



COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



December 2024 Newsletter

The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our December 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 Krystal Lomanto recognizes Fall 2024 Early Literacy Certification Program Completers

In November, the San Benito County Office of Education recognized sixteen Early Literacy Certification Program Completers who were part of the Fall 2024 Cohort of the Early Literacy Certification Program. This program is part of the county's Building Bridges 2 Literacy initiative and provides training for community child care providers and preschool teachers around Early Literacy. The recognition ceremony took place on Saturday, November 23, 2024, with family and friends in attendance.

To receive their certification, program completers attended three workshops where they learned the six components of literacy and the five areas of reading as they developed and presented an Early Literacy Plan to be implemented in their child care center or preschool. Program completers received an Early Literacy Certification certificate from the San Benito County Office of Education, as well as a yard sign that can be displayed at their place of business.



VFW Receives Community Champion Award

Bernie Ramirez and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 9242 received the San Benito County Office of Education's Community Champion Award from the SBCOE Board of Education in November. Mr. Ramirez and his team spearheaded the first Carnival of Special Heroes at the end of August this year. The event brought together community agencies from all around San Benito County to provide a special, fun-filled day to celebrate students with special needs. Thank you, Mr. Ramirez, for organizing this event and making it a huge success.



Alternative Education Programs Host Community Schools Night

San Andreas Continuation High School and Santa Ana Opportunity School held their Community Family Knight Event on November 12. Staff and families came together to recognize students for outstanding academic achievements, attendance and positive attitudes toward school. The event highlighted the schools' initiatives and showcased the incredible generosity of our community donors. Families enjoyed raffle items throughout the evening, including gift baskets, gift cards and turkeys. The event was coordinated by Adina Austin, SBCOE's Mental Health coordinator and Community schools Coordinator for the Alternative Education Programs. Thank you to the Community School Knight Council, Alternative Education Principal Garrett Quindimil, and the staff for their support in making this night truly meaningful for our students and families.

F2B Winter Reading Challenge Runs December 1-January 5

All San Benito County children ages 0-3rd grade are invited to join the San Benito County Office of Education for our Winter Reading Challenge December 1 through January 5 using the Footsteps2Brilliance reading app. The top 15 readers will be recognized at SBCOE's Literacy Summit on January 23. Students can use their school account or parents can download the app for FREE at www.myf2b.com/register/SanBenitoCOE. Footsteps2Brilliance offers free books and games in both English and Spanish. In addition, its Clever Kids University also helps teach younger children how to read.



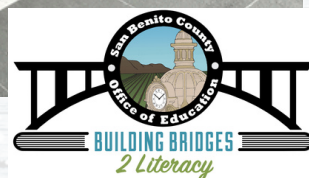
San Benito County Educators attend SBCMI 2.0 Math Workshop

On November 14, fifty San Benito County math educators attended a workshop led by Phillip Gonsalves founder of the Mathematics Coaching Consortium, and Chief Learning Officer for Curated Pathways to Innovation. Participants received a variety of specific mathematics content that included developing number sense, operations on whole numbers, Integers, decimals, LCM, and fractions. They also learned concrete, effective instructional practices that participants could immediately utilize in their classrooms. The workshop is part of the five-year San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0 (SBCMI 2.0). The next workshop for teachers will take place Thursday, January 16, 2024, from 1:15-3:15pm. Educators may register for this workshop at <http://sanbenito.k12oms.org/616-258133>



Spring Grove Brings Math to the Playground

Spring Grove Elementary School is using a unique strategy to help students learn math concepts. Using templates from San Benito County Math Initiative 2.0, over the summer, staff painted math figures on the school's blacktop. The templates allow students and teachers to act out what they are doing and learning in class. This is just one strategy Spring Grove Elementary School is using to help their students learn and understand math concepts. Recent state testing through the CAASPP show that Spring Grove Elementary School improved their math scores by almost 10% in 2024.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library Comes to San Benito County

Register Your Child for

FREE BOOKS

Dolly Parton's IMAGINATION LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/CASANBENITO/>

Learn more at [ImaginationLibrary.com](https://imaginationlibrary.com)

San Benito County Office of Education is partnering with United for San Benito to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to children ages 0 to 5 in San Benito County. Any child under the age of 5 can register to receive a FREE book each month until their 5th birthday. The books are highly engaging and will be mailed directly to the child each month.

To register, scan the QR code and follow the instructions under the "Online Registration" link. Paper registration form are also available in the SBCOE Main Office at 460 5th Street. For more information, contact Monica Barragan at 831-637-5393 x126. Donations towards this project can also be made using the same QR code.



You're Invited...

SBCOE's Student Events are not only about competition but also about fostering creativity, innovation, and community. SBCOE is committed to providing students from all schools with platforms to excel, express themselves, and connect with their peers and professionals in their fields. We look forward to seeing the amazing work that students will present in these events—mark your calendars and get ready for a year full of excitement and achievement!

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

SBCOE is hosting its 2nd Annual Literacy Summit to promote and improve literacy for students so 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 Summit, which will include a free dinner, keynote speaker, and roundtable discussions on various literacy topics.

Countywide Spelling Bee **February 6, 2024** **Veteran's Memorial Building** **5:30-6:30pm**

Registration is now Open for the Annual San Benito County Spelling Bee! This beloved event will feature two divisions: 4th through 6th grade and 7th through 9th grade. The top two finishers from each division will earn the prestigious opportunity to compete in the California State Spelling Bee at the Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca, California, on April 26th. A spelling showdown awaits, where precision and perseverance will take center stage! Be sure to sign up early at [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SBEOEBEE25](https://bit.ly/sbcoebee25) to secure a spot in this exciting competition.

SBCOE Student Events

SBC STEAM EXPO **March 3, 2025 4:00-7:00pm** **Veteran's Memorial Building**

Celebrate all things STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at the SBCOE STEAM Expo on March 13th, 2025! This hands-on event promises to be an engaging day filled with interactive demonstrations, activities, and the chance for students to meet industry professionals. The Expo will also feature a Science Fair, where students will have the chance to advance to the State Science Fair. The Expo is open to students from all grade levels, including homeschool, private, and public school students, and welcomes any projects related to STEAM. With multiple categories and recognition opportunities, participants will be rewarded with prizes for their innovative and creative work. This event is perfect for curious minds eager to explore the world of STEAM!

SBC Annual Arts Showcase **April 3, 2025 4:00-7:00pm** **Veteran's Memorial Building**

Get ready for a celebration of student artistry at the County Arts Showcase on April 10th, 2025, in collaboration with the San Benito Arts Council. This dynamic event will feature student artwork across a variety of forms, including music, visual art, video, dance, sculpture, and martial arts. It's a wonderful opportunity for students from all school types—public, private, and homeschool—to share their creative talents and be recognized for their artistic contributions. Whether you're a painter, dancer, musician, or sculptor, the County Arts Showcase will be a vibrant display of our community's diverse artistic abilities.



“Spread Kindness, Create Connections” Workshop Inspires Educators

Julie Neff led an inspiring workshop titled “Spread Kindness, Create Connections” on November 13th, coinciding with World Kindness Day. The workshop emphasized the power of compassion and meaningful relationships in schools and communities. Educators who attended learned practical steps for starting a Kindness Club that prompted empathy, inclusivity, and positive social change at Spring Grove Elementary School.

Through her personal experience and heartfelt stories, Ms. Neff encouraged participants to take small but impactful actions that promote empathy and inclusion. Participants left motivated to implement these ideas in their own spaces and created a collective commitment to building a more connected and compassionate community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 2024

Professional Learning Opportunities

Dec 5: Continuous Improvement Leadership Series

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=255876>

3:00-5:00pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

Dec 11: EL/Multilingual Steering Committee

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=258221>

10:00am-12:00pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

Dec 18: Dr. Scott Ross: Tier II Foundations (Part II)

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=79&id=259330>

1:00-4:00pm

Community Foundation Epicenter

Meetings

Dec 4: SARB Screening and Hearing

8:30am-12:30pm

Dec 18: Rural Principals PLN

3:30-5:00pm via Zoom

The San Benito County Office of Education wishes you and your family a Happy Holiday season! We appreciate working with such an amazing group of people dedicated to educating our students across the county!