Message from Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools

Hello everyone,

It is important for students to learn the value of natural resources, the resources' impact on our environment, and their connections to our efforts to combat climate change. Engaging students in environmental topics and encouraging action is an investment in our youth and in the health of our planet.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to grow the next generation of environmental stewards through various programs and curricula. In honor of the impact environmental education has on students and the community as a whole, the SCCOE encourages everyone to take actions that improve the well-being of Earth.

The SCCOE promotes environmental education by:

- expanding support and assistance for the development of school gardens and school garden curricula across the county. A recent Growing Gardens Survey/Project found that of the 250 schools and programs participating in Santa Clara County, 69% of schools have gardens.

- serving as one of three lead counties for the Central California Environmental Literacy Project (CELP). CELP connects California educators with professional development and information about high-quality environmental education programs. And,

- partnering with the Santa Clara County’s Office of Sustainability and Our City Forest to have trees planted on school sites, specifically in areas where trees are lacking. Following Arbor Day, the SCCOE will also host the Environmental Literacy Summit on Saturday, April 30 designed for teachers, principals, and other educators.
Recently, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) honored the SCCOE’s commitment to environmental education and sustainability practices by unanimously approving a resolution recognizing National Environmental Education Week at its March 16 meeting. National Environmental Education week brings educators, students, government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and communities together to inspire and encourage environmental education and stewardship.

“It’s exciting to celebrate National Environmental Education Week,” said Santa Clara County Board of Education Trustee Tara Sreekrishnan. “I think one of the most effective ways we can reduce the impacts of climate change is through education.”

Learning about the effects of climate change is the first step everyone can take to start their environmental stewardship. Together, we can improve conditions for current and future generations by participating in local cleanups, visiting local environmental organizations looking for advocates and volunteers, and sharing knowledge with others.

We are #StrongerTogether.

Be well,

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools
Enter the Watershed Watch Earth Day Poster Challenge to share your vision for clean waterways in Santa Clara Valley. Winners from each grade bracket will receive cash prizes, $250 for first place winners, and $150 for second-place winners, and have their art featured to promote water pollution prevention. Submit your poster by Friday, April 22. For more details, visit www.mywatershedwatch.org/earthday

The Santa Clara County Office of Education Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Program is recruiting for the Peer Advocate Advisory Council (PAAC) for the 2022-2023 school year. The PAAC is made up of 20 high school students who are passionate about leading tobacco prevention work in Santa Clara County. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, May 31 at 5 p.m. To apply, visit https://bit.ly/PAAC22-23

The New Americans Fellowship (NAF) is a summer leadership program that offers a stipend of up to $10,000. Fellows will:

- Gain professional experience in government and research
- Advocate for community-driven policies & solutions affecting the diverse immigrant communities of Santa Clara County
- Develop social consciousness and promote equity through research projects

Program runs from 06.06.22 - 08.12.22
Learn more & apply at sccoir.org/naf

Applicants must be:
- DACA recipients, U or T nonimmigrant visa holders, VAWA recipients, have Temporary Protected Status, or have been granted asylum or refugee status in the U.S.

New Americans Fellowship Deadline Extended
The California Latino Legislative Caucus’s Scholarship Program is now accepting applications. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, June 1.

The program was established to assist deserving students by offering financial assistance to meet educational expenses. All students selected to receive a scholarship will receive $5,000.
Did you know there is a school named after Dolores Huerta in Santa Clara County? The Santa Clara Unified School District opened the Dolores Huerta Middle School in August of 2021. Dolores Huerta attended the school ribbon cutting and spoke about the importance of equitable education for all children. Celebrate the work of Dolores Huerta on April 10, which is observed as Dolores Huerta Day.

### District News and Resources

#### Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Symposium

Application deadline: April 22, 2022

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is coordinating the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Symposium to provide recommendations for a countywide KRA in partnership with kindergarten teachers from across the county.

One kindergarten teacher per district will be selected and will receive a $500 stipend. Interested kindergarten teachers may submit their applications for consideration by Friday, April 22.

Teachers will meet June 21-23 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Walden West. Children (ages 7-12) of participants can take part in free summer camp at Walden West for three days.

For questions, contact Veronica Garza at vgarza@sccoe.org

#### Free virtual environmental literacy summit

The Santa Clara County Office of Education will host an Environmental Literacy Summit virtually on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Educators are invited to share resources, knowledge, and skills to help plant the seeds for sustainability. For more information, visit [https://na.eventscloud.com/669352](https://na.eventscloud.com/669352)
Celebrate National Volunteer Month this April by scheduling an appointment to donate blood and platelets. To schedule an donation appointment, visit rcblood.org/3j63AHG

Hit the pavement this Spring in support of children’s health and wellness at the 9th Annual Lam Research Heart & Soles Run! Join us on a two-month journey of fitness & fun in our Spring into Fitness Challenge culminating with our return to running 5K/10K run on Saturday, May 7. Entries include a one-of-a-kind jersey-themed race shirt, race bib, finisher medal, and free entry to our Spring into Fitness Challenge!

All proceeds will be donated to local youth health & wellness programs provided by the YMCA of Silicon Valley, Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley, and Santa Clara County Office of Education.
News Release:

- Santa Clara County Office of Education and California Charter Authorizing Professionals Awarded State Grants to Strengthen Charter School Authorizing

About the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Working collaboratively with school and community partners, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a regional service agency that provides instructional, business, and technology services to the 31 school districts of Santa Clara County. The County Office of Education directly serves students through special education programs, alternative schools, Head Start and State Preschool programs, migrant education, and Opportunity Youth Academy. The SCCOE also provides academic and fiscal oversight and monitoring to districts in addition to the 22 Santa Clara County Board of Education authorized charter schools. For more information about the Santa Clara County Office of Education, please visit www.sccoe.org.

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April 2022 Events Calendar

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