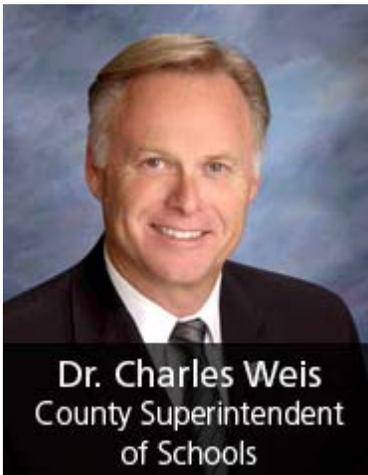




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Welcome to the first online issue of Education Bulletin, a newsletter for the education community and friends of the County Office of Education.

While communicating via e-mail is new for us, sharing information about our schools is not. The first newsletter from the County Superintendent and COE was hammered out on a standard typewriter, without photos or graphic design, and snail-mailed to schools and community leaders in the fall of 1946! The stated goal was to provide information to "unite schools and community" and "meet the crisis in California education" - and this remains our intention today.

As we make this transition, we welcome your feedback and invite you to add friends and colleagues to our e-mail list.

SJ2020: Closing the achievement gap



Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Charles Weis, San José Mayor Chuck Reed and a host of local educators, business leaders and community organizations have launched SJ2020. The ambitious educational initiative seeks to eliminate the achievement gap in San José and ensure that all students test as proficient or advanced on grade-level state assessments by the year 2020.

"This is the civil rights issue of our generation," Superintendent Weis said. "We know what needs to be done; we know how to do it. And the time to do it is now."

To achieve its bold goal, SJ2020 will capitalize on research-based strategies that have proven successful in raising student achievement. While many of these strategies are already being deployed in individual schools and communities, Mayor Reed and Superintendent Weis have brought together a broad coalition to coordinate and implement these strategies city-wide.

[Read more](#) about the initiative.

Board OK's charter contracts

The [Santa Clara County Board of Education](#) met Oct. 21. Among the items on the [board agenda](#) from that date, the board:

- Accepted charter school contracts (Agenda Item 11a)
- Accepted high school graduation requirements (Item 11c)
- Viewed a presentation on state testing results (Item 12c).

[Click here](#) to see an analysis of the test data.

The Board of Education is the elected governing body of the Office of Education. Its seven members serve four-year terms and are elected from different regions of the county.

Staying ahead of H1N1

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From preschools to college classrooms, students age five to 25 account for the largest number of confirmed and probable cases of the pandemic H1N1 flu.

The County Office of Education and County Health Department joined forces to prevent the spread of the flu and to prepare local schools to deal with cases that arise. A Pandemic Influenza School Planning Toolkit has been distributed to every school district. Sections focus on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Both the County Office and Public Health have posted extensive information on their Web sites.

[Learn more](#) about local planning and prevention efforts.

Outstanding teachers honored



Santa Clara County has a long tradition of honoring its finest educators. The 40th annual Teacher Recognition Event this fall was one of the best - celebrating the achievements of Teachers of the Year from 30 school districts countywide.

From preschool teachers to high school teachers of advanced placement classes, the much-admired honorees were entertained, presented with gifts and legislator commendations, and applauded by colleagues, family and friends. State Superintendent Jack O'Connell and County Superintendent Charles Weis hosted the event, co-sponsored by National Semiconductor Foundation, Santa Clara County Federal Credit Union, and the County Office of Education.

[See photos](#) and [read about](#) this year's Teacher Recognition Event.

Outdoor science at Walden West



Most students in Bay Area elementary schools spend 60 minutes or less per week on science, according to a UC Berkeley study. That's one reason why local teachers turn to Walden West Science Center to provide additional

hands-on instruction to 8,500 youngsters each year.

Walden West has made natural science and the environment a

fascinating subject for more than 400,000 students since it opened in 1950. A newly [redesigned Web site](#) provides quick access to the latest information on programs including:

- Outdoor Education for 5th and 6th graders and their teachers;
- Summer Day Camp and Backpack Adventures;
- Wild Things program for younger students.

Owned and operated by the County Office of Education, Walden West receives vigorous support from the [Walden West Foundation](#) - which is raising funds for a new Science Center with well-equipped labs and state-of-the-art "green" construction.

Gilroy workforce site launched



A new Web site will serve as an employment clearinghouse for businesses, educators, employees, and students in the Gilroy area.

Launched with the assistance of the County Office of Education,

www.gilroyworkforce.com offers links to services that provide training and support to ensure that work-related resources are used to their fullest advantage.

The site is the product of Gilroy Business and Education Partnership, which was formed this year. GBEP promotes partnerships and connections between the schools in Gilroy and the business community, with the goal of preparing outstanding graduates and supporting community needs.

In addition to the COE, which offers a [Regional Occupation Program](#), GBEP partners are Gavilan College, the Gilroy Unified School District, Gilroy Chamber of Commerce, Gilroy Economic Development Corporation, Gilroy Visitors Bureau, and business leaders from various employment sectors.

Anne Darling school opens



Anne Darling School, a new state-of-the-art facility for medically fragile and other students with special needs, opened this fall in San Jose.

Classrooms are larger than in

standard schools in order to incorporate therapy areas. Halls are wider to allow for wheelchairs, and the entire building complies with accessibility guidelines set by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The building is "green" and energy-efficient, with large windows that boost the natural light.

The County Office of Education is the county's largest provider of instructional programs and services for children with disabilities. [See photos and read more](#) about Anne Darling School.

Since 1852, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has provided vital services and resources to the county's 31 K-12 public school districts and more than 250,000 students. The SCCOE strives to provide: advocacy and leadership on education issues, student programs that are models of excellence, and indispensable services to schools and community partners. The SCCOE takes pride in being a premier employer and a champion for children, schools, and community.

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