

San Dieguito Union High School District Special Education Newsletter

DIGGING IN AT LA COSTA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

Students from La Costa Canyon's Functional Life Skills class, along with students from the school's Culinary Arts Program, came together on



Saturday, March 16th for La Costa Canyon's "Dig Day".

The backyard space of the Functional Life Skills

classroom was filled with student volunteers from both programs, prepping garden boxes and the surrounding landscape. The farm-to-table inspired garden will be a shared space for the Functional Like Skills and Culinary Arts students to enjoy. Students from both programs will help with the maintenance of the garden and harvesting of its produce. Students bonded over

this experience and worked collaboratively together to create a beautiful outdoor space all can

enjoy. By their nature, school gardens encourage teamwork, individual responsibility and a commitment to success. In much the same way that team sports foster pride in student athletes, school gardens strengthen bonds

between students, schools and communities. "Dig Day" is one of the many inclusion activities hosted by the school. The 2018-2019 year kicked off with La Costa Canyon hosting the SDUHSD Inclusion Basketball Tournament and wrapped up with La Costa Canyon's Inclusion Kick Ball Tournament. Students around the District benefit from inclusion activities like these.



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EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

FROM THE TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (TPP)

Since the 2010-2011 school year, SDUHSD has contracted with the California Department of Rehabilitation to offer employment preparation and job development support for high school and adult students through the Transition Partnership Program (TPP). Since the program's inception, an average of 21 SDUHSD students per year have gained and maintained entry level employment.



The most recent student to be hired is Jack Tobin (TPHS). Jack worked with the TPP Vocation Developer at TPHS, Mary Courtney, to identify and develop a work experience

opportunity in Jack's area of interest, skate boarding. Through his work with Mrs. Courtney, Jack completed 100 hours of subsidized (paid) work experience at the Ecke YMCA Skatepark. Upon completion of his work experience, Jack was congratulated with an offer of employment.

Jack provided some insight into his daily duties at the skate park sharing that, though he does not hesitate to perform some of the less desirable on-the-job tasks – trash pick-up, event set-up, general cleaning and maintenance – he really enjoys working with the younger skaters at the park. Jack shared, "Working with those kids kind of opened my eyes to what can be done on a skateboard and what can be done as a person..."

When asked about Jack's contribution, Mike Wilson, the skate park manager replied, "In addition to his customer service skills, Jack also has great work ethic; he's always keeping busy and constantly asking what he can help with. These are the qualities that we look for when hiring and we're thrilled to have him as a part of our team."

Jack shared his thoughts on how Mrs. Courtney and the Transition Partnership Program supported his growth into his new position at the YMCA, "I'm extremely thankful for Mrs. Courtney. If it wasn't for her I'd still be working at my old job, miserable."

Through the Transition Partnership Program, Mrs. Courtney and her colleagues provide pre-employment support and work experience opportunities to students over 16 at every high school in SDUHSD. If you would like to learn more about the program please feel free to visit the SDUHSD website and search for *TPP*, or you can contact the program coordinator, Nathan Molina at nathan.molina@sduhsd.net.

STRATEGIC PLAN ADVISORY FORUM PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Canyon Crest Academy: Jamie Dicken

San Dieguito Academy: Betsy Charapp

Carmel Valley Middle School: Patty Tobin

Digueno Middle School: Stacy Prida

Earl Warren Middle School: Diane Barnes

La Costa Canyon High School: Amy Flicker

Oak Crest Middle School: Cara DeHaan

Pacific Trails Middle School: Cristina Spillane

San Dieguito Academy: Betsy Charapp

Torrey Pines High School: Shankar Sundaram

Adult Transition Program: Lori Razink

Sunset: TBD if interested please contact Rick Ayala

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

What is your role within General Education?

We consult with counselors and teachers on how to best support general education students and what next steps are recommended to help a student who is struggling



emotionally or academically. We have been able to provide parent presentations with counselors and social worker that support the school community with issues that impact all students such as school pressure and stress or social-emotional well-being. On occasion, we get to work directly with general education students either one-on-one or within a classroom setting.

What type of supports and services do you provide to support all students?

We teach students how to regulate their emotions, self-advocate for their needs, and be kind to others. We encourage students to always do their best and never give up no matter what obstacle comes their way. Sometimes, we work with students individually and other times in a group setting. We collaborate with teachers and parents to help support their student/child. Collaboration and frequent communication are very important so everyone is on the same page and strategies can be reinforced to help a student be happy and successful.

What is one success that has occurred in your role as a school psychologist? One success that has occurred was seeing student's graduate from high school who never thought they would.

NCCSE UPCOMING EVENTS

The North Coastal Consortium for Special Education (NCCSE) is a Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) that is composed of 14 school districts in North San Diego County

Please check back for upcoming events in our next Newsletter.

For more information visit the NCCSE website.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SDUHSD

Please check back for upcoming events in our next Newsletter

SUPPORT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

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