



Upcoming
Events/Calendar

From The Executive Director's Desk:



Hello FPCS Families, Friends and Community,

Many thoughts are conjured up as we consider the term "home stretch"—the final segment of the race, the big push to the finish line. I believe this is synonymous with the end of the school year. We are now in what is considered the home stretch and just as in any race, we don't want to saunter over the finish line; we want to sprint, look forward, stretch ourselves right up to the finish, and then celebrate that we did our best. I encourage everyone—students, staff, teachers, and parents—to keep this analogy in mind as we navigate through these last six+ weeks of school. During our last weeks together, we will be participating in many California state assessments. As we all attempt to sprint to the end of the year, it is my hope that we take time to reflect on how much we have progressed and accomplished during this past school year. Thank you parents and friends for helping and supporting your child throughout the year. Together, we continue to achieve excellence in student success.

Best, Dr. Miguel Gonzales

May 5

Allan Hancock College (AHC)
Friday Night Science: free & open to the community.

<http://www.hancockcollege.edu/fridaynightscience/>

May 5-6

Makerspace Weekend at AHC, Santa Maria Public Library, & Discovery Museum

<http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/home/showdocument?id=22053>

May 14



Happy Mother's Day!!

May 15

SLO Center's Enrollment Forms Due

May 18

Solvang Site Student Art Presentation and Open House:
4:30 – 6:30 pm

May 29 – No School, Mem. Day

June 7 – Graduation

June 9 Last Day of School

Important Contact Numbers

Administrative Office:
(805) 348-3333

Registrar:
(805) 348-3333, ext. 1025

Fax: (805) 348-3334

Principal's Report:



Hello FPCS Families, Friends and Community,

I cannot believe how fast the school year has gone by! We are now in the final weeks or the “stretch run” of the academic year. Many images come to mind as we consider the term “stretch run” including the big push to the finish line or the final segment of the race. With this comes the excitement of watching how fast and far we have all come. As a district, we are now in the home stretch of the academic year, and just as in any race or journey, we want to finish as strong as possible, and then celebrate that we did our best. I encourage students, parents, teachers, and staff to keep this in mind as we finish these last weeks of school and during our yearly state (SBAC) testing which runs from May 2nd through May 19th. I want to take this time to thank all of the parents, friends, guardians, teachers, and staff for helping and supporting our students during the 2016/17 school year.

See you all at the finish line!

Jules Manfreda

Site Highlights

[Morro Bay \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 3:](tel:8053483333)

Egg Drop Engineering Event

The Egg Drop Event was a smashing hit! Great designs engineered by our students were tossed by staff from the extended height of a cherry picker with excited students watching the impact. It was amazing to see so many raw eggs make it!



Snorkeling in Catalina to observe fish in their natural habitat, pet sharks and rays in observation tanks, study zooplankton and phytoplankton through microscopes and hiking the terrain of a beautiful volcanic island to observe Catalina's flora and fauna was the best way to inspire our young scientists and prepare for the state science test coming soon.

Smarter Balance Assessment - May 2-12

After spring break, MB is scheduled to take the 5th grade Science Assessment and State Smarter Balance Assessment.

Barbecue Tickets Due – May 12

National Bike to School Day - May 10

All K-5 grade students are invited to bike to school along with teachers and students across the nation to celebrate the health benefits of biking and walking to school. Parents will be sponsoring a healthy breakfast and special biking activities will continue during PE.

Continuing Enrollment Form Due – May 15

To re-enroll for fall 2017, please complete the "Continuing Student Registration Form" by May 15, 2017. You can find the form at the following link: <https://forms.doc-tracking.com/224604/224886/1570>

Open enrollment for new students! Invite anyone interested in our program and anyone you think may be a good fit for our unique Montessori model to complete: "Student Interest Form" on our website www.fpcharter.org

Benchmark Assessments – May 16-18

Field Day - May 19th

Fitness activities are planned for everyone's enjoyment in an all day celebration of healthy living and the completion of state testing!

Other Important Dates: Year End Celebration – May 26, May 30-June 2 – Report Card Conferences, May 30- June 9 Independent Study Days, June 7 – Graduation, June 8 – Ravine Water Park Family Fun Day, June 9 – Semester Ends

PARENT APPRECIATION - Many thanks to our dedicated parents who volunteer their time and talents in so many ways. Special thanks to MPN and Jen Foronjy who received a \$2,000 grant from Whole Foods to enhance our garden, outdoor classroom, and enrich our nature studies!



[In the Morro Bay Community](#)

On Saturday, May 13, Wild in the Plaza will take place where kids get to see various wildlife up close. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.pacificwildlife.org/>

On Saturday, May 13, participate in "Miracle Miles for Kids" to help raise funds for children, youth, and families impacted by trauma.

On Friday, May 19 is National Bike to Work Day. Just fellow Morro Bay community members at the City Hall from 7-9am for the biggest bike to work day celebration.



On Saturday, May 20 come by the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History at 2:00 pm to get a chance to get up close and personal with a variety of insects.

[Orcutt Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 6:](http://www.fpccharter.org)

"I like coming here to work. I don't know why, but I'm sure there are many reasons." OLC Student

Moving Fast and Rebuilding

Current enrollment: 66 Open enrollment is now underway for grades 9-12. We have a marquee in our window.

Lots of Activities

Nate attended the California Charter School Conference (CCSA) in Sacramento. He attended several workshops.

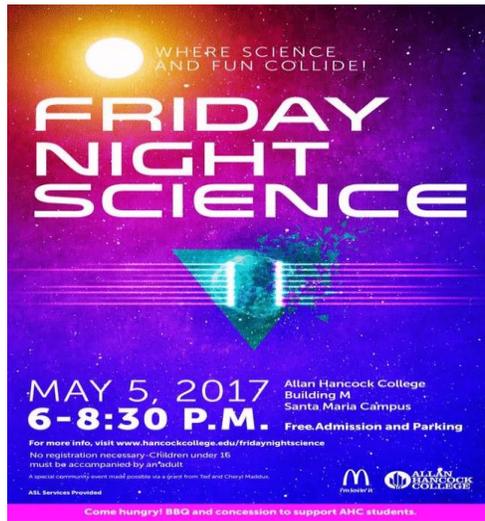
Michael attended the Get Focused, Stay Focused workshop in Carpinteria: This two day training will help qualify him to teach the AHC PROD 301 course on our campus during the 2017/18 school year. This course is designed to guide students as they explore their perspective careers, help them set goals, and create a career focused portfolio in which they can continue to develop after they graduate from high school.

Rebecca attended the AHC Bridges to Success Meeting: Topics included the undocumented student, Multiple Measures (using grades as well as placement testing scores), and START Placement testing (we will be able to do this now on our campus).

Launching the Next Generation (STEM Event) Students and staff were inspired as astronaut Jose Hernandez, ret. shared how he went from a migrant child working in agriculture, to earning a PhD and becoming an astronaut after many life challenges. This story was mentioned in a local newspaper article: http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/education/former-nasa-astronaut-encourages-local-students-to-aim-for-the/article_6f1ef74e-eea1-5c40-b275-62cbe23bfb72.html

The focus in **May** will be TESTING, TESTING, TESTNG. Students are practicing and feeling confident. Our advisors/cheerleaders have been doing a wonderful job and work as a great team! Please visit our school website calendar to see dates and times for important events including the May testing schedule.

We are undergoing and foresee **great changes** in the coming year. We look forward to and are planning what the Orcutt Learning Center will offer our students in the next academic year. We will be adding additional courses including AHC: PROD 301 –Get Focused, Stay Focused in addition to an art course.



Friday Night Science: On May 5, look for us in the makerspace building at the “Tear Apart Station” at Allan Hancock College, Building M.

[In the Orcutt Community](#)

On Saturday, May 6, the Orcutt library will be having a book sale. For more information, you can visit the following website <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/orcutt-library-book-sale-tickets-33686806144>

[SLO Vicente Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 2:](#)

Testing

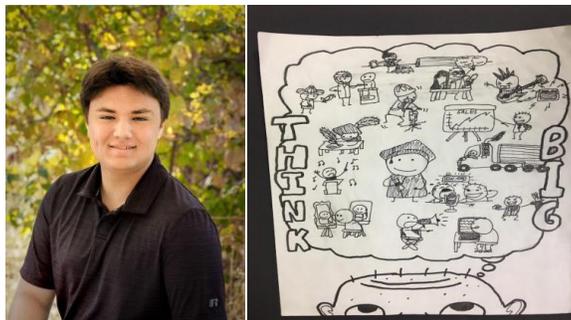
SBAC testing begins Tuesday, May 2 (no classes). Physical education testing will be on May 16-17 during class time. Scantron testing for middle school will take place the week of May 22, and for high school, the week of May 29.

Support/enrichment classes end on May 19 for middle school students, May 25 for high school students, and May 30 for K-5.

May 15 continuing student registration forms are due. Look for your enrollment letter that was emailed out to all families.

Cuesta College enrichment registration begins for summer on May 5 and for fall on June 28.

Important End of Term Dates: 8th grade promotion on June 2, graduation on June 7, and last day of school on June 9.



Congratulations to SLO 10th grader Thomas Kessler who won this year's yearbook cover contest.

[In the SLO Community](#)

The Central Coast Children's Choir (CCCC) is welcoming new members. SLO County boys and girls can join Debut Choir (grades 2-3), Apprentice Choir (grades 4-6), Premiere Choir (grades 6-9), and Concert Choir (grades 7-12). For more information, view the following website:

<http://www.centralcoastchildrenschoir.org/>

The SLO County Library in Los Osos is hosting a "Paws to Read" program. Children can improve their reading skills and make a new friend by reading aloud to a therapy dog. Bring your favorite book or read one of ours. You can obtain more information at their website:

<http://www.slolibrary.org/index.php/about/locations/los-osos-library>

Santa Maria BUSD Learning Center (805) 348-3333, Ext. 4:

The Santa Maria Learning Center students have had a productive learning period filled with many engaging activities and assignments. We enjoyed a trek off campus to Hearst Castle in April and it was a huge success for all. We enjoyed the day with 13 parents and 38 students as we traveled up to San Simeon. It was great to be able to share the experience with parents and students who saw the castle for the very first time.



In science, our students learned about, "Infectious Diseases" using a Bubonic Plague case study. The students individually chose an infectious disease to research in an enrichment assignment. They presented their assignments via PowerPoint to their peers. After the presentations, they all participated in a "Bubonic Plague" simulation to better understand the effects disease can have on society, as well as how the disease was able to spread so rapidly over great distances.



In social studies, the students also completed an enrichment project. Each student chose a Greek god or goddess and created an original poster that detailed the characteristics, family lineage, powers, nicknames, weapons, and other interesting information. The students then showcased their artistic presentation in an in-class forum.

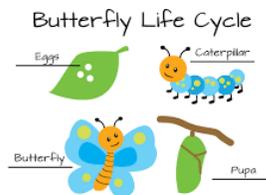


The 8th grade graduation date has been set for **Thursday, May 25th at 5:30 at the Orcutt Center.** The 8th graders will spend the morning practicing and then return with family and friends for the ceremony. Thanks to the Orcutt Center for once again hosting the Santa Maria Learning Center.

[Santa Maria Montessori \(805\) 348-3333. Ext. 5:](tel:8053483333)



Santa Maria Montessori Learning Center classes are enthralled with observing the process of metamorphosis, both as scientists and artists!



"Look! A butterfly!"

Students generate excellent questions: What is the difference between a moth and a butterfly? Do butterflies and caterpillars have an exoskeleton? Are they cold-blooded? Scientific studies of Lepidoptera lead into social studies (where in the world do certain species live?) and into math (a study of symmetry).

We completed a mixed-media project with an artist, and are now beginning a 6-week program of vocal music, with local music instructor Amy Curti.

Santa Maria Montessori will be having a fun filled family movie night on May 5. Come join us!



[Solvang Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 7:](#)

A college workshop was offered at the Learning Center in April. The workshop included information on college admission, 4-year and community college transfers, financial aid, and scholarships.

A counselor from Allan Hancock College will be visiting the Solvang Learning Center on May 16 to assist seniors who have taken their placement tests enroll in English and math classes. Sophomores and juniors interested in taking summer or fall class can receive assistance with completing the application process.



Our art class continues to go well and students are preparing to show their work at the May 18th open house and student art show (aka OH, SPAT! – Open House & Students Presenting Lovely Artistic Talents). The event is from 4:30-6:30 pm and is open to the community. Some students are working on chalk art pieces while others will be submitting art from other mediums, including paint, photography, jewelry-making and more. It is also an open house for all new students interested in enrolling in the fall 2017.

Other upcoming events in May include two weeks of state testing (L.A., Math, Science, and Physical Fitness), a celebration brunch for seniors organized at the learning center, and Spirit Week taking place on final exam week to add a little bit of fun to the last few days of the school year.

[In the Solvang Community](#)

Come to the Solvang library to participate in "Tail Waggin' Tutors." It's a reading program that incorporates therapy dogs. For more information, you can call 805.688.4214.



This month is an important time for seniors around the world. It is the time for them to decide on where they will study for the next 4 years. It is a huge decision that will impact them for the rest of their lives and have a major influence on their careers. As I tell all of my students, "your degree will stay with you forever, so make sure this is the college that you want to attend. You cannot erase or return your college degree." The good news is that if you attend a college that might not be the best fit for you, you can always transfer to another college that is better suited for your interests. Colleges vary in their transfer requirements so make sure to speak to a counselor at the college that you might want to transfer to ensuring you have met all of their requirements.

One student I was working with attended Occidental College in Los Angeles on a tennis scholarship, but after his first year, did not feel this college was a good fit for him. He then transferred to USC and is much happier with his college experience.

Another student attended the University of Oregon, but after one year could not tolerate the cold weather. She transferred to Moorpark College, where she completed the remainder of her general education requirements and then transferred to UCLA, which is a lot more difficult to get in right out of high school. She always dreamed of attending UCLA and now is in her first choice college.

It might take you a couple different colleges to secure the college of your dreams, but that is okay because the last college you attend is where you will receive your degree from, and what the employers will associate your education with. Therefore, my student from University of Oregon will now be able to show her future employer her degree from UCLA, which is much more prestigious than all of the other colleges she attended.

Editor's Desk

This newsletter is published monthly sent out at the beginning of every month to the FPCS community. If you would like to submit a story or event to this newsletter, please send it to submit@fpcharter.org. Submission deadline is the 20th of every month. Newsletter can be found at the following URL:

www.fpcharter.org/apps/pages/newsletter