

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
*Office of the Superintendent*

**Friday Memo**  
**December 9, 2022**

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

December 12: CBOC Meeting, 6:00pm, FOC Building  
December 13: 7-11 Committee Meeting, 6:00pm via Zoom  
December 19 - January 2: Winter Recess, No School

**Next Board of Education Meeting December 14, 2022– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.**

Closed Session will begin at 4:00pm

**Special Education Department - Sonja Neely-Johnson**

The Community Advisory Committee for Special Education is now accepting nominations for *The 2023 You Make a Difference Awards*. Find information and nomination forms here: [You Make a Difference Awards 2023](#). *Deadline - December 16, 2022*

**Human Resources Workshop for Resume Writing**

[HR Workshop for Resume Writing](#)

**Communications Update - Liz Sanders**

**Enrollment drop in Contra Costa County schools is lowest since 2011 - CBS News**

Contra Costa County's public schools saw declining enrollment for the second year in a row last year, dropping to 169,604 -- the lowest it's been in a decade. Enrollment declined another 2% in 2021-22, according to the report. The state as a whole saw about the same decline last year, dropping to a two-decade low of 5,846,317 students. The district's largest district, West Contra Costa Unified, lost about 1,000 students in 2021-22, going from 31,027 to 30,071 -- a 3% percent decline.

**Pinole Valley High Spartans win first state football title in program history | Richmond**

**Standard** The Pinole Valley High School Spartans football program captured its first ever state title on Saturday, defeating Mendota High 34-21 in the Division 7-AA California State Championship.

The victory marks the first time a West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) program has earned a high school state football title.

**Pinole Valley wins California 7-AA state championship - High School Football America**

Pinole Valley captured its first-ever California high school football state championship Saturday night with a 34-21 win over Mendota in the Division 7-AA title game.

PV quarterback Maddux Wu completed 8-of-11 passes for 186 yards with two touchdowns.

**State champs! Pinole Valley beats Mendota to capture 7-AA title - The Mercury News**

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There wasn't much breathing room for the Pinole Valley Spartans in their CIF 7-AA state championship game on the road against Mendota on a chilly Saturday night. But with 40 seconds left, a 36-yard touchdown run by senior running back Larry McDonald extended Pinole Valley's lead to 34-21. The Spartans finally could relax and let the celebration start a little early.

**[WCCUSD teachers union prepares for next step after two-week impasse over salaries](#) | Richmond Confidential**

More than two weeks after the West Contra Costa Unified School District declared an impasse with United Teachers of Richmond, many educators are feeling scared and uncertain about the future of their jobs. Since the negotiation process began in February, UTR's focus has been on ensuring all students have high quality, certificated educators; providing emotionally and physically safe learning environments; and prioritizing shared decision making among students, their families and teachers. But the sides have been unable to agree on salary, which led the district on Nov. 17 to declare an impasse, surprising union members, said UTR President John Zabala.

**[KTVU high school football game of the week - YouTube](#)**

**Educational Services - LaResha Huffman**

**National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (Educational Services/State & Federal)**

The NEA, CTA and UTR are all excited to share news of a California Dept of Education grant for teachers who work in high needs' schools in CA that will pay the fees for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This voluntary certification in 25 different certificate areas enables teachers to both show their skills and help to improve their teaching practice. Many candidates describe it as the best professional development available, as it inspires reflection in educators who aspire to be the best professional teacher they can be. The deadline for applying for the grant (\$2,500) is January 5, 2023. To learn more, potential candidates are invited to look for information at [CA NBPTS Candidate Subsidy Program Information - Professional Standards \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) and attend an informational meeting on Zoom on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 4:00pm. To get the Zoom link, please send an email to Cinda Rapp at [CRapp@wccusd.net](mailto:CRapp@wccusd.net).

Some of the current grant recipients in WCCUSD include:

- Esther Soto, Science at Helms
- Jessica Bray, Math at Helms
- Thomas Buckey, Exceptional Needs, itinerant
- Ethan Sorscher, 4th Grade, Montalvin
- Merl Corpus, Exceptional Needs, Home Teaching
- Mariquit Aguila, Exceptional Needs
- Marieliza Castro, Exceptional Needs

Jeremiah Romm, History, Helms

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment STEM- LaResha Huffman (Gabriel Chilcott & team)**

**Science Department (John Iwawaki & Team): High School Physics PLC**

High school Physics teachers are collaborating to share resources, activities and lessons to support alignment with the new NGSS course “[Physics of the Universe](#)” and our new instructional materials from Savvas. Of the three basic high school science courses, Physics is often one of the easiest for students to investigate and teachers to model concepts with hands-on activities. Physics of the Universe is typically offered to 9th grade students in WCCUSD, with a focus not just on content, but also [Science and Engineering Practices](#) (SEPs) which include modeling, analyzing data, and argument with evidence. More photos and videos [HERE](#).



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

WCCUSD Literacy Department reviewed early literacy data with site leaders and provided a framework of the essential elements of foundational literacy to support goal setting and identifying key practices to improve student literacy outcomes.

The WCCUSD Literacy Department is in the process of collecting data from every school site about current literacy structures to inform and guide our work in building a cohesive system of alignment and support towards increasing student achievement and closing equity gaps.

**Ongoing Professional Development**

K-2 Labsite Day at Montalvin:

Cindy Williams from Teachers College leads small group demonstrations of the Phonics Decoding Assessment to ensure that students in grades K-2 acquire mastery of blends, vowel teams and multisyllabic words by year's end.



**Upcoming Professional Development**

SIPPS Virtual Professional Learning Series will be relaunching in January. All Elementary teachers and leaders will be invited to participate. The series will support launching, lesson structure and routines, and instructional decision making.

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

Here is the link to the Winter Performances from Patrick Martin in the [VAPA Department](#).

**Professional Development for teachers of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)**

ICT teachers are encouraged to sign up to have some fun while learning during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January. Activities during this event will include opportunities to:

- Hear from Vint Cerf, a Father of the Internet and developer of the TCP/IP protocol stack
- Experience, Compete, and Learn through our Capture the Flag (CTF) activity
- “And the winner is...” (raffle run with our sponsors)

See the [Full Agenda](#) here. This year's event celebrates the past, present, and future of ICT and promises to be exciting. [Register Now!](#)

A promotional banner for the Virtual ICT Educators' Conference. The banner features the Western Academy Support &amp; Training Center logo, the text "VIRTUAL ICT EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE", the dates "January 5th &amp; 6th 8:30AM - 3:15 PM", and the slogan "CELEBRATING YESTERDAY TODAY AND TOMORROW". A QR code and the website "waste.org/wc2023" are also included.

### **WCCUSD Students Participated in Manufacturing Day Activities**

On National Manufacturing Day in October, ten of the PVHS Engineering Academy Juniors participated in the annual Manufacturing Week celebration. This is an opportunity for our students to see what our local engineering firms are doing to help bring Manufacturing back to the USA. The day consisted of 2 parts:

1. Visiting a company. The PVHS group had the pleasure to visit Glydways Inc., a start up transportation company.
2. Visiting a local Community college. PVHS students and staff visited Contra Costa Community College.

Glydways test site is located in Concord, at the GoMentum Station. The GoMentum Station is the largest secure Connected Vehicle (CV) and Autonomous Vehicle (AV) proving grounds in the U.S. located in Concord, California.

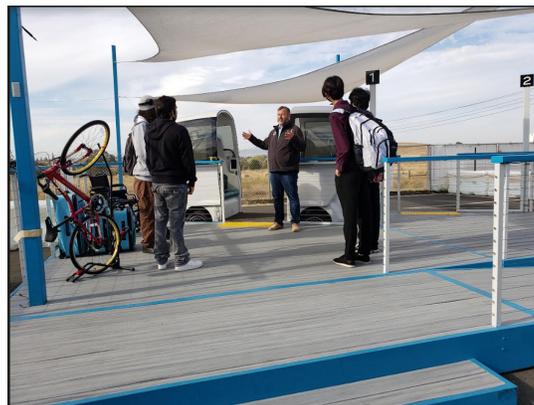


*Go Momentum Station*



*PVHS before we went into the SITE*

The students learned about the possible solutions and test locations for this public self driving transportation company. They met the Chief Engineer, Keith Flynn, a marketing representative, a business developer, a manager, and others. They learned that you do not have to be an Engineer to work for them. In fact, the employees' majors ranged from Art to Engineering.



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*Andres & Zayan PVHS students in Vehicle Keith Flynn explaining the concept*



*Zayan in the car*

*Zayan looking thru VR glass*

Then, students went to Contra Costa Community College, where they experienced a presentation on various programs they have to offer. Students also learned about the requirements for receiving free tuition in any CA community college. After the presentation they toured the automotive department, planetarium, and brand new science center.



*CCC automotive department*

*CCC automotive department*



*Science building at CCC*

*Planetarium at CCC*

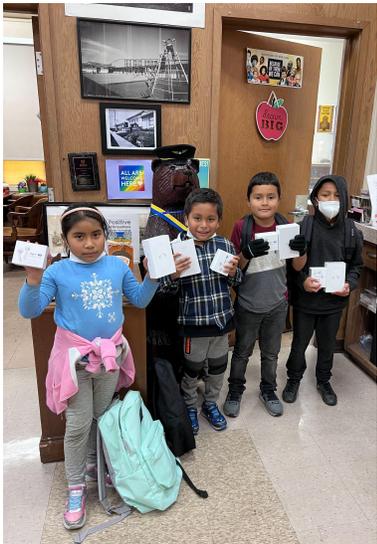
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*CCC automotive*

**English Learner Achievement - LaResha Huffman (Esaul Orozco & team)**

Newcomer English Learners arrive at WCCUSD consistently throughout the year. Currently there are 317 first year Newcomer English Learners in grades 3-12. Thus far 247 students in this group have received a resource filled Newcomer Backpack. Backpacks include headphones, water bottles, notebooks, immigrant resource document, translator pocket talks, and pens and pencils. Our office is on pace for all current first year Newcomers in grades 3-12 to have and enjoy their newcomer backpack and resources by winter break.



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

The Expanded Learning Office (EXLO) leads the District's 32 school based after school programs through an annual continuous quality improvement process (CQI) using the [Youth Program Quality Assessment tool](#) (PQA). The PQA is a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. It consists of a set of score-able standards for best practices in afterschool programs, community organizations, schools, summer

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programs and other places where youth have fun, work and learn with adults. The Youth PQA is designed to empower people and organizations to envision optimal-quality programming for youth by providing a shared language for practice and decision-making and by producing scores that can be used for comparison and assessment of progress over time. The Youth PQA measures the quality of youths' experiences and promotes the creation of environments that tap the most important resource available to any youth-serving organization: a young person's motivation to engage critically with the world.

As part of their CQI process each after school program receives a Fall and Spring external site visit from the Expanded Learning Office in October. While programs conduct a self-assessment using the PQA tool in the month of January. All programs must complete their self assessment plans and send them to their principals for review and approval.

More information about the After School Continuous Quality Improvement process can be found [here](#).



**Positive School Climate - LaResha Huffman (LaShante Smith & Team)**

This week, the Office of School Climate worked with the principal professional learning community (PLC) focused on positive behavior support and intervention (PBIS). In addition to the principal PLC high school counselors, and elementary teachers were offered a separate track. The principals had a brief review of how to put a climate team together and then learned a process for solution planning using discipline and/or mySAEBRS data. High school counselors worked on the triaging students based on their mySAEBRS data, helping to ensure that high risk students receive appropriate support. Teachers had the opportunity to participate in a professional development session focused on trauma and how it impacts the brain. They discussed the behavior escalation cycle and how teachers can help to de-escalate students. The sessions were

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well attended, and follow up sessions will continue to be offered to strengthen support for students.

[OAASA December Newsletter](#)

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

**Shout Out to Middle College Graduate**

[Linked](#) is a student story on Middle College HS graduate Johana Jaimes, a double major in political science and international studies here at Dominican who on Friday concluded her Panetta



**Contract Update for the 12/14/22 Board Meeting – Robert McEntire-Mary Kitchen & Team**

**Contracts Summary - Business Services**

The following contracts are on the December 14th Board Meeting Agenda for Board approval.

[Link to Contract Summary](#)

[Link to Contract Backup](#)

**Procurement Summary - Business Services**

This is a new summary that will be utilized going forward to present goods, equipment, special education, and other services that do not have AMOs.

[Link to Procurement Summary](#)

[Link to Procurement Backup](#)

\* Reminder: Due to Student Protection Act no attachments will be provided for NPA/NPS services