

T H E E A G L E

River Springs
CHARTER SCHOOL

Volume 5 / Issue 3

Summer 2011

Inside this issue:

Dear Parents,

I am so proud of River Springs Charter School! We have had a tremendously successful year, in spite of California's crippling economic restrictions. Our numbers have grown by over 800, making River Springs' enrollment just shy of 5,000. We are now the largest charter school in California! Why have so many parents chosen us? I believe parents choose River Springs because of our commitment to our mission: We collaborate with parent to personalize learning, we empower parents and students, we foster curiosity and we use the community as the classroom.



River Springs is a unique learning environment for families who desire a public school with a private school atmosphere. Students at River Springs Charter School receive a personalized education, with curricula and teaching methods to match their interests, abilities and learning styles. Teachers spend many extra hours each week to help our mission thrive, and so do parents who choose our school. This type of education is not the easiest option for parents or staff, but it provides the most motivation and success for students. Thank you all for committing to our challenging form of public education!

The pages of this year-end newsletter tell the story of our incredible year, from curiosity-fostering fieldtrips, events and activities for students to empowering workshops for parents. Congratulations are in order for many of our stellar students, including our 213??? high school graduates, our County science fair winners and our robotics teams. (others?) I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you personally at our annual curriculum conference at Pechanga resort on August 10th, entitled "Paving the Way." We hope the conference will help smooth your path to educating your child, so we urge you to attend. Look at page X for more about the conference. Happy summer!

Kathleen



Science Isn't Just for Scientists Part 3

In previous articles we have begun our exploration of the Scientific Method. By now you should understand that the Scientific Method isn't one particular system, but a way of thinking analytically that benefits people in all walks of life. I hope after discussing the first two steps, making observations and asking questions, you have come to realize that science need not be so scary.



As you can see, this leads us to the next step: forming a hypothesis. Hypothesis is just a fancy word meaning educated guess. Students draw on their past experiences, observations, and even intuition to come up with plausible answers to their questions. A hypothesis is typically worded as an "if...then" statement. If a seed is watered, then it will grow. If clouds hold rain and there are clouds in the sky, then it will rain. A hypothesis will lead us from the general to the specific. If the weight of a car affects fuel economy, then lighter cars will use less gas. Congratulations, you have just taught your kids deductive reasoning. A skill they will use whether or not they enter the field of science.

Notice that there are two important qualities about a hypothesis. First, it is testable; an experiment could be set up to test the validity of the statement. Second, it is falsifiable; an experiment could be devised that might reveal that such an idea is not true. If these two qualities are not met, then the question being asked cannot be addressed using the scientific method. It is important to remember that it is the skill of creating a hypothesis which is important here, not accuracy. Young children will come up with hypotheses that we know right

away are not valid. Older students may come up with answers that we need to investigate to determine their validity. Resist the urge to lead your child to the correct answer. The value is in the journey.

As you can see from the chart above, scientific thinking is a process. Questions lead to a hypothesis. Experiments will validate or falsify the hypothesis. Information from the experiment will lead to new questions and/or hypotheses. And the cycle of curiosity and learning continues. In my next article we will enter the not so scary world of the science experiment.

Did You Know?

by **Nancy Branchaud**, Sr. Director of Homeschool

River Springs Charter School's primary goal is to provide you with excellent support in designing and implementing your student's educational program. Are you aware of all of the wonderful support we offer to our Homeschool families?

First and foremost we provide you with a wonderful Education Specialist (ES), the credentialed teacher who comes alongside you to support the educational goals for you and your student. Your ES has expertise in instructional strategies, evaluation of student learning, and tools, tips and tricks to implement your student's curriculum. They research and work hard to support a multitude of educational philosophies to support you as you create your personalized in-home learning lab.

RSCS Homeschool program provides the widest variety of curriculum options possible for you to choose through the use of the student's instructional funds (IF) account. We also provide a Homeschool Lending Library, where you may check-out previously purchased RSCS materials for use during the school year. Our expert staff have also developed a plethora of curriculum and tools, targeted to a variety of educational philosophies, to enhance the educational program you provide in the home. Our resources are posted

on Moodle, our online resource center, and can be accessed through your own personalized account (ask your ES).

We also offer:

- K-8 Learning Centers in Costa Mesa, Hemet, Riverside & Temecula
- High school classes in math, science, language arts or Career and Technical Education courses.
- Pechanga Curriculum Conference workshops for parents each August.
- Parent Certification program, where graduates receive additional instructional funds to support their students' learning.
- Regional SPREE events for students and parents providing thematic hands-on opportunities to engage in new learning.
- Transition program offering additional training and support for families who are new to home education.

What more can we offer? At RSCS the sky is the limit, so please don't hesitate to share suggestions with your ES or any of the Homeschool Director team. We are anxious to hear from you and enjoy partnering with you and continuing to develop innovative educational methods. Be sure to check our website for more details on all that you can do through River Springs. Happy educating!

Hidden Curriculum: Using the Newspaper

Stephanie Parshall, Homeschool Director of Curriculum and Instructional Support

Many of us have textbooks in all shapes and sizes ranging from grammar workbooks to encyclopedias stacked in every corner and shelf in our home. Most of these resources have a role to play in the instruction of our learners. There is one resource, however, that is often overlooked. The local newspaper is packed with educational opportunities beyond current events. Newspapers are cost-effective and readily-available. This is a good alternative when textbooks are

being shipped, while traveling, or when a break from the normal books is needed. There are a vast number of activities that can begin with some portion of a newspaper. Here are a few ideas:

- The Classified Section: Jump-start a Life Skills lesson on cost-of-living or budgeting. Students can choose a car, home, and job to see if their choices are realistic.
- Grocery Store mailers (often found in newspapers or in the junk mail pile): Give students a budget for shopping, and have them build a grocery list from the advertisements; Compare product prices; Analyze advertisements for tricks used to lure customers
- Local Events section: What's going on your community? Decide together on an educational event you would like to attend. Make any necessary preparations such as research about the place to be visited or reading a book upon which a play is based.
- Living section: Find recipes to try as a family. Collect them in a binder and write reviews after cooking.
- Puzzles: Many newspapers include crossword, logic, or word puzzles. These can be clipped and placed into a folder for students to work on in the car.
- Photographs: Clip the photographs from the newspaper, and have your student write a caption, journal entry, or creative story that describes the photograph.
- News Stories: Write a persuasive essay about a current event topic; Track a "hot" topic over several weeks of stories to make connections or gain a deeper understanding; Create a "timeline" of the year by making a scrapbook of news stories to mark what occurred in the world over the year; Have your student highlight words that they do not understand and look up the definition (These can be the week's spelling/vocabulary words!); Have students re-write article headlines after reading the story
- Editorial Section: Older students can separate the facts from the opinions by using 2 different colored highlighters or making notes on a folded piece of paper.
- Comic Section: Comics can be a great motivator! Students can create their own comics based on a story they read or change the ending of a newspaper comic.
- Sports Section: Calculate percentages and player averages based on player statistics; Graph a particular player's stats over several weeks; Make predictions about team performances

based on statistics, player injuries, etc...; ■ Business Section: Help students track a stock by investing play money. Older students can research companies before choosing. They can keep a chart of gains and losses. Was it a good investment?

The newspaper is also a helpful source in teaching students how to read graphs and charts, how to include necessary details in writing, and as an introduction to non-fiction reading. The list above is only a brief sampling of how newspapers can be used to supplement curriculum. A newspaper and a little creativity is all you need!

Tran-si-tions

(**tran-zish-uhn**) "...movement, passage, or change from one stage, concept, state, etc. to another." (Webster's)



During the 2009-10 school year over 85 new students took the plunge into Homeschooling with River Springs by enrolling in the Transitions program. This year the program more than doubled! So what is Transitions? Think of it as "Homeschool with training wheels." Parents who have never homeschooled their children before, or just need a little extra support and training, are given the opportunity to work with a Transitions ES in a year-long program designed to prepare them to become confident, successful homeschooling parents.

What does this look like? Transitions families are teamed up with an Educational Specialist (ES) who meets with them on a weekly basis at the beginning of the school year. Students use our boxed set curriculum, which provide online lesson plans that coordinate with RSCS selected

Kudos to KIDS



Congratulations to **Krysti Carrigan** (Sophomore) and **Molly Rendel** (Kindergartener) on the outstanding progress each has made on their YMCA Adventure Guide's Walking Stick Program. Both girls, along with their mothers, learned new skills and completed a variety of

required tasks related to Family, Nature, Community and Fun, all with the goal of internalizing the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. The Walking Stick Awards were presented at a Winter Camp weekend in mid-March. Pictured here with their sticks, Krysti (nicknamed Zebra Sea Pony and a Trail Maiden with the Daughters of the Ocean circle) has completed 12 paths and 3 trails. Molly (nicknamed Sparkling Sapphire and an Explorer with the circle of Precious Gems) has finished 6 paths and one trail.



Caleb Rizio competed in the karate Nationals 2011 on February 27 at the Ontario Convention Center and did great, winning 2nd place in Sparring and 3rd place in his purple belt Open Form! He's pictured here

with his best friend, Ray Corey, along with Sensei Raymond Daniels. Caleb's ES is Carrie Paschall.



Kyrsten McClellan, 10th grade student, was recently accepted to BYU's Summer Ballet Intensive. After driving up to BYU and auditioning in person she finally received her letter in the mail saying

she got in!!! She will be living on campus for two weeks this summer living and breathing ballet and college life. She will be attending July 5-16. We are very proud of her! Kyrsten's ES is Mandy Adcock.



Students Participate in California Junior Rodeo Association

by **Nathan and Jordan Suesens** (River Springs students)

We have been participating in rodeo for approximately three years. Rodeo is an awesome sport; there isn't another sport we would rather do. Our family has always been "animal people" so the rodeo was a perfect way to go in the way of something to devote time to.

If you were to ask us, there are a few main things that make rodeo great. The first is that it's exciting. You never know exactly what is going to happen and no event is boring. Second, the people are friendly and genuine. Third, there is good competition; we are all competing against each other but we are always there to help each other. The fourth reason would have to be because we purely love what we do.

Ribbon roping was the first event we started ever. It is a very simple sounding event, but more difficult than you might think. Your partner ropes the calf and stops it. You then run to the calf, grab a ribbon off its tail, run back, or vice versa depending on if you're the roper or the runner. We normally do pretty well. Every now and then you get a wily cow or something happens to cause you to get a slow time. Winners are chosen by the fastest time.

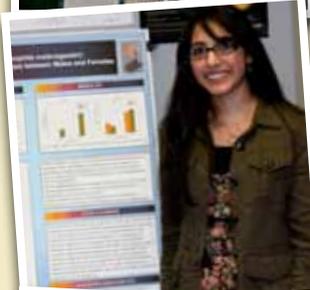
We grew up in Norco, a horse town, and have always lived on a ranch with horses. There is nothing that we would rather do than be cowboys. To truly understand it, you've got to live the life. Go riding. Go to some rodeos. We really recommend the National Finals Rodeo or a CJRA or high school rodeo; they're all great. We guarantee if you like excitement, you won't regret it.



Science Fair Winners



Gold medal winner **Ashley Bianco**, 11th grade, started working with UCR genetics scientists and has been experimenting most of the year with plant stem cells. She is on her way to getting published in scientific journals for her discovery of a new cell line.



Gold medal winner **Breanna Lopez**, 10th grade, began with an interest in genetics and soon was setting up a lab in her Lake Arrowhead mountain home, exposing fruit flies to uv for monitoring chromosomal mutations.



Gold medal winner **Mary Travis**, 6th grade, focused on environmental issues in developing green weed killers and the salt and bacteria issues for water quality in the Santa Ana River.



Silver medal winner **Juliet Figueroa**, 5th grade, raised mealworms and experimented with the effects of caffeine on their development and survival. Her results would cause anyone to stop drinking caffeine



Silver medal winner **Derick Curtis**, 9th grade, built and programmed a robot and then experimented with different wheel bases, treads, and chassis designs for maximum maneuverability and sustainability.



Teacher Mrs. Baumert, with Silver medal winners **Anthony Mosallam**, 12th grade, and **Jonathon Deming**, 11th grade, with this year's project "Wireless vs. Ethernet"

CAHSEE Super Achievers

Congratulations to the following students who received a perfect score of 450 on one or both of their California High School Exit

- Exam tests:*
Amber White
Harriette Tuntomo
Matthew Haddad

- Cailin Helmick**
Mitchell D. Johnson
Rose Alisa Crespin
Rebekah Mooney
Ciara Dooley
Rachel Norton
Gabriela Kreszchuk
Bailee Ellis
Nathan Plante

S.P.R.E.E. FALL 2011

(Student Parent Regional Educational Event)

River Springs believes that our families need some engaging, educational time out with each other! At SPREE, we give our parents and students the opportunity to spend time with their peers, enjoy "Make It Take It" Workshops, and of course eat some delicious snacks! SPREE gives our River Springs families time to collaborate with each other, socialize, and just have some plain fun! Childcare is also provided, so bring your little ones!

WRITING EXTRAVAGANZA

Would you believe that your child could attend a and actually want go home and write a story? Well, This was evident at our Writing Extravaganza this started our kids and parents out with an assembly Imagine Machine". This vendor is FANTASTIC and kids ideas that they may have never thought of before a story. Your children get the jump start that they need to become creative story writers! We follow up with our "Young Author's Writing Contest," so our talented students can preview their hard work, along with another assembly that "acts out" some of the student stories. Here is an excerpt from "A Dream's Nightmare" by author Noah Varnell: "We've got it! We've got it!" screamed the chief advisor. King Samuel listened intently to the advisor's witty plan. "We must

SPELLING BEE

Did you know that River Springs has some GREAT spellers? For the past 4 years we have had around 30 students, grades 4-8, come out to this competition! And yes, we have had a fourth grade 1st place winner! Our winning student has the opportunity to move forward to the Riverside County Bee and all the way up to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

ALGEBRA WORKSHOPS

Hey Parents! Are you getting a little frustrated now that your child is studying Algebra? Well, don't worry, you are not alone! River Springs has designed its Algebra Workshops so you can work along with your child and the attentive help of a highly trained Algebra expert. We do this with manipulatives that make Algebra suddenly "come alive" in front of your eyes! By the end of this workshop, you and your child will have the tools that you need to begin your Algebra journey!

TALENT SHOW

Rivers Springs Has Talent! Please join us for a fun filled afternoon watching our talented students as they perform on a professional stage. Our families have the opportunity to be entertained by our very own vocalists, musicians, dancers, Kung Fu artists, and comedians! This event is not a competition so all students are welcome to try out!

PARENT CERTIFICATION

Parent Certification is an optional program for River Springs Homeschool parents to better themselves as educators in teaching their students in the home. We are excited to offer a program that provides parents, and their students, the best foundation for successful learning in the home through educator classes and workshops. Our topics this year included: Planning Instruction, Developing Goals & Defining your Homeschool Philosophy, Brain Based Learning Engaging and Supporting Students in Learning, Connecting Assessment and Instruction, and Motivating Your Students

INSPIRED LEARNER - "MEET THE EXPERT"

Here at River Springs, our students are experts on many different people, places, and things! That's why we give them the chance to show off their work and expertise at our Inspired Learner- "Meet the Expert" event. Students compose a project that has interested them in the Art, Science, or Social Studies categories. The student's project contains a visual, written and oral component. In the past, we have had projects on "Birds of Prey", "Raising Chickens", and "Pablo Picasso" just to name a few. What is Paleontology? I can't tell you! You will have to join us at our next event and ask the expert!

PARK DAYS

River Springs Park Days are a great way for you and your family to come on out and meet other homeschool families. Parents have an opportunity to discuss and encourage each other about their students different learning styles, explore common interests, and maybe even gather some encouragement from each other! It gives your kids the chance to play, laugh, and meet some new Homeschool friends! Mostly, our Park Days are held on the third Wednesday of every month. Check out our website for a Park Day in your area!



Field Trips



Field Trips

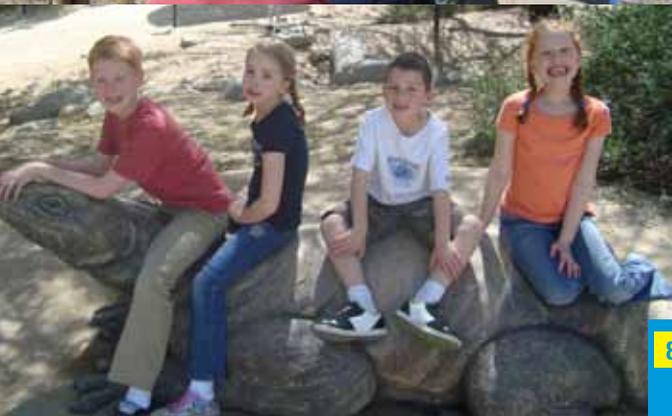


Living Desert

Up close, hands on and just plain fun! The Living Desert is the place to visit if you truly want to spend some quality time with the wildlife. Kids were able to ride camels and some even helped out with animal grooming. This place features plants and animals that thrive in deserts around the world to our student's back yards. If you missed the trip this year be sure to join us next school year.

Wicked

242 Students, parents and Homeschool staff enjoyed one of the best musicals of all time. Wicked, the story behind the story of the Wizard of Oz was an eye opening heart wrenching fun performance. It was full of ah ha moments when they revealed why and how the witches of the West/East and the Good Witch all came to be who they were. The costumes were beautiful and the music was lively. Wicked was fantastic! We laughed, we cried, we sang along.



Wild Animal Park

Rain or shine the WAP is always a great place to monkey around for the day. Over 560 people braved the wild and the weather to enjoy a day exploring the jungles of the rain forest and the plains of Africa.



Disney Y.E.S. Program



Disney's Animation Magic was a wonderful trip where students were introduced to the "Animation Highway". Students learned the process and levels that go into making an animated feature. California Adventure has a building where participants can learn to draw from a Disney Animator, record their own voices & pretend to be Disney characters and go to The Beast's Virtual Library. It was a fantastic experience for all ages & interests.



Warner Bros. Studio Tours

I've been told no two days are alike when you are on a Warner Bros Studio Tour. The tour takes visitors through the ins and outs of some of the most famous TV and Movie sets. Students learned some of the tricks of the trade and how you can't believe what you see on TV. When the Homeschool group arrived on set it sure was memorable and some of our families were even featured on the Ellen show.



The Sound of Music

Nearly 200 RSCS theater goers filled the RCC playhouse to enjoy the well known production, The Sound of Music. For some this was a musical they had seen several times and they knew it was a must see. For others this was the first, and boy were they in for a treat. Even days after the event students have been singing the many catchy numbers they picked up at this wonderful show. Smiles on students and elated parents, learning made fun with RSCS field trips... these are a few of MY favorite things.



KEYS PROGRAM

The KEYS High School Independent Student Program proudly presents its Super Stars for 2011. The KEYS Program allows students to complete a college bound diploma through flexible 24/7 independent study, while at the same time, pursuing their unique passions and talents. As you can see in the following examples, KEYS high school students excel in many ways!



Summer Knapp likes to think of her student, **Zachary Olthoff**, as a "Super Senior." He works 35+ hours per week at JER motorsports and turns in 100% of his schoolwork! He is kind, smart, hardworking, and never complains about anything. He does a little of everything at work, delivers/picks up parts, helps customers, does mechanical work on dirt bikes, cleans the shop, and puts inventory away. He also rides motocross as a hobby. Zach is a great kid and a good role model to other students. In the photo, he is shown with the owner of JET Motorsports. A great Super Senior, he will go far!

Summer Knapp's Student, **Makala Wilson** works as a clown in her spare time and is working on starting her own business providing clown/princess services for parties and events. She has taken lessons in face painting to add to her talents and many party participants have enjoyed her entertainment.



Summer Knapp has another talented student, **Alish Mann**, who just completed her final project on Nature in her Photography class. She is such a talented young lady; she draws, writes short stories and poetry and takes beautiful photographs. She always does her best and never settles for less, her sense of perfection is admirable. She is a sweet and smart girl and Summer feels luck to have her as a student. Included is one of her nature photographs. She noticed how bright and beautiful the scene looked and took it from her window. The contrast between light and dark is gorgeous.



Michael Hunter has several very talented and gifted students! **Justin Spriet** is a competitive BMX freestyler. He is sponsored by Fit Bike Company and hopes to go pro in the future. He trains for hours everyday and the KEYS program has allowed him to take his passion to the next level while earning straight A's in his studies.



Sergio Acevedo is an accordion player in the band "Grupo Sencillo" that play music in a style called "Norteno." (The second "n" in Norteno has "~" on top of it.) He performs all over Southern California and recently came back from a concert in Las Vegas. Their latest album is called "Demente." You can check Sergio on youtube and listen to his music. Here is the web address for Sergio on youtube. He is shown at the end of the song: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xUDgEwO_zo. He is an excellent accordion player. He plays a true accordion where there are not piano-type keys, only buttons on both sides. That is a tough instrument to play. (not sure if you can use his picture but hopefully you can list his youtube link.)

Another of Michael's Student's is **Izzy Talbert** who is an accomplished ballerina. Isabelle Talbert began studying ballet seriously at age 11 with Melissa Allen Bowman at the California Conservatory of Dance in Mission Viejo. She remained there for four and a half years, training under Ms. Bowman, director of American Ballet Theatre's summer intensives, Richard Bowman; Maud Wachter; and Alaine Haubert, former ballet mistress of American Ballet Theater. She has performed in Swan Lake, The Enchanted Toy Shop, Sleeping Beauty, and Giselle and has been accepted to prestigious summer programs, including Boston, Miami, Houston, and Kaatsbaan Extreme Ballet. She has also competed as part of an ensemble in the Youth American Grand Prix



in New York, which she views as one of her most amazing life experiences. Isabelle is currently studying under Glenda Carhart and Michel Gervais of Riverside Ballet Arts, where she will be appearing as Autumn Fairy in excerpts from Sleeping Beauty.



Janan Willes has a pair of students who have their own singing group. **The Brewer Boys** are Justin (17) and Nathan (13), a brother's duo who sings a range of songs from new country to pop to classic rock and even bluegrass! Born and raised in Temecula, California, these boys started performing at a very young age. The duo took off after they auditioned for a national singing competition "Can You Duet" in Nashville, TN in 2008. They got through the third round and this opened great opportunities for them. In July 2008, they recorded their first professional demo CD of four original songs (they co-wrote one of the songs) at the historic Cash Cabin Studio in Hendersonville, TN with John Carter-Cash co-producing their music. (They are currently remastering this CD with plans to add on a few more original songs and re-release it in the spring of 2011.) With Justin on the guitar, Nathan on his mandolin, and some top-notch musicians to make them sound good every single time, these brothers will continue to pursue their passion for music, as they harmonize their way into your hearts.

Janan Willes has another Super Star among her students, **Andrew Silverstein**, who has competes in motocross racing.



His favorite place to race is at the Pala Raceway and he is with FOX racing. He loves free riding, wakeboarding, skateboarding, and driving rc cars. He dislikes getting hurt and is currently out on injury with two broken ankles.



From Jennifer Skahill, we have **Ashlee Herring**, who as of 2010, performed in 7 films ranging from short films and independent films to

feature films with stars such as Kate Bosworth, Kristin Ritter, and Nico Rodriguez. She participated in American Idol this year. She performed in concert for the "Bill Hufsey Performing Arts" school recently. She completed a full 12 song music album, "Everything's gonna be Alright" and signed with her first music label, LAP records. We really are proud of her all STAR performances!

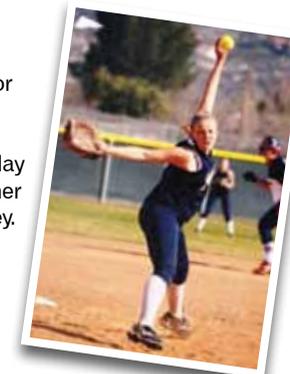
Carly Mahoney also has a super student, **Adeline Solorio** who is taking ROP dental assisting internship. She is the one in the lighter scrubs in the picture. She loves this internship and has been offered a job there when she has completed the course.



Another of her students, **Ashley Hazel**, performed at the Date festival. Auditions were held in November of last year. There was a cast of 80+ adults and children selected in December. Rehearsals began on weekends (every weekend/Saturdays and Sundays - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.) during January and part of February. Rehearsals were 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. the whole week and a half prior to the Date Festival opening. Cast members had make up done, costumes fitted, blocking to learn, songs to learn and so much more. Ashley was dedicated and committed to the pageant. She made new friends and was terrific as one of the townspeople. (pictures in the Carly Mahoney Doc)



Carly's **Kailey Howard**, is a junior and her goal is to get scouted to a first-division school and play softball. She trains six hours a day and in additions keeps up with her A-G academics. Way to go Kailey.



Carly's student, **Rebecca Record** has been learning to sew and so far has created a dynamic skirt to wear and a child's jumper and blouse. What a great skill to have and even more fun to design your own clothes! These desert students are very talented!



Carly's student, **Elma Villalobos** was so thrilled to get a certificate for an increase in her STAR Scores! Way to go Elma! Carly's students sure enjoy the Mobile Science Labs! Almost all of them attend every month. **Matthew Perales** is working on the microscope at Biology Lab.



KEYS PROGRAM cont'd



Carly Mahoney has some great students in the desert. **Alicia Franco and Chante Wiles** enjoy working together in the Mobile Science lab conduction earth science experiments.

Martin Heredia created DNA out of candy at the Mobile Science lab. He has worked hard and his hard work has paid off, he passed the CAHSEE on the first try!

The **Deeb sisters, Danielle and Sandra** are talented students who have done a recent photo shoot at a local karate studio. They are creative and have an eye for fashion and photography.



One of Carol Wiesen's students, **Kayli Gomez**, received a full internship at Florida's Disney World. She is looking to go into hotel management and hospitality and will receive training and room and board during her internship. Congratulations to her. What an exciting career ahead!

Tricia McDougall has several very talented seniors. One of her seniors, **Daniel Mondaca**, has an acoustic band called "He Says, She Says." You can read more about him on facebook under his band name. Another of her senior students, **Brian Bruns**, is a kickboxer who has won all of his fights this year. He also teaches kids karate classes. A third senior, **Ashley Little**, was accepted to the Art Institute of CA - Inland Empire and will begin this summer. She was given a scholarship and will be working towards an associates degree in Baking and Pastry. The Hello Kitty Cake was part of her portfolio that she created as part of her application process.



Camille Abordo, one of Sarah Behney's students, sang the National Anthem at Angel Stadium on May 10th. What a wonderful experience!

This is one of Jenny Cross' students, **Laura Cha**. She's already been accepted with significant scholarships to George Washington, NYU, and the premier performing arts university in Montreal. Watch her youtube performances to see how incredibly gifted she is:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwErC5_971o&feature=related
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ll43Lj2lzs&feature=related>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJZglvFrwxU&NR=1>

Welcome to the new Pupil Services Department at River Springs Charter School!

Recently, the Guidance Counseling and Special Education Departments have come together to support students and families as the Pupil Services Department.

Need Assistance?

Please call our new number **951-252-8833** to reach the Pupil Services receptionist.

Say hello to our new leadership team:

Debbie Daniel,
Senior Director of Pupil Services

Chris Lemke,
Director of Guidance

Meghann O'Connor,
Director of Special Education

Department Services:

- Special Education IEP services: speech, occupational therapy and specialized academic instruction
- Special Education evaluation
- Program planning for students with specialized needs
- Assistive Technology services
- Section 504 Accommodation Plans
- Student support services and Response to Intervention
- Academic counseling
- Intake advisement for new student enrollment
- Scholarship and college financial aid information
- Junior college concurrent enrollment
- Work permits
- Vocational opportunities/programs
- Prospective parent information
- Program to program transfers
- WASC accreditation

For more information, feel free to contact Pupil Services by emailing pupil.services@riverspringscharter.org or calling **951-252-8833**. Office hours are 9:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Congratulations History Day 2011 District Competition Winners!!

1st Place
Sarah Shelly
Iran-Hostage Crisis
Individual Website
[Http://64043930.nhd.weebly.com/](http://64043930.nhd.weebly.com/)

2nd Place
Hannah Crhistenson and
Brittany Lyons
19th Amendment: Women's Rights Debated
Group Exhibit

3rd Place
Robin Perey Dirk
The Congress of Vienna:
Peace in Europe Achieved
Individual Paper

Honorable Mention
Biana Demara, Elizabeth Dominquez,
and Stephanie Gomez
Nuremberg Trials
Group Exhibit



The purpose of National Honor Society is:

- To create enthusiasm for scholarship
- To stimulate a desire to render service
- To promote leadership
- To develop character
- To encourage citizenship

River Springs is pleased to present our 2011 National Honor Society members. We are proud of their achievements.



We are so proud of all our students who combine careers, talents, sports, artistic endeavors and still manage to do super in school. These are just a few of the many wonderful students who participate in our KEYS High School Independent Study program.



GRADUATION Night

Congratulations RSCS Graduates!!!

River Springs graduating students will have an opportunity to celebrate their success with a once-in-a-lifetime Grad Night party at Disneyland on June 8. The park is closed to the public and only open to the Senior Class of 2011. Students will be able to go on their favorite rides, dance the night away and enjoy a special fireworks show.

Prom Night

RSCS Prom was held on May 14, 2011 at the South Coast Resort in Temecula. The students had a wonderful time. Many thanks to Darlene Painter and everyone involved in putting on this fabulous event for all of your hard work and effort!



Business and Engineering CTE

Introduction to Business:

The Introduction to Business class at the Temecula Student Center may have only included four students (pictured below), but they accomplished a few phenomenal feats this year. As an in class project during the first semester, they wrote and submitted grant application to NASA that resulted in a \$6,500 grant award to pay for the entry fee and Kit of Parts for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotic Competition (FRC). During the second semester, they joined the Temecula Student Center Robotics Team, Cyborg Zombies, where they worked collaboratively with teachers and business mentors to develop a Business Plan, plan/develop/order advertising/promotional materials, create a Safety Program, and assist with other business/logistic functions to support the team.

Next year, the Temecula Student Center is expanding our CTE program to include the following:

- Introduction to Business
- Bookkeeping w/Lab (Basic Accounting and Finance)
- Engineering Essentials
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Robotics

Please contact george.essel@riverspringscharter.org with any questions or to express interest.



Medical Office Program

This year the **Medical Office Program**, as a class project for Anatomy and Physiology, constructed human bodies from clay and paper mache. Each year, the Medical Office Academy completes a class project and this year the human bodies project will be on display at our awards ceremony on May 27.

This year, Internship class students participated in various internships of their choice, which ranged from medical assisting, aviation mechanics, veterinary assisting, photo-graphy and much more!

If you are interested in joining the Medical Office Academy or participating in internship class, please speak to your Education Specialist (ES) or Annette Butler at (760) 612-2340.

Engineering Essentials:

The Engineering Essentials class began the school year learning about the engineering design process and then proceeded to use this process, which is very similar to the scientific method, to learn basic engineering technology applications. Each class included a hands-on, project based learning application to provide real-world application of course content. During the course of the year, the students created the Cyborg Zombies – FRC Team 3470. On January 8th, a Kit of Parts was received from FRC that these students used to build a functional robot within six weeks. This extensive project-based learning application included computer programming, structural design/build, pneumatics, electrical and electronic engineering applications.

Cyborg Zombies:

Although the CTE classes created the Cyborg Zombie team, we welcomed team members for the home school community as well as middle school siblings. The team represented themselves well at their first competition obtaining the #3 rookie seed and placing 21 out of 60 registered teams. Due to this placement, the team was on standby as a replacement robot if one of the robots in the championship competition were to be disabled and unable to perform. Alas, this did not happen. School Leadership is very proud of the performance of our Cyborg Zombies.



Orange County Student's Center

What makes the Orange County Student Center in Costa Mesa a great place to learn? We offer an abundance of enrichment classes geared toward active, hands-on, engaging lessons for the K-12 student. Families love attending our site for the small group setting and highly qualified teachers. Math is not simply taught by rote; it is learned through physical and mental games! Theater is not just memorizing of lines; it is an experience through a production with student created costumes, sets, all guided by an A+ quality teacher! In addition to our many enrichment courses, we offer high school U.C. college prep courses where students take charge of their learning and are not simply listening to lectures. We listen to our students' and parents' concerns and desires and strive to give them the best education possible...because we care.



Lake Elsinore Student's Center

At **Lake Elsinore Da Vinci Academy**, kids learn through projects and activities that take them out of the textbook.

- They learn language arts skills through authentic literature: Genre Journeys allow kids to choose and learn about what interests them at THEIR learning level. They read and complete self-selected activities based on biographies, science fiction, sports fiction, fantasy, contemporary realistic fiction, mystery, drama, historical fiction.
- They learn through their choice of electives. Classes offered this year: drama, band, math club, drawing, skateboarding, mechanics, baseball, and art.
- They learn through field trips into the community. This year's field trips included:

- Winchester Cheese Company**
- Aquarium Of The Pacific**
- Mistletoe Field Trip**
- Western Science Center**
- Museum Of Tolerance**
- Casper's Regional Park**
- Flour Fusion Bakery**
- Animazonia Wildlife Waystation**

Students learning about small motors during mechanics class



Learning Through Teaching!



Learning Word History through Creating!



Hemet Student's Center



Cheerleaders enjoy a Kona Ice after entertaining the site



Cheerleading!



Field trip to Museum of Tolerance



High School Students before a game!



High School students rock out with Karaoke



JV and Varsity cheer



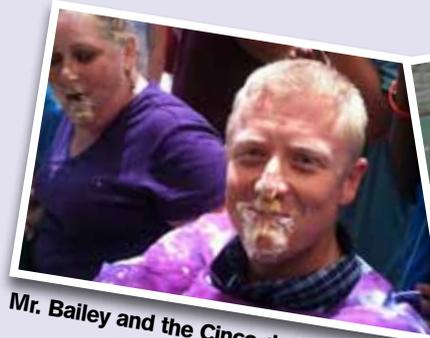
Matthew shows off his science project



Middle School girls' basketball



Mosaic students demonstrate their project on ships



Mr. Bailey and the Cinco de Mayo burrito contest-The winner!



Mr. Bailey pumps up the team



Mr. Bailey helps with a science experiment at Science Night



Mrs. Spock, Mrs. Srour and Mr. Bailey belt out their songs



STAR assembly



Students enjoy a Kona Ice after the STAR assembly



Students listen intently as Ms. Fain shares her inspirational story



Students prepare their presentation for social studies



Hemet Student Center Enrichment Program



Highly respected children's author Nancy O'Connor, from Owl Associates, spoke with students in grades K-2 & 3-5 about her writing experiences and read aloud Buccaneer Dog and Swashbuckle Cat.

Students studying American history and patriotism prepared for Presidents' Day by learning about Barack Obama, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Older students read stories to the younger students and shared information they had learned.



Students in Becky Shook's grade K-2 and Cinda Moon's grade 3-6 classes learned about friendship in their unit Getting to Know One Another. Students brought in bags containing items that tell about themselves and their families, read books and sang songs about friends and have been talking about how to be a good friend.

Magnolia Student's Center

Magnolia Student Center

Home of the Falcons!



8775 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504
(951) 225-7200
Site Director: Monica Lopez

Where your student will...

-  CHOOSE based on his learning style
-  INVOLVE himself in the community
-  INVEST in his education
-  EXPLORE his passion for learning
-  COLLABORATE with his teachers
-  CONTINUE to learn
-  UNLOCK his potential

Magnolia K-8 Academy

This four-day-a-week program with one home study day offers your student a chance to thrive. Magnolia K-8 offers an individualized Math, English, Science, and History curriculum that is geared to the level that your student is at right now.

*Safe, healthy and supportive learning ~ Dedicated & qualified teachers
Positive School Culture ~ Field Trips ~ Rigorous Curriculum
Student Friendly Campus ~ High Expectation for EVERY student
Parent & Community Involvement*

Grades K-5 offers students a rigorous well-rounded curriculum, where the education of the whole person is emphasized through all domains of knowledge.

Grades 6-8 tailors instruction to each student's unique learning style so that the student not only acquires academic skills, but also develops a joy of learning.

NEW 2011-2012 ELECTIVE Offerings:
Meet the Masters ~ Yearbook ~Choir ~ Lego League



RSCS History Day Winner

Magnolia Student Center fosters a strong sense of community amongst our students. The students feel safe and valued for their individual efforts, achievements, thoughts, and ideas. Within the school community, the strengths of our students are celebrated.



Student Government



Problem Based Instruction

If you are looking for a school environment for your child that is smaller, more personalized, and has a strong academic focus, Magnolia Student Center is for YOU!



Field Trips to enhance learning



Integration of the Arts



Renaissance High School Academy (9-12)

This three-day-a-week program with the option of two days of electives offers your child personalized and differentiated instruction in a smaller classroom setting.

*Safe, healthy and supportive learning ~ Dedicated & qualified teachers
Positive School Culture ~ Field Trips ~ Rigorous Curriculum
Student Friendly Campus ~ High Expectation for EVERY student
Parent & Community Involvement ~ Internships
Higher CAHSEE Passing Rates vs. the State and County Averages ~ NEW AP Courses!*

As a small, nurturing college preparatory school with high expectations, RHSA graduates all students as critical and creative thinkers who are equipped to succeed and contribute positively in a changing world, by providing unique educational opportunities.

NEW 2011-2012 Course Offerings:
AP US Government & Politics ~ AP US History ~Honors World History
Honors English I & English II
Honors Biology



Riverside Student's Center



Mosaic Academy

"Each unique individual working together to become a masterpiece"

Mosaic Academy, for Kindergarten through 8th grade, combines the best of classroom learning with the best of homestudy to create an innovative, new kind of learning. Confirming that this model works for our kids – for two years in a row Mosaic Academy has received the award for most student improvement within River Springs Charter School!

What we are most proud of at Mosaic is our staff and students! Our teachers are passionate about creating ways to engage kids in the learning process, and building a connection with each family. Our students find Mosaic a safe place to make friends in positive social atmosphere where students know and value each other. Our big kids play a positive role in the lives of our little people, and best of all, our students will tell you that they love their school!



First Lego League

"Our favorite thing about Mosaic this year is First Lego League! My son wants to be an engineer so it was very exciting for him to go to UCR and then compete again at Legoland. We also have a deep appreciation for his teachers, quality friends, excellent field trips, and creative/messy home study assignments!"
6th Grade Mosaic Parent

One of our popular electives is First Lego League. This year, at the annual competition at Lego Land, our Mosaic Academy RoboZilla Team won the Judges Award for most inspirational team! Sixty teams from throughout Southern California came to participate. Competition included running a XT Robot through a field of tasks, presenting a group research project to a panel of judges, demonstrating the core values of FLL, and participating in a question and answer session with judges discussing robot design. Kudos to the coaches, parents and team for a job well done!

Everyone participates! Students in this elective, but not on the traveling team, help in all aspects of design and creation without the additional requirements of time on the weekends, travel and resources.



Field Trips

Mosaic students like to learn by doing, and our parents wouldn't have it any other way! This year, our field trips have included Aquarium of the Pacific, local theater performances, Mission Inn, Discovery Science Center, L.A. County Fair and more! When a student goes on a field trip, parents come along with little brothers & sisters in tow, strengthening the family bond with fun experiences!

"This is our 1st year homeschooling & I love the classroom feel with the more parent involvement & flexibility. I also love the more hands on activities & field trips. It makes school more fun & meaningful."
Mosaic Parent

Annual Science Camp

Each year the 5th – 8th grade Mosaic students go to science camp. It is a rich experience where students learn using all the senses - experiencing everything around them in a new and unique way. This is a week they will never forget and the highlight of their year!

"The team-building activities gave the kids a chance to challenge themselves and move out of their comfort zones. Besides the wonderful camp atmosphere, I was pleasantly surprised to experience a cabin of 21 teenage girls that was completely drama free. Mosaic Academy truly has a phenomenal group of kids! You also have a group of wonderful instructors and staff. It is obvious that they are all there because they love and care about the children. I couldn't ask for a better environment for my two kids."
Parent Chaperone, Mosaic Science Camp, April 2011



Flabob Airport Student's Center



*"I never thought my child would love theater this much, let alone sing in front of hundreds of people! A big thank you to the music teacher for tapping into unknown gifts and talents, and providing such a positive experience performing."
Mosaic Parent*

Musical Theater Productions

Mosaic students love the stage! Some students performed onstage for the very first time through Mosaic's theater elective, and have been singing & acting ever since. Our annual performances have included musical such as, Suessical the Musical, SchoolHouse Rock, Spotlight on Broadway and more. This year Mosaic Academy took on the additional challenge of doing a holiday production, An Old Fashioned Christmas.



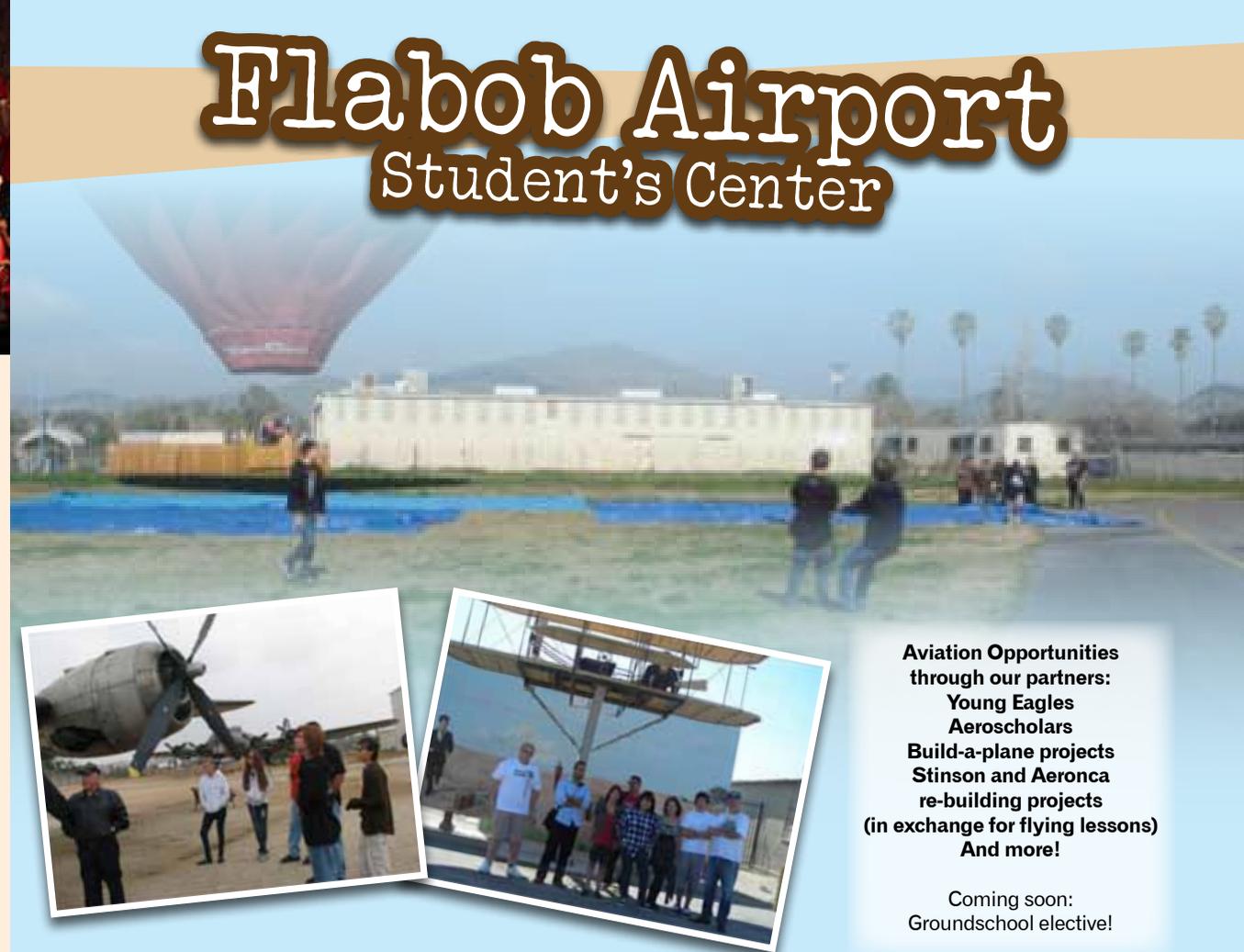
*"This is the 5th year my children have attended the learning center! It's the only school they've known, and we wouldn't have it any other way. We feel like the teachers are our family, and the other families are our community - we all support each other. Thank you, teachers, for creating new and fun workshops every year!"
Learning Center Parents*

Riverside Learning Center - Homeschool Enrichment Program for grades K-8

With room to spread out in our new building on Chicago Ave., enrichment classes for our K-8th grade homeschool students are better than ever!

Two days per week, workshops are offered at 90 minutes in length and include popular favorites such as Musical Theater, Karate / Self Defense, Step Up to Writing, Jr. Lego League, Computer Design and more!

Because of the unique opportunity for homeschool students to take a variety of year-long workshops, there is a high demand and classes fill up early. Sign-Ups take place in the month of July - check our website for enrollment information at WWW.RiverSpringsCharter.Org/Homeschool Classes/Riverside, or call 951-225-7350.



Aviation Opportunities through our partners:
Young Eagles
Aeroscholars
Build-a-plane projects
Stinson and Aeronca re-building projects
(in exchange for flying lessons)
And more!

Coming soon:
 Groundschool elective!

COME SOAR WITH US AT FLABOB AIRPORT PREPARATORY ACADEMY! GRADES 7-12

Located on Flabob Airport in Rubidoux, Flabob Academy students enjoy an intimate setting in the shadow of Mount Rubidoux. We offer a complete middle or high school program, including optional tutoring and independent study classes.

Are you interested in science or engineering, or working in the medical field? We offer top-notch science core classes, along with Forensics, and Computer Aided Drawing electives. We also offer a series of Medical Office classes—some of which are articulated and offer college credit. Coming soon: Introduction to Engineering!

Interested in airplanes? Do you want to learn more about aviation and related fields? We offer many opportunities both in the classroom and with our partners, the Wathan Foundation.



Murrieta Student's Center

The **Murrieta Student Center** offers the best of both worlds with on-site days and home study components.

Our Classical Minds program is a two day on-site program that offers students the opportunity to thrive in an interactive learning environment with guided instruction.

Our Casa Montessori program is a three day on-site program that is for students who can work independently and can thrive in a less-structured learning environment.

Our Montessori Middle School for grades 7 and 8 offers a hands-on, integrated curriculum, five days per week. This program also offers electives, field trips, service learning and is leadership focused.

Monthly field trips and social events are offered for all students. Parent Education classes are available for parent participation.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Ms. Carrie's 4-6th graders' Diorama Museum
- Ms. Anu's 4-6th grade crocheting elective
- Montessori watercolor elective
- Mrs. Hoppe's 3-4th grade art class
- Cooking elective
- Mrs. Hoppe's 3-4th grade had a visit from George Washington
- Carnival of the Animals by Ms. LeeAnna's 1-3rd grade class
- Dream Quilt by Ms. Christine's Kindergarten class
- Picasso with Ms. Anu's class
- Agility training with Ms. Julia's class-getting ready for a mile run



FIELD TRIPS

- Middle school students went to Catalina
- Students and parents enjoyed the San Diego Symphony
- Families visited the Aptera Motors Company where they make electric cars
- Kindergarten students visited the DeJong Dairy

SCHOOL EVENTS

- Lemonade stand at our Rummage Sale fundraiser
- Muffins with Moms celebration for Mother's Day
- Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration, part of Read Across America
- Students making spring crafts
- Collecting trash to "upcycle" into other products
- Celebrating green on St. Patrick's Day

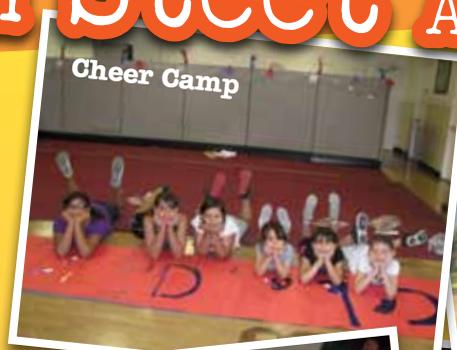


Palm Steet Academy

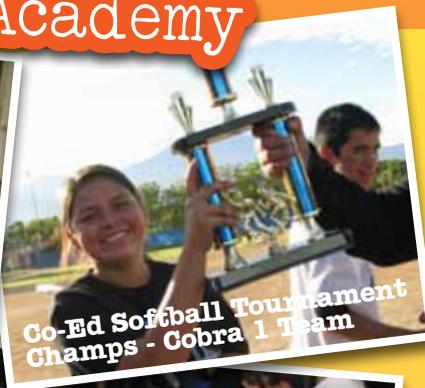
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 Safe environment
 Family Friendly
 Involved in the Community
 Caring staff members
 Associated Student Body
 Activities

- Dances
- Spirit activities
- Family Events

Intramural sports
 On- site physical education
 After school help
 FLL Robotics program
 Computer lab
 Direct access to large city
 park for sports and games
 Science labs
 Internships
 Medical Academy classes



Cheer Camp



Co-Ed Softball Tournament
 Champs - Cobra 1 Team



Kindergarten P.E.



Indio Tamale Festival Parade



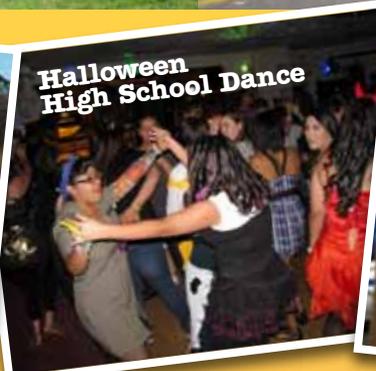
Anatomy and Physiology



Awards assembly



Halloween Costume Parade



Halloween
 High School Dance



Mobile Science Lab



Robotics



Robotics



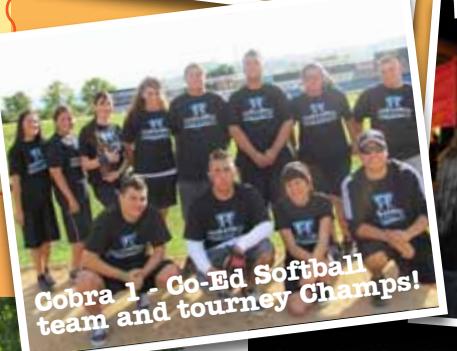
P.T.S.O. - Parent, Teacher,
 Student Organization
 fundraisers



Palm Desert Golf Parade
 dance practice



Palm Street Fall Festival
 City of Indio partnership



Cobra 1 - Co-Ed Softball
 team and tourney Champs!



Coachella Light Parade



Palm Street Palm Desert
 Golf Cart Parade



Riverside County National
 Date Festival A.S.B. 's
 competition

Coachella Catholic
 Charities Free
 Family Event



Coachella Christmas Parade



River Springs Charter School
 Home of the Cobras
 Indio California



Senior lunch tables



Rockin' Lunch

Temecula Student's Center

THE TEMECULA STUDENT CENTER IS A K-12 SITE BASED ACADEMY SERVING STUDENTS OF THE TEMECULA VALLEY AREA. WE OFFER A SAFE AND FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT IN A MORE TRADITIONAL SETTING FOR HOME SCHOOL, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MOSAIC ACADEMY

At Mosaic, our students receive all the direct instruction and classroom activities necessary over three school days per week, allowing two school days per week of home study!

DAVINCI ACADEMIES (Grades K-5 and 6-8)

At the Da Vinci Academy, students attend a rigorous five day per week program with Electives Mondays for Elementary and Wednesdays for middle school. Here, our K-5 and 6-8th grade students are exposed to the arts and sciences in greater depth than would be offered in a traditional elementary or middle school environment. We teach more than the basics. Our goals are to provide an enriching and well-rounded education for our students, and to create a personalized curriculum that meets each student's needs while addressing their talents, passions and interests.

RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY

Renaissance High School aims to empower students to take charge of their learning, to gain skills and knowledge necessary to achieve success beyond High School, and to become life-long learners. We are dedicated to educating one student at a time

TEMECULA LEARNING CENTER HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-8

The Temecula Enrichment Program exists to provide a high level learning experience through cross-curricular, unit based projects. Students are provided with a healthy classroom environment with guided social interaction that fosters cooperative learning and team building skills. Our Enrichment program plays a supplementary and supportive role to a home-school setting.

SCIENCE FAIR

The Temecula Student Center held its science fair on 2/17/11. The event was very successful and our students showed great talent and creativity. All of the science and elementary teachers were beaming with pride over their students' hard work. Almost 400 projects were on display, which included Da Vinci Elementary, Da Vinci Middle School, Mosaic Middle School, and Renaissance High School. Throughout the day, projects were judged and students were interviewed. In the evening, parents and students were invited to an open house in order to view the projects and hear the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place results for each academy.

ANNUAL ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

This year the Temecula Student Center Held the first Annual Arts Extravaganza. Temecula Valley Student Center. Art was on display and auctioned off to help support art supplies for the school. We had two performances of a musical production of Disney's Aladdin, directed by Mrs. Buettner. The students sang "Never Had a Friend Like Me" and "A Whole New World" in addition to other musical numbers and an all-cast dance routine. Between performances, Mr. Rusnak's students delighted the audience with improv comedy, AKA Whose Line Is It Any Way.

GREEK FESTIVAL

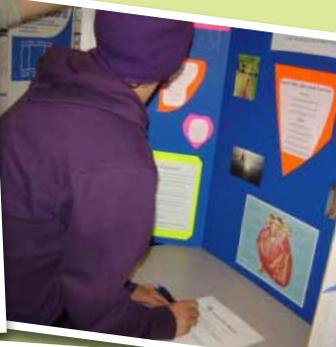
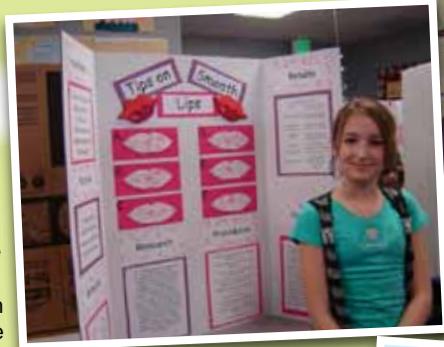
DaVinci Academy's first ever Greek Festival was a huge success. We spent all day at the Sports Park across the street as the student performed Readers Theater of 3 Greek Dramas, 6 of Aesop's more famous fables, plus Socrates, Plato and Aristotle showed up to spout their words of wisdom. As they say in Greece...OPA!

FIELD TRIPS

The Temecula Student Center has had a number of really memorable field trips. We've been to the Science Center, Medieval Times, a pumpkin patch and an end of the year trip to Knott's Berry Farms. Exploring in our community is part of being a well-rounded student.

MUSIC THEATER PRODUCTION OF:

River Springs Charter School Temecula Student Center Drama Club was proud to that this year's spring musical was the timeless classic "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr." Temecula Student Center (TSC) Drama Club performed "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr." at Temeku Country Club located at 41687 Temeku Drive in Temecula. The opening performance was Tuesday, May 17, at 5:30 p.m. The final performance was at 5:30 p.m. on May 18. The TSC Drama Club included students from Kindergarten to 12th grade.



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Upcoming events:

Cinderella - July 8-10

PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Encore Aug 26-28

at OLD TOWN TEMECULA THEATER

Nutcracker Auditions Sept 9, 10, 16 & 17

Summer Dance Camp
7/18-22 & 7/25-29
10am-4pm
\$315 per session

COME DANCE WITH US!



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Week long innovative learning program using aviation to inspire interest in math, science and technology for Grades 6-11.



PROGRAM	SESSIONS	FLIGHTS
Middle School	June 21-24 July 12-15	July 9 August 13
High School	April 5-9 July 5-9	August 13 July 9

Airplane flight. 12 seats available per class.

(951) 683-2389 X 104 Kath@flabob.org

River Springs Charter School
43466 Business Park Drive
Temecula, CA 92590

THE EARLE

River Springs
CHARTER SCHOOL

To place an ad in our
quarterly newsletter,
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riverspringscharter.org).
For more information, call
Sue at (951) 252-8800.