



SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

October 2021 Newsletter

Executive Director Message

Dr. Jacque Phillips

School is in session! BOCES is back on track, helping students with disabilities.

Our teacher programs are also up and running. Alternative Licensure Candidates have met and so have teachers in the Induction Program. Literacy programs using Linda-Mood Bell are in place as well as Gifted. The BOCES building is getting organized and the Activities Committee established a Wellness Room for staff. Transition Services are being implemented for our older students as we work towards compliance.

It's busy, in a good way, as we strive to increase student achievement. We developed a COVID Response Plan stating our providers will follow the guidelines from the District they are in. We strongly encourage vaccines and wearing masks, if not vaccinated. Safety for our students is an obvious priority.

After 2 months here at BOCES, I appreciate all the work being done for students. It has been an honor and a pleasure to be here.



Bill Metz Elementary ES Team

Charlene Blankensop, Kelsey Fransen,
Julie Ortega and Erline Wright

Important Dates

- Sept. 24th - CPI Training
- 27th - Alternative Lic. Class
- 29th - SEAC (Special Education
Advisory Comm) Meeting
- Oct. 1st - CPR/First Aid Training
- 8th - Staff Dev / Work Day
- 12th - SAC Meeting
- 19th - Steering Committee
- 20th - Timesheets Due
- 22th - CPI Training
- Nov. 9th - SAC Meeting
- 12th - Staff Dev / Work Day
CPR/First Aide Training
- 17th - Board Meeting

McKinney Vento

I'm Luron Singer and the McKinney Vento grant writer and coordinator that supports our homeless student population in all of the valley's schools plus LaVeta school district. There are liaisons in every district, Alamosa has one in every building and I host three trainings a year for all liaisons to keep everyone up on changes.

The Federal definition of homeless students is any student that lacks an adequate, fixed, safe or regular night time residence or families that are sharing (doubled up) because of circumstances out of their control such as loss of housing or economic hardship. Families that live in substandard housing, for example, 6 people in a 2-room house, lack heat, electricity, running and/or hot water, living in tents, old RV's, motels, vehicle, etc also qualify. Another category is unaccompanied and/or runaway youth who do not have their parents in their lives and are students that have either left their home because it was unsafe, got kicked out of the house, or for other reasons they do not have anywhere to stay. If you feel any student you serve fits any part of this definition please let me know the student's name and school they attend and I will follow up to see if the school has them identified.

The McKinney Vento grant is designed to support students to stay in school by supplying school supplies, backpacks, hygiene kits, snacks

for students with food insecurities, support such as eye glasses, socks, underwear, and clothes through our clothing closet. Another objective behind the Federal unfunded mandate is to give homeless students the same opportunities as housed students by paying fees for activities the rest of the student body is participating in. All school districts are required to earmark a portion of Title 1A funds to help the homeless population with any school day related costs from school id's, to graduation gowns, helping the McKinney Vento student attend any class or school wide activities such as field trips, skiing, swimming, extracurricular activities, sport's uniforms and shoes, etc.

I have recently submitted a grant for additional funds through American Rescue Plan that can be used to broaden the current supports for the homeless to include utility and/or rent support, and gas cards for unaccompanied youth which the current McKinney Vento grant has not allowed. I am also partnering with a community group to purchase food baskets with these funds to help the homeless identified families who have food insecurities. It's truly exciting to have a chance to receive these funds to broaden the services and should be hearing any day if the BOCES received the grant.

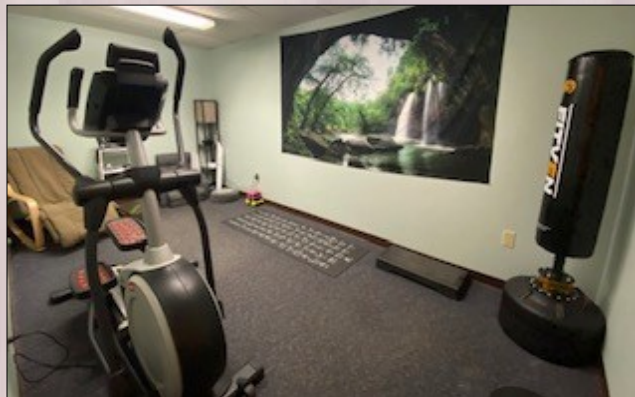


Wellness Room

Welcome back all BOCES employees. This year we have decided to put a Wellness Room together for our employees. There is a massage chair, yoga mat, Alexa (music to soothe the soul), punching bag (for those tough days), meditation pillow, weights, MMA/boxing gloves (in case you want to hit something), workout posters, an elliptical and many other items. Although it is here at the main office at the BOCES, please feel free to utilize the room at any time.

Some benefits to a Wellness room are widespread. These spaces give employees a place to escape to when stress is simply getting the best of them, helping them to feel better supported. Sometimes having an area to unwind is all it takes for an individual to recharge and get the extra boost of energy needed. Wellness rooms can also be a much-needed space to take a break throughout the day.

So, come by the BOCES and check out the Wellness Room. If you have any ideas or changes, please feel free to reach out to Amy Raya.



Medicaid Minute

SLV BOCES Medicaid Facts

- 309 out of 444 students in ezEdMed are Medicaid eligible
- 11 out of 14 licensed providers document weekly
- North Conejos ES Room has documented over 12,800 personal service minutes this month; (Sept. 1st - 20th).
- Services teachers and paras provide include: safety monitoring, assistance in eating, redirecting/cueing, hygiene/toileting, hand over hand assistance, diapering and catheter care
- Items that have been paid for by Medicaid funds:
 - Washer and Drier
 - Audiometer
 - Otoscope
 - 2 Portable Changing Tables
 - CPR/First Aid training for teachers & para

REMINDER

“Random Moment Time Study” will begin **October 1st**. If you are selected, you will receive an advanced notification email sent to your BOCES email address. The email will be from “cormts” and this notification will provide you the date and exact time of your selected moment. Even though it may seem silly, completing this survey is **extremely important**. You must answer your “moment” for SLV BOCES to be compliant with the state. If you have questions PLEASE reach out to Adeline. alee@slvboces.org

SLV SEAC

Special Education Advisory Committee

Presented by: Dr. Jacque Phillips, SLV BOCES Executive Director

Stacey Holland, SLV BOCES Special Education Director



*Are you interested in the quality of education
received by children/youth with disabilities?*

*The SLV SEAC committee is looking for parents of individuals with
disabilities, educational service providers, school administrators and
representatives from variety of diverse abilities.*

All interested should attend!

September 29th

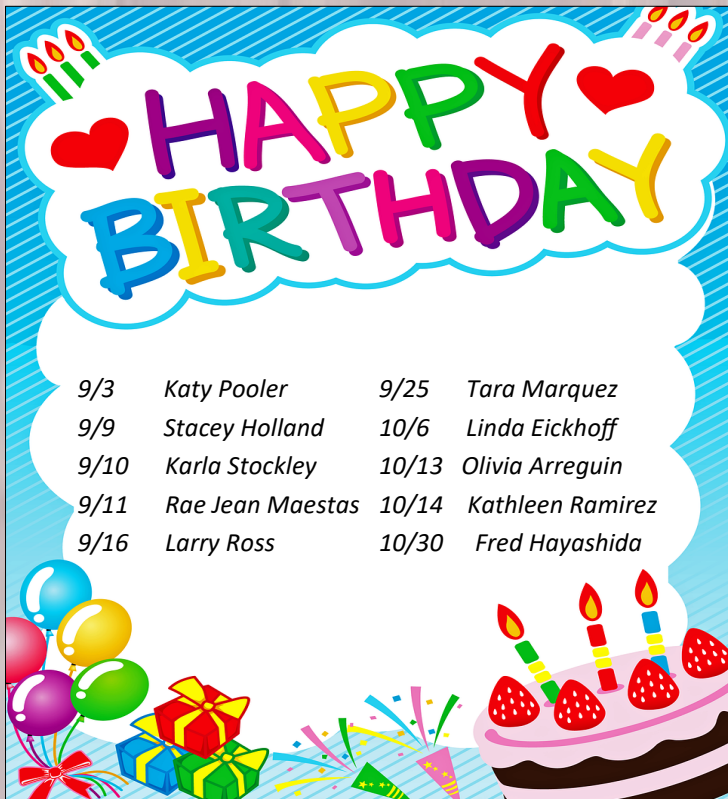
5:00pm - 6:00pm

San Luis Valley BOCES 2261 Enterprise Drive Alamosa

Light dinner will be provided.

San Luis Valley BOCES Member Districts 2021-2022

Alamosa School District
Centennial School District
Center School District
Creede School District
Moffat School District
Monte Vista School District
Mountain Valley School District
North Conejos School District
Sanford School District
Sangre De Cristo School District
Sargent School District
Sierra Grande School District
South Conejos School District
Upper Rio Grande School District



9/3	Katy Pooler	9/25	Tara Marquez
9/9	Stacey Holland	10/6	Linda Eickhoff
9/10	Karla Stockley	10/13	Olivia Arreguin
9/11	Rae Jean Maestas	10/14	Kathleen Ramirez
9/16	Larry Ross	10/30	Fred Hayashida

San Luis Valley BOCES Board of Directors 2021-2022

Alamosa	April Gonzales
Centennial	Dwight Mondragon
Center	Misty Palacios
Creede	Dr. Jennifer Haibert
Moffat	Tina Freel, Chair
Monte Vista	Kurt Holland, Vice Chair
Mountain Valley	David Smalley
North Conejos	Brandon Thomas, Joseph Baroz
Sanford	Austin Miller
Sangre De Cristo	Stacey Eskew
Sargent	Gina Mitchell
Sierra Grande	Walter Roybal, Treasurer
South Conejos	Theresa Sisneros
Upper Rio Grande	Cory Off, Secretary