



# Santa Clara Adult Education

*Where learning and community meet*

ISSUE 16 APRIL '22

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Enjoying success  
requires the ability to  
adapt. Only by being  
open to change will  
you have a true  
opportunity to get the  
most from your talent.  
- Nolan Ryan

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Santa Clara Adult Education Community,

Spring is here and so is our last term of the 2021-22 school year before we head into summer. In the past few months there has been an increase of interest in ESL, Aquatics, Accounting, and Wood Working. And some new and renewed classes such as Python, Hike for Health Meet-Up, and Raising Resilient Children. In addition, Wilson Preschool registration is in full swing for the 2022-23 school year. We hope this trend continues as we renew community, build relationships, and support lifelong learning.

Last month the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation visiting committee came to campus where they attended classes, talked with students and staff, and reviewed the Santa Clara Adult Education (SCAE) self study report. The committee reaffirmed the school's three action plans to 1.) implement consistent data collection processes in each program, 2.) provide consistent professional development for staff, 3.) increase student passing rates on the HiSET exams. Thank you to all who participated in the multi year process. The school and accreditation team highly appreciates and values your input. You can read more about the report in the newsletter.

Also in this issue you will learn about the Adult Ed. partnership with Mission College, meet new staff, read about a High School Equivalency success story, learn about the Medical Assistant Externship program, and see lots of student photos across programs.

Best Regards,

Carrie Casto  
Principal, Santa Clara Adult Education



# WILSON PRESCHOOL

SANTA CLARA ADULT EDUCATION



WILSON PRESCHOOL

**Where children and parents have learned together - since 1981**

Wilson Preschool students are enjoying the outdoors this spring. The Fours classes visited Animal Assisted Happiness in Sunnyvale and saw rabbits, pigs, goats, sheep, miniature horses, guinea pigs and alpaca. Both the Threes and Fours classes visited the SCUSD farm near Peterson Middle School. Students tasted dinosaur kale and searched for lady bugs.

Back at school, students are making great use of a new mud kitchen built by Eagle Scout Adeeb and new outdoor sinks provided by Friends of Wilson Preschool. The Twos and Toddler students planted flowers in their raised garden bed to water and grow throughout the spring.

Friends of Wilson Preschool is putting on the school's annual fundraiser, the Giraffe. Funds raised through the Giraffe provide all the materials, supplies and equipment used in the preschool. Donations can be made through [PayPal](#) or by [credit card](#). The fundraising effort will culminate with Family Night on **Friday, May 6th** from 5:30-7pm in the campus quad.





# EXERCISE & WELLNESS

It's never too late to swim! Adult students are learning to float on their backs, perform the crawl stroke and tread water. Most students have personal swimming goals that include water safety, swimming with their kids, scuba diving and most importantly a great way to exercise! Introduction, Beginning and Lap Swim Training classes are held weekday evenings as well as Saturday afternoons.

Instructors Teresa Debbage, Nada Meck and Pauline Mount continue to lead dynamic group water exercise classes to all fitness levels. Classes are offered Monday - Saturday at a variety of morning hours as well as Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 5:30pm. Come try out a class!



## NEW Hike for Health Meet-Up!

Do you want to hike and explore nature in a small group setting with a knowledgeable, experienced leader?

Hike for Health is back with a new SCAE instructor, Marta Espinal, who brings a love for hiking and nature. Back in the early 2000's a hiking class was offered every Monday that attracted over 50 retirees that met every week. SCAE is thrilled to bring hiking back to our community.

Marta would love to share her passion with others through hiking and exploring nature.

For more information and to register visit [santaclaraadulted.org](https://santaclaraadulted.org) or call 408-423-3500.



# ENRICHMENT



## Partnership with Silicon Valley Power and Adult Ed.

### Cooking Class Series:

Silicon Valley Power will be supporting 10 cooking classes at Adult Education to introduce to the Santa Clara community the value of induction cooking. Silicon Valley Power customers will have the opportunity to not only test out the technology but have fun doing it while learning to cook new dishes.

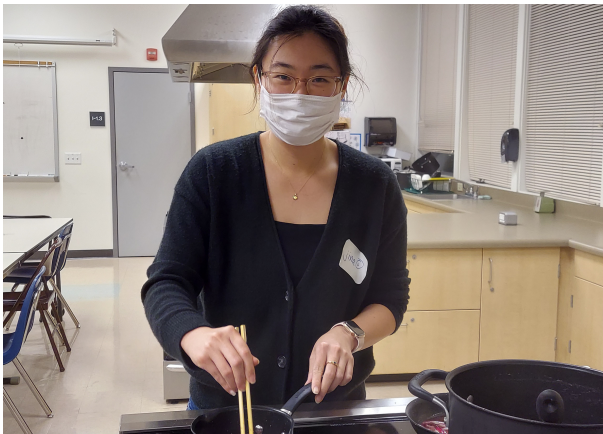
Vietnamese Cooking Class - Hai Nam Chicken with Rice. The class instructor was our very own Miakhanh Le, Adult Ed. Clerical Assistant/Cooking Instructor. Students enjoyed a meal as the class started then assisted in cooking and learning the recipe all while using an induction stove top.

*"The food was delicious and the instructor was very skilled and knowledgeable",*

Vietnamese cooking student. This class was the second cooking class in the series following the Plant-Based, Gluten Free cooking class.

### Upcoming classes:

- Flavors of Southern India - April 23, 2022
- Flavors of Northern India - May 21, 2022
- Taiwanese Street Food - July 9, 2022



## Gardening Class

In the Adult School Teaching Garden, we are very fortunate to have a large greenhouse for gardeners to learn about our food from seed to the dining room table. In the garden, we grow our own seedlings for spring and fall plantings. Automatic watering has been added to the greenhouse, making both the gardeners and seedlings much happier.

For the spring seedlings, we plant the seeds in 6 cell packs with the cell packs sitting on heating ads. When the seedlings are large enough, the seedlings are up-potted to 4 inch pots. From the photo, you can see we have been very successful. We would like to thank E.B. Stone for donating their high quality potting soil, making this up-potting possible.





## Photography Class

After a long two years, in-person photography classes are back at SCAE.

Spring offerings started with Saturday morning Animal Photography classes. Our first class included guest appearances by Nanette the wonder dog and her adopted human Rachael Peterson, Enrichment Program Supervisor. Both are seen with instructor Noella Vigeant.

This class combined classroom instruction and field trips to a local ranch and a county park for exploration and hands-on practice with pets and wildlife.



Photo credit: Kim Hunter, student

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Partnerships with Mission College

Santa Clara Adult Education (SCAE) has a long standing partnership with Mission College. Some of the services that Mission College provides for SCAE students include:



- Providing a Mission College Transition Specialist (TS) who assists students in enrolling in college. The TS meets with students on the adult education campus.
- Offering ESL for Childcare and Early Childcare (ECE) classes on the adult education campus. All classes and textbooks are free for students.
- Offering free ESL for Food Service classes online for adult education students.
- Providing funds for the cost of the HiSET exams for SCAE students.
- Working with SCAE leadership to offer Food Service classes on campus.

Have a question about our partnership with Mission College? Contact Christine Berdiansky at [cberdiansky@scusd.net](mailto:cberdiansky@scusd.net).

## JOB OPENINGS

SCAE has job opening for the following positions:

**Career Technical Education** - Contact Tina Dave, email: [tdave@scusd.net](mailto:tdave@scusd.net)

- [Adult Ed - Microsoft Office Instructor](#)
- [Adult Ed - Medical Assistant Instructor](#)

**High School Diploma:** Contact Christine Berdiansky, email: [cberdiansky@scusd.net](mailto:cberdiansky@scusd.net)

- [Adult Ed - High School Diploma Instructor](#)

**Independence Network:** Contact Daya Sanchez, email: [misanchezpalmada@scusd.net](mailto:misanchezpalmada@scusd.net)

- [Adult Ed - Adults with Disabilities - Independent Living Skills Instructor](#)

**English as a Second Language:** Contact Christine Berdiansky, email: [cberdiansky@scusd.net](mailto:cberdiansky@scusd.net)

- [Adult Ed - Literacy \(Beginning Low\)](#)
- [Adult Ed - ESL Instructor \(Intermediate High/Advanced\)](#)
- [Adult ED - ESL Instructor \(Intermediate High\)](#)



# SKILLS PLUS



## Skills Plus Partnerships - Together Supporting Stroke Survivors and other Neurological Impairments

The Skills Plus program has long standing partnerships with local universities, hospitals, stroke support programs, and Social Services.

Last month Skills Plus instructors Cathleen Lencioni, Occupational Therapist and Jackie Ottino, Speech Therapist presented to the **Pacific Stroke Association Post Stroke Educational Forum**. They provided information on the benefits and successes of the Skills Plus program and the strong community and socialization aspects for the students.

**San Jose State University** students Alice A. and Nicole O. are Occupational Therapy students completing their Level I Fieldwork at Skills Plus this spring. We are thankful for their time and compassion with the students.

In addition, **Santa Clara University** student Isabella R. created the storyboard below reflecting on her experience this school year at Skills Plus.



### SKILLS PLUS

Hi everyone! My name is Isabella Rea and I'm a Communication major with a Retail Studies minor. For my fellowship placement, I volunteered at Skills Plus in Santa Clara. Feel free to look through my storyboard to learn more about my experience.

**Every class, I would bring two riddles for the class to solve!**

1) What goes up but never comes down?  
2) What has a ring but no finger?

**DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY**



**NICE JOB!**  
That's 20 reps



At Skills Plus, I worked with stroke survivors and helped them with their mobility, independent living, and communication skills.

We played games and other interactive activities to get moving, socialize, and have fun!



Every class, the students slowly got better and better with practice. We always encouraged and cheered everyone on with their successes.

***inclusion is within everyone's ability***



They taught me how to stay persistent, never give up, and if I fail, to try again.



I hope to be as resilient as them one day, and I am so grateful they let me be a part of their community.



# INDEPENDENCE NETWORK (IN)



Independence Network students have been connecting with the community both on and off campus.

Captain Ken, a commercial airline pilot, came to school to share information about the flying experience with students. The students learned how airplanes work and what to expect when going on a trip.

Students enrolled in the Adventures with James class have been volunteering at the Campbell Community Center and the Guadalupe River Gardens. They have also visited local sites such as Stanford University, Mission San Jose and History Park.

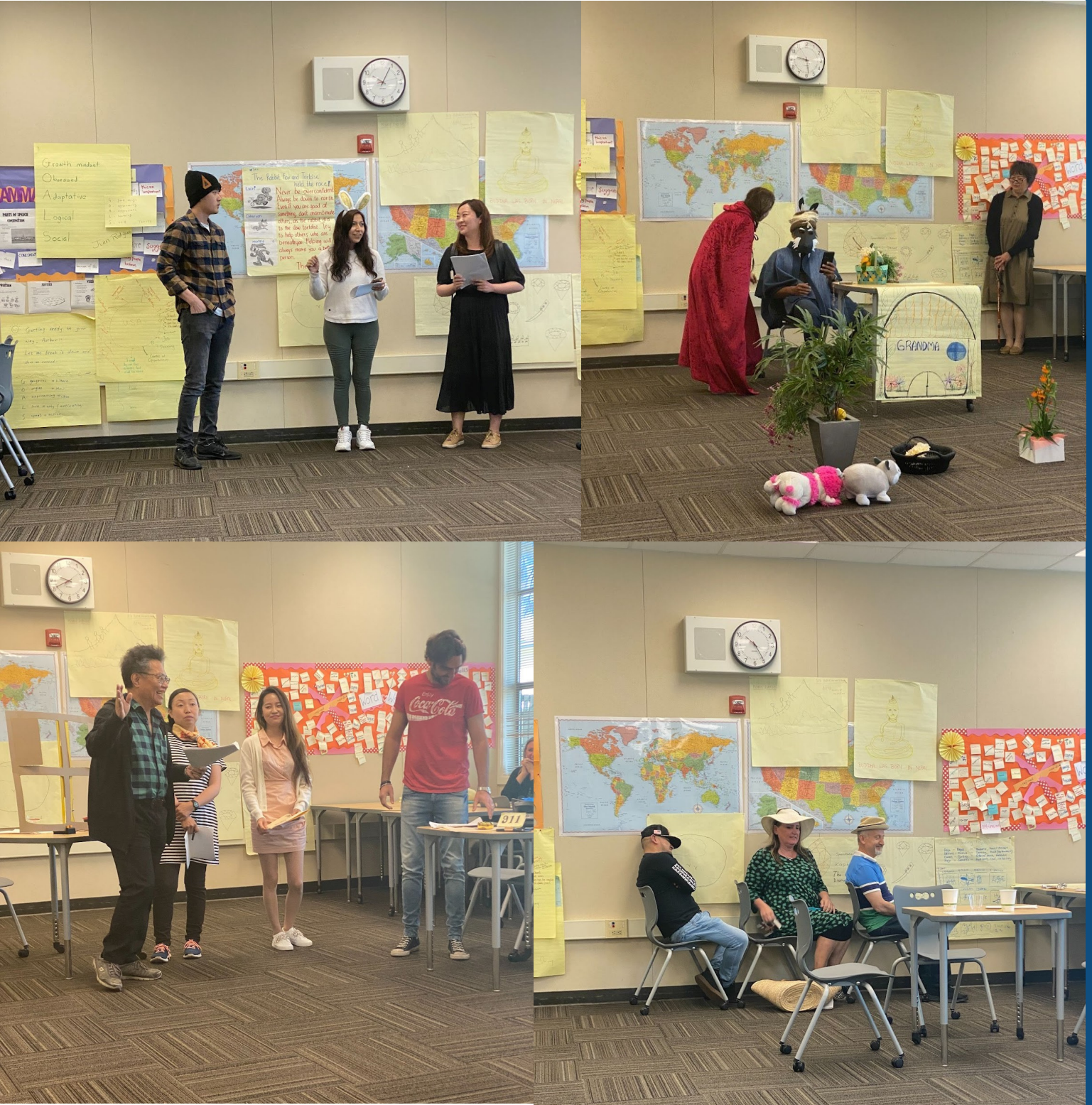




# ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

## ESL Student Class Performance

On Thursday, April 7, the morning ESL Advanced Class brought learning to life! Small groups of students wrote and acted in 4 short plays; one of the plays incorporated concern for the environment and another one told the tale of the rabbit and the hare, stressing the importance of teamwork. There was a murder mystery and a world tour, too. The students did all the work, even preparing all the props! Students and Bijal Varia, the teacher, had a great time learning, laughing and having fun.





# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



## Introduction to Python

The Introduction to Python Class concluded April 6, 2021. Due to the great demand of this class, we are offering an Intermediate Python class right after the spring break.

For more information see [Computer Application Class](#).

## Accounting Assistant Certificate

To obtain the Accounting Assistant Certificate students attend Accounting 1, Accounting 2, and the Quickbooks class (this class will be offered during summer).

For more information, visit [Administrative & Office Skills](#)



## MEDICAL ASSISTANT EXTERNSHIP

Medical Assistant (MA): Our Medical Assistant Class concluded on Feb 7, 2022. Most students are currently completing their Medical Assistant Externships at various doctors' offices. The school has agreements with over 20 externship sites where students are placed for 160 hours to get hands-on experience as a Medical Assistant.

MA student Lisa (left) finishing her externship at Anti-Aging and Weight Loss Clinic and student Veronique (Right) at Silicon Valley Medical Development (SVMD).





# HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)

SCAE Graduation: **Friday, May 27, 2022 at 6pm**

We now have 30 graduates! Jeremy Wills, one of our recent grads, shared his thoughts with us about the program.

*"My time at Adult Ed. has been wonderful and very encouraging. Thanks to the help of staff and my teacher June, I was able to get my high school diploma quickly while learning valuable things.... Math, Biology and English. Without the resources they provide, I am unsure whether or not I could have accomplished these goals. I look forward to starting college soon and I am very grateful for my experience at Adult Ed."*



## Congratulations on your retirement!

Congratulations to June Nichols, High School Diploma Teacher, who is retiring after 27 years of service at Adult Ed! We will miss June and wish her good luck in the future.

**June Nichols**

HSD Instructor

Email: [jnichols@scusd.net](mailto:jnichols@scusd.net)

## CALWORKS PROGRAM

If you meet certain eligibility requirements, you may qualify for CalWORKs assistance. CalWORKs provides qualified families with benefits including cash aid, childcare, transportation and educational cost reimbursement. For more information or to apply, visit [CalWORKS](#) or the County of [Santa Clara Social Services Agency](#).

Already a CalWORKs participant? Santa Clara Adult Education CalWORKs Site Representative will help and partner with you while you attend classes at our adult school. You can schedule an appointment with our CalWORKs Site Representative by phone, text or email:

**Gilbert Seegmiller**, SCAE CalWORKs Site Representative

Mobile number: 408-780-8492

Email: [gilbert.seegmiller@mvla.net](mailto:gilbert.seegmiller@mvla.net)



# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)

Passing the GED or the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) are two ways that students can earn a High School Equivalency Certificate. SCAE offers preparation classes as well as official HiSET testing for students and the community.

The HiSET exam is a series of 5 tests Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Preparing for the tests can be challenging, but SCAE students persevere and are successful.

Since we've restarted HiSET testing in December 2021, eight students have taken a total of 17 tests, 16 of the 17 tests earned passing scores; two students have passed all tests and now have their High School Equivalency Certificate.

Best wishes to our hardworking students!

For questions contact **Sajeemas "Mint" Pasakdee** at [spasakdee@scusd.net](mailto:spasakdee@scusd.net) or call (408) 423-3547.

Location: Room B.24

Schedule: Tuesday 6:00pm-7:00pm and Wednesday 9:00am-10:00am

## HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY SUCCESS STORY

I had the opportunity to assist Elliot (Yile) Wang prepare for his GED through Santa Clara Adult Education last fall. I was impressed by his work ethic while facing difficult circumstances. He showed remarkable dedication and ambition while pursuing his goal of higher education and completed the GED battery of tests in the fall of 2021.

Elliot had a somewhat difficult journey. His education had previously consisted of being homeschooled in China, and during much of that time he was forced to teach himself. Upon his arrival to the US, he studied for three semesters at a Bible college, and for the past two years, he has worked on improving his English language skills. Since he passed the GED, he has spent his time preparing for four upcoming Advanced Placement tests this spring.

Throughout his time in class, Elliot has proved to be a very dedicated student. He continually set high standards for himself, and was able to quickly complete the GED test. He now has set his sights on college and has applied to several universities. Good luck Elliot!

David Grant, Adult Basic Skills and High School Equivalency (HSE) Instructor.





# New Staff Members



**Marta Espinal**

Hiking Instructor

Email: [mespinalfatjo@scusd.net](mailto:mespinalfatjo@scusd.net)

Hi everyone! I'm happy to be working at Santa Clara after a break from teaching. I previously worked in San Jose Unified as a bilingual (Spanish) teacher with younger kids.

I also enjoy working with parents at Parents Helping Parents, an agency for people with disabilities. I have two kids myself, both teens now and we enjoy being outside whenever we can with our dog, Coop.

**Marco Contreras**

Night Lead Custodian

Email: [mcontrerasjuarez@scusd.net](mailto:mcontrerasjuarez@scusd.net)

Marco Contreras is the new Night Lead Custodian, he will be leading the night custodian team. He works on campus Monday - Friday from 2:30pm - 10:30pm.

Hello! My name is Deborah Kuo. For the past 20 years, I have been serving people in non profit organizations. Specifically, I served kids and youth from underprivileged families with their education. I am very excited to see them growing up and thriving, and see their lives being totally turned around. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, hiking and biking with family members. I also enjoy growing plants in my yard because I think all the secrets of life are in the seeds. It's my pleasure to join the Enrichment Program. I'm looking forward to this learning and growing opportunity. I am joining the Language Program and will teach Chinese Mandarin. I will also be offering Taiwanese Street Food in the cooking program. I am looking forward to serving the adult community at Santa Clara Adult Ed. I am happy to be part of the SCAE family!



**Deborah Kuo**

Cooking and Language Instructor

Email: [ykuo@scusd.net](mailto:ykuo@scusd.net)



**Eddie Mui**

Money Management  
Instructor

Email: [emui@scusd.net](mailto:emui@scusd.net)

Hello Everyone, my name is Eddie Mui and I am very happy to be joining Santa Clara Adult Education as an instructor for the Financial Literacy class. I have been working in Silicon Valley since 1996, first at Intel, then followed by Apple, and now, I am working as a procurement manager at Bloom Energy Corporation, a leader in green energy. I have always had a passion to get into the teaching field and I am very excited at the opportunity to teach a topic (i.e. financial literacy) that in my opinion, is sorely lacking from most formal educational institutions. Originally from Taiwan, I grew up in Honolulu, went to college at UCLA, then spent 3 years working in Tokyo, Japan before returning to UCLA to get a MBA. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, reading history, and traveling with my family.

Hello! Glad to join the Santa Clara Adult Ed. team. My name is Mary Agnes and I work as the Parish Secretary at a Catholic Church. As I love cooking, I wanted to share my South Indian cooking skills and its benefits with the community. I have lived in San Jose with my family for more than 10 years and love the diverse vibrant community. Looking forward to meeting new people and connect with them through Santa Clara Adult Ed.



**Mary Agnes Javier**

Cooking Instructor

Email: [mxavier@scusd.net](mailto:mxavier@scusd.net)



## WASC Accreditation News!

SCAE WASC accreditation process moved forward with a visit by a team of adult education professionals from around the state. During March 28-30, the visiting committee joined classroom discussions, spoke with staff, and reviewed the school's self-study report.

SCAE was fortunate in that the visiting committee included experienced adult education teachers and administrators who recognized the school's commitment to providing high-quality programs for the community. The [committee's report](#) noted that "the school identified highly qualified, engaging instructors as a schoolwide strength. The visiting committee affirms that SCAE's characteristic instructional practices foster student community, keep learning clearly relevant, maintain attention and engagement, build higher-order thinking skills, and motivate students. As a result, students tend to 1) persist at rates higher than the state average, 2) report learning that meets their goals, and 3) tell their friends about SCAE."

The visiting committee also affirmed the school's focus on the action plan, which includes implementing consistent data collection processes in each program, providing professional development for teachers and staff, and raising the student passing rates on the HiSET exams. The Action Plan includes steps for us to work on over the next 3 years.

The visiting committee made many positive comments about the school, and were particularly impressed with the range of programs we offer the community. Thanks to all of you who work everyday to ensure that SCAE meets the needs of each student. **Congratulations SCAE Team!**





# Updates



**Staff and Student Testing:** Pooled testing day for staff and students will continue to be on Wednesdays 8am - 2pm. Come to the front office at 1:00pm if you cannot make your scheduled time.

**Evening staff and Tuesday PM teachers:** We will test on Tuesday evenings in the front office, see Maikhanh Le.

For COVID testing schedule, please refer to Carrie Casto, Principal's email updates.

Questions, contact Gaby Corrales, Secretary at [gcorrales@scusd.net](mailto:gcorrales@scusd.net) or call 408-423-3510.

You can access the latest weekly update each Friday afternoon by visiting the link (on the SCUSD intranet). [SCUSD COVID-19 Weekly Update for Staff](#).

For a list of vaccination clinics offer at different school sites visit [SCUSD Vaccination Clinics](#)

**Disclaimer: Per Santa Clara County Public Health Department, if an individual is COVID-positive in the last 3 months, they do not test.**

## Office Hours

Monday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday - Thursday 8:00am - 7:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

## Alarms On:

This is reminder that the alarms are on for the holidays in the calendar of events. Please plan accordingly. Special hours are also listed in the weekly update.

## Facility Health Check QR Codes

[Visitor Check-In](#)

## Principal Weekly Updates

[Adult School Weekly Updates](#)

## Social Media - Follow SCAE

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Next Door](#)

## For Frequent Updates Visit

[Santa Clara Adult Ed](#)

# Calendar of Events

- April 18, 2022 - Summer Registration Open
- May 27, 2022 - Graduation
- May 30, 2022 - Holiday
- June 1, 2022 - ESL Promotion and Graduation
- June 5, 2022 - Summer Classes Start
- July 5, 2022 - Holiday
- July 11, 2022 - Medical Assistant Training Start
- August 15, 2022 - Fall Classes Start