



# COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

### November 2024 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our November 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 Hosts Math Festival

On October 24, the San Benito County Office of Education, in partnership with the Julia Robinson Math Festival (JRMF), hosted its annual Math Festival at the Veteran's Memorial Building that captivated students and families alike. The event featured 15 different interactive math games designed to make learning engaging and fun.



Participants explored various challenges that encouraged teamwork and problem-solving skills. From hands-on activities to collaborative puzzles, the festival provided a lively atmosphere where students discovered the joy and fun of mathematics.



## SBCOE Above & Beyond Award Recipients

Congratulations to this month's Above & Beyond Award Recipients, Karyn Garcia and Anthony Quevedo.

Karyn is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired serving students at schools throughout the county. In addition to working with students to ensure they have access to the curriculum, she is an advocate for them, training the Board, staff and parents about the various visual impairments as well as the tools and resources available to students.

As a Custodian at the Early Childhood Special Education Preschool, Anthony keeps the classrooms and offices clean and safe every day. He is always ready to step in and help if another custodian is out. His willingness to work with staff in the best interest of the students is appreciated by everyone.



## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week 2024 was a success at the San Benito County Office of Education! The month of anti-vape and anti-tobacco campaign festivities wrapped up with a door decorating contest. This year's national Red Ribbon theme was, "Life is a Movie: Film Drug Free!" Mrs. Lindeman's students from Bitterwater-Tully School chose to create a Minion-themed door and earned an amazon gift card for first prize. Second place went to Mrs. Torres' class from Ladd Lane and third place went to Panoche School. Thanks to all classes that participated.



## Rural School Spotlight

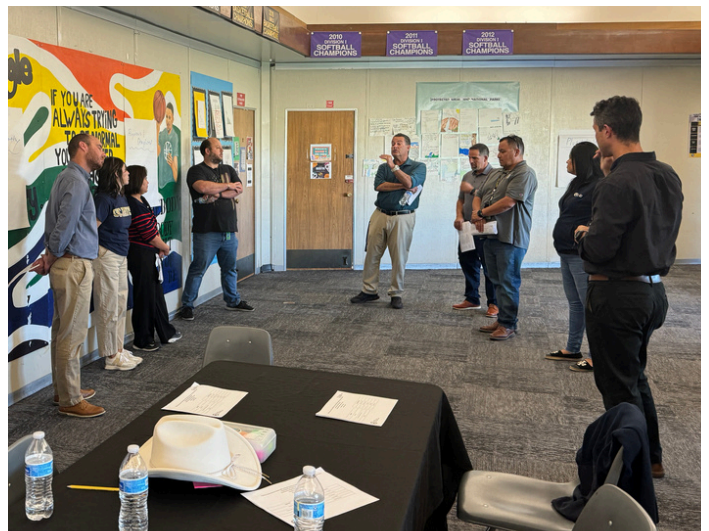


This month's Rural Principal School Educator Spotlight is Panoche Elementary School's Amanda McCraw. Amanda is a proud graduate of Hollister High School. After graduation Ms. McCraw attended Fresno State, where she graduated with a Liberal Studies degree. She began her teaching career at St. LaSalle School, where she taught for three years and has been the Principal/Teacher at Panoche Elementary School since 2019. Ms. McCraw states that her greatest joy is being able to reach students at their level and watch them grow academically. Students describe Ms. McCraw as "helpful", "She's the best teacher", "She makes me feel happy", and "Lots of energy"! Ms. McCraw is married and has two boys.



## Continuous Improvement Leadership Series Begins

San Benito County Office of Education, in partnership with System Improvement Leads (SIL), launched the first of a four-part Continuous Improvement Leadership Series on October 23. This inaugural session focused on shifting mindsets and exploring various habits of mind essential for effective leadership. Participants engaged in dynamic collaboration activities that provided an opportunity for reflection on both personal and team habits of mind. Attendees praised the event for its interactive format, emphasizing the value of learning from one another and sharing best practices.



## SBCOE Offers STRS and PERS Training

This fall, SBCOE's Human Resources and Business Department staff hosted two retirement system workshops, one for STRS and one for PERS. All district participants in at least one of the trainings. At the STRS training, participants were introduced to the new portal coming in Fall 2025, reviewed the Human Resources side of appointments and learned how to run reports. They also discussed new processes with membership and uploading test files to check for errors prior to closing payroll.

The PERS training provided systems training, appointments for new hires, accessing member information within the system, running reports.



## English Learner Multilingual Steering Committee Reconvenes

October 16 marked the start of the EL/Multilingual Steering Network, bringing together representatives from various districts and schools countywide. The event was facilitated by Mai Opena-Cruz and Tony Balbas, focusing on enhancing support for English Learners.

One of SBCOE's Region 5 partners, Hushi Natividad, ELD Coordinator at Santa Clara COE, led a workshop on leveraging ELPAC data disaggregation to improve English Learner instruction. Participants also shared updates on English Learner initiatives from their respective districts and schools. The next network convening is on December 11th.



## ECE Celebrates Fall

Fall is here and our Early Childhood Special Education teachers and students are creating wonderful activities this season. In addition to implementing our adopted curriculum, teachers are embedding fall activities. October activities included decorated pumpkins and handprint spiders, which were displayed in the front office. October Family Fun Day was held on Thursday, October 31st. Students and parents wore their costumes and took part in the Under the Sea theme with a sensory room and outdoor activities.

Our November Family Fun Day will be held on Thursday, November 14. During this Family Fun Day, We will be inviting our local firefighters to come out with their Fire Trucks! In addition, we are holding a See's Candy Fundraiser which raises funds for special classroom activities and supplies.



*You're Invited...*



### SBC Literacy Summit 2025

**January 23, 2025**  
**Veterans Memorial Building**  
**4:30pm - 7:00pm.**

Community-wide literacy makes for a better community. The Literacy Summit 2025 promotes county and district efforts to improve literacy outcomes in students and support Local Education Agencies' collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind in the learning journey. All families, educators, support staff, community members, and leaders in San Benito county are invited to attend the which will include a free dinner, keynote speaker, and roundtable discussions on various literacy topics.

## SBCOE Student Events

It's not too early to get ready for SBCOE's Countywide Special Events this spring! SBCOE invites and encourages all students in San Benito County to participate in the Student Events during the spring semester. Mark your calendars with the dates below and watch for additional information on our social media and website.

#### **SBC Spelling Bee**

Preliminary Rounds  
February 6, 2025 5:30-6:30pm  
HDLA Gym  
Championship Rounds  
February 6, 2024 5:30-6:30pm  
Veteran's Memorial Building

#### **SBC STEAM EXPO**

March 3, 2025 4:00-7:00pm  
Veteran's Memorial Building

#### **SBC Annual Arts Showcase**

April 3, 2025 4:00-7:00pm  
Veteran's Memorial Building





# UPCOMING EVENTS

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NOV 2024

## Professional Learning Opportunities

### Nov 4: Assistive Technology Considerations

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255346)

id=255346

3:00-4:30pm via Zoom

### Nov 7: Classroom Positive Support Strategies

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=254970)

id=254970

2:30-4:30pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

### Nov 7: ELD 101

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=250381)

id=250381

3:45-5:15pm

HESD Enterprise Room

### Nov 12: SELPA Educator Open House

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=256091)

id=256091

3:30-4:30pm

SELPA Office

### Nov 13: Spread Kindness, Create Connections

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=257875)

id=257875

3:45-5:00pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

### Nov 14: SBC Math Initiative 2.0

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=258133)

id=258133

1:15-3:15pm

Maze Middle School

### Nov 14: Paraeducator Training

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=251133)

id=251133

2:00-3:30pm

SELPA Office

### Nov 18: Student Support Network Series: McKinney Vento 101

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255717)

id=255717

2:30-4:00pm via Zoom

### Nov 21: Service Logs Training

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=250917)

id=250917

3:00-4:00pm via Zoom

### Nov 23: Early Literacy Certification Program

[https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?](https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=255792)

id=255792

9:00am-2:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

## Meetings

### Nov 4: SARB Screening & Hearing

9:00-11:00am

Community Services & Workforce Development Center

### Nov 7: Induction Coach Workshop

3:30-4:30pm

Hollister High School Library

### Nov 15: SBC Mental Health Lead Meeting

10:30am-12:00pm SBCOE Boardroom

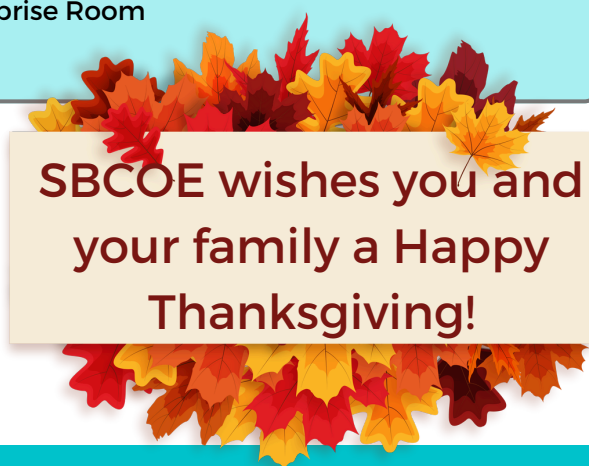
### Nov 20: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

### Nov 21: Induction Coach Workshop

3:45-4:45pm

HESD Enterprise Room



SBCOE wishes you and  
your family a Happy  
Thanksgiving!