

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

**Weekly Memo**  
**March 24, 2023**

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

March 25: WCCUSD Job Fair, DeJean Middle School, 9:00am-12:00pm

March 27: CBOC Meeting, FOC Building, 6:00pm-8:00pm

March 29: Middle and High School Minimum Day

March 31: No School - Reserved Day 2

April 3-7: Spring Break No School

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

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

**Betty Reid Soskin Middle School celebrates: “Higher Education Thursdays”**

At the last AP/VP Meeting on March 16th, administrators happily participated in Betty Reid Soskin’s “Higher Education Thursdays” where faculty and staff wear their gear to reflect education beyond K-12. Pictured here is the Executive Director of Secondary Schools, Summer Sigler, along with Math Coordinator, Mark Lobaco and several APs from Elementary and Secondary representing their Colleges to support College & Career awareness.



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

**Teachers College Reading & Writing Project**

On March 16, 2023, TK, K, 1, and 2nd Grade Gen Ed and MMSN teachers were invited to attend [professional development](#) on the new Units of Study in Reading units that were published this winter. The session was facilitated by Amanda Hartman, Deputy Director for Primary Literacy, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Teacher feedback was very positive!

**TK Expansion is underway!**

WCCUSD is expanding TK classrooms at 10 additional elementary sites for 2023-24. This will provide our communities services and prepare students for the rigors of K-12 education. Here are the sites participating:

- Fairmont
- Kensington
- King
- Lincoln
- Montalvin
- Murphy
- Ohlone
- Riverside
- Verde
- Washington

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

Congressman John Garamendi, representing the 8th District, visited Kennedy High School in Richmond on Wednesday March 15 to show his support for the school's work to offer students high quality career and technical education pathways. The Congressman surprised those in attendance by presenting a check to the Construction Trades Workforce Initiative (CTWI)—the nonprofit partner of local Building Trades Councils in the Northern/East Bay Area Region. CTWI has been partnering with WCCUSD staff to support the work to strengthen the Building and Construction Trades and Welding Pathways.

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Specifically, these funds will be used to create a new Multi-Craft Core Curriculum Apprenticeship Readiness Program to prepare students to work in skilled building trades and place them directly with high-wage jobs. Participants in this program will graduate with industry-standard certifications and requirements including MC3 certification, OSHA 10, and First Aid training.

The Congressman shared that he is proud to have secured this funding through his work in Congress, and that he looks forward to seeing all the good it does for the community. He highlighted that this is an example of a program that will uplift our communities and fulfill a critical need for skilled building labor in a region with the lowest housing availability.

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

¡Lectores adelante! In the past two months, supported by the EL Achievement Department, teachers at Grant, Chavez and Dover elementary have collectively engaged in over 30 hours of intensive professional learning focused on supporting multilingual students acquiring early literacy skills. They analyzed videos of their students reading through a language and literacy lens, practiced methods for scaffolding texts to support language acquisition, and explored how to build on student strengths to bolster areas of need. Observing each other trying out new techniques and collectively supporting students through focused data collection and formative assessment, teachers and students grew their skills together. ¡Sí se puede!

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

There is lots going on for OAASA in the next few weeks! First up is the Black Youth Summit this Saturday, March 25. Food will be served from 12-1pm, with the Summit kicking off with opening ceremonies and a message from the Superintendent at 1pm. We are excited to welcome our youth and to hear from them about their experiences in our schools. Come out and support our youth!

Over Spring Break, OAASA will be taking 36 WCCUSD students on an HBCU tour in Washington DC and Virginia. They will visit 10 colleges and have some time touring Washington DC. This is the first time this type of tour has ever happened in WCCUSD. We wish our students and their chaperones a safe and exciting trip!

The Transfer Office continues to process applications. Interdistrict transfer approvals and denials are going out to families now. Intradistrict transfers continue to be processed. Families will be notified about those transfers in May.

The Attendance Office is sending midyear reports to sites. The chronic absentee rate across the district continues to be high. Strategies will be implemented in the next few weeks to help with attendance the last couple months of the school year. We ask that sites keep up with A2A, continue to reach out to families, and contact the Attendance Office for support if necessary.

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.

Our Social Workers have started new groups this week based on data collected from screeners and information from sites. More groups will begin after Spring Break. Teachers can access SEL curriculum resources to support students with things like anxiety and belonging. Please reach out if you need help determining which resources would best serve specific groups of students.

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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.