



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

May 2024 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our May newsletter with you. Each month, we update you on programs, events and news in the county office and the districts we serve in San Benito County. In addition, we invite you to stay connected through our various social media platforms.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and our students across San Benito County as we

Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate!

County Superintendent Hosts Thank You Luncheon

On April 24, over 70 community partners gathered for a Thank you Luncheon hosted by County Superintendent of Schools, Krystal Lomanto. The event, which celebrated the many ways the San Benito County community supports education, was held at Paine's Restaurant in downtown Hollister. During the luncheon, attendees had the opportunity to exchange stories and insights while sharing how they individually contribute to education within the community. Superintendent Lomanto extended her gratitude to all community partners, acknowledging that their collective efforts and support of education has strengthened the community. She gave a brief update on several of the initiatives SBCOE staff is currently engaged in to ensure students are successful. In addition, attendees provided input on SBCOE's Strategic Plan.



SBCOE's current 2019-2024 plan, entitled "Strategies for the Future" is in its final phase, prompting SBCOE to seek input from a variety of educational partners to inform the development of the next five-year blueprint. This spring, Superintendent Lomanto has taken a proactive approach, hosting parent town hall meetings and engaging with numerous community organizations to solicit input vital for shaping the future trajectory of educational endeavors in San Benito County.

It is through the collaborative efforts of such committed community members that the education in San Benito County continues to flourish, creating an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

SBCOE Classified and Certificated Employees of the Year

SBCOE is proud to recognize Rolan Resendiz and Enrique Zendejas as the SBCOE Certificated and Classified Employees of the Year, respectively.

After several years in education, Mr. Resendiz began teaching the Santa Ana Opportunity 7th/8th-grade self-contained class this school year. Mr. Resendiz who is loved by his students and their parents and has transformed this small group into a well-oiled, learning machine. Students enjoy school once again and want to be part of the learning environment. He is a revered member of Santa Ana Opportunity School, and a dedicated professional who puts the time and effort into making a difference in the lives of our youth.

Enrique Zendejas is SBCOE's Senior Administrative Assistant supporting the SELPA, Human Resource, and Educational Services Departments. His experience working in a variety of roles in education have given him the knowledge and skills to work positively with members of the public. Even in the most challenging situations, Enrique manages to put people at ease with his infectious smile and calm demeanor. He is detail-oriented and always gives his absolute best and completes every task to the highest standard.



SBCOE Names IEEE Community Champion

The San Benito County Board of Education is proud to recognize this month's Community Champion, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Members of the Region 6 Central Area group volunteered to judge SBCOE STEAM Expo in April and donated awards for 13 students. As part of IEEE's mission to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity, the group is dedicated to promoting STEM education. Thank you to IEEE for their support of students in San Benito County.



SBCOE Hosts Employee of the Year Celebration

San Benito County Office of Education held its annual Certified and Classified Employee of the Year Celebration on April 17, 2024. Each year schools in San Benito County are invited to select one Certified and one Classified employee who has had a significant impact on students to be honored at the event. This year 34 educators were recognized for their hard work and dedication to students.

Thank you to the American Legion Post 69 for the use of Veteran's Memorial Building and for providing drinks and dessert for our attendees. Congratulations to each of our honorees and thank you for making a positive difference in students' lives. A complete list of Employees of the Year can be found at www.sbcoe.org.

Students Show Their Talent at SBC Arts Showcase

San Benito County Office of Education partnered with the San Benito County Arts Council to host its 8th Annual San Benito County Arts Showcase on April 10, 2024, at the Veteran's Memorial Building in downtown Hollister. The event was an unforgettable celebration of local student art and creativity. Attendees viewed a total of 3,775 pieces of art from students in preschool through 12th grade and saw thirteen different groups perform. Performers included: Black Bonsai, Hollister Elementary School District Band, Hollister High School Drama Club and Dance Team, San Benito Stage Company, Enterprise Martial Arts, the Poetry Out Loud Champion and Runner Up, Animation Dance Company, Rancho Maze Concert Band, Flying Colors, San Benito Stage Company, San Benito High School Dancers and Yamamoto Hula Ohana. This was the largest showcase to date and offered a unique opportunity for students to showcase their talent and share their passion for the arts with the community.

The Women's Club of Hollister gave prizes to several student artists (see complete list of winners at www.sbcoe.org). Thank you to the American Legion Post 69 for the use of Veteran's Memorial Building and for providing food for sale as well as free cookies for attendees.



Daycare and Preschool Providers Earn Early Literacy Certification

As part of San Benito County Office of Education's Building Bridges to Literacy Initiative, 18 daycare providers and preschool teachers earned their Early Literacy Certificates on April 13, 2024. The Early Literacy Certification Program is the first of its kind in San Benito County, bringing early literacy classes to daycare providers and preschool teachers throughout San Benito County. It is designed to help participants learn new skills and strategies around reading and literacy with the goal of supporting educators as they work with our youngest children to develop critical literacy skills.

Dr. Danielle Thomas led the Early Literacy training, which consisted of a series of workshops covering six components of literacy and five areas of reading necessary to help young children learn. As part of the requirements to receive their certification, participants created an Early Literacy Plan that they implemented with the children in their care. Dr. Thomas and SBCOE's Educational Services Department staff will continue to support the recipients as they put the strategies they learned in place.

The Early Literacy Certification Program will be offered again next Fall. If you are interested in earning your Early Literacy Certification, please contact Keith Thorbahn at kthorbahn@sbcoe.org or Mai Cruz at macruz@sbcoe.org.

SEL CoP Series Wraps Up a Successful Year

On April 25th, educators from across San Benito County attended the final workshop in the SBCOE's Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice (SEL CoP) series. Participants were warmly welcomed to the SBCOE Alternative Education campus, where Mental Health Coordinator, Adina Austin showcased the student wellness center. The SBCOE Alternative Education Wellness Center serves as a model for San Benito County as well as regionally. Participants were provided manicures by Alternative Education students and made do-it-yourself diffuser sprays from a variety of options. Participants were also greeted with an extensive charcuterie selection, citrus water station and student fidget tools to take back to their classrooms. These intentional calming components represented the Self-Care portion of the workshop's focus- "The Superpowers of Sleep, Stress & Self-Care", presented by Dr. Matthew Rensi, LPCC. The SEL CoP workshop series, led by the SBCOE Student Services Team, will resume in the 24-25 school year. If you have questions or would like to be on the list to receive information about next year's SEL CoP, please reach out to Amber Lister, Director of Direction of Prevention & Intervention at alister@sbcoe.org.



Central Coast Foster & Homeless Youth Summit

The 2024 Central Coast Foster & Homeless Education Summit, a collaboration between the Monterey County Office of Education, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and San Benito County Office of Education, was a tremendous success. Held on April 19 at Salinas Center, the summit brought together professionals dedicated to supporting homeless and foster students for a day of learning and collaboration.

Key highlights included a warm welcome from San Benito County Superintendent of Schools, Krystal Lomanto, and insightful learning such as Assistant Superintendent Gwen Baquiran's presentation on IEP Essentials. SBCOE Education Liaison, Victor Negrete, also provided valuable information on college resources, accompanied by representatives from local colleges.

The summit featured a youth panel, allowing attendees to hear directly from homeless and foster students about their experiences. The keynote speaker, Kevon Lee, shared inspiring insights on his experience growing up as a foster and homeless student and how creating supportive environments for students can lead them to success. We extend our gratitude to all attendees for their dedication to supporting homeless and foster students.

San Benito County Office of Education Celebrates Earth Day



On Saturday, April 20, San Benito County residents celebrated Earth Day at San Juan Bautista's State Historical Park. SBCOE Coordinator of Instructional Support, Tony Balbas, manned a booth, offering kids the opportunity to make bookmarks with pressed wildflowers. Students enjoyed tapping into their creative side by learning how they can help the environment while creating something beautiful at the same time.



Unsung Heroes Receive Awards

The Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Benito (CAPC) held its annual Unsung Hero Award ceremony on April 18, 2024, at the Veterans Memorial Building, recognizing individuals whose efforts often go unnoticed but play a significant role in shaping the welfare of San Benito County's children. The Unsung Hero Award is a testament to the profound impact that professionals and community members can have behind the scenes. It celebrates those who demonstrate a positive attitude, an unwavering willingness to offer assistance in any capacity necessary, a steadfast commitment to excellence, and a genuine dedication to making a difference in the lives of children within the community. Several outstanding San Benito County Office of Education staff members received the award this year.

Cielo Gonzales - Mental Health Therapist
Victor Negrete - Education Liaison
Cristal Ruiz-Campos - Mental Health Therapist
Rolan Resendiz - Alternative Education Teacher
Ellard Rodriguez - Receptionist Health Clerk

SBCOE Summer Programs Begin in June

San Benito County Office of Education's Early Childhood Special Education Center will offer ESY (Extended School Year) to students who have an IEP June 11, 2024 to July 11, 2024 for a total of 20 instructional days. Students qualify for ESY if the team feels that regression towards goals will happen over an extended break. This year, ESY will focus on peer interactions, pre-academics, and following a picture schedule with daily routines. In addition, teachers often incorporate a few fun-filled water days for our students when the weather is warm! Students also have access to additional services in their IEP such as Speech and/or Occupational Therapy, if applicable. SBCOE's Low Incidence Team (DHH, VI, O&M, OI) will support Hollister High School and the Hollister School District students during their respective summer schools.

Summer School is also available to SBCOE students enrolled in Santa Ana Opportunity School and San Andreas Continuation School so they can earn additional credits toward graduation. The Summer School program is one way SBCOE helps students who have struggled academically make up the learning they lost so they can graduate ready to enter the workforce or continue their education. Summer School runs June 7-28.

Student Artwork Honoring Cesar Chavez Recognized

Earlier this spring, students at Pinnacles Community, San Andreas Continuation, and Santa Ana Opportunity School honored Cesar Chavez's contributions to the rights of migrant farmworkers through art and writing. These students were recognized on April 23, 2024 by Sylvia Chavez Delgado, daughter of Cesar Chavez, and Mickie Luna, president of the Latino Coalition of San Benito County. The recognition not only acknowledged the students' creativity but also their connection to the struggles and stories within their own families.

The student art contest organized by the Latino Coalition earlier this year provided a platform for these young individuals to express themselves and share their unique narratives. The works were also displayed at the SBCOE Arts Showcase in April. Their works serve as a source of pride for students, many of whom come from migrant families, themselves. The recognition affirms the value of their experiences and contributions and was especially meaningful because it occurred on the anniversary of Cesar Chavez's passing, adding a deeper layer of significance to the event.



San Benito County Educators Complete “Learning How English Works” Series

San Benito County Office of Education, in partnership with Loyola Marymount University, culminated the last and 5th Student Work Analysis Protocol (SWAP) session on April 17, 2024. As part of the year-long professional learning in English Language Development (ELD), educators across the county were provided with foundational knowledge of ELD and utilized Learning How English Works (LHEW) to unpack and implement ELD standards. Teachers used strategies they learned with their students and had the opportunity to collaborate on how to help students improve their English and writing skills. SBCOE hopes to offer the series again next year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2024

Professional Learning Opportunities

May 8: How Paraprofessionals Can Support AAC

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=240360>

2:00-4:00pm

May 8 & 20: LCAP Workshop

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=243967>

3:30-5:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

May 8: Non-Violent Intervention Training

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=248277>

1:00-3:00pm

HESD Enterprise Room

May 13: SBC Arts Integration Initiative

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=241587>

3:30-5:00pm via Zoom

May 22: Applying Positive Practices for Supporting LGBTQ+ Students

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=244016>

3:00-5:00pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

May 30: SBC Math Initiative 2.0

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=245491>

1:15-3:15pm

Maze Middle School

Meetings

May 3: SARB Screening

8:30am-12:00pm

Sheriff's Department

May 9: SBCOE Board Meeting

4:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

May 10 & 17: SARB Hearing

9:00am-12:00pm via Zoom

Sheriff's Department

May 15: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

Southside Elementary & Zoom

May 17: Mental Health Lead Meeting

9:00-10:30am

SBCOE Boardroom

May 29: Mental Health Provider Network

Community Foundation Epicenter

May 30: SBCOE Teacher Induction Colloquium

4:00-6:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Building