



From The Executive Director's Desk:



Hello FPCS Families, Friends and Community,

I want to thank the parents, students, teachers, Allan Hancock College and central coast communities for your participation in our 1st annual science and technology fair. It was wonderful to see the many demos and presentations that took place. We hope that this event sparked curiosity and innovation with all of our students. What I enjoyed the most, however, was seeing the excitement and enthusiasm on our students' faces. We are looking forward to having our science and technology fair next year. If you have any suggestions on how we can enhance our science and technology fair, please feel free to contact me.

It is a pleasure to announce our newest board member Dr. George Railey. Dr Railey is the Associate Superintendent/Vice President of Academic Affairs at Allan Hancock College. His career in education spans more than 35 years. He is also a professional jazz musician. We are thrilled to have him on our governing council and will be a great asset to our school. This term will be for 4 years. Welcome Dr. Railey to our board!

Best, Dr. Miguel Gonzales



**Upcoming
Events/Calendar**

March 27

PAC, Children's Concert: K-5th
Morro Bay Montessori and SLO

March 31

Morro Bay Engineering Event for
K-5 graders.

April 4-7

Morro Bay center students will
travel to Catalina Island.

April 6

Santa Maria BUSD will be
traveling to Hearst Castle.

April 12

San Luis Obispo Open house
6:00-7:30

April 14

Spring break is from 4/14 – 4/21.
School resumes on Monday,
April 24

Important Contact Numbers

Administrative Office:
(805) 348-3333

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

Fax: (805) 348-3334

Principal's Report:



Welcome to Spring FPCS families! I cannot believe how fast the 2016/17 school year has flown by and how much the students at FPCS have grown! One of my true pleasures is being able to spend time in our classrooms, meeting the children and parents, and watching all the wonderful things that are occurring at our various centers. If you see me at any of our six learning centers, please take the time to introduce yourself to me.

On Wednesday, March 22, FPCS held its last Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the 2016/17 school year. Our PAC meetings have been a tremendous success and have provided FPCS administration the opportunity to collaborate with parents on a variety of topics and concerns, including the following: science fair feedback, enrollment protocols, and the school's mission & vision. Please consider joining us next year. Your input and feedback is valued and important so that our learnings centers can continually improve meeting the needs of our families.

In March, FPCS wrapped up its 1st annual district wide science fairs. I had the pleasure of attending many of the events and was extremely pleased with how much work the students and teachers put into the events. I was so impressed with the quality of the presentations, and the presenters at our various learning centers. This is an event that will be continued in our district on an annual basis during the spring term. I look forward to seeing it grow and expand. Besides seeing all the wonderful projects, my favorite part was meeting the children and their families, and seeing the huge smiles on their faces as I congratulated them on a job well done. If you enjoyed the science fair and would like to be involved in planning next year's fair, please consider joining our science fair parent committee that will be created sometime in the fall term. Please watch for an announcement in the September newsletter.

Spring break is scheduled for Friday, April 14th to Friday, April 21st. During this break, I hope all of you get a chance to spend some well-deserved quality time with friends and families.

Happy Spring Break! Mr. Jules Manfreda



In the Community

April 7: Walk to Work Month



April 22: Earth Day



Allan Hancock College

Is accepting high school *College Now!* enrollment forms starting **April 10** for the summer and fall 2017 semesters.

Earth Day celebrations on April 20 from 11-1:00 pm.



Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum has lots of community events throughout the month of April!!
<http://smvdiscoverymuseum.org/>

Site Highlights

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

American Montessori Society (AMS) Teacher Conference

Morro Bay (MB) staff returned from the National AMS Teacher Conference inspired with more STEM related curriculum areas as well as insights regarding best practices and implications of brain research.

Open House – March 22

The MB Open House was a great success with a huge turnout.

K-1 parents are anxious to hear the result of the upcoming lottery on March 28.

Garden Grant

Many thanks to the parents of the Montessori Parent Network who applied for and received a grant for \$2000 to enrich our outdoor classroom –our garden learning lab.

Morro Bay Low Tide Dockside Science Lab Field Trip – March 23

The 4-5 class took a walking field trip to the Morro Bay docks to explore the marine habitat underneath the floating docks and pier.

Music Education – Children’s Concert

Our year-long music education program will culminate with attendance at the SLO Symphony’s Children’s Concert at the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center on Monday, March 27. The SLO Symphony Music Van will visit grades 3 and 4 on Friday before the concert with opportunities for students to play various instruments.

Engineering Day

In support of science and technology, the MB learning center has an annual tradition of having several engineering events. On Friday, March 31, K-5 students will participate in solving an engineering challenge on campus. A second engineering event is planned for April.

Catalina, Cherry Cove - April 4-7

Grades 4-5 students will travel to Catalina Island for exciting marine science explorations, including: aquariums with an assortment of marine life, a marine museum, shark petting tanks, microscope labs to study plankton biodiversity, and a night snorkeling challenge to find bioluminescence and other discoveries.

Smarter Balance Assessment - May 2-12

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

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.

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!

[Orcutt Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 6:](tel:8053483333)

Mr. Michael Brajkovich, one of the teachers at this site, recently completed the training for “Get Focus, Stay Focused” at a local training in Carpinteria a couple weeks ago. Michael along with his colleague Rebecca Trott are now both certified to teach this important career course (PROD 301) to the students at the Orcutt site. Starting in the fall 2017, all 9th grade students will enroll in PROD 301, an Allan Hancock

course, and obtain 3 units of college credit along with credits toward their high school diploma. Family Partner Charter School would like all high school students in the Santa Maria service area to complete this course, which helps students develop a 4 year career plan that will be reviewed each year by their advisor. You can learn more about "Get Focused, Stay Focused" at the following web site: <http://www.getfocusedstayfocused.org/>

This site has several enrollment spots still available for the 2017-2018 school year. Open enrollment period is now underway for grades 9-12. There will be some changes in the coming year that will improve the educational experience of all students. A reminder to all current students to keep working and remain on track. Spring break is just around the corner.

Science Fair Winners: 1st Place: Brenden Molina, 2nd Place: Dustin & Taylor Crossman, Honorable Mention: Kevin Olguin. A special Thank you to Mr. Parker our official judge.



Guest Spotlight: Mr. John "Torito" Jimenez

Thank you to Mr. John "Torito" Jimenez for sharing the touching stories of his family's life struggles, accomplishments, and community contributions. Torito also signed books and posed for pictures after his presentation. It was truly a special day!



Student Spotlight: Message from 2010 Graduate Jenise Coates

"Since graduating from FPCS, I have received an associate's degree from Allan Hancock College. I have also received a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from California State University, Fresno. I am

currently working as an art teacher in the Valley and as an instructional assistant for special needs kids in the County of Santa Barbara."



Please visit the school's calendar online to see dates and times for the photography, math, science, and project based learning labs and other important events.

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

Congratulations to (left to right) Duke Meaney, Tommy Hamilton, Megan O'Brien, and Jeselle Purdy on winning medals at SLO's 11th annual science fair.



There will be a yearbook cover contest from April 4-5th. The winner will receive a free Family Partnership yearbook. Submit a photo, painting, or drawing to win. Student headshots are needed for the yearbook. Please submit your photo to Taren or Michele. Order your yearbooks now at www.treering.com/validate

There is an Open House planned on April 12 for new/prospective students from 6-7:30 pm.

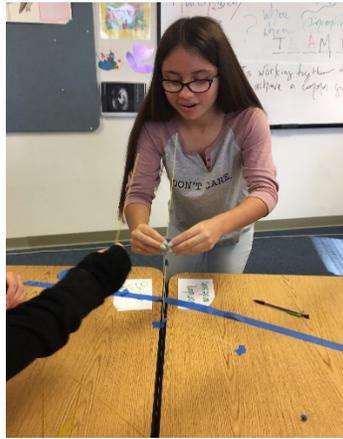
Middle school parents can come visit Gregg in "Afternoons with Math" on April 12 from 2:30-3:30 pm in room 2.

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

We are thrilled to announce that Ms Katrina Homer-Darg has returned to our center and has jumped right into the swing of things. In a particular math assignment, the students are constructing their own blueprint of their, "Dream House" which they must follow a set of directions to include all dimensions and a source of renewable energy. They presented their blueprints today in class.

It was a sad day on February 23rd as we said, "farewell" to our Instructional Assistant, Ms. Trish. She worked with the Santa Maria Learning Center for four fantastic years and was loved by all. We wish her well as she works toward becoming a Deputy Sheriff for the Santa Barbara County.

Preparing for the science fair was a huge part of our science curriculum since we had returned from winter break. The students were busy preparing written reports, demonstrations, experiments, project boards, and more! The Santa Maria Learning Center was proud to present so many truly fascinating science projects.

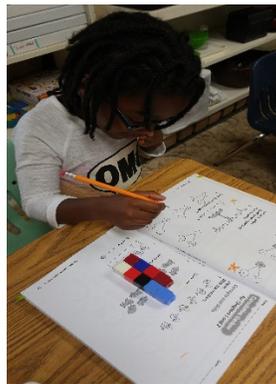


Hearst Castle here we come!! On April 6 our class will be traveling to San Simeon to tour Hearst's grand estate. The field trip was made possible through a Target Field trip Grant. Thanks to Viki Jimenez and Andrea Reiswig for assisting with bus reservations.

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

Science Fair

We enjoyed the February 24 science fair and believe it was very successful getting students, parents, family members, and community members involved supporting our students as they learn science. The students from AHC, with their hands-on activities, were a nice addition. Also it was very nice that the teachers from St. Louis de Montfort gave their students extra credit for attending our science fair.



Enrollment for 17-18

As of March 13, 2017, first grade is full and kindergarten is nearly full. It seems there will likely be a wait list for new kinder or first enrollments that come in after this week.

Santa Maria Public Library

Santa Maria Public Library sent out a children's librarian to visit classes at Santa Maria Montessori. The librarian had time to read a couple of stories. She also made sure our students were aware of all the

services available, including the newest digital resources (available for the older students). All students were given an application for a library card.

Righetti High School Drum Line

The Righetti High School Drum Line is planning to visit Santa Maria Montessori to perform on a day yet to be determined. They will perform for all K-5 students together with the pre-school students in an outdoor assembly.

Poetry Recital

Santa Maria Montessori students participated in the annual "Poetry Recital." The recital took place on March 24 at 6:30 pm at the Orcutt Presbyterian Church.

Fidgets Anyone?

Kari Montano has invested in a class set of "fidgets." What are fidgets you ask? They are squidgy little balls that kids can squeeze to exercise and occupy excess energy. Or, students may select a blue stretchy band that provides some resistance to bouncing feet. Either way, fidgets are available to any student in the class who seeks an acceptable way to burn off some excess energy. Kari has instructed students on how to use them safely and wisely, and each table group has easy access to them. After the initial novelty wore off, it turned out that some students really liked fidgets and they provided an acceptable outlet for excess energy, as well as a way for students to improve their ability to focus on classroom lessons.

American Montessori Society Conference

Robin was one of several Montessori teachers who attended the AMS Conference this past month.

[Solvang Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 7:](http://www.solvangelarningcenter.com)

The recent science fair at the Solvang Learning Center brought together student participants ranging from 4th to 10th grade. Teachers, parents, students, and administrators gathered to view the presentations of many interesting projects. First place awards were given to the top science projects in elementary, middle school, and high school.

The elementary grade-level winner was Ananda Main, who experimented with dying cut white flowers in order to expose the workings of the internal structures of plants, particularly the xylem and phloem.

The middle school winner was Krysten McDonald, whose experiment on the harmful effects of soda was illustrated by its effect on pennies.

The high school winner was Sierra Fermin-Block for her project on aquaponics. Sierra's project displayed a system in which fish waste supplied nutrients for plants to grow hydroponically, which means without soil. Lettuce plants were grown in rocks, rather than soil, and were watered and fed by the nutrients from a tank of goldfish through a pump system. All agreed that this project was exceptional, and in addition to winning first place in the high school category, Sierra also won the "Student Choice Award."

Honorable Mention went to two high school students, Aric Lotz and Isabella Gheza. Aric created a 3D vertical axis wind turbine for his engineering project. He emphasized the need for this type of invention in creating sustainable energy that is environmentally friendly, and designed the 3D turbine completely on his own. Isabella's science project tested the effects of radiation on living organisms, specifically radish seeds, yeast, and bacteria. These projects were very impressive and great examples of curiosity driving innovation and experimentation.

The Solvang Learning Center will be hosting more special events before the school year is over, and extends the invitation to anyone interested in participating to find out more about this learning center.



College and Career Tidbits by Dr. Gina La Monica



This past month many students received the status of their college admission applications. Some students were lucky to be accepted or waitlisted at their first choice colleges while others were rejected. If you were waitlisted at your college of choice, be sure to follow up with that college to find out what the next steps are in the admission process. Some colleges like the UCs ask for a follow up essay of 200 words detailing again why you want to attend this school. Make sure your follow up essay specifically discusses why this college is your number one choice detailing how it relates to your major and career path. Colleges do not want to accept students who are undecided. While you wait to hear from your waitlisted college, make sure you start the admission process for your second choice school that you received acceptance to. The most important item to submit is a deposit for your housing, otherwise, you might end up at the worst housing facility or no housing at all. Be aware that this deposit is often nonrefundable. For many parents, this is a difficult decision to make, but it is well worth it to ensure your child has a suitable housing arrangement for next year.

College Trivia For fall 2016, the colleges who received the most applications in the nation were UCLA – 92,728, UC Berkeley – 78,924, UCSD- 78,056, UC Irvine – 71,768, and UCSB – 70,444.

NATIONAL COLLEGE
DECISION DAY
MAY 1
#judecision

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