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The newsletter of

AHEAD

www.montereycoe.org

the Monterey County Office of Education



Raise Your Thinking!

Students Harvest New Insights at the Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival

Over 700 high school students broke out in “the wave” when Frank Portman, the rocker and author of young adult literature, picked up his guitar and played the theme song of his novel “King Dork:”

*“I don't have much to offer
or anything at all
I look like death warmed over
you're like a living doll”*

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Monterey County teachers bring the transformative power of literature to students.

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News briefs, information pieces and photos.

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Captions for all photos appearing in this issue.

MCOE & Partners Receive \$3.6 million in Technology Funding

The U.S. Department of Commerce has announced the awarding of \$3.6 million in federal funding to the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) and six partner organizations for local technology projects. These projects will improve high-speed access to the Internet and train Monterey County residents to use the Internet for long-term economic development activities.

Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools, applauded the funding decision. “This project fits the MCOE’s ongoing efforts to improve education and develop links with other educational and community agencies,” she said.

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Superintendent's Message



We have such GOOD NEWS to report to you! The Monterey County Office of Education and six partner organizations were awarded a \$3.6 million, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As part of the federal economic stimulus program, the selection process was rigorous and highly competitive. The honor of being awarded this grant is an outstanding example of the leadership MCOE provides in convening and developing strong partnerships to support the educational mission throughout our county.

Our six partners are: the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County; California State University, Monterey Bay; the Community Information Center; Hartnell College; Monterey County Free Libraries; and the National Steinbeck Center.

Many people contributed to this successful effort on behalf of MCOE. Please join me in extending a special thank you to the following people:

***Hamish Tyler**, who responded to the grant opportunity with a strong vision of what is possible, sense of mission, and leadership needed to make things happen.*

***Steve Nejasnich**, for supporting and steering us to the appropriate people for initiating the grant proposal and helping form the consortium.*

***Chuck Parker, Tom Mooneyham, Jack Peterson, Ana Martinez, and Jim Newsome**, devoted Media Center crew members, who are the backbone of the entire operation.*

***Garry Bousum and Cindy Dunn**, who assisted in coordinating the efforts of Technology Services and the Business Office.*

***Scott Sexsmith**, who provided important technology information needed to develop the proposal.*

***Loreto Albento, Suzette Burns, and Candi Clark**, who helped every step of the way in developing the proposal.*

***Ron Eastwood**, who conducted background research.*

***Josh Jorn**, who picked up where **Clancy D'Angelo** left off in the planning phase. **Dan Hogan**, who provided architectural support. **Bill Thayer**, who helped with early construction estimates. **Mario Aguinaga and Mark Apple**, who helped with electrical needs to enable the next step in the Media Center development and helped demonstrate to BTOP we were ready.*

***Mark Seitman**, and **MCAET Foundation Board of Directors** for their support and volunteerism. **Mary Jacobi**, who supported MCAET's development.*

***Kathleen Kahn**, who helped type, arrange, compile, and complete the application. **Tom Karwin**, our distinguished grant writer who has helped MCOE secure technology grants for 18 years. **Jack Mitchell**, Arts, Media and Entertainment at CDE.*

***Richard Brown**, who researched and pursued this grant opportunity and identified this fit for MCOE.*

As you can see, this was an extensive team effort! Thank you to everyone whose contribution has enabled us to achieve this goal to serve the students and families of Monterey County who will benefit from the project in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nancy Kotowski
Monterey County Superintendent of Schools



Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival

Continued from page 1

The Student Days of the fourth-annual Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival launched with cheers, clapping hands and a rocking backbeat. During two days, over 2,500 middle and high school students from all over Monterey County had the opportunity to meet and learn from such celebrated authors and thinkers as:

Eric Schlosser, investigative journalist, playwright, motion picture producer and author of the groundbreaking book *"Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal,"*

Julia Bolz, the powerful voice for women and children, internationally recognized social justice activist and international lawyer who has founded 23 schools in Afghanistan;

Dr. Condoleezza Rice, the 66th United States Secretary of State and the first black woman to hold the office;

Cameron Tuttle, the humor writer who specializes in quirky, irreverent books about high school. She is the author of *"Paisley Hanover Acts Out,"* the best-selling series *"The Bad Girl's Guides,"* and *"The Paranoid's Pocket Guide;"*

Dr. Tierney Thys, the Marine Biologist, filmmaker, and Director of Research at Sea Studios Foundation, the non-profit foundation based in Monterey, California dedicated to inspiring public understanding of science, technology and the environment through

entertaining and innovative media. The company recently co-produced the National Geographic's *Strange Days on Planet Earth*; and

Dr. Stuart Brown, the world's foremost practical champion of the knowledge of play. He trained in general and internal medicine, psychiatry and clinical research. He first discovered the importance of play by discerning its absence in a carefully studied group of homicidal young males.

The Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival was founded by Jim and Cindy McGillen

to annually bring award winning authors and speakers -- including authors of New York Times best-sellers, Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winners, and winners of virtually every prestigious literary award -- to the small venue of Sunset Community Center in Carmel.



STUDENT DAYS

Students participate in one of four sessions over a two day period where they listen to lectures and discussions, participate in book signings and have opportunities to meet well-known speakers.

Snap Shots

OfficeMax's "A Day Made Better"

The mission of the Alternative Education Program is to "prepare students for future success by providing a supportive school environment that focuses on increasing academic and pro-social behaviors and skills, while providing functional life skills instruction."

Scott Davis, who teaches middle and high school students at the Boronda Community School, exemplifies that mission. In recognition of his dedication and commitment to students, Scott was honored on Tuesday, October 7 by the OfficeMax "A Day Made Better" program. He was presented with an award and \$1000 in school supplies.

"Scott is an outstanding teacher," said Crystal Beget, Principal. "He uses creative lesson plans to engage his students. He lets them know he cares about them. Everyone in his class feels that he makes their day."



Jillian Wilker Receives California International Airshow's Distinguished Service Award

Jillian Wiker, Program Director for AmeriCorps, Monterey County United for Literacy has received the Distinguished Service Award for the California International Airshow, Salinas.

Each year, the Airshow's Board of Directors recognizes select volunteers who stand out above all others in their unselfish commitment to the Airshow's work in benefitting local charities.

Jillian has served as the "Make-a-Wish" Chairperson for the Airshow for four years. Each year, she coordinates Airshow visits by families in the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work.

On Friday of Airshow Week, the Make-A-Wish families spend time with the visiting jet teams. Jillian greets the families, arranges transportation for them through security and onto the hot ramp to the viewing area. She also coordinates a meal from one of the Airshow's sponsors, Carl's Jr., for the families during the performance. Jillian exemplifies the special qualities of a great volunteer: dedication, support, organization, commitment, kindness, and enthusiasm.

The 30th Anniversary Airshow was held October 2-3, 2010. Through the years, the California International Airshow, Salinas has raised over \$7.2 million for local charities.

Heroes & Blood Donors

Gary Vincent, Director of Alternative Education Programs, laid back, and smiled as he gave his donation to the blood bank of Monterey County. Denise Lang, Administrative Assistant in the Alternative Education Programs, organizes a standing tradition at MCOE, the annual blood drive. Twenty-eight current employees, as well as retirees, friends and employees of other districts gave blood as part of MCOE's observance of **Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance**, also known as 9/11.



Technology Projects Receive Federal Support

Continued from page 1: Technology Grant

“For example, the new project complements and extends the Media Center for Art, Education and Technology which the County Office of Education launched in 2008 to provide training in digital multimedia production,” Dr. Kotowski observed.

The project will establish a series of new and enhanced public computer centers across Monterey County, serving economically vulnerable populations, increasing public computer access, and providing training in digital media production. The project will provide high school students with 360 hours of training to receive a certificate in digital media production skills and the opportunity to obtain vocational placement or continue training at Hartnell College, which will expand its access and training programs to its Alisal and King City satellite campuses.

These projects build upon the existing programs of the County Office of Education and the members of the Central Coast Broadband Consortium Public Computing Alliance (“The Alliance”). The Alliance membership, and the awards each will receive under this grant, are: Monterey County Office of Education (\$2,190,837); Hartnell College (\$659,246); California State University, Monterey Bay (\$348,374); the Monterey County Free Libraries (\$163,321); the Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County (\$119,300); the Community Information Center (\$122,839); and the National Steinbeck Center (\$27,578).

Hamish Tyler, Director of the Media Center for Art, Education and Technology, will direct the Alliance.

The project will extend training to parents and other adult learners through the Center and via the mobile digital media classroom that will travel throughout the region, and will:

- Establish three new public computer centers, upgrade as many as 25 more, and deploy approximately 600 new computer workstations while upgrading as many as 300.
- Enable access for as many as 5,000 new users each week, serving a projected 16,000 weekly users in total. Many of the upgraded centers will also offer improved access speeds and shorter wait periods.
- Train as many as 10,000 residents with approximately 400,000 hours of teacher-led training over the two years of the project.

The MCOE and its partners formed the Central Coast Broadband Consortium Public Computing Alliance, a project proposed by the Monterey County Office of Education, to secure the two-year project. The funding comes from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The project also includes \$2.1 million in local matching funds.

Congressman Sam Farr provided guidance and encouragement for the proposal from the earliest stages of its development and advised the Department of Commerce of the local need. The Public Computing Alliance will assist residents of the Salinas Valley in using the Internet in their educational, vocational, and personal goals.

One of the most visible components of the project will be a mobile digital classroom that will bring Internet workstations and training to the communities in the Salinas Valley.

The **California State University, Monterey Bay** will expand computer access and training at its Community Learning Center in the Chinatown neighborhood of Salinas and, in a separate project through the University’s Service Learning program, involve students as trainers of community youth in digital multimedia production in South Monterey County.

Hartnell College will extend its campus computer network to satellite campuses and develop digital and bilingual learning activities.

Monterey County Free Library System will expand its public computing capacity.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County will introduce youngsters to digital multimedia production with user-friendly technology.

Community Information Center will loan laptops and provide bilingual training for parents of school-age children, to encourage them to assume an active role in their children’s studies.

National Steinbeck Center will provide broadband Internet access in its own facilities and extend its curriculum development work with an emphasis on digital multimedia resources.

Continued from Page 3: Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival

The Student Days are made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. McGillen and the donors who support the project. Schools pay no costs other than transportation and substitutes, if needed. Students are selected to introduce each author and speaker. Teachers are encouraged to have their students read the authors' books before or after the Festival.

This year, Carmel Middle School, Washington Middle School, La Paz Middle School, Harden Middle School, San Lucas School, Mission School, Colton Middle School, Seaside Middle School, Los Arboles Middle School, and Chalone Peaks Middle School participated in the afternoon sessions.

The morning sessions were attended by the high schools of Alisal, North Salinas, Salinas, Alvarez, King City, Greenfield, Seaside, Marina, Monterey, Carmel Valley, Gonzales, Pacific Grove and Fairview Middle School.

Student Days at the fifth annual Carmel Authors and Ideas Festival will be September 29 and 30, 2011.

Coordination of the Students Days is through the Monterey County Office of Education. For information on the 2011 event and how to register, contact Marsha Kelly at marshagci@yahoo.com or Ron Eastwood at eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us and (831) 755-0396.



The Big Read: Tom Sawyer Takes Over Monterey County



Dr. Cindy Lovell, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal, Missouri entertained and informed teachers, librarians and staff of the Boys & Girls Clubs at The Big Read's kick-off event on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.



This year, the Big Read centered on Mark Twain's great novel "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*." During the month of September, the Carmel Authors and Ideas Festival presented this major community event created by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Partners in this year's Big Read event include the Western Stage, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Salinas and Seaside, the 17 branches of the Monterey County Free Libraries, the public libraries of the cities of Salinas, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel, the National Steinbeck Center, the Monterey County Office of Education, and schools throughout Monterey County.

The kick-off event began with a teacher in-service where Dr. Lovell entertained, inspired and captivated the audience. Teaching materials, including study guides, class sets of the novel, and teachers guides were available in English and Spanish.

During a reception, as they strolled around the Steinbeck Center, guests had the opportunity to meet Tom Sawyer characters. Dr. Lovell continued with stories in the Main Theater. Monterey County's own Mark Twain, Taelen Thomas, presented tales from Twain's writings and lectures. The Western Stage performed a short act from "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*."

Tim and Mark Young, students in the MCOE Home Charter School entertained the audience with violin performances, Both Tim and Mark have their entire academic career in Home Charter School. Tim, a 6th grader, and his brother Mark, a 9th grader became interested in the violin through a music program offered by the Home Charter School.



Who's Who in the Photos in this Issue

PAGE 1:

Julia Bolz explains to a group of students from the high schools of Salinas how, in the northern areas of Afghanistan where she works, a particular hat identifies a man's occupation, tribal affiliation or social standing.

Ms. Bolz is focused on educating and empowering the poor in the developing world. Shortly after 9/11, she founded an organization that raises funds in communities across America to build and repair dozens of schools in Afghanistan, serving over 25,000 Afghan students.

Her group has also provided wells; distributed textbooks, school supplies and athletic equipment; provided teacher trainings; and set up libraries, computer centers and PTAs.

Ms. Boltz not only seeks to build schools, but to build bridges of understanding between the United States and Afghanistan. She regularly speaks around the country, writes about her experiences, and meets with political decision-makers. She has received several national awards for her civic engagement, leadership, and passionate citizenship.

PAGE 3: Top of page, Left to Right:

Photo 1: Julia Bolz and students from the Salinas high schools.

Photo 2: Eric Schlosser talks with Breanna Kromer, the student from Seaside Middle School who introduced him to the audience on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Schlosser is an investigative journalist, playwright and motion picture producer. His writings have appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, the *Nation*, and the *New Yorker*. He wrote the groundbreaking book *"Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All American Meal"* (2001). His second book, *Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market* (2003), explored the nation's growing underground economy. He was the executive producer on the film *There Will Be Blood*, based on the novel *"Oil!"* by Upton Sinclair. His plays are: *Americans* (2003) and *We the People* (2007).

Photo 3: Dr Condoleezza Rice, former United States Secretary of State and author, is flanked by Quentin Wheeler (right) and his mother Tiffany Wheeler (left) before going onstage. Quentin is a student at Marina

High School. He introduced Dr. Rice to the students in the audience at the Friday morning session.

Dr. Rice's first book, an autobiography, is titled *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*. It is the story of Condoleezza Rice as a little girl trying to find her place in a hostile world, and of two remarkable parents and an extended family and community, which made all the difference. Her book takes us not just through her childhood but also her twenties and thirties as she builds a record of achievement that positions her for involvement in world-historical events.

Photo 4: Dr. Rice surrounded by the high school students who introduced the authors at the Friday morning session.

PAGE 4: Top, Middle and Bottom of page:

Photo 1: Scott Davis receives "A Day Made Better" award from OfficeMax.

Photo 2: Jillian Wiker who received the California International Airshow's Distinguished Service Award.

Photo 3: Gary Vincent donates blood at Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance also know as 9/11.

PAGE 6:

Photo 1: First Column:

Students from Seaside Middle School prepare to go onstage.

Dr. Rice speaks to students from Carmel Middle School as Principal Ken Griest observes.

Photo 2: Second Column:

Dr. Cindy Lovell, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Museum in Hannibal, Missouri presents to teachers and librarians during the in-service at The Big Read kick-off event.

Tim and Mark Young at a practice session before going onstage at The Big Read.

PAGE 8: Left to Right:

Students enjoying a presentation of the play "Tom Sawyer" by the Western Stage at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas.

Students assembling for the Carmel Authors & Ideas Festival at the Sunset Cultural Center in Carmel-By-The-Sea.

AHEAD is looking for the unNEWSual!

**Send your story ideas to
eastwood@monterey.k12.ca.us**



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