



November 7, 2025 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

November 10: No School
November 11: Veterans Day Holiday, No School
November 12: Joint Board / CBOC meeting, 6:30 pm, Lake Elementary School
November 12: Fiscal Stabilization Planning Meetings: From Goals to Actions, 6:30 pm., Helms Middle School
November 13: DLCAP Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, [Virtual](#)
November 14: Lupine Hills Ruby Bridges Walk to School, 8:00 am, Woodfield Park
November 14: Governance Committee Meeting. 9:00 am., DAHS-Library & [Virtual](#)
November 17: All Student Congress, 6:00 pm., DeJean Middle School
November 17: Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Meeting, 6:15 pm., FOC
November 18: African American Site Advisory Team Meeting, 6:00 pm., [Virtual](#)
November 19: WCCUSD Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 public session, DeJean Middle School
November 20: All Student Congress Student Voice & Agency Workshops, 9:00 am., San Pablo Community Center
November 20: Fiscal Stabilization Planning Meetings: From Goals to Actions, 6:30 pm., ECHS
November 21: 6th Annual African American Symposium, 10:00 am., CCC

Superintendent Update

As you know, there is no school on Monday and Tuesday next week, November 10th and 11th, as we pause to honor Veterans Day and express our deepest gratitude to all who have served our country in uniform. Their courage, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment to protecting our freedoms continue to inspire us and remind us of the values that bind us together as a community.

Here in West Contra Costa and Richmond in particular, Veterans Day holds extra special meaning. Our city played an essential role during World War II, becoming a national symbol of strength, unity, and shared purpose. Tens of thousands of people migrated to Richmond to support the war effort, including my own grandparents and parents. Their legacy, working in the shipyards, serving as union dock workers, and contributing to the home-front production, remains woven into the fabric of our community, reminding us that even in challenging times, we are at our best when we come together in service of something greater than ourselves.

As a school district, we are proud to carry forward that legacy of resilience, community, and shared responsibility. As we honor our veterans, including those within our WCCUSD family, we recommit ourselves to supporting the students and families who represent the future of this remarkable community.

We thank all veterans for their service, sacrifice, and enduring commitment to our nation. Happy Veterans Day!

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment TK-12 STEM- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus & Team **Our Math Curriculum Implementation Journey Continues!**

After a highly attended training season for teachers and administrators for Eureka Math Squared

(elementary) and Amplify Desmos Math (secondary), the professional learning and support continues.

- [Math Teacher Leads](#) at each elementary school site are helping site admin lead Wednesday Math Collaboration working with teachers on module and lesson planning, while also supporting individual teachers and grade-level teams on an ongoing basis.
- Site administrators will be discussing, learning, and collaborating with colleagues at monthly principals' meetings to discuss implementation data from their on-going math class observations.
- Additional professional learning will continue to be provided by both the district Math Department as well as webinars from publishers, providing time and space for educators to continue their learning journey with their district colleagues. Our October PDs included: Oct 6-Amplify Desmos Math, Oct 13-Eureka Math Squared, Oct 16-Great Minds webinar, Oct 30-Math Teacher Leads

Our [Implementation Playbook](#) helps center the work of the school year and includes district goals, implementation look-fors, and instructional priorities.



Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Early Learning/TK-12 Literacy/Humanities- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Sonja L. Bell & Team)



Reading Teacher Leads (RTL) Launch

Last week, approximately 30 teachers participated in the inaugural session of WCCUSD's Reading Teacher Leads (RTLs) initiative, designed to strengthen instructional leadership and improve literacy outcomes across schools! In collaboration with the Contra Costa County Office of Education's English

Language Arts (ELA) team, K–2 teachers engaged in a soft launch session focused on evidence-based practices in reading instruction, foundational literacy skills, and effective early intervention.



This partnership includes Project ARISE, a county-led professional learning initiative that provides research-based strategies, coaching, and collaborative structures to drive sustainable literacy improvement. RTLs will support the implementation of the mCLASS Reading Screener, Tier 1 instruction and intervention, and data-informed decision-making to improve student outcomes. Through ongoing professional learning communities, participants will deepen instructional expertise, strengthen collective capacity, and build leadership to advance equitable literacy achievement across WCCUSD. Our next meeting is scheduled for December.



[mCLASS Parent Informational Video](#)

Ana Torres from mCLASS delivered a dynamic and engaging presentation for our WCCUSD K–2 families, UNDERSTANDING MCLASS DIBELS AND LECTURA, focusing on how to read and interpret student data from the mCLASS DIBELS and Lectura assessments administered during the first screening window in August.

During the session, families learned how these assessments identify key early literacy skills and how teachers use the results to guide instruction and provide targeted support for every child. Ana walked families through sample reports, demonstrated how to track progress, and shared tips for supporting reading development at home.

This presentation is part of WCCUSD’s ongoing effort to strengthen family-school partnerships and ensure that parents have the tools and understanding needed to support their children’s literacy growth.

TK-12 Schools - Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus (Jawan Eldridge & Jose De Leon)

Three West Contra Costa County Schools Named to 2025 California Honor Roll

Congratulations to Ohlone Elementary (Hercules), West County Mandarin School (Pinole), and Middle College High School (on the Contra Costa College campus) for being named to the 2025 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) California Honor Roll!

These schools earned this distinction for raising student achievement and narrowing learning gaps, joining 1,834 schools and 158 districts statewide—about 21% of California’s public schools—recognized by ERP this year.

The California Honor Roll celebrates schools demonstrating sustained, equitable academic growth for all students, based on 2023–2025 Smarter Balanced assessment data.

Congratulations to all the students, educators, and families who made this achievement possible!



Joint Board of Education & Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - Melissa Payne

We welcome you to join us at the upcoming Joint Board of Education and Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee meeting on November 12, 2025, starting at 6:30 pm at Lake Elementary School. The meeting will begin with a tour of the new facilities, which opened on Tuesday, November 4th. The tour will include the new Multi-Purpose Building, kitchen, play yard, and play structure for students in 1st through 6th grade, as well as the Kindergarten wing, which opened on the first day of school. Refreshments will be provided by our amazing Nutrition Services staff, which is sponsored by a local Richmond contractor and the project Design Build Entity, Alten Construction. All are welcome to join!



**LAKE
ELEMENTARY**

Is hosting a Joint
**Board of Education and
Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee
Meeting**

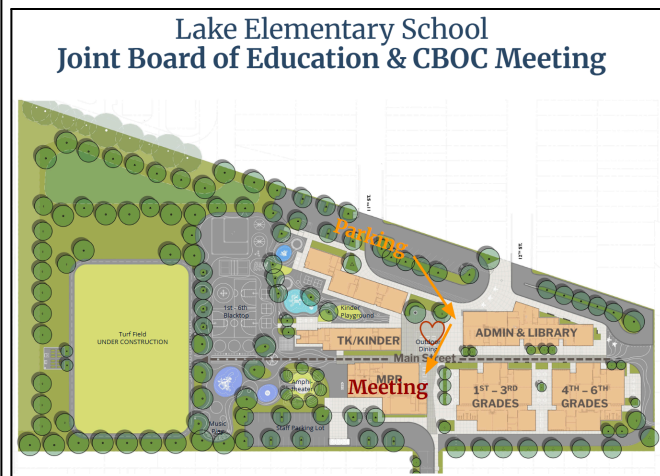
Tour the newly opened facilities

- Cafeteria
- Kindergarten Classrooms
- Kindergarten Playground
- 1st - 6th grade blacktop and play structures

Refreshments available from 6:00 to 6:30

NOVEMBER 12TH @ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Lake Elementary School
2700 11th St. San Pablo



Opening New Facilities and Spaces at Lake Elementary School - Melissa Payne (Ellen Mejia-Hooper)

At Lake Elementary School, new facilities and learning spaces opened this week. On Tuesday, November 4th, the new Multi-Purpose building, which includes the cafeteria and kitchen, as well as playgrounds for students in grades 1 through 6, opened for use by students and staff. The new facilities also include a staff parking lot and a kitchen service area located off Manchester Avenue. The final scope of work includes the field and walking track, which is anticipated to be completed before the end of the calendar year.



Community Update: Electrical Upgrade & Permanent Power Restoration at El Cerrito High School - Melissa Payne (Ellen Mejia-Hooper)

We would like to provide you with a comprehensive update on the ongoing electrical system assessments and repairs at El Cerrito High School. We would also like to extend our appreciation to everyone for their patience and understanding as we navigated through this unforeseen emergency condition.

What Prompted the Repairs

There was a failure in the main electrical system (bus duct and main bus cabinet), which caused the electrical bussing to arc and damage the electrical components and cabinet.

Work Completed to Date

We are pleased to report significant progress in our repair efforts:

- ✓ Emergency Panel Replacements: All critical electrical panels have been replaced with modern, code-compliant equipment.
- ✓ Restore Permanent Power: All systems have been tested and inspected. PG&E has restored permanent power to the campus. The electrical contractor has verified all systems are functioning properly and all systems are back on permanent power.
- ✓ Restore Photovoltaic “Solar” Power: Solar systems have been inspected and all solar systems in use prior to the electrical failure have been re-energized.
- ✓ Demobilize Construction: Generators and temp fencing have been removed from the site and the site has been restored to its original conditions.

Current Status

The project is substantially complete. All safety-critical repairs have been addressed, allowing us to maintain normal school operations. Permanent power and solar power have been re-energized. The remaining work involves:

- Secondary enclosure to help protect the main bus duct connection
- Close out documentation and warranty from the electrical contractor
- Installation of surge protection systems campus-wide
- Documentation and training for maintenance staff

Project Timeline

- March 18, 2025: Electrical Failure at Main Electrical System
- March 19, 2025: The campus was closed to facilitate the installation of temporary power and to obtain inspections and approvals from relevant agencies.
- March 19, 2025: Generators were installed, and the Campus was re-energized utilizing generator power
- March 20, 2025: The campus was open, and school resumed.
- June 18, 2025: The electrical contractor completed their system investigations, all relevant agencies approved the new electrical equipment, and the equipment was ordered.
- October 11, 2025: The new electrical equipment was delivered to the campus.
- October 11, 2025, through October 12, 2025: Temporary power to the campus was shut down. The electrical contractor removed the existing electrical main switchboard and installed the new main switchboard. The new electrical equipment was tested, and temporary power utilizing the generators was restored to the campus. This effort took extensive coordination and over 400 man-hours in a 36-hour period.
- October 13, 2025: PG&E inspected the new switchgear and installed their meter.
- October 26, 2025: Temporary power to the campus was removed. The electrical contractor removed the temporary power cabling and prepared the new switchboard for permanent power.
- October 26, 2025, through October 27, 2025: PG&E installed their electrical cabling and made final connections from their transformer to the new electrical switchgear. Permanent power was re-energized by PG&E at 2:00 AM on October 27, 2025
- October 27, 2025: The electrical contractor restored permanent power to the campus and verified all electrical systems were functioning properly.

- October 29, 2025: The photovoltaic “solar” contractor inspected and re-energized the solar systems that were in use prior to the electrical failure.

Budget Information:

The electrical repair project was funded through our district's maintenance reserve fund. The project's financial reconciliation and reporting will be provided upon completion.

Next Steps

- Upon completion of this project, we will conduct a comprehensive review of other facilities to develop a prioritized maintenance schedule.
- Submit an insurance claim
- Provide a final report on the project

Monthly Suite of Bond Program Project Newsletters & Financial Reports as of October 31, 2025:

 **2025.11.12. Bond Financial Reports October - 2025.10.31.pdf**

 **Smore Nov 2025 RHS Modernization Project.pdf**

 **Smore Nov 2025 Stege Rebuild Project.pdf**

 **Smore Nov 2025 KHS Modernization Project.pdf**

 **Smore Nov 2025 Lake Rebuild Project.pdf**

 **Smore Nov 2025 Shannon MPR.pdf**

College & Career (CTE & College Readiness/DE) - Summer Sigler (Jessica Petrilli & Team) **Manufacturing Day 2025**

Over 60 students from Pinole Valley High School (Engineering Pathway), Richmond High School (Engineering Pathway), and Kennedy High School (Construction and Trades Pathway) participated in this year’s Manufacturing Day, held in collaboration with the West Contra Costa Unified School District, Contra Costa County Office of Education, and Contra Costa College.

Students engaged in hands-on learning experiences and industry tours highlighting career opportunities in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and industrial technology:

- **Viridi Parente (Richmond)** – Pinole Valley High School students toured the electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility, learning about zero-emission technology and sustainable innovation.
- **Martinez Refinery (Martinez)** – Kennedy High School students explored large-scale industrial operations and learned about pathways into construction trades, engineering, and refinery careers.
- **EUV Tech (Martinez)** – Richmond High School students visited a precision semiconductor equipment manufacturer, gaining insights into optics, nanotechnology, and advanced engineering.

The day concluded with a campus tour at Contra Costa College, where students explored postsecondary programs and certifications that align with regional industry needs and CTE pathways.



Family & Community Engagement (FACE)- Summer Sigler (Martine Blake & Team)



Food Support for Our Families

With the potential suspension of SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown, WCCUSD Community Schools are stepping up to help. Many of our school sites host food banks to support students and their families, and some extend support to the wider community.

Also, as part of this collective effort, Pinole Valley High School is hosting a Food Drive through November 19, 2025, bringing the community together to provide care packages and essential food support for students and their families.

Contact your school directly for details and access to this vital resource.

Together, we are WCCUSD — WE ARE ONE:



Schools offering food banks

Community Schools based food banks

Bayview Elementary School, 3001 16th St, San Pablo, CA 94806, info (510) 231-1401, Fridays AM

Coronado Elementary School, 2100 Maine Ave, Richmond, CA 94804, info (510) 231-1419, Wednesdays & Fridays

De Anza High School, 5000 Valley View Rd, Richmond, CA 94803, info (510) 231-1440

DeJean Middle School, 3400 Macdonald Ave, Richmond, CA 94805, info (510) 231-1430, Wednesdays

E.M. Downer Elementary School, 1231 18th St, San Pablo, CA 94806, info (510) 231-1435, Mondays & Wednesdays @ 11:00 AM

Grant Elementary School, 2400 Downer Ave, Richmond, CA 94804, info (510) 231-1422, Tuesdays (after-school participants)

Greenwood Academy, 831 Chanslor Ave, Richmond, CA 94801, info (510) 231-1402, As Needed

King Elementary School, 4022 Florida Ave, Richmond, CA 94804, info (510) 231-1403, As Needed and on Thursdays with Family Advocate Sasha

Lake Elementary School, 2700 11th St, San Pablo, CA 94806, info (510) 231-1451, Thursdays starting at 8:00 AM.

	Montalvin Manor School, 300 Christine Dr, San Pablo, CA 94806, info (510) 691-6891, Tuesdays @ 10:30 AM Peres K-8 School, 719 5th St, Richmond, CA 94801, info (510) 231-1407, Wednesdays Richmond High School, 1250 23rd St, Richmond, CA 94804, info (510) 231-1450, Fridays 3:00–4:00 PM (Room 506) Verde Elementary School, 2000 Giaramita St, Richmond, CA 94801, info (510) 231-1408, Mondays & Wednesdays @ 9:30 AM
Food Drives 💡	Pinole Valley High School , 2900 Pinole Valley Rd, Pinole, CA 94564, info (510) 231-1442 contact Ms. Lamons
Community based resources SOS	Richmond Emergency Food Pantry, http://www.refp.org/food.html Urban Tilth, https://urbantilth.org/heal/farm-stands/ Bay Area Rescue Mission, https://www.bayarearescue.org/ Contra Costa Crisis Center, https://www.crisis-center.org/ Richmond Area Mutual Aid, https://www.wegotusrichmond.org/ Food Bank of CC & Solano, https://www.foodbankccs.org/
CalFresh debit cards 	Participants can pick up debit cards loaded with two weeks of approved benefits at: CCC EHSD, 1305 Macdonald Ave, Richmond, CA 94801 (Must bring ID and EBT card)