

SCCSBA February Newsletter

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President's Message - by Reid Myers

Within Our Sphere of Control

It feels like everyday we are bombarded with chaos... environmental catastrophes, immigration issues, Presidential orders and so many unknowns. Many of these situations make us, and our students, feel nervous and uncertain. Although we can't affect what happens across the globe, we have the power to affect what happens within our school walls.

Most of our Santa Clara schools use Project Cornerstone's asset-building curriculum. One lesson involves standing inside a hula hoop and talking about what a person can and can't control. Everything inside the hula hoop is within your control and things outside aren't. You can't control the weather (but you can control how you react to the weather) and you can't control how others treat you (but you can control your reactions).

As school leaders we also have our sphere of control. Ours is broader than a hula hoop- yet we have many areas in which we have little or no control. To counter this, we focus on our students and we make decisions and direct our staff in ways which lead toward student success.

Our districts are currently working on how we can best protect and guide our schools through many unknowns including rapidly rising CalPERS and STRS costs, the growing teacher shortage, budgets that are diminishing or static, and new, unfamiliar federal leadership. In addition to doing as much as we can to address the above issues through advocacy, it's comforting to focus inward on our local school successes.

My recent visit to validate a Hoffmann award brought tears to my eyes and once again reminded me how many incredible programs are happening around our county. Visiting the schools in my district reminds me that our students are thriving and happy. Seeing countywide programs that support our students (in many different ways) throughout their academic life is inspiring and touching.

Despite our lack of control, there are hundreds of ways we are helping our students thrive. Thank you for doing all you can to ensure you are caring for those within your sphere. You are many bright stars in a universe of unknowns!

SCCSBA Legislative Brunch March 4: Register Now

Please register now for the Legislative Brunch, which will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. until Noon. Here is the link to register: <http://2017legislativebrunch.eventbrite.com>

We have California State Board President Mike Kirst in addition to an exciting cast of legislators who will be participating, including: Senators Kevin DeLeon, Jim Beall and Jerry Hill, Assembly members Marc Berman, Kansen Chu, Ash Kalra, Evan Low, Mark Stone, and County Supervisors Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese and Joe Simitian. This is a great opportunity to hear from your legislators and to ask questions. The panels will be moderated by John Fensterwald of EdSource.

Space is limited, and so register now.

SCCSBA Announces Hoffmann Awards Winners for 2017

The Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) has announced the 2017 winners of its prestigious Glenn W. Hoffmann Awards, a 33-year tradition which celebrates school programs that significantly impact student success in our region.

This year, there are 4 winning programs. They will be honored at a ceremony on April 26th, and will each receive \$500. One of the programs will also receive the Kristi Porter Outstanding Program Award and will receive an additional \$500 award. The Kristi Porter Award winner will be announced at the April 26th ceremony.

2017 Hoffmann Award winning programs (in alphabetical order by school district):

Atlas and AVID Academies - William Sheppard Middle School - Alum Rock Union School District

Biomedical Science Academy - Gilroy High School - Gilroy Unified School District

Advanced Authentic Research - Henry M. Gunn & Palo Alto High Schools - Palo Alto Unified School District

Community School Model - San Miguel Elementary School - Sunnyvale Elementary School District

The winners will be given their awards at our upcoming Hoffmann Dinner on April 26 at Tarragon Restaurant in Sunnyvale. More information about registration will be coming soon.

Upcoming SCCSBA Events for 2017

Saturday, March 4, 2017 Legislative Brunch

9:00 a.m. to Noon, Sunnyvale Grand Hotel

Friday, March 10, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 (4th Wednesday) Regular Monthly Meeting

Topic: Budgets/LCAP/STRS/PERS

7:30-9:00 p.m., Oak Grove Room, SCCOE

Friday, April 7, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet)

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Hoffmann Awards Dinner/Presentations

6:00-9:00 p.m., Tarragon Restaurant

Friday, May 12, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet)

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 Annual Officer's and District Representatives' Dinner

6:30-8:00 p.m., Hong Fu Restaurant

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) received a grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, on behalf of the **Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust**, supporting the construction and utilization of a secure tool to help combine data from public schools and health and human service agencies in partnership with university researchers. This tool, DataZone, will be used to help develop actionable solutions to critical educational and social problems that confront the region's children and families.

"Shared data systems will help us address the root causes of the achievement gap – not just the symptoms," Chan said. "We need new tools that connect the knowledge of all the adults responsible for a child's development and education – that includes parents, teachers, health care providers, therapists and other specialists."

Dr. Chan made the announcement at the recent "Data Driven Solutions for Silicon Valley: A Conversation with Distinguished Leaders Luncheon."

FreeShowing of “Making of a Gangsta” Documentary at SCCOE

Through compelling stories, gangstas reveal the reasons they entered into the gang life style. “Making of a Gangsta” goes beyond stereotypes, colors, and tattoos to provide a first-hand account of why young people join gangs.

The documentary will be shown free of charge on Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose) in the Oak Grove Room. Director Adam T. Ybarra will be present to introduce the film, and at its conclusion remain on hand to host a question and answer session.

“Making of a Gangsta” challenges viewers to see beyond the polarization and judgment that has plagued the gangster and instead embrace hope and purpose by seeing human qualities and potential. The 58-minute documentary showcases the transformation was not a radical change or overnight occurrence, but rather a slow mental germination that slowly emerged while ushering gangster features, qualities, mannerisms and characteristics.

The Tenacious Group has partnered with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) and the Strong Start Coalition to provide this free showing to educators, parents, law enforcement, and other individuals working with youth.

“Making of a Gangsta” features a number of interviews from former gang members, family members, and youth who reside in gang infested neighborhoods, clinical psychologists, and gang experts. Space is limited to 75. To RSVP, visit [Eventbrite](#).

District Highlights

San José Unified School District

Learning Outside the Box

On February 2nd and 3rd, 100 students enrolled in career technical education courses at SJUSD high schools visited Silicon Valley companies for an out-of-the-box experience as part of our inaugural Job Shadow Days, in partnership with [Strive San Jose](#).

Unlike traditional, observation-focused job shadow experiences, this program offered students a chance to get hands-on with what Silicon Valley professionals do in their workplace. Broken up into small groups, students learned about computer science, engineering, multimedia, construction, health science, bio tech, and more.

Participating businesses included Accenture, Microsoft, Blach Construction, and NextFlex. [Here's a recap from the folks at NextFlex.](#)



Sunnyvale School District

Halfway through February and we are approaching completion of the first increment of construction work at Bishop Elementary School. The construction project promises to be the largest capital facility project undertaken by the Sunnyvale School District. All of the buildings, portables, and asphalt in the construction area have been removed from the site leaving us with a clean slate to start the new construction!

Bishop will house the district's first two-story building, new classroom, new media center, and a new multi-use building. The historic Bishop Theater will be preserved to enable our young performers to showcase their emerging talents in the performing arts. The project is one example of how community support is benefiting our students. Our local school bond, Measure G, allows us to improve technology and make all schools more energy efficient.



Campbell Union School District

Students Have a Voice as World Changers

Students in Campbell Union School District's (CUSD) after school program learn that they can have an active role in their school and in the world!

The District's after school program is building a thriving community of students who feel good about themselves, value each other, and connect to how important they are to their own success and making a difference in their communities and the world.

Donors and regional agencies are noticing the quality, making CUSD's Campbell Care and Crew programs models for others. In February, Save Mart CARES Foundation donated \$15K to expand training in the *Every Monday Matters* program, called "World Changers" in CUSD.

District after school staff report that the "World Changers" You Matter(TM) program's greatest strengths include: Respect for Others, Student Voice, Willingness to Help, Building and Maintaining Constructive Relationships, and Community Awareness.

Moreland School District

The Moreland School District was proud to host 13 teachers and administrators from the Denver Public Schools who were visiting the Bay Area to see various implementation stages of Project Based Learning (PBL). While visiting Moreland's two K-8 schools, Easterbrook Discovery School (EDS) and Latimer, Moreland students shared their current PBL projects and their reflections about past showcases. The guest teachers also toured classrooms at each site and visited EDS' coveted outdoor classroom in the Moreland Woods. Moreland began implementing PBL among its seven schools in 2013. EDS and Latimer have trained 100% of their staff and integrated Project Based Learning into their traditional instruction.



East Side Union High School District

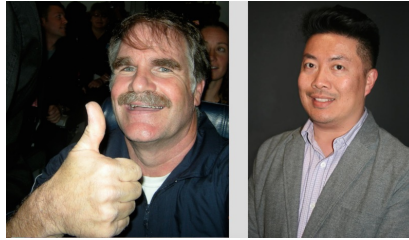
ESUHSD Teachers Selected for NASA Program

John Sphar from Pegasus High School and Ron Wou from Mt. Pleasant High School, have been selected to participate in the NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador (AAA) Program.

The program consists of a three-part professional development experience for high school Physics and Astronomy teachers that includes a STEM immersion experience at NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center in Palmdale, CA.

Activities will support Earth science, astrophysics, planetary science and heliophysics. This program intends to more effectively engage learners of all ages on NASA science education programs and activities.

Participants will also fly on board the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). SOFIA is an extensively modified Boeing 747SP aircraft carrying a reflecting telescope. It is the largest airborne observatory in the world, capable of making observations that are impossible for even the largest and highest ground-based telescopes.



Milpitas Unified School District

Milpitas Unified honors 44 students during African American Student Achievement Award Ceremony

Families, Board Members, Superintendent Cheryl Jordan, Principals, school administrators, and Mayor Rich Tran came together for an evening of celebration during the African American Student Achievement Award Ceremony on February 9 in the Milpitas High School theater.

“There are two awards that students were nominated for: the outstanding academic achievement award and the outstanding accomplishment award,” explained event host Venus Cenizal, MUSD Coordinator of Learning and Development. “Students who excel in at least one academic area receive the outstanding academic award and students who have had a specific accomplishment, demonstrated social and emotional maturity, and/or demonstrated resiliency in the face of adversity are awarded for outstanding accomplishments.”

Board Members and guests from the City of Milpitas formed a receiving line to shake hands with the 44 total students who were recognized that evening, from the elementary to high school level throughout the district.

“I want to tell each one of you young leaders, that you make us very proud and we are glad to be here tonight to celebrate you,” Superintendent Cheryl Jordan said. [Read more >](#)



Fremont Union High School District

Last month, Fremont High School hosted a dance for students in the District's Academic Community Transitions (ACT) program. FUHSD students choose a hockey theme for the dance, with the Sharks Foundation making a generous donation of \$5,000 for the event. The sponsorship provided some extra special touches for the dance, including both a photographer and videographer, photo booth, DJ, games, refreshments, and raffle prizes. Approximately 200 students from FUHSD's five campuses and several neighboring school districts attended the dance. The Shark's mascot Sharkie made a special appearance, dancing with excited students throughout the event, while life-size replicas of the Sharks players decorated the gym. Students in the Best Buddies program volunteered during the dance, helping with sign in and raffle drawings, and enjoying the dance with their peers.

The Academic Community Transitions (ACT) Program offers a standards-based academic program that builds individual skills with a real world application of concepts, meeting the needs of students with a variety of disabilities throughout the District.



MetroEd

Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) students earned 58 medals at the 2017 SkillsUSA Regional Leadership and Skills Competition including 31 gold, 16 silver, and 11 bronze. On February 11, more than 400 students assembled at SVCTE to compete in various skills categories and Job Demos.

Students who placed first and second in their respective skills category qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA California 50th Annual State Leadership and Skill Conference at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego on April 20 through 23. SkillsUSA may also invite bronze and fourth place winners to compete, depending on the turnout in other regions in the state.



SCCSBA

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