Records/Information</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
32	10/12/15	Fatima Alleyne	Lozano Smith Attorneys / All Invoices, Contracts and Expenses paid beginning January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
38	10/16/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2012-2013 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
40	10/23/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2009-2010 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
41	10/26/15	Fatima Alleyne	Parcel Tax Measure D for 2008-2009 School Year / All financial and bank statements, invoices, receipts and salaries	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
43	11/1/15	Fatima Alleyne	All Contracts, Invoices and Expenditures for Legal services paid by the District for the 2013-14 School Year	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
48	11/10/15	Fatima Alleyne	Job Descriptions for all Superintendents' positions	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
56	11/30/15	Fatima Alleyne	2015-16 Legal Services Contracts / Lozano Smith Attorneys- Ramsey & Ehrlich- Bragg Coffin Lewis & Trapp- and Swanson & McNamara	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
57	11/30/15	Fatima Alleyne	Superintendent's Contract and 2014-15 and 2015-16 Goals	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
72	1/15/16	Ivette Ricco CBOC Chairperson	Clay Investigation Subcommittee / Audio Recording of 1/11/2016 Meeting	<b>Acknowledgement email sent</b>  Requestor informed that recording may not be available until Meeting Minutes are approved at next schedule meeting
75	1/26/16	Dan Borenstein Bay Area News Group	Bond Measure (Possible) for Parcel Tax Extension or Increase in 2016 Ballot	<b>Available documents ready for review</b>
83	2/23/16	Elliot Haspel Education Matters	Richmond and Kennedy High Schools / Class Size Enrollment – Students per Teacher/Class	<b>Gathering records</b>
84	2/26/16	Niki York Northern CA Fire Protection	Fire Sprinkler Contractor Contract / Title 19 Documents-Past 5 years	<b>Gathering records</b>
86	3/4/16	Thomas Peele Bay Area News Group	WCCUSD Peace Officers	3/11/16 Information sent via email <b>COMPLETED</b>
87	3/8/16	Maryll Kersting Allied Barton Security	WCCUSD Security Guard Contract	<b>Gathering records</b>
88	3/10/16	Glenn Snyder Sheet Metal Workers Union	Portola Middle School/Korematsu – Kitchen Equipment Installation Project	<b>Gathering records</b>
89	3/10/16	Chris Kelley CBOC Committee	Board of Education 2/27/2016 Workshop / Audio Recording	3/15/16 CD Recording mailed <b>COMPLETED</b>
90	3/15/16	Bigad Shaban NBC Bay Area	Law Enforcement / Student Data	<b>Acknowledgement email sent</b>