

Springs
CHARTER SCHOOLS

WINTER
2014
VOLUME 8
ISSUE 1



**THE
EAGLE**

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Kathleen Hermsmeyer



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Did you take a few moments over the holiday to set some New Year's resolutions for your family? Here at the Springs Charter Schools family, we have yearly resolutions to focus our continuous improvement efforts. We put these goals together in the form of a theme. This year our theme is Education on the Cutting Edge. We're not in business to do what every other school is doing. We are called to be innovative.

Now, more than ever, innovation in schools is needed. Many young adults in our communities are floundering. Most traditional high school graduates have had an education basically "force-fed" to them, some just enjoy the meal more than others. Our best and brightest work tirelessly through high school – cramming for honors and AP courses, reading sparks notes instead of the novel in order to get through the laundry list of reading more efficiently, and doing an incredible volume of paperwork with the goal of getting into a good college. Yet, many don't succeed once they get there. More than 35% of American kids who enroll in four year colleges fail to graduate, and the number of dropouts increases to 53% for community college.

And what about discovering a career passion? Many high school graduates have absolutely no idea what career they would like - not even the general field. Worse, many are apathetic and content to remain so, living with their parents in a sort-of extended childhood. This apathy also extends to the world around them. Distressingly, researchers have found that today's high school graduate does not see himself as an agent of change.

For these reasons, Springs Charter Schools' #1 goal must be to light a fire in each child - to get them interested in the world around them and invested in developing their own interests. This is their life, and it has been from the day they arrived in the delivery room. Our mission of personalized learning extends not just to giving kids the standards they need based on their abilities and learning styles, but to expecting, encouraging and supporting students in developing their own unique talents and interests. If this is done from Kindergarten on, I assure you we won't end up with apathetic kids.

The #2 goal of education should follow naturally – to give students the skills and resources they need to continue to develop themselves after graduation. We all know that what we learn in high school is not all we need to learn to be successful in life, no matter how good the education! Even a doctor or a lawyer who goes to school for years, passes huge and difficult tests and residencies must learn new things every day after they complete this advanced degree. It's not just about developing skills, but about teaching students how to use their resources to learn on their own.

With that in mind, I will share with you this year's goals...I'll call it the "sailor's six" in honor of the swashbuckling theme of the year. After all, we are all sailors on the sea of education – and our boat is not, nor will it ever be, a standard issue tanker! Ours is an innovative, free-spirited, benevolent pirate ship, so it makes sense that our theme is demonstrated through the acronym PIRATE.



P is for Personalized Learning Paths. This year, we're developing resources for teachers and homeschool parents to help put students into the driver's seat. Not only will students be able to decide how they will practice a new content standard, but they will be able to choose from a variety of methods to learn that standard and evaluate their own level of understanding before, during and after the learning.

I is for integrating Voice and Choice into all of our classes and curriculum. Over the past thirteen years, our school has developed an amazing amount of curriculum. We are taking the best of that curriculum and ensuring that the way that it is presented is reinforcing the mission of the school by providing students voice and choice into their own learning.

R is for Real World focus. The community is our classroom at Springs Charter Schools. We are expanding internships, increasing dual enrollment opportunities, increasing community service and field trips for all ages.

A is for Adapt Common Core. We are revising our I CAN!s to meet the new California standards and to ensure that the learning continuum continues to be clear and flexible for our families.

T is for Tools. Power Tools are strategies all people can use to help them learn something new. We will continue to reinforce and integrate these power tools into our school in every way that we can.

E is for Expand. We have opened two new schools – Empire Springs and Harbor Springs. We will now be able to serve Los Angeles County as well as Kern and Inyo Counties. We're excited to share our mission with the world!

Thar she blows, matey! Our PIRATE goals for 2014. Now, let's get all hands on deck and make sure our kids are as amazed by this wonderful world as we are.

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Kathleen



Allison McNeal

September Student of the Month

Temecula Student Center

River Springs Charter School Senior, Allison McNeal, is the ASB President at her school and she is an exemplary student who embraces learning. Allison plans to attend Mt. San Jacinto College and then transfer to the University of Redlands where she will major in history so she can be a history teacher. Allison said, through her involvement in ASB, she is learning that a good leader recognizes the importance of delegating responsibilities. Allison is known as a person who perseveres, follows through, and stands for what is right and true. Her goal in life is to make the world and her community a better place.



Shiloh Valdez Wolf

October Student of the Month

Keys College & Career Prep.



River Springs Charter School Senior, Shiloh Valdez Wolfe, is known for her quiet resolve. As a junior she was diagnosed with a disease that will require her to take medication for the rest of her life. While she was struggling to overcome the symptoms of her illness, she also dealt with a cancer scare. In spite of the challenges, Shiloh never made excuses and she continued to do her college-prep coursework. Shiloh has a passion to become a teacher. She volunteers in classrooms and wants to attend UCR. Although it has been a difficult journey, Shiloh has learned that she can overcome challenges and those who know her believe she will go on to teach and inspire the next generation of students.

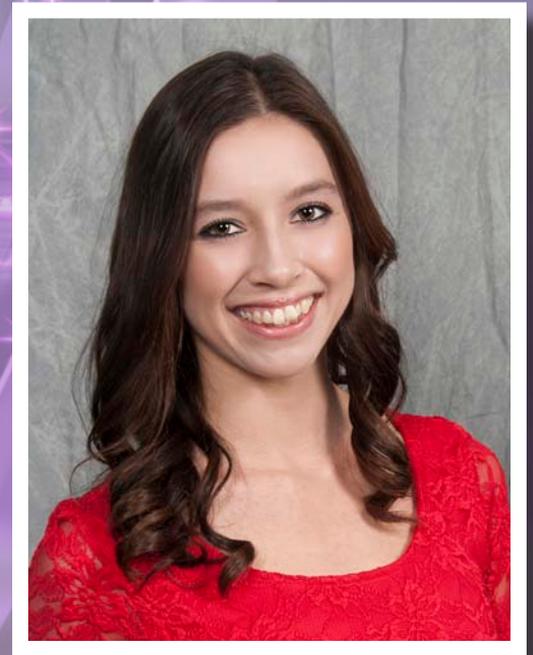


Kylie Canales

November Student of the Month

Temecula Student Center

River Springs Charter School Senior, Kylie Canales, is artistic, creative, and passionate about dance. Kylie has danced for 13 years and she plans to pursue dance professionally. She is respected by her peers and teachers and she has made a positive difference on campus. Kylie plans to pursue a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree and also study kinesiology. She has served an internship at a dance studio and an internship for the head of dance choreographer at Cal State Long Beach.



Nadya Dooley

December Student of the Month

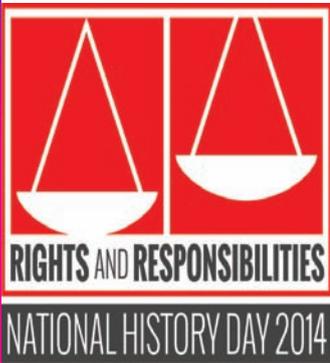
Homeschool



River Springs Charter School Senior, Nadya Dooley, has a dedication to academics that is unique. Her passions range from robotics and violin to Karate and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) Nadya began taking community college classes when she was 13 and she will graduate from high school in three years. She has travelled around the world and she will soon embark on her seventh trip to India where she plans to take robotics equipment to a children's home and hold a robotics camp. Nadya wrote, illustrated and published her first novel when she was in middle school. She attended a STEM summer camp at UC Davis and she has coached several robotics and STEM camps. Nadya is applying to several colleges including UCSD and UC Davis. She is interested in pursuing a career in animal science and plans to use her skills to make the world a better place.



Homeschool



HOMESCHOOL HISTORY DAY
January 15, 2014



Let's Talk... Math



MATH EXTRAVAGANZA

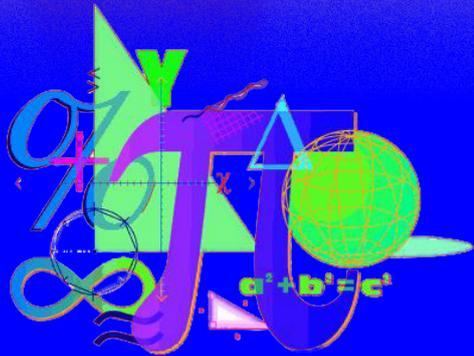
January 30, 2014

SPREE
"Skippyjon Jones"

March 26, 2014



Events

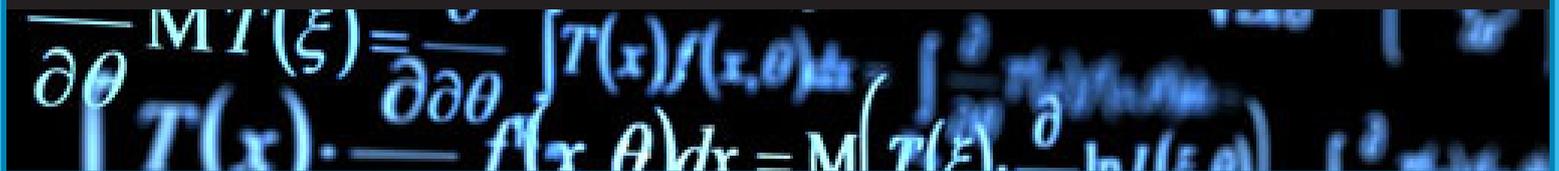


**INTRODUCTION
TO
ALGEBRA
WORKSHOP**
February 11, 2014



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

February 12, 2014 - Homeschool
February 21, 2014 - School Wide



THE INSPIRED LEARNER EXPO & TALENT SHOW

May 23, 2014

For further details contact your Education Specialist or visit our website at www.riverspringscharter.org/events-main





SPREE

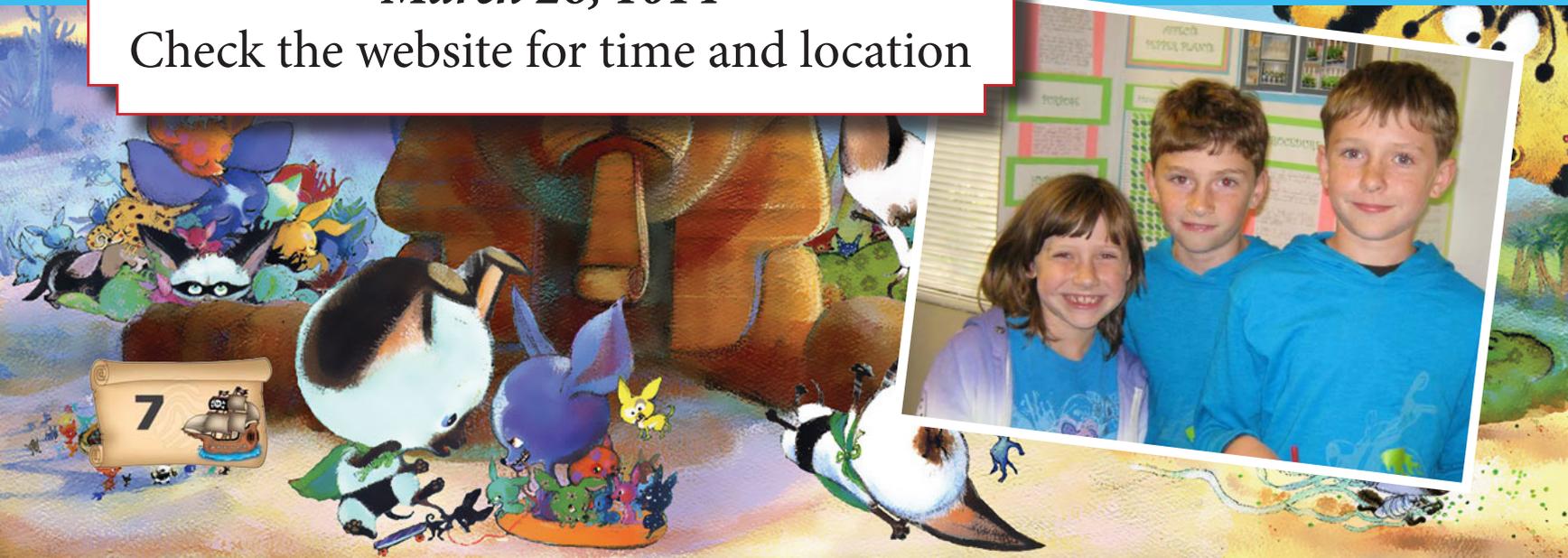
2013 - 2014

What do painted Egyptian mummies, candy Land Rovers, green felt capes, and Maraca Tacos all have in common? It must be another wonderful experience for our students at SPREE! Our theme "Skippyjon Jones" was the basis for each age group with workshop titles such as "Class Action", "Lost in Spice", and "Mummy Trouble". And yes, the older students loved it! Our students completed a Mars lap book, masks, and lots of other fun stuff, along with receiving a bit of education at the same time. It's always a *Win Win* at SPREE! Our parent workshop "Raising Happiness" had parents walking away with plenty to think about in how to balance their Homeschool day. A gentle reminder that although these are our students, first and foremost, they are our kids! If you missed our fall roundup of SPREE events, you still have an opportunity to come out to Orange County on March 26, 2014. It will be well worth your drive!



Next SPREE coming up
March 26, 2014

Check the website for time and location



The Core



Dr Mary O

I love the core. It is central to everything we do. A weak core is a weak you. And I am not just talking belly muscles! A poor internal core has digestion problems and food sensitivities. This can lead to headaches, bloat and mind fog to name just a few discomforts. Likewise, a weak physical core will leave you less than comfortable: poor posture, early fatigue, and prone to injury.

Just like a great education is founded on great core values and beliefs, a great you also depends on a great core!

Here are few things you can do for your core today!

- ☺ Drink lots of water continuously throughout the day. Add lemon for added benefit!
- ☺ Take a probiotic and eat fermented foods (pickles, tempeh, raw milk). This strengthens your gut flora where amazing work is done!
- ☺ Breathe deeply into the belly at least 100 times per day! This oxygenates your whole body while massaging all those internal organs that work so hard for you!
- ☺ Get in a few good belly laughs too!
- ☺ To strengthen those muscles try to plank every day. Start with 30 seconds and work up to more.
- ☺ Do a few crunches and take care of your back muscles too!
- ☺ Try the superman exercise to strengthen your lower back and play with your children on the monkey bars! Play like your children and watch your core strength develop.

It only takes a little to get started. Just do it often and you will thank yourself for ever!



American Government

The American Government class at FAPA had several good exercises in Civics recently. They studied 12 important Supreme Court cases, and once the concepts were learned, students recreated the court cases, in a series of dramatic mock trials. Our classroom was transformed into a courtroom, as well informed students assumed the roles of Plaintiffs, Defendants, and Justices on the Supreme Court. They researched and presented their cases with great enthusiasm. It was an excellent series of lessons that demonstrated personalization and student choice, as the students chose which court cases they would be involved with. It was fantastic to see the kids really shining in rigorous exercises that were relevant.

--Mark Cote
History / Social Science, FAPA

"What really helped me learn was the actual presentation. The experience of preparing my case and arguing my points before the court was both fun and educational."

--Daniela Pedroza

"During the mock Supreme Court cases I learned many more things about how Supreme Court law works, and about how courts in general operate." --Nick Phalen





Standards for Mathematical Practice Part 1

By Stephanie Parshall, Director of Instructional Support

With the transition to Common Core Standards, it's important to begin understanding some of the components. One of the focuses of the Common Core Math Standards is problem solving and how it relates to real world situations. The Standards for Mathematical Practice are embedded in the new standards. These practices are good Math habits that benefit students of all ages as they solve complex math problems. The staff of Springs Charter Schools will be introducing these 8 practices throughout this year and next. Your ES will be providing you with detailed information on each.

Let's take a look at the first of these Mathematical Practices and how it can be implemented in your daily math instruction. Standard for Mathematical Practice #1 states that students will, "Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them." There are two key points in this standard. First, students need to understand the problem. This requires them to practice re-stating the problem, organizing the data or information they have, choosing a strategy to use, and developing a plan to solve the problem in the way that makes the most sense to the student. Second, perseverance is an important aspect of this math practice. It means more than just taking a few minutes to solve a problem. Perseverance includes monitoring personal work, adjusting the plan as necessary, trying multiple strategies to reach a correct answer, and evaluating the solution. These problems may take extended time or research to solve.



It is not the expectation that students master these standards immediately. It is the practicing that is important. You can try focusing on one standard at a time to allow students time to use the Standards for Mathematical Practice in their daily work. Your ES can help provide further information on how to utilize these practices.

Keep Innovating!

Vivian Price, Assistant Superintendent, Education – Personalized Learning



You are part of an innovative and awesome school! There are many factors that make Springs great—our students, parents, and staff - but what really sets us apart is our innovative spirit. We continue to stay cutting edge while meeting traditional state requirements. We are proud of our innovations including offering hybrid programs, focusing on real-life learning and by creating personalized learning plans for every student in the school.



You may be asking how we will maintain this innovative spirit and stay true to our mission and vision while we implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); however, we believe that it is because of our innovative nature that we are equipped to implement these standards. The way we educate our students aligns with the objectives of the common core national standards.

Take a look at how our innovative approaches to learning support the objectives of the Common Core.

1. We develop critical thinkers - common core emphasizes critical thinking in all subjects. This means we engage our students in discussions and ask them to explain their understanding by providing evidence/examples to support their explanation. We have provided the Questioning Power Tool to support our students' growth as critical thinkers. Common Core standards require us to add more analysis, writing, and discussion in all subjects including math and science. Having the ability to think critically is a real-life essential skill, so keep pushing your kids to explain their thinking, ask questions and solve problems!
2. We believe in authentic learning. Common core emphasizes integrated learning like the learning that happens in real-life. When your student works on a science fair or history day project, completes a robot build, or designs a chicken coop they are integrating learning! Integrated or interdisciplinary learning happens when more than one subject is addressed in a particular lesson, project, or unit. At Springs schools we will continue to develop our common core curriculum and resources to support this type of learning. So parents, keep integrating subjects and have your kids tackle interesting multi-disciplinary projects. Your students will be doing the type of learning that is required for college and career!



You can continue to maintain a personalized, innovative and authentic education while addressing the Common Core State Standards!

Myths About the Common Core State Standards

Alex Sedique, Mathematics Specialist



The Common Core State Standards are one of the most significant initiatives in American education in decades. Yet the swiftness with which they were developed and adopted has left educators uncertain about exactly what they are. A number of concerns about the standards have emerged. I would like to provide some information to address some of these concerns.

Concern: **The Common Core State Standards are a national curriculum.**

Americans have long had a leery view of a national curriculum, but the Common Core State Standards do not create this scenario. Standards are not curriculum: standards spell out what students should know and be able to do at the end of the school year; curriculum defines the specific course of study—the scope and sequence—that will enable students to meet standards. There are many possible curricula schools could use that would lead students to the Common Core State Standards.

Concern: **The Common Core State Standards are an Obama administration initiative.**

The Obama administration is a strong supporter of the Common Core State Standards initiative, but the administration did not lead it. The initiative was, and continues to be, state-led.

No federal official was on the work teams and feedback groups that developed the standards. Then, once the standards were released, forty-five states and the District of Columbia—each acting on its own—chose to adopt the standards.

Concern: **The Common Core standards represent a modest change from current practice.**

In preparation for adoption of the Common Core standards, several states conducted analyses that found considerable alignment between them and their current standards. Yet while the content of the two sets of standards is similar, the level of knowledge and skills the Common Core calls for is in many respects quite different from what current standards expect and what schools currently practice. For example, the high school Mathematics standards call on students to practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges; they prepare students to think and reason mathematically. The high school standards set a rigorous definition of college and career readiness, by helping students develop a depth of understanding and ability to apply mathematics to novel situations, as college students and employees regularly do.



20 Questions to Ask Your School Counselor About College and Career Planning

Your school counselor is one of the best resources as you plan for college, and other post-secondary goals. Your counselor has information about admission tests, college preparation, your education, and career options. Here are some basic questions to help get your conversation started:

What courses do I need to take to be ready for college?	How should I plan my schedule so I'll complete them?
Which elective courses do you recommend?	What course options are available for high achieving students?
When is the PSAT/NMSQT going to be given?	How should I study for the SAT, and is it given at this high school or do I need to go somewhere nearby?
What activities can I do at home and over the summer to get ready for college?	How can I take concurrent enrollment or dual enrollment courses through a local community college?
What kind of grades do different colleges require?	Are there any college fairs available in our community?
What colleges do other kids from our school go to?	What are the requirements or standards for the honor society?
Do you have any information to help me start exploring careers?	Which internship opportunities does our school offer?
Which career technical education classes do we have available?	If my colleges need a recommendation from you, how can I help you know me better, so it can be more personal?
Are there any special scholarships or awards that I should know about now, so I can work toward them?	Can I see my transcript as it stands now, to see if everything is as I think it should be?
What forms do I use to apply for financial aid and where I can I find them online?	How does our school compare to others, in terms of test scores and reputation?

Do you know who your school counselor is?

Temecula Student Center <i>Kristin Berry, Guidance Counselor</i> Phone: (760) 330-7244	Magnolia Student Center / FAPA / OC Student Center <i>Jessica Blied, Guidance Counselor</i> Phone: (760) 518-8190
Hemet Student Center <i>Gail Collins, Guidance Counselor</i> Phone: (760) 310-4699	Murrieta Student Center <i>Julie Thornburg, Guidance Counselor</i> Phone: (442) 888-0071



Homeschool students, please contact your ES to obtain contact information for your assigned guidance counselor.

Meet the Newest Members of our Board of Directors

Louis H. Fetherolf **Harbor Springs Board of Directors** **Board Director**

Chief Louis Fetherolf began his law enforcement career in June of 1968 when he joined the Los Angeles Police Department. There he where worked various assignments in Patrol, Traffic (two-wheel motorcycle enforcement), Investigations, Narcotics, and Administration. Since being appointed to his first Chief of Police position in 1980, over the past thirty years he has commanded six police departments in four different states prior to retiring from the Salinas Police Department in Monterey County in December of 2011. Chief Fetherolf has always had a keen interest in education and endorses the charter school concept. He is interested in contributing to his community, after retiring from full-time public service, by taking an active part in improving the quality of education our youth receive. His philosophy is that effective education is an important key to overcoming the problem of youth violence in society. In his opinion, charter schools have taken a significant step forward to reach out to students and parents in an effective child/parent/educator relationship.



Chief Fetherolf enjoys playing the five-string banjo, mandolin, and guitar and has played and recorded with various Bluegrass Bands. Chief Fetherolf is an avid martial artist holding a Fifth Degree Black Belt in Isshinryu Karate, and earned a Police Olympic Gold Medal in Karate Competition and a Bronze Medal in Pistol Marksmanship.

Chief Fetherolf is married to his high school sweetheart, Christine McCarthy Fetherolf and they reside in Winchester, CA.



Kristyn "Liz" Johnson, **Harbor Springs Board of Directors** **Board Director**

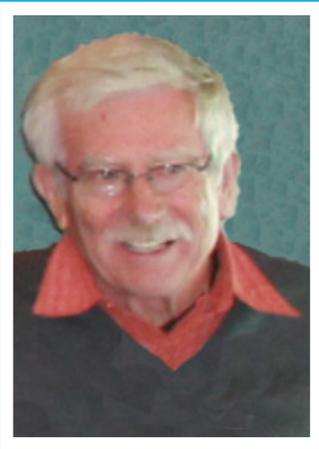
Homeschooling for 13 years has ignited Liz's passion for serving the homeschooling community. Liz loves the ability to tailor learning toward the gifts and unique abilities of each child. She has learned the benefits of Springs Charter Schools through her experience with their special education program, helpful Education Specialists, and amazingly creative and dedicated teachers. Liz loves supporting other families in the pursuit of educating and raising the next generation. The goal of Springs Charter Schools to educate each individual child in their pursuit of lifelong learning inspires Liz to continue her learning and impart this mission on those she comes in contact with. Liz believes that active community engagement and volunteering has made the United State what it is. Liz's personal mission is to educate the whole person, involving them with their learning, igniting their passion for lifelong learning, and inspiring them to care for others.



Justin Moldenhauer
Empire Springs Board of Directors
Board Director

With broad experience as an entrepreneur, Justin currently is the managing Partner of a real estate firm he started in June of 2013 (Real Estate Café) and has been serving clients with real estate needs since 2006. Justin brings a unique perspective to the Empire Springs Board – one in which he understands the pitfalls of an education that alienates youth rather than excites them to their unique call to action. Justin believes Harbor Springs’ mission of personalizing learning and fostering the curiosity of every student to be a path for ensuring future success in their chosen vocation.

As a parent of three, Justin is passionate about instilling in his children the importance of education and working hard in spite of life’s challenges. His ability to listen and clearly communicate has allowed him to help people from all walks of life overcome challenges. Justin is a consummate team player who understands the importance of working with a team to resolve issues and plan strategies that work.



Donald Langille
Empire Springs Board of Directors
District Appointee

Don started teaching in 1970 and taught Biology to most grade levels (K-12) for 34 years. From 1987 until 1996, Don was Principal of Lenwood Elementary School in the Barstow School District. Prior to this, Don was elected to the Mojave Unified School Board. In March of 2012, Don was appointed to the Helendale School District Board of Trustees and served one year. In retirement, Don is actively involved with the Helendale Community Church, serving as board member and elder and singing in the choir. Don is also the Vice President of the Victorville Gideon Camp. Don enjoys playing golf and enjoying his summers with his wife at their cottage on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.

Our Boards of Directors and our Student Body Leaders
Thank you for helping Springs Charter Schools lead the way in education!



PASSING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION TEST

AS COLLEGE APPLICATION WINDOWS BEGIN TO OPEN (UC SYSTEM OPENS ON NOVEMBER 1ST AND CSU SYSTEM OPENS OCTOBER 1ST, CHECK INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL WEBSITES FOR DEADLINES) FAMILIES MAY BE PERPLEXED BY THE PROCESS. CORRECTLY SUBMITTING ALL THE DIFFERENT PIECES OF YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION IS LIKE A TEST – ONE YOU CAN EASILY PASS. WHILE THE PROCESS MAY SEEM COMPLICATED, A LITTLE ORGANIZATION AND ATTENTION GO A LONG WAY. BELOW ARE HELPFUL TIPS FROM COLLEGE BOARD AND THE SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY.

START EARLY – SET DEADLINES FOR COMPLETING ESSAYS, COLLECTING RECOMMENDATIONS AND FILLING OUT FORMS A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THEY'RE ACTUALLY REQUIRED. MARK THESE EARLIER DEADLINES ON YOUR CALENDAR AND DON'T MISS THEM. COLLEGE WEBSITES ARE THE BEST PLACE TO FIND ACCURATE DEADLINE INFORMATION.

BE CONSISTENT – USING THE EXACT SAME NAME ON ALL YOUR FORMS MAKES THINGS EASIER FOR ADMISSION OFFICERS. DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO USE A SHORTENED VERSION OF YOUR LEGAL NAME OR YOUR MIDDLE NAME, AND THEN ALWAYS USE THE SAME VERSION. SWITCHING NAMES – GOING FROM BILL TO BILLY, FOR EXAMPLE – INCREASES THE ODDS THAT YOUR MATERIALS WILL GET MISFILED.

BE CAREFUL – CARELESS MISTAKES ON YOUR APPLICATION CAN HURT YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING ACCEPTED. AFTER YOU FINISH AN APPLICATION, PUT IT ASIDE FOR A DAY AND THEN CHECK IT OVER FOR ERRORS. IF YOU CAN, HAVE A TEACHER OR PARENT PROOFREAD IT AS WELL. SAVE AND REVIEW ONLINE APPLICATIONS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEM.

ALERT YOUR SCHOOL – YOU NEED TO LET SCHOOL OFFICIALS KNOW WHICH COLLEGES YOU'RE APPLYING TO SO THEY CAN SEND ALONG YOUR TRANSCRIPTS. TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS CAN BE MADE BY EMAILING TRANSCRIPTS@RIVERSPRINGSCHARTER.ORG. THE PEOPLE YOU ASK TO WRITE RECOMMENDATION LETTERS ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE APPLYING IF THEY'RE MAILING THE LETTERS THEMSELVES.

ONCE YOU'VE COMPLETED

YOUR APPLICATION, FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO MAKE SURE ALL THE PARTS GET WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

DON'T WAIT. ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE MAILED, INCLUDING YOUR APPLICATION ITSELF, SHOULD BE SENT IN SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE IT IS DUE. THIS ALLOWS TIME FOR DELIVERY AND PROCESSING. ONLINE MATERIALS SHOULD BE SENT WEEKS BEFORE THE DEADLINE AS WELL.

SUBMIT ONCE. WHEN YOU APPLY ONLINE, YOU'LL USUALLY GET AN AUTOMATED RESPONSE SAYING YOUR MATERIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. IF YOU DON'T, CONTACT THE COLLEGE'S ADMISSION OFFICE. DON'T APPLY ONLINE AGAIN OR MAIL IN ANOTHER APPLICATION.

KEEP COPIES. MAKE A COPY OF EACH PIECE OF EACH APPLICATION. SAVE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS, PASSWORDS, CANCELED CHECKS AND NOTES OR EMAILS FROM ADMISSION OFFICERS. THIS DOCUMENTATION CAN SAVE YOU IF A PROBLEM ARISES.

GET CONFIRMATION. IF YOU MAIL APPLICATIONS, PUT A STAMPED POSTCARD ADDRESSED TO YOUR HOUSE IN EACH PACKAGE SO ADMISSION OFFICERS CAN LET YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MATERIALS ARRIVED. THE U.S. POST OFFICE ALSO OFFERS A SIMILAR "RETURN RECEIPT" SERVICE. IT MAY TAKE A FEW WEEKS FOR CONFIRMATION CARDS TO REACH YOU.

IF YOU GET A NOTICE SAYING SOMETHING IS MISSING, DON'T PANIC. JUST CALL THE ADMISSION OFFICE AND CALMLY ASK WHAT STEPS YOU CAN TAKE. THIS IS WHY YOU WISELY SAVED COPIES OF EVERYTHING AND SENT IN YOUR APPLICATION EARLY!

NEED MORE HELP, OR HAVE MORE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS? GO TO WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG OR CONTACT YOUR SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.



INNOVATIVE LEARNING



Several RSCS students spent a week in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, with the Mountain Fifes and Drums Corps of Lake Arrowhead. Ian Phillips (7th grade), and Catrina Richter (5th grade) are members of the Corps and had the privilege of performing in the 10th Annual Drummer's Call. They performed marching down the Duke of Gloucester Street in the colonial town and then performed a field show for the audience. Along with the performances, the students enjoyed a week of sightseeing and learning about our colonial history. Some of the interesting towns they were able to enjoy are: Jamestown (the First Permanent English settlement founded in 1607), Yorktown (where the American Revolution was won), Monticello (the home of Thomas Jefferson), Mt Vernon (the home of George Washington), and Washington DC. Other RSCS students attended as well, Nathan Phillips

Helping make cheddar biscuits with fresh chives from our herb garden (part of our science curriculum), for our co-op potluck. This activity included reading a recipe, preheating the oven, measuring out ingredients, setting the timer, and harvesting. The biscuits turned out great and we got to sample them that night.



10th Annual Colonial Williamsburg Drummers Call

(4th grade) and a future recruit, Jayden Garland (3rd grade), whose father, Kevin Garland, founded the Corps in 2001. By Nadia Phillips, Homeschool Specialist



So much more than an art project. Rock painting included making a list, detailing what was needed such as paint, trays, brushes,

rocks, glaze, smocks, and the rock painting book. Involved in every aspect of the project, Elizabeth chose her own designs and painted them all herself. She even learned about the proper care and cleaning of the brushes and trays.



Orange County Student Center WON THE JUDGES AWARD!!

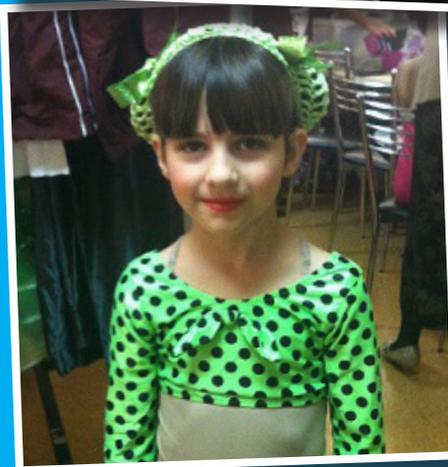


When the First Lego League judging panel encounters a team whose unique efforts, performance or dynamics merit recognition, yet don't fit into any of the existing award categories, they offer a "blank" judges award. The judging panel may select a team to be honored, as well as the name of the judges award. The judges unanimously decided that the Disaster Masters worked more cohesively than any other team. We are very proud of their dedication! Great job Disaster Masters! These students set a fine example of teamwork, citizenship, sportsmanship, and support for one another.

Mr. Adkins has taught the students lessons that will last a lifetime.



KUDOS for KIDS



Olivia (7th Grader) and **Natalie** (2nd Grader) are having another great year with River Springs Charter School. They homeschool Monday through Thursday and attend Enrichment at the iShine Campus on Fridays. Besides their normal school classes, they have both been students of Aikido for over a year and have attained the level of orange belt. Olivia's area of interest is theater - she just performed with Temecula Performing Arts Center in the stage play of The Wiz. She also has been taking sewing classes to learn how to make her own clothes. Natalie's areas of interest are drawing, singing and acting. She just performed with Temecula Performing Arts Center in the stage play of The Wiz. Homeschooling through River Springs allows us to have many areas of interest and allows our kids to be who they are and to follow many passions.





KUDOS for KIDS



Chandler Joy has been playing piano since she was 3 years old. She can read notes, play chords, but her talent lies in her ability to hear music and play the pieces by ear.

She takes after her great grandfather who used to play harmonica by ear. She started playing piano pieces that she would hear on Pandora and has memorized **Song For Sienna** by Brian Crain, **River Flows in You** by Yiruma and **Requiem For A Tower** by Escala. She loves to be homeschooled, because it allows her to have a more open schedule, so she can practice playing piano throughout the day. Chandler Joy brings beautiful music into our home daily.



Raytheon

- ⊕ STEM hands-on learning
- ⊕ ThoughtSTEM programming challenges
- ⊕ Math Challenges
- ⊕ Project Base challenges
- ⊕ Fun giveaways

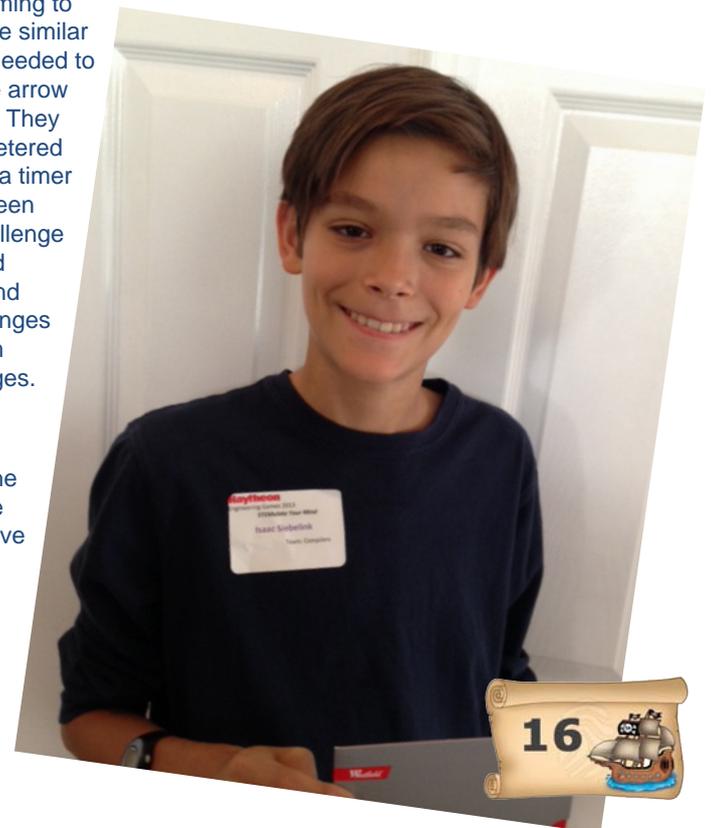


Isaac Siebelink, an 8th grader, home-educated student, participated in the Raytheon Engineering Games “STEMulate Your Mind” on November 2, 2013. Raytheon divided the participating students into random teams of 3-4 students. Isaac and his team competed to in two different challenges. The first challenge was to build a smart night light using an Arduino circuit board and other electrical components. It had to automatically turn off when it sensed a certain amount of light and turn

back on automatically when the surroundings were dark. The second challenge was using Scratch programming to create a computer game similar to Pac Man. Students needed to

make an elephant move around with the arrow keys to run into and eat fortune cookies. They also needed to create a program that metered how many cookies had been eaten and a timer that showed how fast the cookies had been eaten. In addition to completing the challenge in under an hour, students were required to answer questions about the project and given the option to attempt bonus challenges for additional points. Isaac and his team completed several of the bonus challenges.

Isaac first learned about Scratch programming from his Engineering Essentials teacher, Mr. Ron Adkins, at the Flabob Airport Preparatory Academy. He attends an Engineering Essentials elective class and a Robotics and Rocketry elective class on Wednesdays each week. Isaac enjoys learning about the different types of engineering and using the Boe-bot. In addition to his Flabob classes, Isaac is enrolled in the Spanish Rollie course and then completes his other classes at home. He enjoys fencing, tennis, and playing his violin.



KUDOS for KIDS!

Alexander Chase Pregler, AKA Chase, started playing violin in February of 2011 at age 6 1/2 with Jean Graham, a Springs vendor. Chase was the first person in the family to play the violin. He chose the type of instrument he wanted to play and loves to practice. The versatility of the violin has allowed Chase to play many genres. Chase plays American Folk Fiddle music such as rousing renditions of "Dixie", "Oh Susannah" and "Camptown Races". Chase says his goals are to play "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" by the Charlie Daniels Band and "Spring" by Vivaldi. Chase has participated in a Scottish Fiddle Workshop in Los Angeles that was taught by World Renowned, Andrew Beaton. In March, Chase started playing with the Corona Youth Conservatory, in the children's section of the Corona String Orchestra, practicing once a week with them. They study music theory for an hour, then practice classical music for an hour, and finish up with an hour long group lesson.

VIOLIN IN THE COMMUNITY: Every once in awhile, we take Chase to a local Starbucks to practice his violin. People tip him as he plays and it helps him gain confidence to play in public. People stop and put change in a cup for him at Starbucks and other events. At one event he made \$52 in 45 minutes. He deposits half of his money in his bank account and uses the other half of his money to purchase new video games, books and toys. Chase learned that playing your violin while trick-or-treating earns you 3 times the amount of candy on Halloween. He says he'd like to be an Experimental Physicist when he grows up and his violin concerts will help pay for school and to make money doing violin concerts when he gets older.

We take Chase to watch plays and concerts that offer orchestra music with violins. We also took him to see a Rock Symphony by violinist, David Garrett.

At renaissance festivals, Chase dresses in costume and plays Celtic Fiddle songs.



FOX GDLA News, channel 11



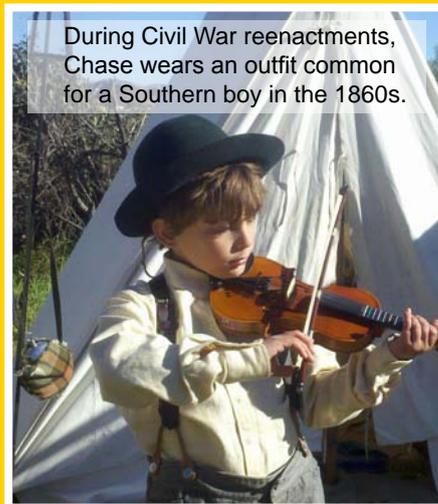
Chase plays Classical Music, Celtic Music, American Folk Music and in an attempt to introduce him to even more genres, he has joined a band that performs Polka/Heavy Metal in concert. This band is called Kranken Welpen. They wear Lederhosen in concert. Chase has done two concerts with them so far: one was at the Fender Guitar Center and the other was at the Big Bear Lake Convention Center during Oktoberfest.



Playing at the Loma Linda Veterans' Hospital on Memorial Day.



He competed last May in the Topanga Banjo and Fiddle Contest. It was held on the Paramount Movie Ranch in Malibu, CA. Chase didn't place in 2013 but he will compete there again in 2014.



During Civil War reenactments, Chase wears an outfit common for a Southern boy in the 1860s.



Fiddler On the Roof.



In 2013, he dressed as Harry Potter and played "Hedwig's Theme" by John Williams.



Playing for a Civil War dance with a band called, The Occasional Strings.

KUDOS for KIDS!



Keilah recently received her Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. She is a 3rd grader and has been with River Springs for two years. She is a shining example of what a great River Springs student can do when they put their mind to it. I am very proud of her not only for her diligence in getting her Black Belt, but also for her love of learning. She is accomplished on many levels. - Kathy Anger, Education Specialist

Keilah started Tae Kwon Do at the age of five, at the beginning of kindergarten, not knowing that she would actually receive her Black Belt one day. However, by persevering through all three years and not giving up, she has achieved a wonderful reward for all the hard work and (lots of) sweat she put into it. It was this past September, at the age of eight, that she received her Black Belt. She has come to realize that persevering through something despite how difficult it might get, actually brings forth great reward. Even through her studies through River Springs, she has learned that not giving up, but persevering has helped her excel and reap great rewards. A poem that she got to memorize in homeschool is regarding perseverance:

A fisher who draws his net too soon,
 Won't have any fish too sell;
 A child who shuts his book too soon,
 Won't learn any lessons well.
 If you would have your learning stay,
 Be patient- don't learn too fast;
 The man who travels a mile each day,
 May get round the world at last.



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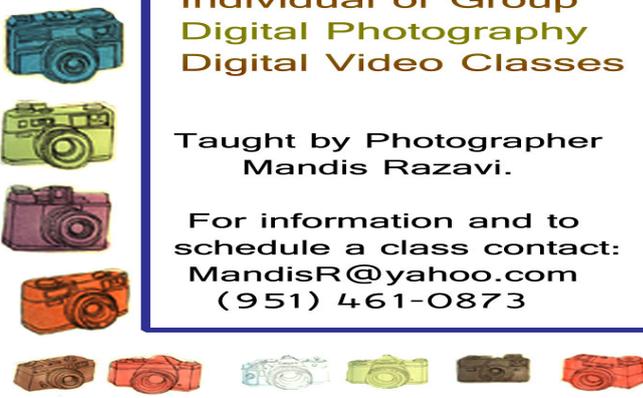
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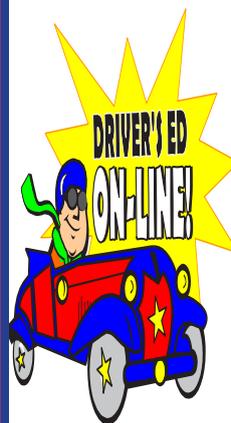
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