



I was recently reviewing an article about Randy Pausch's last lecture. Dr. Pausch was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had spread to his liver and spleen. The diagnosis was terminal, and Dr. Pausch made a conscientious effort to live his last days as a "Tigger," and not an "Eeyore." Carnegie Mellon is the University where Dr. Pausch taught, and gave

his last lecture, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams."

You can view the lecture on YouTube, and will see Dr. Pausch as upbeat and humorous. He varied the talk between humor, insights on education, advice on building multi-disciplinary collaborations, working in groups, and interacting with other people. Ironically, the lecture series was titled, "Last Lecture," and Dr. Pausch joked that he was finally able to nail down the lecture and venue.

How often are we a Tigger or an Eeyore?

Eeyore, in A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, is described as pessimistic, depressed, and deflated. Eeyore is quoted as saying, "It's not much of a tail, but it's the only one I've got." Compare this with the ending line in Tigger's song from the Disney animated version of *Winnie the Pooh*, "... the most wonderful thing about Tigger is I'm the only one!" Dr. Pausch

knew that he was going to die, and made a choice to live life to the fullest. Sometimes we become anxious and spend our precious time or energy on things we have no control over, instead of expressing gratitude for the many gifts and blessings we do have.

"Oh Tigger, where are your manners?"

"I don't know, but I bet they're having more fun than I am."

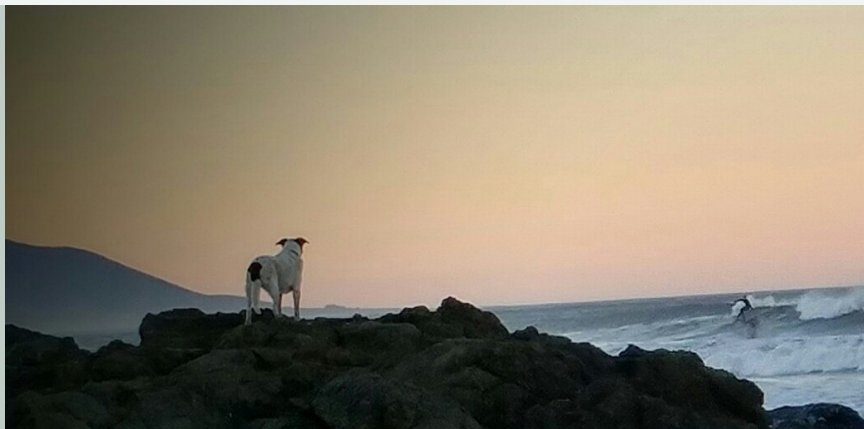
~ A.A. Milne, Winnie the Pooh ~

The month of November for me is a month of gratitude, a month in which I try to emulate Tigger in words and action. There are many things for which we give thanks, such as the country where we live, our colleagues, the days we have on earth, our families, and friends.

I believe that education is a game changer, a social justice issue, an opportunity to promote our democracy, and I give thanks for the wonderful works all of you do each and every day. In Dr. Pausch's lecture, he reminds us that gratitude is very simple but powerful. When we focus on having fun, living life to the fullest, pretty soon we can look back, and some of the anxieties may fade. By coming together in gratitude, by supporting the work of local school districts, delivering specialized student services, and providing countywide leadership and advocacy for the needs of all children, we promote student success.

Thank you for all you do!

Jim Brescia



shutterbug shots

"Loyal Beach Dog & His Surfer"

Fiscal Specialist Tony Anastasia begins each workday commute with a walk on the Cayucos beach. On a recent early morning walk, he happened to make friends with this loyal dog, and captured him watching his best buddy while he surfed. If you have some fun snaps you'd like to share, send them to newsletter@slococoe.org. We'd love to share them here!

Red Carpet Event Honored District Classified Employees of the Year

Red carpet interviews, video tributes, a dinner prepared by Culinary Arts Academy students, and a jazz band performance made the evening of October 24 special. **Pictured below, from top to bottom:** Darlene Mims, SLOCOE's Classified Employee of the Year; two of the Culinary Arts Academy students who served hors d'oeuvres and dinner to guests; part of the SLOCOE team that helped to create the event—Joanne Wemple, Michael Garrett, Thomas Alvarez, Patti Garrett, Betty Ellison, Valerie Kraskey, Lindsey Eckersley, Phil Trott.



Meet Alyssa Agin, Teacher, Career Technical Education

Ten countries in 10 days! That was Alyssa's travel goal with a friend when they traveled together in Europe as Cal Poly students. "We made use of all transport options except a Vespa," she recalls fondly. More recently, she took the month of June to visit Franc, Italy and Greece with her sister, an aunt, uncle, two cousins and her boyfriend. Alyssa's other love is Disneyland. "I just love being there," she says.



Alyssa now is excited about her work for SLOCOE's Alternative Education students, developing career exploration programs that allow them to earn certificates. She herself has work experience at Cal Poly (as a fundraising coordinator), Diablo Canyon Power Plant, MindBody, San Luis Ambulance; and as a nanny. "What I like best is to help kids figure out options for awesome career paths besides a four-year college degree program," she says, and is grateful that there is newfound respect for pathways besides college degrees.

We wish you a great year, Alyssa!

Did You Know . . .

SLOCOE rewards permanent, non-management classified employees for taking classes that can be shown to improve service to the COE, and contribute to the personal development of the employee? For guidelines, please see page 5 of the [CSEA Contract](#).

In order to qualify for this benefit, you will need to diligently complete the required paperwork, which includes a supervisor-approved Professional Growth Plan and Record. All [necessary forms](#) are posted for you. Successful completion of 15 semester units may result in the award of a professional growth increment, which translates to a 2.5% salary increase. For more information: asimmons@slococ.org.

SLOCOE Holiday Party!
5:00 pm, Dec. 12, Rancho El Chorro



~ October Scrapbook ~



Steve, Meet Steve!

When Steve Avelar delivers the mail to Winifred Pifer State Preschool, the children call out a greeting to him. It's really cute hearing all of those little voices saying, "Hi Steve!" The day we were naming our new pet was mail day. Steve came in and got his usual greeting. After he left, one of the kids said we should name our turtle "Steve." We took a vote on the three most popular name suggestions, and "Steve" won. So now we have a turtle named "Steve." The kids love it. - Annetta Albers, Site Supervisor



2016 Hunger Walk for Food Bank

SLOCOE's Hunger Walk team helped to raise over \$25,000 for the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo, walking on the beach in Morro Bay, October 15. Team members (L-R): Susan Richardson, Betty Ellison, Mallory Diaz, Steven Diaz.

SLOCOE Helps with College Night

Staffing College Night October 31 at Cuesta was a family affair for Nancy Acosta and daughter Rachel, as photographed by Sheldon Smith. College Night is coordinated by the County Office, Cuesta College, and the Community Foundation; and funded by the Mi-ossi Family Trust.



Bright-Eyed, Powerful & Bushy-Tailed

Student Programs & Services Vision team members put their super-powers on display for students and staff on October 31, wearing fun costumes. Captured by Molly Lawrence-Shattuck, above, left to right, are Kat Lukes, May Labrador, and Bruce Huston.

