



Santa Clara County  
Office of Education



# COE News Roundup

Stay informed about the latest COE news

June 2, 2015



## Donors needed for Child Services' annual blood drive

In recognition of June as "National Employee Wellbeing Month", the Annual Department of Child Support Services Blood drive will be held on June 26 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the DCSS Auditorium (880 Ridder Park Drive).

Keep in mind that **depending on your personal health history, the process can take up to an hour and 15 minutes**, so check with your manager and schedule accordingly. You can [book your appointment online](#), or reach out to [Tina Dickinson](#) at DCSS with any questions at (408) 503-5651. Not sure if you're eligible to give blood? Call (866) 236-3276 for more information.

Once you're sure you're eligible to donate, the only thing you need to participate is a valid ID, so sign up early to get the best appointment times! You'll feel like a hero, have bragging rights for days and rack up a little good karma to boot.



## Learn about your Section 125 benefits - with a chance to win a prize!

It's time for the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) Section 125 Open Enrollment. As part of our total benefit package, a Section 125 benefit program is

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## Vote for the SCCOE in the Telly Awards

Each year, the Telly Awards honor the very best in video and film production, and the SCCOE is up for three People's Awards this year! First, [register](#) to participate in voting, then enjoy a mini-film festival in your web browser by checking out the links below. Be sure to **VOTE** to support the hard work of your amazing colleagues:

- [The Young Cultural Ambassador Program](#) - A short film about the special delegation of student diplomats who visited our community this year.
- [1st Chinese Star Contest](#) - Learn about our first-ever contest to celebrate students who excel in Chinese language and culture.
- [Wall of Honor for Biliteracy and Pathway Awards](#) - The behind-the-scenes story of the lovely art installation outside the Ridder Park cafeteria.

available to all employees of the SCCOE. The plan administrator for the SCCOE is American Fidelity Assurance Company (AFA). The plan year will begin on July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. *Please note that the plan year has changed and that this is the only opportunity you will have to renew or enroll in a Section 125 benefit plan.*

As a reminder, Section 125 allows you to pay for certain out of pocket expenses on a pre-tax basis. Pre-tax contributions may be used for out-of-pocket medical, dental, and vision expenses for you and your family. Some of these expenses include deductibles, co-payments, chiropractic care, additional glasses, contacts and solution, orthodontia, laser eye surgery and day care costs. By implementing this plan, you have the opportunity to reduce taxes and increase spendable income. A Limited Purpose Flexible Spending account is also available for employees participating in a Health Savings Account (HSA) to cover dental and vision costs.

The SCCOE encourages all employees to meet with American Fidelity to sign a new Section 125 election form and to review the benefit options available. You will not only learn about Section 125 and the optional plans being offered, but how the pre-tax benefits can save you money every month.

In addition to Section 125 Benefits, AFA Benefit Counselors will be reviewing the SCCOE's Wellness Program where Vitality members can earn employer-paid dollars in your Flexible Spending Account (FSA).

The [enrollment meetings](#) will begin May 26 and run through June 30, both at Ridder Park and our many school sites. If you enroll by June 30, you will be entered into a drawing sponsored by American Fidelity to win one of four \$100 Visa Gift Cards. To schedule your appointment with an AFA Benefit Counselor or for more information regarding the flexible spending account, please call (866) 504-0010 ext. 0.



## Free stress workshop at DCSS

Our neighbors at the Department of Child Support Services (800 Ridder Park Drive) have kindly invited us to join them Tuesday, June 16 for a "How to Reduce Stress" Lunch n' Learn presented by their Employee Assistance Program.

Share the links, spread the word, and encourage your friends and family to vote!



## Champions for Leadership 2015-16 cohort now accepting nominations

The Santa Clara County Office of Education believes leadership at all levels is critical to the future of our students, schools and the organization. As such, we are now accepting nominations for the seventh cohort of the [Champions for Leadership](#) (CFL) Program, winner of the 2014 California School Boards Association's Golden Bell and Apple for Excellence awards.

The CFL Program team works with future leaders from each branch, matches them with a mentor and provides them with professional development opportunities. Permanent employees (certificated and classified) including existing managers, teachers, office staff, classroom staff and service workers are eligible to self-nominate or be nominated by a colleague for the program.

For more information about this leadership program, please contact [Kathy Sealana](#) at ext. 6686. To nominate yourself or a colleague, please complete then email the [2015-16 CFL Nomination Form](#) to [Talent Management](#) or fax to (408) 453-6723 by June 12.



## Important Vitality reward information

While the Vitality program year continues through August 30, 2015, the cut-off date for earning a wellness Flexible Spending Account (FSA) contributed by the SCCOE is June 15.

The FSA is administered by American Fidelity and will be available on July 1 for members who have achieved silver status or above by June 15. The wellness FSA can be used to reimburse eligible out-of-pocket costs incurred from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Important dates:

The session will be held from 12-12:30 p.m. in the auditorium and will include handouts and tips for reducing stress both at work and home. All SCCOE employees are welcome, no RSVP required.

For more information, contact [Tina Dickinson](#) at DCSS.



## "Live Happy - Work Happy - Be Happy" wellness talk webcasts available

Research shows that health and happiness have a big impact on personal success. SCCOE Staff Wellness together with CONCERN: EAP present Live Happy - Work Happy - Be Happy, a four-part wellness talk series offering research-based techniques for experiencing greater happiness.

The entire series is taped for viewing and is now available.

- [Self-Care](#) (60 min. video)
  - [Participant self-care checklist](#)
- [Emotional Intelligence](#) (60 min. video)
  - [Participant EQ materials](#)
- [Mindful Self-Awareness](#) (60 min. video)
  - [Participant materials](#)
- [Cultivating Gratitude](#) (60 min. video)
  - [Participant handout](#)
  - [Presentation slides](#)

You don't need to be a Vitality member to participate, but you can earn 50 Vitality Points for viewing one wellness webcast and submitting an evaluation and 300 Vitality Points for completing the four-part series.

Questions? Contact [Tricia Zamora](#), Employee Wellness Specialist, at ext. 3616.



## Grab an ebook for summer reading

Looking for something to read while lounging at the

- June 15, 2015: Vitality status will be sent to American Fidelity to process the FSA.
- July 1, 2015: FSA will be available for staff who earn silver status or above.
- June 15 - August 30, 2015: Continue to engage in Vitality as 10 percent of your total points earned this program year will carry over to next year, giving you a head start to earn an FSA again the following year.

Important note: The account will be set up on your behalf and does not require any extra enrollment process **unless** you are also interested in the traditional FSA that requires payroll deductions. If you are interested in a traditional FSA to compliment the wellness FSA, enrolling with American Fidelity is necessary.

For questions regarding Vitality Points, contact [Tricia Zamora](#) at ext. 3616.

You can schedule an appointment to meet with an American Fidelity representative [online](#), or call (866)504-0010, ext. 0. [Meeting with American Fidelity](#) is particularly important if you already make FSA contributions and want to plan for the coming year.



## Break a summer sweat with new fitness offerings

There's no better time than the long, hot days of summer to get out of your comfort zone and try a new fitness routine.

One-hour [Zumba classes](#) will be offered on Tuesday evenings in the fitness center at 5:15, starting June 9 and running through July 28. A nominal \$35 fee covers the entire 8-week class; what a deal! Come shake your tail feather to burn off workday stress and pick up a few new moves for when you hit the club on the weekend.

If you're looking for something a little more slow-paced, check out the [summer yoga sessions](#), which run from noon to 12:40 p.m. in the fitness center on the same 8-week Tuesday schedule. The classes will focus on Vinyassa style, or "flow" yoga, and are led by a certified instructor. The course is \$66 and is suitable for both beginner and intermediate practitioners.

For questions about either class, contact [Tricia Zamora](#),

beach or poolside? Your new favorite book is just a click away! Check out the Learning Multimedia Center's [Digital Library](#) and take a gander at the titles that have just been added, like [Sara Gruen's \*At the Water's Edge\*](#) . Or you can use the opportunity to catch up on some titles that have been sitting on your Goodreads list for too long - did you know the [A Song of Ice and Fire series](#) - aka Game of Thrones - is available for your free e-reading pleasure?

Need to keep your kids occupied and avoid the dreaded summer brain drain? You'll be glad to know [The Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#) and [Divergent](#) series are available, as well as many more children's and young adult titles.

Or maybe you're the type of go-getter that likes to use the quieter summer months to get some professional development in. The Digital Library has [tons of resources](#) to help you become a better educator, leader and advocate for children.

The ebooks will work not just on a Kindle or Nook, but on any smartphone or tablet with the free library app or even your web browser. All you need to get started is your library card, so log on and get busy browsing today!

Employee Wellness Specialist, at ext. 3616



## Have you heard...?

Other news and goings-on from around the SCCOE:

- An enormous CONGRATULATIONS to our Special Education and Alternative Education graduates. We wish you the very best of luck and a lifetime of learning!
- Need your daily dose of cute? Check out these adorable [photos](#) of Chandler Tripp's annual Carnival Day.
- [Learn more](#) about our newly-appointed Trustee, Rosemary Kamei, who will be sworn in June 3.
- Check out the new [Strong Start](#) site, and find out what the COE and our partners are doing to ensure that every child in our county has access to amazing early learning opportunities.

And if you haven't already, like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on Twitter @SCCOE.