

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
January 25, 2019

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

January 28: Agenda Setting, Alvarado, 2:00 PM
January 28: Board Budget Audit Subcommittee, Alvarado, 3:00 PM
January 31: 100th Day of Instruction
January 31: MDAC, Helms, 6:30 PM
February 1: MDAC, Kennedy, 9:00 AM
February 4: Open Enrollment Begins
February 4: Board Budget Audit Subcommittee, Alvarado, 3:00 PM
February 5: AASAT, DeJean, 6:00 PM
February 6: Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:00 PM
February 7: Board Budget Audit Subcommittee, Alvarado, 3:00 PM
February 7: LCAP Town Hall, Helms, 6:30 PM
February 11: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM
February 12: Solutions Team, Fairmont ES, 11:00 AM
February 13: Board Budget Audit Subcommittee, Alvarado, 1:30 PM
February 14: Board Budget Audit Subcommittee, Alvarado, 3:00 PM
February 18-22: Presidents Week Recess, Schools and Office Closed

Update on Conscious Kitchen – Marcus Walton, Lisa LeBlanc, Ken Whittemore

The school meal pilot supported by Conscious Kitchen at Peres Elementary School will go on hiatus beginning on Monday, January 28. While the pilot program was a valuable experiment, the impact on food service employees prevents the District from continuing the program at this time.

This information has been shared with Conscious Kitchen and Principal Jawan Eldridge. A letter will be sent to families and employees at Peres today. The text of the letter is pasted here:

Dear Peres Elementary School Families,

The school lunch pilot program supported by Conscious Kitchen at Peres Elementary School will go on hiatus beginning on Monday, January 28. This interruption will allow the District and its partners time to explore solutions to some of the challenges discovered during the trial period.

While the pilot program with Conscious Kitchen was a valuable experiment, the impact on food service employees prevents the District from continuing the program at this time.

I would like to thank the District's food service employees, the Peres community, and our partners at Conscious Kitchen for their willingness to rethink school lunches, and look forward to exploring enhanced food service options for our students. The students and student ambassadors at Peres also deserve our thanks for participating in this trial and providing

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important feedback on our food service program. We learned valuable lessons that we will incorporate into future decisions.

Although the pilot program has been placed on hiatus, menu options at Peres will continue to be healthy and nutritious. Our food services department and its employees will continue to include scratch cooked items, increase the variety of menu options, and obtain feedback from students.

The District will work with its employees and other interested stakeholders in rethinking how we provide healthy and nutritious meals to our students.

School and District staff will provide more information as we move forward in this process.

Sincerely,

Matthew Duffy
Superintendent

Youth Truth Survey - Marcus Walton

As mentioned during Mr. Duffy's Superintendent's Report at the Jan. 23 meeting, the District is launching a new culture and climate survey called [Youth Truth](#). The Board approved the contract for the Youth Truth survey at its Dec. 12 meeting. The District shifted to Youth Truth to gather more meaningful data from students, families, and staff. Youth Truth's format and structure is more user friendly, includes more relevant and accessible questions, has fewer questions, takes less time to complete, and the District and schools receive their data back in a more timely manner.

Here is a summary of the significant changes:

- Youth Truth replaces the CA Healthy Kids Survey
- The Youth Truth survey is *shorter* and does not require 5th-grade permission slips
- Results are available two weeks after the survey window closes
- The survey window opens *Monday, Feb. 4* and closes *Friday, March 1*
- Students in grades 3 through 12, all staff, and all families will be surveyed
- Schools have an identified site coordinators that will receive survey administration instructions next week
- Survey data is a required local indicator

The District notified school principals of the change in a variety of ways, including [this email](#), the Principals' Weekly Bulletin, and at recent principal meetings. Principals have identified survey coordinators at their schools and those coordinators will administer and coordinate the implementation of the survey. The District's Communications team is also working with Community Engagement, Assessment and Data, and the executive directors on a community campaign to inform and encourage families, students, and staff to take the surveys.

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To help launch Youth Truth, the Communications Departments has also been working with Tashaka Merriweather and the Youth Commission to promote the survey. The week of February 4 is designated as Youth Voice Week and the Youth Commission and communications is coordinating a series of podcasts, short video clips, and social media posts to promote Youth Voice Week and the Youth Truth survey. Communications has also approached several media and IT teachers at the high schools to help develop content for the week. Finally, the Youth Commission has also set a date for a Youth Voice event on Saturday, March 23 where we hope to use the results from the Youth Truth survey to spur and theme conversations at the event.

ELA Instructional Materials Review 2018 - 2019 Process - Gracie Guerrero

Attached are slides updating the Board on the ELA adoption process for 2018-2019.

Media Stories of Interest – Marcus Walton

<https://richmondstandard.com/richmond/2019/01/22/richmond-high-band-director-wins-emerging-educator-award/> - Richmond High School band director wins emerging music educator award

<http://eastcountytoday.net/humanitarians-of-the-year-awards-to-be-presented-at-41st-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-commemoration-event/> - PVHS named Contra Costa County Student Humanitarian of the Year

Good afternoon team,

Happy Tuesday. I wanted to give you a reminder about the District's new climate survey, Youth Truth. As a District, we value the voices of students, staff, and families, and Youth Truth provides an opportunity for us to enhance not only the way we gather those voices but also how we analyze and implement the results. Last year, we piloted the survey at several secondary schools and received positive feedback. We chose this tool because we really believe it is user friendly and simple enough to give us powerful feedback when we all implement this with some good energy behind it.

Here are a few points I wanted to highlight as a preview to more detailed information we will receive at **Wednesday's Principals Systems meeting**.

What you need to know:

- Youth Truth replaces the CA Healthy Kids Survey
- The Youth Truth survey is **shorter** and does not require 5th-grade permission slips
- Results are available two weeks after the survey window closes
- The survey window opens **Monday, Feb. 4 and closes Friday, March 1**
- Students in grades 3 through 12, all staff, and all families will be surveyed
- Your identified site coordinators will receive survey administration instructions next week
- Survey data is a required local indicator

If you have any questions, please contact your Executive Director. We will also be discussing Youth Truth at Wednesday's Principals Systems Meeting at the Pupil Services Center, 2465 Dolan Way in San Pablo from 8 am to 11 am.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,
Matthew Duffy

ELA/Literacy Instructional Materials Review



2018--2019



Instructional Materials Review TK-6 ELA/ELD

WHAT	Reviewing and Adopting Instructional Materials to Support a Balanced Approach to Literacy and Thematic Integrated Units of Study
WHEN	January- June, 2019
WHY	Moving from current adopted textbook to newly adopted materials that support engaging instruction and deeper learning for ALL students



Why Multiple Resources?

- ★ Integrated Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language instruction
- ★ Culturally Relevant Materials
- ★ Levelled Libraries
- ★ Dual Language and Designated ELD
- ★ Teacher Choice/Flexibility
- ★ Supports 1:1
- ★ Cost Effectiveness



Timeline for Materials Review Process

- **October-November 2018** -District curriculum specialists convene to review Balanced Literacy framework, [State Board Adopted ELA Programs](#), [CDE guidelines for Instructional Materials Review](#), and identify and evaluate seven programs for further review
- **December 2018**- UTR, EDs, and Curriculum specialists review timeline, process, and seven programs. Two to four programs are selected for in depth review and field testing.
- **January, 2019** - Convene TK-6 ELA Instructional Materials committee. Committee includes parents, administrators, and teachers at all appropriate grade levels.
- **February 4, 2019 - March 22, 2019** - Teachers participate in field testing materials and provide feedback based on CDE guidelines.
- **April 2019** - Display materials for review at District offices for teachers, parents, and key stakeholders. Data from this material review will be analyzed to guide recommendation
- **May 2019** - Recommendation to the Board for adoption for Instructional Materials for TK-6 English Language Arts/ELD Instruction

Criteria for Evaluating Instructional Materials

Category 1: English Language Arts and English Language Development Content/ Alignment with the Standards

Instructional materials include content as specified in the CA CCSS for ELA and the CA ELD Standards, as appropriate for the program type. Programs must meet all identified standards fully for the appropriate program type to be eligible for adoption.

Category 2: Program Organization

Instructional materials support instruction and learning of the standards and include such features as the organization and design of the programs and standards; chapter, unit, and lesson overviews; and glossaries.

Category 3: Assessment

Instructional materials include assessments for measuring what students know and are able to do and provide guidance for teachers on how to use assessment results to guide instruction.

Category 4: Universal Access

Instructional materials provide access to the standards-based curriculum for all students, including English learners, students with disabilities, advanced learners, students below grade level in any strands of English languages arts, and students who speak African American English (AAE).

Category 5: Instructional Planning and Teacher Support

Information and materials contain a clear road map for teachers to follow when planning instruction and are designed to help teachers provide effective standards-based instruction.

Materials Review

Benchmark Advance, Benchmark Adelante!

Reading, Writing, Phonics Units of Study- Teachers College

Wonders, McGraw Hill

Teacher Created Materials

Center for Collaborative Classroom, Being a Reader

Fountas & Pinnell Classroom

National Geographic

Instructional Specialists from TLL and M&M, in partnership with UTR Executive Board, are reviewing materials and identifying materials to field test with ELA Materials Committee members in February and March, 2019.



Richmond High band director wins emerging educator award

January 22, 2019



Members of the Richmond High marching band perform at the Richmond Ferry launch celebration on Jan. 10, 2019.

Richmond High's inspiring young band director won an emerging educator award this month from the California Music Education Association, a recognition that doesn't surprise his students or the school district in the least.

Four years ago, Andrew Wilke took over as the high school's full-time band director, directing a symphonic/marching band program that had just eight students and teaching five beginning band classes, according to the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Today, the educator has grown the music program into a 70-student marching band, a jazz band, and — for the first time since 1976 — a string orchestra, WCCUSD said.

Wilke's vigilant fundraising efforts to bolster the growing music program made headlines in 2016 when an anonymous donor gave \$76,000 for brand new instruments.

This month, Wilke has earned more recognition. The California Music Education Association named him as a recipient of the 2019 Gilbert T. Freitas Annual Memorial Award for emerging instrumental music educators with fewer than seven years' experience.



This photo of Andrew Wilke and his students was published in an online fundraiser for the music program.

The West Contra Costa Unified School District recognized Wilke and his music program at the Jan. 9 Board of Education meeting. When Wilke spoke at the meeting, he showed no sign of slowing in his efforts to build and maintain the music program.

“Music is a big equalizer, it’s a big opportunity maker, and it’s also super expensive,” he said.

Wilke expressed gratitude for the support at his school, and to his “awesome” students. As the music program is expected to grow next school year, Wilke said he’ll be launching fundraisers soon.

Wilke grew up in Pinole playing in his school band, taking piano lessons, and starting original bands in high school that performed across the country, according to the school district. After graduating from Pinole Valley High in 2006, he studied jazz performance at Cal State East Bay and began teaching before and after school music classes at WCCUSD.

After the district brought back elementary music, Wilke assumed an itinerant position teaching band and strings at seven schools while taking credential classes at night. He eventually took a position at Richmond High as an after school band instructor, and the following year became the full time band director.

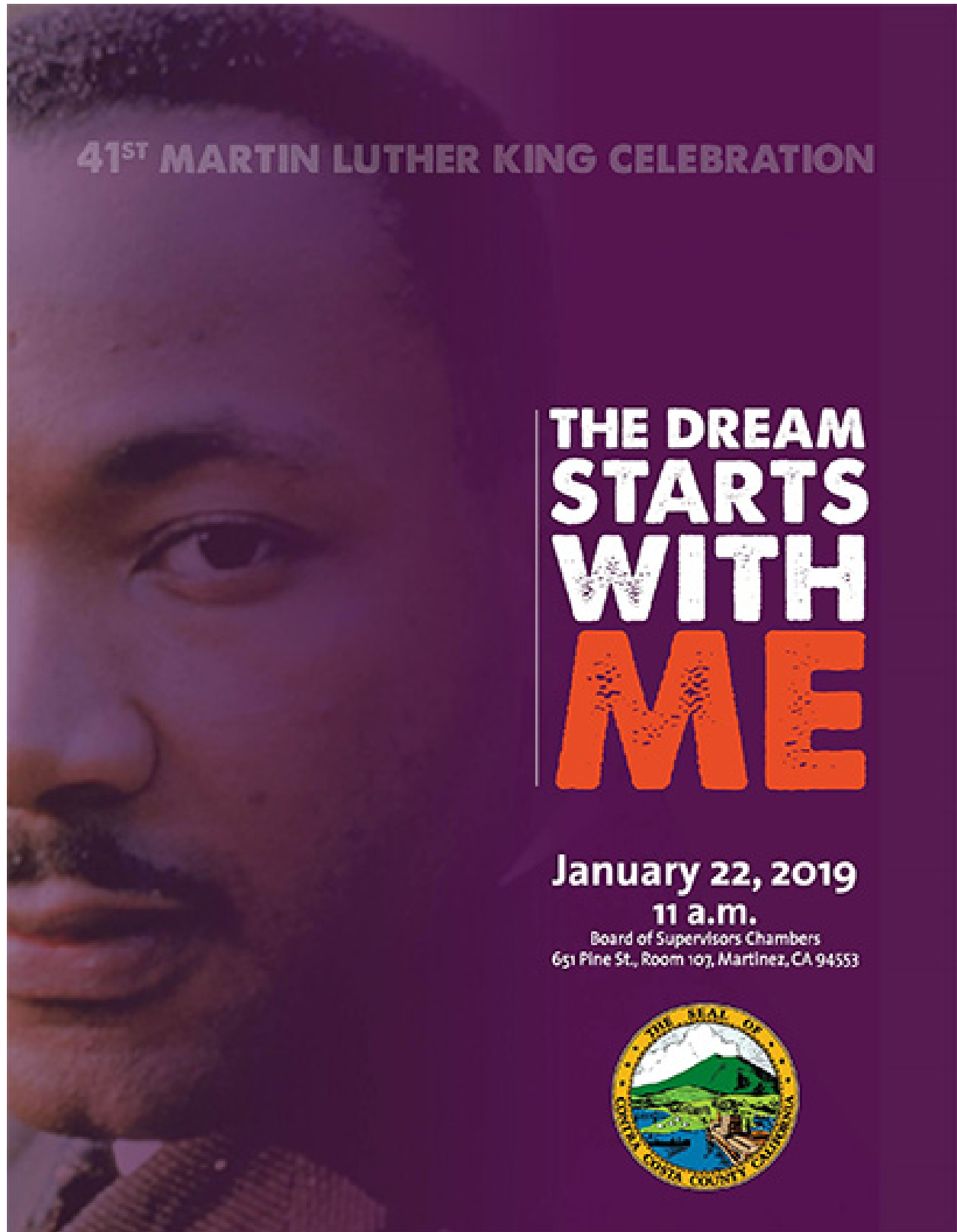
For more details about Wilke's program, including perspectives from students in his program, visit WCCUSD's great write-up about the music educator [here](#).

Mike Aldax

Humanitarians of the Year Awards to be Presented at 41st Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Event

Press Release


By ECT - Jan 19, 2019



41ST MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

**THE DREAM
STARTS
WITH
ME**

**January 22, 2019
11 a.m.**
Board of Supervisors Chambers
651 Pine St., Room 107, Martinez, CA 94553



Martinez, CA – In 2019, fifty one years will have passed since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. That sobering reminder will serve as a backdrop to Contra Costa County's 41st Annual Commemoration of Dr. King's life and legacy. The Board of Supervisors welcomes the public at the free community celebration on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 starting at 11 am in Contra Costa County's Board Chambers located at 651 Pine Street, Martinez, CA.

“Contra Costa County invites the public to celebrate with us the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and also honor a Humanitarian and Student Humanitarian of the Year. These honorees exemplify the social justice and community commitment values championed by Dr. King,” said Board Chair, Supervisor John Gioia.

The theme of the event is “the Dream Starts with Me”. The celebration will feature keynote speaker, Sheryl Lane, executive director of Building Blocks for Kids, a nonprofit organization in Richmond, CA. With parents who grew up in the segregated South and moved to California for greater opportunity, Ms. Lane will share her perspectives on Dr. King’s legacy.

Countywide recognition will be given to the Adult Humanitarian of the Year, Reverend Donnell Jones, of Richmond, CA and the Student Humanitarian of the Year, Yassna Ahmadi, a senior at Pinole Valley High School. Their stories of leadership, advocacy, and service have impacted Contra Costa County, its residents and communities, and reflect the spirit of Dr. King’s work and achievements.

The program includes entertainment from students from Contra Costa School of Performing Arts and the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir. After the commemoration, join us outside Board Chambers for a free buffet lunch, complete with peach cobbler for dessert.

To learn more about this community event, visit www.contracosta.ca.gov/5211/community-events. For details on past ceremonies and prior humanitarian winners, visit the [Dr. King Ceremony website](#) found in the “Community” section of Contra Costa County’s website