



Outlook



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Lodi and Manteca students *spell* their way to the top

Fifty-three super spellers tested their wordsmith capabilities in the 13th Annual San Joaquin County Spelling Bee on December 9.

The Spelling Bee featured two divisions: one for 15 students in grades four through six, and another for 38 students in grades seven through nine. The top two students from each division spelled their way to the top, and earned a spot to compete in the California State Spelling Bee Championship in May.

In the fourth- through sixth-grade division, the first-place winner was Alex Grace, Manlio Silva Elementary School of Lodi Unified School District; and second-place went to Medha Kothari, Bethany Elementary School of Lammersville Elementary School District.

In the seventh- through ninth-grade division, first-place went to Leonor Borges, Nile Garden Elementary of Manteca Unified School District; and second-place went to Nikki Drake, Claudia Landeen Elementary of Lincoln Unified School District.

Winner Leonor Borges shared that she studied the dictionary in order to prepare herself for the Spelling Bee. "Preparing was a lot of hard work," said Borges. "However, it taught me how to study for other tests and do well in school."

Nine-time Spelling Bee veteran, Nikki Drake shares the same sentiment. "Studying for the Spelling Bee really helped enhance my vocabulary and my overall knowledge."

For additional information about the Annual Spelling Bee or other student events, visit www.sjcoe.org/sae.



Special Education students become mobile with new Wheelchair Van

Special Education students now have the opportunity to experience San Joaquin County by means of its new Wheelchair Van that was received through a grant to San Joaquin County Office of Education's (SJCOE) Educational Foundation by the HEDCO Foundation.

The van is specifically for students with mobility issues, and features a wheelchair lift and spacious interior. Teachers throughout the county can use the van to take their students on outings that will enhance students' learning experiences. These trips help students learn functional skills in order to become independent and responsible adults.

"This van will let our students explore the community and develop social skills."

- Jennifer Barry, teacher at Redwood School

Jennifer Barry, a teacher at Redwood School of SJCOE, is excited about the numerous opportunities the van will bring to her students.

"This wheelchair van allows our students to experience the community in a natural way, which helps them develop social skills," said Barry.

SJCOE's Special Education programs support every child's right to an education designed to meet individual needs. Additionally, it serves students with disabilities not otherwise served in the school districts that make up the San

Joaquin SELPA, primarily in the areas of severe disabling conditions.

To learn more, visit www.sjcoe.org/selpa.



Ileana Alvarez and Macio Rigg, students of Teacher Christine Negus' Special Education class at Redwood School of SJCOE, use the new Wheelchair Van donated by HEDCO Foundation to go on outings within the community.

A life saving donation made to local high schools

When Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) strikes every second counts, and if not treated immediately it can be fatal. SCA is a common but often misunderstood condition in which the heart abruptly stops pumping blood.

On December 7, Dameron Hospital gave a life saving donation and presentation to Stockton and Elk Grove high schools in hopes of preventing SCA related deaths.

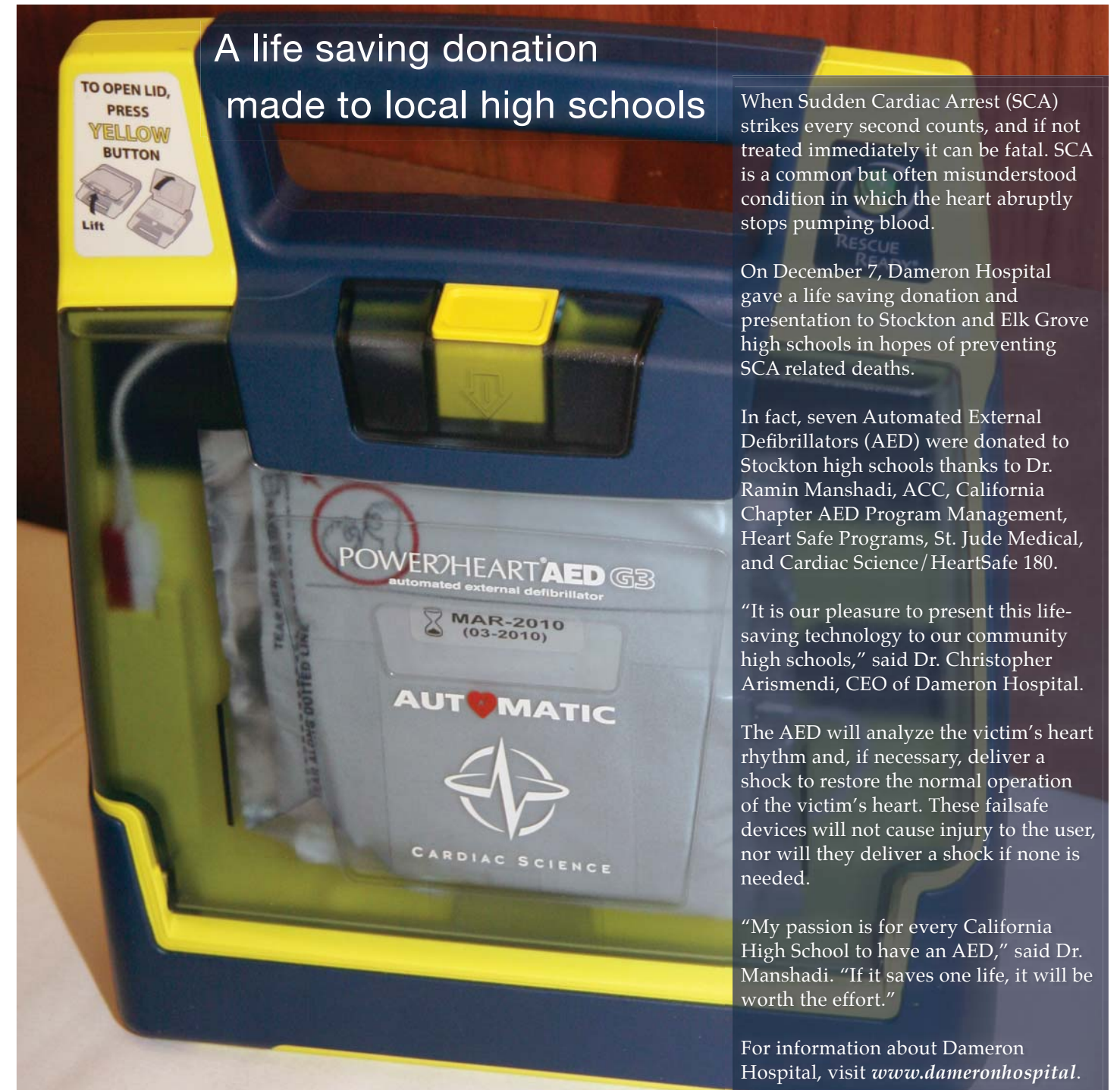
In fact, seven Automated External Defibrillators (AED) were donated to Stockton high schools thanks to Dr. Ramin Manshadi, ACC, California Chapter AED Program Management, Heart Safe Programs, St. Jude Medical, and Cardiac Science/HeartSafe 180.

"It is our pleasure to present this life-saving technology to our community high schools," said Dr. Christopher Arismendi, CEO of Dameron Hospital.

The AED will analyze the victim's heart rhythm and, if necessary, deliver a shock to restore the normal operation of the victim's heart. These failsafe devices will not cause injury to the user, nor will they deliver a shock if none is needed.

"My passion is for every California High School to have an AED," said Dr. Manshadi. "If it saves one life, it will be worth the effort."

For information about Dameron Hospital, visit www.dameronhospital.com.



Administrators and coaches from Stockton and Elk Grove high schools receive Automated External Defibrillators (AED), a life saving device for Sudden Cardiac Arrest, from Dameron Hospital.

Mick Founts (left), Deputy Superintendent of San Joaquin County Office of Education, thanks Dr. Ramin Manshadi (right) for his tireless efforts made to help schools.



ARISE Teachers Rise to the Challenge



Teachers of grades 7 through 12 studied neuroscience and the science of addiction at University of California Davis over the summer, as part of Addiction Research and Investigations for Science Educators (ARISE) provided by SJCOE Science and Special Projects. Pictured above are ARISE participants, Lynn Skutches of Sonora High and Nina Wyman from Linden High, as well as Christina Fugazi and Tracey Bidwell, teachers from Venture Academy Family of Schools.

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) Science and Special Projects in partnership with University of California, Davis (UCD) are working with San Joaquin County teachers to bring research opportunities to students through Addiction Research and Investigations for Science Educators (ARISE). This program is supported by a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health. ARISE assists teachers in grades 7-12 and English Learner (EL) students with science achievement.

During the summer of 2009, teachers studied the field of neuroscience and the science of addiction at UCD. Teachers gained experience in working with English Learners, providing student instruction for research methodologies, and understanding diverse student populations. From this occurrence, teachers have formed yearlong partnerships to help guide students through a class research project focused on the science of addiction with researchers from UCD; University of California, Merced; University of the Pacific; and California State University, Stanislaus. Research projects will be presented at the Spring Research Symposium on April 24, 2010.

To learn more about ARISE and how you can be a part of next year's institute, visit <http://arise.ucdavis.edu>.

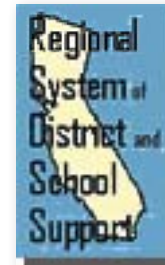
Weber Institute senior wins Holiday Art Contest



After careful consideration, San Joaquin County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools, Fredrick A. Wentworth, selected the artwork of senior, Christine Bernabe, of Stockton Unified's Weber Institute as the winner of SJCOE's Annual Holiday Card Art Contest. Bernabe's

artwork was used to create SJCOE's Holiday Card showcasing her artistic talents and demonstrating the vast abilities of all San Joaquin County students. SJCOE Holiday Cards were sent to more than 500 organizations and individuals throughout the state.

RSDSS provides assistance to schools



The Regional System of District and School Support, Region 6 (RSDSS 6) provides a multi-layered professional development and technical support service for school districts across a five county region, which consists of Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties.

Central to the RSDSS 6 effort is the Strategic Teacher Series (STS). The first two years of the STS include professional development trainings addressing skills such as student engagement, concept development, and checking for understanding. Throughout training, an emphasis is placed on intentionality, self-reflectiveness, and application of strategies. Highly effective teachers do far more than a technical delivery of the curriculum—they continuously expand their knowledge of current research-based instructional practices, learning theories, and content. Additionally, they refine their practice through an ongoing process of implementing and measuring the impact of new strategies on student learning.

RSDSS 6 provides site-based technical assistance for team members, principals, and an entire school staff between training days at San Joaquin County Office of Education. Teachers who participate in the Year 1 STS receive classroom-coaching support. Additionally, they determine the qualitative/quantitative coaching data collected and are supported by a RSDSS 6 Certified Coach. Coaches provide the teachers with specific data, observations, and questions to enhance teachers' skill development and ability to reflect. Certified coaches provide demonstration lessons in participating teachers' classrooms. These lessons enable teachers to observe the research-based strategies promoted in the series and apply it to their own students.

RSDSS also provides regional technical assistance and professional development through monthly instructional strategies' trainings and the Coach Network, which provides coaching skills, strategies, and regional networking for RSDSS 6 Certified Coaches.

For additional information, visit www.sjcoe.org/rsdss.

FOOD 4 LESS GRANT CHALLENGES COMMUNITY



'Tis the season to help those in need was the motto for Food 4 Less when it awarded a \$30,000 grant challenge to **one.TLC** School for Homeless Children. John Quinn and Food 4 Less have given \$30,000 to the **one.TLC** Foundation that needs to be matched by the community. Now, it is a race against time as the Foundation is depending on you to help meet the challenge.

A school for homeless children has been part of San Joaquin County since 1992, when it first resided in St. Mary's Dining Room. Since then, the program has helped more than 6,500 students, many of whom have returned to thank the teachers for an education, their inspiration, and a better life.

A collaborative effort between San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE), Stockton Unified, California State University Stanislaus, and **one.TLC** School for Homeless Children Foundation has given these students a new location on the corner of West Weber Avenue and Van Buren Street.

The mission of **one.TLC** is to provide San Joaquin County homeless students within grades kindergarten through six with an education; but ultimately it provides them with much more.

The school is only one of three certified homeless schools in the United States. SJCOE and the McKinney-Vento grant cover a portion of the school's operational costs. However, **one.TLC** School for Homeless Children fulfills other personal needs including clothing, shoes, school supplies, and field trips. The Executive Director and all board members serve on a volunteer basis. Nonetheless, funding is needed for additional staff.

If you would like to help **one.TLC**, make a donation payable to SJCOE Educational Foundation, and mail it to Helen Crane, 665 Cypress Run, Woodbridge, CA 95258. At this time, **one.TLC** School for Homeless Children Foundation is part of the SJCOE Educational Foundation.

For more information, contact Helen Crane, Foundation Board co-chair at 369.1085; Mark Yost, director of **one.TLC** School at myost@sjcoe.net; or Sara Garfield, Executive Director of Foundation at 468-9493 or sgarfield@csustan.edu.

Educator Tip of the Month: Motivating Students

One of the most powerful classroom management tools a teacher can have is a student that is motivated. Motivated students enjoy learning and therefore are less likely to cause problems in the classroom. Russell Irwin, coordinator for San Joaquin County Office of Education's Teacher Development, shares his tips on how to successfully ignite a passion for learning in students.

- **Allow students to experience self-efficacy.** Set a goal that students can easily attain. This shows students that they have the ability to be successful, and they develop the expectation of success. Gradually raise your standards, and students will rise to the occasion and continue to succeed.
- **Make class lessons relevant to students.** By relating curriculum to students' day-to-day lives, you pique their interest and increase their understanding of a topic.
- **Avoid criticism.** Rather than saying what not to do, tell students in an affirmative manner what they should do. For example, instead of saying, "quit getting out of your seat," say "you'll be much more successful in class if you take a seat."
- **Reflect a positive attitude.** Always try to smile and be positive. This will influence students' behavior, and foster an optimistic classroom environment.

Teaching SMART is a series of podcasts that give teachers tips on classroom management. Teaching SMART and "Educator Tips" are part of SJCOE Teacher Development's efforts to help educators enhance student learning and understanding. To listen to more podcasts that include tips on classroom management, ideas on classroom practices, and stories from educators within the field, visit www.podcast.sjcoe.net/portal.

Get Your Green On!

Get Your Green On, and sign-up for the recycling competition presented by the students of Merlo Institute Chapter of SkillsUSA, San Joaquin County Office of Education, and San Joaquin County Public Works. All high schools in San Joaquin County are invited to participate in a week long recycling competition in March of 2010! Registration will open in February. Visit www.sjcoe.org/community, to learn more about the contest, and start thinking of ways that you can help your school Get its Green On!



Revitalize your teaching through the Empowering Teachers' Creativity Institute

Beginning June 11, the Valley Sierra California Arts Project (VSCAP) will hold its Annual Professional Development Institute. Develop your personal and professional creativity, explore the links between creativity and instructional design, hone your teaching expertise with your educational colleagues, develop life-long friends and professional resources, build leadership skills and confidence, and become a member of The California Arts Project (TCAP). This institute is open to teachers of all grade levels who have an art background. This is the time to make a commitment to renew your creative self and find new ways to reach more students!

For additional information, contact VSCAP at 946.2754 or skakuda@telis.org.

Take an Arts Break and Travel to an Exotic Port-Of-Call

The Valley Sierra California Arts Project (VSCAP) invites you to its Art Breaks: Passport to the Arts program, occurring the second Saturday of every month at University of the Pacific. Join in the various activities and projects, which will include music, dance, and story telling, while learning about a different culture each month. The program is affordable and flexible in time. One Port-Of-Call is \$55 plus materials, a travel package of three is \$135 plus materials, and six or more destinations is \$260 plus materials. The Port-Of-Call for February is China/Japan, and Egypt is coming up in March. Sign-up now and start filling-in your passport!

For upcoming destinations and program details, contact VSCAP at 946.2754 or skakuda@telis.org.

Save the Date for SJCOE's S.T.A.R. Showcase!

On May 1, San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) will host its first S.T.A.R. Showcase, an interactive event where you can play, explore, and learn about SJCOE student programs and services.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2901 Arch-Airport Road in Stockton. For additional information or to sign-up to volunteer, call 468.4937 or email jratto@sjcoe.net.



Outlook: CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/2	Autism: Advanced Social Story Implementation 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. • 468.4907	3/6	Middle School Honor Band, Rehearsal #5 1 - 3 p.m. • 468.4973
2/6	Academic Decathlon Competition, Day 2 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030	3/6	Middle School Honor Choir, Rehearsal #5 1 - 3 p.m. • 468.4973
2/9	Ready for Inclusion: Autism Spectrum Disorders 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. • 468.4907	3/6	Middle School County Honors Concert 7 - 9 p.m. • 468.4973
2/9	Middle School Honor Band and Choir, Rehearsal #1 5 - 8 p.m. • 468.4973	3/6	Science Olympiad B/C Regional Competition 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
2/17	CTEL Stockton Spring 2010 Prep Course 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. • 468.4865	3/10	Dinner With A Scientist 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. • 468.4880
2/18	Middle School Honor Band and Choir, Rehearsal #2 5 - 8 p.m. • 468.4973	3/10 – 5/26	Spanish Stockton Spring 2010 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. • 468.4978
2/19–20	Teaching About the World Religions in Our Midst 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. • 468.9082	3/11	AVID Coordinator Workshop 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. • 468.9189
2/20	Mock Trial Competition, Rounds 1 and 2 8 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. • 468.9030	3/12–15	Academic Decathlon State Finals 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
2/22	Mock Trial Competition, Championship Round 6:45 - 9:30 p.m. • 468.9030	3/19–21	Mock Trial State Finals 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
2/23	Middle School Honor Band and Choir, Rehearsal #3 5 - 8 p.m. • 468.4973	3/27	Science Olympiad A2 Competition 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030

MARCH

3/1–5	Science Fair 1 – 7:00 p.m. • 468.4880	4/17	NorCal – Science Olympiad State Finals 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
3/1 – 5/24	SB1292 Sacramento Spring 2010 4 – 7 p.m. • 468.4865	4/ 20	AVID Student Recognition 6:30 - 9 p.m. • 468.9189
3/3 – 6/2	STEL Sacramento Spring 2010 4 – 7:00 p.m. • 468.4865	4/21-24	Academic Decathlon National Finals 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
3/4	EL Master Plan 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. • 468.4978	5/1	Academic Pentathlon, 7th and 8th Grade Competitions 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • 468.9030
3/4	Banana Slug Band Performance and Science Fair Awards 5 – 7 p.m. • 468.4880	5/1	SJCOE S.T.A.R. Showcase 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • 468.4937
3/4	Middle School Honor Band and Choir, Rehearsal #4 5 - 8 p.m. • 468.4973	5/6	AVID Coordinator Workshop 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. • 468.9189
		5/8	Academic Pentathlon 6th Grade Competitions 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. • 468.9030

APRIL

MAY

Outlook

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YouthBuild San Joaquin elects its new Youth Council

YouthBuild San Joaquin recently elected seven students to serve on its new Youth Council, which acts as the voice of the student body and organizes events to benefit its students and the community. This year's Youth Council Members are Amanda Larus, Shawn Trishell, Andrew Islas, Katie Larus, Jacob Balandra, Derrick Ayson, and Ricardo Calvo-Mendez.

Michael Lay, teacher assistant and advisor to the Youth Council, shares "We aim to hold at least one community service event each month. Most importantly, we want the students to learn leadership skills."

The Youth Council has wasted no time in helping the community. In the past two months the Council has hosted a myriad of community service events including a canned food drive for the Stockton Emergency Food Bank, and participated in the News10 Coats for Kids Drive.

"Youth Council lets me lead by example," says Council Chair, Amanda Larus. "I like to get other students excited about being involved in school and the community."

YouthBuild San Joaquin is a program operated by San Joaquin County Office of Education, which aims to help at-risk young adults earn a high school diploma or GED, while learning construction skills and getting paid.

Additionally, YouthBuild San Joaquin is an equal opportunity employer program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. This program is funded 75 percent through a Federal award of \$1.1 million from the United States Department of Labor.

For additional information, visit www.sjcoe.org/youthbuild or call 468.9246.



YouthBuild San Joaquin's new Youth Council Members are pictured above from left to right: Katie Larus, Shawn Trishell, Derrick Ayson, Ricardo Calvo-Mendez, Amanda Larus, Andrew Islas, and Jacob Balandra.