

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

**Friday Memo**  
**March 17, 2023**

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

March 17: Middle Schools Only Minimum Day

March 17: St.Patrick’s Day

March 27: CBOC Meeting - FOC Building, 6-8pm

**Next Board of Education Meeting April 12, 2023– Kenneth Chris Hurst Sr., Ed.D.**

**HR Department - Sylvia Greenwood - Interim Associate Superintendent of HR**

Human Resources is hosting a job fair Saturday, March 25, 2023.

Please see the attached flier for more information.

[March Workshop](#)

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

**March is Disability Awareness Month - <https://nacdd.org/ddam1/>**

Honoring one of our Trailblazers and Advocates for Disability Rights with a Bay Area Connection

**RIP Judy Heumann who died on Saturday , March 4, 2023 @ the age of 75**

**Judy Heumann | Advocate For Rights Of Disabled People | judith heumann**

- Known as “The mother of the Disability Rights Movement”

Judy Heumann became an internationally recognized leader for her instrumental work pushing for historic legislation, including IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) , The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act.

She was a founding member of the Berkeley Center for Independent Living. It was the 1st grassroots center in 1975. She served on the Board for 5 years. She also launched the Independent Living Movement, which advocated for people with disabilities to be able to have access to resources and services to allow them to live in their communities. She was appointed and worked in the President Clinton Administration. President Obama appointed Judy to serve as the 1st Special Advisor on International disability for the state department.

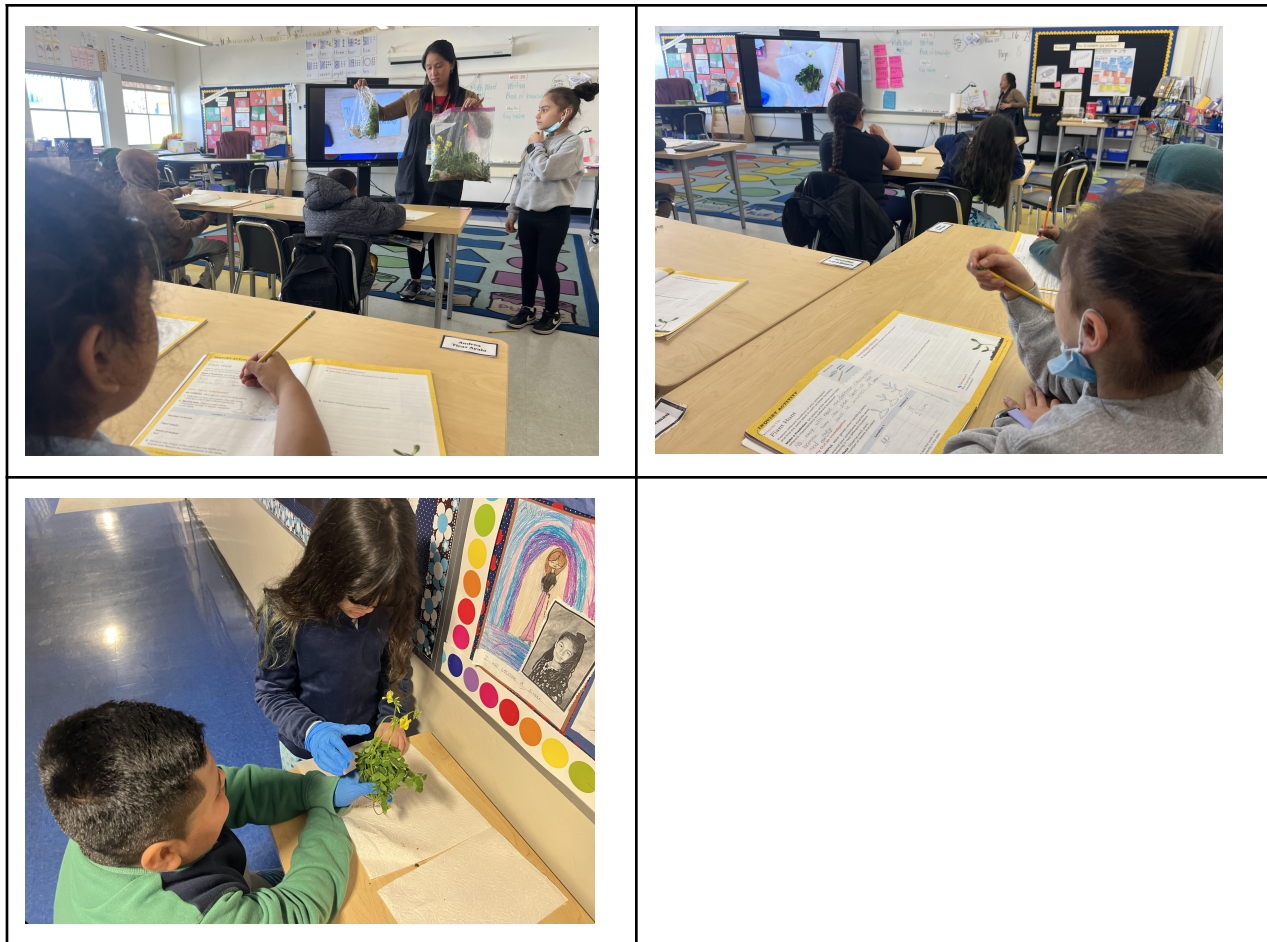
**[Excerpt from the Huffington Post](#)**



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

**K-5 Science Curriculum Adoption (John Iwawaki & team)**

A team of teachers from across WCCUSD is currently piloting instructional materials for science in grades K-5 from two publishers, with the intent to adopt for the coming fall. We've assembled a diverse team of teachers, including a span of grade levels, years of experience, and wide geographic representation. Our process is based on the [NGSS Toolkit for Instructional Materials Evaluation](#). Following a review of several programs, teachers now have physical and digital resources in hand to pilot in classrooms with students. Criteria for evaluation include standards-alignment, phenomena-based instruction, teacher support, assessment, accessibility for SPED and EL, and an [anti-bias review](#). We're looking forward to reaching consensus on a modern and engaging, NGSS-aligned curriculum to present to the Board for approval later this spring.



**Family Math Night Resources (Mark Lobaco & Team)**

The Math team has developed this [document](#) to support schools in designing Family Math Nights for elementary and K-8 schools. Resources include pre-planning ideas, parent communication/information, and suggested activities.

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

**Mission Critical Seven**

Learning Walks continue with the Literacy Team! We partnered with Kennedy High School to further understand the needs of secondary students. Led by Ms. Summerlin, our team visited the English block and discussed norms engagement strategies and discussion protocols as a vehicle to bolster rigor for students.

**Elementary Literacy Coach Community of Practice**

On March 14, 2023, elementary literacy coaches from across the district met to collaborate around supporting literacy instruction at their sites. The coaches made powerful connections with one another and are looking forward to continued collaboration. Additional meetings are scheduled for April and May.

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

**El Cerrito High Gaucho Dance Company to Perform at State Capitol**

As part of the Stand Up 4 Arts event, an arts education advocacy day at the State Capitol in Sacramento, the Dance Captains from El Cerrito High School's Gaucho Dance Company will be performing at this unique event and attending the Press Conference. More about the event below:

Stand Up 4 Arts Education Celebrates Creativity and Showcases Students in Annual Arts Advocacy Day outside the State Capitol Building

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

**8:00 AM–1:00 PM:** Performances 8AM to noon; Press Conference Noon–1PM

**California State Capitol Grounds**, N–L Streets, 12th–14th Streets, Sacramento

**Free** and open to the public

Advocacy for the arts is all about voice, presence, resources, training, and collaboration, and the annual Stand Up 4 Arts Education day at the State Capitol shows us how important all of those factors are in learners' lives. Join leaders of the four California Arts Education Organizations (California Arts Education Association, California Dance Education Association, California Music Education Association, California Educational Theatre Association) and student artists from all over the state as they collectively express, advocate for, and celebrate the arts.

Drop-by anytime from 8am to 1pm to enjoy diverse works presented by student artists from kindergarten to college, from LA to Grass Valley, whose lives have been transformed by the power and presence of the arts. Listen, watch, meet, and mingle with emerging and seasoned arts educators, special guests, and our elected representatives who support the visual and performing arts in California.

**8:00 AM** Opening ceremonies and Drop-In Performances and Presentations;

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

- Visits of elected representatives.
- 12:00 PM** Press Conference with keynote by Austin Beutner (chief backer of Prop 28, *Arts Funding for California*, former Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent and former first deputy mayor of Los Angeles) and CAEA, CDEA, CMEA, & CETA Presidents and student representatives.
- 1:00 PM** Wrap Up

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

On Thursday, March 16th all teachers and site leaders were invited to participate in an Ellevation training on how to complete English Learner (ELL) and Reclassified English Fluent Proficient (RFEP) monitoring forms and how to better document and communicate support for English Learners in the classroom within our district systems.

On Wednesday, March 15th Lincoln Elementary partnered with the department of EL Achievement for the second site professional development around enhancing Academic Conversations for English and multilingual learners. We're always excited about joining the Lincoln Lion's and continuing our collaboration.

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

OAASA's Youth Summit is rapidly approaching! It will be held on Saturday, March 25th from 1-7pm at DeJean Middle School. The Summit's theme is Revolutionary Change and aims to promote student leadership and voice. The event will include food, guest speakers, a raffle, and a student panel discussion. Breakout sessions will include mental well-being in teenagers, attending college, how to keep a confident mindset, and forming and running Black Student Unions. The event will end with a dance. All WCCUSD youth are encouraged to attend!

The Transfer Office continues to review transfer applications. Over 1000 intradistrict and over 800 interdistrict transfers were received. Our two staff members are working diligently to process and complete the applications. Families will be notified in May and do not need to contact the office at this time.

The Attendance Office is meeting with the County this week to discuss differentiated assistance. They will be exploring options to increase attendance and reduce absenteeism. If there is a student or students at a school who is experiencing chronic absenteeism, you may refer that student and family to the Counseling Options and Parenting Education program (COPE). In order to refer the students, the family must have received at least 2 letters from A2A and the conference must be closed. In order to refer, the school should fill out the Central Counseling Referral form and indicate that attendance is the referring concern.



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

The Student Bus Pass program still has space left for this school year. Currently 1700 students are enrolled in the program. There are 800 spots available. If a student would benefit from this program, please sign them up through PowerSchool.

MySAEBRS is now closed. Schools will receive their final data this week. PD will be provided for teachers to understand how to find their data and strategies they can implement in their classrooms. The California Healthy Kids Survey is just around the corner! Information will go out to schools in the next few days, including links, parental consent, and the timeline.

Over the next few weeks, a TFI survey will be completed for all schools. As part of a grant, three climate coaches will join our team. We will share the TFI data we collect to help the coaches understand climate and safety needs and where they can best provide direct support to schools.

Our social workers continue to process counseling referral requests. At this time students with the most need will be prioritized as caseloads are full. The team is working on systems to create groups for other students in need of services. Social workers are available to schedule consults via email as necessary:

Monee Bailey - [monee.bailey@wccusd.net](mailto:monee.bailey@wccusd.net)

Breanna Donaldson - [breanna.donaldson@wccusd.net](mailto:breanna.donaldson@wccusd.net)

Raysean Ford - [raysean.ford@wccusd.net](mailto:raysean.ford@wccusd.net)

Jacque King - [jacquelynn.king@wccusd.net](mailto:jacquelynn.king@wccusd.net)

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

More than 50 Kennedy high school Students were honored at their Principals top 10 Luncheon on Friday, March 10 for maintaining a Cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or above.

JFK Administrators set a goal to honor ten students from each grade level who maintained a 4.0 and above (Seniors), a 3.9 GPA and above (Juniors), and a 3.75 GPA and above (Underclassroom). This year, 58 students were Recognized.

During the luncheon, students and their families had lunch and casual conversations with the principal and guests in an informal setting. Students also received encouraging words from district and Community leaders, including Superintendent Chris Hurst, Board Clerk Jamila Smith-Folds, Board Trustee Othree Christian, Richmond Council Member Gayle McLaughlin, and Pastor Dale Weatherspoon of Easter Hill Methodist Church in Richmond.

