



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

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(800) 808-9895

Volume 9
Rebecca Berringer • Layout

May 2011

Issue 10
Roy Shimp • Editor

Dates to Remember

May 11-12
a-g Finals

May 17
8th Grade Graduation

May 19
Senior Graduation

May 20
Last Day of School



News from the Executive Director

The WASC visit has been completed. A six member team of educators representing WASC visited our school Sunday, April 10 through Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Thank you to all of you who attended the WASC meetings and those who couldn't but wanted to! Based on the visiting committee's interviews with our staff, families, and our self study report, the team will make a recommendation of the term of accreditation to the WASC Commission. The Commission will review all of the information and vote on a recommendation. We will know our term of accreditation by early July. We will share their report and findings once received. The visiting committee had several recommendations for us which we will be busy implementing into our action plan. These recommendations are:

Critical Areas for Focus:

- Effective and on-going data collection, analysis and dissemination on an individual and school-wide basis
- Focus on attaining AYP and increasing API and CAHSEE pass rates
- Increase academic rigor regarding state standards
- Relevant and on-going best practices for ES and parent-teachers
- Increase number of students transitioning to a 4-year college

Ongoing Work:

- Set school-wide priorities
- Determine timeline for implementation
- Monitor progress and allow for reflection by all stakeholders
- Allow for adjustments as indicated by new data, budget trends and student performance results

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IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Parent Council Ballots are due May 13, 2011

Ballots for our Parent Council election went out in the mail on April 29! Please show your support and help your school by filling out your ballot or (ballots if you have more than one CW student) and mail it back to either the school office in Waterford or one of the learning centers by May 13th. The Parent Council makes up the governing board of our school. According to our charter our parent council must consist of 22 members who are chosen by a majority vote of the Connecting Waters parents. You may also bring your ballot to the school office or one of the learning centers (if you are in the neighborhood) or fax your ballot to the school office. The fax number is (209) 874-9531.



Assessment News

STAR

THANK YOU! We appreciate our parents, students, ESes, coordinators, and staff for their positive attitudes while staying flexible, and the communication in the process. We successfully made it through a challenging year of STAR testing! We operated as a team that consistently improves with each year.

Your ES will deliver and explain your STAR Student Reports at your learning record meeting at the beginning of the year (August/September). Performance levels of “Proficient” or “Advanced” indicate that your student is meeting or surpassing California’s target for academic achievement. Performance levels of “Basic”, “Below Basic”, or “Far Below Basic” indicate areas of learning that need improvement. In addition, the STAR Student Report will include scores for specific content areas within each subject tested and a California Reading List (CRL) Number. Accompanying the student report will be an explanation about all of the information included in the report.

CAHSEE

May 10 (English Language Arts) and May 11 (Math) are the last test administration dates for the California High School Exit Exam for the CWCS 2010-2011 school year. Attendance is required for all 10th grade students who were absent for the March test date(s), and available for 11th and 12th grade students who need to take one or both portions of the CAHSEE.



English Department News

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

Our school year is coming to an end. Thank you students and parents for your help in making it challenging and fun! The English Department enjoyed working with everyone in our Illuminate classes. We are sad to see the students go, but we hope they learned from us, enjoyed our classes, and will enroll in other Illuminate courses. Please ask your ES for information about our 2011-2012 schedule. We will offer general and a-g level classes for grades 7-12 next year. If your student is taking an a-g class now, it is important that you know when and where the final will be given. Ask your ES or your HQT if you are unsure.

Thank you for participating in STAR testing! Have a wonderful summer! See you next year!



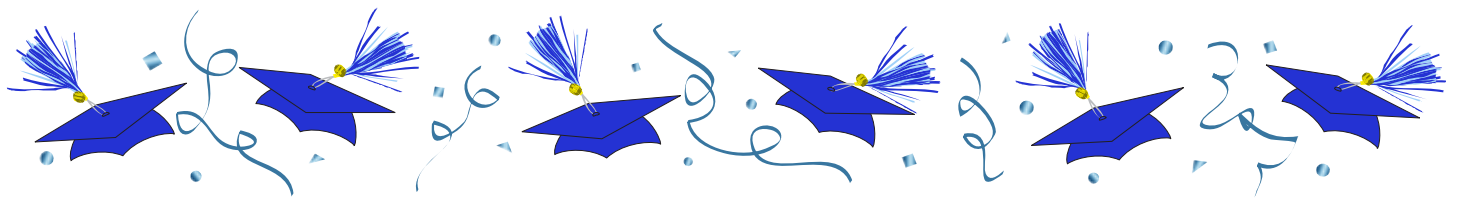
Student Council News

Judy Orr, Student Council • jorr@connectingwaters.org

The Student Council would like to extend a big “Thank You” to the Prom Committee: Alex and Ana Garcia, Sarah Avila, Shadé Johnson, Clara Maris, and Neriah Howard. We couldn't have done it without our adult helpers: Mrs. Sherri Nelson, Mrs. Renee Garcia, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Avila, Ms. Shaneil Johnson, Mrs. Malinda Miller, Mrs. Katie Jefferson, and Mr. Huth. Our appreciation also goes out to Leonard Photography and our DJ, Mr. Jim Maris, for providing outstanding service. Thanks for making it a memorable event!

Sunday, May 15th is the date set for the Senior Potluck at Woodward Park in Manteca. Please bring your favorite dish to share and meet the fellow seniors in your class. The Potluck is from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. The Student Council will provide plates, utensils, cups, water, and lemonade. Please RSVP to Sana at ssaifuddin94@gmail.com by May 9th.

The second Leadership Retreat is set for May 13th. This is open to all high school students who are CSF, Student Council, and NHS members. Permission slips must be received in the school office (12420 Bentley St, Waterford, CA 95386 or fax: 209-874-9531) by May 12th. Here's the link to the permission slip: <http://www.connectingwaters.org/CWforms/edactper.pdf> Please RSVP at: <http://new.evite.com/services/links/SXTFMUC5HB> Hope to see you there!



EPGY (K-8) Open Enrollment

There are new enrollment options for EPGY Open Enrollment. For the 2011-2012 school year you can enroll your student for either a 10-month period at \$135 or a 5-month period at \$95. For CWCS students enrollment in August would cover the entire school year if the 10-month option was chosen. Both enrollment options include all three courses offered through Open Enrollment: Kindergarten-Pre-Algebra Math, Language Arts and Writing, and Beginning Algebra. The enrollment period begins the day of registration and expires 10 or 5 months later, respectively. You can also re-enroll *at any time* during the year using the re-enrollment tool on the student page, the page to which a student is taken upon login. If you re-enroll before your courses expire, your new expiration date will be either 10 or 5 months from the current date of expiration (not from the date of re-enrollment).

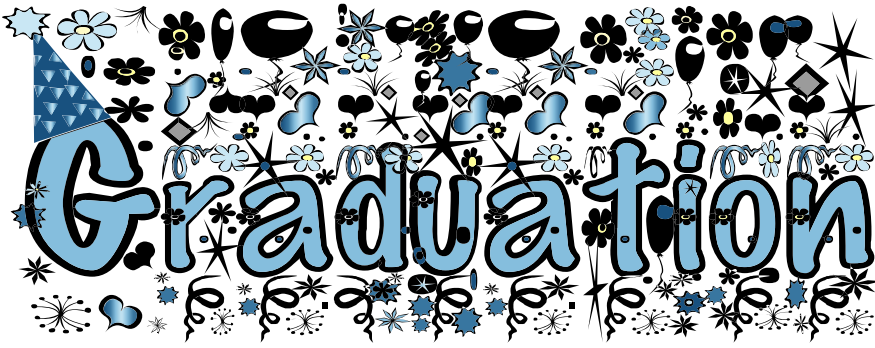
Please note that a \$25 activation fee applies to all expired accounts and all new student accounts. To avoid this fee, re-enroll from the student page before your courses expire. The course expiration date appears on the student page.

Please visit the following links for the most current EPGY Open Enrollment fliers detailing the new enrollment options.

English version flier: <http://epgy.stanford.edu/pdf/soe/EnrollmentWebPost.pdf>

Spanish version flier: http://epgy.stanford.edu/pdf/soe/info_sp.pdf

For any further questions you can email me, Leslie Leedy, at lleedy@connectingwaters.org



**2011 Graduation Information
Attention: 8th Grade and Senior**

We currently have 117 Seniors and 55 Eighth Graders signed up to participate!

Congratulations to all the students who will be graduating in 2011; you're almost there! How fast the years have flown by and this one is no exception. CWCS is planning an 8th grade graduation on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. and a senior graduation on May 19th 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 here are some important times you will need to remember:

On **May 17** - 8th grade graduation required practice is at 4:30 pm and 8th grade graduation is at 7:00 pm

On **May 19** - Senior graduation required practice is at 4:30 pm and senior graduation is at 7:00 pm

If you have any graduation related questions you may contact Mary Vinnedge at 800-808-9895 Ext. 5, then 2 or e-mail mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org



Social Studies Department News

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

The school year is just about over. Learning with our students in our classrooms without walls has been wonderful. Remember that grades are available anytime online; if you have a question or concern regarding your student's grade, please contact the instructor. As a reminder, final course grades are based on the following: Attendance 25%, Quarterly Progress Report (daily homework) 25%, Quizzes / Exams 25%, and Projects/Portfolio Samples 25%.

Next year's class schedule is now available; if you are interested in enrolling your student, please contact your ES and let them know. Online classes available include: 8th grade US History (Access only), 10th grade World History, 11th grade US History, and 12th grade Economics and Government. Weekly Elluminate classes will cost \$167 per semester and Access classes are \$75 per semester. Most classes have a minimum and a maximum number of students. This means if the minimum number of students do not enroll, the class will be cancelled; in addition, once the class maximum has been reached, students will be placed on a waiting list.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Curriculum News

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

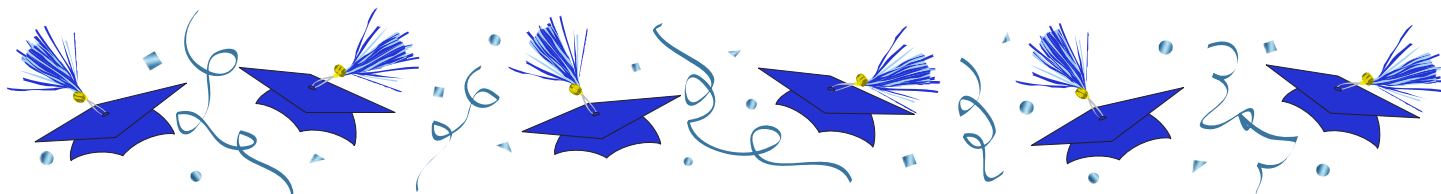
Happy May! That the school year is nearly over and summer vacation is nearly here for Connecting Waters is difficult to believe. Well wishes to all of our seniors and other graduates who will be moving onto the next stage of his or her life.

Please remember that both the Modesto and Ceres Learning Centers have curriculum libraries where families can check out materials to use for the year at no cost to instructional funds. In an effort to help families meet curriculum needs, materials for next year can be checked out on Tuesday, May 31st. In order to check-out materials for next year, all current items must be returned.

Although the last day of school is Friday, May 20th, I will be available until June 10th to work with parents. Next year, I will continue to hold curriculum office hours on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Modesto Learning Center. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet, please contact me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org.

Houghton Mifflin Math Pilot ~ Reminders

- ✦ Pilot materials are due back at the Modesto Learning Center by Friday, May 27th.
- ✦ Manipulative Kits must also be returned; please be sure all pieces are included!
- ✦ Next year pilot materials cannot be checked out until all current pilot materials (including manipulatives) have been returned.
- ✦ End of Year and Placement Tests are to be given by and scored by the parent.
- ✦ End of Year Test and Placement Test results should be e-mailed to Lori Freeman at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org
- ✦ End of Year Test results for current students are due Friday, May 13th.
- ✦ Placement Test results for new students are due Friday, May 6th.
- ✦ Student materials cannot be checked out until Placement Test results (new students) **and** End of Year Test results (current students) have been received and textbook placement has been assigned by parent.
- ✦ K-2 families - don't forget to place your student textbook order with your ES.
- ✦ 4-5 families – be sure your ES enrolls your student in their fall online math class.
- ✦ A parent informational meeting will be held on Friday, August 26th from 5:00 – 5:50 pm at the Modesto Learning Center; here we will go over the pacing guide, suggested lesson design, student materials, and demonstrate the online Teacher's Edition.



STUDY ISLAND

Student access will end on July 1st. The enrollment window for the 2011-12 school year will take place in August. Sign-up information will be shared at that time.

Please contact Lori Freeman at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org with any questions.

Library News

Attention Students Enrolled in HQT Classes for the 2011-2012 School Year!!!

Books that are used for HQT courses will be separated and available for check out at the learning centers for a limited time only!!

If all your books are returned by Friday, May 27, 2011, you can begin checking out books for the fall semester on Tuesday, May 31, 2011! Books for HQT courses will be set aside for students enrolled in the HQT courses **only, from May 31st – June 10th**. After this date, the books will be available to **all** students.

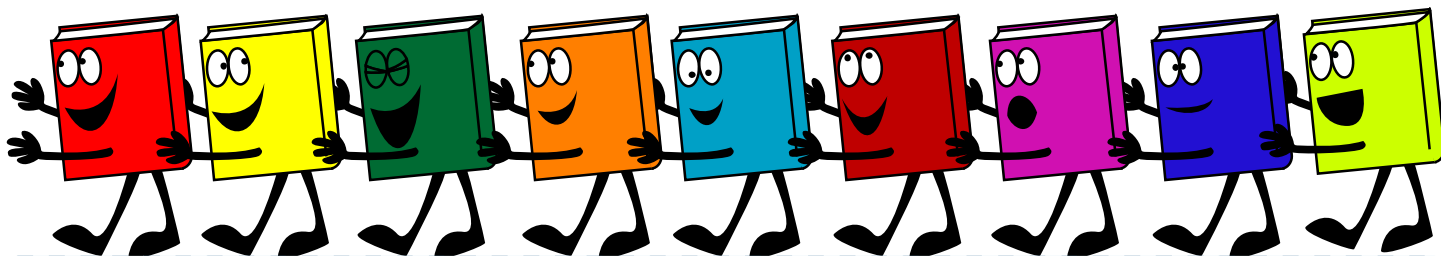
COME EARLY!! We have a limited amount of books for these classes! Save student funding for classes and activities... check out books from your local learning center instead!!

Ceres Learning Center
3641 Mitchell Road, Ste. F
Ceres, CA 95307

Summer Hours:
June 1st – June 10th
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00am – 2:00pm

Modesto Learning Center
4713 Greenleaf Ct., Ste. A
Modesto, CA 95356

Summer Hours:
June 1st – June 30th
Monday – Thursday
9:00am – 3:00pm



Boxtops for Education Fundraiser

Connecting Waters is enrolled in the Boxtops for Education Program. For every Boxtop coupon sent in, General Mills pays us 10¢. Boxtops 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 school office or learning centers. Money raised will be used for school activities.

Language Arts News

Terry Leppien, Literacy Director • tleppien@connectingwaters.org • 1-800-808-9895 Ext 5, then 1

Summer Reading Tips

Many of our families “go the extra mile and continue reading over the summer”. I encourage every family to stress reading this summer. Studies show that children can sustain or gain reading skills, vocabulary, and the benefit of reading for enjoyment during the summer months. Without reading during vacation, children can experience a loss of reading skills over the summer.

Because summer is a more relaxed time most reading should be fun. The following tips will help make reading enjoyable for your children:

Subscribe to magazines in your child’s name – Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children and National Geographic are a few.

Read the newspaper – Encourage your older children to read the newspaper. Read some articles aloud to younger children, so they become familiar with the newspaper or news online as a good source of information.

Join the Summer Reading Club at the Library – Many libraries sponsor a summer reading club with easy- to-reach goals for children during the summer months. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

Listen to Books on tape – are available at the book stores and the library. Listen to the audio books in the car and at home during the summer.

Set an example – Have lots of reading material available around the house. Turn off the television for a period of time for family reading time.

Encourage keeping a summer scrapbook – Fill it with souvenirs of your family activities during the summer – photos, postcards, ticket stubs, and other summer keepsakes. Have your child write captions and read them aloud to you as you view the book together.

Happy Reading!

ESLR OF THE MONTH

ESLR #2

Technologically and Socially Skilled Individuals (Life Skills)

Student sufficiently understands and functions in the world around him/her.” Student:

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

MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

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

Working with so many wonderful CWCS students and families this year has been delightful. We have had a good year with online HQT courses, HQT Access, learning center courses, readiness testing, CAHSEE Prep courses, tutoring, drop-in math coaching, and a high school math competition.

Summer is often a good time to work on skills in a more relaxed and creative atmosphere than the regular school year. I encourage you to look for teachable math moments in your summer travel and activities. Take a few moments of downtime to practice the math facts, particularly multiplication. Build your skills with fractions, decimals and percents while cooking, building, or gardening. Look for math concepts in your physical surroundings, like geometry in nature and architecture. Play games that involve counting and arithmetic skills. Build a puzzle. Compose songs that incorporate math skills and concepts. Read a book.

Here are some suggestions for math-related summer reading:

Primary Grades

The Greedy Triangle, by Marilyn Burns

The Doorbell Rang, by Pat Hutchins

Amanda Bean's Amazing Dream, by Marilyn Burns

Anno's Counting Book, by Mitsumasa Anno

How Much is a Million?, by David Schwartz

A Cloak for the Dreamer, by Aileen Friedman

Intermediate Grades

Spaghetti and Meatballs for All!, by Marilyn Burns

Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar, by Mitsumasa Anno

If You Hopped Like a Frog, by David Schwartz

Is a Blue Whale the Biggest Thing There Is?, by Robert Wells

What's Smaller Than a Pygmy Shrew?, by Robert Wells

Grandfather Tang's Story, by Ann Tompert

Middle School and High School

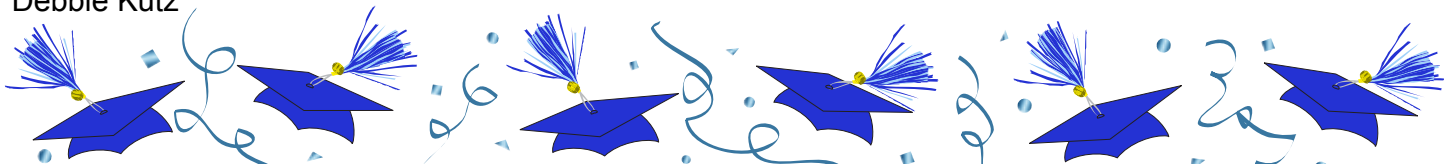
Math Curse, by Jon Scieszka

The Art of Problem Solving, Vol.1, by Sandor Lehoczky and Richard Rusczyk

The Life of Fred, by Stanley Schmidt, Polka Dot Publishing

Have a wonderful summer!

Debbie Kutz



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.

Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School

During Spring Break, forty-two 5th and 6th grade CWCS students attended Mount Hermon Outdoor Science School in the mountains above Santa Cruz. They were supervised by an ES, several CWCS High School counselors, as well as Naturalists and members of the Mount Hermon staff. All had a great time walking on day and night hikes, playing games, attending campfire with skits, making s'mores, and learning about nature. We will be attending again next year during Spring Break, April 9-13, 2012. Starting in the Fall, details will appear in CWCS Newsletters and listserve e-mails.



*CWCS Outdoor Science School
2011*



Climbing wall



Nature hikes

Back to School Training Workshop

Parents, please join us on Friday, August 26th, at the Modesto Learning Center. Two sessions will be offered: 12-3 pm and 4-7 pm. Our school staff will be hosting workshops and sharing information to help get the new school year started. Please note, most workshops are repeated in the late afternoon to accommodate various parent schedules. A few workshops will only be held one time, so please plan your time with that in mind. The Back to School workshops are designed for parents; children activities or supervision are not able to be provided.

We are excited to offer this training to support our parents in the education of our students and look forward to seeing you there!

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
12:00 – 12:50	Terry Leppien "Homeschooling a Struggling Learner"	Sofia Oldmark "Reaching the Science Standards"	Denetrice Howard "Teaching Multiple Grades"
1:00 – 1:50	Terry Leppien "Direct Instruction for Home-School Students"	Rolff Christensen "Into the Basic Facts and Beyond"	Mary Halter "High School Orientation Meeting"
2:00 – 2:50	Lori Freeman & Bev Harris "Cool Curriculum!"	Debbie Kutz "Skills for Algebra Success"	Mary Halter "Motivating your High School Student"
Break 3 – 4 pm			
4:00– 4:50	Terry Leppien "Homeschooling a Struggling Learner"	Sofia Oldmark "Reaching the Science Standards"	Denetrice Howard "Teaching Multiple Grades"
5:00 –5:50	Terry Leppien "Direct Instruction for Home-School Students"	Debbie Kutz & Lori Freeman "Houghton Mifflin Math Pilot New Parent Meeting"	Mary Halter "High School Orientation Meeting"
6:00 – 6:50	Lori Freeman & Bev Harris "Cool Curriculum!"	Rolff Christensen "Into the Basic Facts and Beyond"	Mary Halter "Motivating your High School Student"

Back to School Training Workshop Descriptions

Homeschooling a Struggling Learner

Children who struggle to learn expected standards present unique challenges in any school setting. Reading, math, and writing can be intimidating subjects to teach these learners. This workshop will discuss some causes of the struggling and how to effectively work with this type of learner in these subject areas in a home school setting.

Reaching the Science Standards

Come learn how to use/supplement science curriculum to address all the standards. Online science class and options for home labs by grade level will be discussed.

Continued on page 11...

...Back to School Training, continued from page 10

Teaching Multiple Grades

Do you feel overwhelmed teaching multiple children? Education Specialist Denetrice Howard understands your feelings as she has taught her own four children for the past seven years with CWCS and will add her fifth child for the upcoming school year. Come explore ideas as Mrs. Howard will share how she plans, organizes, and manages teaching multiple children that range from high school to kindergarten.

Direct Instruction for Home School Students

Learn how to use a direct instruction teaching model in the home school setting. Learn the sequence of a lesson and how a lesson looks. Learn how to apply the teaching model to any appropriate lesson.

Into the Basic Facts and Beyond

In this session, Dr. Rolff Christensen will present strategies for students, parents, and teachers to use basic number sense to quickly mentally calculate "large" number facts (e.g. 7×8) and beyond (e.g. 13×6). As time allows, an introduction to a powerful Singapore problem solving strategy will be introduced. This workshop is appropriate for all parents and for students in grades 2nd - 12th.

High School Orientation Meeting

For new high schoolers and their parents: We will discuss the importance of high school and the courses you should take and work together to develop a high school four year individualized plan with your goals in mind! Now's the time to plan for your future!!

Cool Curriculum!

Cool standards-aligned California edition curriculum will be highlighted. Tips and ideas to successfully use materials at home will be shared. Questions are encouraged, and time will be given to "touch and see" the materials.

Skills for Algebra Success

Algebra 1 is an important course in the high school mathematics sequence. We will discuss the math skills needed before beginning Algebra, as well as the study skills that characterize successful Algebra students.

Motivating your High School Student

Let's get together to discuss how to get your high schooler motivated!

Houghton Mifflin Math Pilot New Parent Meeting

Join us for an informational session geared towards new pilot families. Student materials and the pacing guide will be discussed. We will demonstrate how to use the online Teacher's Edition and share a suggested lesson design to help implement the program successfully at home. There will also be time to answer parent questions.



Guidance Department

Greetings from the Guidance Department! Guidance can 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 or guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org

Check out the Guidance page online!

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

What are you doing this summer?

Click here: <http://www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance/summer.htm> for some great ideas!

NOTE: Instructional Funding cannot be used for these programs!

Leadership Retreat for High School Students!

When: Friday, May 13th!

Where: Shadow Cliffs Park in Pleasanton

What: Get ready for a fun day in the sun and a chance to meet your fellow classmates! We will be building leadership skills while getting to know one another!

How: RSVP at <http://new.evite.com/services/links/SXTFMUC5HB> to attend. By May 12th you **MUST** have a parent fill out and sign a permission slip and send it to the school office. The permission slip with instructions can be found at <http://www.connectingwaters.org/CWforms/edactper.pdf>

CollegeWeek Live

Upcoming ONLINE College Fairs at

www.collegeweeklive.com

May 3, 2011	CollegeWeekLive NEW ENGLAND DAY
May 5, 2011	CollegeWeekLive FLORIDA DAY
May 10, 2011	CollegeWeekLive NEW YORK DAY
May 12, 2011	CollegeWeekLive TEXAS DAY
May 13, 2011	CollegeWeekLive CALIFORNIA DAY
May 18, 2011	CollegeWeekLive HEALTH SCIENCES DAY

Class of 2011: Attending Community College Next year? Now is the time to check in with your community college! You will need to take assessments and attend orientation meetings!
Start Early, Start Now!!!

Education and Career Planning Course

Sign up now for Fall 2011!

CP # 21596

Grade Level: 9

Prerequisite: none

This 5-unit Life Skills course is mandatory for all 9th grade students beginning with the graduation class of 2012. 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!

Options for taking the course:

Moodle/Elluminate – online class offered on Tuesdays at 1pm

Independent Study –students will follow the Independent Study course outline, completing the course on their own, and will submit a portfolio to their ES for 25% of the semester grade. Student work during the semester comprises the other 75% of the Independent Study Student’s grade.

Textbook – Career Choices: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults by Academic Innovations. This text is required for the online class. For the Independent Study course, the text is recommended; however, students can use other sources to meet the requirements of the course and to complete the portfolio. The book can be ordered from Academic Innovations.