

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
December 17, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

December 20-31: Winter Recess (no school)

Due to the Holiday Break there will be no Friday Memo until January 7, 2021

Next Board of Education Meeting January 12, 2022– Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst, Sr.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Secondary- LaResha Martin (Gabriel Chilcott & Team)
Science- John Iwawaki & Team

Lessons on Human Growth & Development are available to teachers in grades 5 and 6 from iMatter. Topics range from Puberty, Healthy Body Image, and Gender Stereotyping to Friendship, Bullying, and Conflict Resolution. While Comprehensive Sex Education is mandated in California for middle and high school, this content remains optional for elementary grades. More info, including a parent letter template, teacher training, and a preview of the curriculum, is available via the [WCCUSD Health & Sex Ed webpage](#) (sign-in required).

Math- Mark Lobaco & Team

Chamberlin Education Foundation Schools Math Support

Teachers and site leaders at these schools are benefiting from the ongoing math coaching and Community of Practice support from Instruction Partners Coach Melissa Chipman. Here are some recent activities.

- At Verde, teachers are using a monitoring system to see how students are performing on standards in the end-of-module Eureka assessments. The 3rd and 4th grade teams met collaboratively to norm on scoring items using the rubric and entering/analyzing data.
- At Montalvin, the 3rd grade team has been collaboratively studying modules together. Melissa and the team studied module 3 together during her recent visit.
- At Helms, teachers were using Desmos to give all students the opportunity to grapple with rigorous content and students were excited to share their ideas with the class.
- At Michelle Obama, Principal Claudia and VP Tyler led their teachers through a student work analysis protocol so that teachers could reflect on student mastery and adjust their instruction going forward.
- At Nystrom, teachers were engaging students in number talks using the IM curriculum and students were excited to share what number they saw and how they saw it.

Professional Learning - LaResha Martin (Sarah Breed)

The system for Professional Learning for Principals includes Monthly Principal Professional Learning and Learning Walks. The focus for monthly principal professional learning is on building Principals' leadership capacities in the California Professional Standards for Education Leaders (CAPSLs). Our focus this year is on Standard 2: Instructional Leadership (Professional Learning Culture, Curriculum and Instruction, and Assessment and Accountability) and on Standard 3: (Management and Learning Environment with a focus on Climate and SEL.)

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In partnership with [Performance Fact](#) principals are engaged in learning about and implementing Data Driven Cycles of Inquiry at their monthly principal meetings. Principals analyze student data, examine professional teaching practices at their site, and draw conclusions. Principals have developed Vital Score Cards for their school site which include key indicators and metrics. Through this process, Ed Services EDs review site based evidence and will be supporting Focal Teaching Practices. This process of systematic monitoring of site teaching practice will lead to improved systems of accountability and anticipated improvement in Literacy, Math, and SEL outcomes. Site leaders have set specific site targets for SEL, Literacy, and Math. A sample [Cycle of Inquiry Plan](#) is available here.

Our partnership with Lead By Learning (formerly known as Mills Teacher Scholars) continues to support our leaders with robust adult learning in a Community of Practice model. Monthly sessions with Lead By Learning engage principals in public learning and in consultancies to analyze and solve site based problems of practice based on student data, adult learning culture, and teacher practice data. Our Lead By Learning facilitators collaborate with principal practice partners and Executive Directors to plan the focus of the monthly sessions. Feedback from principals has indicated that this time is valuable and is pushing their leadership capacity. A sample agenda from our [Principal Professional Learning December, 2021](#) is here for your review.

In addition to monthly meetings, principals are engaging in monthly Learning Walks by Network, facilitated by Network Executive Directors. Learning Walks focus on observing the Instructional Core, Social and Emotional Learning, and Culture and Climate. Site leaders share their Instructional Focus with colleagues in their networks, observe 4- 6 classrooms, collect and analyze evidence, and provide the host principal with feedback. Nine sites have engaged in Learning walks this fall. Feedback from principals has indicated that getting into each other's sites to observe instruction has been restorative and has built their capacity as instructional leaders. A sample [Learning Walk](#) agenda is here for your reference.

African American Student Achievement - LaResha Martin (William McGee & team)

The Mafanikio Academic Coaching Program has been celebrating Kwanzaa at their school sites this week. As an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrated by millions throughout the world African community, Kwanzaa brings a cultural message which speaks to the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense¹. Each site has explored with their students the Kwanzaa celebration. The Mafanikio Academic Coaching Program is a place where Black/African American students have the opportunity to explore the Black culture and learn about their heritage. Click [here](#) for a video link of students. Photos below from Lincoln ES SCOW on behalf of the AAPAC.



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¹ [Official Kwanzaa Website](#)

The OAASA has been working hard to continuously implement the resolution in support of Black students that the WCCUSD Board adopted. To support our school district with mental health, we have met with various community organizations and CSUEB to establish a social work intern program. We will continue to work with the various departments to make the intern program come to fruition.

Family & Community Engagement - LaResha Martin (Martine Blake & team)

Impact Education - Shakira Reynolds

The Family and Community Engagement Department, in partnership with Public Advocates and Go Public Schools WCC, hosted a virtual training for parents on December 9, 2021 from 6 to 8 PM. Impact Education, is intended to be a three-part series based on parent education topics requested by the district parent advisory committees and committed to in the LCAP. The first training focused on Budget 101, how districts and sites receive funds, as well as the rights and responsibilities of site level and district level parent advisory committees. There were about 25 participants; the CAO and interim CBO were also in attendance. The training concluded with a game of [Budget Hold 'Em](#) where the group practiced the tough decisions that districts are faced with when determining expenditures and looking at how they affect student achievement. We plan to host a second training in late February/early March.

Expanded Learning Opportunity and 21st Century - Kasey Blackburn Jiron

The District's Expanded Learning Office (EXLO) has submitted two federal [21st Century Community Learning Center \(21CCLC\)](#) applications on behalf of district sites. Currently, the District has 30 state and/or federally funded school-based after school grants (all school sites above 58% for Free and Reduced Priced Lunch (FRL) have a school based after school program).

Through the 21CCLC grant we were able to apply for (1) after school and summer funding for 3 currently unfunded elementary and middle schools in the 50th percentile of FRL: Collins ES, Pinole MS, Shannon ES, and Stewart, K-8; (2) summer funding for 26 currently [ASES-funded](#) elementary and middle schools; (3) and increased school year funding for 22 ASES-funded elementary and middle programs. The requested increased funding for the elementary and K-8 sites will allow us to support expanded learning opportunities for TK students in the 2022-2023 SY.

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Additionally, the EXLO submitted an application on behalf of 4 District high schools: DeAnza, Greenwood, Middle College, and Pinole Valley. The [21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens \(ASSETs\)](#) supports after school and summer programming.

If awarded, these sites will receive funding beginning July 1, 2022 and will be funded through June 30, 2027.

Recently the state released the [Expanded Learning Opportunity Program Funds](#) (ELO Program) to support expansion of after school and summer programs. ELO Program funds are allocated based on an LEA's unduplicated count with the 2021-2022 SY serving as a planning and building year. Program requirements include offering 9 hours a day of services (instructional day + "after school") for 175 days of the school year and 9 hours a day of services for 30 days of summer programming. The EXLO will be allocating ELO Program funds beginning in January to support academic intervention across ASES-funded sites. Additionally, we will be using funds to provide supplemental enrichment programming through specialty providers. The EXLO is also working with Ed Services to offer summer programming to at least 50% of the District's unduplicated K-6th grade students this summer. The CDE has communicated to LEAs it will need to enroll 100% of TK-6 students for the 2022-2023 SY.

Communications Updates - Ryan Phillips

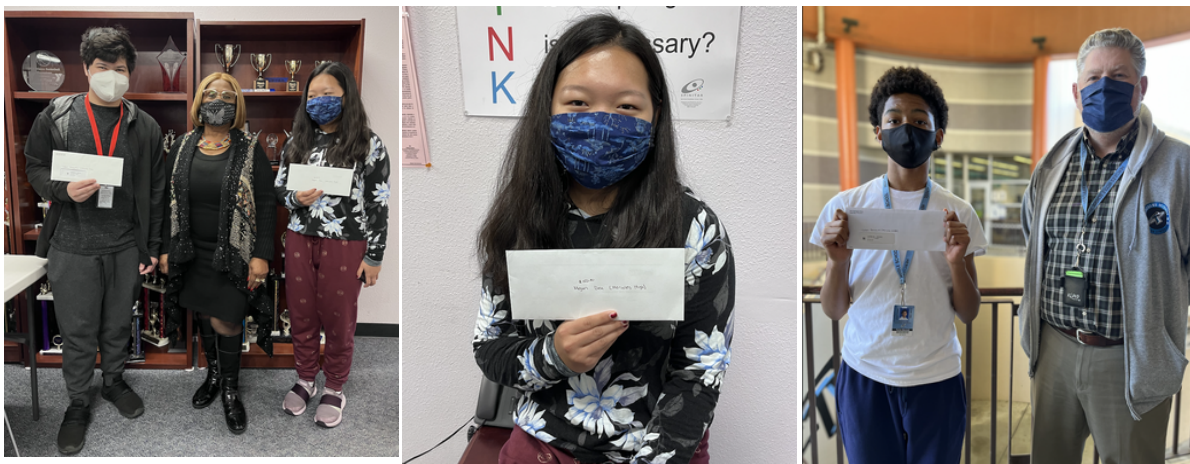
Santa Visits Grant Elementary before Christmas Break.



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Meet some of the lucky winners from last weeks Vaccine raffle



December 13, 2021

Richmond Confidential - WCCUSD bridges digital divide with at-home internet access for students
- Madeline Taub

Julia Brady, an English teacher at Pinole Valley High School, has seen the impact that a lack of stable internet access can have on students. She recalled a student a few years ago who couldn't do an online assignment because their family decided to pay for emergency dental work instead of the internet that month. Those problems worsened during the pandemic when students were forced into distance learning as schools went virtual. The district paid for hot spots with federal money it received through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, a \$7 billion program to provide students and teachers nationwide with the technology necessary to stay connected. Tracey Logan, WCCUSD's chief technology officer, said the district has short-term and long-term plans to ensure that all of its 26,683 students have Wi-Fi access. In the short-term, the district plans to create hot spots in certain neighborhoods and has put in 6,843 so far.

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LaResha Martin, WCCUSD's chief academic officer and associate superintendent, ideally would like each student to have two devices, one for home and one for school.

December 14, 2021

KQED - Scores of California Students Still Lack Proof of Vaccination as School Mandate Deadlines Approach - ali Tadayon

A handful of large California school districts are facing a potential crisis in the coming weeks: Thousands of their students 12 years and older have yet to provide proof of vaccination, despite looming deadlines. Those districts include West Contra Costa Unified (WCCUSD) As of last Wednesday, for instance, only 33% of WCCUSD's students age 12 and older had verified that they had received both doses of the vaccine, which will be required to continue in-person education there beginning Jan. 3. It's likely that many families simply haven't gotten around to submitting their children's vaccination status. Martin, WCCUSD's chief academic officer, said the district has been scrambling since the start of the semester to hire enough teachers to meet the demand for its virtual academy.

December 15, 2021

NBC Bay Area - Vaccine Mandate Deadline May be Extended for West Contra Costa Unified Students - NBC Bay Area Staff

The West Contra Costa Unified School District will consider extending its student COVID-19 vaccine mandate after seeing a lower rate of student vaccinations than desired ahead of a Jan. 3 deadline. District officials told NBC Bay Area there are 12,185 students who fall under the vaccination policy, and as of Dec. 10, fewer than 5,000 have been fully vaccinated. Another 400-plus have indicated they're in the process of being vaccinated, and only 52 have said they're not getting the vaccine. At its scheduled meeting Wednesday, the district board will consider extending the deadline possibly to Feb. 18, officials said.

December 16, 2021

KPIX 5 - Parents At Richmond School Call For Principal's Ouster, Keep 100+ Kids Out Of Class In 'Sickout' - Kenny Choi

Dozens of parents at an East Bay elementary school have called for the principal to be removed and have held their children back from classes this week in what they described as a "sickout." 100 students haven't attended class to bring more attention to their dispute against Principal Petria Ross. WCCUSD communications director Ryan Phillips told KPIX 5, "We respect the right of parents to make their voices heard, and district leadership have been in frequent contact with Valley View parents and staff." Parents said school officials haven't done enough to address their concerns of ethics violations, and students feeling unsafe on campus. The spokesperson said that the superintendent and district officials will meet with parents on Thursday.

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The Mercury News - West Contra Costa schools specialist charged with meeting undercover cop posing as 13-year-old girl - Nate Gatrell

A Richmond schools employee has been arrested and charged with arranging to sexually abuse a minor, after he allegedly showed up for a meeting with someone he believed was a 13-year-old girl, court records show. According to a sworn statement signed by a Contra Costa District Attorney investigator, Garcia sent a friend request to the “girl’s” unspecified social media page, then engaged in “sexual conversations” with the undercover officer after being told he was talking to a 13-year-old. Garcia was working as a student support specialist with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, who worked directly with special needs students. According to the sworn statement, Garcia replied “LOL” when the undercover told him she was almost 14, and went on to describe sex acts he wanted to do. He was arrested Dec. 8 after showing up to the Martinez Marina for their planned meeting, and a bottle of personal lubricant was found in his car, according to police. Authorities haven’t eliminated the possibility that there are victims, but so far none have been identified