



# Santa Clara Adult Education

*Where learning and community meet*



ISSUE 24 APRIL '24

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Santa Clara Adult School Community,

As spring blooms around us, I'm excited to update you on the progress and initiatives happening within our vibrant adult education community. At the heart of our endeavors lies a commitment to student growth and empowerment through education.

I'm pleased to inform you that our School Leadership Team has been diligently working on refining our programs through comprehensive improvement plans. These plans are designed to enhance the learning experience, ensuring that our curriculum remains relevant and effective for our student's educational journey. Your input and feedback are invaluable as we strive for continuous improvement, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact these efforts will have on student support, outcomes, and transitions. Throughout this newsletter, you will see evidence of the school's commitment to students.

Together, let's embrace the spirit of renewal this season brings and continue to pursue knowledge and personal growth. Thank you for being an integral part of our dynamic learning community.

Warm regards,

*Carrie B. Casto*

Carrie Casto

Principal, Adult Education





# INDEPENDENCE NETWORK (IN)

Feeling connected to others is just as important to our health as physical activity. At Independence Network, students have the opportunity to exercise while building friendships. Through dance, yoga, games and sports, Independence Network students are keeping their minds, bodies and spirits healthy.

*"Have you seen Matt dance? He's so quiet I didn't expect him to dance like that. He's got MOVES!" -Maylene, IN student*





# WILSON PRESCHOOL

The Wilson Preschool open house was a success, with a great turnout. For the upcoming session, 162 families applied, and all morning class spots have been filled.

The students in 3's class celebrated Lunar New Year with different activities. They ended the celebration with a parade with the 4's class.

Friends of Wilson Preschool invite you to join the GIRAFFLE Family Night. Friday, May 3, 2024, 5:30 pm - 7 pm. See the flyer for more details: [Giraffe 2024](#)





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL/ESL)

San Jose City College recently hosted a tour for the English Language students. Students had the opportunity to explore the college's campus, interact with faculty and staff, and gain valuable insights into the academic programs and support services available.

Our SCAE transition specialists will meet individually with students to guide them through the application process for community college, ensuring that each student receives the necessary assistance tailored to their specific needs and increasing their chances of meeting their goals.





# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

## Labor Market Information

In order to determine course offerings, the CTE Program uses information about local needs (e.g. need for paraeducators in SCUSD) as well as [labor market information](#) from the Employment Development Department. For example, the LMI table identifies the increased need for Medical Assistants over the next 5 years.

Alondra Nunez is a Wilson High School graduate and a graduate of the Adult School. SCUSD spotlighted her on the district's Facebook page.

**Congratulations  
to Alondra who  
just finished her  
externship at  
Kaiser!**



## Medical Assistant Students Celebrated!

Giselle Fernandez graduated from the Medical Assistant Program on January 17, 2024. She is now working at Kaiser in Fremont.

Giselle's accomplishments were highlighted at the NOVAworks steering committee on January 24, 2024. Congratulations Giselle!



# EXERCISE & WELLNESS

The Exercise & Wellness program is actively involved in the continuous improvement process. It's important to the program to understand how classes from hiking to line dancing to swimming and more enrich our students' lives. In a recent survey with over 200 responses, students provided valuable feedback. See their insights below.



## "What Are Students Saying?"

*"SCAE is blessed with great, caring staff and excellent facilities for the community to benefit from."*

*"Appreciate the clean facilities and welcoming staff."*

*"I would love another class so I could come 2-3 times per week!"*

*"She helped me overcome my fear of water and I look forward to coming to every single class."*

*"Her constant motivation and supportive teaching style made swimming classes enjoyable."*

*"Great way to learn and meet new players."*

*"The class is my happy place."*

*"Would not miss the class."*

*"I feel much more comfortable in deep water."*

*"Thank you for offering pickleball!"*

*"I feel so lucky to have access to this class."*

*"The instructor of this yoga class is exceptionally calm, helpful, knowledgeable and supportive."*



# STUDENTS

Establishing a safe and welcoming environment, the pool offers opportunities for students of all levels and backgrounds to achieve their personal goals.



## Taking Charge of Your Health

Jackie Quick, is the oldest participant and most dedicated student in the water exercise classes. For nearly 30 years, she has faithfully attended these classes twice a week. Jackie first found the program when her great grandson was at Wilson Preschool. Jackie is usually the first one down the pool steps, spreading positivity and humor to everyone around her.

Colleen Salsberry leads an active lifestyle, and attends early morning water exercise, yoga and pickleball classes through SCAE which provide socialization with fun and interesting people! In addition she practices pilates, cycling, and running, and maintains a vegetarian diet. Coleen's family also embraces an active lifestyle, participating in triathlons and biking trips together.





# ENRICHMENT



## Indian Cooking Class

Instructor Subashini conducted a South Indian cooking class where students learned to prepare sambar rice alongside potato, plantain pakoras, and appalams. Stay tuned for more exciting cooking classes!



## Woodturning-Peppermill Class

Students proudly display the mills they made in the Woodturning class. It is always fun to have a finished project you can brag about at home.



## Landscape Photography Class

Students in the landscape photography class focus on capturing cliff shots under the guidance of instructor Noella Vigeant, Professional Photographer.



## Piano III Students Field Trip

The Piano III students visited the Beethoven Center at San Jose State University on March 14th.



# SKILLS PLUS

As part of the Program Improvement Plan the Skills Plus team and students who use Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Access are working together to improve the service. The students spoke at a VTA Committee for Transportation Mobility & Accessibility board meeting in November regarding the frequent late drop-off and/or pick-up from Skills Plus.

If you or your students use VTA or Access, complete the following survey to voice your opinion of the services. Survey Link: <https://www.vta.org/vta-wants-hear-your-opinions>

New students are continuously enrolling in the program, with current enrollment standing at 54. The majority of classes are already full. The Skills Plus summer classes will run from June 4 - July 25, 2024.

## Arrupe Student Volunteer

Santa Clara University and San Jose State University student volunteers are soon beginning to assist teachers in classrooms for the spring term.





# HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)

The graduation ceremony is coming up soon, with 60 graduates as of today. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm for the commencement event.

Santa Clara Unified School District acknowledged our dedicated High School Diploma instructor, Melinda Webster.

**Congratulations!**



# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)

The High School Equivalency program is designed for adult learners to earn their high school equivalency certificate. The HiSET test is held monthly and has recently transitioned to a computerized format that enhances the testing experience for students.

In March, the adult school witnessed an extraordinary achievement as 100% of the students who took the HiSET test successfully passed. The results acknowledge the hard work and determination of the students who dedicated themselves to preparing for the test, demonstrating their commitment to self-improvement and personal growth.





# SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

## Membership

The SLT was expanded this school year to include: Certificated Teachers, Classified Staff, Instructors (non-certificated), TOSA's, Transition Specialist, Para-Educators, Supervisor, Administrators that represent all of the programs offered at the adult school.

## 2023-24 SLT Work

- Continuous Improvement Process: Reviewed of August and October PD data to reduce barriers and increase access for all students
- Program Improvement Plans: ongoing analysis
- Reviewed of Mission Statement
- Communication Plan
- South Bay Consortium for Adult Education (SBCAE) Data Review - Key findings, student transitions
- Santa Clara Adult Ed. (SCAE) Data Review - Key findings, student transitions
- SLT Self Assessment



## NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Cynthia (Cindy) Leonard is a credentialed substitute for SCUSD and is excited to bring her pickleball talents to SCAE! Cindy has been playing pickleball since 2015 leads many drill sessions across the Bay Area and enjoys spreading her knowledge about "The fastest growing sport in America." She is excited to be teaching beginning and intermediate pickleball at SCAE. She has taught elementary PE and Art classes around the Bay. She has coached youth soccer for many years and is currently coaching 4th and 5th-grade basketball. When not teaching or coaching, she can be found at the beach on a boogie board!

**Cynthia (Cindy) Leonard**

Exercise & Wellness Instructor

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





**Principal Weekly Updates**  
[SCAE Weekly Updates](#)

**Social Media - Follow SCAE**  
[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

**For Frequent Updates Visit**  
[Santa Clara Adult Ed](#)

**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.

**Office Hours**

Monday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday 8:00am - 6:30pm

Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 19 - Holiday
- May 2 - Graduation Photos
- May 3 - Giraffe WPS Family Night
- May 24 - High School Graduation
- May 27 - Holiday No Classes
- May 29 - Nacho Last Day
- May 31 - Winter/Spring Session End
- June 3 - Summer Class Starts
- June 19 - Holiday No Classes
- July 27 - Summer School End Date
- August 12 - First Day of Classes