January 30, 2026 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events
January 31: WCCUSD Board of Education Retreat, Obama Elementary, 9:00am
February 3: District Budget Engagement Committee Meeting, DeJean, 6:30pm
February 5: Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC), Virtual, 6:00pm
February 9: All Student Congress, DeJean, 6:00pm
February 10:District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Committee Meeting, Virtual, 6:30 pm
February 11: WCCUSD Regular Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 pm.
February 12: WCCUSD Science Fair : Awards Night, DAHS, 6:30 pm
February 16 - 20: Presidents' Week Recess, No School and District Offices Closed

Superintendent Update Cheryl Cotton
This week, the district received concerns from families and community members regarding recent actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We acknowledge these concerns and reaffirm that district protocols are in place should any ICE activity occur on or near our campuses. Families were previously provided with resources, including a brochure with "Know Your Rights" information and local community supports. The District redistributed those resources to families and reminded the community that immigration and support resources are available on our website. Site administrators were also reminded of district protocols and procedures to ensure consistent and appropriate responses. The district will continue to monitor the situation and share additional information as it becomes available.

Information Technology Update- Laurie Wong Roberts

🏰Fortifying the Castle: Major Security Upgrades & Protocols🏰

The Big Change: Transition to Microsoft Security
In February, the district will officially switch to **Microsoft Single Sign-On (SSO)** and **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**. This move is designed to prevent future incidents like the recent "Payroll" attack by leveraging Microsoft's robust, enterprise-level defenses—effectively building "thicker walls and stronger gates" around our digital perimeter.

Critical Action Item: Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
MFA adds a necessary layer of protection, acting like a guard at the gate who checks ID before allowing entry. Even if a password ("the key") is stolen, an attacker cannot access the account without the second factor ("the ID," such as a notification sent via an authenticator app).

- **Deadline:** All staff must set up Microsoft MFA **before the February vacation**.
- **Immediate Step:** Staff are encouraged to download the **Microsoft Authenticator app** now to prepare. Complete instructions will be provided on Monday morning.

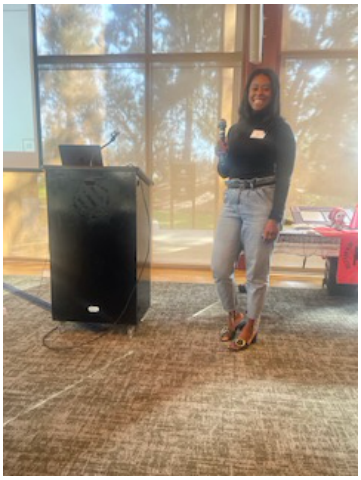
Temporary Measure: Student Communication via Google Classroom

To address security gaps that previously allowed malicious emails to pass between staff and students, we have temporarily adjusted our email policies. As we work to secure these channels, direct email to students has been disrupted. **Teachers are using Google Classroom for all student communication** during this interim period.

The "Digital Locksmith" Protocol
We continue to enforce strict identity verification for password resets. IT can no longer issue temporary passwords via phone or email. Staff locked out of their accounts must visit their Office Manager or Administrator **in person** to have their identity verified before receiving a temporary password.

TK12 Operations - Summer Sigler
Yesterday was the convening for the Regional Technical Assistance for Community Schools. The work that West Contra Costa is doing to create a classroom based community schools framework through the use of the Y Plan framework. As well as our work around uplifting student voice through the action research of our All Student Congress was featured in two distinct sessions. UC Berkeley Professor and Researcher Deb McKoy called this work, “The most significant breaking down of silos in service of student support that I have seen 20 years of leading youth through the Y Plan framework.”

Superintendent Cotton opened the day. Director Martine Blake presented alongside Deb McKoy. And, Tiara Shelton co-presented alongside Crstina Patricio from CSLX. They shared the process they are using to uplift student voice and engage students in action research.



Communications Department - Raechelle Forrest

WCCUSD will host a series of listening sessions to gather community input on the proposed fiscal solvency plan. K-8 principals, along with district leaders, will facilitate site-based chats and virtual sessions for families and staff to create space for dialogue, followed by a districtwide virtual town hall with the superintendent and district leadership. These sessions are intended to hear directly from the WCCUSD community as we continue the redesign process and work toward solutions that reflect both fiscal responsibility, community priorities, and support for student achievement.

Zoom Link to All Virtual Meetings*: https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/98381468408

*Zoom Link to Join Verde K-8 School's Meeting: https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/94496084391

