

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
April 14, 2023

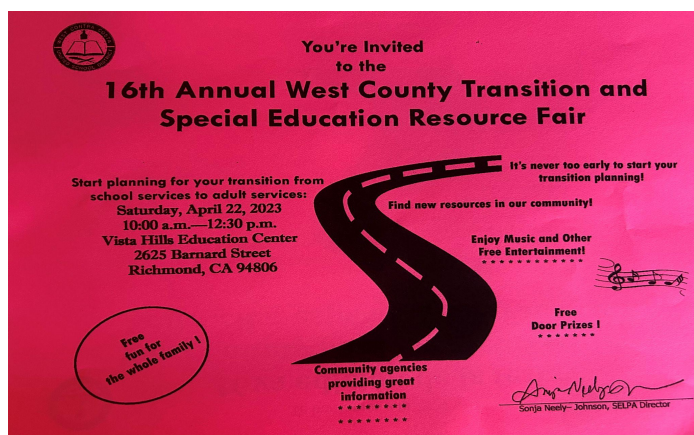
Upcoming Events – Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D

April 18: 57th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show Reception, 5:00pm

April 20: Open House Elementary Schools Only

April 27: 2022-2023 Multilingual District Advisory Council (MDAC), 9:00am-11:00am at Serra Adult Education Center

Special Education Upcoming Events - Sonja Neely-Johnson, SELPA Director



WCCUSD Transition Fair - Saturday, April 22, 2023 -10AM - 12:30PM @ Vista Hills

WCCUSD ESN Dance Grades 11- Transition - Saturday, April 29, 2023 5:00PM -7:30PM
@DeAnza HS

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12
Literacy/Humanities/OAASA- LaResha Huffman (Elizabeth Henry & team)

Lincoln Elementary Literacy Night

Lincoln Elementary hosted a wonderful event for their students and community! Lincoln Literacy Night was held on Wednesday, March 29th. Over 200 students, parents and community members fought against torrential rain to enjoy a night with authors, books, food and fun. Among those in attendance, Dr. Hurst and Board Trustee Clerk Jamela Smith-Folds..

Special guest Donte Clark shared wonderful spoken word and guest author Krystalynne Sanders Diggs read excerpts from her children's series that included "The Light Within". Principal Parham did an amazing job along with a very supportive team, providing this event for the Lincoln community!

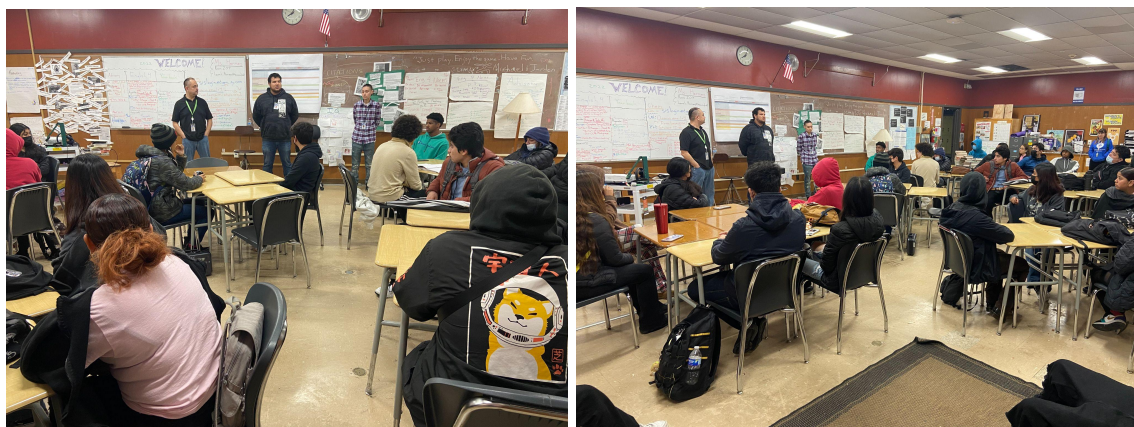
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College & Career - LaResha Huffman (Allison Huie & team)

Career and Technical Education Helps WCCUSD Grow Our Own Talent

Recently, three current staff members from the WCCUSD Information Technology Department visited Seniors in Kennedy High School's Information Technology Academy to speak to students about their career journeys.



Kennedy students were able to hear about the jobs that the staffers currently do and about the importance of taking advantage of the opportunity to learn everything they can while they are in the career Academy. Two of the Information Technology staffers were themselves once students in that same Kennedy Information Technology Academy, which made the experience extremely engaging.

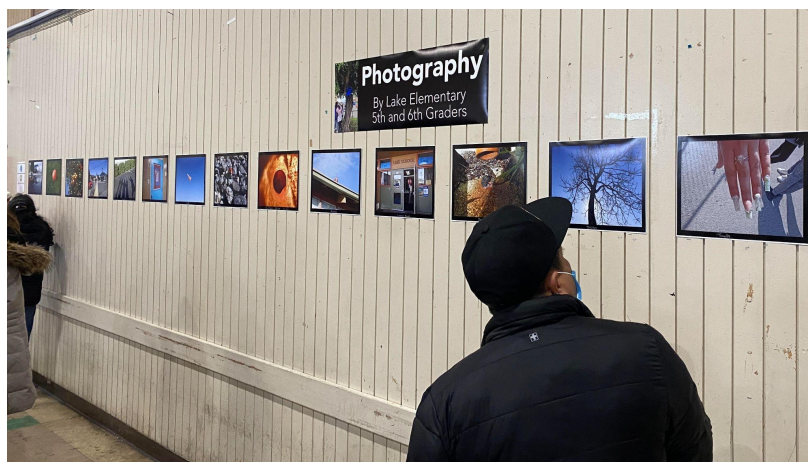
Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA) - Allison Huie & Patrick Martin

Our students are doing amazing things. Please come out and support your local Artists. The [Richmond Art Show](#) is underway at the Richmond Art Center until May 13th with a reception next Tuesday from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. Our WCCUSD Spring festivals and performances are also underway. Here is the [flyer](#) with details on performances.

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

World Story Exchange Photo Exhibition @ Lake After School

On Wednesday, March 29th, the after school students at Lake Elementary held their World Story Exchange photo exhibition. To prepare for the exhibition students participated in 4 sessions of photography to learn camera techniques and practice taking creative pictures.



Verde Spring Break Camp at Tahoe

The week of spring break 28 students from Verde, grades 4th-6th were able to participate in a Study Trip to Tahoe. Over the course of the week students learned about the indigenous peoples, the Donner party, and the colonization of California in relation to the gold rush. Students experienced the physical properties of snow by building snow creatures, having snowball fights, and sledding. Furthermore, students performed a science experiment that involved measuring and melting snow to learn about the importance of the Sierra snowpack and how it impacts our lives in the Bay Area.

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District Spring Break Camps at Bayview, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, and Peres

The week of spring break the Expanded Learning Office launched the district's first spring break camps at Bayview, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, and Peres. The vision for the District's spring break camps: WCCUSD students will have the opportunity to deepen their academic skills in ELA and engage in enrichment activities including STEM, performing arts, and gardening.

The mornings were focused on academic intervention with Sylvan and in the afternoon students had the opportunity to participate in Gardening, STEM, and Performing Arts.



We will be working with Research and Assessment to follow these students to see what, if any, impact the morning intervention. The data from the youth and family surveys can be found below:

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Youth Survey Results
94% of students agreed or strongly agreed they felt safe in the program.
94% of students agreed or strongly agreed the program helped me enjoy learning.
82% of students agreed or strongly agreed since coming to this program, I am better at something that I used to think was hard.
86% of students agreed or strongly agreed I learned how to do things in this program that help with my school work.
90% of students agreed or strongly agreed this program provides activities that support my creativity.

Family Survey Results
100% of families agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, this program is a safe place for my child to be during spring break
100% of families agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, this program helps my child take ownership over their own learning.
100% of families agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, I would recommend this program to other families.

Positive School Climate, OAASA & Enrollment - LaResha Huffman (LaShante Smith & Team)

We would like to welcome Angelica Lara to our team. She recently came on board as the Coordinator of Student Recruitment and Retention. She comes back to WCCUSD from the County Office of Education. She will be working with the attendance and enrollment teams to increase attendance at schools and enrollment in the district.

Over Spring Break more than 30 students attended OAASA's college visit tour in Washington DC and Virginia. The students and their chaperones toured several campuses, giving the students a chance to get a feel for each university and what they offer. Big thanks to OAASA for providing this experience!

Just before Spring break the Office of School Climate helped to facilitate a day of professional development for classified and certificated staff. Over 500 participants attended their choice of sessions run by several departments within Educational Services. The Office of School Climate offered three sessions focused on supporting staff in de-escalating behavior and avoiding power

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struggles, helping staff understand how to best support students who identify as LGBTQ+, and guiding classroom staff in using the SEL curriculum Wayfinder.

TK-12 Schools: - LaResha Huffman (Keisha Joyner, Koy Hill & Summer Sigler)

El Cerrito High School Race & Equity Townhall

On March 30, 2023, El Cerrito High School students, staff and community members gathered for a Town Hall meeting to address race and equity and school culture through a discussion led by Dr. Tracey Webb, an ECHS alumna and DEI/Organization development consultant and executive coach.

