

Friday Memo
March 30, 2018

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

April 2: District Holiday, Schools and Office Closed
April 2-6: Spring Recess, Schools Closed
April 10: Solutions Team, UTR Office, 1:00 PM
April 11: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 PM
April 14: New Teacher Collaborative, TBD, 9:00 AM
April 16: Youth Commission, Helms, 6:30 PM
April 17: Annual Student Art Show Reception, Richmond Art Center, 5:00 PM
April 17: Special Ed Workshop: Transitioning from School District Services, PSC, 5:30 PM
April 18: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 5:00 PM
April 18: CBOC, FOC, 6:00 PM
April 24: Annual Best Practices Conference, DeJean, 6:00 PM

Next Board Meeting – Matthew Duffy

Closed Session for the April 11 meeting will begin at 5:00 PM.

Poll Hits The Field - Marcus Walton

Bryan Godbe informed us that the poll regarding the parcel tax hit the field on Thursday and should be out of the field by Sunday or Monday of next week. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marcus Walton.

Special Olympics events in West Contra Costa Unified School District by Steve Collins

The Unified Basketball Team from El Cerrito High School attended a Warriors Basketball Clinic at Freedom High School in Oakley on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The Unified Team was made up of students from both Severely Handicapped classes, Ms. Aguila's and Mr. Simbulan's, in addition to members of the Circle of Friends club on campus. Upon arrival, all of the students received Warrior's jerseys. They participated in warm up activities and cycled through a number of basketball skills stations, including passing, shooting, dribbling, guarding, layups, and agility throughout the afternoon. The students worked as a team, helping each other through each skill. One of the stations was a photo op with Championship trophies. We were pleasantly surprised to be joined by Warrior great, Adonal Foyal, in some of our pictures. By the end of the day, the students were exhausted, but the smiles on their faces remained.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, Collins Elementary School hosted the first Young Athletes Event in West Contra Costa Unified. The program focused on the basics that are crucial to cognitive development: physical activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination, and the application of these physical skills through sports skills and programs. In addition, the Young Athletes Program offered children with intellectual disabilities and their peers, opportunities for meaningful interaction that leads to future relationships of mutual respect, friendship, and inclusion. The rainy weather limited the event to inside, but it did not stop any of the students from having a great time. All students in preschool through first grade participated in 4 skill stations, including an obstacle course, bowling, shooting baskets, and keeping up a

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

giant Float 'R in the air. Each station was led by Playworks Junior Coaches and fellow upper grade school mates.

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.

News Articles of Interest - Marcus Walton

Attached are a few news articles that might be of interest.

Public Records Request Log 2017 - 2018
Week Ending March 29, 2018

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
40	1/2/18	Ann Surapruik Bay Area Legal Aid	WCCUSD Applicant and Application Processes and Leases/Contracts with the City of Richmond	2/12/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links 2/28/18 Email sent with DOCs 3/7/18 Email sent with DOCs Reviewing additional DOCs 4/20/2018 DOCs available
45	1/23/18	Paula Senigar	Special Education Department Documents and Agreements	Mr. Collins working on PRR with assistance from Attorneys Gathering/Reviewing Documents 4/1/2018 DOCs available
48	1/29/18	Todd Senigar	WCCUSD Policies/Protocols for maintenance, retention and destruction of student records	Mr. Collins working on PRR with assistance from Attorneys Gathering/Reviewing Documents 4/1/2018 DOCs available
52	2/26/18	Jenna Reeve Edge Point	WCCUSD Accounting of all uncashed checks and unclaimed funds	3/26/18 Documents sent via email COMPLETED
53	2/26/18	Torrey Thornton NuQuo / Cost Recovery	WCCUSD Current Copier and Printer Contracts including any amendments to Contracts	Gathering Documents
54	3/7/18	David Stephan	Number of WCCUSD Teachers working under what type of Credential or Permit	3/26/18 Documents sent via email COMPLETED
56	3/22/18	Scott Rafferty	Communications regarding CVRA allegations	3/27/18 Email sent with DOCs & Links Gathering/Reviewing Documents 4/14/2018 DOCs available
57	3/27/18	David Freed SmartProcure	WCCUSD Purchase Order Report beginning December 12, 2017 - Present	3/27/18 Acknowledgement email sent

First time superintendent, in just his second year, faces demands to quickly improve student learning

MARCH 22, 2018 | THERESA HARRINGTON



THERESA HARRINGTON/EDSOURCE TODAY

West Contra Costa Superintendent Matthew Duffy is in his second year on the job.

Now in his second year after replacing a superintendent that stayed a decade, West Contra Costa Unified **Superintendent Matthew Duffy** says he feels the pressure of those who expect student academic achievement to improve quickly.

“That takes its toll,” he said. “I definitely have more gray hairs than when I started.”

Hoping to defy the odds of leadership churn in large school districts, Duffy said his primary goals are raising student achievement and reducing teacher turnover.

“It’s definitely a pressure-packed position,” said the 44-year-old Oakland father of three young children, during an EdSource interview. “Things are happening all the time.”

West Contra Costa Unified Superintendent Matthew Duffy



This is Duffy’s first crack at leading a district, after starting his education career as a middle school social studies teacher in the South Bronx, then working as a principal and district administrator in Oakland and as an assistant superintendent in Milpitas, near San Jose. His experience provides insights into how a new superintendent is taking on what many view as an impossibly difficult job.

“I wanted to become a superintendent to make an impact on the quality of schools in an entire organization,” he said. “I loved being a teacher and being a principal and love the work of improving a school and changing life trajectories for kids. I think I can make an impact on an entire system.”

While he admits he’s still got more to learn, he’s proud of what he and his team have accomplished so far and optimistic that the school board will renew his three-year contract so he can finish what he’s started in the district of 54 schools with about 31,000 students and 1,600 teachers.

“We’ve accomplished a lot,” he said, adding that he spent his first year observing, thinking and putting some changes in place.

He said he’s most proud of high principal retention, opening a **Mandarin dual immersion school** where students learn in both Mandarin and English and decreasing suspensions.

This year, 51 of 54 principals stayed on, for the first time. Duffy said he is trying to “create the conditions for principals to stay and to do their best work.”

“As leaders stay longer,” he said, “we can help them grow in areas of need and capitalize on their strengths.”

The Mandarin school, he said, is part of the district’s strategy to “create new schools to attract parents” so they realize “it is not just charter schools” that can offer new options.

Decreased suspensions, Duffy said, have helped to “radically improve” school climates across the district, “in some schools more than others.”

“When students feel safe and supported,” he said, “they are in a much better position to learn well.”



Matthew Duffy, superintendent of West Contra Costa Unified, talks to a parent about her concerns during a board meeting.

Although the district has established a school climate committee, five parents at a January board meeting complained about unsafe conditions at King Elementary in Richmond. They said their

children were bullied and hit or pushed, with no consequences to the bullies.

“Please take action,” said Lesdia Ramirez in Spanish, through a translator. “The students need you. They need support.”

After the parents spoke, Duffy met with some of them. Later, he sent additional security staff to the school.

Ramirez returned the following month to thank him and the board, but stressed that the district must also improve instructional support at the low-performing school.

Duffy said his biggest challenge is trying to stay “high-level” instead of getting into the trenches.

“There are a lot of things I want to kind of dip down deep into the organization to do,” he said. “But I know I have to work with the team, build the capacity of people and trust the folks in their spaces — especially around teaching and learning, which is what I love to do and talk about and be about.”

To help steer the district in a new direction, Duffy came up with “[Roadmap 2022](#),” with the ambitious goal of retaining 80 percent of teachers for at least five years. Only 36 percent of teachers who started in the district four years ago have remained, he said.

Duffy attributes this turnover to three main issues: low teacher compensation, the need to improve school leadership and create a culture of collaboration and “the challenges some of our students are bringing with them.”

Academic struggles reflect a range of problems, he said, which need to be addressed school by school.

“There are folks that often want these quick silver bullet, all-system solutions,” he said. “I think if it was that easy, it would have been done already. I think the work is actually digging in and understanding what’s happening at all of our schools and in our system to see what is going on here.”

The state recently identified the district’s special education students as very low-performing on the California School Dashboard, triggering county assistance to help West Contra Costa come up with a plan to improve its services. Last year, only 6.6 percent of special education students met or

exceeded English language arts standards on state standardized tests, while 5.4 percent met or exceeded math standards.

Districtwide, 34.1 percent of students met or exceeded English language arts standards and 23.7 percent met math standards — more than 10 percentage points below state averages.

“We’re trying to really work on doing two things well,” Duffy said. “One is deepening the quality of teaching and learning. The other is to create really powerful school cultures.”

Parent Leslie Reckler, who is involved in the district’s accountability plan and school culture committees, said she is excited that Duffy is focusing on school climate and culture because research has shown it’s “key to achievement and closing achievement gaps.”

To help retain teachers, the school board on Wednesday **approved** a 5 percent pay raise for educators. The board has said it would like to give teachers a much larger increase but it would hinge on making cuts in other areas and a possible a parcel tax.

Before the increase, which is retroactive to March 1, beginning teachers **received** \$44,152, with maximum pay topping out at \$90,000. The raise bumps those salaries to \$46,360 and \$94,500, respectively. The teachers’ union hopes the district will approve an additional 10 to 15 percent pay raise by making \$20 million in cuts elsewhere in its budgets, said Demetrio Gonzalez, president of United Teachers of Richmond. He said a parcel tax could fund another 5 percent raise in addition to one paid for with cuts.

Gonzalez said he has enjoyed working with Duffy because the superintendent is transparent and they both started working in the district at the same time. “My experience with him has been really good so far, but I want to see action more than words. For me, I think his leadership is really going to show when he makes those hard budget decisions.”

Duffy said he has formed good relationships with all five district union leaders, including Gonzalez.

“We’re able to be in good dialogue about the challenges we see and the successes we see,” Duffy said.

Unlike Duffy and Gonzalez, many members of the district’s top executive team — which includes associate and assistant superintendents, a chief technology officer and a communications director

— have been around for several years. They provide stability and institutional knowledge, Duffy said, but one downside is “it can become insular here” and staff may not be exposed to innovations.



THERESA HARRINGTON/EDSOURCE TODAY

Eighth-grade students discuss women in history during a social studies class at Mira Vista Elementary in Richmond, one of two K-8 schools in West Contra Costa Unified.

In contrast, Duffy said Oakland Unified staff was always exposed to innovations, “but struggled to determine which ones to land on cohesively.” He has tried to inspire innovation in West Contra Costa by inviting teachers and staff to brainstorm “**pioneer projects**” to improve learning and engagement, such as student-led parent-teacher conferences.

West Contra Costa and Oakland both struggle with “issues of equity and urban poverty,” he said. But, “culturally, they’re very different places” in part because West Contra Costa includes five cities, plus unincorporated municipalities, which vary greatly, he added.

Duffy said he feels like an “outsider-insider” in West Contra Costa because he came from outside the district, but was already part of the East Bay education scene.

“For me,” he said, “it feels like just the right balance.”

He was hired in July, 2016 after the public had voted down a school construction bond and a forensic auditor issued recommendations for improved financial management related to the district's \$1.6 billion bond program. He reports to a five-member **board** that includes four trustees in their first four-year terms and one longtime trustee. Two trustees were elected after Duffy was hired to replace the previous superintendent, who retired early due to district **controversies**.



West Contra Costa Unified Superintendent Matthew Duffy gazes at his laptop during a board meeting break.

Board President Valerie Cuevas, elected in 2014, said Duffy inherited the district's problems.

"We knew we had to have a clear leadership change," she said, adding that Duffy's actions so far have reflected the will of the board. "He wants to be here and he knew what the challenges were before he got here."

Duffy said he has a good relationship with the board, but noted that November elections could lead to turnover. Next year, the board will decide whether to renew his contract.

"I think we've done a lot of great work in a year," Duffy said. "And I know the district will be in a good place over continuing years — financially, academically and culturally — so I'm excited to see

it grow and see it through.”

This is part of an ongoing series of reports on West Contra Costa Unified and Oakland Unified on the challenges facing two urban school districts in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Bay Area school district wants voters to decide whether to drop at-large elections

MARCH 28, 2018 | THERESA HARRINGTON



CREDIT: THERESA HARRINGTON/EDSOURCE TODAY

The West Contra Costa Unified school board includes Elizabeth Block (third from left), Madeline Kronenberg (fourth from left), Valerie Cuevas (sixth from left), Mister Phillips (seventh from left) and Tom Panas (eighth from left).

In response to a legal **challenge** charging that its at-large trustee elections are “racially polarized,” the West Contra Costa school board says it wants to let voters decide whether to change from at-large elections to those in which school board members represent **specific districts**.

A **lawsuit** filed March 21 by Walnut Creek attorney Scott Rafferty on behalf of two West Contra Costa Unified residents and a group called the “Bay Area Voting Rights Initiative” accuses the district of violating the **California Voting Rights Act of 2001**, in which plaintiffs say at-large elections give unfair advantages to white candidates in more affluent areas of the district of more than 100,000 voters in Richmond and surrounding cities.



Attorney Scott Rafferty, right, discusses his legal challenge to at-large elections in West Contra Costa Unified with a concerned district resident.

But in a twist not seen in most other jurisdictions throughout the state that have decided to move to elections based on geographic areas within their districts, the board decided last week to put the issue before voters in November instead of seeking a waiver from the State Board of Education that would allow West Contra Costa to switch to board member area elections this fall without putting the matter on a ballot.

The board intends to hold public hearings to decide on a voter district map, which must be approved by the County Board of Education before it can be presented to voters — most likely in November. According to this timeline, the November school board election would remain at-large and the district would not hold elections by board member areas until 2020, if voters approve.

According to the **information** provided to the board, the current system of at-large elections calls for board members to be elected by all voters within the school district. By changing to a so-called “trustee-area election” or a “district-based election,” each board member must reside within the designated trustee area boundary and is elected only by the voters of that area.

“This is a really complicated matter,” said Trustee Madeline Kronenberg, who is one of three white members of the five-member board living in El Cerrito, which includes only 10 percent of the district’s population, according to the lawsuit. “It’s a fair thing to look at and I think the fairest thing is to let our voters vote on it.”

The other two board members, who are Latino and African-American, both live in Richmond, which includes about 44 percent of the district’s population, the lawsuit says. This leaves several geographic areas with large minority populations unrepresented, including San Pablo (which makes up 11 percent of the district), Hercules (which includes 13 percent of the district) and Pinole (which includes 8 percent of the district), according to the lawsuit.

“Minority vote dilution has allowed white voters and the area in which they are concentrated to dominate the board,” the lawsuit claims, adding that 35 percent of the district’s population of more than 263,800 people are Latino, 20 percent are Asian and 16 percent are African-American.

Rafferty’s initial letter to the district said most jurisdictions in California the size of West Contra Costa do not conduct at-large elections.

“Except for Irvine, no city with a larger population elects its council at large,” he wrote. “Of the 29 school districts in California that are larger than WCCUSD, all but nine elect trustees by district. (Three of the exceptions are in Contra Costa County and two others — San Francisco Unified and Fremont Unified — are in the Bay Area.)”

Statewide, at least 125 smaller school boards have changed the way school board members are elected to represent small voting districts within the larger district as opposed to being at-large seats, the letter said. The change was a response to lawsuits or to orders from their county boards of education.

The district’s attorney, Harold Freiman of the Lozano Smith firm, warned that if voters reject electing board members who represent smaller areas of the district, a court could overturn their decision, saying the vote further confirms that majority white voters don’t want to give minority Latino and black voters — who are concentrated in Richmond, San Pablo and other areas of the district — a chance to elect someone who represents them. That is what happened when voters in the city of Highland, near San Bernardino, voted against creating smaller voting districts within the city, he said.

“If you go to the election and the electorate approves, that’s a fine and good thing,” he told the board. “But if it votes it down, there may be ensuing litigation that the vote is evidence of racially polarized voting.”

Driving this point home, board President Valerie Cuevas, a Richmond resident who is the first Latina president in the district’s history, spoke passionately about past statewide elections on Propositions 8 and 187, in which the majority voted to deny gays the right to marry and to deny undocumented immigrants the right to attend public schools. The courts eventually overturned voters’ decisions.

“It went to the voters,” Cuevas said, “but that vote infringed on the right of minorities.”



West Contra Costa Unified School Board President Valerie Cuevas, left, listens to district resident Linda Ruiz-Lozito express her support for converting from at-large to trustee area elections.

Trustee Mister Phillips, who is a black Richmond resident, said West Contra Costa voters are more liberal and won’t necessarily vote like those statewide. Cuevas agreed with this, but said she still believes there is racially polarized voting in the district. She and Trustee Tom Panas, who is a white El Cerrito resident, voted to seek the state waiver to bypass sending the issue to voters, but were overruled by the board majority who voted down the waiver, 3-2.

Because the board took more than 45 days to act after it received the initial letter challenging its election procedures, Rafferty filed the lawsuit against West Contra Costa Unified in Contra Costa Superior Court on March 21 — the same day the board met. One of the district residents he represents is Latino and one is black.

“By electing its trustees at-large, WCCUSD dilutes the votes of Latino and African-American citizens and neighborhoods, depriving them of influence in the outcome of board elections that equals the influence of other citizens and neighborhoods,” alleges the lawsuit. “At-large voting also impairs the ability of Latinos as a class (or in coalition with black voters), to elect candidates of their choice. Large geographic areas with minority communities are chronically underrepresented.”

The lawsuit also suggests that the five-member board be expanded to seven members to allow for a greater variety of geographic representation. It asks the court to declare that the district’s current election system violates state or federal law and to order the district to seek a state waiver instead of asking voters to decide.

In addition, the suit asks the court to require West Contra Costa to submit a map of the district divided into trustee areas to the county registrar of voters by July 3 so the new election process could be implemented for the November election, when three trustee **terms** end. If those seats end up being voted on in an at-large election, the lawsuit asks the court to prohibit those election results from being certified. Instead, the plaintiffs want the court to mandate that the president of the County Board of Education sit on the district board to help the remaining two board members appoint provisional board members to two-year terms to the three vacant at-large seats or call for a special election using smaller by-trustee voting areas. According to this scenario, all subsequent elections in 2020 and beyond would elect board members who represent specific areas of the district.

District spokesman Marcus Walton said Tuesday that the district will move forward with public hearings to decide on a voter district map.

“We look forward to working with members of our community to draw maps that are representative of the voters and residents in West Contra Costa County,” he said.

Rafferty is asking the court to award attorney’s fees, expert witness fees, other litigation expenses, “prejudgment interest” and “further relief as the court may deem proper.”

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Grant Elementary celebrates third year with No Place For Hate designation

March 26, 2018

Efforts that began three school years ago at Grant Elementary to create a positive and inclusive school climate continued this past Friday with a visit from Red Grammer, described by Parent's Magazine as "the best voice in children's music."

We've reported in the past about Grant's partnership with the Anti-Defamation League on a No Place for Hate campaign focused on preventing racial bias and bullying in schools. In conjunction with Grammer's visit, the school celebrated its third straight year being designated a "*No Place for Hate*" from the Anti-Defamation League.

Grant Principal Farnaz Heydari launched the efforts to make the school a safe haven for one and all. With help from the No Place for Hate Program, which passes along the messages of acceptance and equality through art projects, assembly halls and other learning tools, the Downer Avenue elementary school managed to reduce bullying episodes from 153 in the 2014-15 school year to 53 her first year as principal and the following school year, and subsequently down to 13 school officials say.

And Grammer's visit last week was ideal timing, Heydari said.

"Our community has gone through so much in the last few months, so we need positive news to come out of our neighborhood," she said, adding, "Our priority is to serve the whole child, ensuring that their social and emotional needs are met as well as academics."

On Friday, Grammer performed uplifting, educational music in three performances with students in front of two separate groups of students and also before parents and community members. Grant's teachers and students contributed lesson plans in anticipation of Grammer's visit to the theme, "The Power to Change the World" — curricula that will be reinforced beyond his visit.

"Red's music embodies all that we are striving towards with families, community and much more," Heydari said.

Along with the Anti Defamation League, the school has been working with the Mindful Life Project and the Seneca Family of Agencies to provide its school children “mindfulness and other transformative skills to gain self-awareness, confidence, self-regulation and resilience, leading to lifelong success,” according to school officials.

“Each and every day we let our students know that they have the power to change the world with their daily actions and by fulfilling their aspirations through education,” Heydari said.

Mike Aldax



SCHOOL SAFETY

West Contra Costa School District considers removing school resource officers



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MORE VIDEOS

Despite the recent shootings in schools across the country, the West Contra Costa Unified School District is talking about possibly removing school resource officers by the next school year. (KGO-TV)

By [Lyanne Melendez](#)

Monday, March 26, 2018 05:50PM

HERCULES, Calif. (KGO) -- Despite the recent shootings in schools across the country, the West Contra Costa Unified School District is talking about possibly removing school resource officers, known as SROs, by the next school year.



There are two armed and well-trained school resource officers for the Hercules Middle and High School.

TAKE ACTION: Get help with improving our schools

They cost the West Contra Costa School District \$360,000 a years, benefits included.

"I do think, in many ways, this is an insurance policy for our children," says Mister Phillips, one of five Westa Contra Costa Unified school board members.

But a few of the other board members think that money could be used instead to bolster educational programs.

RELATED: Maryland governor says school resource officer who engaged gunman may have saved lives

"I think all of us want more money in the classroom. I think all of us on the board want to make sure that education is fully funded," added Phillips.

The question is what is the district ready to give up. Most parents here want both.

"Of course, we want to give our students the best education that we can. We want to invest as much in the classroom but we also want to keep them safe," said Josh Broward, a Hercules parent.

The mayor of Hercules says her city can't afford to pay for these two SROs out of the general fund budget.

RELATED: School district plans to arm students with rocks as protection against shooters

"Our police force is already stretched. We don't even have one officer per 1,000 people and we have 25,000 people, expressed Mayor Chris Kelley.



The staff, including the superintendent, will make a recommendation to the board sometime next month. A vote is expected shortly after.



Lyanne Melendez
@LyanneMelendez

Here's what I'm working on for the evening newscasts
[@abc7newsbayarea](#): The West Contra Costa Unified School District is considering eliminating school resource officers, leaving schools without campus security.

1:04 PM - Mar 26, 2018

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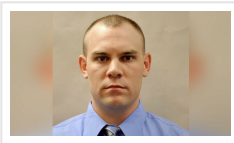
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Richmond youth poetry contest winners announced

March 27, 2018



Winners of the 8th annual Richmond Writes! Poetry Contest have been announced by the city.

The contest, created by the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, celebrates National Poetry Month in April by engaging hundreds of students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) in the writing of poetry.

Students from 19 elementary, middle, and high schools in Richmond and West County submitted both haiku and short poems. Over 400 poems were submitted for this year's contest, which was themed "Change."

An awards ceremony is slated to be held Friday, April 13, at 6 p.m. in Richmond City Council Chambers, 440 Civic Center Plaza. County Supervisor John Gioia will be giving out the awards, which include cash gift cards and certificates for the first, second and third place winners and certificates for Honorable Mentions. All students who submitted poetry will receive a copy of the 2018 Richmond Writes! Poetry Book containing all of the poems.

And the 2018 winners are (listed by judging team):

Team: Silvia Ledezma & Nicole Valentino

Elementary School:

1st Place Poem: "Change" by Mayari Mendo; Washington Elementary

2nd Place Poem: "Fire and Rain" by Jayden Murcia; Montalvin Elementary

3rd Place Poem: "Funerales" by Angel David Alvarez; Washington Elementary

Honorable Mentions Poem: "Alberto" by Jizelle Velasquez; Washington Elementary Poem: "Old Yosemite" by Alexandria Duff; Washington Elementary

Middle School:

1st Place Poem: "Fire" by Citlali Mendo; Korematsu Middle School

2nd Place Poem: "Changes Haiku" by Christopher Otten; Juan Crespi Middle School

High School:

1st Place: Untitled by Fine Lutu; John F. Kennedy High School

2nd Place "Change" by Faith Reyes; School: John F. Kennedy High School

3rd Place: Untitled by Dayshawn Turner; John F. Kennedy HS High School

Team: Terri Hinte & Ada Recinos

Elementary School:

1st Place: "The Moon" by Iris Fisher; Kensington Hilltop Elementary

2nd Place: "Running" by Michael Hassner; Kensington Hilltop Elementary

3rd Place: "Untitled" by Lucy Anderson; Kensington Hilltop Elementary

Honorable Mentions: "New" by Torian Bennett; Hanna Ranch Elementary "An Egg" by Damian Piech, Kensington Hilltop Elementary

Team: David Duer & Tatiana Ortiz Elementary School:

1st Place: "Seasons" by Kaylin Martinez; Murphy Elementary

2nd Place: "Sitting Alone" by Alexandra Covey; Mira Vista Elementary

3rd Place: Untitled by Natalia Giddings; Murphy Elementary

Honorable Mentions: "Haiku Poem" by Vaughn Ortiz; Murphy Elementary "Think of Others" by Sumayah Rowaid; Mira Vista Elementary

Team: Tobey Kaplan and Daniel Ari Elementary School:

1st Place: "I AM" by Ana Julia Curcino; Olinda Elementary

2nd Place: "Change" by A' Million Morgan; Murphy Elementary

3rd Place: "Sunrise" by Anna Sophie Koprek; Olinda Elementary

Honorable Mention "Monopoly" by Jawan Eldridge; Olinda Elementary "Johnny Ruck Got a Duck" by Zander Serrano; Murphy Elementary

Team: Rob Lipton & Steve Early Elementary School:

1st Place: "My Goal" by Aileen Alvarado; Peres Elementary

2nd Place: "My Haiku" by Ximena Santos; Peres Elementary

3rd Place: "Hurtful" by Lucas Wilson; Tara Hills Elementary

Honorable Mentions "Ban"; Andrea Gonzalez; Tara Hills Elementary "The Changes I Need" by Nivia Ventura; Tara Hills Elementary

Middle School:

1st Place: "Beach BBQ" by Aaron Aldana; Sylvester Greenwood Academy

2nd Place: "Close My Eyes" by Sergio Hernandez; Sylvester Greenwood Academy

3rd Place: "Today I Start My Soccer Dream" by Luis Avelar; Greenwood Academy

Honorable Mentions "Injured" by Milan Horta; Pinole Middle School "Life" by Aaron Aldana; Sylvester Greenwood Academy

High School:

1st Place: Untitled by Dalia Horta; Pinole Valley High School [No 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mentions due to number of poems submitted.]

Haiku Awards from the Haiku Poets of Northern CA selected by Susan Antolin:

1st Place: Untitled by Alissa McQueen; Peres Elementary

2nd Place: "Spring Yields" by Anna Sophia Koprek; Olinda Elementary

3rd Place: "Mommy" by Lilly Hayley Contreras; Mira Vista Elementary

Honorable Mentions (in unranked order) Untitled by Ana Curtis; Murphy Elementary "Sunset" by Geneva Metz; Olinda Elementary "Night to Day" by Kaden Ulrich; Olinda Elementary "Spring!" by Naomi Avila Aguilar; Peres Elementary "Change in Weather" by Vianey Henandez; Mira Vista Elementary "Butterflies" by Tula Zaragoza; Murphy Elementary

Arts & Culture Manager Awards:

1st Place: "My Brush" by Aubree Jimenez; Bayview Elementary

2nd Place: "The Wave" by Cesar Viveros; Bayview Elementary

3rd Place: "My Grandpa" by Melanie Tello; Bayview Elementary

Honorable Mentions: "Don't Be Mean" by Sage Evans; Bayview Elementary "Mr. Troche" by Cedro Muna; Bayview Elementary

Mike Aldax
