Arts Now Ignite Santa Cruz County

April 13 - It was a pleasure to attend and speak at Ignite Santa Cruz County to promote support for equitable and sustainable arts education countywide. The event gave participants an opportunity to see student artwork and performances, participate in inspiring breakout sessions, and learn about statewide resources for cultivating creativity through arts education.

Student Support Services Update

The Student Support Services Department partnered with The County Public Health Division to provide training to educators, law enforcement and community stakeholders on the student use of e-cigarettes/Juuls, which included tips for professional development for working with youth and supporting prevention and cessation in this area. Stanford University will be coming on April 25th to provide a third training in this series, this round with a focus on using their online tobacco prevention toolkit.

The Student Support Services Department Teen Peer Court/Restorative Circles program was created to divert young people from the criminal justice system. Recently, we had the opportunity to have a circle with Kalia and she reported it had a big impact on her life, which she states has completely turned around: She now has straight A’s, a great relationship with her father and strives to enter either, the medical or legal field. She will be the first student interviewed by Les Forester on his radio show called Inside Education! Please tune into KSQD this Monday afternoon to hear about her experience.

Career and Technical Education Partnership (CTEP)

CTEP is currently preparing for a WASC Self Study Review from April 29th through May 1st. We have written and delivered our Self Study Report as well as met with the WASC Visiting Committee Chair to plan our visit. The CTEP Administration and the Leadership Team have communicated with staff in preparing to showcase all aspects of our regional CTE program.

CTEP has also been busy marketing a new Food Service and Hospitality pathway at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. CTEP and the Seaside Company are collaborating to create a unique learning opportunity for students. This pathway will be offered one weekday and every student will receive paid employment one Saturday a month. Students will not only earn high school credit but, participate in work based learning and earn a little money at the same time. Students will work with managers who will serve as mentors in each of the different departments (Food Service, Maintenance, Security, Health, Marketing, Human Resources, Building, etc.) at the Boardwalk. This is a collaboration between the SCCOE and a local business to serve both the educational and business needs of the community.
All Means All Conference
Apr 13 - The Positive Discipline Community Resources organized once again wonderful conference in support of our students with special needs. The keynote was inspiring, provide by Julie Kurtz. PDCR now has a new Executive Director Stephanie Barron Lu who did a wonderful job in coordinating the event.

Inside Ed on the Radio
Mar 25 - Les Forster has a program on KSQD 90.7 entitled "Inside Education". Every week Les invites different members of the community to discuss their perspectives on education and the needs of our students. The interview was a lot of and a tribute to Les’ wide ranging skills and interests.

Safe Schools Climate Index
Apr 17 - We have been collaborating with Rob Darrow from the Safe Schools Project to develop a tool to gauge how safe schools are for LGBTQ students. The tool helps principals and leadership teams to collect data. We are rolling the Index out to all Superintendents and Principals.

Cesar Chavez Awards
Mar 28 - I had the opportunity to speak at the 17th Annual Cesar Chavez Community Awards honoring local volunteers who are making a difference in the community.

Upcoming Events
- Apr 20 - PVDCC Meet & Greet
- Apr 25-26 Science Initiative BaySci Training
- Apr 26 - Live Pajaro Valley
- Apr 27 - Kids Coding Event
- Apr 28 - International Jazz Day Concert
- May 4 - Human Trafficking Happens Here
- May 4 - Student Authors Fair
- May 11 - Math Contest
- May 18 - Live Oak Resource Center B-Day

Wellness Learning Series
Full house at the COE Health and Wellness Learning Series linking those who work directly with youth to the rich continuum of resources in Santa Cruz County. We are committed to serving the whole child.
Division Updates

Educational Services

Language Ambassadors Expos move from idea to reality
In an expansion of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s (COE) Language Ambassador Student Recognition program, two student-to-student expos brought together students from different schools and districts to share their passion for multilingualism. Students from Pajaro Valley Unified, Live Oak, Mountain Elementary and Pacific Elementary School Districts performed dance and songs, viewed student-made videos and engaged in student-student learning stations. Sixteen different languages were represented: Spanish, Tagalog, German, Russian, American Sign Language, French, Italian, Japanese, Zarma, Wolof, Hindi, Hebrew, Mandarin, Hawaiian, Lakota, and Swedish.

The COE’s Child Development Programs are now on social media! We’re building our online connections to better serve families with childcare needs through the Child Development Resource Center services. We’re also connecting with our professional partners, stakeholders, and community members through the Childhood Advisory Council social media account. Please “like” our pages to stay connected, find out about upcoming events, and gain tips from the industry!

On Friday, April 12, 175 teen designers and models walked the runway at the Civic Auditorium from 12 Santa Cruz County schools. From the categories of “Trash ‘N’ Fashion” to “You Did What?” students designed and constructed dresses, pants, shirts, jackets, and sculptures from bark, chia seed packets, fireplace grills, and other recycled, re-used items such as plastics and old clothes from Goodwill. Students use elements of engineering and design thinking to create fashions that are wearable and artistic.

Business Services

The Business Services Department will be experiencing some changes going into the new fiscal year with our long time excellent Senior Director of Fiscal Services, Jean Gardner announcing she will be retiring at the start of the new fiscal year.
During March and April we went through the recruitment processed and were extremely lucky to have Rebecca (Becky) Olker apply for the position. Becky has been with the COE for the past six years most currently holding the Director of Fiscal Services position. She has been selected to replace Jean as Jean moves into the next chapter of her life. Becky and Jean are in the process of cross training while also doing their normal jobs and being involved in the implementation of the new Financial System.
We are now in the process of recruiting for Becky’s position and hope to find a fantastically qualified person to replace her. This position will close at the end of May. Everyone’s learning curve will be on high over the next few months as we fill and backfill these positions and cross train. Join me in congratulating both Jean and Becky in their next chapters.

Alternative Education

Alternative Education, via the California School Dashboard this year, was identified for Differentiated Assistance. We have partnered with three other County Offices - Santa Clara, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus - to investigate causes and determine solutions, based on data, to improve students’ College and Career Readiness. We are specifically developing plans and procedures regarding:
The correct and complete collection and reporting of data.
Providing meaningful and impactful CTE pathways to our students.
Designing multiple means for dually enrolling our 12th grade students at Cabrillo (online, onsite at Cabrillo, and on our own campuses.)