

A Santa Cruz First

Children Receive College Funds for Going to the Dentist



Did you know children from low-income households with savings of just \$1-\$499 for post-secondary education are three times more likely to go to college—and four times more likely to graduate? Starting children with savings early in life can improve their social-emotional development, a proven predictor of increased academic achievement later in life. College Savings Account programs

County get an early start on saving for their child's continuing education. The partnership connects SCCV's Semillitas program, which provides a college savings account to every newborn in the county, with Dientes' oral health care to ensure children get a head start on a bright future and bright smile.

HERES HOW IT WORKS:

Every child born to Santa Cruz County parents after December 31, 2020 receives a gift of up to \$50 toward their education in a special Semillitas savings account. Funds will be held in ScholarShare, California's 529 college savings plan, where parents can monitor its growth. The goal is to have the funds reach \$500 by the time a child enters kindergarten. Upon graduating high school, the funds can be used for that child's college or vocational education at accredited and qualified schools.

Dientes is the first partner to step forward to celebrate oral health milestones with gifts towards a bright future! There are three ways Dientes will contribute to a child's Semillitas account during milestone visits, including a child's first tooth or first

birthday visit, annual visits (ages 2-5), and sealant visit (age 6).

Dientes is working to make prevention more common than treatment, and that begins when a child's first tooth appears. This partnership between Dientes and Semillitas gives parents an extra incentive to prioritize regular dental checkups while investing in their children's health and education at the same time.

Education and medical care are primary social determinants of health that affect a wide range of outcomes throughout a child's life. Investing in both early on can improve children's wellbeing and social-emotional development, which has been a proven predictor of increased academic achievement later in life. Through Semillitas, Santa Cruz County is sending a strong message about the importance of instilling college going expectations and a sense of hope in families—regardless of a child's background.

For more information, visit semillitas.org.

DISCOVER THE JOY OF LEARNING AT KIRBY SCHOOL.

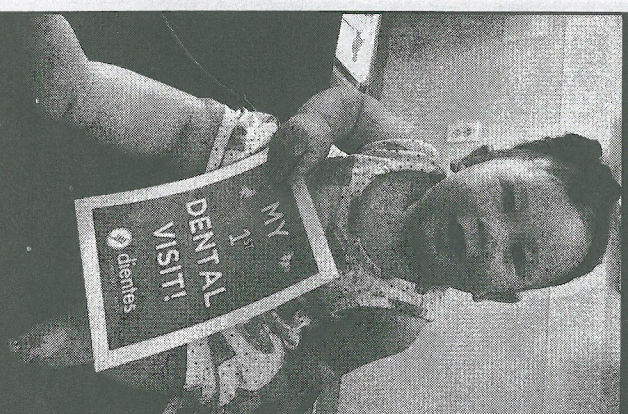


Kirby School is an independent college preparatory day school in Santa Cruz for grades 6-12.

Our challenging program is available both in person, for on-campus learners, and online, for at-home learners. Social and emotional well-being is a top priority and vital to student success. Our caring team is committed to ensuring your child thrives. We offer a test-free application and Tuition Assistance.



Join us at an Upcoming Virtual Open House in October. Scan the QR code to sign up and to view a list of upcoming Admissions events.



Have you
scheduled
your child's
1st tooth or
1st birthday
dental visit?

Medi-Cal accepted Affordable rates for uninsured patients

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| Santa Cruz | 1830 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz (near Dominican Hospital) |
| Mid-County | 831.464.5409 open Mon-Sat 7:30am - 4:00pm |
| Santa Cruz | 302 Riverside Avenue, Santa Cruz (near the Boardwalk) |
| Beach Flats | 831.464.5411 open Mon-Fri 7:30am - 4:00pm |
| Watsonville | 1430 Freedom Blvd, Suite C, Watsonville (near Cardenas) |
| | 831.621.2560 open Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm |

www.dientes.org