



Connecting Waters Charter School

Volume 6

March 2008

Issue 8

Lori Porter – Layout and Design

Roy Shimp - Editor

Dates to Remember



March 3/17 - 3/21

**The Learning Centers
will be closed during
Spring Break!!**

Parent Workshop Training ~ Success!!

We are excited to announce that our 2nd Annual Parent Workshop Training was a huge success!! We had over 200 attendees at this year's workshop and the response was great. We would like to thank all those involved to make this event possible. We appreciate the hard work of Melissa Cripe, Lori Freeman, Mary Halter, Lori Porter, and the Parent Council members who planned and worked very hard to make this training possible.

Please email your comments and suggestions for next year to:
cwcs@connectingwaters.org or fill out a survey
We look forward to hearing from you!

Table on Contents

Assessment News	2
Testing Information	3-6
Graduation News	7
Curriculum News	8
Language Arts News	9
STAR Writing Tips	10
Math News	11
Worldstrides	
Summer School	12
Special Ed Dept News	13
Outdoor Science	14
CWCS Student News	
CW Success Stories	
Fundraisers	15
Accelerated Reader	16
Mathfacts	17
Ceres L. C. News	18
Ceres Classes	19
Modesto L.C. News	20
Modesto Classes	21
Prom News	22
Guidance Dept News	23-27
ESLRs	28
Immunization Update	29
Parent Survey	30
Parent Council Nomination Form	31



Please join us for our annual Open House on Tuesday, March 4th at 6:30 p.m. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever! CWCS will be presented with an award at Open House for being the Front Runners in the Governor's Fitness Challenge. Educational Specialists, instructors, and school staff will be available for you to meet and answer any questions you may have; vendors will be on hand for you to view their products. We will also have student work displays, science fair projects, and student performances for you to enjoy. Mark this date on your calendar; it all happens in the Waterford High School Multi-Purpose room located at 121 S. Reinway Ave. in Waterford. For further information, please contact Mary Vinnedge at the Waterford Main Office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6 or mvinnege@connectingwaters.org

We hope to see you there!!

Assessment News

STAR Testing is Here !!

All 2nd through 11th grade students participate in STAR Multiple Choice testing. An additional STAR Writing exam is given to students in the 4th and 7th grade and is held on the same day, March 4th (with March 5th as a makeup day at a few selected sites). The STAR Multiple Choice testing occurs on different days within a twenty-one day window. Your Test Site Letter gives you the location, dates, and times of your student's test site. We have eleven test sites offered for the grade 2-11 Multiple Choice testing. Please be sure to check with your ES if you did not receive a test site location letter. Contact your ES with any concerns regarding testing. Your ES will contact the Assessment Dept who will then try to resolve the concerns.

PLEASE go over the school's dress and behavior code

<http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2008/stubehvpol.htm> with your student the night before testing. We have also provided a Parent Checklist and Guidelines that is helpful in achieving a positive testing experience

<http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2008/parchklst08.htm> . We are a large, unconventional school and are really trying to offer a safe, comfortable atmosphere for your students to test. This takes cooperation from all who are involved and we welcome your positive and active involvement in the process. Visit the Connecting Waters Charter School's website, click on Assessment, and then STAR for specific information.

CAHSEE(California High School Exit Exam)

The scores from the CAHSEE taken in February will be available in approximately six weeks.

March 11th and 12th sessions will only be for graduating students. They will be contacted with the location (Ceres or Stockton) via a test site letter. May 6th and 7th will be the last test sessions offered this year for 11th and 12th grade students needing to test, and for any 10th grade students who missed the February assessment.

CWCS STAR TEST SITES 2007-08

Click Here for the 3 – day Test Schedule: <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2008/3daysch08.pdf>

Click Here for the 4-day Test Schedule: <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2008/4daysch.pdf>

CERES/MODESTO AREA:

Central Valley Christian Academy
2020 Academy Place (across the street from the Ceres Seventh Day Adventist Church)
Ceres, CA 95307

Test Site Coordinator: Marc Fiedor
Physical Fitness Test 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 4th or (5th for makeups) 10am-apx 11:30

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx. 1pm March 25,26,27,28

COULTERVILLE :

Greeley Hill Community Club
10332 Fiske Road
Coulterville, CA 95311

Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Roy Shimp

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th grades:

March 4th only 10am-apx.11:30

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx. 2pm. March 31, April 1,2

LIVERMORE:

Cornerstone Fellowship
348 N. Canyons Pkwy,
Livermore, CA 94551

Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Jan Lines

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - 10am-apx.11:30 March 4 or (5th for makeups)

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx.1pm. March 25,26,27,28

LODI :

Lodi Boys and Girls Club
275 East Poplar st.
Lodi, CA. 95240
Phone: 209-334-2697

Test Site Coordinator: Shahnaz Shah

Physical Fitness Test Coordinator: Fiaz Shah

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. – 10am-apx.11:30 March 4 or (5th for makeups)

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx. 1pm. April 1,2,3,4

LOS BANOS:

Los Banos Seventh Day Adventist School
404 Overland Ave
Los Banos, CA 93635

Site Coordinator: Rhonda Ashabraner-Tinley

Physical Fitness Test Coordinator: Jamie Tinley

Dates/Times:

! NOTE!! STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders is at the New Life Christian Center

2918 W. Tuolumne Turlock, CA 95380: 10am-apx.11:30 - March 4 or (5th for makeups)

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx. 2pm. March 25,26,27

MANTECA:

Calvary Community Church
815 W. Lathrop Rd.
Manteca, CA 95336

Test Site Coordinator: Cathy Moretto

Physical Fitness Test Coordinator: Joy Woodman

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. – 10am-apx.11:30 March 4 or (5th for makeups)

Manteca Elementary - ONLY for grades 2-8: April 8,9,10,11 : 10am-apx 1pm

Manteca High School - ONLY for grades 9-11: April 1,2,3: 10am-apx 2pm

OAKLAND:

Rockridge Library
5366 College Ave
Oakland, CA 94618

Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Leslie Scatchard

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th grades: March 4th only: 12:30-2:30

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11:

March 28th 12- 4:30, April 2nd 10-2, April 9th 10-2

SAN ANDREAS AREA:

Community Covenant Church
261 Treat Ave.
San Andreas, CA95249

Test Site and PFT Coordinator: Carlyn Carella

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - 10am-apx.11:30 March 4th only

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx 2 pm, April 1,2,3

SAN JOSE :

Latimer Elementary School
4250 Latimer Ave
San Jose, CA 95130

Site Coordinator: Lisa Mastroianni

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th gr. - March 4th only: Noon-1:30

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: March 24, 25, 26 10am-apx 2pm

STOCKTON:

San Joaquin County Office of Education
Education Service Center (ESC Building)
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton, CA. 95206

Test Site Coordinator: Anita Madoski

Physical Fitness Test Coordinator: Jessie Vickers

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders only: 10am-apx.11:30 - March 4 or (5th for makeups)

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx. 1pm. March 31 April 1, 7,8

TURLOCK:

New Life Christian Center
2918 W. Tuolumne
Turlock, CA 95380

Site Coordinator: Margaret Santiago

Physical Fitness Test Coordinator: Ruth Womack

Dates/Times:

STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders only: 10am-apx.11:30 - **March 4**

STAR Multiple Choice test for grades 2-11: 10am-apx.1pm. **April 1, 3, 8, 10**

Parent Checklist and Guidelines for Success during STAR Testing

Before Testing:

- Post test site letters with dates, location, and schedule in sight
- Post ES phone number and CWCS phone number in sight
- Ask your ES for preparation materials so your student is familiar with the format of "bubbling" their answers on their tests.
- Maintain a regular waking/sleeping schedule so your student is well rested.
- Pack snacks/lunch and water, and books or dry art materials, the night before and put in the car so they are not forgotten.
- Go over Test Schedule with student the night before so student is familiar with the test/s they will be taking the next day.
- Communicate positively about student's participation in testing and the benefits to their school and themselves.
- Be sure to communicate with your ES if there any special circumstances involving your student that may need addressing, and check with your ES before testing begins, in regards to the outcome of that communication. On the day of testing, arrive early and talk with the Test Site Coordinator to make sure your student's needs have been addressed.
- Go over the Student Behavior Policy with your student, including the dress code and make sure they understand the rules and are in compliance with the policy before leaving the house for the test site.
- Remind student (grades 5,7, and 9 only) to dress appropriately on their Physical Fitness Test day and to bring water.

Each Day of Testing:

- If student cannot attend scheduled dates due to Emergency or Illness call your ES immediately. If you can not reach your ES, please call the CWCS office number and let them know the situation: **209-874-1119 x 6**
- Awake early to eat a good breakfast and leave home at an appropriate time, considering weather and traffic, so student arrives 15 minutes before testing. No supervision is available before testing, so please do not bring students earlier
- Encourage students to do their best and have a positive experience

Check in/out process for grades 2-8 (dropping students off is not allowed)

- As mentioned above, arrive 15 minutes early, walk in with your student/s and sign them in on the attendance sheet
- Write your Emergency contact number on the sheet
- Walk your student to their specific room
- Give your student their water, food, and quiet activities (no electronic devices such as ipods, gameboys, etc. are allowed) to bring with them
- Find out where to pick up your student
- Tell your student where you will pick them up and when
- Walk into test site and sign your student out on the attendance sheet at the end of testing

Alternate check in/out process for grades 9-11:

- Parent may drop off student or student drive themselves with a signed letter stating student may arrive and sign in as well as sign out and leave when testing is over without parent/guardian being present.
- Sign in on attendance sheet
- Write an Emergency contact number on the sheet
- Bring water, food, and quiet activities (no electronic devices such as ipods, game-boys, etc. are allowed)
- Students will not be allowed to leave the test site during lunch or breaks
- Sign out on attendance sheet when testing is completed for the day

After Testing:

- Ask student about their testing experience that day
- Ask student what they would change about the testing environment
- Give pertinent feedback to your ES immediately so we can resolve any issues in a timely manner

CWCS Student Behavior Policy 2008

The following rules are to be followed during testing (students will be reminded each day by their test administrator):

- 1) An emergency contact number must be given to the teacher before testing can begin.
- 2) Identified supervising adults must be listened to and obeyed.
- 3) The following dress code must be adhered to: NO bare midriffs, low cut necklines, or clothing with offensive, suggestive, vulgar, inflammatory, or racist messages.
- 4) There is no talking, note passing, or noise making while anyone is testing.
- 5) There is no talking when the teacher is talking (during breaks, quiet talking is allowed).
- 6) Hands are raised for questions.
- 7) Only one student at a time is allowed to leave the room to use the bathroom.
- 8) When tests are finished, students stay in the classroom until all others are finished. Students may bring books or dry art materials to engage in during this time- NO electronic devices such as gameboys, mp3 players, ipods, cellphones, etc. are to be used during this time).
- 9) Respect will be shown for other's personal space and belongings.
- 10) There is no verbal or physical abuse allowed-threatening or violent behavior will not be tolerated.
- 11) Profanity will not be tolerated.
- 12) We are using private property for a school sponsored event and the rules of the facility must also be followed.
- 13) There is no smoking allowed.
- 14) There is no roughhousing allowed.
- 15) Students must stay in their designated areas.
- 16) 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.

CWCS 2008 8th Grade and Senior Graduation Information

We currently have 137 Seniors and 49 Eighth Grade signed up to Participate!



Congratulations to all of those who will be graduating in 2008; you're almost there! How fast the years have flown by and this one will be no exception. CWCS is planning a senior graduation to be held May 15th at 7:00 pm and an 8th grade graduation to be held May 13th at 7:00 pm at the Waterford High School gym. The goal of the CWCS staff is to make these events truly memorable for the graduates and their families and friends. In order to help us achieve our goal there are some important dates that you will need to remember.

Mar. 13	Senior graduation cap and gown order is due
Mar. 27	Deadline to sign up for student performances
Mar. 27	Senior Speeches Due
Apr. 3	Meeting in Waterford for graduation helpers is at 2:00 p.m.
May 13	Graduation practice for 8 th grade is at 4:30 p.m. and 8 th grade graduation is at 7:00 p.m.
May 15	Graduation practice for seniors is at 4:30 p.m. and senior graduation is at 7:00 p.m.

We are making available the opportunity for one or more of the graduating students to give a short, three to five minute speech or performance. All speeches must be received by March 27 at the CWCS Waterford office. Please notify Mary Vinnedge at the CWCS Waterford Office (209-874-1119 Ext. 6 or email mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org) by March 27th 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 209-874-1119 Ext 6. Academic Affairs/Balfour will have a website (www.balfour.com) up and running by Feb 15th, 2008 to order announcements and accessories only! Cap and gowns can not be ordered on the website. You will need to send in the form provided by CWCS directly to Academic Affairs/Balfour.

DEADLINE FOR PLACING YOUR ORDER FOR YOUR CAP AND GOWN IS MARCH 13, 2008. (A CAP AND GOWN IS MANDATORY TO PARTICIPE IN THE SENIOR GRADUATION CEREMONY) FOR ALL ORDERS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 13, 2008, PLEASE SEND MONEY ORDER ONLY AND ADD \$12.00 FOR SPECIAL PROCESSING.

Please return this form with Check or Money Order payable to: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/BALFOUR, 1180 Horizon Drive, Suite C, Fairfield, Ca 94533, (707) 399-9091

Cap and Gown Form:

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/cap&gown08.pdf>

Senior Participation Form:

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/hsgrad08.pdf>

Eighth Grade Participation Form:

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/8thgrad08.pdf>

2008 Graduation/ MCV 2-13-08



Curriculum News

Lori Freeman, Curriculum Director

1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 5 lofreeman@connectingwaters.org



I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful spring season. Just as the outdoor world around us bursts with new life, now is a great time for us to revitalize and renew ourselves! What better way to do this than a little spring cleaning. Yes, I will say it again, spring cleaning! ☺ Take time to browse through old curriculum, lesson ideas, and those stacks of books that you have been saving, “just in case” or “for that perfect project” for which there is never time, again. Although it will take some time to do a thorough review of your teaching materials, once it is done you and your student will benefit many times over from the process.

I do not mean to toss your favorites, but rather to go through and purge out-dated materials or materials that your child has out-grown, as well as prioritize and organize prospective lessons. If you have files of lesson ideas that you have held for over a year and have not used, make a decision to either schedule them in or toss them. By doing the above, you will find it much easier to plan and pull out lesson ideas and materials. This will also insure your student is using the most relevant curriculum.

Grade level content standards were adopted starting in 1997. If you are using materials older than that, they may not follow the content sequence or provide adequate instruction on grade level standards. It is very important that all of our students are instructed daily in their grade level standards so they are prepared for the following grade and can do well on both the STAR and CAHSEE. Both of these exams are used by the state to “grade” how well schools are doing. That our students score well is important. In addition, all students must pass the CAHSEE in order to receive a high school diploma.

There are always those “oldies but goodies” that are a true teaching treasure and will withstand the test of time, so, of course, hang on to these and continue to use them. However, clearing out those “never-seem-to-get-to” lesson ideas and those out-dated materials will leave you and your work space revitalized and refreshed, and allows your student’s learning to flourish.

Organizational Tips:

- Sort by subject (reading/language arts, math, science, history, art, music, and so on.)
- Purge all out-dated or “out-grown” materials
- Prioritize – if it hasn’t been touched in over a year, make a decision to schedule the lesson before the end of this school year, or toss
- Label all materials or place in file folders; place a star * and the grade # on lessons that provide grade level standards instruction so they are taught first
- Organize your materials in boxes, file cabinets, or shelves (by subject) so lesson planning is easier and information can quickly be pulled
- Upkeep – plan a yearly summer purge to keep your materials current and prevent overload; file all new materials where they belong

As always, if you have any questions regarding curriculum, please e-mail me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org I am also available on the 2nd and 4th Monday to meet in person at the Modesto Learning center from 10-12:30.

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department classes are going great! All students have caught on to the new technology and it is really amazing what we can do online as a class. We are currently planning our course schedule for next year, and should have it finalized in the next few weeks. If you have a student who is interested in joining an online Elluminate course for next year, please have your ES check for the times and availability. If you have any questions regarding the Social Studies Department or its classes, please feel free to contact me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org

Curriculum Library News

Our new electronic library system has been a great success this year! Families and ESs are able to check if a book is available online, as well as reserve items for future pick-up. It also allows us to keep track of our school curriculum, which helps with our budget and ordering needs. We want all families to have access to our learning center library curriculum and have set up guidelines to insure that everyone can enjoy using our library materials. Please take note of the following important dates and check-out policies:

March 14th ~ Last day to check out library items

May 30th ~ All library items are due – please return books to appropriate learning center

Summer School Check-out ~ April 1st – May 30th / Parent or student must present Student Agreement; books due back Sept. 15th

August 4th-5th ~ Library check-out begins for new and AESS students

August 6th ~ Library check-out for returning students

NEWS FROM THE LANGUAGE ARTS CORNER

Terry Souza, Language Arts Specialist

1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 4 tsouza@connectingwaters.org

Hello All,

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY! HOORAY!!!

This month try some Literary Responses with your students. Literary Responses are at all grade levels. So try them out and have some fun.

For example:

Describe the structural differences of various imaginative forms of literature including fantasies, fables, myths, legends and fairy tales.

Identify the main events of the plot, their causes and the influences of each event on future actions.

READING WILL EXPAND YOUR MIND AND TAKE YOU ON NUMEROUS ADVENTURES.

The Fourth grade writing assessment is approaching fast. If you need some guidance or help in prepping for the assessment please let me know.

We will continue to have an "open door" policy which means that if you need help please feel free to ask us. We are here to help you and your children be successful and become life long learners.

Check out the California Department of Education's website for a list grade appropriate Literacy books for your child.

Here are a few website recommendations for reading and writing activities: www.trackstar.org And then log onto the track of the month.

Also, here are a few books that offer inspiration and tips on the craft of writing.

Nonfiction Passages with Graphic Organizers for Independent Practice in Reading and Writing.

Happy Reading!

The STAR WRITING EXAM FOR ALL 4TH AND 7TH GRADERS IS NEXT WEEK!
March 4th & 5th (make-ups) <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/2008/starsite08.htm>

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE 4TH AND 7TH GRADE WRITING ASSESSMENT

1. 4TH AND 7TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO WRITE ON ONE OF THREE GENRES OF WRITING.
 - NARRATIVE
 - SUMMARY
 - RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

CLUE: IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO READ FIRST YOU ARE EITHER BEING ASKED TO WRITE A SUMMARY OR RESPONSE TO LITERATURE.

GO DIRECTLY TO THE WRITING DIRECTIONS AND LOOK FOR THE WORD **SUMMARY OR RESPONSE TO LITERATURE**. THIS WILL LET YOU KNOW WHAT INFORMATION TO NOTE WHILE YOU ARE READING.

SUMMARY: 5 PARAGRAPHS TITLE, SETTING, CHARACTERS, PROBLEM, SOLUTION.

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE: 2 PARAGRAPHS SUMMARY, LESSON LEARNED FROM READING STORY/PERSONAL CONNECTION

CLUE: IF THERE IS NO STORY TO READ THEN YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO WRITE A NARRATIVE. THERE WILL BE A STORY STARTER SIMILAR TO OUR WRITING PROMPT STORY STARTERS

NARRATIVE: 4 PARAGRAPHS INTRODUCTION, THEN, NEXT, LAST.

2. **ALWAYS BEGIN WITH A GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ANY WRITING YOU ARE ASKED TO DO.**

SUMMARY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER SAMPLE:

1. TITLE NOTE 4 ONE WORD DETAILS
2. SETTING NOTE 4 ONE WORD DETAILS
3. CHARACTERS NOTE 4 ONE WORD DETAILS
4. PROBLEM NOTE 4 ONE WORD DETAILS
5. SOLUTION NOTE 4 ONE WORD DETAILS

USE THE ONE WORD DETAILS TO WRITE SENTENCES FOR YOUR PARAGRAPHS.

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER:

1. SUMMARY NOTE TITLE, SETTING, CHARACTERS, PROBLEM, SOLUTION IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH. NOTE 1 WORD DETAILS.
2. MORAL/LESSON NOTE LESSON LEARNED AND MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO STORY.

NARRATIVE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER:

1. BEGIN WITH STORY STARTER NOTE 5 ONE WORD DETAILS DESCRIBING PLACE, CHARACTERS, PROBLEM.
2. NEXT NOTE WHAT HAPPENED USING 5 WORD DETAILS
3. THEN NOTE HOW THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED
4. CONCLUSION: REPEAT INTRODUCTION WITH CLOSING STATEMENTS.

3. **USE THE EDITING PROCESS. AFTER YOU WRITE YOUR ESSAY GO BACK AND REREAD. FIX SPELLING ERRORS, SENTENCE STRUCTURES, PUNCTUATION.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WEB SITE. THIS SITE PROVIDES GRADE LEVEL SAMPLE WRITINGS AND RELEASED WRITING PROMPTS THAT HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME.

TERRY SOUZA, LANGUAGE ARTS SPECIALIST
CONNECTING WATERS

tsouza@connectingwaters.org or 1 800 808 9895 Ext 4, then Ext 4

Math Department News

Debbie Kutz, Math Specialist

1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 3 dkutz@connectingwaters.org



STAR Tests

Doing a good job with your daily studies is one of the best ways to prepare for the STAR Tests. However, some additional review and practice with testing strategies is also helpful. There are many resources such as workshops, personal tutors, test-prep workbooks, and Testtools.com online (CAHSEE), Department of Education Released Questions, and Benchmark Exams. Keep up the good work and do your best on the tests!

Math Fun

If you need a break from the textbook, try playing cards. Playing cards are a great way to practice basic math facts. The age-old game of "War" can be used with young children to reinforce number sense. You can ask them, "Which card has the greater number?" When students begin to add, the game can be changed to "Addition War". For this game, each player turns over two cards (or more), and adds them. The player with the greater sum collects all of the cards for that round. "Multiplication War" and "Integer Addition War" are other variations of the game. The possibilities are many, and of course, if you don't like the name of the game, you can change that too!

Math Contest

The CWCS math team is coming together. We will be participating in the High School Math Competition on Saturday, April 12 at CSU, Stanislaus. We are still in need of a Pre-Calculus or Calculus student. This should be a challenging and fun event!

Drop-In Math Coaching

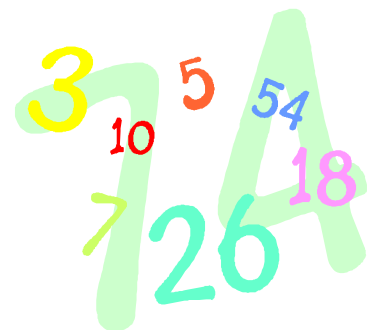
Free math coaching for all ages will continue all semester at both learning centers. The times are listed below. This is a study hall format where students bring math assignments to work on and ask specific questions as time allows. Parents may also attend and bring content-related questions.

Ceres Learning Center

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 (Note time change from the first semester)

Modesto Learning Center

Wednesdays 1:40-3:40



SUMMER SCHOOL! SUMMER SCHOOL! SUMMER SCHOOL!

Connecting Waters Charter School will be offering summer school for currently enrolled students. Summer school dates are Tuesday, May 27, 2008, through Tuesday, July 8, 2008.

After March 15th, you may contact your current ES and ask him/her to submit the necessary form (Summer School Request Form). There is a cap on the number of students who may enroll, so please enroll as soon after March 15th as possible. Students must complete 4 hours of school per day, but may do so by completing work in more than one course or growth area.

The summer school ES meets with the parent/student once each week to collect all the work that was completed during the previous week and to provide instruction and guidance as needed. The entire summer's work is compiled into the student's summer school portfolio and submitted at the end of summer school.

Looking forward to a great summer school session,
Dr. Rolff Christensen
Summer School Coordinator

WorldStrides

GREAT NEWS for those of you who thought you'd missed your chance to visit Washington D.C. with friends from the Connecting Waters community: we've decided to postpone the trip until Spring Break of 2009. That gives you a whole year to plan and prepare for what should prove to be the experience of a lifetime!!

Here are just a few of the sites you'll see:

- The Capitol...see the Rotunda and Senate & House chambers
- White House...visit the most famous house in America
- Lincoln Memorial...pay tribute to our 16th president and read his famous Gettysburg Address
- Arlington National Cemetery...see the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Eternal Flame at JFK's gravesite, and the Challenger Memorial.
- Smithsonian Museums
- And much, much more!!!!

WHO CAN GO? 8th – 11th grade students, parent chaperones, Connecting Waters teachers and staff

Come by our table at Open House and pick up an information packet. There will be a meeting to discuss this unique opportunity in the weeks ahead....watch for news about where and when.

Program Leader: Shanda Rickman
(209) 380-8745 or srickman@connectingwaters.org

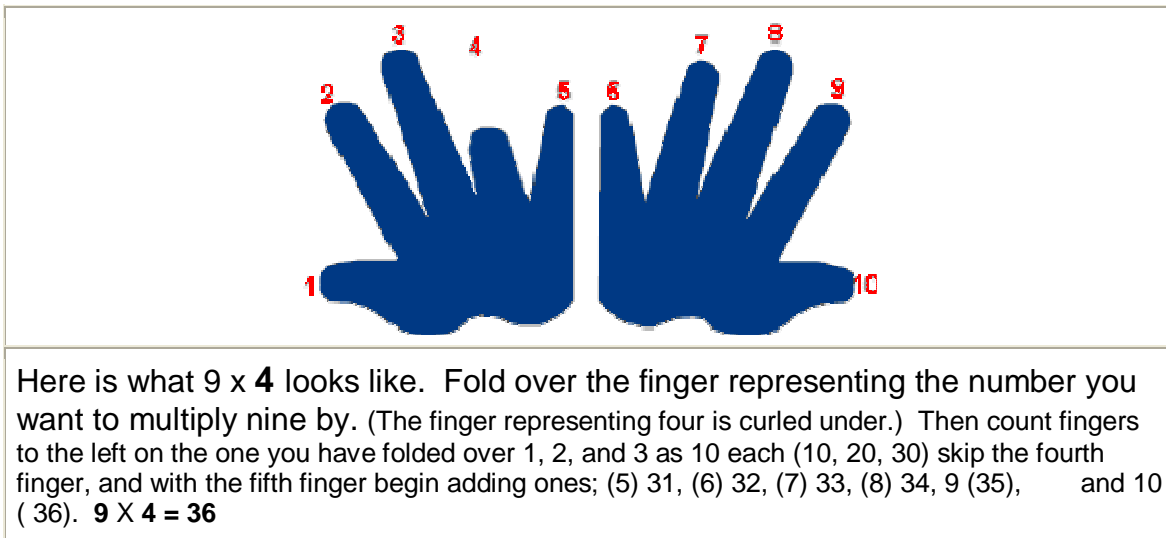
For more information about WorldStrides, the accredited student educational travel organization with which we have chosen to partner, please visit www.worldstrides.org where you can view sample itineraries and video clips. And don't forget to visit the new Student Center while you're there for tons of information, photos, and testimonials from other students who have visited our nation's capital.

DON'T MISS OUT THIS TIME.....SEE YOU IN D.C.!

Math Made Easy from your Special Education Department

Some fun tricks to help with math facts during the upcoming STAR testing

Multiplication by 9s: Use your hands to help you solve multiplying by nines (up to 9 X10), hold both hands up in front of you. What ever number you want to multiply by nine, count that many digits over from the left. For example: 9X4...count over 4 digits, hold that digit down and all the fingers in front of it are tens and all of the fingers after it are ones. So, 3 tens is 30 and 6 ones is 6, the answer is 36!



Here is a great website that shows the lattice method for multiplication with double digit (or more) numbers. It is a wonderful tool for kids who have trouble lining up those larger numbers.

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/times-tables/times-tables-lesson-lattice-multiplication-1.html>

Divisibility: To find out if a number is divisible by 3 you can add the digits of the number and if it is a multiple of 3 it is divisible by 3. Example: 642 Add the digits $6+4+2=12$: Since 12 is a multiple of 3 then 642 is divisible by 3

Here are some more quick divisibility tests:

2: If the last digit is even, the number is divisible by 2.

4: If the last two digits form a number divisible by 4, the number is also.

6: If the number is divisible by both 3 and 2, it is also divisible by 6.

Mental Math Tips: When adding larger numbers mentally, a great way to do it is to break down the number by place value. For example, to get the answer to $55+47$ mentally, break it down to $50+ 40= 90$ and $5+7= 12$, then add $90 + 12$ and the answer is 102

Outdoor Science School

It is time to sign up for Outdoor Science School. Deadline to sign up is February 29, to allow time to plan for the appropriate number of counselors.

We are going the week of March 17-21, 2008. This will be during CWCS Spring Break so it won't conflict with STAR testing. We will again be going to Mount Hermon, located in the mountains above Santa Cruz. The cost will be approximately \$265. We will be at Ponderosa Camp, located in the middle of the forest. It is used for their children's camps in summer. The camp has a heated swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball, a recreation field, ping pong tables, and rock climbing. There will be 1 counselor for each cabin (5-7 students). One teacher from our school will also be there to help supervise, give out medication, and make sure everyone has a good week. Parents are responsible for getting their student(s) there and back. All participants need to arrive at 9:30-10:30 on Monday morning and be picked up at 10:30 on Friday. We will be there with another school. You may send your 5th or 6th graders.

There is a wealth of information about the camp at: <http://www.mounthermon.org/outdoor> (When viewing the site, note that we are NOT attending homeschool camp).

To reserve your space for this activity, please have your ES sign you up in webfiles by February 29 (GEA #11556) and then e-mail Cathy Moretto, cmoretto@connectingwaters.org, with the following information:

Parent Name

Student Name(s) and Grade(s)

Home Phone Number

ES Name



Once you are signed up, you can access the following forms through the parent information tab at the above address, then scroll down to student forms.

Student Contract
Student Publicity Permission Form
Prescription Medication Form (if applicable)
Health Emergency Information Form

In addition, please fill out and send an Educational Activities Permission Slip [Connecting Waters Forms](#)

Please send all completed forms to Cathy Moretto, 772 Cypress Street, Manteca CA 95336-2702.

Thank you,

Cathy Moretto

CWCS Outdoor Science Camp Coordinator, cmoretto@connectingwaters.org

CWCS Student News



Leah Bateman, a Connecting Waters student, will be performing as Helen Keller in Sierra Repertory Theatre's performance of "The Miracle Worker". The production runs from February 22-March 16 at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia. Tickets are between \$15-\$28. For tickets, you can call 532-3120 or go to www.sierrarep.org (Funds may not be used for this event)

I.E.M. Seeking Parent Success Stories

Have you and/or your child overcome significant academic obstacles? Has your school found creative solutions to challenges that at one time inhibited your child's educational experience?

Innovative Education Management, a leader in the charter school movement, is looking for parent-driven success stories. We're producing a documentary on the power of parents...emphasizing that one motivated parent can make all the difference in the world.

Parents, tell us your story. What motivated you to get involved? How did your child feel about your involvement? What challenges did you face? What kept you going? What's changed for your child?

Teachers, program and organizational leaders...we want to hear from you, too. What challenges have you faced? What have you learned? What advice can you give? What impact has your success had on your kids, on the community?

Why are your stories so important? Because there are literally thousands of kids falling through the cracks...with thousands of parents not knowing what to do to help. Your story can make the difference.

To tell your story, contact Michelle Payne at mpayne@ieminc.org, or call her at 916-608-1812 by May 1st 2008.



We are setting up the filming schedule and are in the process of collecting stories.

Thanks!!

Raleys/NobHill Quality Of Life Card Fundraiser

Connecting Waters is enrolled in the Raleys/Nob Hill Quality of Life Program. Raleys will give our school 1-4% back on your total when you show the Quality of Life Card at time of purchase. Cards are available for pick-up at the Waterford office or the Learning Centers. Cards must be activated over the internet. Money raised will be used for incentives for the Accelerated Reader Program or other school activities.

Boxtops for Education Fundraiser



Connecting Waters is enrolled in the Boxtops for Education Program. For every Boxtops coupon sent in, General Mills pays us 10¢. Coupons are located on products from General Mills, Chex, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Ziplock, Scott, Kleenex, Cottonelle, Hefty, and many more. Collection boxes are located at the Waterford Office and the Learning Centers. You may bring in your coupons or mail them to the centers. Money raised will be used for STAR testing incentives or other school activities.



Accelerated Reader- Over 100,000 Quizzes!

Connecting Waters students have access to more than 100,000 Accelerated Reader quizzes and all new quizzes as they are created. The Accelerated Reader program was designed to:





*Help students become excited about books. Accelerated Reader helps students in grades K-12 focus attention on careful reading of books, which improves a student's critical-thinking skills and builds an intrinsic love of reading. At this time, parents will be the ones to reward their students for points earned and goals met.

*Obtain reliable, objective information. Quizzes give you valuable data on students, library book reading, literacy skills development, and more. Quizzes are accessed on your home computer through an Internet connection.

*Help every student master standards. Accelerated Reader helps raise scores on state tests and ensure mastery of standards. Research proves it!

*Keep each student challenged. Using Accelerated Reader, you can continuously guide students to appropriate books and curriculum. This means you can ensure that every student is challenged without being frustrated. The parent can set goals for the average percent correct, points earned, and average book level read.

Accelerated Reader offers four types of Quizzes:

-  Reading Practice Quizzes ask literal questions that measure a student's comprehension of a book.
-  Recorded Voice Quizzes allow beginning readers to take quizzes on their own because these quizzes include professionally narrated audio.
-  Literacy Skills Quizzes ask higher-level questions that require students to apply twenty-four specific reading skills most often assessed on standardized tests.
-  Vocabulary Practice Quizzes help students develop a larger vocabulary.

To try sample quizzes, go to: <http://www.renlearn.com/ar/quizzes/default.htm>. Choose the quiz type from the column on the left. You may search for specific quiz titles or book level lists at http://www.renlearn.com/store/quiz_home.asp

If you would like to sign up for Accelerated Reader, e-mail Cathy Moretto at cmoretto@connectingwaters.org with the following information:

Parent names and parent code

Student name(s) and student number(s)

Student grade(s) and gender(s)

ES Name



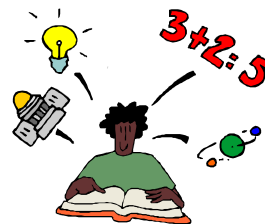
Accelerated Reader is free to the first 250 students who sign up!

MathFacts in a Flash

Developed by the creators of Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math, **MathFacts in a Flash** software helps you give students at all levels valuable practice on their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. The program also provides practice on other mental math skills, including squares and fraction/decimal conversion.

With **MathFacts** in a Flash you can:

- * Assure mastery of math facts and computational fluency by allowing students to work at their own levels to maximize learning.
- * Motivate students in all grades to practice and improve their math skills mastery.
- * Eliminate paperwork and record-keeping tasks -- never hand-score another timed math test again!
- * Address 44 levels in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, squares, and more!
- * Reduce problem-solving frustration by dramatically improving computational skills.
- * Monitor student and class progress with timely, reliable feedback and valuable performance data.



MathFacts in a Flash software runs on a web-based server, which can be accessed by any Macintosh or Windows computer that meets system requirements.

MathFacts in a Flash also offers flash cards, worksheets, and charts that you can print and reproduce for your students to use for additional practice. These include:

Addition to 10 Chart This chart can help students practice and learn their addition facts from 0+10 through 10+10.

Count by Fours Worksheet This worksheet can help students practice and learn to count by fours from 4 - 100.

Count by Threes Worksheet This worksheet can help students practice and learn to count by threes from 3 through 99.

Even Numbers Worksheet This worksheet can help students practice and learn the even numbers from 2 through 100.

Hundred Chart This chart lists all the numbers from 1 through 100. It makes it easy for students to learn number sequences from 1 to 100.

Level Practice Flash Cards These are flash cards from a level you choose. Students can cut the flash cards apart and use them to practice their math facts. **Note:** Every time you generate the flash cards, the problems will be presented in a random order.

Level Practice Worksheet This is a worksheet with math problems from a level you choose. You can also choose whether the problems are presented in a vertical or horizontal format. **Note:** Every time you generate a worksheet, the problems will be presented in a random order.

Multiplication by 12 Chart This chart can help students practice and learn their multiplication facts from 0x0 through 12x12.

Odd Numbers Worksheet This worksheet can help students practice and learn the odd numbers from 1 through 99.

Random Numbers Worksheet This chart lists numbers from 1 through 100 with random numbers missing. It can help your students learn number sequences from 1 to 100. **Note:** Every time you generate this worksheet, it will have different numbers missing.

This program is free to the first 250 students

To sign up, e-mail [Cathy Moretto \(cmoretto@connectingwaters.org\)](mailto:cmoretto@connectingwaters.org) with the following information:

ES Name

Parent name and Parent Number

Student name and Student Number (Numbers are on Attendance or General Info Sheet, or from your ES)

Student Grade level and gender

Ceres Learning Center

Melissa Valdez, Program Coordinator

Bev Harris, Micheal Stanion, & Julie Hutto Site Clerks

3641 Mitchell Road Suite F, Ceres, CA 95307

Hours M-F 9:00 – 4:00 ~ 209-541-1531 or 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 1

Dates to Remember



March 3/17 - 3/21

No classes Center closed

Scantron Proctoring

The Ceres LC continues to proctor the Scantron test on Mondays and Fridays through Friday, March 14. Remember that this test is mandatory for students in grades 2 - 12. Appointment times available are: 9:30 am, 11:30 am, and 1:30 pm. Appointments are required so call the center today to set yours up!



CAHSEE Math Prep at CLC

CAHSEE Math Prep classes will begin at CLC in early April to assist students in preparing for the May CAHSEE Math test. The instructor is Mark Perez. The worktext is provided. If you are interested ask your ES to sign you up. And remember, all seniors who have not yet passed the CAHSEE test are required to be enrolled in a CAHSEE prep course! The dates and times for the class are as follows:

Mondays and Wednesdays:

April 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30

Time: 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm

CP#: 13052test

Cost: TBA – Watch for Listserv

Science Explorers at CLC

Julie Hilbert continues her once a month Science Explorers class at the Ceres Learning Center. Each month has a different theme. March's theme is "Kicks Up a Storm" and will be held on Wednesday, March 5th from 9 - 11 am. It is open to grades K through 5. You must be registered to attend this class so let your ES know right away if you would like to attend. The CP number is 12898 and the cost is \$7.15 per student.

Guitar Lessons at CLC

Daniel Harris has openings for guitar lessons at Ceres LC on Fridays. Lessons are 30 minutes long and cost \$15 per session. If you are thinking about learning a new instrument or want to improve your current abilities, sign up for lessons today! If interested, you may e-mail Daniel at daniel_harr@hotmail.com



ES Appointments

ESs can e-mail or stop by the center to add in their appointments for semester 2. Please remember when e-mailing for appointments that your appointment day/time is not on actually on the schedule until you get an e-mail confirmation from the center. Of course, walk-ins or last minute appointments are also welcome. While we usually have space for walk-ins, we cannot guarantee availability, so it is always best to call on your way in. We always do our best to accommodate everyone!



Computer Lab appointments

A reminder for those of you who use the lab for online classes, etc: we will continue proctoring Scantron at CLC so the lab may be full on Mondays and Fridays through March 14. Also, special programs needed for your online classes may not be installed on the lab computers. Please check in advance with the center staff if a certain program will be required to view a video during class.

Ceres Learning Center

Spring 2008 classes as of 2/22/08, this is a TENTATIVE list for Spring. Classes and info are subject to change.

TIME	CLASS	GRADE	START DATE	# OF CLASSES	INSTRUCTOR	COURSE #	APPROX. PRICE	END DATE
MONDAY								
9:00 – 10:00	Institute for Excellence in Writing	3 - 12	1/14/08	12	C. Silva	12282	\$99	5/5/08
10:05–11:05	CAHSEE English Prep	9 - 12	1/14/08	12	C. Silva	12283	\$84	5/5/08
12:45-2:00	Sewing	3-6	1/7/08	15	A. Rogers	12633	\$187.50	5/12/08
12:00 -2:00	CAHSEE Math Prep*	9-12	4/7/08	8	M. Perez	13052	TBA	4/30/08
2:15-3:30	Sewing	7-12	1/7/08	15	A. Rogers	12634	\$187.50	5/12/08
TUESDAY								
9:00 – 10:30	Pre-Algebra**	7-12	1/8/08	34	D. Kutz	12284	\$255	5/15/08
10:35 -12:05	a-g Algebra 1**	8-12	1/8/08	34	D. Kutz	12285	\$255	5/15/08
12:00-12:55	Spanish 1**	9 - 12	1/8/08	34	B. Monroe	12286	\$140.17	5/15/08
1:00 – 1:55	Spanish 2**	9-12	1/8/08	34	B. Monroe	12287	\$190	5/15/08
12:30 – 2:30	Drop In Math Tutoring	7 - 12	1/8/08	17	D. Kutz	N/A	FREE	5/15/08
WEDNESDAY								
9:00 - 9:45	Beg. Story Time	K-3	2/27/08	7	B. Harris	12951	\$66.35	4/23/08
10:00-10:45	Arts~N~Crafts K-3	K-3	2/27/08	7	B. Harris	12952	\$76.35	4/23/08
11:00-11:45	Adv. Story Time	K-3	2/27/08	7	B. Harris	12953	\$66.35	4/23/08
1:00 - 2:00	Home Ec	6-12	2/27/08	9	B. Harris	12954	\$76.45	5/7/08
12:00-2:00	CAHSEE Math Prep*	9 - 12	4/7/08	8	M. Perez	13052	\$52.44	4/30/08
THURSDAY								
9:00 – 10:30	Pre-Algebra**	7-12	1/8/08	34	D. Kutz	12284	\$255	5/15/08
10:30 -12:00	a-g Algebra 1**	8-12	1/8/08	34	D. Kutz	12285	\$255	5/15/08
12:00 – 1:00	Spanish 1**	9 - 12	1/8/08	34	B. Monroe	12286	\$140.17	5/15/08
1:00 – 2:00	Spanish 2**	9-12	1/8/08	34	B. Monroe	12287	\$190	5/15/08
FRIDAY								
9:00-10:15	Sewing	3-6	1/11/08	17	A. Rogers	12635	\$210.50	5/16/08
10:30 -11:45	Sewing	7-12	1/11/08	17	A. Rogers	12636	\$210.50	5/16/08
11:45 – 1:45	Algebra 1	9-12	1/11/08	18	J .Pelczynski	12298	\$180	5/16/08
2:00 – 4:00	Algebra 2	9-12	1/11/08	18	J. Pelczynski	12299	\$252	5/16/08

* Mon/Wed Classes **Tues/Thurs Classes

Individual Music Lessons:

Please contact the instructor to work out a day and time. Instructor will then contact the CLC Coordinator to set up the CP for your student and then your ES will be notified that it is ready for sign up. Piano lessons are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Guitar lessons are held on Fridays.

Piano Lessons: Shawn Smith at 496-0406 **Guitar Lessons:** Daniel Harris at daniel_harr@hotmail.com

Modesto Learning Center News

Lori Porter & Shanda Rickman: Program Coordinators
Alysia Ayala, Rebecca Berringer, & Debbie Turner: Site Clerks
4713 Greenleaf Ct, Suite A, Modesto, CA 95356

Spring is here at the Modesto Learning Center with classes in full swing and test prep about to begin. Please take advantage of what there is to offer in these last three months of school.

Dates to Remember

March 4th- Open House @ **Waterford HS**, 6:30 p.m.
March 14th- Last day for Scantron proctoring at MLC
March 17th- 21st- MLC closed for spring break

What Happens at the Modesto LC?

- ▶ Resource and lending library of instructional materials
- ▶ Contract Program Classes
- ▶ Tutoring Sessions
- ▶ Intake Enrollment
- ▶ Student ID Cards
- ▶ Back-To-School Night
- ▶ Computer Use
- ▶ Fax for School-Related Business
- ▶ Copies for school use
- ▶ ES/Parent Meetings
- ▶ Sign up for events
- ▶ Testing
- ▶ ES Meetings
- ▶ IEP meetings
- ▶ Work Permit Forms
- ▶ Testing
 - ▶ AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!

It's Not Too Late!

We have had a wonderful selection of classes this semester. There are a few classes students can still sign up for. As you ES and refer to the spring class schedule if you're interested in signing up for the following:

CAHSEE English Prep
Story Time K-3
Art
Story Time – Adv. K-3
Arts – N – Crafts
Hands On Science



See page 20 for more details!



Star Test Prep- Free!

Each workshop will provide practice tests, success strategies for standardized tests, content review for common problem areas, and testing time management skills.

Modesto Learning Center

Tuesday, March 4th, Grades 2-3
9:30 – 11:15 am – CP# 12969

Thursday, March 6th, Grades 4-6
9:30 – 11:15 am – CP# 12971

Tuesday, March 11th, Grades 7-8
9:30 – 11:15 am – CP# 12972

Sign-up with your ES, student materials will be provided.

Benchmark Exams

Printed Benchmark Exams are always available for parents or ESs to take at the Modesto Learning Center. You can also bring them back to be scanned. This is a great (and free) way to practice for the upcoming STAR assessments.



Modesto Learning Center

Prospective **Spring '08 Class Schedule** as of 1-8-08

****This is a tentative list for the Spring; Classes, price and or/times are subject to change****

Time	Class	Grade	Start/End Date	# of Classes	Instructor	Course #	Approx. \$
MONDAY							
10:00-12:30	Curriculum Hrs.	All	2 nd & 4 th Mon.	----	L. Freeman	-----	-----
9:00-10:00	A-G English	9 th – 12 th	1/14-5/12	18	D. Howard	12787	\$140.87
10:05 – 11:05	CAHSEE English Prep	11 th – 12 th	2/11 – 5/12	13	D. Howard	12262	\$106.37
11:10 – 12:10	A-G English	9th-12th	1/7-5/12	18	D. Howard	12260	\$140.87
12:00-1:00	Fast Track IEW Writing Support	3 rd – 12 th	1/7 – 5/3	13	C. Silva	12545	\$104.65
1:15 – 2:15	Fast Track IEW Support	3 rd – 12 th	1/7 – 5/3	13	C. Silva	12625	\$104.65
TUESDAY							
10:00-11:00	Benchmark Essay Writing	7-8	1/8- 5/6	15	T. Matranga	12277	\$128.38
12:00-1:00	Benchmark Essay Writing	9-12	1/8- 5/6	15	T. Matranga	12278	\$128.38
11:30 – 3:30	Individual Guitar Lessons	All		-----	D. Quilici***	See Below	\$17 / 30 min.
1:00 – 2:15	Scrapbooking	4th – 8th	2/12 – 3/25	5	J. Severin	12301	\$80.25
2:20 – 3:35	Scrapbooking	9th – 12th	2/12 – 3/25	5	J. Severin	12302	\$80.25
WEDNESDAY							
11:30-3:30	Biology A – Lab Workshop	9 th – 12th	1-9; 2-6; 3-5	3	L. Liege	PO	\$285.00
11:30-3:30	Biology B Lab Workshop	9 th – 12 th	1-16; 2-13; 3-13	3	L. Liege	PO	\$285.00
11:30-3:30	Chemistry Lab Workshop	9 th – 12th	1-30; 2-27; 3-26	3	L. Liege	PO	\$285.00
8:55-10:25	a-g Algebra 1	7-12	1/9-5/14	33 Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12263	\$207.92
10:30-12:00	a-g Algebra 2	9-12	1/9-5/14	33Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12264	\$249.50
12:05-1:35	a-g Geometry	8-12	1/9-5/14	33 Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12265	\$207.92
1:40 – 3:40	Drop in Tutoring	All		All Semester	D. Kutz	-----	-----
THURSDAY							
10:00-12:00	CAHSEE Math Prep	HS	1/15 – 1/31	6 Tue & Thurs	A. Lull	12201	\$60.00
2:30 – 3:15	Home Economics	6 th – 12 th	1/24 – 3/37	9	B. Harris	12925	\$76.45
9:00 – 9:45	Story Time *	K-3rd	3/6 – 5/1	7	B. Harris	12253	\$59.00
9:45 – 10:30	Art *	K – 3rd	3/6 – 5/1	7	B. Harris	12254	\$64.00
10:30 – 11:15	Story Time*	Adv. K-3rd	3/6 – 5/1	7	B. Harris	12255	\$59.00
12:30 – 1:15	Arts n Crafts*	4th – 8th	3/6 – 5/1	7	B. Harris	12256	\$64.00
1:30 – 2:15	Hands on Sci *	3rd – 6th	3/6 – 5/1	7	B. Harris	12257	\$59.00
FRIDAY							
8:55-10:25	a-g Algebra 1	7-12	1/9-5/14	33 Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12263	\$207.92
10:30-12:00	a-g Algebra 2	9-12	1/9-5/14	33 Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12264	\$249.50
12:05-1:35	a-g Geometry	8-12	1/9-5/14	33 Wed & Fri	D. Kutz	12265	\$207.92

**** Contact Instructor before doing the PO's****

Lori Freeman:
lofreeman@connectingwaters.org
 Debbie Kutz:
dkutz@connectingwaters.org
 Leica Liege:
lliege@gmail.com
 Denetrice Howard:
dhoward@connectingwaters.org

David Quilici:
davidquitar@yahoo.com
 Bev Harris:
bharris@connectingwaters.org
 Janie Severin
janiesscrapbookclasses@gmail.com

2008 Connecting Waters Prom!!

May 9th, 2008

Modesto Centre Plaza
Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores welcome!
Bring your friend!

Tickets: \$25.00 ~ Parking: \$5.00
Dress: Formal Attire

Food, Fun, Dancing, Prom King and Queen Crowning, Photos and Memories forever!

For more information contact Ashley Rick, 209-823-8440 or rickjames1960@gmail.com



Prom King and Queen

- Enter the contest and win a crown!
- Send in your age, name, student number and photo
- All contestants' photos will be posted at the Learning Centers with a voting box
- Voting will be anonymous

For more information contact Ashley Rick, 209-823-8440 or rickjames1960@gmail.com

Students bringing a guest must submit a dance request form to the school office by May 7, 2008

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/SchoolPolicies/dancequest.pdf>

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Greeting from the Guidance Department
We are here to help you determine your future academic and career goals!

Mary Halter, School Counselor
Mhalter@connectingwaters.org
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 2

Melissa Cripe, School Counselor
mcripe@connectingwaters.org
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 6

Class of 2008
Attending Community College Next year?
Now is the time to check in with your community college!
You will need to take assessments and attend
orientation meetings!
Start Early, Start Now!!!

MJC Presents:
Spring Fling! 2008
for High School Juniors, Seniors, and their parents!
Free Admission
Saturday April 12th
10am – 2pm
MJC – West Campus

*******CLASS OF 2008*******

FAFSA, FAFSA, FAFSA!!!!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

www.fafsa.ed.gov

What is the FAFSA? The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the application used for all types of federal financial aid – for junior colleges, trade schools, colleges and universities!

Who should apply? All graduating students planning to attend a junior college, trade school, private college, or university

When is it due? California students must file two forms beginning January 1, 2008: a FAFSA and a Cal Grant GPA Verification form by March 2, 2008 to qualify for state sponsored grant programs including Cal Grants. Apply early!!! Don't wait until you have been accepted into a college for you or your parents to file year-end tax returns. You may use estimates from December pay stubs and other end-of-year records which can be corrected later when you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR).

Why apply? Don't assume you or your family makes too much money to get financial aid. You should still file the FAFSA! Many factors affect your financial need such as the number of children in your household in college and the age of your oldest parent. What's more, a number of colleges require their students to submit a FAFSA before considering them for institution-based financial aid.

How do I apply? Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to begin. To start, you will need to get a PIN (Personal Identification Number) by clicking on the "Register for PIN" button then follow the prompts. The student and one parent must set up a PIN. Then, fill out the FAFSA and submit it. If you use a PIN when filing on-line, you don't have to sign and mail in a signature page.

Where do I get the GPA Verification Form? Call Mary Halter at 1-800-808-9895 ext.4 then 2 to request the form. **Forms are not available online, they are only available through the CWCS Guidance Department.**

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



Free scholarship search services - Look for scholarships by type, name, location or field of study at www.anycollege.com , www.iefaf.org and www.scholarships.com. Register at www.fastweb.com , www.collegeboard.com , www.schoolsoup.com and <http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp> for free scholarship matching services and college and career planning tips. ***Never pay for a scholarship search service!***

\$25,000 in Scholarship money from www.cappex.com, the website that tells you which colleges want you before you apply! It's fast, free and easy. Scholarships are available in business, nursing, psychology, English, communications, computer science, political science, education, biology, college tour travel, hardship, cappex promoter, "gpa isn't everything", and cappex college scholarship.

Lot's of scholarships, from \$1,000 up! Check it out at www.zinch.com . Zinch.com empowers high school students to proactively showcase themselves to colleges and universities across the nation. Students create a detailed online portfolio painting a vibrant picture of who they are. In turn, colleges and universities search through the comprehensive Zinch database recruiting students matching their criteria.

JUNIORS....want to get a head start on Federal Financial Aid, ie, the FAFSA????

Go to www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov ...CHECK IT OUT!!!!

San Jose State University Silicon Valley Engineering Scholarship Program will award merit-based scholarships to entering freshmen (**\$20,000**) **majoring in engineering or technology** programs. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and apply by March 7 to SJSU as engineering majors. Scholarship also includes summer internship and faculty mentoring. Find details at <http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/students/scholarships/silicon-valley> .

Call Me Mister – A Teacher Recruitment Program at Clemson University in South Carolina - The mission of the Call Me MISTER National Initiative is to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader, more diverse background. Student participants are largely selected from among under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities The project provides:

- Tuition assistance through Loan Forgiveness programs for admitted students pursuing approved programs of study in teacher education at participating colleges.
- An academic support system to help assure their success.
- A cohort system for social and cultural support.

There are Ten (10) different South Carolina Colleges or Universities participating:

Benedict College, Claflin University, Clemson University, Morris College, South Carolina State University, Greenville Technical College, Midlands Technical College, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, Tri-County Technical College, Trident Technical College.

For more information, go to <http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.htm>

Hispanic Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for graduating high school **seniors** with plans to attend a **two-year or four-year** college full time in Fall 2008. Students enrolling at a two-year college must have plans to transfer to a four-year institution. Award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Postmark deadlines vary, so please check the website. General eligibility requirements are:

- **Hispanic** heritage: Persons descended from Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central, South American or other Spanish Cultures
- U.S. Citizen OR legal permanent resident
- Must submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - FAFSA filing period begins 1/1/08
- Minimum 3.0 GPA

Please check the eligibility requirements for each program and download applications at www.hsf.net .

Veterans Fee Waiver Program: Children of disabled veterans may be eligible for the College Fee Waiver Program. Waiver only applies to California State Universities, University of CA campuses, and CA community colleges. Details may be found at: <http://www.cacvso.org/> .

Save Me a Spot in College contest will award more than \$100,000 in scholarships to over **200 students in grades 6 - 12** in California. To enter, submit a written word, poster and/or TV ad that answers the question "Why should California leaders save me and my peers a spot in college?". Find details and entry forms online at: <http://www.collegecampaign.org/contest/> . **Deadline is March 15.**

The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State allows students who have an existing business to compete for \$5,000. Details and the application are online at http://www.lylescenter.com/scholarships_in_entrepreneurship.php . **Application deadline is April 1.**

California Wine Grape Growers Foundation will award \$500 - \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. **Applicants must be related to someone who is a wine grape grower – recipients may study the subject of their choice.** Scholarships of **\$1,000** will be awarded to students who will attend a UC or CSU campus in Fall 2008. Scholarships of **\$500** will be awarded to students who will attend a 2-year college. Download an application at: www.cawg.org/cwggf . Applications must be **postmarked by April 7.**

Young Native Writers Contest is designed to inspire **Native American high school students** to research and elaborate on historic or contemporary issues affecting their community. It offers all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C. and college scholarships to the top five winning essayists. Contest is open to all Native American Indian and Alaskan Native high school students who are enrolled members of a state- or federally-recognized tribe. Visit www.indian.hklaw.com for details and instructions. **Entry deadline is April 15.**

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.**

Young Cancer Survivors Scholarship Program offers scholarships to students up to age 25 who meet the following criteria: 1) diagnosed with cancer at age 18 or younger, 2) planning to attend a California university, 3) demonstrated financial need. For details and applications, go to: www.cancer.org/scholar . **Deadline April 27.**

SunTrust Off To College Scholarship Sweepstakes – for high school **seniors** – free to enter and eligibility is not based on GPA or financial need. One winner will be chosen every two weeks through May 15, 2008. Apply online at www.offtocollege.info

AES Engineering Solutions will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school **senior** who will attend college in Fall 2008. Winner will be selected based on **character**, as determined by applicants' essays. Students are not required to take Engineering courses to be eligible. Find instructions online at <http://www.aesengineers.com/scholarships.php> . **Entry deadline is September 15, 2008.**

Don't Get Scammed

Look for the following signs that a scholarship search may be a scholarship scam!

1. **"This scholarship is guaranteed or your money back"**
2. **"You can't get this information anywhere else"**
3. **"May I have your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship?"**
4. **"We'll do all the work."**
5. **"The scholarship may cost some money."**
6. **You have never entered this particular contest and "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship," or "You're a finalist"**

2007-08 SAT and ACT - College Entrance Exam Test Dates and Deadlines

Test	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
ACT (with optional writing)	April 12	March 7	March 21
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests	May 3	April 1	April 10
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests	June 7	May 6	May 15
ACT (with optional writing)	June 14	May 9	May 23

ACT Fees

Basic Registration Fee \$29 (with optional writing add \$14)

SAT Fees

SAT Reasoning \$41.50; SAT Subject Tests are \$18 for basic registration plus \$8 per subject (Language tests with listening are \$19)

To Register:

SAT – www.collegeboard.com

ACT – www.act.org

School Code : 053706

Looking for an SAT or ACT Preparation course???? North Dakota Center for Distance Education, a vendor, has SAT and ACT prep courses online! Cost is \$70 and it goes at your own pace. Go to <http://www.ndisonline.org/>, click on "high school online", then click on "SAT and ACT Preparation Courses".

Careers that don't require college: www.electrifyingcareers.com www.gettech.org
www.armedforcescareers.com www.constructmyfuture.com

Did a meteorite kill the dinosaurs? How do rocks form? Do you enjoy working in the sun? ***Geology may be the right career for you!*** Check out CSU Stanislaus Geology Department website at: <http://geology.csustan.edu/>

Education Pays - Find out the value of an education at: <http://www.bls.gov/emp/emptab7.htm> . Charts show various career paths and your earning potential based on training and education.

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 .

California Colleges, www.californiacolleges.edu has career information, just go there and click the "career button" at the top! The Career section aims to help you identify and prepare for a career that suits your skills, values, interests, and personality. Research shows that people are happier if they make concrete progress toward their goals. The Career section of this website is designed with that progress in mind. Read, explore and utilize this tool to help you discover your dreams as well as to determine, pursue, and attain your goals.

Looking for some online tools to help your child? Check this out:
www.cacareerzone.org – discover your interests, research jobs

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs/Growth Areas)

1. Effective Communicators (Reading/Writing).

"Student will read and write effectively." Student:

- reads actively and derives meaning from written media.
- reads extensively for a variety of purposes.
- writes using grammatically acceptable English.
- adjusts tone and style of writing for purpose and audience.
- supports statements using well-rounded facts, theory, and opinion.
- separates fact from opinion.
- logically reaches conclusions based on sufficient evidence.
- clearly and succinctly states key points.
- organizes ideas in a variety of ways.
- demonstrates creativity through style, organization, and development of content.

2. Technologically and Socially Skilled Individuals

(Life Skills). "Student sufficiently understands and functions in the world around him/her." Student:

- demonstrates involvement in his/her community.
- has knowledge of the reciprocal relationship between the individual and his/her environment.
- demonstrates various skills in seeking employment and/or college admission.
- understands and demonstrates his/her role as an employee, consumer, and financial manager.
- identifies and documents the effects of technology on his/her environment.
- participates in physical activities that develop strength, endurance, and personal fitness.

3. Historically Aware (History). "Student appreciates the history of mankind in all its diversity." Student shows his/her appreciation for history by identifying relationships between past and present events or situations-

- involving cause and effect: people, events, or situations influencing an action or result.
- involving comparison: similarities and differences.
- involving classification: events and situations explained as political, economic, social, and/or intellectual.
- involving anticipation of the future using evidence from the past and the present to draw conclusion about the future.
- involving understanding of the extent of time.
- student applies physical and cultural geography to his/her understanding of societies.

4. Effective Citizens (Political Process). "Student comprehends the political process." Student:

- understands the structures, operations, and relationships of the governments in the United States.

5. Mathematical Thinkers (Math). "Student applies mathematical principles and operations to solve problems." Student demonstrates knowledge of basic skills, conceptual understanding, and problem solving--

- with numbers and operations.
- in geometry and measurement.
- in functions and algebra.
- in statistics and probability.
- student solves problems with problem formulation, problem implementation, and/or problem conclusion.
- student communicates own knowledge of basic skills, understanding of concepts, and ability to solve problems and understand the mathematical communication of others.

6. Scientific Thinkers (Science). "Student applies scientific concepts and skills to explain his/her world and find solutions to its problems." Student:

- observes, compares, orders, and categorizes characteristics and behaviors.
- communicate ideas.
- relates factors of differing objects and events, and infers about unknown or unseen processes.
- applies knowledge and thought processes to explain his/her world and solve problems.
- demonstrates recognition of the interrelationships among the scientific themes (energy, interactions, patterns, change).
- demonstrates recognition of the four spheres (litho-, hydro-, atmo-, eco-).
- recognizes the effects of the sciences, technologies, and societies on one another and on the environment.

7. Lifelong Learners (Special Interests). "Student realizes his/her own unique educational interests, talents, and abilities." Student:

has experience or knowledge in a variety of the arts, trades, professions, languages and other disciplines

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

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.

Survey – Parent Workshop/Training – Feb. 26, 2008

On a scale from 1-5 please rate the workshop presenters:

	1-POOR	2-FAIR	3-OK	4-GOOD	5-EXCELLENT			
Harcourt Elementary Science:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Saxon New California Math:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Accelerated Reader:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Glencoe Foldables:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Glencoe California Products:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Youth Digital Arts CyberSchool:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
ALEKS Online:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Mad Science "Dry Ice":			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Fun Math Activities:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Arts/Crafts:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Randy Gaschler "Charter School Movement":			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Lisa Avila Lap-books/Unit Studies:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Financing Your Education:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
SJCOE ROC/P Program:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Vocational Program MJC & Delta:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Educational & Career Planning:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Test Tools – Virtual Web Demo:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Tutor Vista Demo:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
K12 Demo:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
National University High School Demo:			1	2	3	4	5	N/A

On a scale from 1-5 how would you rate the parent workshop/training? 1 2 3 4 5

Would you attend the workshop/training if it was for 2 days? Yes_____ No_____

If YES, which 2 days of the week would you prefer? Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.

Would you be willing to help organize a workshop for the next school year? Yes_____ No_____

Please provide suggestions for next year's workshop/training:

What vendors would you like to come and display their materials? _____

What vendors would you like to see be a presenter at a future workshop? _____

Optional: Name _____ Phone Number _____

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 July of 2008 and will end June of 2010. 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 12420 Bentley Street, Waterford, CA 95386, faxed to 209-874-9531, or emailed to kjohnson@connectingwaters.org. **Nomination forms must be received no later than February 29, 2008.**

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