How Schools Can Survive (and Sometimes Thrive) in Turbulent Times

The past few months I have been doing what I love and that is to learn. I have been learning about change itself and the impact it has on Wilcox High School. We are in the midst of changing the California State Standards, the funding of public schools (Local Control Funding), implementation of Common Core, and going through the WASC, Western Accreditation Commission of Schools, Self-Study process, and engaging in Instructional Rounds. What I have learned is it takes capacity to build capacity. That the multiple and often conflicting demands that accompany change reflect the new “normal” conditions that we have to learn how to manage when we commit our souls to public education, to improving the society in which we live. I believe the Wilcox staff and parent community has the capacity.

One of the books on my shelf; Managing To Change, How Schools Can Survive (and sometimes thrive) in Turbulent Times, by Thomas Hatch, states that developing the capacity to make improvements depends on how organizations deal with changes. He describes four aspects of change; there are no hard and fast rules about what “counts” as change, change is a natural process that is always underway, change cannot be controlled, and change is a multidimensional phenomenon.

On the days that I feel there is much to do and so many scattered ideas on how best to do them, I remind myself that attitude is everything. Maintaining a positive attitude and a believe that whatever comes our way, we do have the knowledge base and the skill set to figure it out. We are problem solvers that are passionate about all of our youth. I believe in people and that they have potential, they can learn new ways to do things, and are willing to do them if it helps our students. I also believe that when we are learners we project that and act as role models for our youth.

Our staff has been learning about the Common Core. How is it different? What is required from teachers? What impact will it have on teaching strategies? What impact will it have on student performance? How will it be assessed? How will we support each other in the process? How will we manage change itself?

When we focus our attention on work that provides a clear sense of priorities but also takes into account who will do the work and what support they will need to do it, then we are in a better position to manage the change. According to Hatch the triangle of school improvement to manage change should include developing shared understanding, create a productive work environment, and choosing the right person or persons with the skill sets to do the work. We are currently creating a
structure to build shared understanding around the Common Core. For example we did some reading about the purpose of text-dependent questions and how it can support a constructed response. A representative from each department shared how they teach text-dependent questioning in their content area. This helps us find or identify staff members whose skills and interests fit a particular focus for Common Core implementation. Teachers are involved in large group and small group structures so that we are able to organize the work environment in a way that staff members can get the resources and develop and share the expertise they need. We meet once a month in each of the following groups; as a whole group, department groups, and as cross discipline small groups. Each small group is required to present what expertise they have to offer at least twice per the school year to the whole staff.

Our school environment is like an ecosystem in that there are many different people and ideas trying to coexist, and would we want it any other way? I think a healthy system is one that has diversity in ethnicity, in ideas, in skill sets and in designs. However not each entity can operate independently, they must coexist. That means we have to listen to each other and learn from each other and learn how to coexist in a way that our ecosystem stays healthy. This includes our parents, our teachers, our students, our classified staff, and our district staff. Our capacity for change is present. We are excited to move forward and learn new ways to teach our youth.

~ Bonnie Billings, Principal

The Counseling Office likes to let parents know how the students are doing in school. A quick look at overall GPA’s after the 1st semester. Almost 400 students had a 4.0 GPA or above, and another over 600 students had above a 3.0 GPA.

This is a total of 1036 students on the Honor Roll!

Great job Students! ~ Mr. LeFleur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9th Graders</th>
<th>10th Graders</th>
<th>11th Graders</th>
<th>12th Graders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91 Students with a 4.0 or better</td>
<td>90 Students with a 4.0 or better</td>
<td>97 Students with a 4.0 or better</td>
<td>116 Students with a 4.0 or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>184 Students with a 3.0 or better</td>
<td>144 Students with a 3.0 or better</td>
<td>133 Students with a 3.0 or better</td>
<td>181 Students with a 3.0 or better</td>
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Student of the Month September, 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beadell, B.</td>
<td>Kayleigh McGee &amp; Vahleeshta Mehrshahi</td>
<td>Imai, M.</td>
<td>Sarah Gentle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown, D.</td>
<td>Sierra Boyanich</td>
<td>Larson, P.</td>
<td>Tina Tieu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courey, C.</td>
<td>Michael Stephenson</td>
<td>Library Staff</td>
<td>Lenus Chow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cummings, C.</td>
<td>Walter Silveria</td>
<td>Magagna, A.</td>
<td>Kenny Blow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Currie, D.</td>
<td>Amelia Langshaw</td>
<td>Niczewicz, G.</td>
<td>Luz Figueroa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Luca, G.</td>
<td>Andrew Lieberman</td>
<td>Piscitelli, B.</td>
<td>Julia Hong, Kendra Rodriguez, Samantha Gonzalez, Victor Chien, Duc Chi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dow, K.</td>
<td>Joseta Fatuesi</td>
<td>Nguyen</td>
<td>Ritika Shauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estioko, P.</td>
<td>Alison Rodriguez</td>
<td>Slate, M.</td>
<td>Abby Wheaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, G.</td>
<td>Andrew Rempel</td>
<td>Staroselsky, Y.</td>
<td>Jeremiah Strickland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haughney, B.</td>
<td>Zack Schaffino</td>
<td>Vernaelp, P.</td>
<td>Galilee Ibssa</td>
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### Student of the Month October, 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beadell, B.</td>
<td>Ivan Mendez</td>
<td>Library Staff</td>
<td>Leticia Chow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botello, E.</td>
<td>Marisa Whitmore</td>
<td>Magagna, A.</td>
<td>Isaac Aguilar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duffy, T.</td>
<td>Yessenia Meza</td>
<td>Piscitelli, B.</td>
<td>Andrew Rauschuber, Amelia Wheaton,</td>
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<td>Grace Chua, Samantha Gonzalez,</td>
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<td>Antonio Chairez, Erick Akbari, Nancy</td>
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<td>Burkhert, Taylor Vera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flores, J.</td>
<td>Peter Chou</td>
<td>Slate, M.</td>
<td>Madilyne Nguyen - Acosta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freitas, W.</td>
<td>Vaheeshta Mehrshahi</td>
<td>Smith, L.</td>
<td>Yessenia Meza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotterba, J.</td>
<td>Nathan Hobbs</td>
<td>Staroselsky, Y.</td>
<td>Mariel Avelino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedlund, C.</td>
<td>Andres Gonzalez</td>
<td>Stott, L.</td>
<td>In Hyuk Cho &amp; Manjinder Chung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iverson, D.</td>
<td>Bryant Tran</td>
<td>Van Stralen, D.</td>
<td>Jake Durocher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirstein, D.</td>
<td>Christian Hernandez</td>
<td>Vernaelde, P.</td>
<td>Jessica King</td>
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### Student of the Month November, 2013

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<tr>
<td>Beadell, B.</td>
<td>William Salisbury, Fernando Garcia</td>
<td>Kraintz, G.</td>
<td>Mario Gentle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown, D.</td>
<td>Patricia Mikaele</td>
<td>Library Staff</td>
<td>Cindy Chan, Andy Chan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cummings, C.</td>
<td>Brady Orr, Maika Hagihara</td>
<td>Neto, E.</td>
<td>Evelyn Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flores, J.</td>
<td>Seung Won Choi</td>
<td>Niczewicz, G.</td>
<td>Kate Schneiderman and the class of 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotterba, J.</td>
<td>Victor Tochihuitl</td>
<td>Piscitelli, B.</td>
<td>Quynh Ta, Mariana Romo, Fabio Cassara, Mathew Memmon, Monque Schmitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, G.</td>
<td>Terrain Kaneshiro</td>
<td>Martinez,</td>
<td>Rda Minas, Michael Moezpoor, Reginald Apura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardy, K.</td>
<td>Beibei Shao</td>
<td>Slate, M.</td>
<td>Selena Feng</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haughney, B.</td>
<td>Ariel Godinez</td>
<td>Thornton, C.</td>
<td>Tricia Ann Jao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imai, M.</td>
<td>Keith Imai</td>
<td>Vernaelde, P.</td>
<td>Leanne Phu</td>
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**CONGRATULATIONS, STUDENTS!!!**
Associated Student Body News

Hello Wilcox Families,

We have successfully completed first semester filled with events like Homecoming, Club Faire, Food Faire, Fall Blood Drive, Fall Spirit Rally and much more. We are looking forward to an exciting second semester!

This semester, one of our main events is **Fantastics**. This is Wilcox’s annual battle between the classes that showcases different aspects of school spirit including: hall decorating, dance, and mental and athletic games. **Fantastics** week will be March 3rd-7th, 2014. We will have daily dress up days and activities at lunch to increase our Charger spirit. Even though the classes are engaged in friendly competition, **Fantastics** Night on Friday, March 7th at 6pm will hopefully unify the school and encourage teamwork and cooperation.

Our 60+ clubs around campus continue to thrive and are putting on different events, fundraisers, and bondings. We encourage all students to remain active in their clubs and it is not too late to try out a new club! The morning announcements will announce upcoming club meetings and events.

Finally, our Winter Spirit Rally honored our winter sports teams and we wish them luck on a great upcoming season! Don’t forget to cheer our Chargers on in wrestling, basketball, and soccer. We will honor our top 15 academic GPA’s in each class at our spring rally. Go Chargers!

~Marisa Kwiatkowski
ASB President 2013-2014

Wilcox is still under construction! Here’s the latest:

- The cafeteria and staff lounge are scheduled to reopen mid March.
- The ASB office is moving to three rooms in the bottom floor of the R building during the spring break in April. A new service window is being added. ASB will have lots of new space to spread out!
- After school lets out in June, the C wing (ASB wing) will be demolished.
- June through August, the new Quad will be built.
- In late fall, new landscaping will beautify the front of the school and quad area.
Dear Parents,

Last month the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Education adopted a new policy for Uniform Complaint Procedures to protect students and staff from all types of discrimination and to inform all that the District is required to investigate these complaints. This new policy is an Addendum to the Wilcox High School Student Parent Handbook you received earlier in the year. Please read this Addendum below so you are aware of this new policy.

Santa Clara Unified School District Board Policy BP 1312.3 (adopted 10/10/13): Uniform Complaint Procedures

The Governing Board recognizes that the district is primarily responsible for complying with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying and shall seek to resolve those complaints in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures. (5 CCR 4620)

The district shall follow uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging:

- Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying against any protected group as identified under Education Code 200 and 220 and Government Code 11135, including actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, nationality, national origin, religion, color or mental or physical disability, or age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance. (5 CCR 4610)

District Compliance Officer
Dr. Tanya Fisher
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services
1889 Lawrence Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 423-2124

or

Brad Syth
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources
1889 Lawrence Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 423-2014

Please feel free to call me if you have questions regarding this Addendum to the Student Parent Handbook.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Billings
Principal
Wilcox High School
(408) 423-2400
Enmienda al Manual de Estudiantes y Padres de Familia de la Escuela Preparatoria Wilcox
Noviembre 22, 2013

Estimados padres de familia,

El pasado mes, la Mesa Directiva de Educación del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Clara adoptó una nueva política de Procedimientos Uniforme de Quejas para proteger a estudiantes y personal docente de todo tipo de discriminación y para informar a todos que es requerido que el Distrito investigue estas quejas. Esta nueva política es una Enmienda al Manual de Estudiantes y Padres de Familia de la Escuela Preparatoria Wilcox que ustedes recibieron a principios del año escolar. Por favor lean la Enmienda a continuación para que tengan conocimiento de esta política.

**Politica de la Mesa Directiva del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Clara BP 1312.3 (adoptada 10/10/13): Procedimientos Uniforme de Quejas**

La Junta Directiva de Educación reconoce que el distrito es principalmente responsable del cumplimiento de las leyes federales y estatales y de las regulaciones que gobiernan los programas educativos. El distrito deberá investigar quejas que aleguen la falta de cumplimiento de dichas leyes y/o aleguen discriminación o acoso y deberá buscar la resolución a esas quejas de acuerdo a los procedimientos uniforme de quejas del distrito. (5 CCR 4620)

El distrito debe seguir los procedimientos uniforme de quejas cuando se trate de quejas que aleguen:

- Discriminación ilegal, acoso, intimidación o abuso en contra de cualquier grupo protegido según se ha identificado bajo el Código de Educación 200 y 220 y el Código de Gobierno 11135, incluyendo sexo actual o percibido, orientación sexual, género, expresión de género, identidad de género, identificación de grupo étnico, raza, ascendencia, nacionalidad, origen nacional, religión, color o discapacidad mental o física, o edad, o en base a la asociación de una persona con otra persona o grupo con una o más de estas características actuales o percibidas en cualquier programa del distrito o actividad que recibe o se beneficia de asistencia financiera estatal. (5 CCR 4610)

**Agente de Quejas del Distrito**

Dra. Tanya Fisher
Asistente del Superintendente
Servicios Educativos
1889 Lawrence Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 423-2124

Brad Syth
Asistente del Superintendente
Recursos Humanos
1889 Lawrence Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 423-2014

Por favor no dude en comunicarse conmigo si tiene preguntas referentes a esta Enmienda al Manual de Estudiantes y Padres de Familia.

Atentamente,

Bonnie Billings
Directora
Escuela Preparatoria Wilcox
(408) 423-2400
UPCOMING EVENTS

NO SCHOOL:
- **Winter Break:** February 17 – 21.
- **Staff Development Day:** Friday, April 4.

TRITON ART MUSEUM SCUSD STUDENT ART EXHIBITION & TRITON MUSEUM OF ART FAMILY ART DAY

**Saturday, March 1, 10am – 2pm**  
Triton Art Museum, 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara (across from the Civic Center)

Admission, parking and art activities are FREE at the 44th annual SCUSD Student Art Exhibition and Triton Museum of Art Family Art Day. Tour the SCUSD Student exhibit for inspiration and get creative with hands-on art activities led by our talented art educators. More information at [www.tritonmuseum.org](http://www.tritonmuseum.org) or 408-247-9340.

FANTASTICS

Our annual Fantastics night will be held on **March 7th** in the main gym at **6:00p.m.** This is a night for all four classes to come together and have a lot of fun and show some intense physical competition! There’s never been a better time to show the other classes what you’re made of. These rigorous and physically demanding feats include: tug of war, crab soccer, and many other games. The price will be $2.00 before the event. The price will be $3.00 at the door that evening. If you are participating or not, don’t miss out on this exciting night that will be sure to leave you sore the next morning.

FOOD FAIRE

The food fair at Wilcox is at lunch time in the quad to help clubs raise money for the club they support. The dates for the food fair are **March 18th** and **March 25th** at lunch time. Don’t forget your change.

PTSA GENERAL ASSOCIATION MEETING:

Please join us **Wednesday, March 22**, 7:00pm in the main building conference room for our PTSA General Association Meeting. Business will include ratifying expenses to date and electing the 2014/15 PTSA Officers.

MULTI – CULTURAL WEEK & ASSEMBLY

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 28th for a wonderful assembly where many clubs perform from all different parts of the world to make you see and realize that our school is so diverse and so beautiful in so many different ways. We also have fashion shows, food fairs, and this year we will have an evening performance in the main gym at 7:00p.m.
WILCOX CHEERLEADING NEWS

We have been doing many events and community service this year. We’ve been building our program and ready to advance to the next step next year. We will be returning to competition for the 14-15 school year. Our plan is to have one team of up to 36 girls maximum. We will be practicing twice a week preparing for school events and competitions. Come to the Informational Meeting listed below.

TRYOUTS ARE COMING

CALLING ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING WILCOX NEXT YEAR!

Are you interested in participating in the Wilcox Cheer Program for 2014-2015? Not sure if you want to do cheerleading?

INFORMATIONAL MEETING – Wed. April 23rd 6PM

There will be an informational meeting about cheerleading next year 14-15. This is for students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Wednesday, April 23rd – 6PM – MCCPA (Theater). We will discuss expectations, skills needed, commitment, grades, fundraising, free education, etc.

TRYOUTS

Tryout Workshop (Mandatory) – Monday, May 12 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Tryout Workshop (Mandatory) – Tuesday, May 13 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Tryout Workshop (Mandatory) – Wednesday, May 14 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Tryout Workshop (Mandatory) – Thursday, May 15 5:30 to 8:00 pm
Actual Tryouts (Mandatory) – Friday, May 16 5:30 to 8:00 pm (or when you are done)

Tryouts & Workshops will be in the “Black Box” in the back of the theater. Enter or Drop-off through the back door (on Calabasas between Theater and Art/Business Wing)

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Wilcox Cheer Program is looking for monetary donations to help defray costs. We are a self-funded group and receive NO budget from the school or district. SCUSD & Wilcox ensure that we uphold the California Constitution which mandates that public education be provided to all students free of charge for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Any contribution that you make may be tax-deductible. You may send your donations to Wilcox High School / Bookkeeping (please note in the memo line “Cheerleading” OR you may give your donation to any Cheer Coach.

We are forecasting the need to raise money for uniforms, warm-ups, camp, camp clothes, poms, bows, shoes and regional competition fees. It costs about $36,000 for a team of 30 members which equates to approximately $1,200 per member. Please help us out by donating today!

Megan Turner
Wilcox Cheerleading – Head Coach
Mturner_cheergirl@yahoo.com
FOOTBALL
The Wilcox football season opened on the road with an out of town trip to Manteca High School. The Chargers won the game in overtime with a great defensive stop 28 - 27. Another big win was a 42-39 victory over last year’s league champ Palo Alto and in that win the Chargers rushed for an amazing 540 yards and six touchdowns. A huge win vs. nemesis Los Gatos 42-7, a team they haven’t beaten in a very long time, helped the varsity football squad to an impressive 9-1 regular season record and they shared the co-championship of the tough Santa Clara Valley Athletic League. The Chargers finished ranked in the top 10 in the CCS and were in the top 4 or 5 public schools in the section. The team lost to Bellarmine in the Central Coast section playoffs open division where the best teams play to be the CCS “Open” division champion and an opportunity to play in the CIF State football playoffs.

Manteca, a team the Chargers beat and gave them their only loss during the regular season, played in the Nor Cal play off game. Wilcox faced three section champion teams – Manteca, Milpitas, and Los Gatos, beating two of the three!

The Chargers were led by key outstanding offensive players such as seniors (RB) Delshawn Mitchell, (QB) Kenny Dipko and strong versatile (OLine) Jimmy Leatiota.

The defense was fueled by seniors (LB) Sione Finefeuiaki and (LB) Benito Serrano. Junior (DLineman) Jonathan Pohahau and sophomore (DB) Manu Turituri also were key contributors. Other key members were two-way player senior Justin Wright and junior (OT) Jonathan Herrera.

Many individual and team records both on offense and defense were broken. One of those that was special was scoring 68 points vs. Santa Clara – for most points scored in one game.

Some key statistics during the season were total team rushing yards of almost 5,000 yards and 380 average per game. The offense averaged 10 yards per carry and Delshawn Mitchell had 13.65 yards per carry with 22 TDs. Three shut outs, 20 interceptions, and 29 sacks were some great defensive stats. Sione Finefeuiaki was the leading tackler and posted 3 INTs, 4 forced fumbles and 7 Sacks. Sophomore Manu Turituri was the top under classman leading the secondary with 5 interceptions.

The Frosh/Soph team finished with an impressive 8-2 record and a second place finish in league. They were led by first year head coach Frankie Gilfillan. His dedication showed with the team’s success.

Dan Brown the head football coach was nominated by the Wedemeyer foundation and was chosen as the 49ers Coach of the Week. The football program received $1000 from the San Francisco 49ers, he was invited to a 49er practice and game and met 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh. Coach Brown was also interviewed by Gary Radnich on KRON 4 sports news.

Charger pride was evident throughout the season where sportsmanship and character were displayed. It was a special group where the senior class’ record during the last three seasons was an outstanding 27-6. The Student athletes were committed and Charger Pride was prevalent. The parent support, administrative support and staff support was extraordinary. The football staff would like to thank the parents and everyone involved.

CP/TNT

~ Coach Dan Brown
BOYS WATER POLO

The Wilcox boys water polo team lead by seniors Tim Pickard, Tianyi He, and Alejandro Barrionuevo finished third overall in the El Camino division with a 9-3 league record and 15-7 overall. Although our division placement was not the desired outcome, it is an indication on how strong our Division is and how much parity there is in our League. The Santa Clara Valley League sent 5 teams to CCS which is almost a quarter of all teams represented at CCS. Our Wilcox team this season beat 4 other teams from other leagues who qualified for CCS. This is a huge accomplishment for our team and what they achieved. Great play by entire team showed how depth in our lineup won many of our games. Our team wouldn't be where it is without the continued leadership of our JV coach Ted Pettigrew who announced that this was his final season coaching the boys water polo team. We look forward to seeing him on deck once in a while as he is still the head coach for the wrestling team here at Wilcox. Congratulations to our boys water polo team on a strong season.

~ Coach Rich Cruzen

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Wilcox Girls Varsity Volleyball program had an amazing season this past Fall ending with a fourth place finish in the El Camino Division of the SCVAL behind some very strong opponents. This was one of the best seasons the program has had here at Wilcox. Hailey Mock (a 3 year starter on the Varsity team) was selected as Junior of the year within the El Camino Division. Micaela Bataclan was voted Freshman of the Year by the coaches in the El Camino Division as well. Seniors Rianna Paiz and Nicole Brown along with Hailey Mock received 1st team all league and Micaela Bataclan received honorable mention for the all league selections. Dedication, focus and the desire to be competitive were just some of the attributes this group of girls exemplified while on the volleyball court. A HUGE “Thank You” goes out to all the parents, staff and fans that showed their support throughout the season.

~ Coach April Lujan

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

The boys had a very good season, which was capped off by our finishing 2nd at the league finals. This was our highest league finish since we finished 2nd in 2001. Our team time for Crystal Springs was our 6th best in the 43 years that we have been running the course. Overall, we ranked 20th out of the 100+ boys teams in the CCS. This season will be difficult to equal or surpass next year as 6 of our top 8 runners are graduating. Our boy’s XC team highlights include:

- Our senior boys finished first at the Lynbrook Center Meet in September.
- Our JV boys finished 1st at the Monterey Bay Invitational, 2nd at the 3rd SCVAL Meet, and 1st at the Lynbrook Invitational.
- Our biggest highlight was probably going to the beach after the Stevenson Invitational in Pebble Beach.
- Runners who recorded top-ten marks on the various courses during the year included –
  - Jesus Covarrubias at #5 on the Crystal Springs course, which we have been running for 43 years.
  - Jesus and Yonatan Ghebremicael at #s 2 and 9 for the Lynbrook course, which we have been running for 19 years.
  - Yonatan at #8 on the Ram course, which we have been running for 21 years.
o Jesus and Yonatan at #s 1 and 8 on the Toro Park course, which we have been running for 12 years.
o Zahid Anjum at #5 on the Pacific Grove course, which we have been running for 7 years.

This was a rebuilding year for our girls. We lost three of our varsity girls from last season, including our top two runners. We finished 7th out of 7 teams last year and also finished 7th this year. On the face of those facts, it does not look good. However, we did have a respectable team. We are in a very strong league. Three of the teams in the El Camino division finished in the top 10 in the Section. Overall, we were near the 50 percentile of all teams in the Section and would have qualified for the CCS meet if we were in several other leagues. We had our 12th best Crystal Springs team time out of the 33 years that we have been running this league-finals course. Girl’s XC team highlights:

• Daniella Alvarado and Johanna Harrison finished 1st and 3rd in the senior race at the Lynbrook Center meet.
• Daniella won the senior race at the Pacific Grove Invitational.
• Brittani Garrison showed tremendous improvement at the league finals, finishing as our top runner while improving her Crystal Springs time by two minutes.
• Our varsity girls finished 7th and our JV girls 3rd at the Monterey Bay Invitational with 9 of the girls winning medals. And, our JV girls finished 4th at the Lynbrook Invitational.
• Daniella recorded Wilcox top-10 times for the Lynbrook course (#7), the Ram course (#6), and the Toro course (#5).

Congratulations to all of our 2013/14 Wilcox Cross Country runners!
~ Coach Walt Van Zant

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**WILCOX LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

On Jan. 6, 2014, last day of Holiday Break, about 50 Wilcox students participated in a Wilcox Leadership Workshop, which was facilitated by Silicon Valley Faces, a non-profit organization. It started out like other typical leadership training events. A series of icebreakers helped everyone get comfortable approaching one another as strangers and striking up conversations. Any ordinary topic thrown out worked like a charm to meet people and find common ground among themselves. After icebreakers came a team-building task, with small groups each building a marshmallow tower, but some members of the groups were not allowed to use their hands, while others were not allowed to talk. Effective verbal or non-verbal communication and learning to work with the impediments as a team were the keys to getting the job done.

During the next exercise, students found themselves trading differently-colored cards as they continued to get to know one another. The trading was casual and carefree until the kids realized that there were less yellow cards than orange cards and only a handful of blue cards. Trading to get blue cards quickly became competitive, though it was interesting to watch a few relinquish the responsibility of carrying the blue card with relief. When asked to relate the game to real life, students readily shared their interpretations, associating the cards to social status, economic status, achievement of academic goals, even school government. What was the lesson? That a true and effective leader should remember and understand what it is like to be holding the most common, yellow cards. He/She must appreciate the struggle and frustrations of trying to "move up" to the next or elite level and give fellow classmates a hand up whenever possible.
The most moving of the activities was called "Cross the Line." From opposite sides of the room, participants were asked to walk towards the line (a rope) laid across the middle of the room whenever a particular statement described their situation or circumstance. All were to show support to those brave enough to step forward. At first, students were unsure and giggly as they were asked whether they ever went to camp or private school, or if their first language was not English. However, as the questions progressed, the atmosphere grew more quiet and serious as students stepped up to the line and sometimes described their experiences when they were ever called names or teased because of their gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation, when a parent lost his/her job, when some didn't have enough money to eat sometimes. Equally compelling was the admission of students who did NOT approach the line when asked who among them were told by their parents that they were beautiful and loved. When asked to comment, some students appreciated knowing they weren't alone in their struggles, while others confessed they had no idea their peers were going through such ordeals. Successful leaders should take opportunities to understand those they lead as individuals rather than by stereotype. They must also understand their plights and support them.

Two separate stories and experiences demonstrated that though mere words, gossip can be shamefully harmful and effects can be everlasting, destroying people's self-esteem and reputations, whether true or untrue. Presenters urged everyone to think very hard before they spread gossip, especially online, because often words can never be taken back.

The workshop ended with a couple of short videos, the first demonstrating how a great idea can turn into a movement. It takes one brave soul to expose it to the world, a second, even braver soul to embrace it and make it his/her own, a third to join the bandwagon before a small crowd notices, takes interest and follows. The students were encouraged to bring on their great ideas as well as embrace the leadership concepts of support, empathy and inclusiveness that they learned in order to lead a Wilcox crowd and create a more-cohesive campus.

Two brief video clips introduced Camp Everytown, a 3-night, 4-day camp that expands on the ideas touched briefly at the workshop. As a Mercury News article on 9/18/2012 described, "Camp Everytown seeks to build respect, leadership and appreciation for diversity. In frank, often painful talks, students develop authentic empathy that crosses lines of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, culture, income and ability." Further, administrators of schools that have sent kids to Camp Everytown say, "connecting kids to one another and building a student leadership committed to understanding actually elevates academic achievement." Wilcox administrators and facilitators from Silicon Valley Faces will work together to try to send Wilcox students to Camp Everytown, perhaps this spring. More information will be coming soon.

Surveys completed by participants of the Wilcox Leadership Workshop showed the day was truly successful. 99% of them were satisfied with the overall experience. Students comments included these:

- "I liked learning that everyone goes through hardships and that everyone needs support."
- "I liked that you could share without being judged."

This workshop was made possible by a generous contribution from the Rotary Club of Santa Clara. The Wilcox PTSA funded lunch for all the participants and facilitators. A big thank you to members of both groups! Thank you also to Ms. Billings, who worked hard to bring the workshop to fruition at Wilcox and to Ms. Gadara-Solis and Mr. Contreras, teacher advisors to Link Crew, who helped organize and supervise the event.

~ Lillian Kwiatkowski
Wilcox Dads, Grads & Moms Booster Club

Happy New Year!

I want to thank all of the volunteers who pitched in and worked very hard in the football snack bar during the games the team had this season. The club has been financially rewarded due to your efforts. The next activity on the agenda will be the annual wrestling tournament the second weekend of February. If you weren’t able to help out at the football snack bar, here is another opportunity to come out and help support Wilcox.

I would like to give the fall sports a hearty congratulations on a job well done this year, especially to the football team making it to the CCS playoffs again.

For you parents of seniors, let your student know that applications for the DGM scholarships should be available in the Career Center near the end of January, in addition to being online at the schoolloop website. To apply for a DGM scholarship you have to have been a member for 3 years, including your senior year. In the past we have not always had enough applicants to offer the full amount of scholarships even though there were plenty eligible.

Whether your student is a senior or not, it is never too early to start thinking about college and how to pay for it. By the time you get this newsletter, I will have already given my annual talk on College Financial Aid Planning. If I can get someone to record it, those who did not make it can still listen to it. Most parents who have attended mention to me that they have heard things from me they never heard anywhere else. There are always important changes that have occurred for those filing the FAFSA form during the next few months.

Hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings generally held the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the ASB office.

Marc Lund, President
marc@marclundcpa.com

CHARGERS TOUCHDOWN CLUB

Wilcox football boosters (Chargers Touchdown Club) is reaching out to the community to help us upgrade our announcer’s booth and sound system by next football season. The only way we can do this is by getting individuals and businesses to donate to this project. If anyone knows of a company or person who may be interested in contributing please contact me or wilcoxchargerfootball@yahoo.com. We need to raise approximately $10,000 for the booth and $8,000 for the sound system. Donations are tax deductible.

Crystal Jackson
President, Chargers Touchdown Club
(408) 504-8818
President’s Message

Although we’re more than a month into the new year, Happy New Year! As Mrs. Billings describes, change seems to be the only constant in our world today. As a nation, state and school district, implementation of Common Core, Smarter Balanced Consortium Testing, and the Local Control Accountability Plan are providing students exciting changes in their education. I recently attended a CA PTA conference where keynote speaker California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson emphasized that parents have an unprecedented opportunity to ensure their students are receiving the education they feel their kids need through implementation of these initiatives and he urged us to get involved. Consensus is these are all positive for our kids.

Our school district has been generous for the past two years in providing parent education regarding Common Core and the Smarter Balanced testing initiatives. If you haven’t had an opportunity to attend the talks, much has been written and is available on the internet. Go to the SCUSD (santaclarausd.org) or California State PTA (capta.org) websites and search these topics. There is very good information and links to other sites to help you learn more. See pages 17-19 of this newsletter for more information regarding LCAP and Smarter Balanced testing.

Stay involved: volunteer, attend school board meetings and public hearings for the LCAP.

Best regards,
Linda Pfeifer

Thank you, Wilcox Volunteers!

The PTA Honorary Service Award is designed as a unique way for PTAs to thank and publicly recognize the outstanding community service to children and youth provided by individuals or groups in our community.

It is never too early to start thinking about all of our wonderful volunteers here at Wilcox High School. Do you know somebody who goes above and beyond for our school and community? Please nominate them for the PTA Honorary Service Award. All you have to do is fill out this short form and either submit it to the office (office personnel will forward it to the PTA mailbox), or email me (rdtkcase@comcast.net). In a few short sentences, say why this person should be honored.

The awards will be presented in the spring, and the winners will receive a certificate and pin commemorating their service. A scholarship donation is made by PTA in each winner’s name. There are several levels (Very Special Person, Honorary Service, Continuing Honorary Service, Golden Oak, Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Administrator), so please do not hesitate to nominate someone.

Name of nominee:

Reasons why the nominee should be honored:

Your name, phone, and email (so we may contact you if there are questions):

Diane Case, Honorary Service Chairperson
Holiday Luncheon

Our Holiday Luncheon for the teachers and staff of Wilcox was held on December 18, 2013. We served a variety of soups, salads, bread, drinks and desserts.

It was a pleasure to greet and serve the teachers and staff who came to lunch that day. Everyone enjoyed the spread!

We would like to THANK the following parents who donated so generously towards the luncheon to make it a success again.


There will be one more luncheon to organize for this school year. It will be held sometime in April/May. We look forward to hosting it in the remodeled Staff Lounge Room.

Please email Jessica Yee at gogetsum@gmail.com, if you are interested in participating in the next luncheon or if you are interested in taking on the position of Chairperson for these luncheons for the next school year.

GRAD NIGHT* 2014

To all seniors and parents of seniors -
#GRADNIGHT2014#celebration#makeitanighttoremember

This is your invitation to celebrate the end of your school time with your friends. You will be bussed to a secret location with lots of things to do. Swim, play volleyball, ping pong, dance the night away, make your grad night t-shirt, eat, pose in the photo booth, eat, drink and make lots of memories.

Grad Night* 2014 on June 6, 2014 will be your special night to celebrate you, look back, look ahead. You will remember this night for the rest of your life.

Here is what you need to know:

- You can access the flyers and registration information online and at the ASB office starting March 10 and at Fantastics.
- Ticket price is $ 85 per person.
- Tickets will be sold between March 10 and March 21.

If there are any parents or students who would like to attend the Grad Night Meetings, please contact Lillian (lgkwiat@gmail.com).

* Grad night 2014 is put on to allow seniors to celebrate their last night of high school – sober and safe!
Grad Night 2014 is sponsored by Wilcox PTSA and is not a school or District-sponsored activity. Participation in the activity by a District employee is on the employee’s own time and not as a representative of the Santa Clara Unified School District. The Santa Clara Unified School District is not liable for events occurring as a result of this activity.

#bethereorbesquare#
WILCOX PTSA SCHOLARSHIP 2013–2014

Seniors—Don’t miss the opportunity to apply NOW for a 2013–2014 Wilcox PTSA Scholarship! Community service-based PTSA Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors for use at an accredited college or university, community college, or trade and technical school. Questions?

• Where do I get an application?
  You can download an application from the Wilcox website at http://wilcox.schoolloop.com/ptsascholar or you can pick one up from Jan Yee at the College and Career Resource Center on campus.

• What kind of information do I have to provide in order to apply?
  Details are on the application form but basically you’ll need to list the name(s) of accredited colleges, universities, community colleges, or trade and technical schools that you have applied and/or been accepted to, and your intended major or course of study. You’ll provide a brief statement of your reason for applying for this scholarship and list your career plans. You’ll describe your school service-related activities and details of your volunteer service in the community, and include a reference letter from a teacher, counselor, employer or advisor. IT’S EASY—it’s limited to two typed pages (plus the reference letter).

• When is it due?
  The application deadline is Friday, March 14, 2014.

• Where do I submit my application?
  Completed applications must be submitted to Anna Thompson in the front office at Wilcox.

• How will I know if I’ve been selected to receive a scholarship?
  Scholarships will be presented at the Wilcox Academic Awards Night ceremony on Wednesday, May 28, 2013 (recipients will be notified ahead of time).

Don’t wait to apply—grab an application now because the deadline will be here before you know it. If you have further questions, email Monica DuPree at monica.dupree@hp.com

SCU Council PTA Scholarships are also available to graduating Wilcox seniors. The application is available on the SCU Council PTA website: http://scucouncilpta.org/uploads/2013-14_Scholarship_Info-App.pdf
LCFF AND LCAP — FIND OUT WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU

The following information is reprinted with permission from the California State PTA website (www.capta.org). For more information on LCFF, LCAP and other education issues, please visit the CAPTA website.

California state law sets out the system for funding public schools. State leaders largely decide how much money is available to schools each year as part of the state budget process.

In 2013, California adopted a new formula for deciding how much money each school district gets, called the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Editor Note: SCUSD remains a “Basic Aid” funded school district; our funding is provided by local property taxes. Because it is calculated that SCUSD would receive more funding under the Basic Aid formula, we do not receive funds under the LCFF.

School districts will decide how to use the funds, but under the new system they must get input from their local communities. They also have to tie their budgets to improvement goals by creating a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

LCFF AND LCAP - FIND OUT WHAT THEY MEAN TO ME

Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Important new ways for parents to engage in decision making

What is the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)?

The LCAP is a critical part of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

Each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community to establish these plans. The plans will describe the school district’s overall vision for students, annual goals and specific actions the district will take to achieve the vision and goals.

The LCAPs must focus on eight areas identified as state priorities. The plans will also demonstrate how the district’s budget will help achieve the goals, and assess each year how well the strategies in the plan were able to improve outcomes.

What are the eight state priority areas that must be addressed in the plans?

There are eight areas for which school districts, with parent and community input, must establish goals and actions. This must be done both district-wide and for each school. The areas are:

1. Providing all students access to fully credentialed teachers, instructional materials that align with state standards, and safe facilities.
2. Implementation of California’s academic standards, including the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math, Next Generation Science Standards, English language development, history social science, visual and performing arts, health education and physical education standards.
3. Parent involvement and participation, so the local community is engaged in the decision-making process and the educational programs of students.
4. Improving student achievement and outcomes along multiple measures, including test scores, English proficiency and college and career preparedness.
5. Supporting student engagement, including whether students attend school or are chronically absent.
6. Highlighting school climate and connectedness through a variety of factors, such as suspension and expulsion rates and other locally identified means.
7. Ensuring all students have access to classes that prepare them for college and careers, regardless of what school they attend or where they live.
8. Measuring other important student outcomes related to required areas of study, including physical education and the arts.

In addition to these eight areas, a district may also identify and incorporate in its plan goals related to its own local priorities.

**When will districts start developing these plans?**

The State Board of Education is in the process of developing a template for school districts to use for their own local plans. This template will be finalized by March 2014.

Between March and June, school districts must engage their parents and communities and adopt their local plans. California State PTA encourages districts to utilize a broad and multi-channel approach to involve parents and school sites beginning now.

Ultimately, the plan must be reviewed by a parent advisory committee. If a district has 15 percent or more English learners, a separate parent committee must provide feedback in this area. The final plans must be approved by July 1.

The initial plan will cover three years, but must be updated annually by the district by July 1 of each following year.

**What can parents and PTAs do now?**

The new LCFF and LCAPs provide a great opportunity for parents to engage in the decisions that impact their children and schools.

You can start now by thinking about the eight state priority areas and what you would like to see as goals for your school district and schools in each.

In addition, now is the time to communicate with school administrators and elected board members to help them establish an LCAP development and adoption process that ensures many ways for all parents and community members to participate and be heard.

Ask school and district administrators to schedule presentations and participate directly in conversations about the following:

- The programs and services currently being offered in the district, and their effectiveness in achieving student outcomes.
- Strategies, programs and services to improve student outcomes at your schools and for groups of students, and the resources needed.
- The district’s current budget-building process, and how the district will be adapting its planning and budgeting processes to meet the new requirements of the LCFF and LCAP.

**Editor’s Note:** As required by the new law, SCUSD plans community input meetings. Watch SchoolLoop for date/time announcements.
Signed into law on October 2, 2013, **Assembly Bill 484 (Bonilla)** suspends mandatory school testing for a year as California transitions to a new statewide assessment program aligned with the Common Core state standards. The State Board of Education will request a waiver from the federal government asking to be non-compliant with regulations for student testing for one year. The California Department of Education and Governor Brown’s office are currently in discussions with Secretary Duncan and the U.S. Department of Education to explore what avenues are available for California.

**AB 484** establishes the California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress (CalMAPP), which replaces the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program, and calls for a rational transition to a system of assessments and assessment tools that cover the full breadth and depth of the curriculum. This transition will take several years to complete.

**AB 484** also makes important changes to current law regarding assessment and accountability, changes strongly supported by the California State PTA. One of these is that **AB 484** ends high-stakes testing of second graders. In addition **AB 484** establishes that the primary purpose of the new assessment system is to assist teachers, administrators, and students and their parents to improve teaching and learning in California’s classrooms. **AB 484** also calls for the accountability system to be more closely aligned with the public’s expectations for education and the workforce needs of the state’s economy and to evolve beyond its narrow focus on pupil test scores to include other valuable information about school performance.


**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR WILCOX STUDENTS IN 2013/14????**

- No STAR test
- No individual or school test results will be published
- No API will be published for 2013/14
- 11th grade students will take the new Smarter Balanced Consortium computer-based tests. The purpose of testing this year is to “test the test” and “test the technology”. Do we have sufficient technology to support the testing? We’ll see!
- The testing schedule window is April 17 through May 16. Wilcox is planning the dates now and once they are finalized they will be posted on our web site.
- The testing of all 11th graders requires that we use the computer labs. Each 11th grader will test in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and a Performance Task for a total test time of 210 minutes.
- They will also take the Early Assessment Program (EAP) exam in English and Math. If they do well on the EAP, it will waive the placement exam in community colleges and CSU colleges.