

SLOCOE e-News



Monthly News from the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education



May the warm glow of the holiday spirit linger even as we begin a brand new year.

[Photo from "Signing Santa" event, page 3]

IN THIS ISSUE

Meet Stacy Summers, Director in Educational Support Services

"Signing Santa" Brings Holiday Cheer to Kids

Staff Learn Crisis Response Skills

Staff Transitions & News

Don't Forget the Jan. 25 Blood Drive!

Predictions for a New Year

by James Brescia, County Superintendent

Happy New Year to all our SLOCOE family!

Forbes Business experts reflect on the swathe of customer experience-related predictions for the upcoming year. While we do not have traditional customers in our industry, we serve the public, who we consider our customers. I have detailed a few of the Forbes predictions that align with the flexibility, patience and kindness you demonstrate.

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.
~Helen Keller

Forbes: Customer behaviors, habits and priorities will continue to evolve. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital practices. In less than two years, our entire workforce became more digitally fluent, provided service

on a digital platform, and continued to grow in digital proficiency. I predict that the expectations for remote professional development, digital signatures, and Zoom meetings will continue post-pandemic.

Forbes: Privacy and data concerns will force business to rethink protocols. Privacy and security will continue to become a priority for customers and providers. Companies that understand how to use data securely will continue to thrive in the virtual workplace. I predict that the need for digital literacy specific to privacy and prevention will increase across all industries.

Forbes: A great employee experience will be the leading indicator of business success in 2022. Service industries face expanding employment market opportunities as businesses recover and adapt to more hybrid work practices. I predict that the service industry will continue to adjust to both hybrid and in-person services. Many of our services are not accomplished effectively through a purely virtual platform.

Fortunately, we have successfully navigated operating a hybrid workforce with in-person services when serving our districts.



On behalf of the County Board of Education, the Personnel Commission, and Cabinet, I thank you for stepping in when needed. I am confident that the SLOCOE team will open 2022 with another successful year of service to our community. It is an honor to serve as your County Superintendent of Schools.

~Jim Brescia

Meet Stacy Summers

*Director, Program Monitoring, Categorical Programs, & Data Analysis
Educational Support Services*

For Stacy Summers, "work is a happy place," and SLOCOE is "amazing!" A 25-year veteran of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District, Stacy came to SLOCOE with Spanish language skills, a heart for English learners, and appreciation of the collaborative, problem-solving spirit she finds among her colleagues here. She works closely with Joe Koski and Melanie Crawford, assisting local school districts with the technical aspects of their LCAPs (Local Control Accountability Plans), and their state and federal compliance efforts.

Stacy's personal story of her discovery of a passion early in life are a testament to the role of schools and family in helping to awaken young people to possible careers. Her motivation to become an educator



began in childhood and was inspired in part by her sister's disabilities and experiences in school, but also by attendance at a camp for aspiring teachers. "I always wanted to be a teacher," she says.

A second element of Stacy's career path came into play when a class in middle school kindled an interest in Spanish. The influences of an aunt who was bilingual, and another who immigrated to the US from Mexico reinforced that interest. After graduating from high school, Stacy participated in a summer language immersion program sponsored by the University of Guadalajara. She lived with a family in Mexico for six weeks at the age of 17, traveling and exploring Mexico on weekends with two fellow students. Her courage at such a young age during an era when mobile phones were not available is remarkable, but the rewards were worthwhile. Stacy fell in love with the language and the culture. Years later, she was a first grade teacher at Georgia Brown Elementary School helping to put in place its dual immersion language program, the first of its kind in our county.

Stacy is a devoted wife and mother, a camping, hiking and dirt-bike-riding enthusiast, and a self-confessed jokester. "Elf-on-the-Shelf" pranks and jokes feature prominently in her family's holiday traditions, and her son has taken up the calling, recreating past photo images for his grandmother as a continuation of the family fun. Stacy, thank you for bringing your spirit of fun and passion for education to SLOCOE!

Signing Santa Delivers Delight and Stories

Approximately 10 Deaf-and-Hard-of-Hearing Students Enjoyed the Event.



"Signing Santa" is an annual event for the DHH program. Jacob Milton, shown above in the Santa costume, is on his eighth year of playing "Signing Santa," which began at Santa Margarita Elementary School in 2013. He is a longtime friend of Sarah Tucker, who attended preschool with him at CL Smith Elementary School in the DHH program in the 1980s. Their common experience and friendship led to a collaboration that benefits DHH students each year.

SLOCOE Sponsored Vital Crisis Training Events in 2021

ALICE and "Stop the Bleed" Events Taught Life-Saving Response Skills.



Photos at Top: As part of a special safety meeting at SLOCOE's main office last November, an instructor from Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center demonstrated how to control bleeding when someone is injured. Staff learned that uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death. Staff also learned that members of the public are immediate responders who can prevent death from trauma in the event of a natural or man-made incident. **Photos, Middle and Bottom Row:** ALICE Active Shooter Response Training, held December 1-2 for county school district and law enforcement staff helped participants learn and practice skills in responding to incidents such as violent intruders, mass shooting, terrorism or workplace violence. Nearly 30 people attended the event, funded by the California Office of Emergency Services. ALICE (translated to **A**lert **L**ockdown **I**nform **C**ounter **E**vacuate) is an easy method for remembering life-saving steps.

Staff Transitions & News

WELCOME TO SLOCOE

Sarah Adams, Instructional Specialist - Visually Impaired, Student Programs & Services

Gina Buschur, Administrative Assistant III, Special Education, Student Programs & Services

Benjamin Campos, Mental Health Therapist, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

Michael Hernandez, Custodian/Groundskeeper, Operational Services

PROMOTIONAL CONGRATULATIONS

Meghan Knable, to Payroll Manager from Payroll Retirement Specialist, Business Services

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO SLOCOE

Kim Burke, Payroll Manager, Business Services, retiring February 4 after 30.5 years of service.

Keppi Serpa, Mental Health Therapist, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA); Keppi will continue to serve students as Mental Health Therapist at Grizzly Youth Academy.



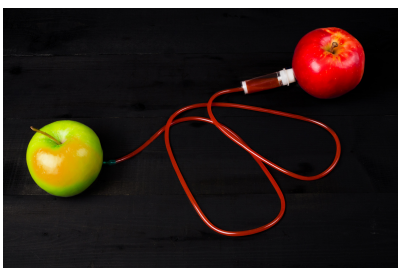
NEW BABY NEWS

Everly Marie Thorne, born November 21, 2021 to Lauren Thorne, Director, Early Learning Educational Support, Educational Support Services



Above Left: A "hybrid" meeting of county schools payroll staff in December provided flexibility in offering in-person and Zoom meeting participation options. All in-person participants agreed to wear masks. **Above Right:** Ask Jim Price about the pot of gold in his maintenance van!

Don't Forget To Sign Up for SLOCOE's Blood Drive!



Appointments to donate can be made online here:

<https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dw/a/appointment/guest/ph/timeSlotsExtr?token=jizukCyvhNNuYgD1jWSNagNEHAHtIOc%2B0EmviCDM5I0%3D>

January 25, 2022

11:30 am - 3:30 pm

Mobile Unit in Parking Lot #2

Sponsored by your Health

Management & Safety Committee

SLOCOE donors will receive a \$10 Jamba gift card.

Vitalant's COVID protocols include masks for all donors, staff and guests regardless of vaccination status. As you prepare to donate, please see Vitalant's [eligibility requirements](#) and [guide](#). You also may contact Karen Woodruff at kwoodruff@slococoe.org with any questions.