



# SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

December 2022 Newsletter

## *Executive Director Message*

*Dr. Jacque Phillips*

Hello SLV BOCES Teachers, Staff, Board Members, Superintendents and Parents-

Team BOCES continues to lead the way in Colorado with multiple programs, grants and services for students.

BOCES has 9 classrooms for students with Significant Support Needs (SSN). We provide related services for all 14 SLV school districts. This includes Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychologist services, Early Childhood services, Assistive Technology, Visual Impairment services, Deaf/Hard of Hearing services, and more.

BOCES runs multiple grants for the Valley including those that serve homeless students, at-risk students, students with disabilities 18-21 years old, along with gifted students, work programs, and more.

One Friday each month, Team BOCES spends the day on professional development. In December, we had Shauna Moden, from CDE, work with us on teaching students who are deaf/hard of hearing. This school year, we have not had an audiologist but by the time this Newsletter is sent out, that may have changed.

The entire nation has struggled, post-COVID (hopefully "post") with students that are below grade level since the pandemic. That has resulted in BOCES receiving over 200 new referrals for special education services. BOCES has stepped up and covered this huge increase by working lots of hours to get it done. Sometimes we have to do extensions but services can be provided without waiting for assessment. District Special Education teachers have also jumped right in to make sure our students are served. BOCES appreciates the partnerships we have across the Valley.

The Transition House is one of our big accomplishments this year. Transition was previously flagged by CDE so BOCES implemented a new program! We also got in compliance on more than one CDE Indicator that BOCES was previously flagged for. It is a lot of work to handle the increase in special education referrals and IEPs (we handle more than 1000!) but we are happy to GO ABOVE AND BEYOND to be sure students are taken care of.

Team BOCES: It's what we do. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas! - Jacque

### *Important Dates*

Dec. 26—Jan. 6	Office Closed	Feb. 7	SAC Meeting
Jan. 10	SAC Meeting	Feb.10	Staff Workday
Jan. 13	Staff Workday	Feb. 20	Office Closed
Jan. 25	Board Meeting		

Don't forget to visit us at:



facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/sanluisvalleyboces>

[www.slvboces.org](http://www.slvboces.org)



# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOLS?



AHS SSN students participated in the "Ag Olympics".



Transition students continue to visit local businesses!



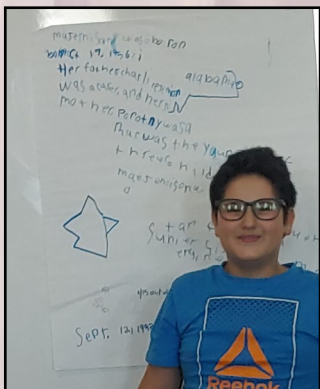
Transition students working to maintain the Transition House.



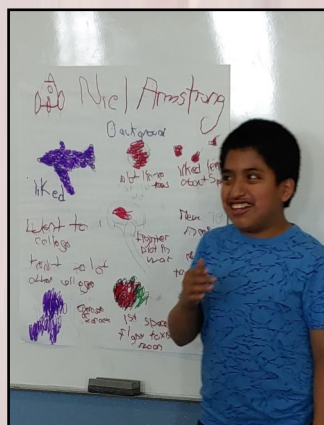
MVMS SSN students enjoying Mr woodke's farm animals!



AHS SSN students participate in archery with their P.E. class.



OMS SSN students chose a history topic, made a poster and presented to their classmates.



AHS SSN students having fun while learning!



*Happy Holidays!*





# WELCOME TO BOCES

## ***New HR Interns***



I'm Leslie Guaderrama. I'm a senior at Alamosa High School. I enjoy what I do at BOCES because I think everyone deserves an equal opportunity at getting help and I can help inform more people about that. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and having gatherings with them.



Hello, my name is Ayzlynn Sowards and I am currently a student at Centauri High School. I love making art and traveling outside of the states. In the future I hope to pursue my dreams of traveling the world and making art that others can enjoy.

## **What is an HR Intern?**

An HR Intern attends and participates in job fairs, community activities and other recruitment-related activities while representing and promoting the SLV BOCES to potential applicants by providing information, responding to questions and collecting applicant information.



Hiral Patel  
Senior at Alamosa High School



## ***School Psychologist***

My name is Rachel Friedberg. I am a School Psychologist and I live between Boulder and Vail. I enjoy assessments and analyzing data so I am excited to help each team navigate the assessment process. When I am not working, in the summers I ride and race mountain bikes but in the winter I nordic/alpine/backcountry ski.

## ***New Budget Manager***

### ***Jerald Montoya***

Hi, a little about me, I am a Valley native. I grew up in Manassa and graduated from Adams State with a bachelor's degree in Business Admin/Accounting. I have been an accountant for close to 10 years. I have a 1.5-year-old daughter and a 3.5-year-old son. Aside from spending time with my two kiddos, my favorite things to do in my free time are camping and fishing in the summer and hunting and ice fishing in the winter. I am excited to work with each and every one of you and to help keep BOCES successful.



## ***Transition Program Update***

November 11th's Open House was a huge success at the Transition House with students, parents, superintendents and BOCES staff attending. Students continue to stay busy with the upkeep of the house, running their snack business and touring local businesses.

Don't Forget  
Transition Snack House—Online Ordering!  
[www.slvboces.org](http://www.slvboces.org)



### ***San Luis Valley Teacher Recognized***

Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented recognized Julia Lumsargis as Educator of the Year for her efforts and achievements in the field of gifted and talented education. Julia is an enrichment teacher and gifted education coordinator in the Monte Vista School District at Bill Metz Elementary School. She has a passion to discover the strengths of students and provide opportunities to develop the potential of all students.





## Career Fair 2022

The Career Fair gives all students from the 14 school districts in the San Luis Valley career awareness activities that expose them to a wide range of careers and education/training opportunities in the San Luis Valley. There were 50 vendors to talk with the 700 students that attended. Shout out to Tara Marquez (SLV BOCES Coordinator) and the Career Fair Committee, who helped make this all possible Sgt Loreedan Reyes (Army National Guard), Amy Raya (SWAP), Marie Harrelson (Colorado Workforce Center), and David Atkinson (DVR).





## Speech Team

### 100 Speech Words

As children grow, they may say some sounds the wrong way as they learn how to talk. Some sounds are learned early on like /p,b, and m/. Some sounds tend to take longer to learn like /r, z, and th/. A child who does not say sounds by the expected ages may have a speech sound disorder or also called an “articulation disorder,” or “phonological disorder” (ASHA). Speech therapy is beneficial when it comes to these disorders to help correct speech. Having a speech sound disorder can affect their academic and social interactions. Speech services target these error sounds and show them how to perform the correct sound. Attached below is a diagram that shows where the correct sounds are made. To teach a child how to perform the correct sounds, have them touch that part of their face/neck. For example, with the /g/sound, have them touch their throat. Attached below is more information on speech sound disorders.

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/speech-sound-disorders/>

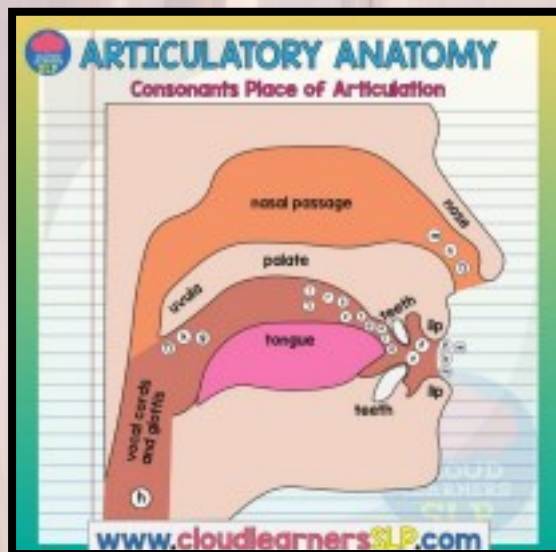


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## ***Creative Exploration Day***

SLV BOCES Gifted Coordinator- Cheryl Franklin-Rohr

SLV GERC representative- Linda Eickhoff



December 10, 2022 was an engaging day for our San Luis Valley gifted students. The students participated in the following activities: Mystery Cookie Baking, taught by Adriana Chapa (Home EC teacher, Alamosa SD), Gumdrops....Candy Canes....and Sprinkles too, taught by Amy Raya (SLV BOCES, SWAP Coordinator), Theatre Is a Living Thing, taught by Hannah Eubanks, Designing your own Circuit Board co-taught by Clara Adams (Science teacher, Sierra Grande SD) and Jane Jacquart (Math Teacher, Sierra Grande SD), Newspaper Basket Making, taught by Fabricio Fernandes (Mathematics teacher, Crestone Charter School), Relax! Relax! Relax! taught by Phyllis Vigil, (first grade teacher Sierra Grande SD).

Classroom assistants were Alex Moore (Moffat), Mica Raya, Jacquie Bell (Alamosa MS), Tiffany Smith (Mountain Valley) and Timothy Carlin. Creative Exploration Day was held at Ortega Middle School, and we are thankful to Alamosa school district and Ortega Middle School for the use of their building. The students came from eleven SLV school districts and the grade levels served were 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. All the students enjoyed the hands-on experiences and were very proud of their projects and new skills to take into their world.

We are extremely grateful to all of the teachers who created such interesting classes, the classroom assistants who helped. and most importantly the parents of the students for their time, effort and dedication to helping and working with all students in this worthwhile Fall 2022 Creative Exploration Day!!

