



Volume 6 / Issue 3

Spring 2012

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From the

## Executive Director

Kathleen Hermsmeyer

Dear Parents,

This year we have provided more support than ever before to help our students excel in mastering grade-level skills and preparing for the California State Tests. You may wonder why we've increased our focus on achievement this year. Besides the obvious benefit to our students, it's clear from a review of our data that we need to see a significant increase in our math achievement to meet the expectations of our charter authorizer (the Riverside County Office of Education) and to be on par with the State average. As a charter school, we are required to petition for renewal every five years, and 2013 is our year to be renewed. We want to make sure that we are prepared to put our best foot forward when presenting our renewal petition to the RCOE. What would make the renewal process run more smoothly? Significant gains in STAR testing results will go a long way to help our cause.

One new program we developed to help students "show what they know" on the CST tests is our I CAN! Camp. We were thrilled to have such an excellent turn-out for our first annual camp. 140 students and 16 teachers attended the four day camp at the Magnolia and Temecula Student Centers. The days were full of I CAN! skill development through fun, hands-on activities in addition to crafts, snacks, songs, games and test-taking strategy instruction.

One key idea behind our camp was to give students important test taking skills in the form of vocabulary development and a step-by-step plan to approach the "big test." Towards this end, the kids learned two mnemonics to help them. The first mnemonic was the 12 Powerful Words song, complete with hand moves. This song helps students understand the questions that are asked without feeling intimidated by unfamiliar high-end academic vocabulary. The second mnemonic was the acronym "UNRAVEL" which helps kids learn a good process to use for completing reading comprehension questions. Our mission is to empower students and parents. When we give kids the right tools, they grow in their own power and confidence.



Please share these strategies with your own children and think about signing up for the I CAN! Camp next year!

Refrain: Here are the 12 words, let's sing them together. If you want to make your goals, you've got them right. (x2)

*Trace means to outline*

*Analyze to break it down*

*Infer read between the lines*

*Evaluate to judge*

*Refrain*

*Formulate to plan and create*

*Describe tell me more about it*

*Support back it up*

*Explain tell me why*

*Refrain*

*Summarize the short version*

*Compare it's alike*

*Contrast it's different*

*Predict tell about the future*

*Refrain*

Underline the title of the story and predict what it will be about.

Number the paragraphs.

Read the questions first.

Are you circling important words in the questions?

Venture through and READ the story.

Eliminate obviously wrong answers.

Let the questions be answered.

**Kathleen**



## **DUEL ENROLLMENT**

### **Attend High School & Receive College Credit**

The guidance department is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership between MSJC and River Springs Charter School for the 2012-2013 school year. Beginning next fall, MSJC will begin reserving seats in select courses for qualified RSCS students for dual enrollment courses as part of their Middle College pilot program.

#### **What is Dual Enrollment?**

Dual enrollment is a program that allows qualified high school students to earn college and high school credit while meeting graduation requirements. For some students it may be an additional option to achieve college credit in both the academic and vocational pathways.

#### **Dual Enrollment Objectives:**

Creates access for high school students participating in post-secondary education opportunities (academic & career).

- 💰 Reduces college costs for students and families.
- 💰 Reduces the length of time it takes for students to obtain their academic and/or career goals.
- 💰 Increases college credits awarded to high school students.

#### **Who Can Participate?**

Students must be Juniors or Seniors having the support of parents, ES and a high school counselor who verifies appropriate college level capability based on assessment scores and/or program pathways.

#### **Why Take Dual Enrolled Courses?**

Begin college early. High school students can begin working on a vocational certificate, associate's degree and/or university transfer requirements while completing as much as one year of college.

Save money. Students and their families can save thousands of dollars of college costs.

Easier transition to college. Students will gain confidence in their ability to do college work and may have an easier transition into postsecondary education.

#### **Which Courses are Offered?**

River Springs will begin by offering select English and Math courses in the 2012-2013 school year and hopes to expand the course offerings to include High schools are offering both general education and/or career technical education courses to eligible students.

#### **Who Teaches These Courses?**

Dual enrolled classes may be taught by approved MSJC Associate Faculty. Instructors use college curriculum and textbooks, and deliver a college level course, which will require students to work at a higher level.

**More information regarding assessment dates and times will be emailed to qualifying students as it becomes available.**



# RSCS is Proud to Present

## **The Inspired Learner Expo & Talent Show**

### Date: May 18th, 2012

*Location:* Mt. Rubidoux SBA Church, 5320 Victoria Ave., Riverside, CA

*Time:* 1:00-4:00 PM

*Auditions for Talent Show:* April 12, 2012 (Temecula and Corona)

*Event Description:* The Inspired Learner Expo is an event, combining a Talent Show with the "Meet the Expert" event. This is for all grade levels and is a chance for students to "show off" a special talent or a completed project! Students may participate in one or both areas of the Expo. This is not a competition. All students receive a Participation Award!

Please visit our website at [www.riverspringscharter.org](http://www.riverspringscharter.org) for more information and registration. Click on "Events", "Student Events", "Expo/Talent Show"

## THE COMMUNITY IS THE CLASSROOM

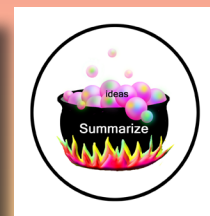
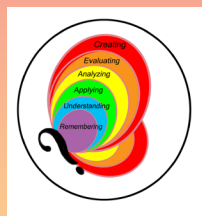
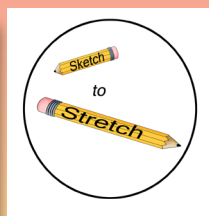
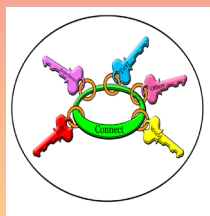
The Sabol Family took their Science curriculum to a whole new level this year. During winter vacation the Sabol's, along with other bird enthusiasts, participated in California's 112th Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The Sabol's have been studying and observing various species of birds since school started in August. It is always a joy to listen to Daniel (4th grade) and Nathan (1st grade) talk about the new species of birds they have seen. They boys keep an observation log of birds that they've encountered and research new birds they haven't seen before. Mr. Sabol helps the boys construct bird feeders and makes bird food to place around the feeders. The recipe sounds quite tasty and I'm positive the birds think so too!

The Sabol family is a perfect example of how to use the community as a classroom. This field trip was packed with powerful learning and fit perfectly into their Science curriculum. If you would like to read more about the Sabol's Home-schooling adventure please visit the below links for full articles: <http://www.netimes.com> and <http://www.pe.com>

### ANDREW FOULK/FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Nathan Sabol, 6, uses a viewing scope to look at a burrowing owl at Lake Elsinore on Saturday. Helping him is compiler Julie Szabo, of Wildomar. An unofficial tally showed 12,000 birds and 94 species logged. (The photograph was published in the Press Enterprise Newspaper)





## Tools to Empower

### RSCS Power Tools Develop Comprehension and Independent Learning

Are you regularly using the RSCS power tools in your instruction? Are your children using the power tools independently? Do you believe that your child has the tools to be an independent learner? Do you wish you knew how to develop an independent learner?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please read on!

The RSCS power tools are strategies that students use independently in their daily learning. Parents can use the tools as part of daily instruction; therefore, modeling ways that students can use these strategies independently. Students need guidance and instructional tools to develop independent learning skills. We believe the RSCS power tools are just the strategies needed to help students access new or difficult content in any subject at any grade level.

Students are regularly faced with content that is challenging or unfamiliar and they will benefit from having the strategies to independently navigate this type of content. The power tools are multi-purpose strategies! Not only can they be applied to learning in any content area, but also the tools are literacy strategies used to develop comprehension. Students don't learn if they cannot comprehend!

Students who struggle to comprehend may have difficulty reading or may not be sure how to tackle challenging texts. All students can benefit from explicit reading instruction including learning how to use active reading strategies. Good readers use these skills without even thinking about it.

Many "active reading" strategies connect beautifully to the power tools. Help your child develop comprehension skills by using active reading strategies. Here are some active reading strategies that develop comprehension:

**Connect** Good readers notice parts of the text that they can connect to in a variety of ways. They think about how the text relates to their lives, experiences, prior knowledge, events, issue or other readings.



Use the Connect Power Tool to develop this active reading strategy

**Visualize** Good readers create pictures in their minds as they read.

Encourage students to use the Sketch-to-Stretch Power Tool to help visualize text. Students create images on paper to further develop understanding. Advanced readers can deepen their understanding by using the sketch-to-stretch strategy.



**Question** Good readers ask questions before, during and after reading. Asking questions helps develop comprehension and a clear

understanding of the text. While reading, students ask questions of self, the author and the text. Good readers ask questions such as the following:

- ☀ What do I think I will learn from this text?
- ☀ Did I already know something about this topic?
- ☀ What is the author trying to say?



Use the Questioning power tool to develop this strategy.

**Determine Main Ideas** Good readers identify the main ideas in reading and understand why they are important. Good readers look at features in the text (e.g. titles, bold print, pictures) to understand main ideas.



Use the VIP or SQ3R power tools to identify main ideas and understand why they are important.

**Synthesize** Good readers use what they read to create their own ideas. They combine new information from their reading to form new ideas and interpretations. Synthesizing is creating a single understanding from a variety of sources.



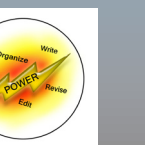
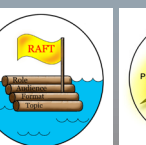
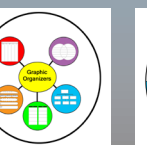
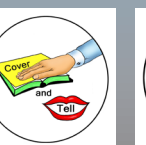
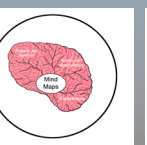
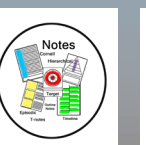
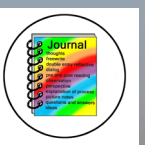
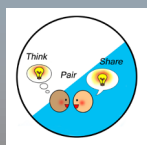
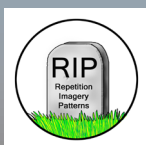
Use multiple power tools to help synthesize content. Use connect, question and summarize.



**Infer and Predict** Good readers Infer and Predict as they read. They learn to read between the lines. Good readers draw conclusions based on prior knowledge and context clues. They use this information to make inference and predictions that build comprehension. They wonder why, how and what as they read.

If students use an assortment of power tools as they read and learn, they will independently move to higher level thinking and application such as making inferences and predictions. Use the power tools to help your child gain the necessary skills to be an independent learner capable of approaching even the most challenging text. Use the power tools daily and require your student to do the same during independent practice and you will build the foundation for independent learning and success in school and beyond.

Visit the RSCS website for descriptions of the tools, lesson plans, and graphic organizers & your ES for support and ideas for success!



# Spelling Bee

Student	Grade
Thomas Acuna	7 <sup>th</sup>
Antonio Arellano	4 <sup>th</sup>
Savannah Beck	5 <sup>th</sup>
Mathew Blindauer	8 <sup>th</sup>
Maylani Bussey	8 <sup>th</sup>
Dylan Chalfant	5 <sup>th</sup>
Annie-Jo Dickens	4 <sup>th</sup>
Christian Diegorodriguez	7 <sup>th</sup>
Kaitlind Johnson	6 <sup>th</sup>
Sean Katzmman	4 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Katzmman	6 <sup>th</sup>



Congratulations go out to Hosanna Collier, first place winner at our schoolwide Spelling Bee! Hosanna is an 8th grade Homeschool student and she will represent River Springs at the Riverside County Spelling Bee on March 21, 2012 in Moreno Valley. Our second place winner was 7th grade Homeschool student Jessica McGinnis, and third place winner was 8th grade Homeschool student McKenna Themm. River Springs would also like to recognize the following students for their hard work and participation at the Spelling Bee:

Student	Grade
Priscilla Luciani De Pass	5 <sup>th</sup>
Rebecca Olivas Bartels	5 <sup>th</sup>
Samuel Ontiveros	4 <sup>th</sup>
Franko Piskulich	4 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Moran	5 <sup>th</sup>
Kekoa Schreier	6 <sup>th</sup>
Madeline Secules	4 <sup>th</sup>
Leslea Smith	4 <sup>th</sup>
Hayden Strong	4 <sup>th</sup>
Chandler Themm	4 <sup>th</sup>
Saraí Wellington	8 <sup>th</sup>



## Do You Remember?

By Stephanie Parshall  
Homeschool Director  
Curriculum & Instructional Support



Memory is a fascinating thing. Why do we remember certain things so easily while others are so difficult to recall? There is a lot of research and a variety of opinions on how to improve memory. One common thread among some of that research is the more ways you can learn something, the easier it is to recall. It helps to think of this as building layers of the same information. Let's use the example of memorizing the states and capitols. Learning and practicing this list in multiple ways can improve memorization because you are building several "doors" in your brain to get to the same information. If you practice saying the list aloud, you are creating one layer of memory using an auditory cue to help you remember. You can then sing the list to a tune to create a musical layer of memory. A third layer (memory cue) can be added if you put hand motions to each state and capitol. The idea is that the more cues you use to remember the list, the more "doors" you will have to access the information.

Other memory cues include:

- \* photographs
- \* mentally visualizing an image that relates to each item in a list
- \* reciting information in a character voice or accent
- \* listening to someone else repeat the information aloud
- \* attaching an emotional memory to the information
- \* add a physical action or movement when reciting aloud
- \* increase your volume (like yelling the states and capitols!)

# Strategies for Teaching Each Day

Karen Arnett

Here are a few things to keep in mind when teaching your student each day.

**E**ngage your student! Use topics of interest to “hook” your student and keep their interest. Give them a choice in how they practice concepts, and/or how they demonstrate understanding of concepts learned. Checklists are a great way to come up with those choices in advance (with your approval) and give your student a sense of ownership in their learning, which helps keep them actively involved and engaged in the learning process.

**M**odeling new concepts for your student provides for learning to take place in a variety of ways. It incorporates visual, auditory and linguistic approaches within the activity. A good way to think of Modeling is the “I do, we do, you do” example. First you show the concept and show your child how to apply it, then do it together. Once those steps have taken place your child may be more confident and successful the first time he/she attempts the new learning activity on his own.

**S**caffolding is providing as much support as the student needs when introducing a new concept, and gradually reducing the amount of support as the student demonstrates the ability to move ahead on his/her own. Scaffolding can include many strategies such as; tying new information into information the student already knows to “activate prior knowledge,” and breaking learning into small chunks instead of the “fire hose” method which may tend to “drown” the student with information overload.

**C**heck for Understanding! This is a very important technique to ensure your student is learning concepts before moving too far ahead. Check for understanding can be as simple as asking a question about the concept and having your student put a thumb up or thumb down to answer. With quick checks you will be able to tell if learning is taking place.

I am fundraising with a company named Mercy Corps ([www.MercyCorps.org](http://www.MercyCorps.org)). They are working in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia), where there is an intense famine that is affecting almost 13 million people. Mercy Corps’ teams are rushing assistance to families in the worst of situations.

I had this video created to explain everything. It will give you all the information. Enjoy:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ZfflOgi-30&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZfflOgi-30&feature=youtu.be)

My fundraising page is: [www.MercyCorps.org/fundraising/karismooney](http://www.MercyCorps.org/fundraising/karismooney)

This is where I collect funds and keep track of amounts. My goal is \$10,000 and anyone could partake in this cause by donating on my page! :)

Thanks SO much again! This is such a blessing! :)

Karis Mooney  
[www.MercyCorps.org/fundraising/karismooney](http://www.MercyCorps.org/fundraising/karismooney)  
951-214-9888

**Karis Mooney  
&  
Mercy Corp.**



# CTE

## Programs/Internships/Articulation

### CEO AND FUTURE PILOT!

In May of 2011, Dorian Crutcher completed his aviation internship at Polyfiber. He learned about maintaining a regular service schedule for an aircraft to be safe and flyable. Becoming a pilot and being involved in the aviation industry is something Dorian feels is essential since he wants to be able to fly anywhere in the world as the pilot of his own aircraft. Currently, Dorian is taking ground school courses to prepare for his written exam, and then it is off to flight training by the end of the year.

He also hopes to get an Ivy League education and will apply to Harvard this year.

Dorian has an eye to the future. He already owns a fully functioning business and is its CEO. The non-profit, Cans for Care, donates its proceeds to various charities including their latest contribution to the American Heart Association for cancer patients. As a business owner, he has two employees and is only 17 years old. Congratulations Dorian....truly, the sky is the limit!



### STUDENT VACATIONS IN AFRICA BEFORE STARTING COLLEGE AND JOB

Daniel Bierwirth completed his internship the fall of 2010 at the California State Park at Lake Perris. The Internship was such a success that Daniel volunteered at the Lake Perris Site and plans to begin working in the park's maintenance department by the end of the summer. Daniel was also accepted to Mount San Jacinto College where he will be attending this fall.

Before work and college, Daniel will tour Africa for a month visiting national park sites in the country which will include, Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, and Zanzibar. His family is thrilled that he is interested in a career that includes wildlife and park preservation.

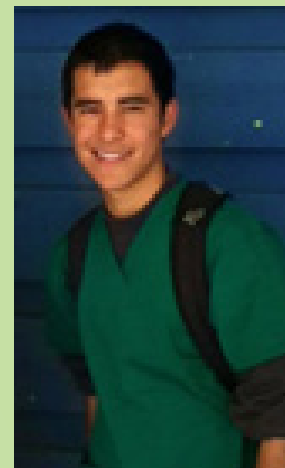
Congratulations Daniel for planning your future in a wildlife setting by volunteering, vacationing, and obtaining a paid position in the great outdoors.

### FIRST RESPONDER AT AGE 16

Marcus Vargas from the Palm Street Academy received his First Responder Certification, January 27th, at the age of 16. Marcus has been taking the medical classes here at River Springs since 9th grade. He said he was accepted into ROP because of the grades he was receiving in the medical classes at River Springs.

"They were impressed because I knew all the terms they were talking about and was the first to have my hand up at every question", Marcus said. "Now I can assist in car and airplane crashes, deliver babies and use stretchers and backboards for patients." "I'm really glad I took the medical class because now I understand everything they are talking about." "When my instructors asked me how I knew so much about the medical field, I told them about Ms. Butler and that she exposed us to what they were teaching."

"At first I wanted to be an X-Ray Tech but now I think I would like to be an ER Doctor and work while I am in medical school to help pay for it all". My Emergency Responder Instructors told me my grades in the medical classes will help me get scholarships in college."



# GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Our guidance counselors are here to help you with any questions you might have regarding academic advisement.

Please do not hesitate to contact our counselors at:  
guidance@riverspringscharter.org or 951-252-8833

## DRUG FREE TEENS TIPS

(From the Partnership at [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org))

### *I Know It's Important to Talk to My Teen About Drugs and Alcohol — But What Should I Say Exactly?*

The Partnership at DrugFree.org understands that while it's important for parents to have open dialect with their students about peer pressure, social activity, and the possibility of drug and alcohol use, it can be extremely difficult.

Well, one way to start the dialogue with your child is to use Teachable Moments. The idea is to use news items, movies, books or TV shows as a springboard to start a conversation about drugs or alcohol. "So, what do you think about what's going on with [insert fictional characters, celebrity, professional athlete, classmates or relative?]."

It's also important to know what's out there. To help you sound like you know what you're talking about, the partnership has developed a handy Drug Guide for Parents outlining the 13 most commonly used drugs by teens. It can be found at [www.drugfree.org/drug-guide](http://www.drugfree.org/drug-guide)

Lastly, when you do talk with your child, ask him to share his experiences and opinions about teens who use. Then tell him how you feel and what you expect from him. Try to be warm but firm and support a no-use policy.

Keep in mind that kids who learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who don't get that message at home. So, while your chats may not be without their awkward moments, they're definitely worth it.

For more information and support, visit [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org).

## COLLEGE & CAREER TRAINING INFORMATION

### Reality Check

One free resource that many of our high school students have found to be helpful is [www.californiarealitycheck.com](http://www.californiarealitycheck.com). The website allows you three options to make sure that your goal annual income, perspective career, and expectation of quality-of-living all line up. Try it today to test your economic perception!

#### California Career Zone

California Career Zone offers several virtual activities to help students prepare for and select a career. See how your personality style builds into possible career or explore jobs at <http://www.cacareerzone.org/>.

#### Interested in becoming an apprentice?

Cal Apprenticeship has information on over forty-five categories of apprenticeship opportunities in California's workshops. Visit their website for more information. [www.calapprenticeship.org](http://www.calapprenticeship.org)

#### Vocational Training

Vocational Information Center has great links to web based vocational information. Explore vocational and technical careers, check out the skills employers really want, find a trade school, research technical topics, or take a look at the current job market. Just visit [www.khake.com](http://www.khake.com).

For more information about college and career preparedness, contact the guidance department at (951) 252-8833 or [guidance@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:guidance@riverspringscharter.org).



By Jessica McIntyre,  
Educational Specialist

# From Play Dates To Learning Communities

Envision this: It is a warm Southern California day and you pull your family car up to a friend's house. Your kids jump out in full historical costume (which you of course are donning as well) to help you carry the craft supplies and period food dishes inside for a history "playdate" with some of your homeschooling friends.

How did you get here? How did you connect with these collaborators? The answer is you were very intentional. We all desire our homeschool students to be connected to a community. We, as homeschool educators, need to be connected to a community as well. That interaction is invaluable to social development and managing the stress of responsibility in homeschooling. Learning Communities, if developed intentionally, can provide that connection as well as valuable educational experiences. Developing these Learning Communities can provide your family with lasting relationships and experiences that are invaluable to a solid Homeschool Program.

"Learning [Communities]...are dynamic places for life learning families to gather regularly to share learning and social opportunities."- from Natural Life Magazine

Getting connected is the first step. Try to find a group of homeschoolers in your area...whether you ask friends from a RSCS Learning Center or Community co-op over, go to a RSCS Park Day, find a group through your Church or Community Center, join a scout troop with other homeschoolers or connect with homeschoolers through social networking like Facebook, be intentional. Develop those relationships with regular meet-ups and outings. Make time in your schedule to develop these friendships into meaningful relationships.

As you find a community that your family identifies with, begin talking curriculum and units of study at these playdates and park days. Talk with your family about possibly studying the same subject matter as some of those in your community, or you can organize a unit of study and invite some friends to study along side you. Once you are on the same track with your home studies, you can begin to organize your meet-ups to be more meaningful to your academic program.

This is especially helpful as your students age up to the higher grades. Through these Learning Communities they will develop skills that are essential parts of being an educated adult like cooperative learning and working in a group. As they have more and more academics to cover at the higher levels they can still have time with friends, and you as an educator can feel good about the productivity of that time.

An added component would be to begin to plan some of these times at hours of the day that the entire family can join in. Begin to plan Family Nights or Weekend Events when the out of the home spouse can join in. This gives your family time to connect as a unit and your children the experience of seeing both parents involved in their learning.

What types of activities can you organize for your Learning Community? Field trips that are relevant to your study, weekly co-op learning times at each other's homes, book clubs to review and experience crafts or food in response to a Family Read Aloud, history nights with feasting and music, service projects in response to a unit of study, the list goes on and on.

I am indebted to the Learning Community around my own children for the hours spent learning together and the investment each of those friends have made in the lives of my family. It is an experience your family will be all the better for! Be intentional about your connections today. Build a Learning Community of your own.



## We proudly present our Outstanding student, Ashley Bianco!

Ashley was named a semi-finalist of the 71st annual Science Talent Search by Intel. This is a proud reflection on Ashley's dedication to her education and River Springs Charter School. We are very proud of Ashley and the educators who support her drive. The Society for Science & the Public and Intel congratulated River Springs Charter for instilling

an understanding of the scientific method and the spirit of inquiry that is so critical to our children's future. We proudly hang our banner in the Administrative office as a semifinalist school and hope that this will inspire all of our students to strive for their goals.





**Molly Rendel**

Congratulations to Molly Rendel (Grade 1) on her 1st place finish at the 2012 Anaheim ICE ISI Open Skating Competition in February. She skated at the Pre-Alpha level against other 7 year-olds and won, despite an on-ice music mix-up which resulted in her skating to another skater's music!! Molly's parents are proud of her confidence in her training and her flexible "roll with it" attitude, which serve her well! Molly is now looking forward to skating to her chosen music at her next competition at IceTown - Riverside, her home rink, in April.

## KUDOS FOR KIDS

**Agatha McIntyre**

Agatha McIntyre, age 8, ran her first 5K in Riverside's Raincross Run on February 25, 2012. She completed the 3.1 mile course in 37:52. She has been training since September through the motivation of the local 100 Mile Club. Her goal is to run or walk 100 miles by June and she hit 75 miles that day. She has already registered for her next race!



**Megan Chan  
and  
Mira Larsen**

River Springs Charter School students, Megan Chan and Mira Larsen, both of whom attend the Academy of Ballet Arts, will be performing in the upcoming ballet Coppelias at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater on May 2nd and 3rd at 7:00 p.m. This comedic ballet, to be presented in three acts, is a humorous love story about Swanhilda and her fiancé, Franz.

Mira is in seventh grade while Megan is in eighth grade. The two aspiring dancers first met each other in a pre-ballet class at the ages of four and five, respectively. They have been dancing together since! As River Springs homeschool students, they take advantage of their flexible schedule to devote more time to ballet. Both Mira and Megan invite you to watch their performances and experience the magic of dance.

# GRADUATION SPEECH & SONG COMPETITION

**Winners will speak and perform at the 2012 graduation ceremony!**



We are searching for a few talented graduating seniors to perform at the 2012 RSCS Graduation Ceremony. If you or someone you know would like to participate, start planning now!

Speakers are encouraged to write a 3-5 minute speech regarding their experiences in high school and their plans for the future. High school is so much more than textbooks and exams; what did you learn that will help with your future? What advice do you have for your fellow graduates? Speakers, email your speeches to [Kyla.Shofner@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:Kyla.Shofner@riverspringscharter.org) before May 4th.

Music is an ideal way of expressing what can be difficult to put into words. Do you know the perfect song to inspire and congratulate your fellow classmates and their families? Singers, make a recording of your vocal performance and email a link to: [Kyla.Shofner@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:Kyla.Shofner@riverspringscharter.org)

OR mail a CD, DVD, or cassette tape to our administrative office before May 4th:

River Springs Charter School  
Attn: Kyla Shofner (Graduation)  
43466 Business Park Drive  
Temecula, CA 92590



## HOMESCHOOL WRITING EXTRAVAGANZA 2012

What a GREAT way to start out the morning! Parents and students grades K-8 joined us for a fun-filled writing event that included interactive workshops presented by a professional writing company. Participants enjoyed two exciting assemblies hosted by the Imagination Machine Writing Company ([www.theimaginationmachine.com](http://www.theimaginationmachine.com)). We started with our first assembly: Who? What? Where? This was a fun and informative workshop that taught the fundamentals of writing short stories. The second assembly of the day, Write Away!, took students beyond the basics of writing as they discovered ways to turn first drafts into polished stories. The last portion of the program was devoted to instruction for our Homeschool Writing Contest! Writing entries were turned in February 6th with over 100 stories! Check out our next newsletter for all contest winners and participants!



# Cyborg Zombies

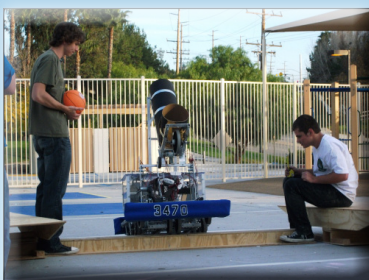
**S**aturday, January 7th,  
marked the official kick-off  
of the 2012 FIRST

For Inspiration and Recognition  
of Science and Technology

**Robotics Competition.** Starting on this date, robotics teams throughout the world had six weeks to design and build a robot to accomplish specific game tasks. River Springs Charter School has two robotics teams – Cyborg Zombies based in Temecula and SuperBots in Hemet. In addition, we support Code Orange based in Orange County that was started by one of Temecula Student Center's 2011 Engineering Essentials students.



The game tasks include shooting an 8" diameter basketball through one of four basketball hoops, lowering a ramp to allow the robot to cross over or designing a robot to climb over a 4 inch high barrier at center court, and balance on the aforementioned ramp either solo or with teammates (up to three robots on a ramp). Points are scored for scoring baskets and balancing robots. Each robotics team determines their game strategy and designs their robots accordingly. Cyborg Zombies strategy is to score two baskets at the beginning of the match, climb over the barrier and play defense against opposing teams, and then balance on the ramp with another robot at the end of the match.



The Cyborg Zombies replicate an engineering company with both a business and engineering department:

φ The Business Department is responsible for fundraising (raising \$1230 from Robotics Summer Camp last summer), grant writing (\$5,000 from NASA, \$5,000 from Abbott Vascular and \$2,000 from jepenney), accounting/financial management, marketing/advertising, and business management. We are also in the process of incorporating Cyborg Zombies as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Our Business Department Lead, Ms. Raquel Luciani De Pass, is graduating this year and has been accepted at multiple universities to study International Business.

φ The Engineering Department is responsible for designing (using the engineering design process) and building a functional robot. We use the Integrated Product Team (IPT) approach where multiple teams of students focus on specific design focus that is then integrated into the final operational robot. To successfully use the IPT approach, each function of the robot must be modular in nature. The focus of engineering classes at Temecula Student Center is modular design and integration. Our IPT Lead, Mr. Patrick Cunningham, is a junior and will be returning to the team next year.

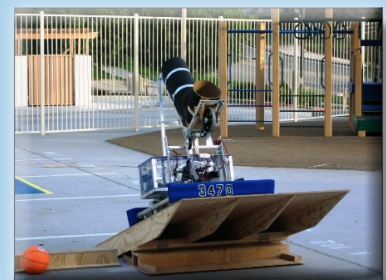
The Engineering and Business Career Technical Education (CTE) Instructor at Temecula Student Center integrates FIRST Robotics into his curriculum to provide students with a real-world learning environment that reinforces both CTE and academic (emphasis on math, physics, and technical writing) course work. Proposed Temecula Student Center courses for next year (enrollment dependent) include:

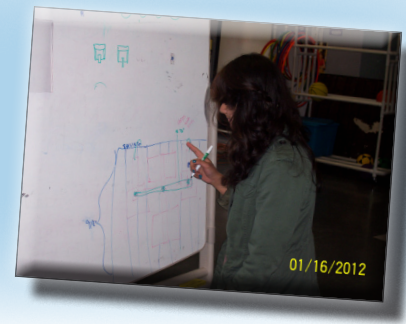
- φ Business
  - » Introduction to Business
  - » Bookkeeping w/Lab (Accounting and Finance)
  - » Marketing & Advertising
- φ Engineering
  - » Engineering Essentials
  - » Electrical/Computer Engineering Design
  - » Mechanical Engineering Design w/ CAD

# RND

Please see our Team Video at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J18YtB0VhY4&sns=fb>

The RSCS point of contact for CTE and Robotics, George Essel, is ready to answer any of your questions at [george.essel@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:george.essel@riverspringscharter.org).





# Robotics



Orange County Robotics Team  
Code Orange FRC 3476

**C**ode Orange represents both River Springs Charter School & Heritage Christian School. They won the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) held in San Diego this weekend (March 2-4) ([www.USFIRST.org](http://www.USFIRST.org)). Not only did Code Orange win the award for "Regional Winners" but they also won the award for "Excellence in Engineering" sponsored by Delphi."

**T**he two River Springs students are Cailin Helmick and Austin Nordman (parent Shelley Nordman is also pictured). You can check them out on their website: <http://teamcodeorange.tk/> With this outstanding accomplishment, they qualify for the FIRST World Championship held April 25-28 in St. Louis, Missouri.



# HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENTS

**Mindy Lyles**—I have been teaching elementary education now for 5 years. Coming from a family full of teachers I knew I would be following in their footsteps. I am very passionate about my career and love educating children through hands on learning activities. I have been married going on 4 years and together we have a beautiful little girl named Makaila. Between teaching and being a mommy I can definitely say my life is full of excitement and enjoyment.



## PE/Nutrition

Exercise and a balanced diet equals strong and healthy children. In this class, your child will be participating in a wide variety of physical education games, including cooperative games and activities, sports games, and fitness. We will also learn the importance of proper nutrition through the study of the different food groups and the food pyramid. Students will learn how to create a balanced diet for a life time of healthy eating.



## Digging for Dinosaurs

Travel back in time, millions of years ago, and learn how the five most popular dinosaurs that lived: Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus, Diplodocus, and Coelophysis. As we dig for dinosaurs we will explore their history and discover what they looked like, what they ate, where they lived and how they died.



## Flat Stanley finds a pen pal

--Join us this year and help Flat Stanley find a pen pal. In this class we will be traveling around the United States reading the Flat Stanley series. While learning about this great land of ours, we will also be in search of a pen pal to write letters to.



## Gardening

From a seed to a plant, students will be participating in hands-on discovery experiences. They will be planting their own fall and spring gardens. Students will learn about the life cycle of a plant, what plants need to grow, and the many ways in which we use plants. Also, students will have the opportunity to create a classroom science project by using the scientific method.



# HOMESCHOOL WORKSHOPS



Willkommen! (Welcome)

Do you know anyone who has ever been to Germany or are you just curious about the country and language? Then you're welcome to check out our German for Kids class which is a fun, interactive class for grades 1-4. We sing a lot of German kids' songs, get to know some traditions and customs, create neat crafts, and play fun language games. In October we will go to an Oktoberfest in one of the German villages in the area and taste authentic German food.

If you are in 5th-8th grade, we offer a German class where you can learn how to introduce yourself in German and other simple conversations regarding animals, numbers, colors, family life, food, clothes, etc. This class also emphasises an interactive, musical approach in an encouraging classroom environment.

See you in the fall!

Auf Wiedersehen! (Good-bye)



## Meet the Masters

Rockwell, Miro, Warhol: Do you want to discover which paintings these and many other famous artists produced? Do you enjoy creating your own amazing artwork? In Meet the Masters class you can do both. Join us and get to know many well-known artists and build your own portfolio full of fantastic art! We use different media, like watercolors, oil pastels, tempera paint, crayons, rhinestones, and much more.

## Book Club

Got books? It's simple:

First, choose a book and read it in your small group.

Second, discuss your thoughts.

Third, create a book project.

Fourth, have f-u-n!



# HISTORY DAY

RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL'S  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORY DAY ENTRIES  
SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH

*The French Revolution*



Libny Mata-The French Revolution  
Website Category  
<http://58390881.nhd.weebly.com/>



*Martin Luther and The Protestant Reformation*

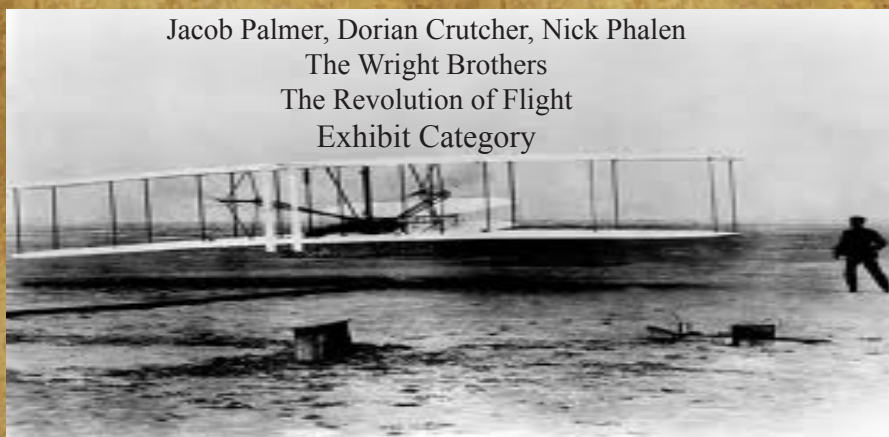


The Protestant Reformation

The Protestant Reformation, led by Martin Luther, began a religious revolution, because it caused such an enormous reaction in the Catholic Church, which was not interested in a reform; thereby, laying the foundation for modern Protestant Churches.

Martin Luther

Rebekah Mooney  
Benjamin Yrigoyen  
Website Category



# Keys Homeschool Program

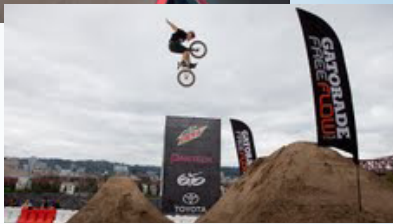
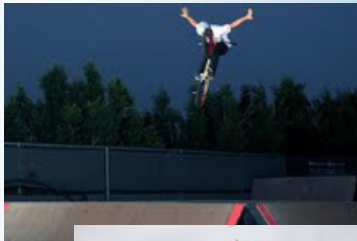
## Our Student's Success

Summer Knapp's student, Lauren Escobar, has been accepted to Southern Utah University and Cal State San Marcos. She wants to be a writer. Summer also just heard from former student James Silva and he informed her that he was accepted into Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. That is no easy feat! Congratulations to him for his accomplishment!



Michael Hunter's student, Isabelle Talbert has been accepted to University of Arizona and CSU Long Beach. Her next ballet performance is called Coppelia. It is to be held May 2nd and 3rd at Old Town Temecula Theatre both days at 7pm. If you want more information, please call the theater at: 951-216-1853.

3 of Carol Wiesen's students, Doug Mudge, Joseph James, and Jesse Mudge, are shown studying and doing their homework together. They spend the day together every day and have Pam Mudge to help them. They are extremely successful in our program because of this method of doing their schoolwork. Carol Wiesen encourages all of her students to team up with someone and those that do seem to experience a lot of success.



Justin Spriet earned straight A's last semester. He is competing at the professional level in BMX racing. He was in the Gatorade Free Flow finals which was the amateur competition held during some of the Dew Tour stops. He intends to compete in the open qualifiers for Dew Tour this year, also he just got third place in the King of Kings competition in Oceanside which was one of the first pro competitions he has entered.

Ellen Minor's Student, Megan Treisch, was accepted to Cal State San Marcos.

Michael Hunter's student, Brent Darrow has been accepted to Cal State San Marcos and Cal State Channel Islands and another of his students, Isabelle Talbert has been accepted to the University of Arizona and Cal State Long Beach.

# S.P.R.E.E.

## IT'S A BLAST! JUST ASK OUR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS!

From Riverside to Orange County, and on out to San Bernardino, our second semester SPREE events captivated parents and students alike! The parent workshop "Take Time for Playtime" presented by our Senior Director of Pupil Services, Debbie Daniel and her department, has gotten rave reviews this year. Thank you Debbie for sharing your educational expertise, along with your experiences of raising your own children and grandchildren!

Student workshops in Orange County included an array of fun, messy, hands-on projects that they proudly showed off to mom and dad! Dr. Suess was our theme in Riverside and San Bernardino and the kids loved it! Our ES's had lots of fun with the workshops also.

At one point, we even had a "Cat in a Hat" lurking through the classrooms!

This year, all of our students received a River Springs "Paving the Way" lunchbox to take home and use on their next fieldtrip.

It has been a wonderful SPREE year.....Thanks to all of our great River Springs families that come out to enjoy and support these events!



### DEGREE OF INSTRUCTION

Every instructor at VSPA has their college degree in their perspective field of expertise or are in the process of obtaining that degree. You will be working with musicians from USC, Shepherds University, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Sate San Bernardino, University of Oregon, University of Maryland, University of North Florida, & Citrus College.

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# Your River Springs Vendors

Discipline	Contact Information	Locations	Website
<b>Art</b>			
Art Appetite	949-709-3729	Rancho Margarita, Foothill Ranch, Mission Viego	www.artappetite.net
<b>Athletics / Physical Fitness</b>			
Hollywood Dance (Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Hip Hop, Cheer/Tumble, Combo, Pointe)	951-678-2100	Wildomar	www.hollywooddance.org
Riverside Aquatics Assoc.	info@rra-swim.org	Riverside	www.raa-swim.org
Scott Marson – PGA Golf	714-357-0406 smarson33@yahoo.com	Murrieta	
Thresh Hold Climbing Fitness	951-742-8779	Riverside	www.climbth.com
To The Pointe Dance Productions	909-628-4242	Chino	tothepointedanceproductions.com
<b>Driving School</b>			
All Star Driving School	909-948-5363	Norco / Corona	www.allstarschool.com
<b>Educational Planner</b>			
A Plan in Place	503-364-1757 kim@aplaninplace.net		aplaninplace-cs.weebly.com
<b>Etiquette</b>			
Magnolia School of Etiquette	619-977-9181	Temecula	www.magnoliaetiquette.com
<b>Music Instruction / Performing Arts</b>			
Gary Casucci (Piano/music instruction)	714-965-0159	Huntington Beach	
Fountain Valley Yamaha	714-596-4788	Fountain Valley	www.fountainvalleyyamahamusicsschool.com
Oak Valley Music Academy	909-557-8322	Yucaipa	www.oakvalleymusic.com
Valverde School of Performing Arts	909-987-2789	Rancho Cucamonga	www.VSPA.net
Westfall Voice	951-704-8643	Wildomar	www.westfallvoice.com
<b>Tutoring</b>			
Casa Italia (Spanish & Italian)	714-813-2749 / 714-963-4854 casaitalia98@yahoo.com		
Mobile Tutor – Rachele Flores	909-210-5815 rflorespsalm139@gamil.com	Riverside	
Movin on Up	714-463-5293	Southern California	www.socalreading.com

## DRAMA CAMP COST: \$150 per student

(morning camps are limited to 20 campers)  
(afternoon camps are limited to 30 campers)

Age 6 to 8 9:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Age 9 to 12 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Peter Pan** June 11th - 15th

**Jungle Book** June 18th - 22nd

**Annie** June 25th - 29th

**Pirates of the Caribbean** July 6th - 10th

**Harry Potter** July 16th - 20th

Each camp includes a theatrical education program, including professional acting, scene work, stage production, and performance techniques. Each camp includes a "mini-theater" production performance and a special event for all campers (ending approximately 3:30-4:00 pm).

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Our club is a USA Swimming year round competitive swim team offering high quality professional coaching and technique instruction for all ages and abilities

Wondering about the Cost?

RAA is a parent-run organization. All costs for meets, coaches, and shared equipment come from our monthly fees and fundraising efforts. Dues start at \$65 per month.

For more information visit our website at:

[www.raa-swim.org](http://www.raa-swim.org)

or email

[info@raa-swim.org](mailto:info@raa-swim.org)

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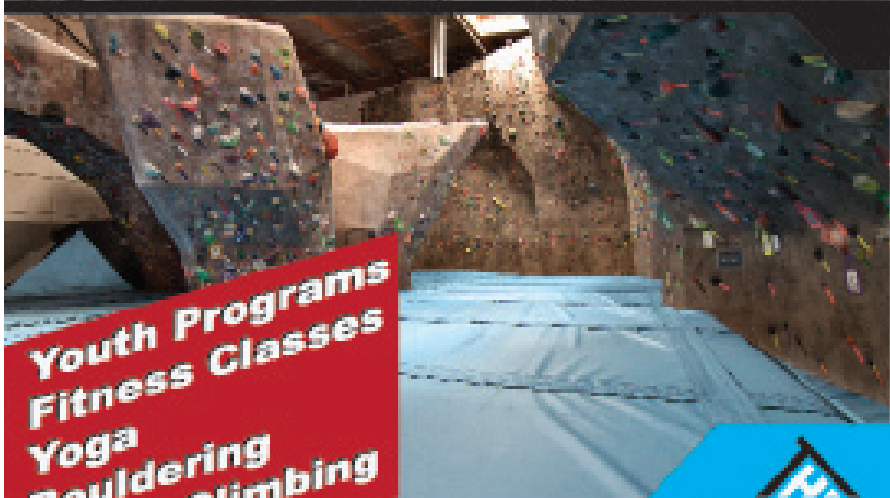



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**Date/Time:** Saturday, June 9, 2012  
4:00 p.m. - ceremony starts  
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**Location:** Murrieta Mesa High School  
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**Cap & Gown:** Order through Jostens at (877) 475-7027  
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**Senior Portraits:** Contact Quick Shots Studios at  
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**Registration:** Seniors must register online as a prospective graduate between Feb 21st and April 13th whether they plan to participate in the ceremony or not. This will ensure receipt of a diploma. Go to [www.RiverSpringsCharter.org](http://www.RiverSpringsCharter.org) to register.

**Tickets:** Tickets are not required for friends and family to attend.

**Important  
Graduation  
Ceremony  
Information**