



YOUR SOURCE FOR WUSD NEWS

APRIL 2012

WUSD BUDGET OUTLOOK

The District's positive budget certification by the Yolo County Office of Education is a result of prudent fiscal management coupled with ongoing cost savings programs such as the Solar Array Project at River City High School. These measures help to ensure that K-3 class sizes remain at a 20:1 student to teacher ratio—while many school districts across the region are *increasing* class sizes, the WUSD has placed a high priority on maintaining our ideal class sizes for our students.

To ensure continued financial prudence and positive budgeting, the Washington Unified School District is looking ahead at much-needed deferred maintenance and safety improvements at each of the school sites.

Therefore, the District will be meeting with parents and community members over the next few weeks to discuss and prioritize the types of school improvement projects that would continue to ensure that we are providing the best education in modernized and safe facilities. The dates and times of these meetings will be announced at a later date.

For additional information, please contact the District Office at info@wusd.k12.ca.us or (916) 375-7604 x1236.

Board of Education recognizes students' extra-curricular achievements

Students in the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Program at Elkhorn Village Elementary School participated in a MESA Competition at Sacramento State University on March 17th where they proudly took home a total of 12 medals.

Over 700 students, all of whom were winners in their local University MESA Competition went on to compete in the Northern California MESA Day Competition in San Jose on April 7th.

At the April 12th Board of Education meeting, the Board recognized these students for their academic achievement at these competitions:

First Place, Sacramento State Competition, and Third Place Northern California Competition, Wind Energy Challenge: Leslie Garcia, Karla Flores and Jessica Urbina; Second Place, Sacramento State Competition, Model - The Eye: Aleah Alvarez and Jessenia Hernandez; Second Place, Sacramento State Competition, Speak Up: Daniela Delgado; Third Place, Sacramento State Competition, Model - The Eye: Serian Phea and Victoria Reyes; Third Place, Sacramento State Competition, Speak Up: Melissa Gonzalez; and Third Place, Sacramento State Competition, Team Math Quest: Kenia Luna, Alfonso Jimenez, and Miguel Garcia. Coaches for the MESA students: Erik Forsman and Anselmo Marin.

The Board also congratulated and recognized the "Lady Raiders", River City High School's Varsity Girl's Basketball Team, for their successful season this year.



Pictured above: Elkhorn Elementary School MESA competition medal winners and coaches with the Board of Education and Superintendent.

This year's team finished the regular season with a 25-2 record. On February 17th, the team clinched their first league championship. They also qualified for the CIF Northern California Regional playoffs. This has been their best season in school history. Recently, the Sacramento Bee ranked the "Lady Raiders" 6th in the Sacramento metropolitan area, and individual players were named to several post-season honorary teams.

Those recognized were: Jordan Ligons, Amarita Singh, Rayelle Ross, MARRISSA TYLER, Ashley Mayers, Aliyah Brantley, Isabella Gomez, Tori Torres, Dominique Creer, Trenise Lowery, Vinetta Kumar, Kaitelin King, Makaila Robinson, Jasmine Madronio and Carmen Garcia. Coaching the "Lady Raiders": Jamie King (Head Coach), Jerold Ligons, Aaron Duesenberg, and Allen Blackmon (all Assistant Coaches).

Congratulations to all!

DIGITAL SAFETY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

Learn internet risks, safety, responsibility for children

Are you aware of all the risks out there from the internet that are new to our children's generation?

Would you like to learn about Internet media; the impact the Internet has on your child; and how to keep your child safe, smart and responsible on-line? Please join us at 6:30 pm for a FREE Digital Safety Night:

- May 14: Riverbank Elementary School
- May 15: Elkhorn Elementary
- May 16: Westmore Oaks
- May 17: Bridgeway Island



UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

May 1st | Yolo High School
6-7p.m.

May 23rd | Bridgeway Island Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.

May 23rd | Bryte Elementary
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

May 23rd | Elkhorn Village Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.

May 23rd | Riverbank Elementary
6-7:30 p.m.

May 23rd | Southport Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.

May 23rd | Stonegate Elementary
5:30-7 p.m.

May 23rd | Westfield Elementary
5:30-6:30 p.m.

NO SCHOOL

Monday, May 28th | Memorial Day

SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

May 30th | River City High School
6 -7:00 p.m.

GRADUATION DATES

June 6th | Yolo Alternative Ed. Center
7 p.m. – Crest Theatre

June 7th | River City High School
7 p.m.– River City High School Stadium

Stay Connected With WUSD!

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Connections is published by the Washington Unified School District as a service to district staff, parents, community members and partners.

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School Focus: River City High School-Home of the Raiders

River City High school supports approximately 2000 students, with 89 teachers and 30 support staff, all working in concert to provide a strong academic education and positive extracurricular/school climate. The staff is dedicated to improving instruction through the power of direct instruction and student engagement.

Likewise, we have implemented a systematic process to collaboratively review student progress throughout the year in order to determine instructional needs and the best strategic plans to meet our stringent graduation requirements. We celebrate our strengths and work on improving areas of concern.

Our students continue to excel in site coursework and in standardized testing. Last year 300 students earned a

We believe our standardized scores also tell a story of success, increasing API by 41 points over the past two years.

3.0 or better GPA; this year 900 students earned the 3.0 GPA. We believe our standardized scores also tell a story of success, increasing API by 41 points over the past two years. Student achievement continues to improve due to the efforts of our teachers, students, and community, and setting high expectations, quality of instruction, and a positive school climate.

Recently we have changed our graduation requirements helping all students prepare for entering the work world and/or to continue their education. New graduation requirements mirror the college A-G courses, which we call "Career and College Readiness." In addition to our core academic program, River City High School has



Pictured above: 2011-12 Lady Raiders basketball team with Washington Unified Board of Education and Superintendent.

been working hard to provide our students with the necessary and practical skills for students to be successful in the 21st century. To meet needs, new offerings were scheduled in all departments, and we have added courses of high interest as well as courses that meet the needs in a competitive world market.



*River City High School Project Lead
The Way students learn about
engineering and technology.*

New electives include Film and Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism, Forensic Science, Video Production, Web Design, Animation, Robotics, MIDI, Jazz, Marching Band, Technology, Personal Finance, Business Math, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish for native speakers. Also, we have added Project Lead the Way courses, such as Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Principles of Biomedical Sciences, which work in tandem with our Science, math, and Technology Academy for opening career paths for students interested in engineering, medicine, and electronics.

Our school climate supports students and empowers them to be part of the decision making process. We have peer tutors in classroom, a new conflict mediation program, and leadership in many clubs and activities.

This amazing education occurs in a new set of buildings, shared facilities with the city, with a new solar field powering the school. This is the best-kept secret in the Sacramento Region. We are proud to be Raiders.

Quick Connections | News Briefs

RIVER CITY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM COMPETES IN STATE FINALS



The River City Mock Trial team competed as Yolo County Champion in the State Finals tournament in Sacramento and finished with its best season ever with a defense victory over Mono County and a prosecution victory over Madera County. One of their two losses was a razor-close 237-231 loss to Tulare County. River City finished 17th out of 32 schools, their highest state ranking.

This year's Mock Trial Case, *People v. Buschell*, focused on murder and the right to bear arms.