

## CLUB GIVES INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SOCIAL OUTREACH



**G**regory Ente, drummer of The Alan Short Center band Total Rock Influence Party (TRIP), stood up thrusting his sticks in the air as an ecstatic crowd roared with applause at the end of the number. The Alan Short Center was one of many special education groups from San Joaquin County that celebrated the holidays with the Recreational Sports Club (RSC) during its Holiday Luncheon.

Individuals with disabilities make up TRIP, which kicked the luncheon off by performing songs they wrote. Band member Ente explained how excited he was to be on-stage, showcasing the achievements of groups such as The Alan Short Center. "It was great being up there. I felt like a rock star, like we were a real band," said Ente.

This is just one of many events created for individuals with disabilities. "I'm passionate about giving them the same experiences and opportunities we have," said Roger Slingerman, executive director of RSC. RSC serves people with disabilities by providing them with recreational sports and social events. To learn more or to find out about future events, call 403.8878, email [rscofsanjoaquin@yahoo.com](mailto:rscofsanjoaquin@yahoo.com), or visit [www.rscofsanjoaquin.com](http://www.rscofsanjoaquin.com).

### Inside this Outlook:



**Manteca, Tracy, And Lincoln Students Named SJC Spelling Bee Champs**



**Medical Society Provides Children With Residency Experience**



**Students Overcome Obstacles In Pair o' 2's**



# STUDENTS OVERCOME OBSTACLES IN PAIR O' 2'S

To say the **one.** program is pleased with its students' performance during the Pair o' 2's Quest, where students grouped into teams and ran 15 miles around Lake Camanche in pairs of two, would be an understatement.

"They will not forget what they accomplished together," said Brandy Thurman, teacher of **one.**Lodi, as she discussed how quests are a way to build relationships, as well as allow them to stretch their expectations of themselves and others. "The natural leaders emerged from this experience, giving them an opportunity to work with others through the concept of **one.**"

This, of course, was Thurman's outlook, however, **one.** educators throughout the county have a similar perspective. In fact, Chris Kleinert, director II of **one.** feels it allows students a rare opportunity to interact with teachers



outside of the classroom. They also explore areas of northern California they would not normally see, and experience a personal challenge.

When students at **one.**Lodi signed up for the event, each had a different idea of what to expect.

"It was tough," said Jose Ochoa, student at **one.**Lodi. "While running up a really steep hill I asked myself why I signed up for this. However, at the end I looked back at what I did and felt great." Like Ochoa, the others students

found themselves sore but proud the next morning. They all knew that together they completed something amazing.

"Having someone with us, motivated us to keep going," said participants of **one.**Lodi. "This experience was really amazing."

For more information about Alternative Education, **one.**, visit [www.sjcoe.org/alted](http://www.sjcoe.org/alted).



PHOTO OF **one.**PRIDE



PHOTOGRAPHY AND STORY PROVIDED BY **one.**LODI (PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): ALBERTO CRUZ, CONNOR BEGLEY, BRANDY THURMAN, TYLER OLSEN, JAMIE ERICKSEN, CRYSTAL HERDANDEZ, AND JOSE OCHOA

## Tracy, Manteca, and Lincoln Unified Students are Spelling Bee Champs

What does it take to be San Joaquin County Spelling Bee Champ? For Junior High Division titleholder Jonelle Mungcal, an eighth-grader of Great Valley Elementary in Manteca Unified, it takes avid reading and studying with her father.

"I'm excited about winning," said Mungcal, who shared that her victory will be rewarded with a new book given to her by her parents. "I've always been naturally good at spelling. I think it is because I love to read."

More than 80 students from grades four through six (Elementary Division) and seven through nine (Junior High Division) competed to be County Speller of the Year. This year's San Joaquin County Spelling Bee winners in the Junior High Division are Mungcal and Jao Obaldo, an eighth-grader from George Kelly Elementary of Tracy Unified.

In the Elementary Division, Mashal M. Chhotani, a sixth-

grader from George Kelly Elementary School, part of Tracy Unified, placed first and the runner-up was Leandra M. Evans, a sixth-grader from Claudia Landeen, part of Lincoln Unified.

The top two winners in each division earned a plaque, received a U. S. Savings Bond, and will attend the state competition. All participants were awarded medals and certificates.

The State Junior High Competition will be at Miller Creek Middle School, located within Marin County on May 9. The State Elementary Competition is scheduled for May 16 at Sonoma State University.

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) and the SJCOE Educational Foundation sponsored the San Joaquin County Spelling Bee.



Pictured on the left are the Junior High Division (grades seven through nine) winners: Jonelle Mungcal, Great Valley Elementary, Manteca Unified and Jao Obaldo, George Kelly Elementary, Tracy Unified. Pictured on the right are the Elementary Division (grades four through six) winners: Mashal M. Chhotani, George Kelly Elementary, Tracy Unified and Leandra M. Evans, Claudia Landeen, Lincoln Unified

## Hooked on Education: Dionne McDonald

OUTLOOK ASKED EDUCATORS throughout the county to share why they became an educator. This month, Dionne McDonald, an Art teacher for Venture Academy Family of Schools' Foundations Visual and Performing Arts Academy, shared her story.

A combination of three people inspired me to become a teacher. First of all, Ms. Ray, my high school photography teacher, laid the foundation by being a great example of what an amazing high school art/ photography teacher should be.

Secondly, my college photography professor inspired me to become a teacher when I was getting ready to graduate. I was his teaching assistant during my senior year of college when he noticed how much I enjoyed teaching the beginning photography students in his class.

Finally, my mom has been the biggest influence and inspiration overall. She encouraged me when I didn't know what to do. She was my biggest support and influence in making the decision to pursue teaching as a career.



Read more anecdotes from educators in the news and announcements section of San Joaquin County Office of Education's website, [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org). To tell Outlook why you became an educator, send an email to Jacqueline Ratto at [jratto@sjcoe.net](mailto:jratio@sjcoe.net).



# MEDICAL SOCIETY PROVIDES CHILDREN OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY RESIDENCY EXPERIENCE

Sophomore Salwa Hashima from Venture Academy Family of Schools toured pediatrics, forensics, radiology, and even “scrubbed in” to watch a cyst removal surgery while in DECISION Medicine, a summer program offered through San Joaquin County Medical Society. Although Hashima always dreamed of entering the field of medicine as a doctor, this elite program solidified her passion and opened her eyes to areas she had not thought about.

Hashima was one of 24 high-achieving high school students selected to receive first-hand experiences within the medical field.

“DECISION Medicine is something that I will never forget,” said Hashima. “I didn’t just listen to professionals talk about the medical field, I got to witness it.”

Gina DeRoos, employer outreach specialist for Venture Academy, encouraged Hashima to apply for the program.

“DECISION Medicine has given Salwa the knowledge and determination to succeed,” said DeRoos. “I can see the growth in her every day and I am certain that this opportunity has contributed to it.”

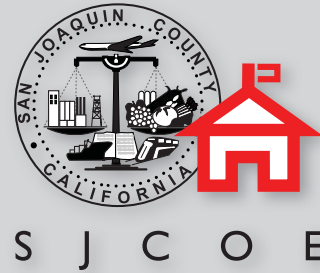


DECISION Medicine is a two-week program where participants receive real-world experiences as they explore the many facets of a career as a physician.

Through DECISION Medicine, students participate in various team development activities, as well as several one-on-one mentoring opportunities with local physicians. Students also visit University of California Davis Medical School and several regional hospitals where they gain behind-the-scenes experiences.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for San Joaquin County teens who are interested in pursuing a career within the medical field,” said Executive Director of The San Joaquin Medical Society, Michael Steenburgh.

DECISION Medicine has students visit various medical sites throughout Stockton, including hospitals, clinics, and private offices of contributing



physicians. In addition, students go to local healthcare related organizations, where they receive first-hand field experiences.

For more information, visit [www.decisionmedicine.org](http://www.decisionmedicine.org).



**PARTICIPANTS OF  
DECISION MEDICINE  
VISITED UNIVERSITY  
OF THE PACIFIC  
TO DISCUSS THE  
MEDICAL FIELD WITH  
PROFESSIONALS WITHIN  
THE COMMUNITY**

## Debbi Hopman Retires as Jefferson Elementary Special Ed Director

DEBBI HOPMAN RECENTLY announced her retirement as Director of Special Education at Jefferson Elementary School District.



Before serving Jefferson students, the Berkeley alumnus started her career as a special education teacher at Tracy Unified. Soon after she received her administrative credential, Hopman worked as a project assistant for Categorical Programs and served as assistant principal at Williams Middle School. She then moved to Linden Unified as principal of Waverly School followed by director of Student Services.

Hopman is known for her ability to bring support for education through partnerships with the community. In fact, in 2005 she received the Friend of Kendall School Award for her part in bringing center-based Early Intervention Behavioral Treatment (EIBT) services through Kendall School, a non-public agency serving young children with autism, to the Jefferson Elementary School District.

“Debbi understood the need of such a program within Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) and her district,” said Kendall School Director, Coleen Sparkman.

“She was tireless in voicing the need and bringing it to the attention of site and district administrators who were then able to locate a place for it within Jefferson Elementary School District.”

The addition of a center-based program proved to be valuable to the continuum of services for students with autism. It is undoubtedly what Hopman considers as one of the most important accomplishments of her career.

Hopman shared that one of the most important items used for consideration of the position at Jefferson, was staying within San Joaquin County SELPA.

“I wouldn’t consider leaving my colleagues in the SELPA,” she said. “It’s a great group who are experts in the field.”

Although Hopman is retiring as a full-time administrator, she will continue to work part-time as an Educational Specialist for the SELPA.

**HOPMAN IS KNOWN FOR HER  
ABILITY TO BRING SUPPORT  
FOR EDUCATION THROUGH  
PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE  
COMMUNITY**

**- COLEEN SPARKMAN  
KENDALL SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

For more information about Special Education, visit [www.sjcoe.org/selpa](http://www.sjcoe.org/selpa).





ANNOUNCEMENTS

**INAUGURAL SAN JOAQUIN CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL**

San Joaquin Film Society (SJFS) is proud to announce the official selection of its inaugural San Joaquin Children's Film Festival (SJCF09), a new film festival for kids of all ages set to start January 16 - 18 at the Stockton Empire Theatre in Stockton.

The festival will feature the California Premiere of the English-language version of "Azur and Asmar: The Princes' Quest" a new, Festival de Cannes-selected, animated masterpiece by French animator Michael Ocelot. The flagship film will screen at the Opening Night Gala, and will lead a unique, vibrant, and dynamic collection of 21 feature and short films from around the world. This will include nationally-acclaimed, award-winning, American documentaries "Darius Goes West" (Saturday Night Feature) and "Going on 13" (Closing Night Film); and a global collection of 18 short films, including Student Oscar® winner "Zoologic" and Festival de Cannes Short Films Corner-selected "His Good Will" and "Papiroflexia."

These 21 feature and short films have screened at over 300 festivals around the world, collectively. SJCF09 boasts many USA, West Coast, and California premieres. In addition, an educational, young filmmakers' workshop and conversations with guest filmmakers are slated for the festival's first edition. For more information and tickets, call 518.9882 or visit [www.sjiff.org](http://www.sjiff.org).

**FAIRE HELPS CHILDREN RECEIVE STELLAR CARE**

Calling all early childhood professionals and those interested in pursuing the profession! Join San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) Early Childhood Education (ECE) for its "4th Annual Early Childhood College & Career Faire" on January 31 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at SJCOE, Education Service Center.

Representatives from higher education and child care organizations will be present to share college and career opportunities available within the field.

Data collected in 2007 shows that 11 percent of the San Joaquin County workforce holds at or above a Bachelor's degree. Since 2005, SJCOE ECE has hosted the Early Childhood College and Career Faire as a means to address the need to increase the number of professionals who hold at least a Bachelor's degree.

"Research has shown teachers with a Bachelor's degree related to early childhood education play an integral role in high-quality care and education to children ages 0-5," said Valerie Denero, program manager I of ECE at SJCOE. For more information about ECE, visit [www.sjcoe.org/ece](http://www.sjcoe.org/ece).



**PUBLIC INVITED TO AUTISM PRESENTATION**

Parents of special needs children are invited to January's Community Advisory Committee presentation on January 12 from 9 a.m. to noon at San Joaquin County Office of Education, Education Service Center (2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton). Tissa Lopez-Jewart, an autism specialist, will be giving a presentation on "Parenting an Autistic Child." This session will give parents ideas on how to teach new behaviors, decrease unwanted behaviors, and strategies on how to shape behaviors that may be used at home or in public. For more information or to sign-up for this event, contact Patti Farhat at 468.4828.

**RECYCLING COMPETITION HEADING FOR COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS**

Is your school up for a recycling challenge? Edward C. Merlo Institute of Environmental Technology of Stockton Unified School District invites all high schools within San Joaquin County to take part in an inaugural recycling competition this spring. If you think your school is up for the challenge, contact Mark Hall, teacher at Merlo Institute, at [mhall@stockton.k12.ca.us](mailto:mhall@stockton.k12.ca.us) or 933.7190, extension 4703. The Chapter of SkillsUSA and the EAST class at Merlo Institute modeled the contest after RecycleMania, a National Recycling Coalition (NRC) competition among colleges and universities. To learn about NRC's RecycleMania, visit [www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org).

<b>JANUARY 2009</b>										1	2	3
										New Year's Day		
4	5	6 7		8	9		10					
	5:30 - 9:00 p.m. High School Honor Choir Rehearsal #2 468.4973	3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Science Olympiad A2 Coaches Meeting 468.9030			8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. High School Honor Choir Rehearsal #4 468.4973		8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. High School Honor Band Rehearsal #3 468.4973					
		5:30 - 9:00 p.m. High School Honor Choir Rehearsal #3 468.4973					8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. High School Honor Band Rehearsal #4 468.4973					
		5:30 - 9:00 p.m. High School Honor Band Rehearsal #2 468.4973					6 - 7 p.m. (Reception) 7 - 9:00 p.m. (Concert) San Joaquin County High School Honors Concert & 50th Celebration 468.4973					
11	12		13	14	15		16	17				
	8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. 16th Annual LSH Winter Symposium 468.4907			8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CAHSEE Winter 2009 468.9269	3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Science Olympiad B/C Coaches Meeting 468.9030							
18	19		20	21	22		23	24				
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day				8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Capitol Area Science Education Leaders (CASEL) Annual Conference Keynote Speaker							
25	26	27	28		29	30	31					
			8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Assisting Struggling Readers - Including DIBELS 468.4907		1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Say It Like You Mean It Differentiating Instruction for Students with Language Deficits	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The ABC's of Differentiating Classroom Instruction 468.4907		7:45 a.m. Academic Decathlon Competition - Speech, Interview, Essay 468.9030				

<b>FEBRUARY 2009</b>									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SB472 Mathematics Staff Development 468.9177		3:00-7:00 p.m. Academic Decathlon Essay Reading 468.9030	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. AVID Teacher/Coordinator/Administrator Workshop 468.9189	7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Academic Decathlon County Competition 468.9030				
8	9	10		11		12	13	14	
		3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Science Olympiad A2 Coaches Meeting 468.9030		3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Science Olympiad B/C Coaches Meeting 468.9030					
		4:00 - 7:00 p.m. CTEL Stockton Spring 2009 468.9269							
		3:30 - 7:30 p.m. SB472 English Learner Professional Development Spring 1, 2009 468.4865		4:30 - 7:30 p.m. CTEL Sacramento Spring 2009 468.9269					
15	16		17	18	19	20	21		
	Washington's Birthday						8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Mock Trial County Competition 468.9030		
22	23		24		25	26	27	28	
	6:45 - 9:30 p.m. Mock Trial Championship Rounds 468.9030		4:30 - 8:00 p.m. Spanish Sacramento Spring 2009 468.4978						

**County to Celebrate 50 years of Music**

All County Musical programs will celebrate, including High School and Middle School Honor Band and Choir, Solo Ensemble, Instrumental Festival, Choir Masters Class and Contracted Music Services

SJCOE is asking all past participants to take a walk down memory lane by contacting Sandra Wendell (468-9264) to become part of the celebration

**San Joaquin County Office of Education**  
Fredrick A. Wentworth, Superintendent

January 10, 2009, from 6-7 p.m., High School Honors Concert will follow. Atherton Auditorium, SJ Delta College

# Watch Outlook: The Television Show On Wednesdays



**S**cience instructor Mark McKay and students from Venture Academy Family of Schools study native plants as part of a habitat restoration project on the Hoffman Ranch East of Lodi. Learn more about this project by watching *Outlook: The Television Show* on Wednesday nights at 5 p.m. on Comcast Channel 23.

This segment also will include features from the **one.** Mock Election; Migrant Education's 40th Anniversary Celebration; **one.** Honors Quest in Lake Tahoe; Dr. Gary Dei Rossi is the recipient of the Public Employee Award from Family Resource and Referral Center of San Joaquin County; the

Health, Education, And Leadership program at Hamilton Elementary; Portal Podcasts provided by Teacher Development; Venture Academy Family of Schools' Fall Festival; SJCOE'S Artists-in-Schools; Venture Academy Family of Schools' First Soccer Season; and a SJCOE Staff Feature - Gary Hyman.

## Outlook

Visit [www.sjcoe.org](http://www.sjcoe.org)  
for more news and  
announcements

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