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PLEASE SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS TO MARY-ANNE\_BOSWARD@SCCOE.ORG OR SHERRY\_WARP@SCCOE.ORG

## Person-First Terminology

### Catch the Wave of Respect



Our Inclusion Collaborative invites you to become an agent of change by joining the **Wave of Respect** in our community. Students with disabilities are not their labels but rather are multifaceted individuals. Therefore, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has committed to use respectful language by adopting a **Person-First Terminology** policy which is now part of the SCCOE’s **Communication Style Guide**. In short, the policy states that the SCCOE will place the person before his/her label, (e.g. *child with autism*, instead of an *autistic child*), in all its communications. This simple but significant change recognizes that students have qualities beyond their disabilities and concedes that terminology has the dual ability to empower individuals or to reinforce stereotypes.

Here are some ideas you can do to jump aboard the **Wave of Respect**:

- Place the person before the disability: *A child who is emotionally disturbed*, instead of an *ED child*
- Place groups before the disability: *Students in special education*, instead of *special education students*
- Use terms such as *students without disabilities* instead of *typical students*
- Inform others about Person-First Terminology
- Model back Person-First Terminology when others use non-Person-First Terminology: When someone says, "*special education students...*," continue the conversation by modeling back, "*yes... students in special education...*"
- Remember that changing the way we communicate is a process and takes time!

Dr. Susan Larkin; Warm Line Specialist, Inclusion Collaborative  
Laurie Nielsen; Training Coordinator, Inclusion Collaborative

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## Meet Brenda Carrillo, SCCOE Student Health & Safety Coordinator

If you are planning a unit on nutrition, risks of tobacco, bullying, suicide prevention or other student health issues, Brenda Carrillo is your perfect resource. Brenda is the SCCOE's Student Health and Safety Coordinator and can provide you with materials and is also available to work with the students and parents in your program.

Brenda has already collaborated with our department as we launch the Caring School Community program in some of our classrooms as well as planning for HIV/STD student workshops for the 2011-2012 school year. For more information, please visit: <http://www.sccoe.org/depts/csh/> or email Brenda at [Brenda\\_Carrillo@sccoe.org](mailto:Brenda_Carrillo@sccoe.org)

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### Steps for Success/SANDI resources attached to this newsletter:

1. Table of Contents for SANDI Appendices Support CD: Beverly Williams, teacher from San Martin/Gwinn, is sharing her table of contents that she developed to track all of the pictures on the Appendix CD. Three cheers for Beverly!!!
2. Steps to Success Webinar from 1/25/2011 (for those who have had trouble opening in the newsletter)
3. Steps to Success Plan (for those who have had trouble opening in the newsletter)

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## What's Happening at the Sites?

### Oster Cluster (Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program)

Movement, Recreation and Exercise have become a focus at our sites. Daily, students at Carson walk and are taken through creative exercise with marathon training teacher Rose Meehan. Students at Lietz also take a daily morning walk as part of their routine and participate in PE with mainstream classes. Leigh High School students will be learning rock climbing techniques and practicing their skill at Planet Granite. Leigh High School Interpreter Adina Kaplin has championed these efforts at the high school. BAWSI Rollers (Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative) and the Champion San Jose State Women's Soccer Team have teamed up to bring sporting and recreation to Oster! Students rotate through a variety of sports stations and learn about teamwork. Volunteer Lady Spartan soccer players partner with students providing instruction, mentoring and support for our Oster athletes.



Staff members from Oster and Leigh High School have been working on Team Building and program development in partnership with Silicon Valley Education Foundation with Vice President Manny Barbara. The book, [The Five Dysfunctions of a Team](#), has served as one of the talking points around improving communication and increasing reflective and collaborative interactions among staff. Program goals are being developed as well as goals in interpersonal communications.

**Ginny Maiwald, Oster Cluster Principal**

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## Coming Soon: Professional Learning Communities

Do you ever feel isolated at work? Do you wish you had other professionals to share experiences with or bounce ideas off of? Well, we have a solution for you! They are called Professional Learning Communities (PLC)! Starting in the fall the Santa Clara County Office of Education will have teachers organized in groups to collaborate on instructional practices in a safe environment that focuses on student learning and shares ownership of their students. We all would love help in learning different strategies for working with those more difficult students from peers who also work with students each and every day. Currently, a team of professional leaders are collaborating to develop a successful program for student achievement and now we need everyone's expertise to make this a success.

Please continue to read the newsletter for updates and for this issue only, you will be entered into a drawing to **win two movie tickets if you respond to [alison\\_williams@scoe.org](mailto:alison_williams@scoe.org) with the following statement "How can I be a part of the SCCOE PLC?" by noon on Friday April 22! We are stronger together.**

**Alison Williams: Teacher, Montague School**

**Annie Kretowicz: Teacher, Fisher Middle School**

**Vijaya Verma: Santa Teresa Elementary**

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## Special Games XXXIII on May 20<sup>th</sup>

It is almost time for one of our department's greatest annual traditions: the Kiwanis Special Games!!! Our students have long enjoyed this opportunity to participate in events with their peers. The events are tailored to fit the abilities of the athletes, ranging from the 100 yard dash to dropping a bean bag on a target by signaling a volunteer who actually drops the bag.

Check out these amazing statistics from the 5/21, 2010 games:

- 141 buses
- 59 schools
- 98 classrooms
- 828 athletes
- 3225 ribbons awarded
- 416 Kiwanis student volunteers
- 235 Kiwanis volunteers
- 1000+ school and community volunteers

How do I access the COMPLETE 2010-2011 Professional Development Calendar for the Department of Special Education?

Answer: Click on the file "PD Calendar" attached to this newsletter.



Nancy Guerrero, Special Education Principal for the Ridder Park cluster, will continue to expertly coordinate the games for our students and staff. She has honed this process to perfection!!! Keep your eyes open for details to follow in the near future!

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## April/May Workshop & Event Highlights

Have you felt inundated with workshops for the last three months? Head spinning with all of the new materials? April may be the month for a "workshop hiatus" that you may need. Actually, April may be the month for a "spring vacation" that we all need! **Thinking ahead, we did not plan many workshops with staff on vacation each week during the month of April.**

### **English/Language Arts Intervention/English Learner Materials: National Geographic's AVENUES, REACH, INSIDE & EDGE Programs**

**4/4 3:30-5:30 Middle School/High School**

**4/8 2:00-3:00 Preschool**

**4/8 3:30-5:30 Elementary**

**Morgan Hill Room**

**Audience: Teachers with Students In Academic Programs (OI, ED, D/HOH, Autism) only**

If you have been using state adopted core curriculum materials in your classroom and would like to explore state approved intervention and English Learner materials, this workshop is for you. Our Deaf/Hard of Hearing teachers have been happily working this year with National Geographic materials and we would like to introduce them to our academic ED, Autism and OI teachers as well.

### **Feeding Training**

**4/7 12:30-2:30 Educational Assistants**

**4/26 3:00-6:00 Credentialed/Certificated Staff  
Erikson School Library**

This course is designed to educate staff members who work with students with developmental disabilities to provide a safe mealtime experience.

### **PODDS Activities with Linda Burkhardt**

**4/19 & 20 All Day**

Linda Burkhardt will be visiting classrooms to interact with staff, brainstorm and demonstrate working with PODDs in the classroom. We are looking forward to viewing the resulting videos online. Shirley Robinson will be emailing additional details.

### **PODDs Training for New Teachers and SLPs**

**5/9 & 5/10 All day**

**Audience: All New Teachers and SLPs who have not attended the 2 day PODDs training. Also open to interested support staff.**


If you have never heard of PODDs, you are exactly the person who needs to attend this workshop!! It is the



Contact Us: Questions?  
Workshop requests? News from  
your site?

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department's goal that all credentialed/licensed staff members attend a 2-day workshop on the Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display Communication Book. Please email Shirley Robinson at [Shirley\\_Robinson@sccoe.org](mailto:Shirley_Robinson@sccoe.org) to register.

**Kiwanis Special Games**

**5/20 8:00-1:30**

**DeAnza College Track**

Please watch for more information from Nancy Guerrero.