



Connecting Waters Charter School

Volume 4

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Issue 8

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The Goals of Connecting Waters Charter School are:

to improve Student Achievement in Reading and Writing,
to improve Student Achievement in Mathematics, and
to increase STAR Student Participation Rate to 100%.

We Are Here to Help You!

We would like to welcome all of our new families to Connecting Waters! Our enrollment for this year will end on March 3rd. We have had a waiting list for most of the school year and are finally catching up with our list. We have a wonderful group of teachers, support service staff, and classified personnel to aid you. Our clerks from each of the Centers have been busy calling our families and reminding them about school sponsored events such as the financial aid workshop for students who will be attending college, CAHSEE testing, and our high school orientation for our 7th and 8th grade students. Whether you are a new or continuing family you are likely to receive a call from our Parent Support Coordinator, Lori Porter. This is your opportunity to let us know how you are doing and how we can better serve you. Please take advantage of our many resources and upcoming activities. If you have concerns while waiting to be called and welcomed into our school, please feel free to call our Parent Support Coordinator, Lori Porter, at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 4, and then 1 or email her at lporter@connectingwaters.org.

Taking the Mystery Out of Testing

Many people wonder why it's so important that their students attend the state assessments. The STAR (Standardized Testing And Reporting) Exam is California's accountability tool. It allows the state to see that our students are learning and that the money provided to our school is being used appropriately. **This test is required for all students in grades 2-11.** We need everyone to test so that our school can continue to exist! Charter schools are a little different from the traditional public schools in that if we do not have high participation and good scores, our school can lose funding or close down. If a traditional school doesn't do well, the state will give

them more money to improve the performance of their students. The API (Academic Performance Index) is the instrument used to measure how well a school does on the STAR. Our score last year was 608. Our goal this year for Connecting Waters is to raise our API score to between 630 and 650. Preparing your students to do their **best** on the STAR is important. Make sure your ES has ordered test prep material or enrolled your students in a test prep class. At each learning center you can take advantage of the STAR Binders that have the STAR blueprints (percentage of questions on a given standard) and sample tests that can be copied for your student. If you don't live near the center, you can go online to the following sites to obtain this information:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprint.s.asp> and
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>.

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a requirement for graduation and for receiving a high school diploma. All 10th grade students must take this exam. Those who do not pass in 10th grade have additional opportunities each school year to pass the exam. A passing score of 350 is required in each area (Math and Language Arts) of the CAHSEE.

Thank you for being such a key part to the success of CWCS and your commitment to parent choice in education. If you have any questions about assessment, please feel free to call me at 1-800-808-9895, ext. 6

News from the Assessment Department

CWCS STAR Assessment Information:

Please Note:

Make up dates are not offered at some of our test sites, particularly the smaller test sites. If a student cannot attend on the test date at their site, the family needs to inform their ES. The ES can then enter this information in the database so we can make arrangements and adjustments as necessary to have the student test at one of the makeup test sites. Check our Assessment page on our Website for the **most current** testing information
<http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/index.htm#STAR>

Early Assessment of Readiness for College Program (EAP)

The Early Assessment Program is for any junior year student in the state of California who wants to take the EAP voluntary portion on the STAR Multiple Choice Test. The EAP contains questions in the higher level CST Math portion and in the Language Arts portion of the test. There is also a separate EAP writing essay as well. This program is through CSU which has worked in collaboration with ETS Testing Services which administers the STAR test.

By participating in the Early Assessment of Readiness for College Program (EAP), the student's responses on selected test questions will be used to determine whether his or her knowledge and skills in English Language Arts and/or mathematics meet California State University (CSU) standards for placement into basic college-level English and/or mathematics courses. **Please let your student's ES know if they plan on taking this portion of the test.**

STAR Information:

These annual standardized tests are mandated by the State of California and in compliance with NCLB. Ninety-five percent student participation is required for grades 2-11.

Upon enrollment, parents/students sign a Connecting Waters School Charter Summary which states they are required to participate in state mandated assessments. Grades 4 and 7 have a separate, additional exam date for a writing portion of STAR testing. These dates are March 7th, or makeup on March 8th. **The smaller test sites do not have a makeup date. Please see attached chart for your alternate makeup test site and instructions.**

Dates for grades 2-11 multiple choice portion of the test are within the state mandated test window. Please check your school calendar for the test window and your specific test site schedules for specific dates and times.

Dates for STAR are mandated by the State Board of Education.

Students must test at the grade level indicated on their student agreement (with the exception of students with specific IEP statements).

Individual test scores are confidential and are sent directly to the parent/student by the assessment department usually in mid to late August, after they are received.

Scores collected by the State are aggregates and merged into group grade level reports by subject. Individual scores are confidential and are not collected by the State.

STAR study resources can be found online at the following link:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>

Student will need to bring a lunch, snacks, water, and a quiet activity in the event they should finish earlier than other students.

We will make sure all **9th through 11th graders** have the correct **EOC (End of Course)** test booklet for **Science** if they are taking a science course that is California Standards Based and if they are on our list.

We will make sure all our 8th and 9th graders have the correct EOC (End of Course) test booklet for Math whether it is General Math, Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry.

We will make sure any 10th or 11th grader taking a higher level Math course will have the correct EOC (End of Course) test booklet appropriate for the course they are completing.

All our 11th grade students have the option of taking the EAP portion of the STAR if the student thinks he/she will go on to a university after high school graduation.

The following is our policy regarding CWCS student behavior during our various assessment administrations, most notably the STAR testing program.

CWCS Student Behavior Policy

The following rules are to be followed during testing:

- An emergency contact number must be given to the teacher before testing can begin.
- We are using private property and the rules of the facility must also be followed.
- Do not go into other areas of the facility besides your testing room and designated areas.
- There will be no roughhousing, walking on benches outside or furniture inside.
- Supervising adults will be listened to and obeyed.
- There will be no talking, note passing, or noise making while anyone is testing.
- There will be no talking when the teacher is talking.
- During breaks, quiet talking is allowed.
- Hands will be raised for questions.
- Only one student at a time will be allowed to leave the room to use the bathroom.
- When tests are finished, students will stay in the classroom until all others are finished, students must bring quiet activities to engage in during this time (books, coloring/drawing materials).

• Respect will be shown for other's personal space and belongings.

• There will be no verbal or physical abuse. Threatening or violent behavior will not be tolerated.

• Profanity will not be tolerated.

• There is no smoking, drinking, or illegal drug use.

Students may not leave the facility until:

• Grades 2-8 parents come in and check students out from their teacher

• Grades 9-11 Students check out from their teacher with a signed letter from parent stating that they may leave on their own (if student does not have a letter, they will wait there until a parent or guardian can be contacted and talked with by an adult helper or teacher).

Breaking these rules could result in Suspension or Expulsion from the school.

Parents will be called immediately and student will be sent home with consequences and return at a later date to make up the tests.

Testing Tips

- Make sure that your student goes to bed early and has a full night's rest prior to testing
- Make sure that your student has a good breakfast prior to testing
- Send your student with a snack and bottled water if needed for break time
- Prepare your student for testing by using test prep materials and/or Edusoft exams
- Let your student know that the results will not affect their grades; however we do want them to do their best
- Let the student know that they are not penalized for wrong answers so it's okay to take good guesses.

Thank You for All Your Cooperation,
Assessment Department

STAR Writing and Multiple Choice Testing

Parents: Please be sure to call your ES to discuss any questions or concerns regarding testing. If your test site does not offer make-up dates (Angels Camp, Coulterville, Los Banos, Oakland, Pleasanton, Turlock do not), use the chart below to determine where your student can attend make-ups if needed and make sure to let your ES know. If the make-up dates or location doesn't work for you, please call your ES to make arrangements for another option.

If you would like your student to take more than 2 days to complete their tests, please be sure to let your ES know so we can be prepared at the test sites.

STAR Writing Test- 4 th and 7 th grades only- Test Dates Offered Per Test Site											
	<i>Angels Camp Test Site</i>	<i>Ceres Test Site</i>	<i>Coulterville</i>	<i>Los Banos Test Site</i>	<i>Manteca Test Site</i>	<i>Oakland Test Site</i>	<i>Pleasanton Test Site</i>	<i>Stockton Test Site</i>	<i>Turlock Test Site</i>	<i>Ceres Learning Center</i>	<i>Manteca Learning Center</i>
March 7th	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	No	Yes 9am-apx. 11am	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	No-go to Pleasanton	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	No-go to Ceres Test Site	No-go to Manteca Learning Center	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am
March 8th Makeups	No-go to Stockton	Yes	No-	No-go to Ceres Test Site	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	Yes 10am-apx. 1pm	No-go to Oakland	Yes	No-go to Ceres Test Site	Yes 9:30am-apx. 11am	No-go to Ceres Learning Center
Blank tests will be available at the test sites for students who need to use the makeup dates in an emergency and are not assigned to the test site. The Learning Centers are reserved with previous arrangements for students with special accommodations.											

STAR Multiple Choice Test - Grades 2-11 only- Test Dates Offered Per Test Site											
	<i>Angels Camp Test Site</i>	<i>Ceres Test Site</i>	<i>Coulterville</i>	<i>Los Banos Test Site</i>	<i>Manteca Test Site</i>	<i>Oakland Test Site</i>	<i>Pleasanton Test Site</i>	<i>Stockton Test Site</i>	<i>Turlock Test Site</i>	<i>Ceres Learning Center</i>	<i>Manteca Learning Center</i>
Main Testing	March 28,29 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 28,29 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 27,28,29 9am-apx. 3pm	April 20,21 9am-apx. 3pm	April 4,5 9:30am-apx. 3pm	April 6,7 10am-apx. 4pm	April 18,19 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 22, 23 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 23,24 9am-apx. 3pm	As arranged with Assessment Dept. (April 6,7,19,20)	As arranged with Assessment Dept. (April 6,7,19,20,21,26)
Makeups	No-go to Manteca Test Site 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 30,31 9:30am-apx. 3pm	No-go to Manteca Test Site 9:30am-apx. 3pm	No-go to Manteca Test Site 9:30am-apx. 3pm	April 25,26 9:30am-apx. 3pm	No-go to Pleasanton 9:30am-apx. 3pm	No-go to Manteca Test Site 9:30am-apx. 3pm	March 28,29 9:30am-apx. 3pm	No-go to Ceres Test Site 9:30am-apx. 3pm		
Blank tests will be available at the test sites for students who need to use the makeup dates in an emergency and are not assigned to the test site. The Learning Centers are reserved with previous arrangements for students with special accommodations.											

CWCS STAR Test Sites for 2006

1. Angels Camp:

St. Patricks Catholic Church

809 South Main St.
Angels Camp, CA. 95222
Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Gerry Patterson
Dates/Times:

- **NOTE!!** STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th grades - March 7th - 9:30am to approx. 11:00am
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 28,29 -9:30am to approx. 3pm

2. Ceres/Modesto area:

Central Valley Christian Academy

2020 Academy Place (across the street from the Ceres Seventh Day Adventist Church)
Ceres, California 95307

Test Site Coordinator: Rebecca Rasmussen
PFT Coordinator: Amanda Ferreira

Dates/Times:

- **NOTE!!** STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders is at the Ceres Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1633 N. Central Ave., Ceres on March 7th or (8th for makeups) - 9:30am to approx. 11:00am
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 28, 29(makeups 30,31) - 9:30am - 3pm

3. Coulterville:

Greeley Hill Community Club

Fiske Road
Greeley Hill, CA
Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Roy Shimp
Dates/Times:

- No STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th grades at this site.
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 27th, 28th, 29th - 9am to approx. 3pm

4. Los Banos:

Williams Kenpo Karate

20 W J St
Los Banos, CA 93635-4012
Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Shanda Rickman
Dates/Times:

- STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - March 7th - 9am to approx. 11pm
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: April 20,21 - 9am to approx. 3pm

5. Manteca:

Calvary Community Church

815 West Lathrop Rd.
Manteca, CA 95336
Test Site Coordinator: Cathy Moretto

PFT Coordinator: Joy Woodman

- STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - March 7th or (8th for makeups) - 9:30am to approx. 11am
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: April 4, 5 (makeups 25, 26) 9:30am-approx. 3pm

6. Oakland:

Rockridge Library

5366 College Ave
Oakland, CA
Test Site Coordinator: Leslie Scatchard

- STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - March 8th - 10am to approx. 1pm
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: April 6, 7 - 10am to approx. 4pm

7. Pleasanton:

Wyndham Hotel

5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd.
Pleasanton, CA. 94588
925-463-3330

Test Site Coordinators: shared position: Jan Lines/ ...
Dates/Times:

- STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th grades. - March 7th - 9:30am to approx. 11am
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: April 18, 19 - 9:30am to approx. 3pm

8. Stockton:

Radisson Hotel Stockton

2323 Grand Canal Blvd.
Stockton, CA. 95207
Test Site Coordinator: Leslie Leedy
PFT Coordinator: Shahnaz Shah
Dates/Times:

- STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - March 7th or (8th for makeups) 9:30am - approx. 11am
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 22, 23 (makeups March 28, 29) - 9:30am - approx. 3pm

9. Turlock:

New Life Christian Center

2918 W. Tuolumne
Turlock, CA.
209-667-5433

Dates/Times: STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11:
Test Site Coordinator: Margaret Santiago/Dave Moll
Dates/Times:

- **NOTE!** Please go to the Ceres Learning Center for the STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders on March 7th or (8th for makeups) .
- STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 23, 24 - 9am - approx. 3pm

The following two test sites are only for those students needing alternative locations due to specific accommodation needs. Students will be contacted directly if they are supposed to attend these sites:

Ceres Learning Center

2600 Mitchell Road, Suite G
Ceres, CA. 95307
209-541-1531

Multiple Choice tests: 9:30am to approx. 3:30

Specific dates/times will be given individually to students.

Manteca Learning Center

955 W. Center St. Suite 9
Manteca, CA 95337
209-239-7306

Multiple Choice test: 9:30am to approx.3:30

Specific dates/times to be given individually to students



CONNECTING WATERS CHARTER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

March 7, 2006 @ 6:30pm

WOW! How often do you get to walk through a door where you are *warmly* greeted, given a chance to win a *great* prize, served *refreshments*, all the while, meeting new families as you observe various displays of student work and materials provided by vendors and instructors?

Mark this on your calendar: it all happens Tuesday, March 7, 2006, 6:30 pm at the Waterford High School Multi-Purpose Room. If you would like to take part in displaying any of your reports or projects, perhaps even contribute to our performance hour, call and reserve your space right away!

Contact Dorinda, in our Waterford office at 209-874-1119 ext. 6
or

dpendergrass@connectingwaters.org

CAHSEE NEWS

ARE YOU IN SEARCH FOR SOME HELP ON THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM?

THEN COME TO THE CAHSEE ENGLISH WORKSHOP.....

COURSE #: 10289

WHEN: April 5, April 7, April 26, April 28, May 3, and May 5, 2006

TIME: 3:30 – 4:30 PM

WHERE: Ceres Learning Center
2600 Mitchell Road, Ste. G
Ceres, CA. 95307
209 541-1531

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Students in need of study guidance for the California High School Exit Exam

PURPOSE:

To help students better prepare for the CAHSEE.

CONTACT:

Terry Souza if you have any questions at:
1 800 808 9895 ext. 4 then ext. 4 again,
or email Terry at tsouza@connectingwaters.org
or 209-769-0994

COST: \$28.60

Ask your ES to sign you up now.
Call today...Space is limited!

FROM OUR CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

I am really excited to share what I have been working on for the upcoming school year! I am in the process of creating a student and ES friendly curriculum map and lesson guide for the A-G English courses. The entire suggested text, Holt's Literature and Language Arts will be packaged into ten packets. Each packet is designed to provide one month of student work and will include directions, activity worksheets, a complete writing workshop, assessments, and answer keys. Every lesson is standards-aligned and is clearly labeled for easy reference. Each packet contains a data sheet where lesson scores and assessments can be recorded. This will make it easy and quick for the ES to evaluate their student's work and write learning records.

Although families are able to choose from several texts, we are hoping families will begin trying out our new curriculum guides for several reasons. Even if students are unsure about attending college, enrolling in A-G courses allows for that option upon graduation. Students are tested annually on the STAR and our school receives an AYP and API score based on the results. High school students now must pass the CAHSEE in order to obtain a diploma. Both of these tests are based on the California state standards. By using standards-aligned curriculum, we are empowering our students with the skills they need to do well on both the STAR and CAHSEE.

The text book, grammar handbook, (available through our Holt approved vendor as a set for \$77.35) and lesson packets will soon be available for review at the learning Centers. Please take a look and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lori Freeman
Curriculum Director
lofreeman@connectingwaters.org

Graduation News for 8th Grade and Seniors

We currently have 53 eighth graders and 112 seniors signed up to participate in the graduation ceremony. At the present time only 22 of those 112 seniors have ordered their cap and gowns from Academic Affairs. **The deadline is March 24th.**

Only those Seniors with cap and gowns will be allowed to participate!

The eighth grade graduation will be Tuesday, May 16, 2005, at the Waterford High School gym. Senior graduation will be held also at the Waterford High School gym on Thursday, May 18, 2005. If your student is listed as in the 8th or 12th grade in our database, then you should have received a participation form in the mail. Use this form to sign your student up for the graduation(s). If you have not received the form or you are an 11th grader graduating this year, you may obtain them from your ES or by going to <http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/06agendas/septag06/cw8thgrad.pdf> for eighth grade and <http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/06agendas/septag06/cwsrgrad.pdf> for the senior participation information.

(Other forms that you may need)

[Senior cap and gown order form](#) , [Eight Grade Graduation Letter](#) or [Senior Graduation Letter](#)

Mar. 24	Senior graduation cap & gown order due (at your own expense to Academic Affairs)
Apr. 4	Deadline to sign up for student Performances to the Waterford Office
Apr. 4	Senior Speeches Due to the Waterford Office
Apr. 4	Graduation Helpers Meeting 2:00 pm at the Waterford Conference Center
May 16	8 th grade graduation practice 4:30 pm and 8 th grade graduation at 7:00 pm *
May 18	Senior graduation practice 4:30 pm and senior graduation at 7:00 pm *

***Both Graduation and Practice will be held at the Waterford High School Auditorium
121 South Reinway Ave., Waterford**

It is very important that we receive your graduation participation information forms by the deadline given. **Ordering information and updates regarding the graduations will only be sent out to those graduates who have submitted one of these forms.**

We are making available the opportunity for one or more of the graduating students to give a short 3 to 5 minute speech or performance. All speeches or recorded performance tapes must be submitted by April 4th to the CWCS Waterford office. Please notify Mary Vinnedge at the CWCS Waterford Office (800-808-9895 Ext. 6) by April 4th if you wish to perform at the graduation. The graduation performance committee will choose and approve the performances for the graduation.

**May this year be an exciting and productive year for all of you!
If you have any graduation questions or comments please contact Mary Vinnedge at the
CWCS Waterford Office at 800-808-9895 Ext. 6.**

IMMUNIZATION UPDATES

KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Chickenpox (varicella) vaccine is required by California law for Kindergarten entry effective July 1, 2001. The chickenpox shot is given on or after the first birthday.

DTaP (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), Polio, Hepatitis B and MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) immunizations are also required for school entry.

You must show proof of immunization, such as the yellow California Immunization Record to register your child. Check with your doctor or clinic about the shots needed for school.

REQUIREMENTS FOR 1ST GRADERS

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) is a preventative health program serving California's children and youth. CHDP makes early health care available to eligible children, not only children with obvious health problems, but also to children who seem well. The CHDP program works with the Department of Education in administering and monitoring this requirement and assists low-income children to meet the requirement by providing them with state-paid health assessments.

CHDP SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

By law, all children entering the first grade are required to have either a certificate of a CHDP health examination or a waiver on file at the school in which they enroll. School health examinations must be completed within 18 months prior to or 90 days after 1st grade entry unless the parent or guardian signs a waiver stating they do not want, or they are unable to obtain, an examination for their child. If you have questions regarding the CHDP requirements please call Cary Sharp in Student Records at 800-979-4436

7th GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

There are now 7th grade immunization requirements. Students entering 7th grade in both public and private schools now need additional shots. They need three hepatitis B immunizations* and a second measles (or MMR) shot. A Td booster is recommended as well. The school will ask to see your child's Immunization Record as proof of immunization.

It takes a minimum of 4 months to complete the series of three hepatitis B shots. In order for your child to enroll for the 7th grade he/she must have started the series. Please take a moment to review your child's immunization record and plan ahead.

* A 2-shot series of hepatitis B vaccine for 11-15 year olds can meet the requirements depending on the vaccine your doctor provides. Check with your school.

EXEMPTIONS

The law allows permanent or temporary medical exemptions. If exempted for medical reasons, a doctor's written statement is required. If Immunizations are contrary to the religious or personal beliefs of the parent, a personal beliefs waiver needs to be signed. (On the back of the California School Immunization Record is a personal beliefs waiver to be signed by the parent. Make sure the student's name, address, and birth date are written on the front of the form and that the signature is in the personal beliefs box on the back.)

For further information, contact your physician, school nurse or your local health department. This information was provided by the California Department of Health Services, Immunization Branch, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Guidance Department News

We are here to help you determine your future academic and career goals!!

Contact information: Mary Halter 1-800-808-9895 ext.4 then 2

mhalter@connectingwaters.org

10th Grade Families

The Guidance Department will be offering individual guidance counselling sessions for 10th graders in March and April. The goal of the meeting is to review your student's academic progress and to discuss post-high school career/college planning. Please call Mary Halter at 1-800-808-9895 ext.4 then 2 to schedule your meeting. Looking forward to seeing you!

Career Information

Not sure about your future? Don't know what career you are interested in? Try this new website that allows you to explore career options. It's free! You can find out about the careers that are most in demand and more! Go to www.careervoyages.com

DeVry University offers over 7,500 scholarships. To find out if you qualify visit their website www.devry.edu/scholarships. Deadlines depend on the scholarship.

Looking for a job??? The California State Department of Employment has Centers in your area to assist with finding jobs and internships. The contact information is:

**Manteca Work Net Center
Community Services Facility - Modesto**

1783 W.Yosemite
251 E. Hackett Rd. C-2
(209)825-1300
(209)558-2250

www.sjworknet.org/teen
www.stannet.org

Did you know that nearly 50% of the fastest growing jobs in the next ten years will be in the health and medical sciences? (According to the U.S. Department of Labor.) In response to this growing demand, the National Institutes of Health has created a new interactive web site, *Life Works*, to

allow students and parents to explore over 100 career possibilities. Check out this free career information resource at: www.science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks.

Choosing a Career is a BIG Deal - Some who don't pursue college right away start looking for unskilled work right out of high school, but find that most of today's good jobs require education, skills, and training beyond a high school level. Do you want a good-paying job with a future? Enter the field of heavy equipment, industrial equipment, diesel engine technology or equipment rental and work for Holt of California. Work on some of the biggest, hardest-working, most technologically advanced pieces of equipment in the world. Learn about this career opportunity at: http://holtca.cat.com/dsf/article/1,,7_1_24230_D100_24738.00.html

Careers that don't require college

www.electrifyingcareers.com www.gettech.org
www.armedforcescareers.com
www.constructmyfuture.com

Are you a future entrepreneur? A new website, www.entrepreneuru.org provides students and parents with a searchable database of college entrepreneurship programs. Features include student resources and scholarship opportunities, as well as information to help bridge the gap between high school students interested in becoming entrepreneurs and colleges that offer viable education options.

Are you a future entrepreneur?

www.entrepreneuru.org

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Opportunities for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders:

Ayn Rand Essay Contest for 9th and 10th graders:

The Ayn Rand Foundation will award cash prizes ranging from \$30 to \$2,000 for winning essays based on the novel, *Anthem*. For complete rules and to submit your essay online, go to www.aynrand.org/contests . Essays must be submitted no later than **March 20**.

Ayn Rand Essay Contest for 11th and 12th graders: the Ayn Rand Foundation will award cash prizes ranging from \$50 to \$10,000 for winning essays based on the novel, *The Fountainhead*. Essays will be judged on both style and content. For complete rules and to submit your essay online, go to: www.aynrand.org/contests . Essays must be submitted no later than **April 25**.

Check out the *FinAid Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid* for answers to your questions about paying for college and career training. Find detailed explanations of financial aid terms and programs, along with calculators you may use to *estimate* your eligibility for grants and loans. <http://www.finaid.org/>

Free scholarship search service - Look for scholarships by type, name, location or field of study at www.ief.org .

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Opportunities for Seniors or Class of 2006 only:

A common myth is that only traditional, high-achieving students are eligible for scholarships. While each scholarship-giving organization maintains different criteria for selection, there is a wide range of scholarship opportunities for students of all backgrounds. Check out this website, it explains the financial aid and scholarship process, gives tips, and has links to some really good

scholarship search engines:
www.scholarshipprograms.com

Searching for a college or scholarships?

Try "Any College.Net", a free online college & scholarship search service: <http://www.anycollege.net> . You may also enter to win a \$1,000 scholarship. Winners are selected each quarter through a random drawing.

College-Specific Scholarship Opportunities:

San Jose State University Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship Program will award up to nine \$20,000/\$22,000 merit-based scholarships to incoming students majoring in **engineering** or **technology** programs. Scholarship also includes summer internship and faculty mentoring. To apply: submit an on-line application at: <http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/scholarships/freshmen/> **between 11/1/05 and 3/3/06**. Mail an official transcript postmarked by **March 3** to: Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship Program, College of Engineering, SJSU, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0080. Applicants must be available for an on-campus interview on March 25, 2006 if selected as a semi-finalist. For more information: coe@email.sjsu.edu or (408) 924-3800.

Carl Karcher Enterprises (Carl's Jr.)

has established a scholarship program to assist **seniors** and current college students under age 21 who plan to continue their education at a 2- or 4-year college or vocational program. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, educational and career goals, essay and recommendation. Financial need and unusual personal or family circumstances are also considered. Sixty **\$1,000** awards will be given. Application available online at <http://www.carlsjr.com/news/14>

Only the first 1,000 applications received will be considered.

The Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships to **seniors** and current college students seeking careers in **graphic communications**. Candidates are judged on academic record, class rank, letters of recommendation, biographical information, and extracurricular interests. Approximately **300** \$1,000 to \$1,500 awards will be given, **renewable for three years**. Must have the ability to maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA and plans to major in graphic communications. Apply online at <http://www.gain.net/employment/scholarships/annual.html> . Deadline is **March 1**.

The **Sons of Italy** Western Foundation and the Grand Lodge of California, Order Sons of Italy in America, provide college scholarships to eligible high school **seniors**. Applicants must be wholly or partly of **Italian** ancestry. These scholarships range from **\$500** to **\$5,000**. Selection will be based on scholastic record, activities evidencing leadership, financial need, personal goals statement, essay of Italian origin, and letters of recommendation. Further information may be obtained by calling: (415) 586-1316. Download the application at: <http://www.sonsofitalyca.org/> Applications must be **postmarked by March 1**.

Additionally, **Italian Language Study Grants** are available for a one-month complete immersion course in Italian language at an Italian College. Grant applicants must have completed a foreign language course in high school. Applications for the Study Grant must be submitted separately, including being placed in a separate envelope from the scholarship application. <http://www.sonsofitalyca.org/> **Postmark by March 1**.

The NFIB Young Entrepreneur Awards Program announces its fourth annual scholarship program for high school **seniors**. This program is designed to set teen small-business owners on the path to entrepreneurship. Nationwide, at least **400**

recipients will attend the 2 or 4-year College or vocational/technical program of their choice with **\$1,000** in tuition assistance from the NFIB Foundation. One outstanding student will receive a **\$10,000** award, and four regional winners will receive **\$5,000** each. Applicants should demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and initiative, such as starting his or her own business, or participation in business-related organizations or activities. Download the PDF application now at <http://www.nfib.com/page/nfibYoungEntrepreneurAward.html> or complete an online application beginning January 2. Postmark deadline is **March 15**.

The "**Save Me a Spot in College**" contest will award \$50,000 in scholarships, ranging from **\$1,000-\$2,500**, to more than 40 students in **6th - 12th grade** across the state of California. Student submissions in the contest will be used to inform California residents, media and policymakers about the need to provide college opportunity. This contest gives students the opportunity to express themselves through written word, a poster, or a TV ad that highlights the importance of access to higher education. Only one entry per category is allowed. The deadline for entries is **March 15**, and the winners will be announced in May. For details, instructions and to download entry forms, go to: <http://www.collegecampaign.org/contest/>

Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will award **\$1,000** scholarships to high school **seniors** and first-year college students in the area. Applicants must be planning to enroll in a 2- or 4-year college in fall 2006 and plan to major in studies leading to a degree in **business, computer science, education, engineering, health services or a program leading to a professional career**. Students must also be of **Hispanic** heritage. Applications may be downloaded at

<http://www.sachcc.org/community/events/scholarship/index.html> . Applications must be **received in Sacramento by March 24**, so be sure and mail your application well ahead of the due date.

KFC Scholars Program will award scholarships to 50 high school **seniors** to be used for tuition, books, fees, room and board for **up to \$5,000 per year**. Students selected for this scholarship are eligible to receive up to **\$20,000** to complete a bachelor's degree program. Eligibility criteria include: 1) U. S. citizen or permanent resident, 2) Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher, 3) Planning to attend a public, in-state college or university, 4) Pursuing a bachelor's degree. The online application will be available beginning February 15 at <http://www.kfcscholars.org/>. *(Be sure to complete your FAFSA prior to March 2 - semi-finalists will need this information.)* Application deadline is **March 31**.

OMI-Thames Water and the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Alliance are proud to announce the "**H₂OPTIONS**" Scholarship. Four (4) \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors who are seeking to continue their education in the fields of **science, engineering, or technical studies**. Applications are available at: www.bea2003.com. Applications must be **received by April 1**, so allow time for mailing.

American Iris Society will award \$500 scholarships to high school **seniors** and current college students who are planning to pursue a career in **horticulture, floriculture, landscaping, nursery production, or a related field**. Applicants must enter a 2- or 4-year college in fall 2006. Print an application online at: <http://www.aisregion14.org/R14%20SCHOLARSHIP.html> **Postmark deadline is April 3**.

Contest for grades 9 - 12: The Student Anthem Challenge invites high school and college students to create a song that inspires teenagers to stay in school, to work hard, and to achieve. The student who crafts the best song will receive a scholarship of **\$5,000** toward tuition at an institution of higher learning. Visit: <http://www.studentanthemproject.org/StudentAnthemChallengeWelcome.html> **Deadline is April 15**.

Jiffy Lube and the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce's Business Education Alliance will award four **\$1,000** scholarships to local **seniors**. Minimum 3.0 GPA to apply. Four short essays (2 pages total), application form and a transcript is all that is required to apply for this scholarship. Download an application at: http://www.jiffylubeca.com/jl_scholarship.html or www.bea2003.com. Applications must be **received by April 21** so be sure to mail ahead of time.

Outback Steakhouse and the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce Business Education Alliance will award five scholarships to **seniors** in our area who exhibit the Outback Steakhouse qualities of hospitality, sharing, quality, fun and courage in their daily life. Applications may be downloaded at: www.bea2003.com and must be **received by April 30**. Please allow time for your application to arrive by the deadline.

Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship -- Are you interested in attending a college or university out of state? This program makes it possible for California students to go to selected schools in Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming at resident tuition fees + 50%. Some majors may be limited. Visit www.wiche.edu/sep/WUE/

SunTrust Off to College Scholarship Sweepstakes - high school **seniors** can win a \$1,000 scholarship to help pay expenses at a 2 or 4 year college or private career school. One winner will be chosen every two weeks from **October 31, 2005 through May 12, 2006**. Students may begin registering now and the first drawing will be held on October 31. Winners will also receive a \$250 gift card. Only one entry per person for each drawing, however students can register after each drawing for the next scheduled drawing. No purchase or transaction necessary to enter or win. Apply online at: <http://www.suntrusteducation.com/sweeps/default.asp>

United Negro College Fund offers thousands of scholarships to African American college-bound students. Eligibility requirements include minimum GPA of 2.5, demonstrated financial need and completion of the FAFSA. Go to <http://www.uncf.org/scholarships/index.asp> for applications and details. Deadlines vary by program.

Summer Programs

Do you have a passion for math or science? Check out COSMOS – University of California’s Summer School for Math and Science - students in grades 9 - 12 can study an array of topics including astronomy, biomedical science, robotics, marine science, game theory, and more. Cosmos is a one-month residential program run by University of California that includes classes taught by world-renowned professors, hands-on learning experiences, weekend field trips, and the chance to experience living on a college campus (fully supervised). UC Davis, Irvine, Santa Cruz and San Diego will host programs. Tuition is \$2,000 and includes instruction, room and board and fees. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. Applications must be **postmarked by March 15**. Details and applications are at:

<http://www.ucop.edu/cosmos/> .

These are some of the coolest summer programs around. This list includes everything from sports, writing and engineering camps to those

located on university campuses, ships and overseas. See <http://www.teenink.com/Summer/>

ACT - SAT – ASVAB

Need help preparing for ACT, SAT and ASVAB exams? The Lodi Public Library subscribes to a test preparation service that is free to current Lodi Library cardholders. Many practice exams and skill-building exercises are offered. To access this FREE service go to: <http://www.lodi.gov/library/index.htm> Click on "learnatest.com" symbol Click on the link. Register as a new user (user id is your current Lodi library card number) Practice exams include: SAT, ACT, ASVAB, Basic Skills, AP, EMT, Cosmetology, Fire-fighter, GED, etc.

Did you know.....you can take AP (Advanced Placement) Exams even if you have not taken the course???? Most colleges and universities grant college credit with a passing score of 3, 4, or 5. There are AP Exams for several subjects such as AP English Language, AP English Literature, AP French Language, AP Spanish Language, AP Biology, AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Calculus, AP Studio Art....and more. Exams are administered in May at many regular high schools. If you are interested, please call your local high school to find out what they are offering and to sign up **NOW!** Each exam costs about \$85. If you need further information, call Mary Halter at 1-800-808-9895ext. 4 then 2.

College Entrance Exam Test Dates and Deadlines

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests	Apr 1	Feb 24	Mar 8
ACT (with optional writing)	Apr 8	Mar 3	Mar 17
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests	May 6	Apr 3	Apr 12
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests	Jun 3	Apr 28	May 10
ACT (with optional writing)	Jun 10	May 5	May 19

To Register:

SAT – www.collegeboard.com

ACT – www.actstudent.org

School Code : 053706

Manteca Learning Center News

Alison Lull & Shanda Rickman, Site Program Coordinators
Shalimar Eldridge & Alysia Ayala, Site Clerks
955 W. Center St., Ste. 9
(209)-239-7306 - FAX (209)-823-7439
Hours M-F 9:00-4:00

The **Manteca Learning Center** will be used for Special Ed. STAR testing on March 7, 2006, so ES's and families should plan visits to the Center on another day.

Earn Community Service Credit by volunteering at the Manteca Learning Center. You will learn office machines use, filing, and receptionist skills. Have your ES contact Alison Lull or Shanda Rickman to schedule your hours.

NEW CA STANDARDS BASED FINE ARTS CLASSES: We are excited to announce several new fine arts classes for the spring semester. Both **oil painting classes** listed below will also include instruction in art history as well as a student research and a report writing component to address CA Standards. Also, the **Drama/Theater Arts (Standards)** class and the **History of Rock n Rock (Standards)** class both will involve history, student research, and report writing.

PERFORMANCE CLASS: The **Mixed Choir** class will be continuing on Tuesdays. The goal for this class will be a performance at the graduation ceremony in May!

Computer Lab & Scantron Testing: The computer lab has 6 computers available for student use during regular business hours for the Ed Performance Scantron online pre-test or post-test which is required of all 2nd-12th grade students. ES's should sign-up and test all newly enrolled students as soon as possible. Additionally, the post-testing continues in March for students, who completed the pre-test at least 90 days ago. Your ES should be present unless testing is scheduled for a date when the test proctor will be at the Site. Of course, computers may also be used for school related work.

CASHEE/STAR Prep Classes & Workshops: The Manteca Learning Center is offering several classes and workshops to help prepare students for these exams. Please see the course schedule listed below and have your ES enroll your student and/or do POs for materials.

Materials for Checkout: The site still has many returned books and some Starline Press state aligned curriculum. There is also a Crate, a 35mm camera available for check-out for students. Visit the Learning Center before ordering to see if we have what you need. Thank you to all the ES's who have returned materials and placed them on the shelves! It makes it easier to keep the center looking neat!

Scholastic Book Orders: The site clerks are assisting families who want to use personal funds to order books from the Scholastic Book Clubs. The latest order forms are at the Manteca Learning Center. Materials are available for all grade levels. Payment is due when order forms are completed. This is an inexpensive way to build your personal library and free books earned through book sales go to the Learning Center library for everyone to enjoy!

City of Manteca Parks & Rec. is an approved vendor. Access their schedule on the internet at www.ci.manteca.ca.us/parks or pick up a schedule at 252 Magnolia Lane, Manteca or at the Manteca Learning Center. To register have your ES complete a purchase order request at least a week before class starts. Parents must sign up the student at the Parks & Rec. office. Please note that your student is not fully signed up until the parent has completed the Parks & Rec. form.

Manteca Learning Center

Prospective Spring Class as of 12-06-05

*Note: This is a TENTATIVE list for the spring; Classes and/or times are subject to change

Day/Time	Class	Grade	Start Date	# of Classes	Instructor	Course #	Approx. Price
MONDAY							
9:00-10:30	CAHSEE English Prep.	10 th -12 th	1-09-2006	13	D. Howard	10045	\$75.75
9:30-11:30	Algebra 1	7 th -12 th	1-09-2006	13	J. Kaiser	10029	\$150.50
10:30-12:00	Art Class	All	1-27-2006	11	V. Segur	P.O.**	See Below
12:30-2:30	Pre-Algebra	7 th -10 th	1-09-2006	13	J. Kaiser	10030	\$150.50
1:00-2:30	CAHSEE Math Workshop	10 th -12 th	1-11-2006	6	D. Kutz	10069	\$28.60
2:30-4:00	CAHSEE Math Prep	10 th -12 th	1-09-2006	13	J. Kaiser	10043	\$75.75
TUESDAY							
10:30-11:30	Basic Writing Skills	4 th -12 th	1-10-2006	19	T. Matranga	10006	\$7/Per Class
11:00-12:00	Mixed Choir	5 th -12 th	1-10-2006	11	J. Hepworth	10013	\$64.25
12:00-2:00	Oil Painting (Landscape)	4 th -12 th	1-10-2006	16	M.Dunwoody	P.O.**	\$250.00
2:00-3:30	Oil Painting(Seascape)	4 th -12 th	1-10-2006	16	M.Dunwoody	P.O.**	\$220.00
WEDNESDAY							
9:30-11:30	Am. Music History(Stand)	7 th -12 th	1-18-2006	18	D. Friedman	P.O.**	\$180.00
12:00-4:00	Music Lessons	4 th -12 th	1-18-2006	18	D. Friedman	P.O.**	\$25/ 30 min
1:00-2:30	CAHSEE Math Workshop	10 th -12 th	1-11-2006	6	D. Kutz	10069	\$28.60
THURSDAY							
1:00-2:00	Drama/Theater Arts (Stand)	7 th -12 th	1-12-2006	16	A. Fonseca	9978	\$91.70
2:00-3:00	Spanish 1 Standards	8 th -12 th	1-12-2006	16	R. Gomez	10007	\$87.25
2:30-3:30	Drama/Theater Arts (Stand)	7 th -12 th	1-12-2006	16	A. Fonseca	10188	\$91.70
3:00-4:00	Introduction to Spanish	3 rd -7 th	1-06-2006	16	R. Gomez	10005	87.25
FRIDAY							
9:00-11:00	Drop in Math Tutoring	ALL	1-06-2006		D. Kutz		Free
1:00-4:00	Individual Guitar Lessons	All	1-06-2006		D. Quillici	10003	\$10/30 Min.

**** CALL Instructor BEFORE doing P.O.'s****

Make P.O.'s out to:

ART

“VIRGINIA SEGUR”

(209) 836-4183

Two Separate P.O.'s

Art Kit per child \$96.00

Cost Per session \$25.00

OIL PAINTING

“TIMELESS TREASURE”

MichelleDunwoody@aol.com

Cell# (209)345-2117

Home# (209)572-4425

MUSIC LESSONS / MUSIC HISTORY

“DAVID FRIEDMAN”

(209)962-4965

The Ceres Learning Center

2600 Mitchell Road Suite G,
Ceres, CA 95307
Phone: 209-541-1531
Marc Fiedor, Program Coordinator

Character First Assembly

Come have some fun with other CWCS students and learn about a positive characteristic that we all should have! On March 15 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm there will be fun, food, songs, games, and prizes! You won't want to miss out!



Writing Workshop

On March 15 and 22 there will be a Writer's Workshop from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. Come and get help with your writing skills or enhance your current abilities! Please call the Ceres Learning Center to sign up. 1-800-808-9895 ext. 1

STAR Testing

On March 8th STAR testing will be occurring so the Ceres Learning Center will not be having morning classes (classes after 12:00 noon will be in session). Please note this if you have any classes on that day. Testing may also conflict with classes on these dates: April 6, 7, 19, 20. We are not sure of the number of students testing on these dates so at this time we are not sure how it will affect classes. Keeps an eye for future announcements concerning these dates.

Reminder

Math tutoring is still available on Tuesdays from 2:30pm – 4:00pm. No appointment necessary. Just drop in with your books, homework, or questions!!



We would like to thank Michelle Falasco for all her hard work at the Ceres Learning Center and wish her the best of luck at her new job! Good luck and we'll miss you!

BOOK BONANZA WORKSHOP

- WHEN:** Tuesday April 4, 2006
3:30-5:00
- WHERE:** Ceres Learning Center
2600 Mitchell Road, Ste. G
Ceres, CA 95307
209-541-1531
- WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Parents and ES's looking for fun, exciting, and new ways to teach children about reading.
- PURPOSE:** To help students, parents, and teachers better instruct their children in reading.
- CONTACT:** Contact Terry Souza if you have any questions at: 1-800-808-9895 ext. 4 then ext. 4 again, or email Terry at tsouza@connectingwaters.org or 209-769-0994

Math News

Congratulations to five CWCS students who recently competed in a Mathcounts middle school math competition. Sharyn Bloudoff, Brian Glenn, Breiana Theodore, Aleq Bateman, and Joseph Christensen journeyed to the University of the Pacific on Saturday, February 11 to test their math skills and problem-solving abilities. This was a new experience for all of them, and hopefully a rewarding one as well. Brian Glenn was honored as the top 6th grade individual. Joseph Christensen earned the highest individual score overall. He was also the winner of the Countdown Round, in which the students compete in an oral, game-show-type, face-paced contest. Mathcounts is a nationally organized competition, and both Aleq Bateman and Joseph Christensen will advance to the state level competition, which will take place at UC Davis on March 18. All of the students did a great job and should be commended for their efforts!

Speaking of competitions....there is an opportunity coming up for high school students who are interested in a similar competition. The High School Mathematics Competition, sponsored by the Stanislaus Mathematics Council, will take place at CSU Stanislaus on Saturday, April 1, 2006. Students who are currently enrolled in Geometry, Algebra 2, Advanced Mathematics, Math Analysis, Pre-Calculus or Calculus are encouraged to participate. There is both a team competition and an individual competition. If you are interested, contact me at dkutz@connectingwaters.org as soon as possible, so that I can send you some practice materials. You have nothing to lose, but much to gain, if you take advantage of this opportunity.

Many sophomores and seniors recently took the high school exit exam. The next exam will be in May for any sophomores (that did not attempt it in February), as well as juniors (if they did not take it 2 times in the year already) and any seniors that have not yet passed it. Students planning to take that exam should be studying now. Seniors should not wait until they receive the results of the February exam to decide whether or not they need to keep studying...just keep studying anyway! Our

CAHSEE math courses are continuing at the learning Centers, and we will be holding another "memory-refreshing" workshop in April. Who knows? After all of this math, you may even find it enjoyable and useful!

Here is another math question for you: Which weighs more, a pound of steel or a pound of feathers?

Happy Thinking,
Debbie Kutz, CWCS Math Specialist

News From the Language Arts Corner

Let the FUN begin and SPRING into reading with a ROAR!

Make your home a lively reader's theater with the following books we love.

- ◆Mercy Watson to the Rescue by Kate Dicamillo Grades 2-5
- ◆You Read to Me, I'll Read to You by Mary Ann Hoberman Grades 2-4
- ◆Earth Mother by Ellen Jackson Grades 3-6
- ◆Day of Tears by Julius Lester Grades 6 and up
- ◆Replay by Sharon Creech by Grades 4-7

After you read the books write a summary about the story. Tell about the characters, setting, problem, and solutions of the story.

Another thing you can do is write a comparison and contrast about the characters in the story and do a response to literature about how the story makes you feel.

Lastly, you can share the book with a friend and tell them why you think they would enjoy reading this book.

Happy Reading - If you have any Language Arts questions please feel free to give me a call.

Terry Souza
Language Arts Specialists
tsouza@connectingwaters.org
209-769-0994

Ceres Learning Center

Prospective Spring '06 Classes as of 12/05/05

***Note: This is a TENTATIVE list for the spring. Classes and/or time are subject to change**

Day/Time	Class	Grade	Start Date	# of Classes	Instructor	Course #	Approx. Price
MONDAY							
9:00-10:30	**Pre-Algebra	7-12 th	1/9/2006	34	D. Kutz	10063	\$272.00 Last Class May 15
11:00-12:30	Cool Craft Creation	K-6	1/23/2006	12	B. Harris	10049	\$134.00 Last Class Apr. 3
12:30-1:30	Hands on Science	K-6	1/23/2006	12	B. Harris	10048	\$134.00 Last Class Apr. 4
12:00-2:00	Geometry	9 th -12 th	1/9/2006	34			CLOSED
TUESDAY							
11:00-12:00	*Spanish 1	9-12 th	1/10/2006	34	B. Monroe	10058	\$256.00 Last Class May 16
12:00-1:00	*Spanish 2	9-12 th	1/10/2006	34	B. Monroe	10059	\$230.00 Last Class may 16
1:00-2:00	JR/HS Writing	7-12 th	1/10/2006	19	T .Matranga	10009	\$154.00
1:00-2:30	*Algebra A-G	7-12 th	1/10/2006	34	D.Kutz	10064	\$272.00 Last Class May 16
2:00-3:00	Advanced Writing	9-12 th	1/10/2006	19	T.Matranga	10010	\$154.00
2:30-4:00	Drop in Coaching	7-12 th	1/10/2006	18	D. Kutz	10062	V
WEDNESDAY							
9:00-10:30	**Pre-Algebra	7-12 th	1/9/2006	34	D. Kutz	10063	\$272.00 Last Class May 15
10:00-11:30	CAHSEE Math Class	10 th -12 th	1/11/2006	15	Jack Kaiser	10042	\$85.25
3:30-4:30	***CAHSEE Eng. Class	10-12 th	1/11/2006	8	Terry Souza	10044	\$37.80
THURSDAY							
11:00-12:00	*Spanish 1	9-12 th	1/10/2006	34	B. Monroe	10058	\$256.00
12:00-1:00	*Spanish 2	9-12 th	1/11/2006	34	B. Monroe	10059	\$230.00
1:00-2:30	*Algebra A-G	7-12 th	1/10/2006	34	D. Kutz	10064	\$272.00 Last Class May 1
9:00-4:00	Piano	All	1/12/2006	34	C. Pierson		FULL
FRIDAY							
12:15-2:15	Algebra 1	9-12 th	1/6/2006	18	J. Pelezynski	10056	\$224.00
11:00-12:00	Beg. Drawing 1	8Yrs -Up	1/20/2006	14	J. Gray	10051	\$340.00
9:00-10:00	Guitar 1	8Yrs-Up	1/20/2006	14	J. Gray	10041	\$295.00
2:30-4:30	Algebra 2	9-12 th	1/6/2006	18	J. Pelezynski	10057	\$225.00
12:30-2:00	Drawing 2	8Yrs-Up	1/20/2006	14	J. Gray	10052	\$355.00
10:00-11:00	Guitar 2	8Yrs-Up	1/20/2006	14	J. Gray	10050	\$280.00
2:00-3:30	Color 1	8Yrs-Up	1/21/2006	14	J. Gray	10054	\$340.00
3:30-4:30	***CAHSEE Eng. Class	10-12 th	1/11/2006	8	Terry Souza	10044	\$37.80
3:30-5:00	Color 2	8Yrs-Up	1/22/2006	14	J. Gray	10053	\$340.00

***Tuesday/ Thursday Classes**

**** Monday/ Wednesday Class**

*****Wednesday /Friday Classes**

Individual Guitar Classes: Call J. Gray 541-1531

Math Tutoring: Call J. Carkeet 632-8256

Walk-In Math Tutoring: Debbie Kutz (Tuesdays 12:30-2:30)
209-620-6748 or 1/800-808-9895

J. Kaiser: 631-7952

CWCS Student Participates in Junior Lego League Tournament

By Marianne Fisher

Like many six years old boys that I know, my son is rabid about Lego's. So when a local Lego League announced last fall that they would be holding a "junior" tournament in January of 2006, I knew that my son and some of his friends in our home school group would love to take part.

The theme was "Ocean Odyssey." Each team was to invent a motorized aquatic vehicle and a new, yet to be discovered marine life form. Both were to be created using only Lego's. They were to mount their ocean scene with the creature and the motorized vehicle on an 18" x 18" Lego base plate supplied by the league. The instructions were to create a habitat on one side where the creature would be mounted, and make a "waterway" on the other side of the base plate where the vehicle could travel. The waterway needed to be a particular width. You will see why shortly. My son Rowan was part of a team with two of his best friends who are seven and eight.

Starting in November, they met for six meetings at the home of one of his team members. The first meeting was spent brainstorming about different kinds of plants and animals. They all agreed early in their discussion that they wanted to have it be a deep-sea creature. They spent the rest of the meeting reading books about various sea animals and coming up with a name for their team.

The team name was the "Red Lego Lasers," and their creature was to be a "crab eel." It was great seeing my son and his friends working as a team and having so much fun doing something that they all loved to do. The next step was to bring their creature to life, or at least to Lego!

The next two meetings were spent working on their creature. Time was spent in between meetings going to the library and looking on the Internet, and reading about and looking at various deep-sea animals. The team learned a lot about the habitat and what kind of creatures lived in this extreme environment.

At their meetings they talked about what kinds of adaptations their creature would need to thrive at such depths. As the team was creating their creature and vehicle, they thought about the habitat where it would live; what kind of food it would eat; how it would capture its food; what predators it would have to watch out for; if it had camouflage; and what the offspring

might look like. Here are some characteristics their deep-sea creature had:

Habitat: Deep Sea Volcano

Depth: 5000-8000 ft.

Speed: 20 mph

Size: 7 feet

Weight: 300 lbs.

Primary Food: Fish, Crabs

Their fourth meeting was spent designing and putting together the deep-sea vehicle. The only limitation was that it had to be able to fit in the waterway. Once the vehicle were created they embarked on designing a poster that showed a drawing of their creature and a list of its characteristics. The sixth meeting was spent making any last minute changes, discussing their design, and thinking about what they wanted to say to the judges when it came their turn at the tournament to talk about their project.

On the day of the tournament the team members and their families all met in San Jose. After registering we helped the boys set up their display and their poster. Two judges met with each team, examined their creations and asked each team member questions about how they went about designing and making their marine animal and vehicle.

After the judging all the teams met in the center of the room and connected their base plates together making two-10 foot lengths of waterway. This made it possible for teams to move their motorized objects down the entire length of the connected base plates. Now you know why they all needed to be uniform in width. When the two waterways were all set up two teams at a time raced their vehicles from one end to the other. It was very exciting and our family's favorite part! It was a lot of fun to see all the habitats connected together and to see the vehicles go the length of the waterways, passing all the different creatures and habitats. When everyone had had their race it was time to give out awards. Every team got one. The Red Lego Lasers got an award for the coolest set of teeth -they used glow in the dark teeth that one of the boys took from his Lego shark. When the judges called up the Red Lego Lasers, our three boys each received an award, a Santa Claus Lego man, and medallion to hang around their neck. My son likes to think of it as a gold medal (ala Olympic style). He had a great time and says that he can't wait to do it again next year. For information about next year's event, go to www.legoeducation.com



Merlin Veltman

Dancing on a Big Stage

Merlin Veltman, a 9-year-old boy and Connecting Waters student from Oakland, got to dance in the Nutcracker for the last two winters. Music and dancing are in his blood, and he has been taking dance and ballet classes since he was about 4 years old.

Danspace, the small ballet school he attends, is one of the lucky schools which has been repeatedly invited by the Oakland Ballet, and recently also by the Ronn Guidi Dance Academy, to dance in their Nutcracker productions. About 20 Danspace students get to perform the Mother Ginger dance for one performance each Christmas season.

Merlin had to attend a Saturday rehearsal each week from October to December in addition to his regular class. Some of the dance steps were quite complicated, and the students needed to memorize the choreography, learn how to space themselves as a group, partner up, focus and watch each other to be ready for their turns.

On the day of the performances, they had to keep themselves busy and quiet back-stage for almost four hours, taking care of their costumes and pinned-up hair. "The best part was that we saw the Arabian Dancers up close, and also the Mouse King, who looked scary", Merlin said. His mom wishes they had been able to talk to them about what it's like to dance professionally, but there probably wasn't time for that. "I'm glad he got to perform, because that is his passion. Tagging along with another company's Nutcracker satisfied his desire without being overwhelming for him or stressful for our family", she said. For years, Merlin was the only boy in his classes, and performing got him through the frustration he sometimes felt about that. Other schools have more boys, but the family stuck with Danspace because the school follows the approach of the successful Corvino family and teaches kids to have a positive self-image and respect for their own body type. Danspace does not produce its own large scale performances to avoid pushing kids into performing too early or become competitive with each other.

Sadly, the Oakland Ballet has just announced that it is closing for good! Despite national acclaim for its artistic and trend-setting productions, it could not survive financially. Danspace kids will continue to dance as *Ginger Cookies*, but to have been on stage with the famous Oakland Ballet in the beautiful old Paramount Theatre was a special and wonderful opportunity.

What Merlin wants all kids to know first and foremost is that boys can dance, too!

CWCS Parent Council Nomination

The CWCS Parent Council consists of 29 parents of CWCS students.

I would like to nominate the following person(s) for the CWCS Parent Council to serve for a two year term. The term will begin August of 2006 and will end June of 2008. You may nominate yourself.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Please check

- I have a student enrolled in CWCS therefore I am qualified to make this nomination.
- The person I am nominating has a student enrolled in CWCS therefore they are qualified to serve on the CWCS Parent Council.
- I am a CWCS ES and endorse the above nominations.

The role of the Parent Council member is to:

- Uphold the mission of school
- Develop/approve short and long term goals
- Evaluate Management Company
- Monitor school's performance
- Monitor own performance
- Be involved in the accreditation process
- Serve for a two year term
- Plan to attend all council meetings
- Make suggestions to improve school
- True to school's mission, not personal agenda
- Be positive

There are four scheduled council meetings a year (one each quarter). There may also be a few special meetings called as the need arises throughout the year.

Completed nomination forms may be turned in to the CWCS Learning Centers, given to your ES, mailed to the CWCS Waterford Office 219 N. Reinway Ave. Waterford, CA 95386, faxed to 209-874-9531 or emailed to mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org. **Nomination forms must be received no later than March 31, 2006.**

The election of those who accept the nomination will take place in early May.

Free Star Prep Classes

Manteca Learning Center

*Grades 2-3, English and Math
February 28th, March 14th, and March 21st
9:00 am to 10:30 am*

*Grades 4-5, English and Math
March 2nd, 9th, and 16th
9:00 am to 10:30 am*

*Grades 6-7, Math
March 2nd, 9th, and 16th
10:30 am to 11:15 am*

*Grades 6-8, English
March 2nd, 9th, and 16th
11:15 am to 12:00 pm*

*Grades 9-11, English
March 2nd, 9th, and 16th
12:00 pm to 12:45 pm*

If interested sign up by calling the Manteca Learning Center at 239-7306. For further information contact Leslie Leedy at

lleedy@connectingwater.org