

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
May 27, 2022

Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

May 30: Memorial Day (District Holiday)

June 1: WCCUSD 3rd Annual Special Olympics: Unified Track and Field, 9:00am-1:00pm at DeAnza High School

June 1: 22nd Annual Reclassification Ceremony (K-6 and K-8 Schools), 5:30-7:30pm at Richmond High School

June 1: Guiding Coalition Strategic Planning Virtual Meeting, 5:30-7:30pm Via Zoom

June 4: Vista High School Graduation, 11:00am-1:00pm at Vista High School

June 4: Gateway To College Graduation, 2:00pm-4:00pm at Vista High School

June 6: District Reclassification Ceremony for 9-12 Grade Students, 5:30-7:30pm at Richmond High School

June 6: Adult Education Graduation, 6:00-8:00pm at El Cerrito High School

June 15: Board of Education Meeting, 6:30pm at DeJean Middle School

Communications Update - Ryan Phillips

Thursday, May 26, 2022

[Local actor to appear in Brad Pitt blockbuster, 'Bullet Train' - Richmond Standard](#)

Hercules resident Alonso Saravia credits a Richmond Standard Facebook post with sparking the launch of his acting career, which has included work on blockbuster films alongside stars like Brad Pitt, Keanu Reeves and Mark Wahlberg. Saravia, a graduate of Pinole Valley High School who has dreamt of becoming an actor since childhood, spotted the social media post five years ago this month notifying the community of a casting call in Vallejo for the Netflix show “13 Reasons Why.” Within a few months, he was booked to work as an on-call extra on the popular show, eventually landing a role as a student for seasons two, three and four—with the latter two seasons spent working as a “core student.”

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

[Greenwood Academy speech competition speaks on power of community](#)

While Sylvester Greenwood Academy students Octavious Mims and Oswaldo Navarrete earned the spotlight at a speech competition in the school’s gym last week, they ended up turning the spotlight right back on their community, expressing their gratitude to their school and organizations like the Boys & Girls Club of Contra Costa County (BGCCC) for helping put them in a position to succeed.

[Businesses that violate disabled citizens' rights must pay up. Should that include public schools? | SF Chronicle](#)

“We usually focus on language” and legislative actions in determining the meaning of a law, Justice Joshua Groban told Alan Dell’Ario, lawyer for a disabled student in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Even an expansive definition covering businesses of “any kind, whatsoever,” Groban said, “seems like a pretty vague way to include schools.” According to his lawsuit, Brennon had been

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

diagnosed as severely autistic and was a 14-year-old special education student at De Anza High School in Richmond in 2012 when he was sexually assaulted by another mentally disabled student in a restroom. Over the next three years, the suit said, Brennon was assaulted numerous times, including four times by a school district employee who was later criminally prosecuted.

[How language-rich math can help students learning English | EdSource](#)

Thompson learned this strategy during a series of training on improving math instruction for multilingual learners, a term that refers to all students who speak a language other than English at home. The training was organized by the nonprofit organization TNTP, formerly known as The New Teacher Project and Stanford University's Center for Understanding Language, which is focused on improving instruction and assessment of English learners and other students. TNTP offered the training program in 2021 to teachers in Pajaro Valley Unified in Santa Cruz County, West Contra Costa Unified in the Bay Area and Aspire Public Schools in the Central Valley.

Monday, May 23, 2022

[WCCUSD Expanded Learning Dept. offers free summer enrichment program | Richmond Standard](#)

Families seeking summer enrichment for their children in the coming months might not have to look any further than their own backyards, with the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Expanded Learning Department's roll-out of free, full-day programming at select schools from June 21 to July 22.

[NCS track and field finals: Meet of Champions highlights, photos and more - The Mercury News](#)

El Cerrito High's Saqqara Ruffin, left, and Campolindo High's Mari Testa head to the finish line in the 100-meter hurdles during the North Coast Section Meet of Champions in Dublin, Calif., on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Testa took first place with a time of 14.68 and Ruffin placed second with a time of 14.74. (Doug Duran/Bay Area News Group)

In the boys 100, Pinole Valley's Cornell Davis won with a jaw-dropping time of 10.47. Even though the race was wind-aided at 3.0 meters per second, a mark like that next weekend could place Davis in the final.