

Director's Message



By Jennifer Ann, Ed. D

It's hard to believe we're almost at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. I would have never imagined that the majority of this school year would have occurred through distance learning and I am grateful for the leadership, ingenuity, perseverance, dedication and support that parents, students and staff have exhibited this year.

It is that time of year where we start to plan for the transition from one classroom or school to another or even to begin planning for graduation celebrations. As parents, I'm sure you're wondering where the time is going (I know I am). As many of you know, Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) staff have been working hard to prepare classrooms for reopening or have already been serving students in the classroom. While change can sometimes feel overwhelming, it also offers an opportunity for a fresh start. SCCOE administrators, teachers and classroom staff are hard at work gearing up for these new beginnings and the opportunity to support your child(ren) and young adults.

Are You Getting Up-to-Date Information from SCCOE?

The SCCOE has implemented a new email address and phone number for questions and concerns related to attendance and to update contact information. The SCCOE's parent liaison can be reached at: parentsupport@sccoe.org or (408) 453-6654.



Coffee with the Principal

SCCOE Principals have scheduled a virtual coffee chat for May 6th from 9:00-10:00am. Please check with your child's teacher or principal if you need the Zoom meeting link.



Family Night: Growing Tomatoes

Come join us for a lesson on growing your own food and what you can do with it! RSVP by May 12th with your child's name and school to Michelle Kjellesvig at 408-392-3902 or mkjellesvig@sccoe.org. Instructions will be provided to pick up your FREE growing kit so you can start your family garden. Date: May 26, 2021 @6pm via Zoom.



Instructional Materials Public Review

Are you curious about what instructional materials teachers are using in the classroom? SCCOE Special Education Department is piloting instructional materials for official adoption. Come view the materials we are considering for our Pre-K to Age 22 moderate to severe students at this informative Q & A Session on May 11, 2021 from 6-7pm. Register here to attend: <https://bit.ly/3xsovl7>



Family Night Fun for All!

By Michelle Kjellesvig



The SCCOE Family Nights have been so much fun for staff, family and students! Our first Family night in October was exploring and learning how to play the game of "Candyland". We learned all the benefits of family time, less screen time and all the learning opportunities through play. In December we enjoyed reading the book "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Joffe Numeroff while each family baked their own cookies to enjoy at home. We laughed and played the game of "Connect 4"

in February learning how to take turns and how to sort colors. Our most recent Family Night we learned the art of flying a kite! We researched the history of kites and worked together to build our very own kites. Kites were seen flying in backyards, at parks and even at the beach! Our next Family night will be May 26th and we will be learning how to grow tomatoes and starting our own family gardens. Please see first page of newsletter for more details. Hope to see you at our next Family Night!

SCCOE Student of the Year!

By Krisan Meyer

Michael Thomas, Jr. is a 5th grade student within the SCCOE's Valle Vista Elementary program. Michael's dedicated classroom team includes Ms. Torres, Mr. McCahan, Ms. Macias, Ms. Sandoval, and Ms. Wisecarver.

The Valle Vista team shared that they have been consistently inspired by Michael over the past year, as he has persevered through challenges while serving as an exemplary role model for all. The team reports that Michael has done a tremendous job academically and behaviorally throughout distance learning; he attends his class on time each day, he is always ready to get to work, and he maintains a very positive attitude. Michael earned an attendance award during the fall semester for having 100% perfect attendance, which is certainly something to celebrate! Ms. Torres reports that Michael has made remarkable progress with his reading skills, largely due to his motivation to practice reading every day, including outside of class. Michael's positivity and engagement influence peers and staff, and serve as an inspiration to others!

Michael has shared that he enjoys the video game Fortnite and knows a lot about the characters in the game. His aunt says that Michael loves being outside and that he loves to learn. He is generous and thoughtful, and always speaks with admiration about his sister. She says that he makes friends wherever he goes, and that she notices how he tries not to leave anyone out. Michael's mother shared that she is proud of him; she also thanked the classroom staff for helping Michael make strides over the last school year. We are so proud of you, Michael! Thank you for all of your positive contributions to our school community!



Graduation Celebration for SCCOE Students!



SCCOE will be hosting a drive through graduation ceremony for students transitioning out of its post secondary programs (student's ages 22+). The ceremonies will be held on June 16th and 17th at Hester and on June 17th at Gateway. Students will have their graduation photos taken prior to the graduation ceremony; your child's teacher will reach out to you with more information regarding the graduation photos and ceremony. Congratulations!!!

Walden West Family Science Camp!

By Jamel Thompson

Throughout the month of March, students in SCCOE Special Education Programs were invited to experience outdoor learning through Walden West Family Science Day Camp.



Those who participated, visited with and learned about live animals at the on-site nature lab, as well as enjoyed guided nature hikes and walks where they learned about the surrounding ecosystem. Students also had their faces painted with special paint they made from rocks.

For students who were not able to attend in-person, Walden West arranged for a virtual field trip where students, staff and families could experience and learn about snakes, spiders and other critters in the nature lab as well as experience a live streamed show complete with skits by Walden West staff and a campfire sing-a-long.



"The vast majority of the comments and feedback received from families was super positive about how our staff interacted with and accommodated student needs. Everything culminated in a very well thought out and presented virtual camp session and virtual campfire at the end of the month. Good times were had by all!"
-Ron "Spider" Lauder

"My favorite part of camp was looking for newts in the stream, walking in nature was very relaxing, and the nature lab was intriguing."
-Mayra Garcia, parent of Marilena "Rosie".

Parent Engagement Opportunities

SCCOE wants to partner with parents and is continuously seeking ways to engage families. On the third Wednesday of each month, the SCCOE's Special Education Department holds a parent engagement evening where presenters are invited to share information on topics such as: Navigating the IEP Process, Transition Planning and Conservatorship.

Another opportunity for parents to engage with SCCOE is to join the School Site Council (SSC). The SSC is a decision-making body that represents all stakeholders of the school community including students, parents and staff. The Council's primary charge is to develop, monitor and revise the School Plan for Student Achievement. In addition, the SSC works to allocate resources to support the plan.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the School Site Council is scheduled to meet on the following dates from 6-8pm: September 21st, November 16th, January 18th, March 22nd and May 17th.

Learning and Growing Summer Enrichment Camp!



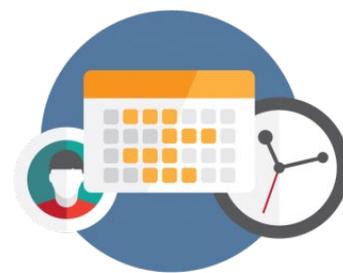
The Special Education team is excited to announce a summer enrichment camp June 21st through June 25th this year.

SCCOE staff are creating a schedule filled with classes and activities to support academics, intramural sports, visual and performing arts, and Life Labs focused on gardening and cooking.

More information on how to sign up coming soon!

Attendance Matters!

This year the SCCOE adopted a positive, problem-solving approach to reducing student absenteeism. The SCCOE understands that punitive actions disproportionately impact students based on race, class, disability and poverty, and do not solve the barriers to attendance. The SCCOE was intent on notifying parents early when their child was reported absent. School Office Coordinators and other school staff were tasked with reaching out to families to confirm absences and to support with the scheduling of a conference with teachers and/or the cluster principal to allow for the sharing of resources to support students returning to school.



Attachment

Parents and guardians, please refer to the attachment for more information on how to contact your Cluster Office:

- Special Education Cluster Contact Information



Website:
www.sccoe.org



Contact:
408-453-6542