

## SCCSBA March 2023 Newsletter

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### President's Message - Bridget Watson

Hello Everyone,

It was a dark and stormy night... a dark and stormy couple of weeks actually... and I'm writing to you today from a cafe because, like so many people up and down the valley, my home is out of power. A few schools in my district are also out of power - while this circumstance has created a number of challenges for the teachers and staff, the district, school site teams, and parents are adapting and adjusting pretty quickly. I am feeling extremely grateful for my momentary electricity and connectivity.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Legislative Brunch last month at the Stanford Hub, a well-attended event chaired by Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto (FUHSD) and Grace Mah (SCCBOE). It was our first ever hybrid event and I want to thank Naomi and Grace for boldly embarking on this adventure, and taking on all the planning and work behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. Thank you also to everyone participating in CSBA's Legislative Action Week this week - both of these events help remind legislators of the unique interests and needs of Santa Clara County's 31 districts, the County Office of Education, and MetroEd.

Next week we have our last "business" meeting of the school year. We will be voting for our officers for next year, hearing from students from Westmont High School regarding the *Menstrual Equity for All Act*, and learning from a conversation about hate crimes on school campuses. This is a sensitive and tricky topic - perhaps more so when sometimes the perpetrator of the event is a student.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in person on May 10th, 2023 at the Hoffmann Awards at MetroEd, where we will be celebrating this year's winning programs! Look for the Eventbrite from our extraordinary Executive Director, Bonnie Mace and please sign up!

Thanks for all your hard work,  
Bridget Watson, Sunnyvale SD

### March 22 SCCSBA Zoom Meeting (7:00PM Start Time)

Because we received feedback people wanted time for questions for our panels last year, for this meeting's panel discussion we are starting our meeting a little earlier than usual (when we would have meet and greet in person pre-Covid). Please join us at 7:00pm on zoom.

It's the time of year to elect officers, we will have some quick updates, followed by Westmont HS students' suggestions on the implementation of the *Menstrual Equity for All Act*. After that, we are partnering with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to offer our members a candid conversation about hate crimes on school campuses. How can we as trustees learn from one another on this sensitive topic without making anyone feel as though we are sitting in judgment? When hate crimes occur, how do we weigh our response when not responding may make the intended victims (or members of the learning community) feel further victimized, but responding in a very public way may fuel copycats (because any attention is attention)? How do we support students and staff, and build community, without "other-ing" them? What tools are (or should be) available to trustees and districts to prevent or respond to hate crimes?

Two students, a superintendent, and a board member from Los Gatos Saratoga Union High School District will discuss the topic of hate crimes on school campuses based on their personal experiences. Olivia Santillan, SCCOE's History and Social Science Content Expert, will join the conversation and provide thoughts about restorative practices in this area as well as curricular resources that are currently available. County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan will introduce the panel and will field your questions for the panelists through the chat. Dr. Anisha Munshi, SCCOE Associate Superintendent of Equity and Educational Progress, Continuous Improvement and Accountability, The Inclusion Collaborative, and Public Affairs, will moderate the discussion. A mental health provider will be available in a breakout room if anyone becomes distressed due to the discussion and needs support.

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## SCCSBA Networking Lunch - May 5

Trustees are invited to join us for our next networking lunch. It will be held on Friday, May 5 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM at Aqvi in Campbell (201 East Campbell Avenue, Campbell). This is a great chance to chat with trustees from across the county. Trustees buy their own lunch and join us at the outdoor patio tables. No RSVP is required.

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## Hoffmann Awards Ceremony - May 10

The Hoffmann Awards winners for this year (2023) have been announced.

We have five winners this year:

- LiUNA pre-apprenticeship program at Blue Ridge High School, from SCCOE
- Stepping Up for Successful Post-Secondary Transitions from LGSUHSD
- Milpitas Dual Enrollment, from Milpitas Unified School District
- Child Development Pathway, from Palo Alto School District
- Juntos Spanish-English Dual-Immersion, from Sunnyvale School District

The Hoffman Awards Dinner/ceremony is planned for Wednesday, May 10th, from 6-9 pm at the Metropolitan Education District. Stay tuned for the Eventbrite invitation from Executive Director Bonnie Mace.

A special thanks to this year's Hoffmann Chair Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale School District) and to all of our Readers and Site Visitors who scored the applications and visited the winning programs. And thanks to Engie and United Healthcare for sponsoring this year's event.

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## CSBA Spotlight ([csba.org](https://csba.org))

The Department of Finance has released trailer bill language for Gov. Gavin Newsom's January budget, including the education omnibus trailer bill, providing more detail on the Governor's proposed 2023–24 TK-12 education budget.

The trailer bill hones in on major provisions of the Governor's proposal as budget hearings in the Legislature begin, while a new analysis from the Legislative Analyst's Office warns that more education cuts may be necessary.

### **One-time funds and arts grant reduction proposed to fully fund COLA**

The Governor's budget includes an 8.13 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the Local Control Funding Formula. To fully fund the increase, the proposed trailer bill uses \$1.4 billion in one-time funds to pay for ongoing LCFF costs and makes a \$1.2 billion reduction in the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant included in the current year Budget Act of 2022. Funding from the grant is discretionary and many districts have already made plans for their use — from buying down retirement obligations and health benefits to purchasing instructional materials — posing challenges should the Legislature agree to the reduction.

### **Details provided on LCFF Equity Multiplier**

The trailer bill language provides further detail on the Governor's proposed LCFF Equity Multiplier. Starting in 2024–25, the trailer bill provides \$300 million in ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund with a COLA provided in future years. Funds will be provided to local educational agencies as an add-on to the LCFF based on the prior year enrollment of eligible school sites. Eligible school sites include those serving grades TK-8 with at least 90 percent of youth eligible for free and reduced-price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program definition in the prior year, or those serving grades 9-12 with at

least 85 percent of students eligible.

Funds provided by the Equity Multiplier must supplement, not supplant, existing LCFF expenditures for eligible school sites and no eligible school site will receive less than \$50,000.

[Read More...](#)

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## Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

### Santa Clara County Districts Awarded for Work in Communications

At the March 2023 California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) state conference, the Santa Clara County Office of Education and eight Santa Clara County school districts received awards for their work to effectively and intentionally communicate with school communities, supporting public education and advance student success.

CalSPRA awarded educational agencies and communication professionals for producing materials that meet the information needs of their communities. Winners were announced at its annual conference awards dinner on March 3.

"I have tremendous gratitude for and commend the communicators who connect the Santa Clara County community to the work in education and support students in their learning journeys," said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. "Their work is instrumental to education."

The Santa Clara County Office of Education's Media & Communications Department, which serves as regional chair representing the Bay Area, received five awards for the team's work on the Santa Clara County Annual Children's Data Book, multilingual social media toolkits, the 2022 Teacher Recognition Celebration, and the "Why I Teach" and News Minute video series.

The following Santa Clara County school districts were recognized and awarded:

- Berryessa Union School District
- Campbell Union School District
- Franklin McKinley School District
- Fremont Union High School District
- Gilroy Unified School District
- Mountain View Whisman School District
- Mount Pleasant Elementary School District
- Santa Clara Unified School District

CalSPRA is the California chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). Both associations provide support and acknowledge public school communicators.

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## School District Highlights



### Milpitas Unified School District

#### Four exceptional MUSD leaders honored with ACSA Region 8 Awards

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) annually recognizes education leaders throughout the state, starting with regional winners. Region 8, which is Santa Clara County, has announced its awardees, and four of them are MUSD leaders: Giuliana Brahim (Adult Education Administrator of the Year), Mary Jude Doeringhaus (Student Services Administrator of the Year) and Kelly Ng (Classified Administrator of the Year) and Cheryl Jordan (Superintendent of the Year).

"Each of these exceptional leaders are an integral part of our MUSD team," said Supt. Jordan, who has devoted her decades-long educational career to the staff, students and families of Milpitas. "They set the bar for leadership in their respective departments and are more than deserving of this amazing honor."



### **Morgan Hill Unified School District**

Pilar Vazquez-Vialva, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for the Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD), has been named the ACSA Region 8 Outstanding Administrator of the Year in the area of Curriculum and Instruction.

Pilar is a champion for equity, considering the needs for all students and addressing a system that may inadvertently place barriers to success for some students. Pilar has brought the National Equity Project to Morgan Hill, inviting a number of administrators and teachers to join in the work. In December of 2022, Pilar received a letter that based on her work with Building Equitable Learning Environments (BELE) Network with the National Equity Project, MHUSD is considered for a visit from the US Department of Education in 2023 to spotlight at least eight leading school districts across the country that are making meaningful investments in innovative, evidence-based policies and practice that center whole-child learning and development and can be elevated as exemplars for the broader education ecosystem.

In Morgan Hill, Pilar is leading the work to create a commitment and ways of working aligned with the whole child, especially opening Wellness Centers and spaces at all our campuses, creating a student-voice BELE council at the high schools - a safe place to discuss race, discrimination, bias, and other challenging topics from the students' experiences, creating a "9th Grade on Track" focused counseling program at the high schools, and creating and offering an innovative summer option "Freshman Success" for all in-coming 9th-grade students. She is committed to ongoing training in the areas of MTSS and Restorative Justice.

We congratulate Pilar on her well-deserved recognition. Our students and staff are grateful for your leadership and the inspiration to make a positive impact on the students we serve.

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### **Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District**

#### **Los Gatos High School Teacher Honored at Project Cornerstone's Asset Champion Breakfast**

Annameekee Hesik, an English Teacher and Basketball Coach at Los Gatos High School, has been selected as the Positive Cultural Identity award recipient for the 2023 YMCA Project Cornerstone's Asset Champion Awards. Annameekee will be honored at the in-person breakfast this month on March 17, 2023 at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

Chosen for helping young people feel supported, comfortable, and proud of their identity, Annameekee is a celebrated role model and champion for youth who is a constant positive presence on the Los Gatos High School campus, including being an advisor for the school's Gay Straight Alliance(GSA) and a panel moderator for LGHS "Celebrate Diversity Week." [Read more here.](#)

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### **Union School District**

#### **Student Teams from Dartmouth Middle and Lietz Elementary Compete in Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament**

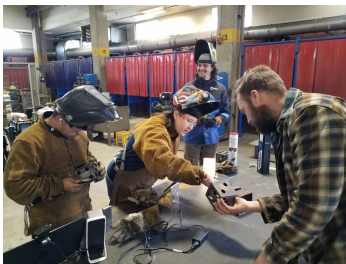
Odyssey of the Mind provides an extra-curricular activity for students that is driven by problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and it requires students to actively engage in order to find its solution. Two Odyssey of the Mind teams from Lietz competed at the regional tournament this year. Their creativity, team work, and ingenuity have risen to the occasion and we are excited to announce that both teams have advanced to the state level of competition. The student team from Dartmouth also competed in the Odyssey of the Minds qualifying tournament in February and finished in 3rd place. They will now move onto the State Tournament in late March to compete.

#### **Dartmouth Middle School Redesignated as a CLE *School to Watch* for 2023**

Dartmouth Middle School has been redesignated as a School to Watch for 2023 by The California League of Educators (CLE) and were recognized at a ceremony on March 9, 2023.

CLE established the Schools to Watch Program to recognize middle schools that are

academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable, and highly collaborative. Selected schools serve as models and mentors to other middle schools throughout the state and nation. "California Schools to Watch" is a statewide program implemented by the California League of Schools, California Department of Education, California Middle Grades Alliance, National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform, and the California Schools to Watch model schools.



## MetroED

### Fifty-two SVCTE Students Advance to SkillsUSA State Competition

SkillsUSA held their Regional Leadership and Skills Competition, with Silicon Valley Career Technical Education students joining various competitive events from the following programs: Metals Technology (pictured above), Auto Body Refinishing, Auto Body

Repair, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Film & Video Production, Medical Assisting, Mechatronics Engineering, Mobile App Design and Programming, and Veterinary Science.

Of the 75 SVCTE students who participated, 36 students won medals and 52 will advance to the April 13 to 16 SkillsUSA State Competition in Ontario, CA. Eleven students earned gold medals while 11 received silver and 14 walked away with bronze.

[Read more](#)



## Cambrian School District

Cambrian School District gratefully thanks the Cambrian Educational Foundation (CEF) for holding their annual Read-a-Thon recently, raising over \$37,000 for mental health services within the district. The Read-a-Thon had 1766 registered readers; 1420 of whom logged more than 20 minutes. There was a total of 1,133,340.50 minutes read (18,889 Hours, or 787 Days,

or 112 Weeks - so more than 2 full years worth of reading) -- fantastic! Thanks to everyone who participated in this incredible event.

STAY CONNECTED



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