



January 9, 2026 Friday Memo

Upcoming Events

January 12: All Student Congress Monthly Meeting, 6:00 pm., DeJean Middle School

January 13: District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm., [Virtual](#)

January 14: Community Listening Session: Tentative Agreement Ratification, 6:00 pm., Pinole Middle School

January 15: Community Listening Session: Tentative Agreement Ratification, 6:00 pm., Korematsu

January 15: All Student Congress Student Voice & Agency Workshops, 9:00 am, San Pablo Community Center

January 19: Martin Luther King Holiday, No School and District Office Closed

January 20: African American Site Advisory Team Meeting (AASAT), 6:00 pm, [Virtual](#)

January 21: WCCUSD Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 pm, DeJean Middle School

January 22: Stege Elementary School Groundbreaking Celebration 4:00 pm., Stege Elementary School

January 24: WCC Education Fair & Parents as Partners and Leaders Conference, 10:00am, DeJean Middle School

Superintendent Update

Happy New Year!

As we begin the second half of the school year together, we remain focused on moving forward with purpose, care, and shared responsibility. Our districtwide commitment to **Return, Reconnect, and Redesign** continues to guide this work—returning students to stable, safe, and high-quality learning environments; reconnecting students, staff, and families to the relationships and routines that foster belonging and success; and redesigning our systems and ways of working to strengthen trust, improve communication, and center students in every decision. With transparency and collaboration, we remain steadfast in our focus on student success as we move ahead together as One West Contra Costa.

Facilities Project Updates-Ellen Mejia Hooper

Shannon Dining Room opening on January 20th!

Shannon Elementary School will soon be unveiling its new cafeteria! The dining and stage areas will be open for student use on January 20th. Final completion of the project is planned for this summer.

Lake Elementary School Completion Celebration on January 15th!

Please join us to celebrate the long-awaited completion of Lake Elementary School on Thursday, January 15th at 3pm.

Stege Elementary School Groundbreaking

Ceremony on January 22nd!

We will celebrate the beginning of construction of the new Stege Elementary School campus rebuild with a groundbreaking ceremony on January 22nd. Please join us to acknowledge

Information Technology Update- Laurie Wong Roberts

January 7, 2026 Phishing Incident and Remediation

Overview of the Event

On January 7, 2026, the district was targeted by a sophisticated phishing campaign. The attack utilized an email with the subject line “**2026 PAYROLL COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES,**” which directed users to a malicious external website. While the system initially flagged these emails as spam, several users clicked the link before the emails could be globally purged.

Technical Details and Intent: The primary objective of the attack was to install ScreenConnect, an unauthorized remote-access software, to gain control of district devices.

- **Evasion Tactics:** To remain undetected, the malicious file attempted to run a legitimate Microsoft development tool to mask its activity within standard system processes.
- **Persistence:** The software attempted to establish connections to external internet addresses outside the organization to facilitate data transfer or to execute further commands.

Detection and Response

The **CrowdStrike Falcon** security platform identified the threat at approximately 8:00 PM on January 7. The system immediately engaged by:

- Stopping the malicious processes and quarantining the files to prevent execution.
- Alerting the IT security team, which began coordinating with the Falcon Complete Team for a full analysis.

Impact Assessment

While the phishing campaign reached a broad audience, the actual breach was successfully contained:

- **Execution Rate:** Although 114 host computers downloaded the malicious file, **only 11 executed it**; all 11 of these machines were immediately contained.
- **Network Security:** Investigation confirmed that the virus **did not spread laterally** through the network to other systems.

Remediation Steps Taken

The IT department and security partners have completed the following actions:

1. **Email Removal:** 100% of the phishing emails were successfully purged from all user inboxes.
2. **Access Revocation:** The malicious domains were blocked, and affected users had their **passwords reset and browser cookies cleared** to lock out the attackers.
3. **Device Recovery:** Technicians are currently **reimaging all affected machines** to ensure a clean operating environment.

Conclusion The district’s automated security protocols and rapid response from the IT team prevented a significant data breach. The incident confirms that our current endpoint protection is effective at stopping malicious software execution, even when human error leads to an initial click. Staff education remains a priority to further reduce the likelihood of future interactions with such campaigns.

Communications Updates - Raechelle Forrest

The West Contra Costa Unified School District experienced meaningful growth in social media engagement in December, despite fewer posts due to the work stoppage and winter break schedule. **The District gained 419 new followers**, representing an **11.4% increase overall** on our social media platforms. The community continued to engage over the break, with social media posts receiving a **33% increase in reactions**. The Communications Department looks forward to highlighting more District initiatives and student achievements, and introducing new followers to WCCUSD’s programs, schools, and student-centered work.

In January, the Board and community can expect expanded digital storytelling across the District website and social media platforms, including coverage of school celebrations, Community Listening Sessions, the West Contra Costa Education Fair, and the kick-off to open enrollment and registration for the 2026–27 school year.

News of the Week:

- [El Cerrito High wins first-ever CIF State football title](#) | [Richmond Standard](#)
- [How El Cerrito football emerged from a program in crisis to state champion](#) | [San Francisco Chronicle](#)
- [California Legislature passes bills to counter fed’s immigration policies](#) | [Richmond Confidential](#)
- [Public speaking program at Lincoln Elementary shows kids ‘your voices matter here.’](#) | [Richmond Confidential](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified teachers reach tentative deal, ending 1st strike](#) | [KTVU FOX 2 San Francisco](#)
- [Contra Costa Co.: Wccusd Reaches Tentative Agreement With Teachers' Union](#) | [SFGATE](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified teachers union ratifies contract in vote after strike](#) | [Richmond Standard](#)
- [California Schools That Need Foreign Workers for Teacher Jobs Can’t Afford Trump’s New Visa Fee](#) | [The Independent \(republishing from CalMatters\)](#)
- [Four-day teachers’ strike ends at the West Contra Costa Unified School District](#) | [CBS News](#)
- [West Contra Costa Teachers Agree to End Strike and Return to Class After a Week](#) | [KQED](#)
- [Teachers union returns to bargaining table as West Contra Costa Unified strike continues](#) | [CBS News](#)