



Santa Clara Adult Education

Where learning and community meet

ISSUE 21 JULY '23



THIS ISSUE

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SCAE Office Staff

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Santa Clara Adult Education Community,

As we reach the end of another successful school year and summer, I want to reflect on the achievements and milestones we have accomplished together as a vibrant and dedicated community. Throughout the year, we have seen many successes in Enrichment and Exercise & Wellness, Career Training, Parent Education, and Adults with Disabilities programs. Additionally, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to the adult graduates of the High School Diploma and High School Equivalency programs. These individuals have displayed remarkable perseverance and commitment in their pursuit of education, and we are immensely proud of their accomplishments. We are also proud to celebrate the achievements of adult English Language Learners. The dedication and hard work displayed by our English students is genuinely commendable.

I encourage you to read the July 2023 newsletter thoroughly, as it contains student and staff experiences and the latest updates and events. You can stay connected with us through the Santa Clara Adult Education website and social media.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Together, we will continue to inspire lifelong learning and empower individuals to achieve their goals.

Sincerely,

Carrie B. Casto

Carrie B. Casto
Principal

INDEPENDENCE NETWORK (IN)



Independence Network summer camp is in full swing.

Students are participating in themed activities and outings to develop their social skills and foster community integration.

During our animal-themed week, IN students went on a field trip to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo where they enjoyed rides, the petting zoo, and the puppet show.

We're continuing our summer fun with mad scientist week, Hawaiian week, and school spirit week. We'll end the summer with a bang with visits from the fire and police departments, a student talent show, and an awards ceremony.



CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

The Career Training Program is expanding in Fall, 2023. New offerings include:

- Introduction to ChatGPT
- Special Education Paraeducator Training
- Home Care Aide
- English for Food Preparation

Community College Collaboration

We now collaborate with Mission College, West Valley College, and Foothill Community Colleges.



Mission College Collaboration

We will be offering a new Child Development course with Mission College, Child Health and Safety CHD 017 on Wednesday nights as well as a new English Learner class, English for Food Preparation on Saturday mornings. We are continuing the English for Child Care/Child Development courses with Mission College as well.



West Valley Community College Collaboration

We are going into a second year of working with West Valley to offer an English for Health Care class. The class is taught by Lathika Sadasivan, West Valley Instructor.

Lathika started her education career by teaching high school students English Language and Literature. She has found her ideal job teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and English for Careers in Health Care for adults. Lathika is passionate about her work and helping students achieve their various English Language learning goals.

In the English for Careers in Health Care class, she assists students in understanding the demanding language of the Healthcare field as well as planning their career in Healthcare. As you can see in the photo, Lathika enjoys her students very much!



Lathika Sadasivan

English for Health Care Instructor

Email: lathika.sadasivan@wvm.edu



Foothill Community College Collaboration

In order to expand training programs for the community, Foothill Community College and Santa Clara Adult Education are partnering on a new [Home Care Aide](#) class. The class will be taught by Laurel Ashcroft, RN.

"I earned a nursing degree from DeAnza Community College and after working in the field of homecare, I now share what I've learned teaching for Foothill College. I've taught Homecare Aide classes in association with Catholic Charities since 2014. I'm happy to collaborate with Santa Clara Adult Education and Foothill College to expand this valued class. My teaching style has developed appreciating the diverse community of the Bay Area. Students learn about the healthcare field so they can begin work and/or continue their educations. Others take this class to better care for their own loved ones with confidence and new skills.

I strive to light up student's natural curiosity about their own health so that they see the commonalities with those in need with skill and empathy. Connecting with each student is the strength of this class!"



Laurel Ashcroft

Home Care Aide Instructor

Email: redleaf1885@gmail.com

ENRICHMENT

Upcoming new classes for fall term 2023: The enrichment program is expanding hiring new teachers and offering new classes this fall. New classes include The Magic of Poetry, Introduction to Video Game and Development, Hip Hop, and Bollywood dancing. Visit the Adult Education (SCAE) [Class Catalog](#) for more information.

Below are samples of finished projects for the different woodworking classes.



EXERCISE & WELLNESS

Pool classes and Pickleball gain popularity this Summer Session!

First-time swimmers join classes with friends and family members. Together they gain confidence in the water and progress with new swimming skills. Ten friends from Nigeria supported and cheered each other on as they embarked on their swim journey in the same class! Advanced swimmers are striving to swim consecutive laps that range from one half to a full mile!



Husband and wife wanted to learn to swim while their 2-year-old daughter was taking her first lessons!



This son in law is translating the directions from the swim instructor into Chinese for his mother in law.

Pickleball for the first time in Santa Clara!

The Santa Clara community asked for pickleball and with the guidance of local player Joy Shurtz, we were able to line three courts and offer a “try-it” workshop. Angie Scott is heading up the first class during the Summer session. Through warm up drills, racquet technique, serving and scoring, students are learning how to play the game safely.



SKILLS PLUS

Student Success Story

Conference in Italy: Josh is an MD and pathologist with a history of cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and aphasia. He had arrangements to attend a three-day pathology conference and take a vacation in Venice, Italy. Unexpectedly, circumstances changed and he found himself needing to adapt and travel independently.

The Skills Plus community helped him in preparing for his trip through problem-solving communication issues and modifying phone service, etc. One student downloaded the google translate application and trained him to use it. Additionally, a few people gave him their phone numbers for emergencies.

Thank you University students!

Santa Clara University Arrupe students and San Jose State University Occupational Therapy students continue volunteering. The students are working with Independence Network, Skills Plus, and Wilson Preschool programs. The positive partnership with the Universities has enhanced the experience for the SCAE students as well as the SCU and SJSU students!



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL/ESL)

The spring term classes concluded after well-attended ESL celebrations in May. Summer school classes started at the beginning of June. SCAE is offering five classes for new students this summer, and at the end of the summer classes, students will take the placement test. The students are engaged in a curriculum that focuses on Career Exploration.

Upcoming new student placement tests are full and will take place on:

- Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 6:30 pm
- Friday, July 28, 2023, at 9:00 am

In collaboration with Transition Specialist, Melinda Webster and Community College Transition Specialists from San Jose City College and Mission College ESL summer school classes attended presentations about Career Pathways. ESL students could meet individually with Transition Specialist for support with their next step in their educational journey.



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (HSD)

High School Diploma students continue their progress throughout the summer, meeting with their teacher and working through their assignments to earn a High School Diploma.

Congratulations to all the 2023 graduates!



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)

Similar to the High School Diploma program, the High School Equivalency program continues during the summer. Students are making progress toward their certificate by attending class and passing the HiSET tests that are offered during the summer.



Upcoming testing sessions:

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 10am, 4pm, and 6pm

Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 2pm

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10am, 4pm, and 6pm

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 2pm

WILSON PRESCHOOL

SANTA CLARA ADULT EDUCATION



What's new at WPS?

Wilson Preschool is expanding its offerings. Due to the high demand for the fours class program, an afternoon fours class has been added to allow more families the opportunity to learn skills, strategies, and techniques to foster K-12 success. Both the morning and afternoon fours classes will be free for families.

In addition, two new Parent/Child art classes will be offered for free. The classes will be taught by instructor Julia Greenwood. In these classes, parents will learn how to foster their child's growth through exposure to different materials and activities.

The Wilson Preschool fours class enjoyed visits from Independence Network's Benjamin Aiken all school year. Ben, who uses a computer to communicate, regularly read the children their favorite stories and became an important part of the WPS community.



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

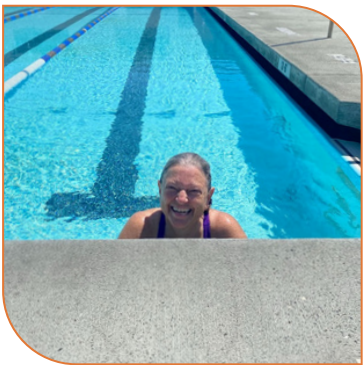


Maria Leonora Paluga Holtz
Medical Assistant Student

I want to share how much I've enjoyed and benefited from multiple programs at Santa Clara Adult Education. I take three classes in this school, ESL Level 5 with Ms. Jangid, ESL for Healthcare with Ms. Lathika, and Medical Assistant with Ms. Lana. I appreciate and enjoy these classes. The ESL Level 5 class helps me a lot to improve my listening, reading, speaking, and writing. The ESL for Healthcare class is a very good preparation for my Medical Assisting class. The teachers support me in achieving my goals. The office staff and the teachers are kind, approachable, helpful, and passionate about their work. It's an incredible honor to learn from them.

When I finish these classes, I know I'll be ready to get a job. I highly recommend Santa Clara Adult Education as they offer lots of classes that fit your schedule. Check out their catalog and you can find lots of options to improve your life!

Taking Charge of Your Health: Student Spotlight!



Sue Guzman
Water Exercise Student

Sue Guzman has put more of a priority on her health ever since she retired 9 years ago from the high-tech industry. This covers many facets of her life, including sufficient sleep, eating healthily, exercising daily, meditation practice, volunteering/giving back to the community, and travel/exploration!

Sue aims for 9 hours of sleep per night. She has learned that her body does 3-hour REM cycles and functions well from a deep sleep. Exercising with people is what she enjoys most! Sue chooses to take classes such as Water Aerobics, Tai Chi, Zumba, Yoga/Pilates, and most recently Pickleball through SCAE! Sue also makes a conscious focus on the most important relationships/people in her life, including her lifelong partner of 37 years!

Volunteering is energizing for Sue! Her primary focus is being with the charity "Canine Companions for Independence" where she trains puppies to be service dogs for people with disabilities, as well as provide leadership for the local chapter.

Exploring and traveling is exciting and exposes Sue to new things and cultures as well as new food! Her mind thrives from continued stimulation too. Reading, word/number puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, card games, and playing the piano are many of her favorite activities.

"Staying active and sharing my life with others is what keeps me healthy!"

NEW STAFF MEMERS



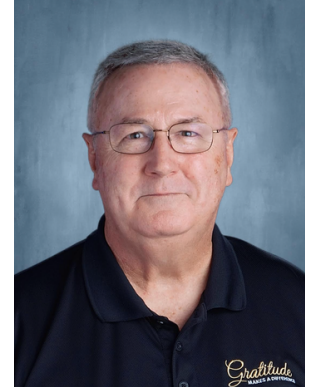
I will be starting my 27th year teaching at SCUSD. I was at Wilcox for 8 years as a Physical Education teacher, Varsity Softball coach, Athletic Director, and Vice Principal. I was the Physical Education TOSA for 16 years along with the AED program coordinator for SCUSD. For the past 2 years at the Wilson campus supporting Wilson High School, the TK-8 Independent Study program as well as the Post Secondary program. Next year, I will be the new Assistant Principal at Wilson HS, Middle School and Post Secondary supporting Dr. Pamela Galano!

Angie Scott

Pickleball Instructor

Email: ascott@scusd.net

It is a pleasure for me to be a part of the Santa Clara Adult Education team. I was born and raised in San Francisco. I've lived here in the South Bay since 1972. I am a graduate of both Santa Clara University (B.A.) and the University of San Francisco (M.A.). After more than forty years teaching high school and middle school students, I retired to devote my time to writing. I also assist my wife in providing daycare for my grandkids. Poetry is a form of literature I have grown to love and appreciate. I'm looking forward to sharing my appreciation of poetry and helping others to experience The Magic of Poetry.

**Kevin Carroll**

Poetry Instructor

Email: kcarroll@scusd.net



Hi everyone, I am excited to be teaching dance at Santa Clara Adult Education! I grew up learning Bollywood dance and have always loved urban dance styles. I started teaching Bollywood dance almost 10 years ago, but due to the pandemic I had to take a break from teaching the past few years so I am excited to be teaching again. I am looking forward to meeting everyone!

Garima Kumar

Dance Instructor

Email: gkumar@scusd.net

Hello everyone, I am glad to be joining Santa Clara Adult Education. I spent twelve years as an assistant editor for television shows, then moved back to the bay area and learned how to program. With five years of experience under my belt, I would now like to share my knowledge with others. Video game development can be a wonderful portal to a vast array of creative endeavors, from side scrollers to RPGs to visual novels to who knows what the future will bring. I look forward to teaching students how to open that portal and seeing the projects they make.

**Ralph Wong**

Gaming Instructor

Email: rwong@scusd.net



Dana Curry is a native to the Bay Area. Born and raised here in Santa Clara. In my spare time I love to spend time with family and friends. I'm passionate about traveling to new areas, volunteering for several local agencies, and teaching/helping others.

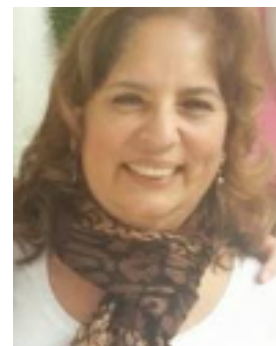
I have worked in healthcare for three decades and love everything about medicine. I have also taught Medical Assisting since 2007 and enjoy passing on my passion and knowledge.

Dana Curry

Medical Assistant Instructor

Email: dcurry@scusd.net

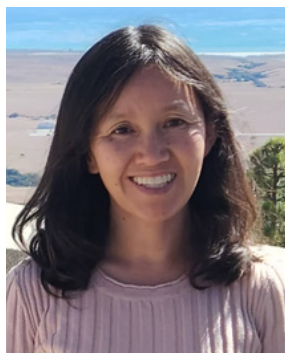
Patricia Siqueiros received a Bachelor of Arts in Management and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Siqueiros has over 20 years of experience as a Hospital Manager in the O'Connor hospital Admitting department and Assistant Manager in GI outpatient surgery at Santa Clara Kaiser. She has over 8 years of adult education training for a diverse population with special learning disabilities. She taught Medical Terminology, Medical front office, Billing, ICD10 and CPT coding, Medi- SOFT, and Epic- electronic health records at Heald College and Evergreen Valley College. She also has taught the clinical skills for the Medical Assisting program and is a Certified Medical Assistant through the AAMA.



Patricia Siqueiros

Medical Assistant Instructor

Email: psiqueiros@scusd.net



My name is Liz Thompson and I am very excited to be working in the Independence Network program. I spent the first ten years of my career working as an in-home ABA therapist before taking 13 years off to raise my three children. For the last five years, I have been providing behavioral support in the classroom for pre-K and elementary students with disabilities so this will be a big change for me. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, running, hiking, playing soccer, and learning to play the guitar. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with and having a positive impact on the lives of these special students.

Elizabeth Thompson

Independence Network (IN)

Email: ethompson@scusd.net

Singa Narayanasamy has been practicing and teaching meditation and mindfulness for several years. He started teaching Mindfulness to a small group of students, which grew into many courses and retreats in the USA, Singapore, and India. Today, he leads Mindfulness courses, programs, and retreats for both beginners and advanced practitioners from diverse backgrounds. Singa believes that the full potential of every human can be realized through the practice of Mindfulness. He thinks Mindfulness is a powerful tool to deal with everyday stress and to enhance one's ability to deal with life's challenges as they appear. Singa Narayanasamy is the founder and Chief Instructor of ZenVidhya, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and practice of Mindfulness serving the communities in the Bay Area.



Singa Narayanasamy

Meditation Instructor

Email: singa@zenvidhya.org



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 - 7:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 1:00pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 7 - SCUSD Orientation/Site Day
- August 11 - All Staff Back to School Orientation
- August 14 - Start of Fall Term
- September 4 - Holiday/No Classes
- October 9 - Professional Development
- November 10 - Holiday/No Classes
- November 20-24 Thanksgiving Break Week/No Classes
- November 23-24 Holiday
- December 23 - End of Fall Term
- December 25 to January 5 - Holiday Break/No Classes
- December 25-26 - Holiday
- December 29 - Holiday
- January 1 - Holiday
- January 8 - Start of Winter/Spring Term
- January 15 - Holiday/No Classes