



# Connecting Waters Charter School

Accredited by the Schools Commission of Western Association of Schools and Colleges

12420 Bentley Street  
Waterford, CA 95386

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

(209) 874-1119  
(800) 808-9895

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Lori Porter – Newsletter Layout

Roy Shimp – Newsletter Editor

## Dates to Remember

### First Day of School

August 13, 2008

### Field Day

August 15th

### Labor Day

September 1, 2008

No School

### Student Council

#### Elections

September 18th

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# Welcome to CWCS!

Welcome to our seventh school year! Whether you are a new or returning family, we want you to know that we have a dedicated, highly qualified staff to help facilitate your student's education. Our hope is that you have a fantastic school year!

Your Education Specialist and ES Advisor should be able to answer all of your questions or refer you to someone who can. However, if you have any general questions about the school that need my attention, please do not hesitate to call or stop by the school office. I have an open door policy and welcome your feedback about our wonderful school.

This newsletter is filled with information to which you will be able to refer throughout the year. Read it thoroughly and review it often as it contains information for the entire year from our various departments.

Sherri Nelson • Executive Director

## *Western Association of Schools and Colleges Update*

The Accrediting Commission for Schools and Colleges (WASC) in California conducted their midterm three-year visit on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. A six member team visited our school three years ago and we received a six year accreditation which is an outstanding accomplishment. The visiting team for this midterm visit consisted of two members. The purpose of the visit was to review our progress based on the recommendations that were made to us by WASC and the goals that we set for our school three years ago. Most of our school improvements for student achievement are results of our school goals and their recommendations.

The WASC midterm visiting team reported that we are making great progress

towards our goals and are on target to complete our six year accreditation! They suggested one additional goal which we have added to our initial three goals:

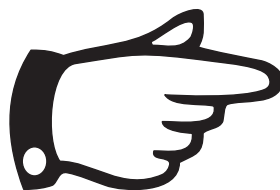
**GOAL 1: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING AND WRITING**

**GOAL 2: IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS**

**GOAL 3: INCREASE STAR STUDENT PARTICIPATION RATE**

**GOAL 4: ASSESS POST GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS**

Don't  
Miss  
These  
Exciting



### Annual Field Day

August 15th, 10:00 - 1:00...details on page 3

### Back to School Night

August 21st, 3:00 ~ 7:00 PM....details on page 3

### Spelling Bee

October 15th , 2:30 MLC...details on page 9

# HQT Online Illuminate Classes

We have received positive feedback about our online courses. This year general courses have been added to our a-g (college prep) online course offerings. All online courses provide direct instruction from our highly qualified teachers. These online courses are just one method by which your student can have access to a highly qualified teacher in the junior high and high school level courses. Here is information about these courses:

## ***When do the classes meet?***

Each class meets at least once a week. Each student is expected to attend each class session or notify the instructor in advance of any absence prior to the class session so the material can be made up. Our HQT online and CP instructors are responsible for providing 100% of the grade. Attendance and participation also make up a percentage of the grade.

## ***What is the parent's responsibility?***

When you enrolled your student in CWCS, you took on the responsibility of making sure that your student fulfills the requirements of our school. As with all courses, you are responsible to ensure your student completes all assignments. You or the ES will check the assign-

ments daily/weekly. If your student has an AESS contract, the ES will check the assignments when they meet with your student. Otherwise, you will check the assignments daily. You or your ES will provide quarterly progress reports of your student's daily progress toward completing the daily assignments.

## ***What materials are we to use?***

Each student must use the material assigned for the class by the instructor and the syllabus and pacing guide that will be provided for each course. The pacing guide has the weekly required assignments. Your student needs a computer, internet access, and headset with a microphone. Your student also needs an e-mail account that they check daily for messages from their instructor.

Your ES can order a headset / microphone with instructional funds.

## ***How do I enroll my student?***

Initially, your ES must enroll your student in the course in the school's database. Once enrolled, your student will need to have an e-mail address by which the ES can contact the student. The ES and parent will be able to log onto Moodle, our bulletin board system, to see their student's progress in the class(es) in which they are enrolled.

## ***What is the cost to the instructional budget?***

There is no cost to the instructional budget for the initial courses that have been set up.



## ***What courses are offered?***

English	Mathematics	History	Science
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	CAHSEE Math Prep	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade U. S. History	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	Pre Algebra	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade World History	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Biology
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	Algebra 1	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History	
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	Algebra 2	Economics	
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	Geometry	Government	
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade English	Pre Calculus		
CAHSEE English Prep			

Space is limited; call your ES to sign up your student today!

## ***What can I do if a class is full or conflicts with our schedule?***

There are other options for your student to access a highly qualified teacher (HQT). Your student may choose to enroll in other online classes from our vendors, attend a class at the learning center or community college, obtain a tutor, or use our HQT Access option.

# HQT Access



The student who chooses this option works independently and does not attend the weekly classes. The student will follow the syllabus, pacing guide, and use the curriculum of our HQT online classes. The math department allows student to either follow class curriculum and syllabus or a curriculum of the student's choice with instructor approval. The other departments that offer this option are: English, Science, Social Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts. The following requirements apply to a student who chooses HQT Access option.

## HQT a-g and General Access 2009

- Each student should have an e-mail account
- Each student must be signed up in FRED, (the school's database), and the student's Instructional Fund Account will be charged the listed fee
- HQT gives the grade with input provided by the ES/parent
- Syllabi will be posted on the CWCS website and in Moodle
- Students should print the syllabus / pacing guides at the beginning of the year and mark their calendars so they can plan their schedules and be aware in advance of the dates and times of class meetings
- Quarterly updates of grades in Moodle can be viewed by ES/Parents
- Monthly portfolio samples as specified by the instructor
- Monthly office hour attendance is required
- Progress reports submitted quarterly by ES (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, & May 1<sup>st</sup>)
- HQT may contact ES or Parent as needed
- Student can not drop after Oct. 2, 2008
- Students will automatically be dropped if they miss two meetings before Oct. 2, after that, absences will be reflected in the final grade

## Meet the Parent Council

Connecting Waters Charter School has twenty-nine (29) parents who are elected to serve on the Parent Council. Each member is elected for a two-year term which is outlined on our charter and the Parent Council By-laws. Your 2008-2009 representatives are: Tina Troglione, President; Toni Wirkkala, Treasurer; members are Bonnie Acree, Lisa Avila, Wanda Azevedo, Rueshan Boone, Kathy Bowman, Kelly Chandler, Bobbie Chimerofsky, Tina Davis, Pamela Conway, Heather Gilchrist, Kathy Jaworski, Loral Kee, Sonja Kluesener, Blake LeBaron, Angel Leverich, Denise Lindvall, Shawna Luciano, Tina Maxin, Laura McCullough, Sheila McGaffee, Terry Nordahl, Melanie Oneth, Holly Sink, Cynthia Soine, Lance Wells, Shelley Windham, and Angela Yee. they are here to serve you.

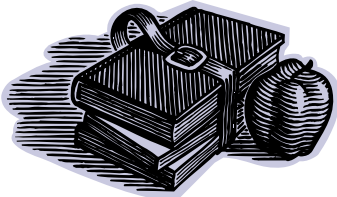
If you have comments or concerns that you'd like addressed, please e-mail them at [parentcouncil@connectingwaters.org](mailto:parentcouncil@connectingwaters.org) or attend one of our meetings and share your concern. Our meetings will be held at Lucille Whitehead Intermediate School Multipurpose Room located at 119 N. Reinway Avenue on September 9, 2008, December 9, 2008, March 10, 2009 and May 5, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.



## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

August 21<sup>st</sup>

At the Modesto Learning Center



Our Back to School Night will be held again at the Modesto Learning Center, 4713 Greenleaf Court, Suite A, in North Modesto. The center is located on Greenleaf off Sisk Road just north of Pelandale.

Please drop in anytime between the hours of 3:00-7:00 pm to meet our Staff and Learning Center instructors and see what we have to offer your students.

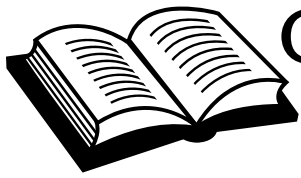
If you have any questions, please contact Lori Porter, [parentsupport@connectingwaters.org](mailto:parentsupport@connectingwaters.org) or call 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 4, then 1.

## Second Annual CWCS field Day

AUGUST 15th, 2008

Field day is a time when students of CWCS come together and enjoy field events and get to know each other. Details are still being planned! The date is **August 15, 2008 from 10:00 -1:00** . Location will be Matt Equino Park in Stockton, CA.

Please contact Neriah Howard at [mrsdhoward4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrsdhoward4@sbcglobal.net) for any questions



# Curriculum News

Lori Freeman • Curriculum Director  
lofreeman@connectingwaters.org  
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 5

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a peaceful summer. The start of the new year can bring up many questions regarding curriculum... what materials will work best with my student? What are my students' grade level standards? How can I tailor a curriculum to best meet my student's needs? And probably the most common question, where do I begin? I am here as a curriculum director to support parents and assist families with any curriculum needs or questions that come up now or throughout the year. I love digging into curriculum or textbooks, creating hands-on projects, developing thematic or subject-specific units, and aligning lessons to our California standards.

I am available on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Modesto Learning Center from 10-12:30, by appoint-

ment. (If needed, we can arrange an alternate time or place.) Together, we can discuss your students' needs, find curriculum, develop standards-aligned lessons, or just share ideas. Many parents struggle with understanding the standards or don't know if their daily instruction is adequately covering them and preparing their student for the STAR and CAHSEE assessments. By meeting in person, we can talk about concerns or questions and develop a plan that can help your student be successful.

The beginning of the school year is the best time to establish goals, determine daily "school" or learning times, and set grading expectations. Often, taking time to set up a routine and consistently following it in the first few weeks of school can save hours of frustration later in the year. The be-

ginning of the school year is also the opportune time to try new curriculum and decide what is working for you and what is not so adjustments can be made. Please take time to review the subject benchmarks for your student's grade and plan your year accordingly. By doing this, you are not only insuring that your student is mastering the objectives set for their particular grade level, but empowering them to be successful when taking the end of the year assessments. You can review these benchmarks on our website at <http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/test/cwbenchass/index.htm>.

Have a wonderful year, and please do not hesitate to contact me at [lofreeman@connectingwaters.org](mailto:lofreeman@connectingwaters.org) to set up an appointment or discuss any curriculum needs you may have.

## NEW!!

### Monthly Curriculum Planning Workshop

Lori Freeman, our Curriculum Director will be hosting a monthly workshop on the 4th Monday of each month at the Modesto Learning Center.

This will be a true "workshop" where parents are invited to bring in materials and work. We will create pacing calendars, plan lessons, and develop unit studies. Parents are welcome to work on any grade level or subject area.

The goal is to establish a set time to plan, share ideas, and have some fun parent time! Our first meeting will be Aug. 25th, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Space is limited to 15. To sign up, please e-mail Lori Freeman at [lofreeman@connectingwaters.org](mailto:lofreeman@connectingwaters.org) or Call 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 4, then 5.

## Social Studies Department News

The Social Studies (SS) Department is looking forward to another great year. We are offering 8th grade US History, 10th grade World History, 11th grade US History, 12th grade Economics, and 12th grade Government.

This year we will have two sections for all high school courses; A-G, for students who plan to attend a four-year college upon graduation, and General, for students who are following a general course of study and who do not want or need A-G credit. All classes meet weekly online.

The SS Dept. teachers are responsible for assigning all lessons and determining final semester grades. All students enrolled in an online course will follow the class syllabus and must purchase the required textbook so they can follow along with class activities and complete their daily lessons.

If your student is unable to attend our online class, they can still have access to a highly qualified teacher and receive, if desired, A-G credit. This year, students can enroll in "Access Courses". Students enrolled in Social Studies Access courses must use the assigned class textbook and follow the Access class syllabus.

In addition, each student must attend a monthly class meeting online, called the "office hour," turn in quarterly assignments assigned by the teacher, and take both the mid-term and final exam or do a project. As with the regular online courses, the SS Dept teacher will determine semester grades.

Our online courses are truly a unique opportunity, and we are excited to be able to provide access to a highly qualified teacher in each subject area for our students. For class times and information, please check out our department links at <http://www.connectingwaters.org/hqt/index09.htm>.

If you have a student who is interested in enrolling, please let your ES know. Space is limited to 15 students per section, and courses are filling up.

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Curriculum

## 1. What should I consider when choosing curriculum for my kids?

When choosing curriculum, there are a few things to consider:

- Curriculum should reflect your child's interest, ability level, and learning style
- Curriculum should be aligned to the CA standards

## 2. What are the California standards and why are they important?

The California standards are a framework of objectives for each grade level and subject area. They provide a baseline of what each child should learn for grades K-12. They were written by the Dept. of Education in order to create equity, consistency, and accountability; all children should receive a high standard of education, regardless of where they attend school. All public schools are required to follow the standards and use them as a guide when designing student lessons.

The California standards are important for several reasons; the standards

- Provide a foundation of what kids should know by the end of each grade level
- Serve as a springboard into further study; you can use the standards to extend learning by developing individualized lessons, creative projects, or real-world experiences
- Provide the concepts that are tested on both the STAR and CAHSEE. The more familiar students are with the standards, the better they will do on these important state tests.
- Our school STAR and CAHSEE scores are the tools the state uses for school accountability and can determine continued funding



## 3. How do I know if I am "covering the standards?"

Many people find the standards confusing and overwhelming. They are not the easiest read and are open to interpretation. One person or publisher may think a standard means one thing, and another person or publisher may think it means something different. Trying to incorporate and effectively cover the standards can leave you feeling frustrated. One solution is to use what is called state-adopted materials. These are textbooks that the Dept. of Education has reviewed and adopted for public school use. This means the textbook or curriculum incorporates all of the required standards. What is neat about using state-adopted materials is that it takes out all the guess-work of "have I covered the standard?" or "what exactly does this standard mean?" The publisher has done all the work for you. By using state-adopted curriculum, students are assured that they have been exposed to and instructed in the standards to prepare them for the next grade level and enable them to do well on the STAR and pass the CAHSEE.

## 4. Do I have to use standards-aligned curriculum or K-8<sup>th</sup> state-adopted materials?

Everyone needs to be using standards-aligned curriculum; however, you do not have to use state-adopted materials. The standards really are basic teaching for most subjects; if you are using a solid curriculum, chances are that most of the standards can be covered. If you discover that a favorite program you use is not aligned to the standards, you will want to supplement weekly instruction with aligned material that will help your student meet their grade level standards. If you are not using state-adopted curriculum, it is really important to use the standards as a guideline as to what content needs to be taught. Although we highly recommend state-adopted curriculum, it is ultimately the parent's choice.

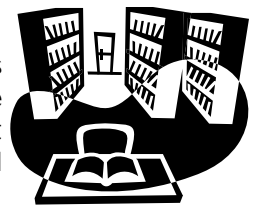
## 5. Is there a publisher or curriculum that CWCS recommends?

Yes, we currently have a suggested curriculum list for all core subjects on the curriculum page of our website at: <http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/csuggest/cwcurrsug.htm>

## Library News

### Available Curriculum

We are happy to share that our shelves are full with wonderful textbooks for all grade levels and subjects! Many textbooks have supplemental or consumable workbooks that are included with the book, or can be ordered. If interested, be sure to ask or take a look at the reference shelf to see what other resources are available. These are all wonderful standards-aligned programs I'm sure families will enjoy.



### Reserve A-G and Textbook Resources

Both learning centers have available for view and use "within-the-center-only" A-G textbooks, sample student textbooks and consumables, and teacher materials. This is a great way for parents and ESes to preview curriculum before purchasing. Parents and ESes can also make copies or use the available software designed for use with their student edition, and not have to purchase the Teacher Edition (TE) or additional resources, which can be expensive. The goal of the reference shelf is to let all interested families and ESes have access to these items.



## English Department News

Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year!

The English Department is looking forward to another wonderful year. We will continue to offer workshops, one on one assessment and curriculum development, Illuminate courses, and CAHSEE, reading/writing, and ELD support for all our parents, students, and for our Educational Specialists. In addition, this year we will be replacing NiceNet with Moodle, a widely used software for creating online courses. It will allow our teachers to develop websites with activities and assignments, and has many other exciting features! The English Department is looking forward to implementing this outstanding software and improving our online courses for you. Please ask your ES for more information about the Illuminate classes. It's going to be a great year! If you have any questions, feel free to call the English Department. Please read to your children, and encourage them to read independently!

Thank you! Teresa Matranga, English Department Chair  
1-800-808-9895 x 4 then, 4



## Math Department News

Welcome back! I hope you had a refreshing summer and are ready to hit the books again, especially the math books! The Math Department is here to assist you in several ways. Here is a brief description of what we have to offer. Be sure to check your listserv announcements and future newsletters for more detailed information.

**Drop-In Coaching:** Weekly sessions at both learning centers are available to all grade levels. Bring your homework and your math questions.

**Family Math Events:** For parents and students, grades K-6, at the Modesto Learning Center. Mark your calendars... Sept. 29—"Number Sense"; Dec. 1—"Algebra and Functions"; Feb. 9—"Measurement and Geometry".

## Curriculum Purchased and Available I.F.

Curriculum for the **Highly Qualified Illuminate Online** and **Access Classes** have been purchased and are available for check out from the learning centers on August 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> for new and AESS students and August 6<sup>th</sup> for returning students.

## Instructional Budget for Student Materials and Courses

The yearly budget for a student who is enrolled the entire school year is:

**K-8:** \$1,800.00 per year | **9-12:** \$2,200.00 per year

The funding is electronically deposited into the Education Specialist's account per semester for each student enrolled.

Debbie Kutz, Math Specialist  
dkutz@connectingwaters.org  
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 3

**Math Competitions:** These are for students studying Geometry through Calculus. We will be taking a team of students to the High School Math Competition on April 25, 2009. For younger students, we are considering the California Math League competition...more information coming soon.

**Learning Center Courses, HQT Online Courses, HQT Access, CAHSEE Prep:** Semester-long courses are available for middle school and high school students, from Pre-Algebra to Pre-Calculus.

**Personal Tutors--** There is a number of approved vendors who provide tutoring services, either in the home or at various public locations or business establishments. Talk to your ES for details.

# K12

By: Lisa Compton

Connecting Waters Charter School is providing its enrolled students in grades K-8 the option of selecting the award-winning K12 Inc. curriculum. We have chosen to offer K12 because of the richness and depth of the content, the alignment to California standards, and the ease of use it offers students and parents.

- The K12 curriculum was developed** by some of the finest education minds in the country—including a Nobel Prize laureate.
- K12 curriculum** is based on proven learning methods, the latest research, and traditional academic content. The virtual program is designed to meet or exceed state academic standards and Placement tests are available to help students start at the appropriate level.
- Materials** – K12 provides instructional materials including textbooks, workbooks, math manipulatives, hard-to-find supplies, science equipment, CDs, and more
- Recommended-** More than 98 percent of virtual school families using K12 would recommend the program to others.
- Parental Involvement** – Parents and students work together each day. Some of this time is spent in direct instruction and some is spent in independent reading or other study activities. The parents are directly involved daily.
- Technology** –Students and parents in grades K–5 do about 15–30 percent of the work online. As students grow older and more self-directed, instruction and activities involve increased computer use, according to education standards.

Learn more about the program by visiting their website at [www.k12.com](http://www.k12.com)

### How to Order:

Parents set up an account on [www.k12.com](http://www.k12.com) and instruct your student to complete the online assessment tests in Language Arts and/or math. The tests can not be repeated or retaken. The results should be immediately **printed** out by the parent and given to their ES since they are not viewable on their end. The results will help you order the correct grade level of curriculum. The ES will determine the correct course grade level placement based on student scores.

K12 is also great option for students here at Connecting Waters because you do not need to order every subject with K12. As a Connecting Waters student, your instructional funds are flexible and may be used in any way that your ES and you agree is appropriate. So one subject, two or more--the choice is yours!

If you have any questions about K12 please feel free to ask your ES or e-mail me at [lcompton@connectingwaters.org](mailto:lcompton@connectingwaters.org).

## Assessment Department Assessment At-A-Glance



<b>CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam):</b> Grades 10, 11, 12 are required to participate. Beginning with the Class of 2006, all public school students will be required to pass the CAHSEE to earn a high school diploma. 10th graders can only attempt one time per year and it must be in the Spring. 11 <sup>th</sup> graders can only attempt two times per year. 12 <sup>th</sup> graders can attempt three times per year.
<b>CELDT (California English Language Development Test):</b> This is a State-required test for English language proficiency that must be given to students in grades K-12 whose primary language is other than English. If the language questions on the CWCS application are answered with any other language than English, those students must be tested within 30 days of enrollment. The CELDT must be given once each year (by October 31) to English Learners until they score proficient in English.
<b>PFT (Physical Fitness Test):</b> Only grades 5, 7, 9 are required to participate. The test window runs from Feb-May. We do the bulk of our testing during the STAR test window for logistical reasons.
<b>STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting):</b> Only grades 2-11 are required to participate.
<b>WRAT (Wide Range Achievement Test):</b> ESes are required to administer the WRAT to their students according to this schedule: Administer the WRAT to each newly enrolling K and 1 <sup>st</sup> grade student within 30 days of initial enrollment in CWCS. Administer the WRAT to each returning 1 <sup>st</sup> grade student.
<b>Scantron:</b> Performance Series is a web-based diagnostic test used in grades 2-12 to pinpoint suggested learning objectives, report progress, and predict performance on standardized tests. The Scantron pretest is administered to all new students at Centralized Intake. Siblings of active students are tested by their ES, who must make arrangements to have them pre-tested within 30 days of their enrollment. All continuing students must be pre-tested in August/September, and post-tested in January-February, prior to STAR.

# Global Student Network



*Looking for a web-based curriculum?  
GSN may be right for you!*

Global Student Network (GSN) is an electronic curriculum that provides an innovative way to interact and teach your student. All course material is delivered via the internet with secure and fully compatible parent control features. The courses are semester and year long offering greater flexibility. The student can work from any where, at any time, and at any pace. Courses are interactive and tailored to fit all learning styles. Unlimited courses can be purchased for \$575 for one full year, or individual courses can be purchased for \$200.

GSN has been working steadfastly to ensure all of their courses meet the California Learning Resource Network (CLRN) standards and approval process. The CLRN review of supplemental electronic learning resources consists of evaluating electronic resources for alignment to state standards approved by CLRN review criteria and includes the following

three major components: California Content Standards Match verification, CLRN minimum requirements review, and legal compliance review. Resources that meet the CLRN review criteria are included in the CLRN database and website. An updated list of the approved CLRN courses can be viewed at [CLRN / GSN](http://www.clrn.org) or via the search feature at [www.clrn.org](http://www.clrn.org). Currently, 80% of the GSN core courses have been successfully reviewed by CLRN, including: Math 3-7, Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, **CAHSEE Math Preparation**, English 3, English 4, English 6-12, Science 3-8, Biology, Physical Science, Government, and World History. \*\*Please note that these courses **may not** cover all of the CA state standards but may be used to supplement your curriculum.

In addition to core courses, GSN offers a wide variety of elective courses including French and Spanish, Health and Physical Education, Technology courses, Art History, Renaissance Art, Family Living, Leadership and ACT Preparation courses.

Please visit [www.globalstudentnetwork.com](http://www.globalstudentnetwork.com) for more information and to view a free demonstration or email Shoni Johnson [sjohnson@connectingwaters.org](mailto:sjohnson@connectingwaters.org).

## WORLDSTRIDES Washington, D.C. Trip

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.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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?** 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, parent chaperones, Connecting Waters teachers and staff.

**Program Leader • Shanda Rickman**

(209) 380-8745 or [srickman@connectingwaters.org](mailto:srickman@connectingwaters.org)

For more information about WorldStrides, the accredited student educational travel organization we've chosen to partner with, please visit [www.worldstrides.org](http://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.

## NEW!! STUDENT COUNCIL

*"Give Me Your Energetic,*

*Your Creative, Your Motivated..."*

**Connecting Waters needs YOU!**

**By Judy Orr, Student Council Advisor**

In May, Mrs. Sherri Nelson, Mrs. Mary Halter, parents, students, and I met to lay the ground work for a Student Council. It was determined that the Council will function as a unifying agent for the students of CWCS. Student Council is being set up to help with student activities, sponsor events, and possibly run a fundraiser. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Student Council offices of Class Representative will be for 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade students; the offices of and President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

For the requirements and **important deadlines** (the first one being **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**) check out the link: <http://www.connectingwaters.org/StudentCouncil/stucouncil0809.pdf> for the Student Council offices. The Council will meet on the first Monday of the month at the Modesto Learning Center, OR online in an Illuminate classroom. Please e-mail with any questions. Thank you to all who attended for your participation and support! For more information contact Judy Orr, Student Council Advisor, [jorr@connectingwaters.org](mailto:jorr@connectingwaters.org)

**Meeting Dates:** October 6; November 3; December 1 from 10:00 ~ 11:00 at the Modesto Learning Center.

# Spelling Bee

**OCTOBER 15, 2008**

**ATTN: Students in Grades 4-8**  
**Deadline to sign up to participate is October 8th!**



Summer is a perfect time to brush up on spelling words for the fall competitions. Last year a CWCS student ranked third in the county competition! Just print out the word list and practice five times a day.

There are two Spelling Bees on October 15 at CWCS: Grades 7-8 and Grades 4-6. The finalists from CWCS's Spelling Bee advance to the Annual County Spelling Bee held in November. Grades 7-8: November 5 and Grades 4-6: November 12 County finalists go to a state competition. (This is where it ends - no US competition) CWCS will use the same word lists and rules that the county and state use.

The CWCS Spelling Bee will be held at the Modesto Learning Center on October 15, 2:30pm Elementary Spelling Bee Grades 4-6 3:30pm Junior High Spelling Bee Grades 7-8.

**REGISTER:** Call the school office at 209-874-1119 Ext. 6 or email [cwcs@connectingwaters.org](mailto:cwcs@connectingwaters.org) and provide your child's name and grade.

**VOLUNTEER:** Parent volunteers are needed to check words - (you won't be checking your own children's words!)

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Jeni Richline at [jrichline@connectingwaters.org](mailto:jrichline@connectingwaters.org)

Find information on the county competition and the **word lists** that will be used at the following website. You can print out the list with or without the definitions. <http://www.stancoe.org/scoe/admin/studentEvents/>

## Yearbook Class 2008/2009

The yearbook class has been set and is ready for new students to sign up. We need a Yearbook Editor as well as Junior Editors. High school students will earn credits for their hard work. Each student will have their own assignment to be completed. This year we have the privilege for each student to use an assigned laptop at the Modesto Learning Center. This will give everyone an opportunity to express their own creativity. You can have your ES sign you up under CP# 13453. Classes will be held at the Modesto Learning Center, 4713 Greenleaf Court, Ste. A; Modesto, CA 95356. Each class will run approximately two hours, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### The dates for our classes are...

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008; Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008; Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008; Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008; Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009; Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Please take this opportunity to be part of Connecting Waters Yearbook Committee! We are so proud of our yearbook last year that we cannot wait to see how it turns out this year! See you at our next meeting in September! If you have any questions please contact Janie Severin, our Yearbook Advisor, at [cwyearbook@ieminc.org](mailto:cwyearbook@ieminc.org).

For yearbook order information see page 15.

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

**Attention!**  
**Junior High & High School Students**

If you are fascinated with reptiles, rocks and minerals, stars and planets or dream about becoming the next brilliant scientist or doctor...than Science Olympiad is for you! What is Science Olympiad? It is a regional competition in which you compete in various events against other schools. The top 3 schools go on to State competition in Sacramento. Check out the National Science Olympiad website: [www.soinc.org](http://www.soinc.org) (click on SO, then MOVIE CLIP)

We will have a junior high team which consists of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and a high school team. We will meet once a month at the Modesto Learning Center and on Elluminate for those who live in areas outside Modesto.

If you are interested or would like more information, please e-mail Lisa Avila at [valleyreg@clearwire.net](mailto:valleyreg@clearwire.net).

We Need You!

### First Semester Classes

September 19th ; October 17th;  
November 14th ; December 19th  
11:00 ~ 1:00 at MLC

# Library Checkout Procedures



Please review the following procedures which have been created to help insure the success of our library program.

## Patron ID and Password:

All library users must have a "patron ID" to check out materials; to use the online library services, you will also need a password. The patron ID and password will be set up as follows:

### Student

Patron ID = first name, last name  
(example Sue Smith = sue smith)  
Password = student ID

### ES

Patron ID = first name, last name  
Password = ES code

All users will be prompted to change their password by the library system; please feel free to change your password.

## Online Search:

1. Go to CWCS Website <http://www.connectingwaters.org/>
2. Click on Surpass Library and choose either Modesto or Ceres
3. Search by author, title, keyword or subject (if title and author are unknown, use keyword search for best results.
4. Browse results for your desired book
5. "Book Bag" – use this feature to create and print a list of your desired books while at the learning center.

## Limit:

**ES** - 15

**Student** – 5 textbooks, 5 resources, 2 reading Library books, 2 audio-visual, 2 equipment, and 2 games

## Consumables:

Consumable workbooks will not be bar-coded and entered into the system; please feel free to come by and browse or call to check for a specific title.



## Length:

Textbook – 10 months  
Resources – 10 months  
Reading Library – 6 weeks  
Audio-Visual – 10 months  
Equipment – 10 months  
Games – 6 weeks  
Reserve – No check-out / learning center use only

## Fees:

Damaged / Lost – patron will need to pay the price to replace the item.

## Return Policy

- ✦ Learning center items must be returned to the same center from which they were checked out.
- ✦ Items ordered by an ES with instructional funds must be returned to that ES so they can mark off the material list and be checked for damage and completeness.

Items are checked out for a maximum of a 10 month period. All materials are due May 22<sup>nd</sup> for inventory purposes.

## Online Reserve Policy

1. Use the online search to find a desired book
2. Click on "Reserve This" button
3. Type in patron ID and password (obtain this from your ES or when you visit the learning center)
4. Call learning center so the book can be pulled and placed on hold (see Hold Policy below); failure to call can cause book not to be held

## Hold Policy

1. Call learning center
2. Clerk checks patron limit to verify it has not been exceeded.
3. Clerk will pull item, take out of circulation, and place on hold
4. Items must be picked up within one week
5. Items not picked up within one week will be returned to the shelf

## Please Note

**\*\*Books can not be placed on hold or reserved until August 11th**

**\*\*Mark your calendars ~ ALL materials are due on May 22, 2009, regardless of date checked out**

# LEARNING CENTER NEWS

## Ceres Learning Center

**Melissa Valdez**, Program Coordinator  
Site Clerks:

**Bev Harris & Julie Hutto**

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

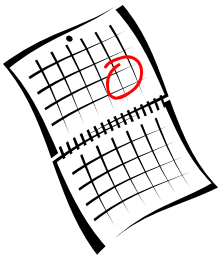
## Modesto Learning Center

**Lori Porter** : Program Coordinator  
Site Clerks

**Rebecca Berringer, Debbie Turner & Micheal Stanion**

4713 Greenleaf Ct, Suite A, Modesto, CA 95356  
Hours M-F 9:00 ~ 4:00  
209-543-7803 or 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 2

Welcome back from the Learning Center staff! We hope everyone had a wonderful vacation and you are ready to start a new school year. There has been a lot going on while students were taking a break: Intake enrollment meetings, new curriculum added, and classes being scheduled. Please take advantage of what the centers have to offer.



### Dates to Remember

8/4 & 8/5 ~ Library open to new families and AESS students only  
8/6 ~ Library open to returning families  
8/21 ~ Back to School Night @ MLC, 3 – 7 p.m.  
Week of 8/25 ~ Most Center classes start  
9/1 ~ Labor Day, All Offices closed

### Computer Lab

The computer lab is available to students and parents for school-related activities. Appointments **must** be made in advance to reserve a computer. Walk-ins for the computer lab cannot be guaranteed so please be sure to make an appointment. There is one computer designated for ESes to research information or print out forms.

### Curriculum & Reading Library/Check-out System

The curriculum room and free reading library are stocked with textbooks, novels, science activities, educational board games, CDs, PE equipment, testing resources, and many other items available for check out. Parents can find many items that can supplement and enhance their current curriculum. Our school's curriculum director, Lori Freeman, has office hours at the Modesto Learning Center on the second and fourth Monday of each month. She is available to help you choose curriculum or to answer questions.

### A-G Reference Shelf

Each center has an a-g Reference shelf stocked with several school-purchased a-g sample texts and teacher's editions that can be viewed at the Learning Centers. This can be helpful for parents in making decisions about curriculum, or can be used for correcting student work by parents and ESes. These items cannot be checked out and are for use within the Learning Center.

### Fall Classes

Both centers have new classes this year along with many returning classes. Ask your ES to sign you up before classes are cancelled due to lack of interest! In addition to classes, please note that there is weekly math coaching (both centers), curriculum office hours (MLC), Yearbook (MLC), Study Hall Hours (TBA), Science Olympiad (MLC), and Student Council (MLC)



### Scantron Testing dates for Fall

Both centers will begin pre-Scantron testing in August. Testing will start on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday, October 3. Students take three tests during their appointment: Reading, Math, and Language Arts. Testing takes approximately 60 – 90 minutes to complete all three tests. Please e-mail, call, or stop by the center to make your appointment. The testing schedule will be as follows:

**Modesto LC:** Tuesdays and Fridays.  
Testing appointments at:

9 am, 11 am, and 1 pm.

**Ceres LC:** Mondays and Fridays.  
Testing appointments at:

9:30 am, 11:30 am, and 1:30 pm.

ESes may also make an appointment to reserve a computer on non-proctoring days to administer the Scantron tests to their own students. They will need to proctor these tests themselves.

# MASTER FALL CLASS LIST

Day of Week	Time	Class	Department	Instructor	Location /CP #
Monday	8:00am -9:15am	CAHSEE Prep 9-12	Math	S. Woo	Online - 13420
Monday	8:30am - 9:30am	Organize / Success 8-12	Life Skill	R. Melendez	Contact Instructor
Monday	9:00am - 10:00am	IEW Writing 3-12	English	C. Silva	CLC - 13401
Monday	9:00am - 10:00am	A-G Economics 12th	Social Science	L. Leedy	Online - 13437
Monday	9:00am - 10:00am	a-g Saxon Alg. 1 8-12	Math	R. Christensen	Online - 13677
Monday	9:15am - 10:15am	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13373
Monday	9:25am - 10:25am	General English 9-12	English	D. Howard	MLC - 13372
Monday	9:30am -10:45am	Pre-Algebra 7-12	Math	S. Woo	Online - 13421
Monday	10:00am - 11:00am	7th Gr. English	English	T. Matranga	Online - 13408
Monday	10:00am - 11:00am	Gen.Economics 12th	Social Science	L. Leedy	Online - 13438
Monday	10:05am - 11:05am	CAHSEE Prep 9-12	English	C. Silva	CLC - 13402
Monday	10:30am - 11:30am	CAHSEE Prep 9-12	English	D. Howard	MLC - 13371
Monday	10:30am - 11:30am	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13374
Monday	10:30am - 11:45 am	a-g Saxon Alg.1 8-12	Math	R. Christensen	Online - 13423
Monday	11:35am - 12:35pm	a-g English 9-12	English	D. Howard	MLC - 13369
Monday	11:45am - 12:45pm	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13375
Monday	12:00pm - 1:00pm	IEW Writing 3-12	English	C. Silva	MLC - 13348
Monday	12:00pm -1:15pm	a-g Saxon Alg. 2 9-12	Math	R. Christensen	Online - 13424
Monday	1:15pm - 2:15pm	IEW Writing 3-12	English	C. Silva	MLC - 13446
Monday	2:30pm - 3:30pm	9th Gr. English	English	T. Matranga	Online - 13410
Monday	5:00pm - 6:15pm	Gen. Alg. 1 9-12	Math	S. Woo	Online - 13422
Tuesday	8:00am - 9:00pm	US History 8th	Social Science	D. Howard	Online - 13432
Tuesday	9:00am - 10:30am	Pre-Algebra 7-12	Math	D. Kutz	CLC - 13379
Tuesday	10:00am - 11:00am	Benchmark Essay Writing 7-8	English	T. Matranga	MLC - 13367
Tuesday	10:35am - 12:05pm	Gen. Alg. 1 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	CLC - 13380
Tuesday	11:30am - 3:30pm	Guitar Lessons -All	Special Interest	D. Quilici	Contact Instructor
Tuesday	12:00pm - 1:00pm	11th Gr. English	English	J. Richline	Online - 13412
Tuesday	12:00pm - 1:10pm	Benchmark Essay Writing 9-12	English	T. Matranga	MLC - 12278
Tuesday	12:30pm - 2:00pm	a-g Spanish 1 9-12	Special Interest	B. Monroe	CLC - 13382
Tuesday	1:00pm - 2:00pm	11th A-G English	English	J. Richline	Online - 13417
Tuesday	1:00pm - 2:00pm	8th Gr. English	English	D. Howard	Online - 13409
Tuesday	1:00pm - 2:15pm	a-g Geometry 9-12	Math	D. Kutz	Online - 13426
Tuesday	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Scrapbooking 4-8	Special Interest	J. Severin	MLC - 13480
Tuesday	2:00pm - 4:00pm 2nd/4th	9th A-G English	English	A. Minger	Online - 13415
Tuesday	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Writing Class 9-12	English	D. Howard	Online - 13473
Tuesday	2:30pm - 3:45pm	a-g Alg. 2 10-12	Math	D. Kutz	Online - 13428
Tuesday	2:35pm - 3:35pm	Scrapbooking 9-12	Special Interest	J. Severin	MLC - 13481
Wednesday	8:00am - 9:00am	English Coaching 7-12	English	D. Howard	Online - 13475
Wednesday	9:00am - 9:45am	CA Missions 4-6	History	B. Harris	CLC - 13383
Wednesday	9:00am - 10:00am	10th A-G English	English	R. Shimp	Online - 13416
Wednesday	9:00am - 10:00am	A-G Gov. 12th	Social Science	J. Orr	Online - 13439
Wednesday	9:00am - 10:30am	a-g Alg. 1 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	MLC - 13365
Wednesday	9:00 am - 11:00am	Yearbook Class 9-12	Special Interest	J. Severin	MLC - 13453
Wednesday	9:30am - 10:30am	Gen. World Hist.10th	Social Science	A. Ferreira	Online - 13433
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:00am	Biology 10th	Science	S. Oldmark	Online - 13431
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:00am	Gen. Biology 10th	Science	J. Walker	Online - 13430
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:00am	A-G US Hist.11th	Social Science	L. Freeman	Online - 13436
Wednesday	10:00am -11:30am 8/27; 10/1; 11/5	Science Lab 1st	Science	B. Harris	CLC - 13384
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:30am 9/3; 10/8; 11/12	Science Lab 2nd	Science	B. Harris	CLC - 13385

# MASTER FALL CLASS LIST

Day of Week	Time	Class	Department	Instructor	Location /CP #
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:30 am 9/10; 10/15; 11/19	Science Lab 3rd	Science	B. Harris	CLC - 13386
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:30am 9/17; 10/22; 12/3	Science Lab 4th	Science	B. Harris	CLC - 13387
Wednesday	10:00am - 11:30am 9/24; 10/29;12/10	Science Lab 5th	Science	B. Harris	CLC - 13388
Wednesday	10:30am -11:30am	10th Gr. English	English	R. Shimp	Online - 13411
Wednesday	10:35am - 12:05pm	a-g Geometry 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	MLC - 13366
Wednesday	10:45am - 11:45am	A-G World Hist. 10th	Social Science	A. Ferreira	Online - 13434
Wednesday	11:00am - 12:00pm	Earth Science 9th	Science	S. Oldmark	Online - 13429
Wednesday	11:00am - 12:00pm	General Gov.12th	Social Science	J. Orr	Online - 13440
Wednesday	11:30am - 12:30pm	Gen. US Hist. -11th	Social Science	L. Freeman	Online - 13435
Wednesday	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Home Ec 6-12	Life Skill	B. Harris	CLC - 13389
Wednesday	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Spanish 1 9-12	Special Interest	B. Monroe	MLC - 13394
Thursday	8:00am - 9:00am	CAHSEE Prep 9-12	English	D. Howard	Online - 13474
Thursday	9:00am - 9:45am	Story Time K-3rd	English	B. Harris	MLC - 13395
Thursday	9:00am - 10:30am	Pre-Algebra 7-12	Math	D. Kutz	CLC - 13379
Thursday	10:00am - 10:45am	Art K-3rd	Special Interest	B. Harris	MLC - 13396
Thursday	10:35am - 12:05pm	Gen. Alg. 1 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	CLC - 13380
Thursday	11:00am - 12:30pm 8/28; 10/2; 11/6	Science Lab 1st	Science	B. Harris	MLC - 13397
Thursday	11:00am - 12:30pm 9/4; 10/9; 11/13	Science Lab 2nd	Science	B. Harris	MLC - 13404
Thursday	11:00am - 12:30pm 9/11; 10/16; 11/20	Science Lab 3rd	Science	B. Harris	MLC - 13405
Thursday	11:00am - 12:30pm 9/18; 10/23; 12/4	Science Lab 4th	Science	B. Harris	MLC - 13406
Thursday	11:00am - 12:30pm 9/25; 10/30; 12/11	Science Lab 5th	Science	B. Harris	MLC - 13407
Thursday	11:30am - 3:30pm 9/4; 10/2; 11/6	Biology A 9-12	Science	L. Leige	MLC -PO - Contact Instructor
Thursday	11:30am - 3:30 pm 9/11; 10/9; 11/13	Biology B 9-12	Science	L. Leige	MLC - PO - Contact Instructor
Thursday	11:30am - 3:30 pm 9/18; 10/16; 11/20	Chemistry 10-12	Science	L. Leige	MLC - PO - Contact Instructor
Thursday	12:30pm - 2:00pm	a-g Spanish 1 9-12	Special Interest	B. Monroe	CLC - 13381
Thursday	1:00pm - 2:00pm	12th A-G English	English	D. Howard	Online - 13418
Thursday	1:30pm - 2:15pm	Art 3rd - 6th	Special Interest	B. Harris	MLC - 13398
Thursday	2:05pm - 3:35pm	a-g Spanish 2 9-12	Special Interest	B. Monroe	CLC - 13382
Thursday	2:30am - 3:15pm	Home Ec 6-12	Special Interest	B. Harris	MLC - 13399
Thursday	2:30pm - 3:30pm	12th Gr. English	English	D. Howard	Online - 13413
Thursday	3:00pm - 4:15pm	Gen. Geometry 10-12	Math	D. Kutz	Online - 13427
Friday	9:00am - 10:15am	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13376
Friday	9:00am - 10:30am	a-g Alg. 1 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	MLC - 13365
Friday	10:30am - 11:45am	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13377
Friday	10:30am - 12:00pm	Ed Planning 9th	Special Interest	M. Cripe	MLC - 13298
Friday	10:35am - 12:05pm	a-g Geometry 8-12	Math	D. Kutz	MLC - 13366
Friday	11:45am - 12:45pm	Sewing 3-12	Special Interest	A. Rogers	CLC - 13378
Friday	11:45am - 1:45pm	a-g Alg 1 9-12	Math	J. Pelczynski	CLC - 13390
Friday	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Organize / Success 8-12	Life Skill	R. Melendez	Contact Instructor
Friday	2:00pm - 4:00pm	a-g Alg 2 9-12	Math	J. Pelczynski	CLC - 13391

# FUNDRAISERS!!

## Raleys/Nob Hill 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 School office or the learning centers. Cards must be activated over the internet. Money raised will be used for incentives for 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 School 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.



## Outdoor Science School

We are tentatively set for the week of March 16-20, 2008. We will again be going to Mount Hermon, located in the mountains above Santa Cruz.

The cost will be approximately \$275 and will come from second semester student funding.

For more information about the camp, visit <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 (GEA #13140) and then e-mail Cathy Moretto, [cmoretto@connectingwaters.org](mailto:cmoretto@connectingwaters.org) the following information:

Parent Name  
Student Name(s) and Grade(s)  
Home Phone Number  
ES Name



In the spring, Cathy will send you an enrollment packet with information and directions through your ES.

## Work Permits

Is your student thinking about entering the workforce? All students between the ages of 14 and 18 are required to have a work permit before they can begin working, unless they are in the entertainment industry, in which case they will still need a work permit, but the age limit is much lower. You can obtain an application for a work permit from your ES or by visiting the Connecting Waters web site at: [www.connectingwaters.org](http://www.connectingwaters.org) and clicking on 'Parent Information'. All work permits are issued through the School office.

If you have any questions, please call the School office at: 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6, or e-mail [workpermits@connectingwaters.org](mailto:workpermits@connectingwaters.org).

## Change of Address

If you have a phone number or address change, notify Parent Support at [parentsupport@connectingwaters.org](mailto:parentsupport@connectingwaters.org) right away. The school must have current student and family contact information, so please be responsible and keep us advised of any changes in your phone numbers and / or address.



# Parent Support and Parent Listserve Information



We would like to add you to our information highway, the CWCS Parent Listserve. This forum is used to send messages regarding important information about upcoming events, activities, and special notices. If you are not already a member of the Parent Listserve and are interested in joining, please send your Name, your student(s) name, ES Name, and full e-mail address to [parentlistserv@connectingwaters.org](mailto:parentlistserv@connectingwaters.org). This e-mail loop will be a great way to stay informed on homeschooling events, group education activities, park days or anything

else going on in your area and participate in polls. We are looking forward to this opportunity to meet and support fellow homeschoolers in our community. If you have access to the Internet, we encourage all of our families to sign up.

The Parent Support Department is our way of helping you, the parent, with your general school questions and concerns. You may contact Lori Porter, Parent Support Coordinator, at 1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then press 1; or e-mail her at [parentsupport@connectingwaters.org](mailto:parentsupport@connectingwaters.org).

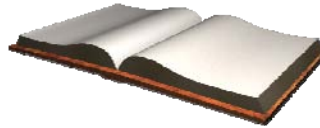
## Parent Handbook and High School Catalog

If you are a new student, you received a Parent Handbook and High School Catalog (for grades 9-12) at the intake meeting. All returning families should receive the 2008-2009 updated Handbook and High School Catalog from their ES.

## 2009 Full Cover, Hard Cover Yearbook

Yearbook pictures can be mailed to the school office by deadlines noted on the Event Calendar, but must have the following information or they **will not** be accepted.

Connecting Waters Charter School  
c/o CWCS Yearbook  
12420 Bentley Street  
Waterford, CA 95386  
209-874-1119 x6



The pictures must have:

- Student name
- Student grade
- Student activity
- Activity Vendor if applicable

Pictures must be emailed in a jpeg format to: [cwyarbook@connectingwaters.org](mailto:cwyarbook@connectingwaters.org)

The file name should include: Student name and grade. Include the student activity in the email. Please confirm receipt of submitted pictures. Pictures that are emailed should be confirmed via email and if mailed should be confirmed by calling the school office. Yearbook orders will be taken during pictures days and at the School office. Yearbooks are \$30.00 prior to the October 31, 2008 deadline.

# Picture Day at the Learning Centers

**September 12, 2008** Ceres Learning Center 10:00~12:00  
209-541-1531 or 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 1

**September 5, 2008** Modesto Learning Center 10:00~2:00  
209-543-7803 or 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 2  
Please call the center to schedule your appointment

**September 18th**, Leonard Photography Studio 10:00—2:00  
137 Maple Ave., Manteca • Drop-ins are accepted

### Retakes ~ Modesto Learning Center Only

**October 31, 2008** 10:00 ~ 12:00

Please call the Modesto Learning Center to schedule an appointment  
209-543-7803 or 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 2





## You're Invited to Open House - March 3, 2009

### Mark Your Calendar

Please join us for our annual Open House on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Waterford High School Multi-Purpose room located at 121 S. Reinway in Waterford.

This year's event will be bigger and better than ever! ESes, instructors, school staff, and vendors will be on hand for you to meet, view what they have to offer, and answer any questions you may have.

Refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment.

Remember to mark this date on your calendar, Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

For further information, please contact the school office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6.

We look forward to seeing you there!

# Group Educational Activities

for 2008-2009

Organized by Denise Lindvall

[deniselindvall@gmail.com](mailto:deniselindvall@gmail.com)

In addition to the Group Educational Activities listed below, I will be planning trips to the Gallo Center of the Arts. They do not have a schedule posted yet so I will notify the Parent List with further information.

#### September 2008

Oakland Zoo

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

#### November 2008

Forestiére Underground Gardens

<http://www.forestiére-historicalcenter.com> (Fresno)

Fresno Metropolitan Museum

<http://www.fresnomet.org>

#### December 5, 2008

Ardenwood Historic Farm

#### January 2009

Modesto Bee Newspaper tour

#### February 2009

California Academy of Sciences (San Francisco) (School Sponsored)

<http://www.calacademy.org>

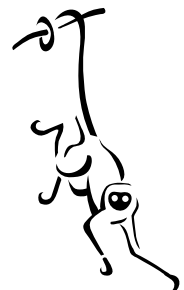
#### March 2009

Pepsi Manufacturing Plant in Hayward and Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Factory Tour in Union City

#### May 2009

Discovery Kingdom (School Sponsored)

<http://www.sixflags.com/discoveryKingdom/index.aspx>



# Child Find

By Jill Brogan  
Director, Special Education

As a public school within California, state law requires our charter school to identify and assist students with academic, physical, or social/emotional issues that may impede their school performance. This process is called "Child Find" (Education Code 52040, 56300), and occurs routinely at the start of each school year.

If your child has previously received special education and/or been served under a 504 Accommodation Plan, and you *have not been contacted* by this office to discuss continued services, please call us at (619) 562-7328. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. To assist our staff in better identifying

and meeting the needs of under-achieving students, our school utilizes a process called Student Study Teams (SST). Periodically throughout the school year, Student Study Teams meet to identify resources and supports for students experiencing difficulty in our charter school. The SST enables parents and their educational specialist to better meet the needs of struggling students by generating instructional strategies and ideas for them to use with the student. A written plan is generated for each student referred to SST to monitor his or her progress in future months, or to determine if more intensive interventions may be needed. If you would like to discuss your student's academic pro-

gress at an upcoming Student Study Team, please contact your Educational Specialist for more details. He or she has access to the forms that you will both complete in order to generate a referral to our SST.

In the meanwhile, should you wish to discuss any aspects of our school's special education programs including referrals, identification, evaluations, or services, please do not hesitate to contact our office. It is our intent that every eligible student be identified and served in a timely and supportive manner.

Here's to another great school year...

PARENTS + STUDENTS + EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS = SUCCESS

## 2009 - 8th Grade and Senior Graduation Information



Congratulations to all of those who will be graduating in 2009; you're almost there! How fast the years have flown by and this one will be no exception. CWCS is planning an 8th grade graduation to be held May 12th at 7:00 p.m. and a senior graduation to be held May 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Waterford High School gym. The goal of the staff is to make these events truly memorable for the graduates, their families, and friends.

In order to help us achieve our goal there are some important dates that you will need to remember. All students and parents should plan to attend the graduation planning meeting.

- Dec. 12 - 8th gr. & senior graduation participation information forms due
- Jan. 2 - Senior graduation announcements order forms due to Academic Affairs
- Feb. 3 - 8th gr. graduation information meeting for parents and students\*
- Feb. 6 - 8th gr. & senior graduation participation information forms due for late enrollees
- Feb. 10 - Senior graduation information meeting for parents and students\*
- Feb. 13 - Senior graduation cap & gown order due
- (They will only accept money orders for payment!)**
- Mar. 13 - Deadline to sign up for student performances
- Mar. 13 - Senior Speeches Due
- Apr. 2 - Graduation helpers meeting in Waterford at 2pm
- May 12 - 8th grade graduation required practice 4:30 pm and 8th grade graduation at 7:00 pm
- May 14 - Senior graduation required practice 4:30 pm and senior graduation at 7:00 pm

\*Each of the information meetings will be held at the Modesto Learning Center located at 4713 Greenleaf Court, Suite A, Modesto, CA 95356 at 3:00 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 submitted by March 13th to the school office. Please notify Mary Vinnedge at the school office (209-874-1119 Ext. 6) or e-mail [mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org](mailto:mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org) by March 13th 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 school office at 209-874-1119 Ext. 6.

# 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](mailto:mhalter@connectingwaters.org)  
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 2

Melissa Cripe, School Counselor  
[mcripe@connectingwaters.org](mailto:mcripe@connectingwaters.org)  
1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 6

## Guidance Department Courses

Title	Date/Time	Location	Description
<b>Education and Career Planning Course</b>	Tuesdays 9:30am CP #13300  Thursdays 1 pm CP#13299  Fridays 10:30am-12 noon 8/29; 9/26; 10/24; 11/21; 12/12 CP# 13298	<b>Elluminate</b>  <b>Elluminate</b>  <b>Modesto Learning Center</b>	This 5 unit Life Skills course is mandatory for all 9 <sup>th</sup> graders beginning in the 2008-09 school year. The course allows students to answer: Who am I? What do I want? How do I get there?_Students will use self evaluation tools and will research careers to begin to develop a ten year plan! <b>Textbook</b> – <i>Career Choices: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults</i> by Academic Innovations. This text is required for the online or in person class. <b>NOTE:</b> this course can be taken as an Independent Study course using the recommended text or other preferred materials/textbook. Independent Study students must complete and turn in a "Career Portfolio" to be graded by your ES, details can be found online on the Guidance page.
<b>Education and Career Planning with Internship</b>	Tuesdays 9:30 am CP #13301	<b>Elluminate</b>	For the 2008-09 school year, this course will be offered to 11th and 12 <sup>th</sup> graders as a Life Skills elective option, and will be worth a total of 10 units (semester 1=Education and Career Planning, 5 units and semester 2= Education and Career Planning with Internship, 5 units). Students will find and complete a short internship. Students also learn about careers, job skills, and budgeting.
<b>Study Skills</b>	Tuesdays 9/2; 9/9; 9/16; 9/23 11am – 12 noon CP # 13654	<b>Elluminate</b>	This 1 unit course will help students learn how to organize themselves, take notes, and study.



## High School Social at Boomers!

Friday, Sept. 5th 1:00 p.m -4:00p.m.  
meet at the front gate

sponsored by your CSF club members

**Unlimited Wristband only \$15!**

**This includes Video Games, Mini Golf, Go Karts, Laser Tag, Bumper Boats, Rock Wall, and Rookie Raceway! (EXCLUDED are games that reward prizes or tickets.) This is an out of pocket expense, IF cannot be used.**

**Boomers! Modesto**  
4215 Bangs Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95356  
(209) 545-5248

For more information call: Mrs. Halter (School Counselor)  
1-800-808-9895 ext. 4 then 2

## Have you heard of ROP?

This is a program open to all students 16 and older who are interested in taking courses to learn occupational skills and/or to prepare for advanced education and training.

Some courses include Ag Welding, Landscape Design, Computer Programming, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, Medical Assistant, Graphic Arts, Sheet Metal, and more!

For more information, see p. 10 of the High School Catalog posted on our website at:

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/hscatalog0809.htm>

or...contact the Guidance Department.

# Guidance Department Educational Series

Title	Date/Time	Location	Description
"College Basics 101" Workshop	9/23 9:30 am 9/25 1 pm 9/26 12 noon	Illuminate Illuminate Modesto Learning Center	Not sure where to start? Find out! This one hour workshop will focus on college information...What courses should you take? How do you begin finding a college? Where do you want to go? Learn all about it! <b>To reserve your space for one of the workshops call the school office at 1-800-808-9895 ext.6.</b>
College Tour: UC Merced and CSU Stanislaus	Friday October 10 <sup>th</sup> All Day: 8am-depart from MLC Return 5pm CP #13653	Meet at Modesto Learning Center, travel via bus to UCM and CSU Stanislaus	Do you want to know more about California's system of colleges? Want to know what they have to offer and what you need to do to get there? Meet representatives from the Community Colleges and the Universities. Learn what they have to offer!
PSAT – Practice SAT	October 15 <sup>th</sup> 9am to 1pm  \$13 fee CP # 13651	Ceres Seventh-day Adventist Church 1633 Central Ave Ceres, CA	High school students are invited to take this practice test to prepare for the SAT exam. College-bound students should take the PSAT during your Sophomore and Junior year. You could qualify for the NMSQT scholarship program which is only available to juniors who score well on the PSAT
PLAN – Practice ACT	November 7 <sup>th</sup> 9am to 1pm \$10 fee CP #13652	Modesto Learning Center	High school students are invited to take this practice test to prepare for the ACT exam. The Guidance Department explains the test results and assists students in understanding their academic strengths and weaknesses
Financial Aid Workshop: Presented by MJC!	January 13 <sup>th</sup> 1pm  6:30 pm	Ceres Learning Center  Modesto Learning Center	Class of 2009 parents and students are invited to attend this very important event regarding financial aid for: <b><u>junior college, trade schools, colleges and universities.</u></b> Topics: FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), GPA Verification Forms, California State Grants/Pell Grants, Scholarship Information, other ways to access free money for college and much more! <b>To reserve your space for one of the workshops call the school office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6.</b>
High School Orientation Meeting For 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders!!!!	Feb. 12 10am Feb. 12 7pm  Feb. 26th 10:30am	Illuminate Illuminate  Modesto Learning Center	A very important meeting to discuss the importance of high school and the courses you should take. Do you want to attend college? A trade school? How about Junior College? Now's the time to plan for your future!! A must attend event! <b>To reserve your space for one of the workshops call the school office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6.</b>
Career Expo	February 20 <sup>th</sup>	San Joaquin County Office of Education, Stockton	Junior High and High School students! Many college and vocational school representatives will be present to explain their programs. More information to come in our newsletters and online via the parent listserve.

## 2008-09 SAT and ACT

College Entrance Exam Test Dates and Deadlines can be found online.

To register:

SAT [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Please use the CWCS School Code : 053706

NOTE: test results are posted onto high school transcripts



## Academic Clubs for High School Students.....

Did you know that CWCS has a CSF and NHS Club? For more information, go to the Guidance Page on our website: <http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/acadclubs.htm>

Looking for resources? Visit the Guidance website at [www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance](http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance) .

You will find the High School Catalog, Career Resources, Scholarship and Grant information, Grad Requirements Information, and more!!!!

**Connecting Waters Charter School  
12420 Bentley Street  
Waterford, CA 95386**