



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

March 2024 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our March 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!

SBCOE STEAM Expo to be Held March 13

The San Benito County Office of Education is excited to announce the upcoming STEAM Expo! This annual event serves as a celebration of all things STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and brings together students, educators, and community partners to showcase their creativity and innovation.

This year's STEAM Expo will take place on March 13th from 4pm to 7pm at the Veterans Memorial Building. The event will feature a variety of booths with engaging activities and presentations from The Tech Challenge, Pinnacles National Park, San Benito Arts Council, and other local organizations. In addition, robotics teams will be on hand to demonstrate their latest inventions and innovations.

One of the highlights of the STEAM Expo will be the county science fair, where select students will have the opportunity to showcase their scientific research and experiments. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication and to advance to the State Science Fair. We invite all students, families, and community members to join us for this exciting event and to experience the wonder of STEAM. The STEAM Expo is a great way to learn about the latest developments in science, technology, engineering, art, and math, and to connect with other like-minded individuals who are passionate about these subjects. For information or questions, contact SBCOE's Coordinator of Instructional Support, Tony Balbas, at tbalbas@sbcoe.org.



Arts Showcase Set for April 10

SBCOE is excited to announce the upcoming San Benito County Arts Showcase, which will be held on April 10th from 4pm to 7pm at the Veterans Memorial Building. This event is a collaboration between the San Benito County Office of Education and the San Benito Arts Council, and promises to be an unforgettable celebration of local art and creativity.

The San Benito County Arts Showcase will feature live performances on stage, as well as thousands of works from local student artists. This is a unique opportunity for students to showcase their talent and share their passion for the arts with the community. Visitors will have the chance to explore a wide variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, and more. The event will also feature special performances by talented local artists, who will take the stage to showcase their skills and entertain the audience with performances in music, dance, theater, and martial arts. Contact Tony Balbas at tbalbas@sbcoe.org for information and questions.



School Social Worker Week March 3-9



School social workers across the nation are celebrated the first week of March each year. The week is used to acknowledge their work in helping students achieve academic success. Although social work in schools has been highlighted in recent years due to the increase in school-based mental health services, social work in schools actually began over 110 years ago by visiting teachers. School social workers work with teachers, parents, and school staff to help students deal with mental health and behavioral challenges and provide academic and classroom support. They also help develop education policies, work with crisis interventions, and identify and report child neglect and abuse.

For the past four years, SBCOE has hired School Social Workers to serve in 17 schools throughout San Benito County. This is part of SBCOE's Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives initiative and provides needed mental health services to students.

SEL & Engagement Conference March 23

Empower your students and transform your classroom through excitement, creativity and a dash of magic! Please join us for our upcoming first of its kind SEL & Engagement Mini Conference on March 23 from 8:30am to 3:30pm at Hollister High School! In collaboration with Hollister School District, SBCOE is hosting this innovative and engaging Get Your Teach On! (GYTO) team, led by Wade and Hope King. GYTO is a national leader in transformative and dynamic professional development led by and for teachers! The event is completely free and open to all classified staff, teachers of all grade levels, administrators, and other service providers in San Benito county. Breakout rooms will focus on grade span topics. Major themes addressed include Teacher Self-Care, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Classroom Expectations, Relationship Building, Student Engagement and Student Accountability. Reserve your spot by registering at <https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=246337>



Alternative Education Program Update



March is shaping up to be a busy month for SBCOE's Alternative Education Programs, that are emphasizing science and career technical education (CTE). The recently remodeled Youth Services Center, formerly known as Juvenile Hall, has been completely reopened. Updates include classroom improvements as well as a culinary area where students can learn marketable skills.

Students in the Pinnacles Community School morning session began taking a Culinary Class taught by Kneaded Culinary Academy in February. The class has been a huge success and we are looking forward to offering the same program to our afternoon class in March.

As part of our science curriculum, students and Santa Ana Opportunity School and San Andreas Continuation School will be participating in this year's STEAM Expo. Completing a science fair project provides students with valuable understanding of the scientific method. Students are encouraged to design their own experiments to spark their interest in science.

As the school year enters the final few months, Senior students have been preparing for life after high school. All seniors completed an application to Gavilan College in February. Every senior will also be complete their FAFSA in March. Additionally, Senior students will be participating in Mock Interviews with Community Solutions.

ECE Update

The San Benito County Office of Education Special Education Departed facilitated a Parent Matriculation Meeting at the Early Childhood Special Education Center to inform parents about the transition process from Preschool to Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Neighboring school district Special Education Directors attended the meeting and spoke about each of their district's processes. In attendance were Michelle Croucher from Aromas San Juan Unified School District, Gabe Gutierrez from the Hollister School District, and Kristi Vieyra from North County Joint Union School District.

The purpose of the Parent Matriculation Meetings is to provide and share information from the SBCOE Preschool program to the DOR (District of Residence). This collaboration across entities with families helps ensure students are set up for success as they move from Preschool to Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten.



SBCOE Above & Beyond Award Recipients



This month, SBCOE recognizes Carla Loomis and Elida Rodriguez as our SBCOE Above & Beyond Award Recipients. Carla is one of our San Andreas Continuation High School teachers. She has done an excellent job developing the curriculum for her new Leadership class this year, exemplifying SBCOE's Supporting Student Learning Pillar. Her creative activities such as participating in CASA's "adopt a child" at Christmas has helped our students develop their leadership skills and gain confidence.

Elida serves as our Family and Community Engagement Liaison for the Migrant Education Program. She works with students, families and staff to make sure our migrant students are successful. She is committed to the success of all students participating in activities outside of her work hours including volunteering to help with the Kids Room at the Literacy Summit in January. Elida lives out SBCOE's Building Relationships Pillar each day.

Julie Neff Receives SBCOE Community Champion Award

Spring Grove Elementary Teacher, Julie Neff, was presented with SBCOE's Community Champion Award by the San Benito County Board of Education in February. Ten years ago, Julie started the Kindness Club at Spring Grove. Since then, the club has grown to over 100 students and has expanded into our community. Thanks to Julie, students are making a difference and learning to make our community and our world a better place!



Assistant Superintendent Baquiran Receives CAAPLE Award



Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Gwen Baquiran was recently named California Association of Asian and Pacific Leaders in Education (CAAPLE), County Office Educator of the Year. CAAPLE awards recognize students, administrators and community organizations for their achievements and their dedication to Asian American/Pacific Islander educators and students in public education.

Through her work with Special Education, Foster Youth, Homeless Education, Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS), and other Student Services related programs, Ms. Baquiran has demonstrated her commitment to culturally and equity-centered leadership and decisions. She will be honored during CAAPLE's Awards Reception at their Annual Conference on April 20, 2024 in Newport Beach, CA.

Technology Safety Tip

In the digital age, guarding against social engineering attacks is more important than ever. These deceptive tactics trick individuals into divulging sensitive information, leading to potential fraud or identity theft. To protect yourself, approach unsolicited requests for personal information with caution, whether they come via email, phone, or text. Verify the legitimacy of such requests by contacting the organization through official channels. Stay alert to the signs of phishing, such as unexpected urgent messages that ask for your information or direct you to click on suspicious links or attachments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 2023

SBC STEAM Expo

March 13
4:00-7:00pm
Veteran's Memorial Building

All students in grade Pre-K through 12th grade are encouraged to share their inventions, STEAM projects or participate in our County Science Fair!

Join us for live student demonstrations, interactive arts and science experiences, and food.



SBC Arts Showcase

April 10
4:00-7:00pm
Veteran's Memorial Building

All students in San Benito County are encouraged to submit artwork.

Join us to view live performances, interactive arts projects, and food.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Mar 4: LCAP Workshop

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

3:30-5:00pm
SBCOE Boardroom

Mar 7: Leading for Equity

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=238472>

2:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Mar 7: Classroom Management

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=243993>

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

Mar 11: SBC Arts Integration Initiative

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

3:30-5:00pm via Zoom

Mar 16: Early Literacy Certification

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=244550>

9:00am-2:00pm
SBCOE Boardroom

Mar 19: Leading for Impact

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=241848>

2:30-4:30pm via Zoom

Mar 21: PBIS 2.0

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=239930>

2:30-4:30pm
Epicenter

Mar 23: SEL & Engagement Conference

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=246337>

8:30-3:30pm
Hollister High School

Meetings

Mar 1: SARB Meeting

9:00-11:00am
WFD Center

Mar 13: SBC C&I Network and EL Steering Committee Meeting

1:00-3:00pm
SBCOE Boardroom

Mar 13: LHEW SWAP Meeting

3:45-5:15pm via Zoom

Mar 18: SBCOE Induction Advisory Board Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

Mar 20: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:30pm
Southside Elementary

Mar 21: SBCOE Induction Coach Workshop

3:45-4:45pm
HESD Enterprise Room

Mar 27: Mental Health Provider Network Meeting

3:00-4:30pm
Epicenter