



Santa Clara Adult Education

Where learning and community meet

ISSUE 18 OCTOBER '22

THIS ISSUE

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Santa Clara Adult Education Community,

Welcome to our Fall 2022 quarterly newsletter. We are very excited to share some of the activities and classes from this school year so far. You will see that our school offers several important and unique adult education programs, including Independence Network, a program for adults with disabilities; Skills Plus, a program that serves stroke survivors and those with neurological impairments; Exercise & Wellness classes for adults of all ages with a large aquatics program; various Enrichment programs with many community classes, including a large teaching garden and woodshop; and Wilson Preschool a strong community to support parents and their children.

In addition, SCAE serves adult English Language Learners of immigrant or refugee backgrounds, community members over the age of 18 who have not obtained a high school diploma, and adult learners who wish to improve their workforce skills. SCAE has demonstrated a commitment to serving these very populations in the ESL, High School Diploma, and Career Technical Education programs, with a track record of successfully graduating students and setting them on a path toward educational, career, and community success.

Our school offers a variety of instructional programs available to the community allowing for a diverse student population reflective of the community. This fulfills the school's mission to empower students of all ages and abilities to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for supporting our school!

Sincerely,

Carrie B. Casto

Carrie Casto,
Principal, Santa Clara Adult Education

EVERYONES GROWTH
LOOKS DIFFERENT.



WILSON PRESCHOOL

SANTA CLARA ADULT EDUCATION



WILSON PRESCHOOL

Where children and parents have learned together - since 1981

Wilson Preschool is filled once again with the happy sounds of children playing. We have full classes of one, two, three, and four-year-old children learning alongside their parents and peers. In response to changing family needs, Wilson Preschool is offering four-year-olds the option to attend either three or five mornings a week. In order to provide more parent education opportunities for families, teachers Nancy Ronconi and Josiane Sawaya are offering a free parent support group on Wednesday afternoons. It is a place where parents can come to discuss any parenting challenges they are facing and get support, guidance, and tools to help them navigate parenthood.



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)

We are very happy to announce that we already have six adult graduates as of September 30!

Melinda Webster, the new High School Diploma teacher is hard at work in her classroom, creating a welcoming space for student learning. Extensive information is available for students who want to transition to community college and/or pursue a new career.

Katie Bennett, the HSD Counselor, will be offering orientations for new students on Tuesday mornings 10-11 am and Wednesday evenings 6-7 pm. Orientations are held in the front office conference room.

Melinda Webster

HSD Instructor and Transition Specialist

Phone: 408-423-3545

Email: mwebster@scusd.net

Katie Bennett

HSD Counselor

Phone: 408-423-3633

Email: kbennett@scusd.net



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)



The first HiSET testing session of the year took place on September 14.

The next session will be on Wednesday, October 19, 12:30-7:30 in room D6.

The HiSET Testing Battery includes five subjects, Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies. Earning the HiSET certificate or High School Equivalency (HSE) requires passing on all tests. Since the pandemic started, 39 students have taken a total of 69 tests. Of the 69 tests, 83% received passing scores.

Prior to testing, each student meets with the Mission College transition specialist who shares information about the options available through the community college system. Students who meet with the transition specialist receive financial assistance from Mission College that pays for the cost of the HiSET test(s).

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program is in high demand. We continue to have many students who are interested in learning English. We offer morning and evening classes in levels 1-5 as well as an additional multi-level morning class.

The students in all classes will soon start a four-week unit on culture sharing. This is the best part of the program, in which we hear one another's stories and share experiences. We hope the connections made in the classroom will transfer out in the world to build community, share resources, nurture cultural wealth, and foster more acceptance and kindness for all.

We currently have an opening in the morning to teach Level 5 (Advanced). If you are interested, please contact Christine Berdiansky at x 3503 or cberdiansky@scusd.net.

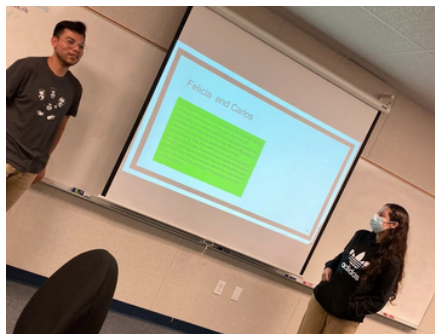
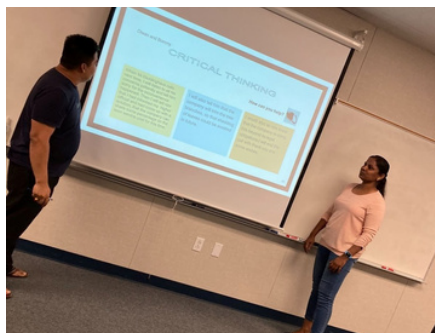
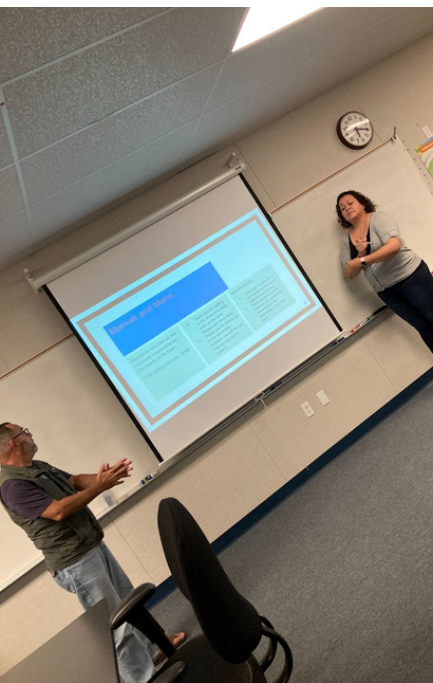


WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
The Importance of Storytelling

Challenging Dominant
Narratives

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Administrative Assistant Program



Here you can see the students during the Administrative Assistant class. In the picture you will observe the students working in pairs to make a presentation on critical thinking skills. The class concludes in December and upon successful completion of the program, the students will be awarded the Administrative Assistant Certificate from SCAE.

The Administrative Assistant class is being taught by instructor Melissa Miguel-Felipe.

For more information or questions contact Tina Dave, Program Supervisor at 408-423-3523 or tdave@scusd.net.

INDEPENDENCE NETWORK (IN)



Independence Network welcomed seven new students to the program this fall. It is the first time in over seven years that the program has been able to accept new students.

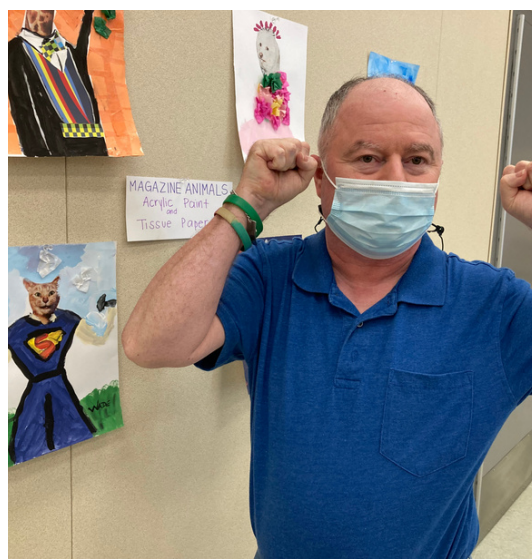
Independence Network students have been in the community exploring, volunteering and learning to take public transportation. Students participate in outings to local museums, concerts, parks and other areas of interest. They also volunteer at the Campbell Community Center and the Heritage Rose Garden. This fall, Independence Network students have also begun working as servers in the school cafeteria with nutrition services.





On October 7th, Independence Network held an art show to share the artworks of the students in the multimedia art class. The show featured works inspired by Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keefe, and Wassily Kandinsky.

Our school year is made up of four quarters and a summer session. You can find our course catalog for the second quarter of the year [here](#).



SKILLS PLUS

On September 17, the Skills Plus instructors attended the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) Accessibility Day. The purpose of this event was to bring together local organizations, products, and services for people with disabilities. Accessibility Day was a success, and there were a lot of people that stopped at the booth to talk with the Skills Plus team about the program. Thank you to all the staff that helped make it such a fun day.



EXERCISE & WELLNESS

Fall session continues to thrive with growing enrollment, including both returning and new students. With a wide variety of classes that promote physical and mental health, our community continues to enjoy class offerings at SCAE! Classes meet the needs of people ranging from 25 to 95 years of age! Hike for Health Meet Up and Vinyasa Yoga are new classes that are slowly gaining popularity. Team sports including indoor soccer and volleyball are at an all time enrollment high! Karate, Yoga: Healthy Stress Free Living, Meditation, Strength and Stretch, Country Western Line Dance, and Aquatic Exercise continue to serve our community year after year.

New Classes: Hike for Health Meet Up

Hike for Health Meet Up led by Marta Espinal, a hiking enthusiast with a passion for nature and the outdoors. Her first class hiked over 5 miles, through Rancho San Antonio County Park exploring its beauty and cascading views!



Vinyasa Yoga

Vinyasa Yoga is taught by Pilar Svendsen a social studies teacher at Santa Clara High School. She teaches 10th grade World History, 11th grade US History, and a mental health elective class called Peer Helpers.

Pilar received her 200 Hour Yoga Certification from Breathe for Change and is a registered Yoga Teacher with Yoga Alliance.



Volleyball and Indoor Soccer

Both volleyball and soccer classes are gaining in popularity. Teamwork, exercise and making connections draws students to these high-energy classes!

For more information about these classes visit the [Team Sports](#) section on the SCAE website.



Aquatic Program

Fall 2022 aquatic registrations are at an all time high with 713 enrollees!

Classes include Water Exercise, Swim Beginning, Swim Intermediate, Swim Advanced, and Lap Swim/Water Walking. SCAE offers aquatics classes Monday through Saturday. Water Exercise classes are held mornings and evenings. Swim classes are held most evenings and Saturdays. Classes fill up fast along with growing waitlists.

Instructors guide student learning through demonstrations and individual support. Resistance through water, instructor support, connections with classmates, and variety of music keep students coming back each session!





POST SECONDARY STUDENTS BIG THANK YOU!!



A Big Thank You to the Post Secondary students that come to the pool deck Monday and Friday mornings to set up and clean up aquatic equipment used in the aquatic program.

The Post Secondary program is a life skills program for students who are 18-22 years old. The program focuses on daily living skills, social skills, functional academics, and vocational skills.

The goal of the program is to provide an environment and support for students to become as independent as they can be and to prepare each individual and their family for the student's adult lives.

A major component of the program is vocational. Each student participates in vocational training in various settings. Some students gain job skills in the classroom, on the campus, and volunteering in the community, which can lead to direct hire jobs.

The work done at the pool is appreciated by the aquatic staff. More importantly, the human connections made by students in both programs is rewarding to all!

ENRICHMENT



Sewing/Quilting Update: Remember the Peace Sign?

Deb Doltz (far left) sure does! She used it for the theme of her beautiful, colorful quilt.

Deb used blues to depict the ocean and browns, yellow and green to depict the earth. A stunning example of the creativity you will find when you attend any of instructor Susan Sjostrom's quilting or sewing classes.

Equally impressive is Inman El Essaway's bright and cheerful pillowcase. Inman has been taking Susan's Sewing Circle class for two terms. Inman is a devoted student. She said, *"I have learned so much and I just love the class"*.



Cooking Class Update:

On September 17, Mary Agnes Xavier (far left), taught the cooking class "Flavors of Southern India-Vegetarian Style". Students made and enjoyed a menu of cauliflower pakora, jeera rice, raita and green egg curry. To drink, students were treated to traditional Indian chai!



Woodworking Update:

NEW Turning and Bowl Turning Class

SCAE is fortunate to have Ray Hari join our woodworking team! Ray is a professional woodworker and woodturner. Ray is teaching Introduction to Turning and Bowl Turning which includes making pens and bowls. Classes begin in January 2023.

For more information refer to the catalog or visit the online class [Catalog](#). His classes will be held at Santa Clara High School.

SCAE woodshop program had 2,965 students enrolled in the different woodworking classes in the past year. The woodshop is located at the Buchser Middle School campus. Pictured below are instructors Larry Truhe (right of center with brown shop apron) and Mike Lambert (left of center with white shirt) along with enthusiastic students after completing their Coasters class.



Teaching Garden Update:

Over the last few years, the SCAE Teaching Garden has expanded the seedling program. We want to teach the students how to grow from seeds, reducing the cost of gardening. Seedlings need a transition place (a cooling place) before they are planted in a garden plot. This reduces the shock of transitioning out of the greenhouse.

Luckily Mark Silkebakken, Eagle Scout with Troop 14, approached the garden instructor wanting to do a project. He was presented with the need for a seedling cooling area. Mark, along with input from our garden volunteers, designed a "fix" for the problem.

Mark and his Scout team built two very stable enclosed cooling tables that perfectly met the needs of garden. Within one week of Mark completing the project, the program had fall seedlings sprouting in the new table enclosures!

We are so grateful to Mark and the Scouts. Mark took on the job with great skill and careful planning. His team worked diligently, had great engineering skills, and were able to pull the entire project together!



STUDENT RECOGNITION

Santa Clara University Arrupe students and San Jose State University Occupational Therapy students are back!

This week we welcomed the students in the Independence Network, Skills Plus, and Wilson Preschool programs. The positive partnership with the Universities has enhanced the experiences for the SCAE students as well as the SCU and SJSU students!



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Visualizing Data with Mindfulness: Back to School Orientation Professional Learning

In this section we are addressing questions around data from the back to school orientation data walk activity, *Visualizing Data with Mindfulness*.

Staff had the opportunity to review, reflect, and report out around data for SCAE as a whole school and for the distinct programs. Additional questions and answers will follow in the Principal's Updates.

BUDGET QUESTIONS:

Is the budget data annual? *Yes the budget presented was for the 2021-22 school year.*

Does the budget cover CTE? *Yes, the CTE budget is covered by fees and state funds.*

Are management salaries included in certificated? *Yes.*

Is there a profit and where does it go? *Some fee based programs make a profit (Exercise & Wellness, Enrichment, CTE) after covering the cost of staff and supplies. The remaining funds go towards operating cost (clerical, custodial) and to help support the other programs that do not make a profit to help cover the overhead cost. Non-fee-based programs have restricted funds that must be used in specific state, federal, or local services and will allow for 1-2 year carryover. Any carryover funds must go back into those programs.*

California Adult Education Program (CAEP) funds - Would Career Training access these funds such as CA Nursing Professional? *Yes, CTE is the only program that can access CAEP funds and charge fees.*

Is there a previous year comparison? *Yes, previous years can be shared with staff.*



Welcome New Staff Members

My name is Josiane Sawaya. I joined the SCAE program in 2017 as the 3's teacher in Wilson Preschool. Wilson Preschool is part of the Adult Ed program, my students are the preschoolers and their parents. In September of this school year, I started teaching ESL Level 1-3. It has been a wonderful few weeks so far and a wonderful new experience for me. I start and end my class with a smile on my face and in my heart!

I have four kids, their ages range from 10-19. I love gardening, reading and being in nature. During the fall season you can always find us on a soccer field, a volleyball court or a cross country track.



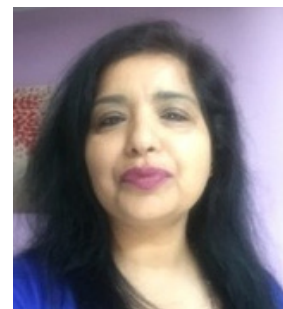
Josiane Sawaya
ESL AM Instructor
Email: jsawaya@scusd.net



Hello! My name is Jose Gomar and I have been a High School teacher for 12 years and Adult School instructor for 2 years. I have a B.A. from CSU Sacramento and a Masters in Education from Arizona State University. I currently reside in Sunnyvale, California and enjoy attending cultural events in my neighborhood.

Jose Gomar Gonzalez
ESL PM Instructor
Email: jgomargonzalez@scusd.net

My name is Siddhi Jangid. I have been teaching for 25 years, with experience teaching students from Elementary, Middle High and college students. My subject expertise is Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and English. The Adult class which I am teaching is ESL, level 5 and I am loving it. During my free time I love spending time with my family and listening to instrumental music. I live in Santa Clare with my 2 sons, husband and a cat named Bruno.



Siddhi Jangid
ESL PM Instructor
Email: sjangid@scusd.net



My name is Terry Remedios Brink. I have been an elementary teacher for the past 27 years. I am currently teaching ESL- Level 3, and enjoy my adult students very much.

Terry Remedios Brink
ESL AM Instructor
Email: tbrink@scusd.net

My name is Betty Sustaita-Duran and this is my second year as a Middle School Counselor at Santa Clara Unified District. I have been part of this district for about 5 years, previously working for the Health and Wellness Department as a Community Health Outreach Worker.

I am very happy to join the Adult Ed program this year working as an ESL teacher. I fell in love with teaching adult students while working for Foothill Community College as an Instructor for the Family Engagement Institute. I am also a proud native Spanish speaker who learned to speak English as a second language. Supporting and learning from students and families who come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds bring me so much joy and purpose.

I enjoy spending my free time with my daughter, two step sons, and husband. We love discovering new delicious places to eat and movies to watch together. I enjoy getting together with friends and taking my daughter on playdates with her friends.



Betty Sustaita-Duran
ESL PM Instructor
Email: bsustaitaduran@scusd.net



Hello! My name is Rachel Kim and I'm excited to join the school as the ESL Level 3 instructor. I was born in Seoul, South Korea but raised in the West San Jose and Saratoga areas. After studying in Los Angeles, I spent a few years working in Boston until I moved back to the Bay Area. I have been living in Santa Clara for the last six years. In my professional life, I've taught TK-8th grade in the private, charter, and public school settings. Some of my passions outside of work include reformer Pilates, traveling, baking, and learning new things! I look forward to building new relationships and positively contributing to my students' journey toward their goal.

Rachel Kim

ESL PM Instructor

Email: rkim@scusd.net

I have taught ESL since 1992: Sprint Japan in Tokyo, Watsonville Adult School, East Side Adult Education, Rosalie Rendu, a non-profit through the Sisters of Charity in Palo Alto, and as a private tutor both in person and on Zoom. I have a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MATESOL) from the University of San Francisco.

I love teaching adults, especially immigrants and I'm very happy to return to the classroom after a six-year hiatus and to work for Santa Clara Adult Education.

Cynthia Fagan

ESL AM Instructor

Email: cfagan@scusd.net



My name is Lana Almari. I am a medical assistant and a mother to a three-year-old boy. In my spare time I love to bake and make yummy foods. I also love to travel and explore new countries and the food they eat. I am fairly new to the teaching world, but it has been an amazing journey so far. I am so thankful to be here and excited for what's to come.

Lana Almari

Medical Assistant Instructor

Email: lalmari@scusd.net

Christian Pellecchia started his career as a Biology teacher in 2001 at high school in his hometown of Brooklyn N.Y. After moving to California, Christian was recruited by a company in the construction industry, and he quickly rose to the executive level. However, Christian never let go of his passion for teaching, and has been teaching part time ever since. Today, Christian is an instructor for subjects within Construction, Facility Management, Property Management and Business Ethics.

Christian Pellecchia

Facilities Management Program Instructor

Email: cpellecchia@scusd.net



Hello, my name is Ray Hari. And I am so excited to join the woodworking staff at SCAE. I will be teaching woodworking as well as introducing woodturning classes to the Santa Clara Community. The woodturning classes will be taught at Santa Clara High School's woodshop, where I am also a volunteer instructor in their wood working program. My professional background is Computer Engineering and I have worked for many of the Silicon Valley software companies. My interest in woodworking and woodturning began over 32 years ago. I served as the President of Silicon Valley Woodturners Inc. In the winter/spring term, I will be offering 'Introduction to Woodturning' and 'Bowl Turning'. Both will be listed in the catalog and on the website.

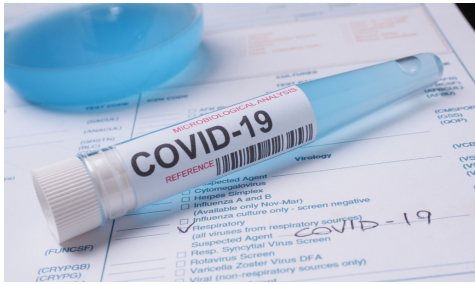
Ray Hari

Woodworking Instructor

Email: rhari@scusd.net

Updates

COVID-19 Resources for Staff



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](#).

School districts are no longer required to obtain proof of vaccination from workers (employees and volunteers) or require COVID-19 screening testing of unvaccinated workers.

Office Hours

Monday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - 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.

Principal Weekly Updates

SCAE Weekly Updates

Social Media - Follow SCAE

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

For Frequent Updates Visit

Santa Clara Adult Ed

Calendar of Events

- October 13 - SCUSD School Board Meeting
- October 14 - SBCAE Steering Committee Meeting
- October 24 - Fall Session 2 Start - ESL Fee, Enrichment, Skills+, IN, Ex. & Wellness, CTE
- October 21 - Medical Assistant Summer Cohort Ends
- October 25-28 CAEP Summit
- October 27 - SCUSD School Board Meeting
- November 4 - SBCAE Faculty Workgroups
- November 7 - Medical Assistant Fall Cohort Begins
- November 10 - Winter/Spring Catalog Mailed to the Community
- November 10 - School Board Meeting
- November 14 - Winter/Spring Registration Open
- November 11 - Veteran's Day
- November 21 - 26 No Classes
- November 24 - Thanksgiving
- December 8 - School Board Meeting
- December 9 - SBCAE Steering Committee Meeting
- December 19-30 - No School
- January 4 - SCAE Professional Learning Day
- January 9 - Winter/Spring