



Connecting Waters Charter School

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

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Waterford, CA 95386

www.connectingwaters.org

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Volume 9
Rebecca Berringer • Layout

February 2011

Issue 7
Roy Shimp • Editor

Dates to Remember

February 18-21:

Presidents Day
No School

February 24:

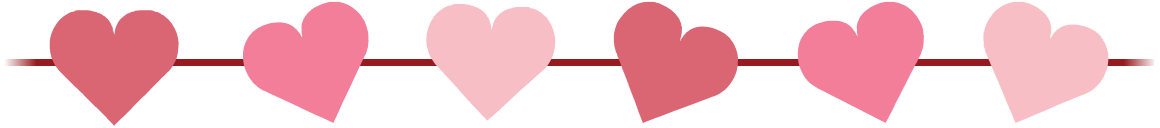
Parent/Student Training
Workshop/Career Expo
9:00am-3:00pm

News from the Executive Director

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

Thank you all so much for your part in helping us conduct our WASC self study over the past several years. There are still a few finishing touches to be made to the report. We will be sending our results to the visiting committee the beginning of March. If you have not had an opportunity to review our findings, please visit the accreditation portion of our website and view the 2011WASC accreditation documents <http://www.connectingwaters.org/accreditation/index.htm>. If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to share them with our staff.

The contents of the self study will also be discussed at the Parent Student Training Workshop on Thursday, February 24th at the Modesto Centre Plaza at 9 am. We hope to see you there so you can find out what's new with CWCS!



Reminders:

- March 1st is the STAR Writing test for 4th and 7th graders. (Makeup tests must be confirmed and are only offered at the following sites: Ceres, Lodi, Manteca, and Stockton on March 2nd)
- CAHSEE- California High School Exit Exam: March 8th and 9th

Your STAR and/or CAHSEE Test Site Letter will be given to you by your ES during the Learning Record meeting. Be sure to look it over with your ES and confirm your students attendance at the site indicated. If there are any concerns, be sure to let your ES know to contact the Assessment Dept immediately so we can work towards a resolution. **If you have not received your STAR and CAHSEE test site letters, be sure to contact your ES.** Consult the Assessment page online at www.connectingwaters.org for up to date information on testing information.

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Happy Valentines Day!



9:00am
to
3:00pm

Theme:

Back
To Basics

FEBRUARY
24TH
2011

CWCS ANNUAL PARENT/STUDENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS

**MODESTO CENTRE PLAZA & DOUBLETREE HOTEL
1000 L ST. MODESTO CA 95354
VALIDATED PARKING IN THE 9TH ST GARAGE**

Come at 9 a.m. to visit with curriculum vendors
before the workshops begin at the
Stanislaus River room (MCP Upstairs)

Parents do not need to register for these workshops.

**High School Social Event!
in the Arbor Theater
(MCP Upstairs)
2:00-3:00**

**Parents please sign in K-5 students at 9:00am
3rd -5th in the Ash room (MCP Downstairs)
&
K-2nd in the Magnolia room (MCP Downstairs)
Please pick up your students before 12:00.**

Room Time	10:00-10:50 am	11:00-11:50 am	1:00-1:50 pm	2:00-2:50 pm
Sacramento Doubletree	Direct Instruction In a Home School Setting Will Frey (Parents)	Direct Instruction In a Home School Setting Will Frey (Parents)	Motivating High Schoolers Dr. Donna Andrews & Mike Uretsky Saved by the Tell (Parents & Students)	Motivating High Schoolers Dr. Donna Andrews & Mike Uretsky Saved by the Tell (Parents & Students)
San Jose Doubletree	MJC presents "Career Certificate Programs" (Parents & Students)	MJC presents "Financing Your Education" (Parents & Students)	Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (Parents & Students)	Universal Technical Institute Presentation (Parents & Students)
San Joaquin River MCP Upstairs	ADD Jill Brogan, Special Ed (Parents)	Photography 101 Jeff Bradshaw (Parents & Students)	Learning Should Be Messy Lisa Avila Messy Learning Co	CA Standards: Nuts & Bolts Lori Freeman (Parents)
Arbor Theater MCP Upstairs 6-8th	Great Valley Museum Star show (Spaceship Planetarium) (6th -8th Grades)	Great Valley Museum Star show (Spaceship Planetarium) (6th -8th Grades)	Great Valley Museum Insects (6th -8th Grades)	High School Social For all high school students (2:00-3:00)
Ash MCP Downstairs	Saxon CA Math Program: Product Presentation (Parents)	Middle School Math: Holt California Math Vendor Demonstration (Parents)	McGraw Hill Elementary Math and Science (Parents)	Intermediate and Middle School Math-The Big Picture D. Kutz/S. Johnson (Parents)
Magnolia MCP Downstairs	Exploration Education: Physical Science Product Demonstration (Parents)	Home Tutoring Plus: CAHSEE Success (Parents)	Triumph Learning - BuckleDown Products (Parents)	Youth Digital Arts Cyberschool: Product Demonstration (Parents & Students)
Room Time	9:15 -10:30	10:30 -11:50	1:00-1:50 pm	2:00-2:50 pm
Pistache MCP Downstairs K-2nd	Story Time With Cher Silva (K-2nd Grades)	The Amazing Life of Ben Franklin! The Messy Learning Co. (K-2nd Grades)	Art For Kids Crayon Art Inga Perry (K-5th Grades)	Kaiser Community Troupe Presents Health & Safety (K-5th Grades)
Ginkgo MCP Downstairs 3th5th	The Amazing Life of Ben Franklin! The Messy Learning Co. (K-5th Grades)	4-H Cardboard Automaton Jessica Choi (3rd -5th Grades)	Art For Kids Crayon Art Inga Perry (K-5th Grades)	Kaiser Community Troupe Presents Health & Safety (K-5th Grades)

**Come at 9 a.m. to visit with curriculum vendors before the workshops begin or throughout the day.
Stanislaus River room (MCP Upstairs)**

Vendors Booths

A Brighter Child	Harcourt / Holt / Houghton Mifflin	Nasco
Aflac	Home Tutoring Plus	Saxon
Eagle's Nest	IEM Office / Special Ed	Teaching Textbook
IEW	Triumph Learning Buckle Down	Youth Digital Arts Cyber School
Exploration Education	McGraw Hill / Glencoe / SRA	

Workshop Descriptions and Rooms & Times

San Joaquin River (MCP Upstairs)

9:00-9:15- WASC Report ~ Sherri Nelson

Come and hear what's new with CWCS! Mrs. Nelson, executive director of CWCS, will share with all stakeholders the findings of our WASC report and our school goals and direction for next six years. There will be a question and answer time at the end of the Presentation.

10:00-10:50- ADD Workshop ~ Jill Brogan Special Ed Director

Has your student been diagnosed with ADD or ADHD? Do you have concerns that your child may be hyperactive? Then this is the workshop for you. Practical tips and lots of resources will be provided to participants. (Level 2, Elective)

11:00-11:50- Photography 101 Demonstration ~ Jeff Bradshaw, Photography Vendor

Discover what your students will learn in Photography 101, and pick up a few photography tips while you are at it. (Level 2, Elective)

1:00-1:50 -Learning Should Be Messy! ~ Parent Demonstration from Lisa Avila –The Messy Learning Co.

You are invited to a workshop on how to make learning fun and enjoyable for your kids. By adding drama, music, art or hands-on activities, anyone can make everyday lessons come alive. Learn about easy, no-stress ideas that are sure to put a smile on your child's face. (Level 1, Elective)

2:00-2:50- CA Standards: Nuts & Bolts ~ Lori Freeman Curriculum Director

What are the California Standards? Why are they important? Do I have to follow the standards? Are there key standards I should focus on? What does this standard really mean? Join us for a brief overview of our California standards and learn how to use the standards as a guideline. Perfect for new home-school parents or parents who want a review of their students' grade level standards. Please come with a current student work sample. (Level 1, Core)

Ash (MCP Downstairs)

10:00-10:50- Saxon CA Math Program: Product Presentation ~ Vendor Presentation

Saxon Math offers distributed instruction, practice, and assessment of related concepts throughout the year. This provides the time for every student to learn, practice, process, and go beyond mastery. As a result, students retain learned concepts and reach proficiency. This presentation will talk about the methodology of Saxon and the best method of placement for students and CA state standards. (Level 1, Core)

11:00-11:50- Middle School Math: Holt California Math ~ Vendor Presentation

Come learn about the Holt's math program for grades 6th-8th. This program is a traditional textbook program, with a twist! *Every* lesson in the student edition has online tutorial videos which review the lesson concept and has a teacher walk through example problems. These online tutorials are free and can be viewed at anytime! Our local representative will provide an overview of the program and share how to use the teacher edition and online resources for effective student instruction. (Level 1, Core)

1:00-1:50- McGraw Hill Elementary Math and Science ~ Product Presentation

Our area representative will provide a brief overview of the McGraw Hill California Math and California Science curriculum programs for elementary students. Ideas will be shared on which materials are most doable for home schoolers, and how to best use the program. (Level 1 -3, Core)

2:00-2:50- Intermediate and Middle School Math--The Big Picture D. Kutz/S. Johnson

How can we best prepare students in these crucial grades, 4-8, to ensure success in future math courses? An overview of the standards will be given, as well as a discussion of some of the key skills and concepts in each grade level. A brief overview of recommended curriculum--Houghton Mifflin and Holt--will also be included. For grades 3-9, parents and ESes. (Level 1, Core)

Magnolia (MCP Downstairs)

10:00-11:00—Exploration Education: Physical Science Product Demonstration~ Vendor Presentation

Along with an overview of Exploration Education's science curriculum, its easy integration into your homeschool day, and what's new for 2011, this workshop will include practical strategies for successfully teaching science to elementary, middle, and high school students. As always with Exploration Education's workshops, there will be several demonstrations of easily implemented science experiments that you can take home with you. (Level 1-3, Core)

11:00-11:50- Home Tutoring Plus: CAHSEE Success ~ Vendor Presentation

Come learn tips to assist your students in passing the high school exit exam! Free test preparation links will be given, along with study information and how in-home and online tutoring can help. (Level 2, Elective)

1:00-1:50- Triumph Learning – BuckleDown Products ~ Vendor Presentation

This workshop will introduce the BuckleDown materials and help parents and teachers choose the best product for their particular student. New materials include Breakaway to Reading Success and Breakaway to Math Success. (Level 1-3, Core)

2:00-2:50- Youth Digital Arts Cyberschool: Product Demonstration~ Vendor Presentation

Online, self-paced, Digital Arts Courses for students from 3rd grade through High School including Video Game Design, Animation, Digital Manga, Digital Photo Painting, High School Visual Arts - Digital Manga, Comics, Graphic Novels, and Storyboarding. Our courses, programs, and events teach students how to create professional level digital art, using inexpensive or free professional software, with no previous experience required. We will also discuss our Advanced Cyber Studios, National Student Mentorships, Cyber Jams, and Cyber Conferences. Calling all YDACS students to come and demonstrate your skills! (Level 3, Elective)

Sacramento (Doubletree)

10:00-10:50 and again at 11:00-11:50 - Direct Instruction in the Home School Environment ~

William Frey, Biology teacher and instructional coach at Waterford High School

Attending this workshop will help you to have clear objectives when teaching your students. You will also learn how to motivate through success, teach to mastery, and provide guided practice for a lesson. Your student will be motivated to learn and have better retention of new concepts learned.

(Level 1 or 2, Core)

1:00-2:00 and again at 2:00-2:50 - Saved by the Tell: Effective Learning Strategies For High School Students

~Presenters: Dr. Donna Andrews and Mike Uretsky, California State University, Stanislaus Department of Teacher Education

Effective learning strategies for high school students will be explored using data from a survey given to students regarding effective practices in preparation for post secondary education. Excerpts will be read from letters written by high school students to future teachers about ways to keep teenagers engaged in the learning process. Information will be shared regarding ways to use supplemental enrichment activities to prepare students for college and career choices. (Level 3, Elective)

San Jose (Doubletree)

10:00-10:50- Community College Career Preparation Programs! ~Guidance Department

Did you know that you can obtain several certificates at your local Community College? Several programs are available such as automotive, baking, biotechnology, drafting, fire science, horticulture, fashion merchandising, interior design, nurse assistant, law enforcement, office management, social work, welding and more!!!! Presentation offered by Modesto Junior College. (Level 3, Core)

11:00-11:50- Financing Your Education ~ Guidance Department

Looking for ways to pay for your education? Come find out about grants, financial aid, loans, scholarships, and more! Presentation offered by Modesto Junior College Financial Aid Officer Elida Miranda-Zaragoza. (Level 3, Core)

1:00-1:50- Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Presentation www.fidm.edu ~ Guidance Department

FIDM is a specialized, private college dedicated to educating students for the Fashion, Graphics, Interior Design, and Entertainment Industries. It's a place where creativity and careers merge. They are hands-on and industry focused. We don't just prepare our students for a job; we prepare them for a career. (Level 3, Elective)

2:00-2:50- Universal Technical Institute Presentation www.uti.edu ~ Guidance Department

Universal Technical Institute (UTI) is the country's premier provider of technician training for students seeking a rewarding career in the automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle, and marine industries. You will graduate as a certified technician and they will even help you find a job! If you are interested in this field, this is a must attend event! Presented by Ron Whitman (Level 3, Elective)

Pistache MCP Downstairs K-2nd

9:15-10:30- Story Time! ~ Cher Silva

Children act out the stories.

10:30-11:50- The Amazing Life of Ben Franklin! ~ Lisa Avila, The Messy Learning Co.

Make a craft while learning about this historical person! (Level 1, Elective)

1:00-1:50- Art For Kids Crayon Art Inga Perry

Learn how to draw with crayons!

2:00-2:50- Kaiser Community Troupe Presents! ~

The stage comes alive with this Health and Safety show!

The All Star Mascot Show is an interactive performance that showcases our mascots and their human friends. This show features music, dance, and physical comedy to address any or all of the following topics: nutrition, physical activity, safety, drinking water, and celebrating fruits and vegetables.

Gingko MCP Downstairs 3RD -5TH

9:15-10:30- The Amazing Life of Ben Franklin! ~ Lisa Avila, The Messy Learning Co.

Make a craft while learning about this historical person! (Level 1, Elective)

10:30-11:50- 4-H Cardboard Automaton ~ Jessica Choi

A fun educational activity creating cardboard automata to explore simple machine elements such as cams, levers, and linkages, while creating a mechanical structure.

1:00-1:50- Art For Kids Crayon Art ~ Inga Perry

Learn how to draw with crayons!

2:00-2:50- Kaiser Community Troupe Presents! ~

The stage comes alive with this Health and Safety show!

The All Star Mascot Show is an interactive performance that showcases our mascots and their human friends. This show features music, dance, and physical comedy to address any or all of the following topics: nutrition, physical activity, safety, drinking water, and celebrating fruits and vegetables.

Arbor Theater MCP Upstairs 6TH-8TH

10:00-10:50- and 11:00-11:50- Star Lab ~ Spaceship Planetarium Great Valley Museum

Brings their portable planetarium to you! Spaceship Planetarium - Blast off and travel through our solar system to explore the cosmic features of planets, moons, and far galaxies!

10:00 - 11:00 (GEA# 20685)

11:00 - 12:00 (GEA# 20686)

12:00-12:50 High School Lunchroom

Get to know other CWCS high school students!

1:00-1:50- Insects! ~ Great Valley Museum

A look at the fascinating micro world of insects. Learn about their life cycles, distinguishing characteristics, and safe insect control. **(GEA# 20684)**

2:00-3:00 High School Social Event

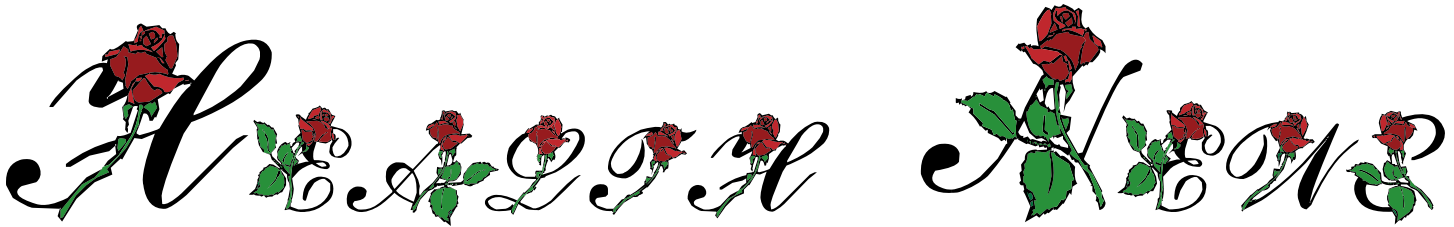
Get to know other CWCS high school students!

Student Council & CFS Club Lunch Fundraiser

Student Council and CSF are passing out Jamba Juice Swipe Cards and fliers for our Extreme Pizza Fundraiser! Go to Jamba Juice and use your card, they will donate back 10% of your purchase to our CSF and Student Council! Buy your lunch at Extreme Pizza and we will earn 20% of the total sales! Just make sure to ask for a receipt and to give it to Mrs. Halter!

Extreme Pizza - Pizza 1022 11th St., Modesto Phone #: 209.238.0466

Jamba Juice - Coffee Houses 1025 10th Street, Ste. B, Modesto Phone #: 209.572.4511



Heather Grossman • School Nurse

Attention parents of seniors! Is your student going away to college next year? If so, be sure your son or daughter has a current meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

Meningococcal meningitis, a form of meningococcal disease, is a serious bacterial infection. Unlike viral meningitis, it can potentially kill an otherwise healthy young person within one day after the first symptoms appear. Meningococcal disease can be difficult to recognize, especially in its early stages because meningitis symptoms are similar to those of more common viral illnesses. But unlike more common illnesses, meningococcal disease can cause death or disability within just one day.

Common everyday activities can spread meningococcal disease. This includes kissing, sharing utensils and drinking glasses, living in close quarters such as a dormitory or summer camp, and smoking or being exposed to smoke. Activities that can make teens feel run down may also put them at greater risk for meningitis by weakening their immune system. These include staying out late and having irregular sleep patterns.

Even people who are usually healthy can contract meningitis. However, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have shown that the risk of getting meningitis increases in teens and young adults.

Getting your child vaccinated is the best way to help protect them from meningococcal meningitis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical groups recommend meningococcal vaccines for:

- Preteens and teens 11 through 18 years of age
- College freshmen living in dormitories
- Children 2 through 10 years of age who are at increased risk or if elected by their health-care providers and parents

For more information, please visit www.voicesofmeningitis.com



Scientific Thinkers- ESLR #6

“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.
- communicates 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.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Judy Orr, Student Council • jorr@connectingwaters.org

The CWCS Prom has been set for **April 2nd** at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi from 7-11 PM. Watch future Parent and Student Listserve announcements for more information on guest dance passes, and details regarding the Prom. Email Judy at jorr@connectingwaters.org to join the Prom Committee and help plan the Prom.

The second Mother/Son and Father/Daughter dance has been scheduled for **March 12th** from 6:30-9PM at the Modesto Centre Plaza. The cost is \$10 per person, and students in grades Kindergarten through 9th are welcome to bring one or both parents. Please email Lindsey with any questions at: ldkhan@charter.net

Join the Student Council on **February 24th** for some High School social activities. We will meet during the lunch hour (12 - 1 PM) for meet and greet activities, and at 2 pm -3 pm for an ice cream social and other activities. Please e-mail Judy at jorr@connectingwaters.org to help set up activities, or with any questions.

The City Roster is available for parents who would like to arrange to carpool with other CWCS families to school events. Please e-mail Neriah at neriahh@sbcglobal.net to receive an electronic copy of the information for other school families in the city in which you live.

To sign up for the Parent or Student Listserve, e-mail parentlistserv@connectingwaters.org with your name, parent name, and email address.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Teresa Matranga • English Dept. Chair • tmatranga@connectingwaters.org • 1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 4

The English Department welcomes everyone to February! This month, I would like to remind parents ahead of time about the 4th and 7th grade STAR writing tests scheduled for March 1st and March 2nd. Fourth graders will feel confident during the test if they know how to write a narrative, a response to literature, an informational essay, and a summary. Seventh graders should know how to write a fictional or autobiographical narrative, a response to literature, an informational essay, and a summary. If you would like more information about the STAR essay writing tests and to look at samples essays, you can go to the following website and scroll down to "CA Writing Standards Tests," <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>

I would also like to encourage **all** students in grades 5-8 to enter the "Courage in My Community" 2010-2011 writing contest! Entry is free and CWCS will win a prize if we have the most entries in the contest! The deadline for submission is February 11, 2011. To find out more go to www.courageinmycommunity.com

If you would like information about STAR testing, prep classes for writing at CWCS, or about the writing contest, ask your ES, or call me at, 1-800-808-9895, Ext. 4, then ext. 4.

Thank you for your continued support of our school!!



Worldstrides Washington D.C. Trip

We are very sorry to announce that this year's trip to Washington D.C. has been cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Social Studies Department

Lori Freeman, Social Studies Dept. Chair • lofreeman@connectingwaters.org • 1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 5

The Social Studies Department is excited about our second semester classes. New students have joined in, so now is a great time to share a few key reminders. Please review the following with your student, and feel free to contact the teacher if you have any questions.

Reminders:

- Headsets are required for Elluminate classes
- Final grades are determined as follows: Attendance 25%, Quarterly Progress Report (daily homework) 25%, Quizzes / Exams 25%, Projects/Portfolio Samples 25%
- Student grades can be seen on online on Moodle at anytime via student log-in
- The last day to drop a class is Friday, February 11th
- Attendance is required; after two unexcused absences, a student can be dropped from the class
- Students must follow the class syllabus and complete all assignments



Curriculum News

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

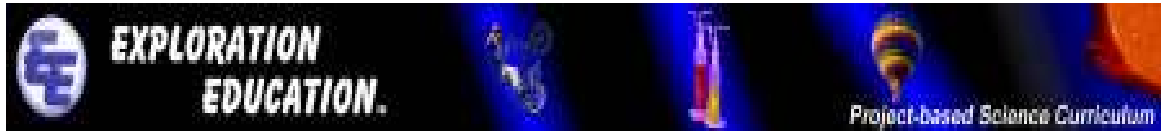
Happy Valentine's Day! Our spring semester is in full swing and there are many important upcoming events. Our 10th grade students will take the CAHSEE exam in March and STAR testing begins in March and goes through April, depending on each student's test site location. Before we know it, graduation for both 8th grade students and the seniors will be here!

Our 5th Annual Connecting Waters Parent/Student Training takes place on Thursday, February 24, 2011, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Modesto Centre Plaza in Modesto, California. I am excited about the curriculum vendors that will be attending. Parents and teachers can browse the vendor fair and have the chance to speak directly with representatives as well as see and "touch" the products. In addition to the vendor fair, there will be several curriculum workshops. The workshops allow representatives to showcase their product or complete a program demonstration in more detail. Please see the flyer within this newsletter for workshop descriptions and be sure to mark the date on your calendar. You will not want to miss this great opportunity!

STAR Testing is near. All students in the state of California will be assessed on the content standards for their grade level. The best way to prepare our students for this important test is to provide daily instruction in their grade level standards. By using the California standards as a guide for instruction, we are empowering both our students and our school. Without access to grade level standards, many students can be caught off guard and be at a disadvantage when it comes time to take the STAR. Students in high school, 10th grade and above, must take and pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), which is based on the standards, to earn their diploma. Some students may find it helpful to see previous STAR test questions so they know what to expect and are familiar with the test format. You can access released questions at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

As a reminder, I am available to meet in person during curriculum office hours at the Modesto Learning Center. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet, or have any curriculum questions, please feel free to contact me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org

**** Curriculum Spotlight ****



www.educationexploration.com

Project-based Science Curriculum



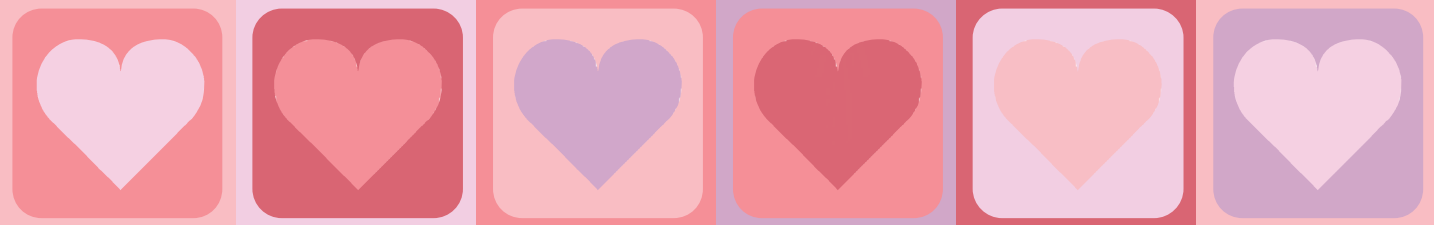
Hands-on Science
Year-long courses
Text on interactive CD with engaging lessons and experiments
Projects
All materials included
Aligned to CA standards

Looking for a great physical science curriculum? Exploration Education offers an awesome project-based program that is ideal for hands-on learners. The program includes an interactive text on CD, teacher's manual, activity or student logbook, and all the materials needed for the projects or experiments. Each level is filled with fun activities – students build projects or conduct experiments to apply what they have learned in the lesson. The intermediate and advanced versions include assessments to check for understanding. Each course is designed to last one year; elementary has 36 lessons, 1 lesson per week; intermediate has 108 lessons, 3 lessons per week; and the advanced has 180 lessons, 5 lessons per week.

The price of the curriculum is very reasonable as well. The elementary, recommended for grades K-3, is \$59.95; intermediate, grades 4-6, is \$119.95; and advanced, grades 7-10th is \$139.95. Please note that the advanced version includes the same 108 lessons as the intermediate, but adds 72 new lessons and 3 new projects.

To learn more about this fantastic option, visit the website at www.explorationeducation.com.

Come see this vendor at the Parent-Student Training on Feb. 24th!



Open House News

You're invited! Please join us for our annual Open House on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm, in 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 available for your enjoyment.

We would also like for our students to display their talent at Open House. In the past, students have played musical instruments, poetry readings, sang songs and given a ballet performance. Please let us know what talent you would like to display.

We would also like to invite students to display projects such as: art, writing, photography, History, Science, Social Studies, sewing, and others. If you are interested in displaying your work or performing, you will need to contact us to reserve a spot. Please contact Mary Vinnedge at 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 5, then 2, by **February 10, 2011**. Please mark this date on your calendar. Project boards are available and can be picked up at the Learning Centers or school office.

We hope to see you there!



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

Parent/Student Training Workshops: I'm looking forward to this exciting school-wide event on Thursday, February 24. There will be many informative vendors and workshop presentations. Among them, Shoni Johnson, ES and Math Instructor, and I will be presenting a workshop entitled, "Intermediate and Middle School Math—The Big Picture". Shoni has been teaching grades 4 and 5 online this year, and I have been teaching grades 6-8 for several years. We plan to share some tips for success in these crucial middle years. I hope to see you there!

A High School Math Team is forming in preparation for the annual Stanislaus Math Council's (SMC) High School Math Competition. The competition will take place on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at California State University Stanislaus, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. The Math Team is open to students taking courses in Geometry through Calculus. If you are interested or want to know more details, contact Debbie Kutz, dkutz@connectingwaters.org More information and practice questions can be found on the SMC website <http://stanislausmathcouncil.org/>

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.

Modesto Learning Center
Wednesdays 2:15-3:45

Ceres Learning Center
Tuesdays 12:30-2:30

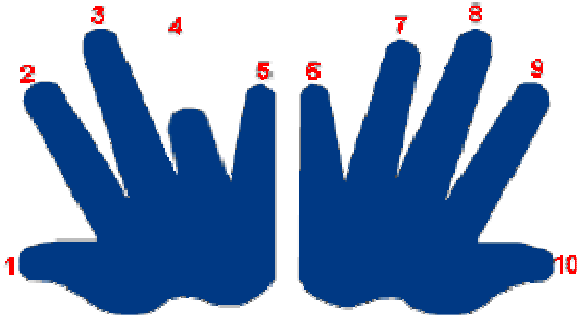
From your

Special Ed Department

Math Made Easy

Some fun tricks to help with math facts when your student just can't memorize those dreaded math facts:

Multiplication by 9s: Use your hands to help you solve multiplying by nines (up to 9×10), 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: 9×4 ...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 what 9×4 looks like. Fold over the finger representing the number with which you want to multiply by nine. (The finger representing four is curled under.) Then count fingers to the left on the one you have folded over 1, 2, and 3 as 10 each (10, 20, 30) skip the fourth finger, and with the fifth finger begin adding ones; (5) 31, (6) 32, (7) 33, (8) 34, 9 (35), and 10 (36). **$9 \times 4 = 36$**

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 nine. 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

2010-2011 Six Flags Read to Succeed Program

Due to multiple requests from our families, CWCS will be participating in the **2010-2011 Six Flags Read to Succeed** program for **K-6** students to earn free student tickets to Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. If you are interested in participating, please let your ES know and complete a Reading Log (see attachment) for each K-6 student.

To get your FREE student tickets, you need to complete 3 things:

1. Let your ES know you are interested in participating in the Read to Succeed program.
2. Encourage your child(ren) to complete six hours of recreational reading and return the attached Reading Log to his/her ES (1 per student) by: **Thursday, February 17th, 2011**.
3. By **Thursday, February 17, 2011**, send a Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope (SASE) for your TICKETS to:
ES Janine Weston, Read to Succeed Coordinator
38048 Acacia Street
Fremont, CA 94536

Dear Families,

Your child's school is participating in an exciting program that encourages children in grades K through 6 to read for fun. Read to Succeed® is a free program from Six Flags and Discovery Education. Every student who completes six hours of recreational reading before the school's deadline noted below is eligible for a free admission ticket valid at participating Six Flags theme parks. (Note: Schools must submit their information to us by March 4, 2011 and be within 250 miles of the closest Six Flags theme park). Students will develop a greater appreciation for books when they see that you think reading is important too. You're sure to have fun as you investigate the world of reading together!

Here's what you need to know:

- Only students in grades K through 6 are eligible to take part in the Reading Club.
- Review the attached reading log. Your child should use this sheet to record what and how long he/she reads.
- Your child must complete six hours, or 360 minutes of recreational reading. Please initial each entry and then sign the reading log to verify that the six hours of reading has been completed.
- Your child can read books, magazines, newspapers, or comic books. What doesn't count is any reading your child must do for homework or a class assignment. Kids can read silently, aloud, or with an adult—you can read to your child, or your child can read to you.
- Remind your child to return the reading log to his/her ES by the date on the form. Late entries will not be accepted.

About the Tickets

Tickets will be distributed to students by the school's coordinator. The ticket is valid for admission on select dates during the 2011 summer season. Dates will be printed on tickets. Lost, stolen, or damaged tickets cannot be replaced.

Look for the Family Discount Offer!

Each Read to Succeed ticket will come with a discounted admission ticket offer for families so that they can celebrate their child's accomplishment. This discount information will be printed on the student ticket and can be accessed at www.discoveryeducation.com/readtosucceed.

We hope that you and your child enjoy this free program and spend time reading together.

Happy Reading!

Janine Weston, MLIS, ES, Read to Succeed Coordinator

jweston@connectingwaters.org

510-299-2586 cell

510-792-6277 hm/fax

www.connectingwaters.org

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. -- William Butler Yeats

Outdoor Science School

ESes: Please note that funding will not be encumbered until the registration period is closed on April 1st. Please remember to account for this when using 2nd semester funds.

It is time to sign up for Outdoor Science School. We are going the week of April 18-22, 2011. We will again be going to Mount Hermon in the mountains above Santa Cruz. The cost will be \$287. We will be at Ponderosa Camp, located in the middle of the forest. It is used for their children's camps in summer. It has a heated swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball, a rec field, ping pong tables, and a climbing wall. There will be 1 counselor for each cabin (5-7 students). Counselors will be CWCS High School Juniors and Seniors. One adult 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. For more information about the camp, visit <http://mounthermon.org/outdoor-science> (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 #18876) and then email ES Cathy Moretto, cmoretto@connectingwaters.org, the following information:

Parent Name

Student Name(s) and Grade(s)

Home Phone Number

Email Address

ES Name

You will be emailed an enrollment packet with information and directions. The last day to sign up in webfiles is Friday, April 1.

Cathy Moretto, cmoretto@connectingwaters.org



Guidance Department

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

Contact information:
Mary Halter, School Counselor
1-800-808-9895 ext. 4 then 2
mhalter@connectingwaters.org

Check out the Guidance page online!

For new information and upcoming events: go to www.connectingwaters.org, choose departments and then guidance

For Scholarship Information: go to www.connectingwaters.org, choose departments, guidance, "Scholarships/Grants", and then "Current Scholarships"

Guidance Department Educational Series 2010-11

February 17th, 10:00am- High School Orientation Meeting for 7th and 8th graders

Location: Online via Elluminate

Description: 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! For the Elluminate session, please contact Guidance at guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org for instructions on how to attend.

Sign Up: To reserve your space for the Modesto LC workshop, call the Office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6

Graduates: Important Information about Financial Aid FAFSA and CalGrant due by **March 2nd**!

What is the FAFSA? The FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov 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 - file BOTH forms between January 1 and March 2:

FAFSA form is online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

Cal Grant GPA Verification Form – request from the CWCS Guidance Department

guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org The Guidance Department will ask you if you would like to submit the information electronically or in paper by mail (by mail takes 6 weeks to process). If you choose to submit electronically, you will need to send Guidance a Release Form that includes your Social Security Number. If you choose the paper form, Guidance will certify it and send it back to you and it is your responsibility to mail the completed form to the California Student Aid Commission. 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 your family makes too much money for you to receive 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. Or you can e-mail your request to guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org. You will have the option to submit electronically by signing a Release Form that includes your Social Security Number or by sending in a paper form by mail (this will take 6 weeks to process once it is received by the State). If you choose the paper form, the Guidance Department will certify the form and send it back to you and it is your responsibility to mail the completed form to the California Student Aid Commission postmarked by March 2nd. (**TIP:** keep a photocopy of the paper form for your records and send using a Certificate of Mailing from the Post Office, this provides proof that you mailed the form by the deadline)

Competitive Technology Grant

CWCS applied for the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant on February 1, 2010. The maximum award that we could receive is \$222,300. Based on the CST data, Scantron data, and student work samples improving student achievement in math is a critical area of need needed to improve student achievement for our students in grades 4-8. Proficient/advanced students lag behind the state and the district in grades 4 and 5 by 20 percentage points. CWCS Proficient/advanced students in grades 6-8 lag behind the state by 15 or more percentage points. One of the goals for CWCS is to improve student proficiency levels in math by 25 percent. CWCS, in accordance with AB1994, can only operate learning centers within Stanislaus County. CWCS currently has two sites serving the students in Stanislaus County and the surrounding areas. However, more than half of our students live in geographic locations too far from the sites to attend classes on a weekly basis. With the EETT C grant, CWCS will be able to address the needs our students have for expanded delivery of instruction using technology including direct instruction using highly qualified teachers.

Our existing math program encourages the use of state adopted Houghton Mifflin California Math for students in grades 4 and 5 and Holt California Mathematics for students in grades 6-8. We currently have a limited number of students using these programs due to insufficient funding and instructor access. With the expanded use of technology, students in the seven other counties will access teacher-directed instruction via Elluminate (an online classroom) and Moodle (online blackboard). The combination of learning online while the instructor directs has proven to be successful (U.S. Department of Education, 2010). CWCS currently uses Elluminate to deliver teacher-directed instruction to students primarily in grades 9-12 who do not attend classes located at the learning centers. The grant will permit CWCS to purchase hardware, student laptops for online class use, and increased technical support, as well as hire online instructors, provide professional development for all teachers in the use of Elluminate/Moodle and, train teachers in computer literacy and how to best deliver instruction using the curriculum and technology.

Each student will use state adopted curriculum based on grade and skill level, will use the laptop or desktop computer, and an online writing pad. Each will be instructed in how to access the online classroom, in the use of pacing guides, in taking tests, in sending communications to instructors and in submitting assignments. In addition to the above use of technology-delivered instruction, students taking the courses on-site will use a classroom response system. All students will have access to online tutors and *Study Island*, a web-based standards mastery product. *Study Island* licenses will be purchased for use with this program. A case study confirmed that math proficiency improved for students using *Study Island* (Magnolia Consulting LLC, 2008).

Through professional development, each teacher will be trained in using Elluminate/Moodle to deliver instruction using the curriculum and computer literacy. Current Elluminate instructors will serve as mentors to the teachers acquiring this new skill.

The Elluminate Moodle Technology (EMT) Coordinator will be in charge of facilitating all technology upgrades and trainings. In addition to the training teachers and students will receive, parents will also be trained on using this technology.

Parents will attend Elluminate training and in-person informational sessions about the program goals. CWCS will encourage the use of this technology and parent-student-teacher collaboration through the online newsletter, listserv notices, parent council board, the annual parent and student trainings, and in-person meetings with their ES. The curriculum director and math specialist/department chair will train the parents on use of the curriculum.

The program will be managed and assessed for success monthly by the Program Management team through examination of the data. This is considered “year one” of the grant although the awards have not been granted. In “year two”, CWCS will focus our technology and math goals on our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

We will let you know as soon as we know whether or not we receive this grant!