



# The Grapevine

Employee Newsletter of the Windsor Unified School District

**DECEMBER, 2016**

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It seems as if the school year just began, but here we are approaching the completion of the first half of the 2016-2017 school year. In between, however, we all have the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming holidays, spend time with loved ones and hopefully relax and recharge for the second half. Regardless of how you celebrate the season, the HR Department wishes you the happiest of holidays and a very fulfilling New Year!

Most Sincerely,  
The Human Resources Staff

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **December 2016:**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Beginning of Winter Break (for schools)
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Observed Holiday

### **January 2017**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Observed Holiday
- 6<sup>th</sup> – End of Winter Break
- 9<sup>th</sup> – School Resumes
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

### **February 2017**

- 13<sup>th</sup> – Holiday (Lincoln’s Birthday)
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Holiday (Washington’s Birthday)

### **March 2017**

- 20<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of Spring Break (for schools)
- 24<sup>th</sup> – End of Spring Break

## WHAT’S NEW?

### **Congratulations, Melissa!**

As you may know, Melissa Kennedy is retiring, as of December 31, 2016. She has provided expertise and outstanding employee support for over 17 years in the Human Resources Department. Melissa has kept the department running smoothly in times of change is now ready to “enjoy a Saturday schedule, every day”. We will miss her greatly but completely understand and support her plans to enjoy more time for fun and travel.

## **Familiar Faces, New Places!**

As you can imagine, with movement of staff, we have some changes in the Human Resources Department to share with you.

We are pleased to announce Joan Robertson as Personnel Analyst - Confidential. Joan will be concentrating on Certificated Personnel and related compliance, as well as employee benefits and worker’s compensation. Joan has been serving as Personnel Technician III and will continue/expand her service to employees in her new, exciting role.

We are pleased to introduce Heather Lazzarini, our new Personnel Technician III. Heather comes to HR after serving in many capacities within the WUSD, most recently as Student Advisor at Windsor High School. Heather brings a wealth of HR/job placement and payroll experience with her and we are looking forward to having her join the HR team and provide support and guidance to our employees (with an emphasis on Classified Personnel).

## WHO’RE YOU GOING TO CALL?

While your site or department administrators/leaders will be able find answers to all of your questions, the following is a list of District Office contacts for any questions related to Human Resources and Employee Services.

<b>FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT:</b>	<b>CONTACT:</b>
BENEFITS	837-7703/16 – HR
CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL ITEMS	837-7003/7165 – HR
CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL ITEMS	837-7716/7165 - HR
CREDENTIALS	542-2794 – SCOE 837-7703 - HR
DIRECT DEPOSIT	837-7710/11 - Payroll
DRUG FREE WORKPLACE	837-7165 - HR
EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT	837-7702 - AP
HEALTH BENEFITS	837-7703 - HR
NEW TEACHER INDUCTION (aka BTSa)	837-7165 - HR
LEAVES	837-7703/16 - HR
PAYROLL	837-7710/11 - Payroll
STAFF DEVELOPMENT	837-7707 - Ed. Svcs. 837-7165 - HR
SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEES	837-7716 - HR
TITLE IX	837-7165 - HR
UNIFORM COMPLAINTS	837-7165 - HR
VOLUNTARY DEDUCTIONS	837-7710/11 - Payroll
WORKERS COMPENSATION	837-7703 – HR



## **EMPLOYEE WELLNESS NEWS**

We realize that there are some healthy, fun activities that some of our employees are participating in, either independently or as a group, after school.

With intention to further expand wellness-focused opportunities for our employees to take part in, we are asking you to complete a simple survey (attached) and turn it in by January 9, 2017. This will help us get some important information from you and possible names of employees interested in taking part in planning and implementing more activities and opportunities that promote a healthy work-life balance.

As the New Year may find you with a desire to add some healthy habits to your routines, we are proud to be partnering with the Windsor Wellness Partnership, to kick off the **2017 Healthy Weight Challenge**. This special 8-week program is designed to provide you with health and fitness education (beginning with *Know Your Numbers*), opportunities to set goals, motivation to work individually and collaboratively on fun activities, and continued support for meeting new and attainable goals (for you to achieve throughout the year).

The program includes a kick-off event (including a health screening, program orientation, and fun activities), weekly check in meetings (filled with team spirit and health, diet, and exercise tips), and a closing celebration (to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of all participants). Please see the following program schedule for the entire "challenge" (note: all events will be held at Windsor Middle School – 9500 Brooks Rd. S.):

**Saturday, 1/14/17** – 9am-1pm – KICK OFF  
**Thursday, 1/27/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Thursday, 2/2/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Thursday, 2/9/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Thursday, 2/16/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Thursday, 3/2/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Thursday, 3/9/17** – 5:30-7:00pm – Check In  
**Saturday, 3/11/17** – 9:00-11:00am – CLOSING CELEBRATION

Please go to [LindaLiving.com](http://LindaLiving.com) (by 1/9/17) to sign up for the **2017 Healthy Weight Challenge** and to [register for your personal biometric health screening, compliments of California's Valued Trust \(CVT\) and Kaiser Permanente.](#) The health screening will be a big part of our KICK OFF EVENT which happens on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at Windsor Middle School.

CVT recently sent out important announcements to members regarding the following programs and services:

[Kaiser Permanente](#) has announced a new rewards program for members (and their spouses or domestic partners who are 18 and older, and enrolled in the [Kaiser Permanente](#) HMO Plan with Wellness Program). Wellness program rewards are available to all eligible participants. Rewards are between \$25 and \$50 for those who select to have a cancer screening, attend health education classes, become a wellness champion, set up a prenatal appointment, or participate in health education for expectant mothers. Go to [healthworks.kp.org/cvt](http://healthworks.kp.org/cvt) to get started.

For [Anthem Blue Cross](#) members, Anthem ConditionCare is a program that begins on January 1, 2017, for members and their covered dependents and will include support for long-term (chronic) health problems. ConditionCare is a no-cost health and wellness program that provides tools, resources and support to members and their covered dependents with: Asthma (pediatric or adult), Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Coronary artery disease (CAD), Diabetes, types 1 and 2 (pediatric or adult) and heart failure (HF). Additional program details and information about how to join will be provided to members in the coming months.

CVT is also pleased to announce a new preventative health benefit for [Anthem Blue Cross](#) members called Solera4me Lifestyle Change Program, also known as the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). It's a 16-week cutting-edge program that can help members lose weight, adopt healthy habits and significantly reduce their risk of developing diabetes.



## WHO'SE IN THE NEWS?

We are always happy to receive information about the accomplishments of our awesome employees! Here's the latest...

-Congratulations to our new line up of officers representing the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter No. 673)!

**President Elect – Brad Freeland**

**Past President – Frank Rodriguez**

**Vice President – TBA (in January)**

**Chief Union Steward – Connie Martinez**

**Secretary – Rene Rodriguez**

**Interim Treasurer – Shari Jones**

We look forward to having these officers represent the CSEA employees of WUSD.

-The National Association of School Psychologists has recently named Annalise Puentes as School Psychologist of the Year. Annalise has been serving our students in WUSD for the last 4 and a half years and has been providing training, support and mentoring for others throughout the region.

-The Press Democrat announced Stephanie Cuccio as Best Teacher in Sonoma County this past Fall. Stephanie teaches Kindergarten at Cali Calmecac Language Academy and has been serving WUSD students for over 4 years.

-The California League of Middle Schools has also announced Carrie Barnes as the Middle School Teacher of the Year nominee from Region 1. Carrie teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science at Windsor Middle School and has been serving WUSD students for over 16 years.

-The California League of High Schools has recently announced Allison Frenzel as the High School Teacher of the Year nominee from Region 1. Allison teaches English and Theater Arts at Windsor High School and has been serving WUSD students for the last 12 years and is currently leading the District Arts Plan Committee.

-The Somoma County Conservation District (RCD) recently celebrated it's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and awarded Jeremiah Kahmoson the "Excellence in Conservation Education Award". Jeremiah was also recognized earlier this Fall for his outstanding work with students in conserving the Russian River watershed. He was given the "Excellence in Russian River Watershed Education" award by Senator Mike McGuire, a supporter of watershed management. Big Picture Learning @ WOA is proud of Jeremiah and his accomplishments! Jeremiah Kahmoson is a Special Education teacher and Advisor at Big Picture Learning at Windsor Oaks Academy and has been serving WUSD students for over 6 years.

