

AHEAD E-Newsletter

July 24, 2009

Monterey County
Office of Education

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Footnote On This E-newsletter.

This newsletter is to reach all MCOE staff. A link to access the AHEAD Newsletter will be sent to all MCOE staff by email. The newsletter will continue to evolve with your help.

Your help is appreciated. Please print copies and give to those who do not have MCOE email or web access. Please post copies in offices and staff rooms.

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We're on the Web:!

See us at:
www.monterey.k12.ca.us



375 students from the MCOE Special Education classes took part in the 'Special Carnival,' on Tuesday morning at the Salinas Expo site in Salinas. Photo by Richard Green/The Salinas Californian



Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools and Rocco Romeo, student enjoyed the events at the Special Education "Kiddie Corral" at the Salinas Sports Complex

***The E-Newsletter for the Staff of the
Monterey County Office of Education***

***"Leadership, Support & Service to Prepare
All Students for Success"***

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Superintendent of Schools**
Nancy Kotowski, Ph.D.

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Important Upcoming Dates

For a complete listing of MCOE and school districts' calendars, visit
<http://www.monterey.k12.ca.us>

July 2009

Day	Event
3	Independence Day (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)
4	July 4 (California Education Code Section 37220)
16-19	California Rodeo Salinas
22	County Board of Education meeting

August 2009

Day	Event
5	County Board of Education meeting
7-8	California International Airshow Salinas
19	County Board of Education meeting
26	Women's Equality Day

September 2009

Day	Event
	LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH
	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (September 15–October 15)
	NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
2	County Board of Education meeting
7	Labor Day (California Education Code Section 37220) (MCOE Closed)
8	International Literacy Day
9	Admission Day
16	County Board of Education meeting
17	Constitution Day (California Education Code Section 37221)
17-23	Constitution Week
25	Native American Day (California Education Code Section 37220.7)

October 2009

Day	Event
	CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH
	CHARACTER EDUCATION MONTH
	CRIME PREVENTION MONTH
	FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
	NATIONAL ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH
1	National Child Health Day (36 United States Code Section 105)
4-10	National 4-H Week
4-10	National Fire Prevention Week
7	County Board of Education meeting
16	World Food Day
18-24	America's Safe Schools Week
19-23	National School Bus Safety Week
21	County Board of Education meeting
23-31	National Red Ribbon Week
24	Make a Difference Day
24	United Nations Day

Rear Bus Yard Fencing Changes

In an effort to improve security on our MCOE campus, effective Friday, July 10, 2009, we will be keeping the bus yard rolling gate facing the West Campus locked at all times. In order to create access for West Campus staff members needing to reach MCOE vehicles parked in the bus yard, we have installed a pedestrian gate adjacent to the West Campus gate. Please see your department director for a key to the pedestrian gate.

As a friendly reminder to staff, the bus parking lot is limited to **County-Owned vehicles and buses only**. Privately owned vehicles are prohibited from parking in this lot and are required to use either the employee parking lot next to Business Services, or the main parking area in front of the building.

TB Skin & Hepatitis B Testing ~ July

TB Skin Testing is *mandatory every 4 years* & the Hepatitis B Vaccination is *optional*, a series of 3 injections.

The Monthly Clinic is for **MCOE EMPLOYEES ONLY** of Monterey County Office of Education at 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas.

TB / Hepatitis B Injection will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:30pm at West Campus 7.

TB Reading and Hepatitis B Injections will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2009 from 1:30 – 4:30pm at West Campus 7.

Former Head Start Student Graduates from California State University, Fresno



Christina Contreras and son
Anthony Angel Martinez



Anthony Martinez, Head
Start Graduation

Anthony Angel Martinez began his education at the age of four in the Head Start Program at Closter Park. He attended Alisal Elementary and then Gavilan View where he made the honor roll every semester for three years in a row. He attended Everett Alvarez High School and where he again made the honor roll every year, and in his senior year was one of the top 25 students in his graduating class.

Anthony's life long dream was to become a police officer so he pursued his major in Criminology in college. Anthony graduated from California State University, Fresno on May 22, 2009.

His mother is Christina Contreras, Assistant Cook at Head Start Food Services. She has been working for MCOE since October 9, 1998. Christina attended Anthony's graduation in Fresno, California.

When Anthony sat back and considered the significant events in his past, what stood out were his mother's constant support, encouragement, and high expectations for her son.

“Special Carnival” California Rodeo

(Salinas, CA) The biggest smiles you have ever seen were displayed when over 375 **students** from the **Special Education classes** of the Monterey County Office of Education participated in the "Special Carnival" on **Tuesday, July 14** from **9:00 AM** until **11:00 AM**. During this time, the Carnival was open only to these students and the teachers and volunteers who assist them.

The "Special Carnival" was held at the Salinas Expo, 295 Sun Way, Salinas. The California Rodeo of Salinas and Butler Amusements, Incorporated sponsored the event.

The students enjoyed a variety of activities, including rides and games selected to match the student's abilities. School personnel and parents supervised and assisted each child.

Celebrating its 12th year, the Special Carnival has grown considerably. "Our first year we had 35 or 40 students," said Bill Quinlan, the California Rodeo's representative. "This year we had over 350. The Carnival was successful because everyone helped the students. Everyone feels good when they see them have so much fun."

Mr. Quinlan explained that Butler Amusements donates the use of the rides and other equipment, and that the ride and game operators donate their time.

"No one is paid, everyone volunteers. Even the game operators, who are self-employed, donate their time," Mr. Quinlan stated.

"One goal of our program is to teach students social skills, and one of the most important skills is learning to appreciate the joy and fun of life," said Michele Saleh, Director of Special Schools and Classes. "Experiencing something as simple as a carnival ride is a rare and special treat for many of our students."

"Our students are not very verbal," she added. "But when they come back from the Carnival they are all energized with excitement. They talked about how much they enjoyed being able to spend time with their friends, and ride their favorite rides as many times as they liked. For them, it is like going to Disneyland without lines or crowds."

Link to the Salinas Californian for pictures of the *Special Carnival* at the Salinas California Rodeo, website: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=J2&Dato=20090714&Kategori=NEWS01&Lopenr=907140801&Ref=PH>



Students from the MCOE Special Education classes ride at the 'Special Carnival,' on Tuesday morning at the Salinas Expo site in Salinas.

NTSA School Bus Safety Road-eo Winner



Brandy Acevedo took first place at the International School Bus Safety Road-eo in Greensboro, North Carolina!! We're so proud of her! Here's the link to NSTA (National School Transportation Association) website: <http://www.yellowbuses.org/safetycompetition/>

“Kiddie Corral” Salinas Sports Complex



Connie Rossi-Rains, chair of the Rodeo Association Committee for the California Rodeo giving instructions to the Committee members

(Salinas, CA) Special Education students from throughout Monterey County participated in the California Rodeo Special Buckaroos, a special event of the California Rodeo Association designed to share the sport of professional rodeo with special needs children.

Organized by the Monterey County Office of Education, the event was hosted by the California Rodeo and sponsored by Tanimura and Antle. The Rodeo Association Chair for this project is Connie Rossi-Rains.

The Special Buckaroos Rodeo pairs professional rodeo cowboys with special needs children on a "one on one" basis in the rodeo arena. Each child was outfitted with a cowboy hat, a cowboy bandanna, a contestant number, and a special lariat rope. As partners, the children and rodeo cowboys work through a series of modified rodeo events, which included a goat ribbon relay, roping a dummy steer, riding "Simpy" the hand-rocked bull, a wild stick horse race, and riding a live horse through a flag race.



Yonathan Almonte proudly displays his trophy

Following completion of the events, each child was recognized individually with a trophy and an autographed picture of him/her posed with his/her professional rodeo partner.

As quoted in KSBW-TV's website: "It's quite an experience for them to be out here in the arena with their families, to be the stars for the moment and be the rodeo champs," said Monterey County School Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Kotowski.

For all the skill and prowess on display this week at the California Rodeo Salinas, there's no question the event conjuring up the most smiles and cheers involve a group of exceptional young people, displaying courage beyond their years.

"In the midst of everything, this one touches everyone's heart without fail. Within the whole rodeo week, this is the best thing we do," said Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue.

"The Salinas rodeo puts on such an event for our young people, our most special little buckaroos. They get an opportunity to come out here and become cowboys for a day and cowgirls for a day. They've enjoyed themselves. They've rode the horses. They rode the bulls. They got to

lasso and rope. They have just had a ball here today," said Dr. Kotowski.

Rocco Romeo was one of the young rodeo stars in training. He does not have the gift of sight, but that's not going to stop him from dreaming big.

Link to the KSBW-TV, Action 8 News highlights and video for *Exceptional Kids' Steal the Rodeo* at the California Salinas Rodeo, Saturday, July 18, 2009, website: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/20102826/detail.html>