



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

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

Volume 9
Rebecca Berringer • Layout

October 2010

Issue 3
Roy Shimp • Editor

Dates to Remember

October 18

Spelling Bee at MLC
Grades 4-6: 1:00pm
Grades 7-8: 2:30pm

October 28

Picture Makeups at MLC
10:00am-12:00pm
209-543-7803
1-800-808-9895 ext. 2

Assessment News

Remember! Our first session of CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) will be offered in November this year in order to allow students more prep time. As always, please let your ES know if you have any questions or concerns so we can work toward resolving any issues ahead of time.

The November CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) schedule below is offered to students who have not yet passed one or both exams in grades 11 and 12 only. **Please contact your ES if you have not received your test site location letter by October 15.** Students planning on graduating should plan on attending the November and March sessions in order for their scores to be back in time.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Test Dates:

November 9, 2010 - English Language Arts (ELA)

November 10, 2010 - Mathematics (Math)

CAHSEE Testing begins promptly at 10:00 am and ends approximately at 3:00 pm. End time is estimated as the tests are untimed and each student works at their own speed. The parent/guardian must be available by phone so your student can call to be picked up when they are finished and our test administrators can lock up the buildings and go home. A photo ID of your student must be presented at the test site in order to take attempt the tests. Remind your student to bring water and snacks or a lunch for themselves as there is a break provided and they are not allowed to leave the test site.

English Department News

Teresa Matranga • English Dept. Chair

tmatranga@connectingwaters.org

1-800-808-9895 Ext 4, then 4

Greetings from the English Department! By now students enrolled in our Illuminate classes are knee deep in homework and learning. This is great! We hope they are also enjoying lively discussions with their classmates and teacher(s) about their assignments. Part of the reason our online classes have been successful in the past and enrollment has increased in the last two to three years is because of the personal touches our teachers can give their students. Inside our classrooms without walls, questions and discussions about short stories, novels, and their literary elements are encouraged, and writing instruction is included. Both provide valuable information in a positive learning environment.

Throughout this year, while everyone adjusts to changes in funding, we would like to thank those families who continue to enroll their students in our courses year after year, and we want to encourage other families to give our classes a try! It will be money well spent.

If you have questions about any of the English courses please feel free to call me at, 1-800-808-9895 Ext. 4, then ext. 4, or at 916-208-1175.

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Student Council News!!

Judy Orr, Student Council
jorr@connectingwaters.org



Welcome Fall!

The Student Council is working on a pilot sports program for the Stockton/Modesto areas. We are in great need of volunteers and coaches to make this program a reality. Please e-mail Sana at ssaifudding94@gmail.com if you are able to assist in any way.

We are happy to announce that the Student Council will host the Harvest Festival again this year. We will be having a costume contest (costumes appropriate for all ages) with a gift card for the winner, a candy guess, face painting, and much more. The Festival will be at the Modesto Learning Center, rain or shine. Watch the Parent and Student Listserves for more information.

The Student Council will be sponsoring again this year a Red Ribbon Week poster competition. Develop a poster to illustrate the Red Ribbon Pledge (using drug prevention activities or hints) to be displayed at the Modesto or Ceres Learning Center. Entries will be broken down into grade levels with gift cards for the top poster of each level. Make sure to watch future Listserve notices with instructions on how to submit your poster. Students can also stop by the Learning Centers during Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31, 2010) to pick up their red wrist band to show their drug free lifestyle.

The Prom Committee will hold it's first meeting on October 11, 11:00 AM at the Modesto Learning Center, and online in Moodle: <http://moodle.connectingwaters.org/mod/illuminate/view.php?id=711> Please e-mail Judy Orr at jorr@connectingwaters.org if you would like to attend online, but do not have Moodle access.

The next Council meeting will be October 4, 10:05 AM at the Modesto Learning Center. Hope to see you there!



Raleys/Nobhill Quality of Life Card Fundraiser

Connecting Waters is enrolled in the Raleys/Nob Hill Quality of Life Program. Raleys will give our school 1%-4% back on your total when you show the Quality of Life Card at time of purchase. Cards are available for pick-up at the 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 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.

Math Department News!

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

I have been enjoying teaching and interacting with many of you in courses and drop-in coaching sessions at the learning centers. I am encouraged by the students' focus and interest in challenging themselves in the area of mathematics.

Drop-In Tutoring continues each week. If you need some help with your math problems, feel free to bring your questions to me at either of the learning centers. I'm there each week to assist students of all grade levels and to answer parent questions.

Wednesdays, 2:15pm-3:45pm at the Modesto Learning Center
Thursdays, 12:30pm-2:30pm at the Ceres Learning Center

Opportunities for student-leadership: There are currently two opportunities for student leadership in the area of mathematics - Math Club Coordinators and Student Tutors. Math Club Coordinators would be junior high or high school students who would organize and lead a math club for their peers, under my direction and guidance. If you, or someone you know, are a junior high or high school student who has a knack for leadership and an interest in math, contact me for more information about becoming a Math Club Coordinator. A few exceptional high school math students are needed to assist during the drop-in tutoring hours. This Student Tutor volunteer opportunity would be great for a high school junior or senior who likes to teach. It is good experience and a nice service project to put on your college application or resume. Again, contact me if you're interested.

Remember, I am here to assist and encourage you as you help your children grow and develop as mathematical thinkers. Feel free to reach me during the drop-in coaching times at the learning centers or by phone or e-mail.

Enjoy!

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



Social Studies Department

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

The Social Studies Department classes are going well. Each year, our students are more and more comfortable with the online format and are becoming increasingly tech savvy. Students taking department classes will no doubt be very prepared for any college level online class format!

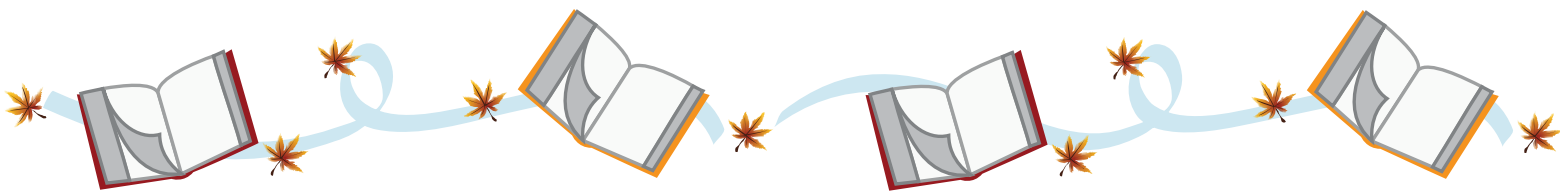
The last day to drop a class was Friday, September 17. Students are now unable to drop a class and will receive their grade from their HQT teacher. It is extremely important that students continue to turn in all assignments, attend their classes, and check their grades in Moodle.

If you have a student that is interested in enrolling in one of our online classes, please check our schedule at <http://www.connectingwaters.org/hqt/2011/socstuindex.htm>. If there is room in a class, students can still enroll after contacting the instructor.

Please feel free to contact me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org if you have any questions.

Happy Fall! The weather is cooling and our students are working hard! What a great time of the year. If you have any questions regarding curriculum, please feel free to contact me via phone or e-mail at any time. I am also available on the 3rd Monday of each month to meet in person at the Modesto Learning Center from 10:00am-12:00pm. If you would like to meet in person during this time, please e-mail me at lofreeman@connectingwaters.org so we can schedule an appointment.

Did you know? If your student has purchased a Glencoe textbook, your student can have access to the online edition! This is available at no charge. Your ES must register as a teacher and will then be given a username and password to share with their students. Please note that not all books are available in the online format, and again, the hard-bound student edition must have been purchased. ESes can register on the following site: <http://www.glencoe.com/ose/#teacher> This is also the student log-in site for students once their teacher has registered and provided them their access code.



CW Oral Language Fair

Fall 2010
Grades 2-8

What is it? Students learn poems, chant in verse choirs, write speeches, or learn short stories and then perform their memorized piece in front of an audience of parents, peers and teachers. We will have a panel of judges, including a speech professor, to assist us. Prizes will be awarded for the top performers and ALL participants will be acknowledged. Go to the following links to view oral language performances through YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQKs1wWkhSM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2bvthtbZEO&feature=email>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RZGvuzD_0k&feature=email

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KcXhvpn0-bE&feature=email>

Why participate in an Oral Language Fair? Oral language fairs provide students the opportunity to have a pleasurable experience speaking before an audience. They are a great way to address the speaking standards. And they are lots of fun!

When/ Where? November 16, 2010 - Lighthouse Community Church, 107 D'Arcy Pkwy., Lathrop, 95330
Just South of Stockton off of I-5 and just past Manteca on Hwy 120

What do I need to do to help make this happen? Send an e-mail to Julie Berghorst (ES) at jberghorst@connectingwaters.org Please include parent name, e-mail address, phone number, and student(s) name and grade level. You can also help spread the word about this new & exciting opportunity!

9 Quick Ways to Improve Reading Comprehension

Brought to you By Your Special Education Department

Help your child retain what they read - a crucial skill needed to glean important information from textbooks.

1. Have your child read aloud. This forces student's to go slower, which gives them more time to process what they read. Plus, not only seeing the words, but hearing them, uses two different modalities (visual and auditory).
2. Take turns reading. You read a page to model pacing (fluency), tone, and intonation. Then have your child re-read what you read.
3. Provide the right kinds of books. Make sure your child gets lots of practice reading books that aren't too difficult. They should recognize at least 90 percent of the words without any help. Stopping any more often than that to figure out a word makes it tough to focus on the overall meaning of the story.
4. Reread to build fluency. To gain meaning from text, your child needs to read quickly and smoothly - a skill known as fluency. By the end of 2nd grade, for example, your child should be able to read 90 words a minute. Rereading familiar, simple books gives your child practice at decoding words quickly, and increases their fluency.
5. Talk with our PLT. If your child is struggling with comprehension, s/he may need more help with reading - for example, building vocabulary or practicing phonics skills. Our *Personalized Learning Team* is designed to provide parents of struggling readers with a wide range of suggestions and interventions.
6. Supplement core reading. If your child's is studying a particular theme or subject, look for easy-to-read books or magazines on the topic. Front loading your student with key vocabulary terms and giving them prior information about a topic will help make it easier for them to understand when you use their core instructional materials.
7. Talk about what your student is reading. This "verbal processing" helps them remember and think through the themes of the book. Ask questions before, during, and after a reading session. For example: *Before*: "What are you interested in about this book? What doesn't interest you?" *During*: "What's going on in the book? Is it turning out the way you thought it would? What do you think will happen next?" *After*: "Can you summarize the book? What did you like about it? What other books does it remind you of?"
8. Use Visual Cues to increase recall. Use a highlighter (for consumable/throw away materials) to help your child physically mark key facts, details, or vocabulary concepts. For books that can't be highlighted in, put a post-a-note on the page. Your child can also write on the post-a-note to help them remember the fact or detail that is contained on the given page.
9. Use visual cues to highlight key points. Using a post-a-note on a page where key facts or details are recorded.



It's time to get ready for the annual CWCS Spelling Bee!



Any student enrolled in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade is welcome to come and join the friendly competition.

The school's Bee will be held at the Modesto Learning Center on **Monday, October 18, 2010**. All participants will write each word on paper and proctors will mark each word as correct or incorrect.

Please email Jeni Richline with any questions you might have at jrichline@connectingwaters.org. Sign up by e-mailing cwsecretary@connectingwaters.org or call the School Office at 209-874-1119 ext. 6 or 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6. When e-mailing put "**Spelling Bee**" in the subject line. Please provide the student's name, ES, grade level, telephone number, and e-mail address.



The deadline to sign up for the spelling bee is **Wednesday, October 6th**, no later than 4:00 pm

Elementary Spelling Bee, Grades 4-6: 1:00 pm

Word list:

Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) website has been revamped and a word list will be sent at a later date. Until this list is put out on their website, parents can go to: www.flashcardexchange.com/flashcards/view/479054 for a list of words to study.

Junior High Spelling Bee, Grades 7-8: 2:30 pm

Word list:

SCOE website has been revamped and a word list will be sent at a later date. Until this list is put out on their website, parents can go to: www.flashcardexchange.com/flashcards/view/479054 for a list of words to study.



For more information and rules, visit the county website:

<http://www.stancoe.org/scoe/admin/studentevents/>

The top two spellers from each competition will advance to the county competitions! (See information below) Third place contestants will serve as alternatives.

County Competitions:

Elementary Spelling Championship – Grades 4-6

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, November 3, 2010
Registration: 4:30 PM
Championship begins promptly at 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Enochs High School - Gymnasium
3201 Sylvan Ave, Modesto

Junior High Spelling Championship - Grades 7-8

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Registration: 4:30 PM
Championship begins promptly at 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Petersen Event Center
720 12th Street, Modesto

Yearbook News

Attention CWCS

Please read the following carefully as there have been some changes

Yearbook Class

Yearbook class has started. The committee has made some major changes in how pictures are submitted and how we sell yearbooks. Please read the following!

Custom Cover Contest!

The custom cover contest is an art contest where students submit their artwork of our mascot, the tiger. The selected artwork will be displayed on the cover and the student will receive a free yearbook! Submissions are due by January 5, 2011 at either one of the learning centers or at the school office in Waterford. Artwork must be submitted on an 8 1/2" x 11" paper in portrait layout. Remember to include both a front and a back cover. Please include both "Connecting Waters Charter School" and "2010-2011" on the cover. Only one submission per student will be accepted. If you have any questions please contact Janie Severin at cwyearbook@connectingwaters.org

Activity Photos!

Make this yearbook memorable! If there are any activities in which your student has participated - sports, family field trips, electives, or others - please send them in! Please submit your photos by **January 21, 2011!** There are two ways to submit your pictures.

(1) You can upload your pictures directly onto our program by following these simple steps...

Go to this link: <http://www.hjeshare.com/eShare/Index.jsp?code=1016387>

Fill out your contact information and click "Browse for images", after selecting your images, and providing your images details such as who is in the picture, click "Submit image information".

Or

(2) You can send them in by mail to the school office at:

CWCS School Office
12420 Bentley Street
Waterford, CA 95386

Please remember pictures mailed will not be returned.

It's that easy!!! Don't forget to upload your pictures today! Your support and assistance in making this yearbook incredible is appreciated. The yearbook committee says, "Thank you"!



Continued on page 8...

There's a New Way to Order Your Yearbook!!!

*** Our full color, hard-cover yearbooks will be on sale for only \$30.00 if you order by the October 29, 2010. After the October 29, 2010 the **price will go up!**

There are three ways to order your yearbook:

- (1) You can order your yearbook at the Ceres Learning Center, Modesto Learning Center, or at the school office in Waterford. Cost is \$30.00
- (2) You can order your yearbook securely online by going to this link <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

Type in our School's code which is "12000" and click continue. Follow the steps to complete your purchase. Please note that yearbooks purchased online will have a \$3.50 processing fee making the yearbook a total of \$33.50. As a courtesy parents may purchase a yearbook online using one of our learning centers or school office computers. Transactions made online using our yearbook site are secure for VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, and E-CHECK. You will be logged on to a computer if one is available.

- (3) Call the toll-free number 1-866-287-3096, Monday through Friday 8am until 5pm, Central Time. If you order by phone, you will need to know our Order Number "12000". Please note that purchases made by phone will have a \$3.50 processing fee making the yearbook a total of \$33.50.

Yearbook will now be available with the option of having a name plate on the front with your student's name. It makes the yearbook even more special. The name plate will cost an extra \$5.00.

Yearbooks ordered online or by phone may be purchased using VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, and E-CHECK.



WorldStrides Washington DC Trip April 25-29, 2011

Don't miss out on this experience of a lifetime!
The deadline to enroll is December 22, 2010!

For more information go to:

<http://www.connectingwaters.org/events/wrdstr.htm>

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

MATH *A* THON

Sponsored by Connecting Waters Charter School



Scholastic and St. Jude team up to fight cancer

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Founded by the late entertainer Danny Thomas and based in Memphis, Tennessee, St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world. No family ever pays for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay. St. Jude is financially supported by ALSAC, its fund-raising organization. This year they have partnered up with Scholastic. "We share a mission focused on children, and Scholastic's support will help St. Jude generate even more awareness about the unique program that helps students improve math skills while raising money to help St. Jude continue its lifesaving work."

It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

Students will pick up a Permission/Registration form and collection envelope from one of the CWCS learning centers or the school office in Waterford. For your convenience the forms can also be downloaded on line at the following: The Permission/Registration form <http://www.mathathon.org/docs/parentconsentform10.pdf> and the collection envelope http://www.mathathon.org/docs/Sponsor_Form.pdf If necessary the Permission/Registration forms can be mailed to you upon request. To have a form mailed to you, call Mary Vinnedge at 800-808-9895 Ext 5, then ext 2 or email her at mvinnedge@connectingwaters.org Permission Registration forms will need to be returned to the CWCS learning centers or school office in Waterford by October 22, 2010.

1. **Get Sponsors.** After you turn in your Permission /Consent Form to participate, ask your mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles and family friends to sponsor you. They can pledge 10¢, 20¢, or more for the number of points earned for every problem answered correctly or pledge a flat donation amount of \$10, \$20, or more.
2. **Do The Math.** Complete all the math problems and puzzles in your Funbook within seven days. There are approximately 200 problems. Don't forget the bonus problems on www.mathathon.org .
3. **Collect Pledges.** Use this envelope to collect your pledges from your sponsors and return it along with your pledges to the CWCS learning center or the school office in Waterford no later November 18, 2010 to be counted towards the top pledge.

Funbooks will be available at the CWCS learning centers and school office on October 8, 2010 for those of who have completed permission slips only! St. Jude's has had to make cost saving efforts this year and CD are discontinued and Funbooks will only be given to those who have completed permission slips.



Minus

Symmetry

Fraction

Octagon

Prize Chart	
http://www.mathathon.org/docs/MATParticipantPrizes.pdf	
All participants	Certificate of Achievement
Students raising \$35 or more	<i>Math-A-Thon</i> T-shirt, a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks and a Certificate of Achievement
Students raising \$75 or more	<i>Math-A-Thon</i> string backpack, a <i>Math-a-Thon</i> T-shirt, a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks and a Certificate of Achievement
Students raising \$125 or more	Student's choice of a Basketball, Wrap Around Headphones, Bull Blaster Soft Tip Dart Board, FM Pocket Radio, or a Game Set and receive a <i>Math-A-Thon</i> string backpack, a <i>Math-a-Thon</i> T-shirt, a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks and a Certificate of Achievement
Students raising \$250 or more	Student's choice of a Compact Binoculars, Digital Camera, Digital AM/FM Pocket Radio, Hammock or Sport Watch and receive a <i>Math-A-Thon</i> string backpack, a <i>Math-a-Thon</i> T-shirt, a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks and a Certificate of Achievement
Students raising \$500 or more	Student's choice of a Duffel w/Cooler Pocket, Rhythm Sound Bag, MP3 Player w/Speaker System, Magnetic Game Set, or Backgammon and receive a <i>Math-A-Thon</i> string backpack, a <i>Math-a-Thon</i> T-shirt, a free pass to Six Flags Theme Parks and a Certificate of Achievement

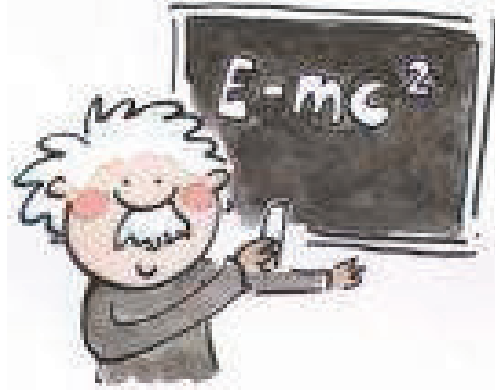
All Six Flags Theme Park passes are valid March 2011 through July 2011.

Please refer to sixflags.com for individual park operating times/schedules.

Please visit the Math*A*Thon web site at www.mathathon.org. Here you can see sample questions and your students can play games. There is also a special section for parents to learn more about the program and the hospital.

<p>Connecting Waters Charter School 12420 Bentley Street Waterford, CA 95386 209-874-1119 Ext. 6 or 800-808-9895 Ext. 6</p>	<p>Ceres Learning Center 3641 Mitchell Rd. Ste. F Ceres, CA 95307 209-541-1531 800-808-9895 Ext. 1</p>	<p>Modesto Learning Center 4713 Greenleaf Ct, Suite A Modesto, CA 95356 209-543-7803 800-808-9895 Ext. 2</p>
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Connecting Waters Science Olympiad



Are You The Next Einstein or Edison?

Students:

- Do you like a Challenge?
- Do you love Science with a Passion?
- Do you desire to jazz up College Resume?
- Would like to meet new friends?

If your answer is YES to any of these questions and you are interested in hearing more about Science Olympiad **come join us on October 21st at 4:30 PM at the Modesto Learning Center. Science Olympiad is open to students in grades 6th through 12th.**

Science Olympiad Coaches: Mr. & Mrs. Avila (209) 380-2678 or (209) 610-8122, or email Mr. Avila at Robert.Avila@us.nestle.com

Let's show our Region why Home Schooler's are the "Best"!

You hold the key to your future and your key can only open your door.
Use your key to unlock the door of Science.

Please visit Science Olympiad Website: soinc.org

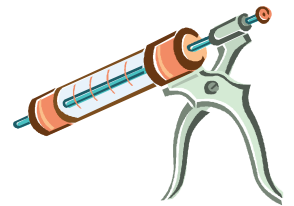
Health News! By Heather Grossman, School Nurse

Some Helpful Information about Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

This summer, California declared Pertussis (more commonly known as whooping cough) an epidemic in our state. The disease is named for the characteristic sound produced when affected individuals attempt to inhale; there is a *whoop* sound. Over 3000 cases have been reported in California and there have been at least eight infant deaths. Currently in Stanislaus County, the peak age of pertussis is 10 years old (with individuals between the ages of 3 weeks to 83 years of age being affected.)

Whooping cough commonly affects infants and young children but can be prevented by immunizations with pertussis vaccine. For maximum protection against pertussis, children need five DTaP shots. The first three vaccinations are given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The fourth vaccination is given between 15 and 18 months of age, and a fifth is given when a child enters school, at 4-6 years of age. Preteens going to the doctor for their regular checkup at 11 or 12 years of age should get a dose of the Tdap booster, and adults who didn't get Tdap as a preteen or teen should get one dose of Tdap. Over time immunizations can become less effective. It is always good to check with your doctor if you have concerns.

Most older children and adults who contract whooping cough will only have a mild case. The concern is when these children and adults are around infants. Infants are most vulnerable to this virus. If you have infants in your home or often care for an infant, make sure that you and your children are up to date on vaccines for pertussis. The virus can live for several hours on surfaces, so it can be carried on clothing and on any surface that an affected person may have contaminated.



Dear Parents,

At the September learning record meeting, your ES gave you your student's spring STAR report. At this meeting, your ES discussed what the STAR scores meant and strategies to help your student(s) experience growth in a particular subject(s) this school year. If you need more information on interpreting your STAR report, please go to the STAR section of our Assessment page on our website:

[Guide to Your STAR Student Report California Standards Test](#)

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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

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

Looking for resources? Visit the Guidance website at www.connectingwaters.org/Guidance You will find the High School Catalog, Career Resources, Scholarship and Grant information, Grad Requirements information, and more!!!!

**PSAT Testing Locations – for other locations, please contact
guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org**

IMPORTANT! – you must use the Connecting Waters School Code when taking the PSAT, our school code is 053706

High School	Test Date
Alameda High Schools: Alameda HS, Encinal HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Berkeley HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Ceres High Schools: Central Valley HS, Ceres HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Dublin HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Lodi High Schools: Lodi Academy, Lodi HS, Tokay HS	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Manteca High School	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Manteca High Schools: East Union HS and Sierra HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Modesto High Schools: Big Valley Christian, Central Catholic HS, Beyer HS, Davis HS, Johansen HS, EnochsHS, Joseph Gregori HS, Modesto HS, Downey HS	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Modesto Christian HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Waterford HS	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Riverbank HS	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Stockton High Schools: St. Mary's HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Stockton High Schools: Bear Creek HS, Edison HS, Franklin HS, Lincoln HS, Weston Ranch HS	Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Tracy High Schools: Tracy HS, West HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010
Turlock High Schools: Turlock Christian, Turlock HS	Saturday, October 16, 2010

Guidance Department Educational Series 2010-11

Title	Date/Time	Location	Description
Scholarships 101	October 22 nd 11am	Online via Elluminate	Introduction to Scholarships and Financial Aid information. How to find scholarships and where to find them. A must attend event for the Class of 2010! Please contact Guidance for instructions on how to attend at guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org
PLAN – Practice ACT	November 18 th 9am to 1pm \$12 fee CP #19199	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.
High School Orientation Meeting <i>For 7th and 8th graders!!!!</i>	Feb. 17 th 10am	Online via Elluminate	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 for instructions on how to attend at guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org <i>To reserve your space for the Modesto LC workshop, call the Office at 1-800-808-9895 ext. 6.</i>

Graduates: Important Information about Financial Aid

FAFSA and CalGrant due by March 2, 2011!

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 who plan to attend a junior college, trade school, private college, or university.

When is it due? California students - file BOTH forms between January 1, 2011 and March 2, 2011:

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 certify it and send it back to you. It is your responsibility to mail the completed form to the California Student Aid Commission.

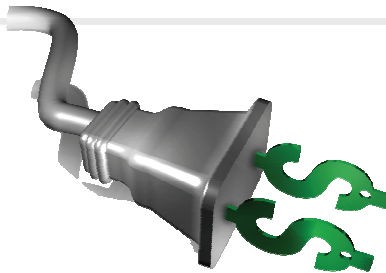
Apply early!!! Don't wait until you have been accepted into a college for you or your parents to file year-end tax returns. You may use estimates from December pay stubs and other end-of-year records which can be corrected later when you receive your Student Aid Report (SAR).

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

How do I apply? Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to begin. To start, you will need to get a PIN (Personal Identification Number) by clicking on the "Register for PIN" button then follow the prompts. The student and one parent must set up a PIN. Then, fill out the FAFSA and submit it. If you use a PIN when filing on-line, you do not have to sign and mail 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 email your request to guidancecounselor@connectingwaters.org . The Guidance Department will certify the form and send it back to you. It is your responsibility to mail the completed form to the California Student Aid Commission postmarked by March 2, 2011. TIP: keep a photocopy 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.

CWCS does not file the GPA Verification Forms for you. You are responsible for obtaining the certification from the Guidance Department and sending the form in the mail!



Important Information for Seniors-Class of 2011 Dates to Remember!

- ✦ October TBA on listserv– College Fair at your local Community College
- ✦ October 22, 2010, 11:00am– attend the Scholarships 101 workshop online via Elluminate
- ✦ November 30th – last day to apply for CSU (www.csumentor.edu) and UC (www.ucop.edu/pathways)
- ✦ December – last month, for most colleges, to take SAT (www.collegeboard.com) or ACT (www.act.org) for UC or CSU entrance in Fall 2011. Make sure to use our school code 053706 when you take the test.
- ✦ December – attend the Financial Aid Workshop at Waterford High School
- ✦ March 2nd – last day to file CalGrant GPA Verification Form (needs to be requested from Mary Halter) and FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Financial Aid and Scholarships

- ✦ FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov and CalGrant (GPA Verification form which must be requested from the Guidance Dept at CWCS) application period is January 1st through March 2nd. *Remember, Financial Aid is available for community college and vocational schools as well as universities!*
- ✦ Make sure to attend the Financial Aid Workshop at Waterford High School in December, more information to follow in listserves and newsletters
- ✦ Read the Connecting Waters Newsletter online at the beginning of each month to learn about upcoming scholarships OR check our scholarship page, updated monthly.
 - ✦ Go to www.connectingwaters.org, then “School Departments”, then “Guidance”
 - ✦ “Scholarships/Grants”
 - ✦ “Current Scholarships”

Sign up for the Student Listserv to get updates on information regarding financial aid, scholarships, college, college fairs, and more!

