



Happy Winter Holiday! I sincerely hope you are enjoying an energizing respite from your regular responsibilities. Holidays can give you a great opportunity to reflect on your progress and determine any changes to your present course for the new year... so take some time to think and plan this vacation, even if you have to sneak away to your favorite coffee shop for a few hours of alone time to do it!

We at River Springs have had an exciting lead-up to the holiday with our charter renewal petition public hearing. Every five years, charter schools must be renewed by their sponsors. This process takes several months in which data is reviewed and evidence is presented. One element of the process is a newspaper-advertised public hearing in which the charter school is able to present testimony on behalf of the school. In particular, the public hearing is a time when the sponsor can gauge the community's support for the charter school.

You'll be happy to know we were VERY well-supported at our public hearing which occurred at the Riverside County Board of Education meeting in Indio on December 12. Even though the location was remote for many of our families, over 60 parents, students and staff attended the meeting, and 18 people spoke on behalf of our school, including parents, students, and staff members. As your Executive Director, I was awed and inspired by these speeches. Below is a small sampling of what was said:

"River Springs has helped [my daughter] take part in making choices about her education and future goals. She is now determined to get better grades...and has set goals for herself."

Sabrina Hijazi, Palm Street Academy Parent and PTSO Treasurer

"We love that as homeschoolers we are able to align our children's interests and passions with their education."

Tamara Rose, Homeschool Parent and Education Specialist

"So many children are forced into 'cookie cutter' education programs. RSCS students are allowed to thrive and become lifelong learners...and are valued for who they are and how they learn."

Julie Champan, Hemet Student Center Parent

"The recent addition of the 'I Can' program has inspired my young student to work harder and stretch herself farther in mathematics. ... since her experience at 'I Can Camp' last year we have seen a great change in her confidence and achievements in mathematics. She even made an 'I Love Math' sign for me last week!"

Kathy Hernandez, Homeschool Parent

"The greatest challenge to educating at home is my feeling of inadequacy ... I've often felt like I need a little more hand holding to learn how to teach certain subjects or concepts. River Springs has provided exactly the training I need to become a better teacher."

Michelle Sullivan, Homeschool Parent and Education Specialist

"I feel that the system that River Springs has is really going to help the students in the future with getting into college, getting a job, and living an all-around successful life. Any student that is, or ever will attend River Springs Charter School, including me, is lucky to be a part of such a fantastic school."

Victoria Bambach, Hemet Student Center Freshman

"[Thanks to the Keys High School program], I am more organized, know exactly what I'm supposed to do every week, and I can schedule my day to do any subject that needs the most focus. Most importantly, my grades have gone way up. I'm really happy to be a River Springs student and can't wait to graduate in 2015."

Lauren Wilson, Keys High School Sophomore

"The internship program at River Springs takes it up to the next level. It gives the student the opportunity to experience the career they want to pursue. River Springs allows for your internship to be personalized to your needs and goals. Students are able to pick what they want to do and where they want to intern."

Allison McNeel, Temecula Student Center Junior and Internship Student

The Riverside County Board of Education will be hearing the staff's analysis of our academic progress at their January 16, 2013 meeting and will be voting on our renewal at the February 13, 2013 meeting. With five new board members (out of a total of 7) it is important to get our message across. You can help! Please write a letter to explain why our school should be renewed, and we will deliver these letters to all the board members. Send letters via email to Kyla.Shofner@RiverSpringsCharter. org.

Many thanks for your continued support. We're looking forward to the best New Year yet!







RIVER SPRINGS

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STAR STUDENT AWARDS

Homeschool students who achieved a note-worthy accomplishment on the California STAR exam for the 2011-12 school year in English-Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, or both enjoyed a special party and awards ceremony at Mulligans and Boomers in December! Parents proudly took pictures of their children receiving their award, and the kids got to have a blast the rest of the afternoon...Win, Win! Congrats, students!





Proud to Present

The Inspired Learner &

Talent Show

May 17, 2013 1:00-4:00 Mt. Rubidoux SDA Church 5320 Victoria Avenue Riverside, CA



Talent can be any type of amateur entertainment (singing, dancing, comedy, etc.) and is no longer than 3 minutes. The Talent Show is not a competition. All students will receive a participation certificate for their effort.

All performers must participate in an audition and acts must be approved by and appropriate for RSCS. Auditions will be held April 09, 2013 at the following locations:

Corona Student Center 3:30PM - 5:30PM 510 West Second Street, Corona, CA 92882

RSCS Library 9:30AM - 12:30PM 43397 Business Park Drive, Temecula, CA 92590

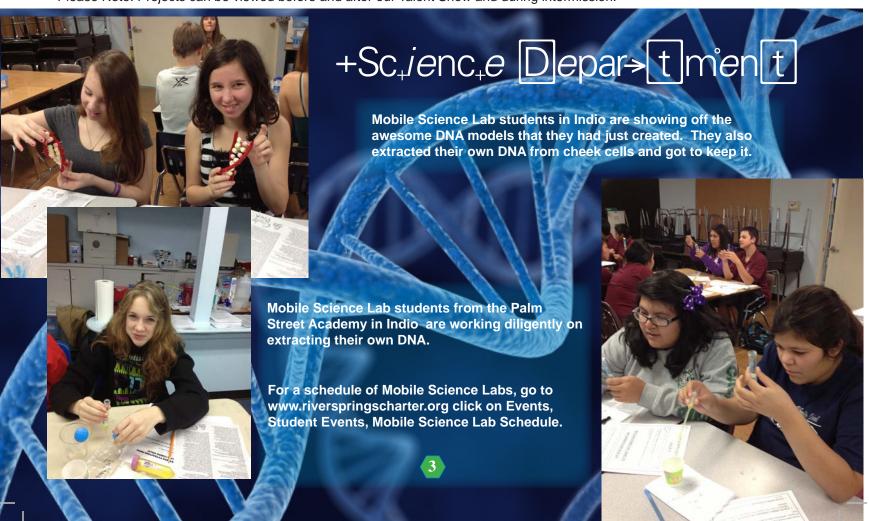
Inspired Learner Expo

This event is designed to provide students with the opportunity to share a project that they are proud of and to receive recognition for their hard work. Part of the fun of this event is to talk

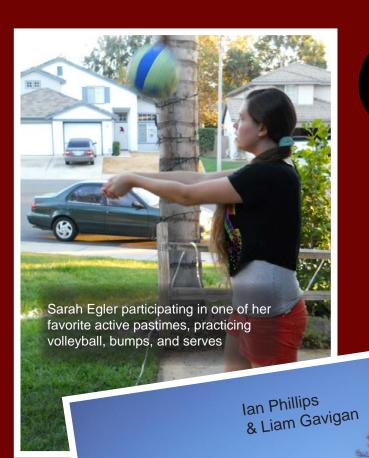
like a true expert on your topic of choice.

In order to enter, you will need for your ES to complete an online Google form. All requirements will be available to your ES and our website in the Spring of 2013.

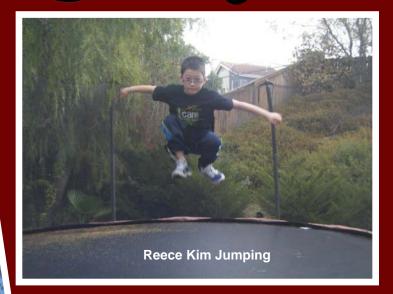
**Please Note: Projects can be viewed before and after our Talent Show and during intermission.



CENTURION CLUB



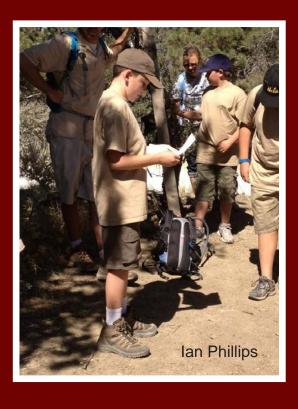
Reece loves the
Centurion Club!
He's very enthusiastic
about it. He takes his
pedometer everywhere he goes
& checks it often, making sure
he writes down & initials every
mile. Please enjoy the
picture. It took several
tries, but we got the
shot!



Ian Phillips, 6th grade homeschool student and son of ES, Nadia Phillips, completed 20 miles towards his 100 mile goal for the Centurion Program. In September, Boy Scout Troop 89 of Lake Arrowhead hiked up two of the seven summits of Big Bear- Bertha Peak and Delamar Mountain for a 10 mile hike. Ian, who is the Chaplain's assistant, did a Scout's Own Ceremony at the top of one of the peaks. In October, his troop completed a second 10 mile hike at Horsethief Creek near the Salton Sea. Next Spring, they are planning on completing a 20 mile hike to meet the requirements for their Hiking merit badge. Joining him was RSCS 8th grade student, Liam Gavigan.

lan also participates in basketball, martial arts, and track and field which will count towards the remaining miles needed to reach 100!

For more information about the Centurion Club conact our Education Department at (951) 252-8893.



Monday, Dec. 4th was a special day for River Springs student, Sarah Poulson. Sarah and 24 other Make-a-Wish recipients, along with their families, spent a few hours at the Discovery Science Center learning about the science of making gingerbread. They all headed over to the mall where they enjoyed a live

band and falling snow while waiting for Santa to appear. After greeting Santa, Sarah was asked to be his special guest and to sit with him while he read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the crowd. Sarah was then presented with a basket of cooking accessories, as the beginning of her wish to be a chef was being granted.

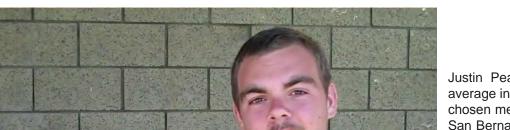


In 2008, Sarah was diagnosed with juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia. She also received a bone marrow transplant that same year. Sarah came to River Springs in the Fall of 2011 and has found our Transitions Homeschool program, with her ES Kari Gillette, to be a great choice for her education. Sarah's wish to be a chef is being granted on the Macy's Christmas tour and is a big part of her special interest course. This story, along with a way for your student to help Santa fulfill other children's wishes can be found at

http://www.ocregister.com/news/santa-379569-wish-macy.html



CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION





Student Lands Job in the Medical Field

Justin Pearson graduated just last year! His grade point average in college is 4.0, and he has even landed a job in his chosen medical field. Yes, that's right! Justin landed a job at San Bernardino Physical Therapy. It's just part time for now which is perfect for his busy schedule.

Justin attended the medical academy for three years and said school is not difficult, especially since much of what he is learning now at college he already learned in the medical classes at River Springs. Justin is moving ahead with his career and academic success. He enjoys having his own money and being independent. Justin is only 19 years old.

congratulations, Justin!



Tina Anguiano has participated in several live performances, including The Wizard of Oz, Aladdin, and Peter Pan. Tina's good friend, Madelyn, told her about available positions for The Nightmare Before Christmas (Revisited) at the Inland Stage Company in San Jacinto. Tina joined the group and jumped at the opportunity to join the ensemble for three separate scenes. Tina enjoys drawing, swimming, and traveling during her free time. Participating in live performances provides her opportunities to socialize and meet new people. Drama also provides value for the community; a fundraising performance is scheduled

on December 21st for the families affected by the Valle Vista apartment fire. For more information, visit **inlandstage.org**.



Ian Van Bebber, a Keys High School Sophomore student played Jack Skellington in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. He even shaved his head for this role!

http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/dec/06/tp-inland-stage-co-to-present-family-friendly/





Timory Kelley Shaner

Music resonates in her soul; she delights in its sound and movement. Timory's first public performance was at River Springs Charter School's Talent Show 2 years ago. Her passion for music has taken her on an exciting journey, including her first jazz composition. After her second talent show this year, she was courageous enough to audition for the Temecula Boys and Girls Club Idol fundraiser. She was greatly rewarded; in August, she was selected as one of six finalists in her age category. Her enthusiasm for performing was further ignited when she was invited to join an amazing cast of local young performers in her first musical, *Fairytales Are Forever*, an original production by Monica Iversen. She fought her fears and gave a great

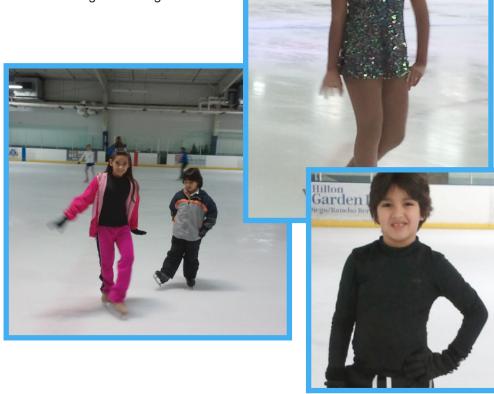
performance as a pirate, a Seven Dwarfs back-up singer, and an Under Zee Water Soloist. Timory loves to explore various genres of music—country and jazz are currently her favorites and she continually works hard with her voice coach to increase her vocal range. Looking to the future, Timory hopes to use her unique voice to bring the message of hope, praise, and worship to the world. Off stage, Timory is an energetic nine-year-old who enjoys playing with her little brother, taking nature walks, and jogging. Reading, math, science, writing, drawing, and animating characters on the computer are just a few of her many interests, and this year she is learning to play the guitar.

We are so proud of Timory, she is a wonderful student and has always been enthusiastic about reaching her academic goals. In addition to her growing musical talent, this year she achieved High Honors in Mathematics and Honors in English-Language Arts. Go Timory!!!



Abby Carvajal is 11 years old, and she is attending 6th grade in the RSCS homeschool program. Abby is a great skater and improving each day. She's currently working on improving and polishing her basic skills so she can start attempting the more difficult jumps and spins. Abby's mom created a binder for Abby that has all her warm-up exercises and lists of the elements she's working on. It has really helped her stay on task and achieve her goals. In such a short time she has placed in 2 competitions and moved up 5 levels. She is so proud of her and all her accomplishments. Abby's mom looks forward to her future in figure skating!







Nathan Carvajal is 7 years old, and he is a second grade Homeschool student.

Hello my name is Courtney Moebs. I am a skating coach at Iceoplex and have been training Nathan regularly for the past few months. Nathan is currently working on his Freestyle 1-2 maneuvers and is showing great progress. He is very outgoing, energetic, determined, and a pleasure to teach. Every time I have a lesson with Nathan, he makes me laugh and seems to liven up my day with his personality. Our goals this year for Nathan are to have him attend

competitions, and his freestyle 3-4 test, and most importantly have fun! Nathan is a very talented, strong skater with a bright future, and I enjoy every moment I am able to spend helping him to achieve his goals.



Lexi Packer and Noel Tessier played Snow White's feisty little dwarves in the Dance Drama Lore, which played at Chaffey College in November. The girls were two of only seven juniors chosen by Valverde School of Performing Arts to be part of this unique theater experience. Being able to put hours of time into theater and dance is something both of these talented, young girls treasure. Homeschooling with RSCS frees up hours of time each day so that these girls can both excel academically and pursue their dreams to someday perform on Broadway. Way to go, Lexi and Noel!



Sarah Quinton is a senior in the Keys High School program. She first joined the River Springs family her freshman year of high school. She attended the Temecula Renaissance Academy, where she had "loads of fun and

learned from the best teachers."

Sarah has received many accolades, including Student of the Year (freshman) and Science Award (junior). She has maintained a 4.0 GPA during all her high school years.

After graduation, Sarah plans to attend college and eventually become a pharmacist.

Her response below is part of the Keys Personal Finance curriculum, which gives students a chance to explore checking, causes of debt, emotional versus deliberate buying, and financial planning.

Interpret the Native Indian saying: "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand."

Sometimes parents may act one way and tell their children to act another. Many young children do not grasp what their parents are telling them to do. Most words go in one ear and out the other if a parent constantly talks to the child, telling them how to act. By telling a child how to act, they don't understand and will most likely forget what you told them earlier. Besides, no young child wants to be lectured all the time.

Showing a child what to do and how to act is a better way of communicating to them on how to respond in certain situations, but it is not the best way. By showing a child through example, they understand a bit more, unless the examples make no sense to them. Depending on the circumstances, showing a child what to do is a perfect way to teach them. If they see the parent acting a specific way, they will most likely act that way as well. However, the parent has to be careful not to complete the task or action for the child while showing them, otherwise they will never learn.

Involving a child in your everyday activities is the best way to teach them about life. This is giving the child hands-on experience where they have a chance to experiment and learn from their mistakes. Parents should involve their child in the budget making process if they are old enough, for example. They personally learn how to budget and fully understand the process; this would be a good life lesson. Hands-on experience by involving your children will allow them to see and feel what the action is like, they will understand better. Just make sure to involve the child in the positive actions.



The Williammee Family is finding great ways to make the community the classroom.

These pictures are of their 2nd Botany camp in Blue Jay on the Ortega Hwy in November 2012. They were able to make a "Lichenometer" out of some wire and string to measure lichen on the trees and determine air quality. As usual they had a lot of fun learning about nature while

enjoying camping.





The Williammee family participated in some wonderful outreaches during October and November 2012. They were able to take their pet sheep "Lily" on a walk through the neighborhood of Lakeland Village in Lake Elsinore on Oct 31st where they were amazed at how many people did not know what a sheep looked like! Parents and children enjoyed taking pictures and touching Lily and had fun

> guessing what she was. They took some bunnies and "Lily" to Mr. Pennypickle's workshop in Temecula for children to play with. The





children enjoyed playing with the animals. The Williammee family also participated in an outreach program to the community where they put on a puppet show for the children to enjoy!



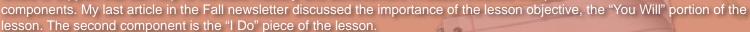
Joshua Williammee passed his Red 1 belt in Taekwando and Karate at Heffington Martial Arts, November 2012.



"I DO" Direct Instruction

By Stephanie Parshall Academic Achievement Advisor

eaching lessons is an integral part of your Homeschool Day, whether you are teaching math, social studies, language arts, or science. It is helpful to think of a lesson as a machine. All of the components must be included and placed in a particular order for it to run at the highest level of efficiency. Including all the pieces of a lesson means that your student is provided with multiple levels of support that can help to increase mastery and achievement. A lesson involves multiple



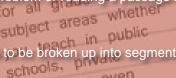
This is a very important element of a lesson that is sometimes easy to leave out, especially when you are teaching just one or two students. However, "I Do" is the part of the lesson where you get to teach! This component allows you to utilize the instructional strategies that work best for your student's unique learning style and interests. This is the time when your student has a chance to see the entire process or content you are teaching from beginning to end, as well as hear related academic language. This is extremely valuable to the learning process. Here are some suggestions for implementing the "I Do" component:

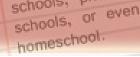
Use the vocabulary associated with the concept when instructing your student.

- Think aloud as you are teaching. Hearing your thought process while solving a problem or reading a passage helps your dent become conscious of their own thinking.

 Incorporate your student's learning style while tooching. student become conscious of their own thinking.
- Keep direct instruction to 10-15 minute blocks. More complex lessons may need to be broken up into segments.

 Processes, particularly in moth.
- Processes, particularly in math, should include detailed steps.





Science Isn't Just for Scientists

By April Jacoby, Homeschool Director

The most important thing you can teach your child is the Scientific Method. You may think this fancy phrase describes some complicated procedure that only scientists use to make important, life altering discoveries. The truth is, the Scientific Method is something we all use every day in every walk of life. Teaching the Scientific Method is simply encouraging your child to be curious, helping them to form questions, and showing them how to seek answers. As you can see, these skills will be useful across all subjects and at all grade levels. The steps of the Scientific Method may vary depending on your source material, but the components are essentially the same.

Teach your child good observation skills. Start slow, observe characteristics, note shape, color, and smell, learn adjectives, and record details. Valuable observation skills come from observing change. Young students can observe the changes taking



place as a plant grows, the moon changes phases, or a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. Another important lesson to be learned here is the difference between fact and opinion. An apple is red (fact), An apple is smooth, hard, shiny (all facts), An apple tastes good (opinion). We are not just talking about what you can see. Good observers use all their senses. How does it smell? How does it feel? How does it make you feel? How does it taste? (careful with this part)? Record their observations in a scientific journal using pictures and diagrams if necessary.

These types of lessons can be learned anywhere. You can sit your child down at the table in front of a bowl of fruit and say, "write about what you see," but think bigger. Do some field work. Look at the fish in the tank at Sea World, record their habitat, what their characteristics are, if they swim alone or in a school. Don't just go camping. Draw or collect samples of local plants and wildlife in your journal. Observe birds building a nest, or the mechanics of swinging. Now you are ready to get out there with your child, start making observations, and recording data. There is a world out there waiting to be observed, and the sky is not even the limit! In future articles, I will continue to break down the steps of the Scientific Method. You may not all end up dissecting frogs in your kitchen, but there is a good science project waiting in the curious mind of every student, and I hope to inspire you to get it out.

"Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small Jobs." Henry Ford



Thank you Homeschool families and wonderful staff

Our younger students enjoyed an Eric Carle themed workshop as they worked their way through projects designed around the books "A Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "A House For Hermit Crab." Chain link caterpillars could be seen rustling their way through the classroom as our students dined on "caterpillar salad!" Our 6 and 7 year olds finished an entire lap book as they made their own house for Hermit Crab. Lots of fun and education was to be had for our older students too! Our 8-10 year olds had a blast making "Moon" projects out of Oreo cookies, while our 11-14 year olds designed and named their own "Constellation." Parents had a chance to break away from the kids for a few hours and learn valuable information at their workshop, "Teaching and Implementing New Strategies for MATH" taught by our Academic Achievement Advisor, Gina Wickwire. This also gave our parents some time to enjoy each other, collaborate, and eat yummy bagels!

S.P.R.E.E. Spring 2013 coming your way! Don't miss out on this awesome event! Check out our website under "Events," "Parent Events," "SPREE 2012-13".



ISTORY DAY

DANCIEN MONDE

ES HOMPPHERS

HOMESCHOOL 2013

Wednesday, January 09, 2013

11:00AM-2:00PM (Ten minute interviews conducted from 11:00AM-1:00PM, winners announced at 1:45PM) River Springs Administration Training Room, 43448 Business Park Dr., Temecula, CA

STUDENTS MUST REGISTER: Email Kerri Hodak at kerri.hodak@riverspringscharter.org with:

- φ Student Name
- φ Grade Level
- φ Project Title
- φ Project Category: Website, Documentary, Exhibit, Performance, or Paper
- φ Parent Name
- φ Email Address

Winners of our Homeschool competition will join student entries from our Academy Programs in the school wide competition on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 in Riverside. Please review all of the additional "links" regarding this event.

Questions? Please contact Tamara Bos at tamara.bos@riverspringscharter.org

WASC Accreditation at River Springs

By Katherine VanLeeuwen, Guidance Administrative Assistant

There are a lot of exciting things going on at River Springs, and we look forward to sharing our parent, staff, and student successes with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). During the 2009-10 school year, RSCS earned a three-year accreditation for all grades and programs. This means that in March 2013, the WASC Visiting Committee will be returning to evaluate our next accreditation term.

What is WASC?

The Western Association of Schools & Colleges is one of six regional accrediting associations in the United States. WASC is composed of three commissions: Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, and Accrediting Commission for Schools (ACS). The Accrediting Commission for Schools extends its services to public, independent, church-related, and proprietary schools of the following levels and types:



elementary schools, junior high/middle/intermediate schools, comprehensive/college preparatory high schools, continuation high schools, alternative high schools, occupational/vocational high schools, regional occupational programs/centers, adult schools, and vocational skill centers. RSCS is a public K-12 charter and falls under the ACS sector of WASC. For more information on the background, structure, or philosophy of WASC, please visit www.acswasc.org.

The Value of Accreditation

The WASC is the most prestigious and widely accepted accrediting body for schools in California. The accreditation process ensures that academic standards are high and the school is focused on continuously improving the learning of their students. Accreditation is particularly important for high school programs because other educational institutions (colleges, universities, high schools) look for this "seal of approval" when accepting new students and/or credits.

It allows River Springs to offer rigorous A-G courses for students who may be interested in attending a UC, CSU, or any other university that requires college prep level courses. It also means that students who move from our school to another high school setting will have minimal problems transferring units. Moreover, WASC accreditation validates the excellent work of our parents and staff. River Springs is a place where students learn and grow in an environment of their choosing supported by a personalized curriculum tailored to their specific needs and learning style.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLR)

The purpose of ESLR is to provide the foundation for establishing expected schoolwide learning results and were developed by teachers, students, parents and staff members. The ESLR state the knowledge, proficiencies, and appreciation for education that River Springs' students should possess. We hope that our students become: Capable Communicators (read extensively, write effectively, listen actively, and speak clearly) Critical Thinkers (generate hypotheses, process scientifically, analyze data, and relate information) Global Citizens (identify trends, respect viewpoints, understand geography, and participate in the community) Problem Solvers (compute accurately, apply concepts, formulate problems and find solutions)

Have Questions?

Your Education Specialist is familiar with the ESLRs and the importance of WASC accreditation.

If you have any concerns about these, feel free to ask your Education Specialist. More complex questions can be addressed by contacting katherine.vanleeuwen@riverspringscharter.org or calling (951) 252-8831. We greatly appreciate your support for continued accreditation!





Congratulations First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team RoboZilla!

RoboZilla is a community team made up of current RSCS and former RSCS students. The team enjoyed a successful First Lego League season.

Throughout the season, RoboZilla had the honor of being invited to several community outreach events where they educated the public about FLL and the robotics community. One such event was the ISTE Conference held at the San Diego Convention Center where the team was able to meet and discuss robotics with educators from places as far as New Zealand! Two other amazing community outreach events were the STEMapalooza, held in San Bernardino, and the STEP Conference, held in Riverside. As young ambassadors of First Lego League, the team was able to introduce over 1,800 public school children and educators to the various FIRST robotics programs.

In the spirit of friendly competition, RoboZilla mentored four FLL teams this season. Two teams were River Springs teams, Magnolia Trons and Magnolia Bots. RoboZilla helped teams prepare for FLL judging expectations and taught programming tricks and tips.

RoboZilla participated in the UCR Qualifying Tournament on November 10. Team member, Jason Palmer, was honored with the Young Adult Mentor Award. The team won the Project Award for the invention of their RZR Walker Accessory Kit and qualified to attend the Southern California Regional Championship at Legoland on December 1.

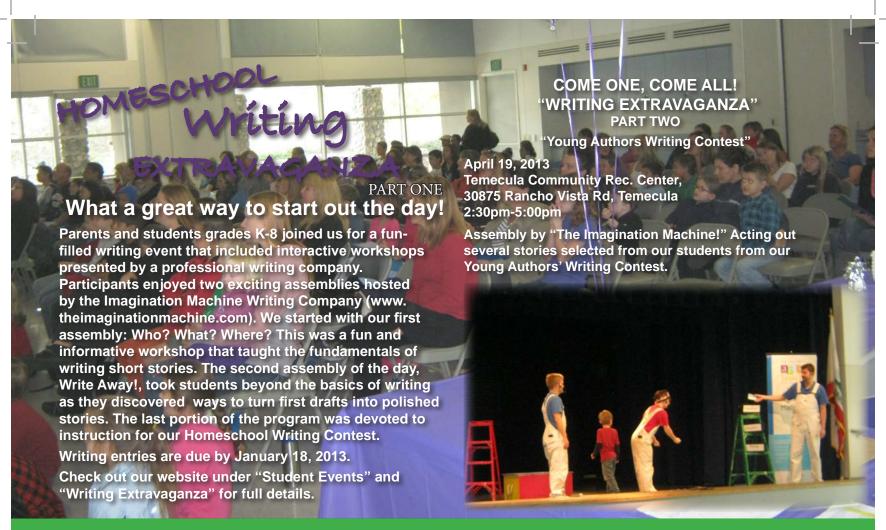
At the Legoland Championship, the team earned a First Place Award for Innovation & Strategy in the Robot Design category. Go! Go! RoboZilla!











10 Ways to Inspire Your Child's Thirst for Knowledge



By Nancy Branchaud, Homeschool Director

I've heard it said that motivation is 100% internal; no one else can motivate you. We can endeavor to help our children to sustain the joy of learning for its own sake! Skills that your child are learning through school subjects are crucial to their intellectual growth, but they need your help to open up the world of ideas. Their joy in discovery will transfer to the schoolwork, so you will boost their academic achievement too!

1. Fill your child's environment by reading aloud and taking turns reading together. Establish a family reading time when everyone reads, silently and together. Fill your home with newspapers, novels, and even place mats with words on them to demonstrate your love of reading.

2. Encourage your child to express their opinion. Talk about their

14

feelings, and allow them the opportunity to make choices like choosing extracurricular activities or picking a side dish to go with dinner! Ask for input on family decisions, and show that you value their suggestions.

- 3. Encourage your child to explore things that they find fascinating. Crazy about horses? Challenge them to find five facts about horses, and show your enthusiasm for their interests.
- 4. Provide opportunities for play that support different learning styles, from visual learning and listening, to sorting and sequencing. Materials that encourage open-ended play, such as Legos and blocks, will develop your child's creative expression and problem-solving skills. Give your child unstructured play time to build with them.
- 5. Enthusiastically point out the new things that you are learning. Discuss the different ways you find new information, whether you are looking for baking tips on the Internet or reading for your book club.
- 6. Have your child teach you what he learned today; putting the lesson into his own words will help him retain what he learned.
- 7. Help your child organize their assignments so they feel in control of the work. Make sure they are not feeling overloaded.
- 8. Celebrate no matter how small the achievement! Completing a book calls for a special treat (maybe a half hour of video games). Offer opportunities and positive reinforcement that will inspire the love of learning and challenge.
- 9. It's important to develop talents and focus on strengths. If they are weaker in math but a strong writer, in addition to a workbook for math practice, give her a writing journal or a poetry book.
- 10. Make connections and encourage exploration of the world around by asking questions and guiding them on how to find the answers. Talk them through your thinking processes.
- 11. Children who receive support and encouragement will be creative, adventurous learners throughout their lives.



We all look forward to the holiday break. It's a welcome couple of weeks off from our demanding schedule of school to enjoy our families and perhaps take a vacation. Sleeping in a little later, baking and decorating cookies, and going to movies are some of the activities we enjoy during the break that are hard to make time for in the midst of the school year. But immediately following the New Year, it's time to go back "to the grind." For mom or dad, that means getting back to lesson plans and instruction. For the children, it means back to studying and homework. I don't know about you, but even though I live in sunny, Southern California, that first month back can bring on the "winter-time blues!" What can be done to beat those blues? Combat these blues by changing up the daily routine, creating a "mini-

intercession", and incorporating the idea of "New Year's resolutions" into goal setting for both you and your children. It's simple. Switch your class schedule around a bit, start and end your school day ten or fifteen minutes earlier or later if you can. If you have "school" in a certain room in your house, try to change up the scenery a little. Make it feel fresh and new. The same concept applies to your home "classroom." Have your children research potential field trips and then incorporate those field trips in your schedule so they have something exciting to look forward to!

For your mini intercession carve out specific time in your week. Perhaps when you were studying science, the kids were really interested in the marine life they learned about. Have them create a project where they research a specific creature that fascinated them. Take a field trip to the aquarium and see them in person. Have your student then share with their siblings what interested them most about that sea animal and something new they learned in their research. Let them be creative!!

Ben Franklin said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." The New Year is a time when many of us resolve to make a change or set a goal for the year. We often don't accomplish our resolutions because we don't have a plan in place to attain them. Sit down with your children and set an academic goal for the new semester. Brainstorm concrete ways you can each achieve your goals, and create a way to journal or track your progress. Set aside a time in your weekly schedule where you can each share the progress you are making towards your goals.

Goal setting for the New Year, changing up your routine, and adding a winter intercession course to your schedule are a few ways to help you beat those "wintertime blues."

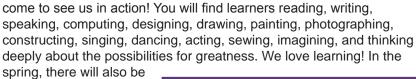


Temecula Transitions A wonderful part of the homeschool program



By Catherine Hanson, Keys High School Homeschool Director

Students in the Temecula Transitions program attend the iShine Learning Center 4 days a week where they enjoy a project based learning program. The environment inside and out inspires and encourages breakthrough for our K-8 students. If you are curious about our leading-edge strategies,



spring, there will also be enrichment classes on Fridays that are open to the general homeschool population. Our students really enjoy learning!

For more information about the Temecula Transitions program call 951-252-8888.







power Tools



By Vivian Price, Director of Instructional Support

Have you seen your child struggle to comprehend difficult text, not know how to start an essay or organize a creative writing assignment? Have they been stumped by challenging math problems? It is difficult to see your child having a tough time working independently. We want students to be challenged; but we do not want them frustrated when working independently. So, we have identified fifteen strategies for independent learning that will help your child. There is a fine line between assignments that are appropriate for independent work and those that are just outside of the child's zone of proximal development; however, children should be pushed to work slightly above their comfort zone. Success in this area depends on having the right tools to achieve understanding.

The River Springs **Power Tools** are strategies to help students deal with new and difficult assignments. These tools can be used in any subject across grade levels. Our goal is not only to provide parents and teachers the top strategies but also to ensure that students can use the strategies independently. The **Power Tools** are useful before, during, and after reading as well as for reinforcing literacy skills in all subjects. In 2011, we introduced the first five **Power Tools**: Think-Pair-Share, RAFT, Questioning, SQ3R, and Power writing. In 2012 we introduced Notes, Journals, RIP, Connect, and Sketch-to Stretch. This year we are focusing on Summarizing, Mind Maps, Cover-and-Tell, and VIP. Each year we include an emphasis on graphic organizers. Graphic organizers help students plan, review, comprehend and structure assignments. Below is a brief description of the 2013 Power Tools. Please visit our website www.riverspringscharter.org for detailed descriptions of each Power Tool, lesson plans, and an assortment of graphic organizers. Talk to your ES for additional support and ideas as you implement these tools for success.





Summarize ~ a strategy that helps students to identify the most important ideas in a text

ind Maps ~ a strategy for helping students order and structure their thinking through mentally mapping words or/and concepts





Cover-and-Tell ~ a reading comprehension strategy that enables a student to independently, break up their reading into smaller parts, giving them a chance to focus on what they just read and retell the information

 V^{IP} ~ a strategy is used to support readers in their efforts to navigate through the text, comprehend challenging material, reflect on key points or ideas, make connections, and clarify understanding





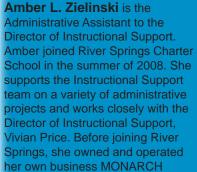
Graphic Organizers ~ a strategy that encompasses a variety of note-taking formats that show relationships among ideas and helps scaffold learning

YOUR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



Vivian Price is the Director of Instructional Support for River Springs Charter School. She served as the English Department Chair for six years and holds a MA in Education with a focus on literacy. Vivian taught middle and high school English for nine years, including teaching at RSCS academies. She has worked in a variety of capacities for RSCS, including classroom teacher, Education Specialist, BTSA Support Provider, and online teacher. Vivian and her family moved

to California from New Hampshire where she grew up, completed her education, and taught for several years. In California, Vivian completed her post graduate education and earned her National Board Certification. Vivian continues to develop as an educator and promote her belief in lifelong learning.



SERVICES, for several years. She is married and has three lovely daughters ages 15, 11, and 7.





George Essel, after seven years active duty as a navy electromechanical technician and shipboard communications watch supervisor (1978-1985), joined the ranks of prior military personnel providing support as a technical contractor. After obtaining his B.S. in 1989, he became a Program Manager and Business Development Manager for complex electronic and simulation operation, maintenance, and instruction contracts. When Eagles

Peak started, he began supporting the school as a volunteer parent and eventually obtained part-time positions as SAIL computer technician, small group instructor, and curriculum developer. In 2005, he was hired full time to establish Flabob Aviation High School which he was able to accomplish by being awarded a Perkins III grant from US Dept. of Education for approximately \$750,000. George has continued to support RSCS in various capacities. His current roles are:

- ◄ Perkins Coordinator, managing CA Dept of Education funds awarded in support of CTE project materials and curriculum
- ◄ CTE Support, assisting other instructors with curriculum development and project-based learning modules
- ◄ Business/Engineering/Robotics CTE Instructor at the Temecula Student Center, He teaches 3 business classes, 3 engineering classes, and one semester of FIRST Robotics class.
- ◄ FIRST Robotics Support, providing support to the school's FIRST Robotics teams in Hemet and helping to establish a FIRST Robotics team at the Magnolia Student Center
- ← Earth Science Specialist, providing Instructional Support
- ◄ Cyborg Zombies Coach/Lead Mentor, providing direction and oversight to the Temecula Student Center Robotics team throughout the year for community outreach, fund raising, recruiting, etc.



Trisha Tran, is a teacher of the Fundamentals of Algebra 1, Algebra 1 and 2, Math CAHSEE, and Geometry at Magnolia Student Center. Trisha is also the Math PLC Liaison.

John Kane

Born: April 30, 1950 in New York BA: Math and Chemistry from Blackburn University, Carlinville, Illinois

M.S. in Physics from San Diego State University Single Subject Teaching Credential also from SDSU in Math and Physics

My name is John Kane. Born in New York and married in Illinois, I

am the Physics teacher at the Temecula Student Center and also work with Homeschool students. I love science, and my top goal is to catch the imagination of my students and introduce them to the amazing developments going around us in today's world. I have worked in Chemistry and Physics and received my Masters Degree working with Optics and Lasers.

I played college soccer and golf. My hobbies are Astronomy and Chess. I also work with computers, and my latest project is to find the best way to present large quantities of data in meaningful and useful ways such as correlating student CST results to their progress on school assessments.



Kerri Hodak

Most know me as the "Princess" of RSCS, but I am actually just plain ol' Kerri Hodak! I am proud to work for the Instructional Support Department here at River Springs to support our Homeschool families as the Educational Event Coordinator. My duties include the coordinating of our SPREE, Writing Extravaganza, EXPO/Talent Show, Curriculum Preview, and Algebra/Math events.



I am also the Homeschool liaison and work with our Academy Programs to coordinate the school wide Spelling Bee, Science Fair, and History Day. In my spare time, I enjoy yelling at my 17 year old daughter and 21 year old son. I have 5 cats (yes, 5!) and one dog named Kimi that my kids think I like better than them...hmmm.My best advice: Have your children when you're young!



Nikki Wakelin teaches English for River Springs at the Temecula Student Center. Prior to teaching at River Springs, she taught for the Murrieta Valley School District and from 2005 - 2009, she taught high school English in North Queensland, Australia. She earned her Bachelor's Degree and Teaching Credential from Azusa Pacific University. She has a K-8 multiple subject teaching credential as well as a Single Subject English credential.

While she enjoys teaching students of all ages, she is particularly drawn to high school students where she shares her sincere passion for literature and writing.

Nikki has been married to her husband Glenn for 20 years, and they have two beautiful teenaged daughters who both share a love of reading! Many dinner time conversations revolve around the latest novel we are all reading! They have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to many interesting places around the world. She enjoys reading (of course!), hiking, baking, and watching her daughters participate in their sporting and extracurricular activities. She is very excited to be taking on the role of English Specialist and hopes to help make the wonderful English program at River Springs even better!

Russ Johnston

I am teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science to homeschool students at the OC and Temecula sites. I love teaching science to interested students and unlocking the world of wonder that is science. I have recently been promoted to Biology Specialist and Chemistry Specialist, and am enjoying the challenge.

I homeschooled all of my 5 children and am a huge proponent homeschooling and love kids.



Stephanie Parshall

I have worked for River Springs for many years in several capacities. I have been a Homeschool ES, a Homeschool Mentor, and a Homeschool Director. This year I have transitioned into the Instructional Support Department as an Academic Achievement Advisor, and I am very excited! This year I am working very closely with our Math Path program, I Can Camp, and other instructional projects. I am hap-

piest when I am working on curriculum and educational technology! I also have a passion for arts in education. On a personal note, I have been married to my husband, Michael, for almost 16 years. We have three children--Sarah (13), Evan (10), and Caleb (6). During whatever free time I can manage, I can usually be found in some sort of community theater, either on the stage or in the audience!



Richard Brown

Teacher of English 3 and 4 and Humanities 2 at Flabob Airport Aviation Academy in Riverside. A-G Seminar Teacher for English 1 through 4.

Sarah Marsh has a math degree and single subject teaching credential from the University of California, Riverside. She has been teaching at the high school level for 8 years. Her first year with River Springs Charter School was 2010 as the e-Algebra teacher. She has taught pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2. She enjoys using technology to inspire students to love mathematics as much as she does. When she is not teaching, she loves



to photograph cool events and locations around Southern California, paint, and spend time with her friends, family, and her cat Pippin.

Lisa Del Pizzo, before becoming a mommy in 2006 and before accepting a position as a Homeschool Education Specialist in 2007, earned a BA and MA in English and taught middle and high school English as well as the AVID elective course. She is happy to take on some extra responsibilities as part of the Instructional Support Department. Lisa is the English 1-2 Specialist and helps with issues and tasks that have a homeschool focus.



Lisa looks forward to working with ESs, parents, and students to help raise student achievement and to help our students find success in high school and beyond.



Tamara Bos is excited to be back as the High School History-Social Science teacher at the Magnolia Student Center for River Springs Charter School. She is also the History-Social Science specialist for American Government, Economics, and World History. She has been teaching for 11 years, all at the secondary level. Tamara earned her BA degree and Single Subject Social Science Teaching Credential with CLAD certification from California

State University, San Bernardino. In 2007, she passed the CSET exam for Multiple Subjects. She earned her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Scranton. Prior to teaching, she worked at CSU, San Bernardino as the Program Manger for the California Council on Economic Education.

Gina Wickwire loves working for River Springs as an Academic Achievement Advisor. Over the past 18 years, Gina has taught grades K-5, as well as middle school science and high school child development courses. Gina has her Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development from CSUF, and her Masters in Education from Azusa Pacific University. Gina feels very fortunate to have had the opportunity to homeschool her own children and loves sharing her own experiences with our families.

YOUR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT



My name is **Kathy Crudo**, and I am the Field Trip Coordinator/Library Technician for River Springs Charter School. I have been employed with RSCS since August of 2010. For the past year, I have been given the privilege of organizing many fun and educational field trips for RSCS Homeschool families as well as overseeing the Lending Library. Over my 28 years in the work force, 7 in the field of education, I firmly believe that I have one of the best jobs possible. I attribute that to not only the great staff of RSCS, but the wonderful Homeschool students and families that I have had the pleasure of meeting.

Gabe Baumert, I was born in Hungary and learned English in grade school. I moved to the United States when I was four years old with my family and was raised in Erie, Pennsylvania. Since being told by my parents that I couldn't attend college because I was a girl and would only waste it, I took correspondence classes during my junior and senior years in high school and was among a few students at airline school to be hired by National Airlines to work in New York City. I also worked for GTE World Headquarters, AMAX Inc. and National Foundation for the March of Dimes before relocating with my own family and my former husband to California. When the youngest of my three children was old enough to attend pre-school, I began college classes at RCC and after earning A's and making the dean's list, I realized that I was capable of continuing my education and graduated from University of California, Riverside with a Bachelor's degree in Psychobiology focusing mainly on Neuroscience. I earned my teaching credential from National University and have been in the



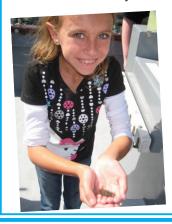
teaching field for nearly 20 years. I am also the Secretary of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Chapter One at Flabob and have been a Flabobian for nearly 20 years. I have always loved teaching, science and aviation, and I love to read. I have three awesome grandchildren and live happily with my new husband of two years in Riverside.

FIELD TRIPS

The Sea Star

By Ian & Nathan Phillips & Catrina Richter October 17, 2012

We had an amazing adventure upon the Sea Star Ocean Classroom field trip. We were on the boat for four hours and saw a lot of things. We used two nets, one to catch fish and the other to catch plankton. We caught a variety of marine life and one piece of trash! Ian's favorite fish was the Sculpin. It was a tiny baby fish that is very poisonous. The captain said it was the smallest Sculpin that he had ever caught with an otter trap net. Nathan's favorite fish was the tubefish because it was long and looked like a tube. It was also a fast swimmer. Catrina's favorite animals were the crabs. She caught them all in the big tank and moved them by hand to the smaller viewing tanks. The Marine Biologist who was on board, showed us plankton using a microscope which was hooked to a TV screen. We learned that there are two main types of plankton - phytoplankton (plants) and zooplankton (animals). We also saw many types of sea birds along with sea lions. Overall, we had an extraordinary time.









SCOUT BUILDS AN AMPHITHEATER IN SANCTUARY

By Bob and Carolyn Stanley

When someone tells you he is an Eagle Scout, look on that person with great respect. That label means he has successfully planned and executed a rigorous project. Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Stanley recently conducted his project at the San Timoteo Nature Sanctuary. The project, which he started planning in October 2011, involved the placement of a seating area in the sanctuary to be used by groups of people learning about Redlands' natural environment.

"I wanted to do a project in the outdoors that the whole city could enjoy and benefit from as my Eagle Scout Project," said 15-year-old Stanley who has been in Scouts for 10 years. He is part of Troop 11, chartered with the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Redlands.

Stanley became interested in the nature sanctuary when he attended a Trails at 10 event last fall. After consulting with the Redlands Conservancy Executive Director, he decided to develop the seating area which can be a natural congregating site for the entire sanctuary.

Stanley's plan involved preparing a small space in a sanctuary area called Bobcat Bowl, about 200 yards west of the Alessandro Road entrance, laying large logs in rows, setting up a small stage area, and marking a trail between the seating area and the historic Carriage Trail. The seating area, also called an amphitheater, will seat 40-50 people. The Eagle Scout project requires the candidate to design the project, prepare a materials list, cost it out, find funding,

and line up the work crew. Stanley was able to enlist the aid of more than 30 individuals for a full day of work on Saturday, October 20, and another crew of 10 individuals on Sunday, October 21.

He procured many donations to make his project work. Fred Ford of Fred Ford & Co. donated all the logs and all the labor to prepare the logs for use in the amphitheater. He also received donations from Esri, Home Depot, Gail Materials, Addison Construction, David Lesyna, Dr. Shirani de Alwis-Chand, Eva Bowen and Charmaine Walker, Ruth Marouka, and Edoudaro Crespo.

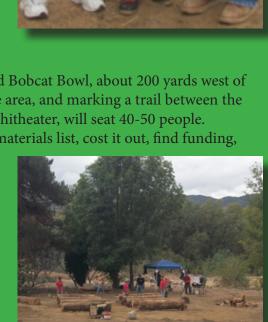
Stanley lives in Banning with his parents, Bob and Carolyn Stanley who also provided many scores of hours helping the younger Stanley prepare for the big day. "I also want to thank Troop 11, my sponsor Terry Welsh, and the Order of the Arrow for their support, time, and energy," he said.

For the Redlands Conservancy, this project means the San Timoteo Nature Sanctuary will be a prime site for environmental education, ready and usable, according to Sherli Leonard, executive director. "We've been able to get this

land ready for passive public use and environmental education at very little cost to us, with the donations and work of two Eagle Scout candidates and the crews they assembled. These projects are immensely valuable for the entire community."

Leonard said the sanctuary has more project potentials ready and waiting for more Eagle Scout candidates.

The San Timoteo Nature Sanctuary is open to the public for hikes from dawn to dusk every day. The main pedestrian entrance gate is located on Alessandro Road and is unlocked all the time. For guided hikes, call 909-792-1800.





YOUR TECHNICAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

The Tech Support Line is intended for students, parents, and staff of River Springs Charter School. Support will be provided for River Springs equipment or technology purchased with instructional funds. Unfortunately, we cannot provide support for privately-owned technology, home networks, or problems with your Internet Service Provider at this time.

The Support Line will be answered Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM at 951-252-8866.

Please note that we continue to support IT help requests through the Trouble Ticket system. If you are a student or parent, access to the Trouble Ticket system is through your ES or Academy.





KEYS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The KEYS program is changing for the better. We are still an independent study program, but we have added meeting spaces in Riverside, Corona, Lake Elsinore, Costa Mesa, Temecula, and Hemet. The sites have been assigned aides who work with the students and teachers to help give even more support to your student. In Riverside and Hemet, specific afternoons are designated for math help where students can come prepared to get help with their math questions. Study areas are provided for students who want to spend some time working on assignments near their teacher or aide. This new arrangement has been a tremendous boon for many of our students who want that little bit of extra help to be successful! Come and visit any of our sites, Tuesday through Thursday and on Fridays in Riverside.

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What Do Romancing and Writing Have in Common?

By Gina Wickwire, Academic Achievement Advisor

Since I began in education, I have had teachers and parents ask me how they can make writing more interesting for their students. The key is to find activities that motivate your students and yet at the same time teach the essential skills to develop good writing. According to Marjorie Frank, "It is important that you include both the fun activities that stimulate writing and the 'heavier' skills that include organizing, refining, and editing." Overall, it is very important to make your writing lessons exciting in the primary grades. However, it is never too late to get your student hooked on writing.

Essential steps to make this happen are defined well by Marjorie Frank, and I have used these strategies with K-8 students.

Step 1: Romancing

Have you tried beginning your writing lesson with a piece of literature, art work, or an experience or situation that your student has experienced? For students who cannot visualize or "think" of anything to say or write about, you may have a very strong visual learner who needs to access their own creativity and picture what they first want to write about. This is actually an area you want to spend a great deal of time with.

Step 2: Collecting

Instead of jumping right in, we often recommend as teachers using graphic organizers for brainstorming. This is actually a fun part of the creative writing process. Think of this as your "raw materials" stage. Ask questions, think of directions to give, throw out word phrases and thoughts to spark the flow of ideas. ("When you think of riding a roller coaster, how does it make you feel?") Tapping into the 5 senses is an area that we usually no longer access with our higher level students. Don't leave them out of this process. You can choose something different each time. Staying with just graphic organizers each time can burn your student out.

Step 3: Writing

This is your instructional stage. Here you review your raw materials and choose, organize, and combine, what will be most effective for your selection of writing.

Step 4: Praising

Most often, we take that "red" pen and begin to edit. It is not our intension to leave out the positive feedback. However, when you do edit, think about the grammar piece separate from the content. For each lesson, target one area to work on (your instructional piece). Then work with your writer to search their own writing for good examples and praise them for their successes. I have always seen this as a 1:3 ratio (1 positive skill to work on to 3 compliments). An example would be, "when you used the word 'towered' I could really feel how tall the mountains were in the story."

Step 5: Polishing

Here you will work on the editing process. Remember to focus on the essential objective of your writing lesson, and then add in the reorganization, refining, and rewriting pieces. Try to only focus on one to two specific editing skills per lesson.

Step 6: Showing Off (Publishing)

This is my own students' favorite stage! What a better way to give praise and support then to have your student share their writing. Have you thought about designating a certain chair as your "Author's Chair?" What about adding an artistic piece to your final project. Adding a framed place on your wall, to display the final product, will make your student feel proud that you want to put it up!





Victoria Bambach

Dorian Crutcher

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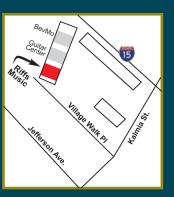
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- Participating in a Toast
- · Do's and Don'ts of Dining

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in

Performance **Music Education Composition**

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www.biola.edu/music

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INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS

If your student is interested in becoming a River Springs intern please contact the Education Department at 951-252-8893 or email ~ susan.picone@ riverspringscharterschool.org

River Springs
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