

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
February 3, 2023

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

February 1: First Day of Black History Month

February 13: CBOC Meeting, 6:00pm at 1400 Marina Way S, Richmond

February 14: Valentine's Day

Next Board of Education Meeting February 15, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.

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

Math Department (Mark Lobaco & Team):

Black/African-American STEM Heroes Slide Deck – In celebration of Black/African-American History Month, the WCCUSD Math Department has shared [these slides](#) of STEM Heroes for teachers across all school sites.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12

Literacy/Humanities/OAASA- LaResha Huffman (Elizabeth Henry & team)

Elementary

The [Units of Study in Reading](#) kits for TK, K, 1st, and 2nd grades have been updated to align with the most recent research on best practices and strategies in early literacy. The units were just released by the publisher, and delivered to WCCUSD this winter. District library services and warehouse staff have worked hard to deliver these materials to elementary sites.

TK

There are 19 Transitional Kindergarten classrooms in WCCUSD. The literacy department has been holding monthly Community of Practice meetings for all TK teachers, with a focus on studying parts of this [resource](#) from the CDE.

Supporting Writing Instruction - PD

Session for Site Leaders and Coaches on 2/13/22. [Amanda Hartman](#), Deputy Director for Primary Literacy will facilitate a half-day PD session (hosted at Fairmont Elementary) for elementary site leaders and coaches on the topic of writing instruction.

Mission Critical Sites

The WCCUSD Literacy Department is continuing our focus of learning walks in the identified focal schools. Last week, the team visited Coronado and partnered with the school team to identify areas of celebration and areas of needed support.

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

Next Week is National School Counseling Week

National School Counseling Week will be celebrated the week of February 6-10. This week of recognition seeks to highlight public attention on the contributions of school counselors in our school communities.

A parcel tax to fund athletics, libraries and school counselors was first approved by voters in West Contra Costa Unified in 2004. District Residents voted to renew the [parcel tax](#) in 2008, 2012, and again in 2015. Recognizing that school counselors are essential to supporting the success of our students, WCCUSD opened several additional counseling positions in 2021-2022 to further reduce counselor caseloads and add additional College & Career counselors at high school.

California Dream Act Applications for Undocumented Students Applying to College

This is a reminder that the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is available for undocumented students who are applying, re-entering or already enrolled in a California college or university. Students are encouraged to complete an application before the March 2nd, 2023 priority deadline.

The California Dream Act allows eligible undocumented students to apply for and receive state-based financial aid, institutional scholarships, and to pay in-state tuition. It also gives students an opportunity to apply for the California [Dream Act Service Incentive Grant Program](#) (DSIG) to perform community or volunteer service and be awarded up to \$4,500 per academic year.

California Dream Act Application

Who can apply for the California Dream Act?

Undocumented Students, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and U-Visa holders must meet the eligibility criteria under Assembly Bill 540 to apply for and receive California state financial aid. The California Dream Act allows students to receive state and institutional grants if

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they meet income guidelines, apply by the priority deadlines and complete all necessary paperwork on-time. This application is unrelated to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

AB 540 California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Please encourage undocumented students to apply as soon as possible, but before the March 2nd priority deadline, for financial aid with the California Dream Act Application.

Virtual Events with Immigrants Rising and CSAC

The March 2 priority deadline for the CA Dream Act application is fast approaching! Join virtual events hosted by Immigrants Rising and the CA Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to get the help you need - whether that's completing your application or learning how to effectively guide your students.

Facebook Live: All About the CA Dream Act

Tuesday, February 7th 12 - 1 p.m.

Get general information and useful tips & resources to successfully submit your application. Tune in on [Facebook](#) @immigrantsrising

Increasing Impact of the CA Dream Act

February 8th 3 - 5 p.m.

Improve outreach and support to ensure undocumented students successfully apply for and receive financial aid.

Register at bit.ly/cadaa-impact

Maximizing Access to the CA Dream Act

February 9th 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Learn institutional practices to help students receive all the financial aid they are eligible for.

Register at bit.ly/ppr-max-cadaa

CA Dream Act Drives

February 23rd, March 1st, March 2nd 4 - 6 p.m.

Get help on your application from educators with specialized expertise in supporting undocumented students.

Register for February 23: bit.ly/cadaa-feb23

Register for March 1: bit.ly/cadaa-mar1

Register for March 2: bit.ly/cadaa-mar2

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

The office of EL Achievement had the pleasure of visiting Washington Elementary School. New Principal Alvarado shared the incredible Spanish Dual Language Instruction in Kindergarten to 6th grade classrooms. It was especially fun visiting, considering it was pajama day!

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The district is also preparing to begin ELPAC summative testing at school sites on February 1st. The ELPAC testing window ends on May 31, 2023. The ELPAC is usually the hardest reclassification criteria for students to meet. An overall score of 4 on the ELPAC is required for students to be eligible for reclassification. Furthermore, to best assure our English Learners receive essential accommodations, our office held the second professional development on Accessibility Resources in the ELPAC on January 31, 2023.



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

We continued our support this week around gender identity policies and inclusive language with another group of CSSs. The meetings have been helpful for CSS staff to understand our legal obligation in regards to transgender students and staff, as well as ways to make campuses safer and more inclusive.

Looking forward a bit, the Office of School Climate is beginning climate walkthroughs for each school site, focused on school-wide and classroom practices that align with a PBIS model. We are also preparing the second professional development session in our series focused on behavior escalation/de-escalation.

We also continue to support schools as they administer the mental health screener, mySAEBRS, to students in grades 3-12. mySAEBRS gives scores that help schools to identify students who may need additional support in the areas of emotional, academic, and/or social behaviors. The screening window is open until February 17.

In addition to mySAEBRS, our Student Board Trustees developed a Student Resource Survey in collaboration with the Office of School Climate and FACE. This survey will be given to students in grades 6-12. The questions are focused on issues of safety, access to resources, and feelings of belonging and fairness. Once the results from the survey are back, we will work to determine next steps and immediate actions that we can take to make our schools more welcoming.

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

King Elementary

On Thursday, January 27, 2023, King Elementary had a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Each grade performed a song and poetry selections to honor the legacy of our namesake. There

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were [two performances](#): 9:00am Kindergarten through Third Grade and 1:45pm Fourth through Sixth Grade.



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

Expanded Learning Program - Kasey Blackburn-Jiron

The Expanded Learning Office worked with the 4 student trustees to launch All Student Congress (ASC) on Thursday, January 19th. All Student Congress representatives from 10 sites had the opportunity to meet one another, build community, and provide feedback on the Superintendent's Vision and Mission. Student representatives expressed a desire to use the upcoming meetings to increase their own leadership skills and create opportunities for peer consultancies to address issues they are facing at their sites.

On Monday, January 30th, a subgroup of the ASC met with Tracy Logan, Chief Technology Officer, to provide feedback on the District's Technology Plan. They surfaced issues including the purpose of technology in education/learning, explored how technology can support the indicators in the graduate profiles, and how technology supported/imposed learning.

All Student Congress will be meeting next on February 16th.

Expanded Learning Contracts

The Expanded Learning Office has a number of contracts on the Board Agenda for February 15th. These contracts are funded through Expanded Learning Opportunities Programs (ELO-P) and earmarked for supporting after school and intersession programming. A number of the contacts

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are to support bringing in specialty enrichment providers into after school programs and academic intervention programs. We are also going to use ELO-P funds to launch a full day spring break camp at Bayview, Coronado, King, Lincoln, Nystrom, and Peres. These programs will provide small group academic intervention in the morning and enrichment in the afternoons. These ELO-P funds need to be expended by the District by June 30, 2023.