



# Family Partnership Charter School

Bringing the Best Together For Student Success

## June 2017 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4



### Upcoming Events/Calendar

#### From The Executive Director's Desk:



Greetings FPCS Parents,

I have had the tremendous honor to work at Family Partnership Charter School for the past two years. I have worked with amazing parents, educators and leaders during my time here as both principal and executive director. Although my stay with FPCS was brief, I am pleased to be part of the growth and progress it has accomplished. I am also extremely proud of my own personal and professional growth during this time as well.

After much thought, I have accepted a new position outside of California and will be resigning from my position as executive director for Family Partnership Charter School. I have accepted a position as a professor of educational leadership and policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Our classified coordinator, Kathy Grbac, will serve as the interim executive director. Kathy Grbac was the co-founder of a California public charter school and was the director of school services. She also has over 10 years of charter school experience and earned her Chief Business Official (CBO) certification through UC Riverside.

I look forward to my new career even though I will miss working at FPCS. Thank you for the support and the opportunities that you have provided me during my time here. I wish FPCS all the best.

Thanks, Miguel M. Gonzales, Ed.D.

**June 1** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit, Transition Day – Orcutt Learning Center

**June 7** – Graduation, 6- 8 pm, Elks Lodge in Santa Maria

**June 8** – Ravine Water Family Fun – Morro Bay, End of the Year Barbeque for BUSD at Miramonte Park.

**June 9** - Last Day of School for Students, End of the Year Ceremonies

**June 12** - Last Day of School for Teachers

**June 18** - Happy Father's Day



**August 21** - First Day of School at FPCS

**August 21** – First Day of School at Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College

#### Important Contact Numbers

Administrative Office:  
(805) 348-3333

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## Principal's Report:



FPCS Families and Staff,

I just wanted to thank each and every one of you for making the 2016-17 school year so successful. I also wanted to thank you for making my first year at FPCS so wonderful. I am excited to continue moving forward together for the betterment of our students. Family Partnership Charter School is on the cusp of great things. Together we can become the model for personalized learning in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Please enjoy the summer months with family and friends. See you next school year!

Jules Manfreda

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## Site Highlights

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

As the year comes to a close, it is heart-warming to reflect back on the year filled with so many accomplishments, shared adventures, and friendships. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance along with so many grandparents and guests at our year-end celebration this past Friday. We are filling up more of the Recreation Center venue each year with lots of events. The students were precious singing their favorite songs and rapping to the *Tour of the States* with so many words. Students really worked hard to match the tempo and beat!



Our year-end rock tradition provides a way for all teachers to honor each student and weave our various studies together over time. As K/1 students explore interesting rocks, their attributes, names, and types; 2/3 students dive deeper into earth science to study rock formations; and 4/5 students see their growing understanding of geometry and chemistry intertwine in crystals and rocks and the periodic table of

elements. With a different rock for each year, sixth-year students could appreciate seeing their fluorite rock take shape in a natural octahedron!



Sadness mixes with excitement for all those students moving on up to junior high and those relocating to other locations. We look forward to seeing all of the returning students and families on the first day of the new school year for an orientation.

### **First Day of School – Orientation**

**Monday, August 21, 2017**

On behalf of all of the entire Morro Bay staff, have a wonderful summer vacation and best wishes to all for a great year ahead!

**Other Important Dates: May 30- June 9 Independent Study Days, June 7 – Graduation, June 8 – Ravine Water Park Family Fun Day, and June 9 – Semester Ends**

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

Here we are at the end of the school year and have only DAYS to go. We are preparing for great changes as we look forward to the 2017-18 school year. Orcutt Learning Center (OLC) staff are setting up for next year and plan to implement additional sections including: AHC PROD 301 –Get Focused Stay Focused, a hands-on Art class, Science Labs, Mobile MakerSpace, and a two-day program for ninth and tenth grade students and more.

As for May... it has been a most eventful month for our hardworking students, but we managed to have fun as they are finishing their classes.

On June 1, Dr. Gina La Monica conducted a college admission workshop for our entering class of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It was very informative and students asked lots of great questions.

The OLC was again fortunate to be right on the path of America's greatest cycling race, the [Amgen Tour of California \(ATOC\)](#), so the center closed for a few minutes as we, along with our neighbors, showed the international athletes our support.



## OLC Student Spotlight: Gregory Caresio



### Gregory's Story:

During Gregory's sophomore year at St. Joseph's High School, Greg was having some health issues, which required him to miss a significant amount of school. The family needed a school option that was flexible. The family heard about Family Partnership Charter (FPSC) from their neighbor. The classes from St. Joseph's transferred to FPCS. Gregory was also able to begin taking college level courses at Allan Hancock College (AHC) at the age of 15 and received credit for college and high school concurrently. Family Partnership's photography class has been his favorite so far, giving him a new interest. Family Partnership also allowed him to begin making skateboard racks as a side business at the local One Way Board Shop.

In 2016, Gregory also started working at Albertsons part-time as a box boy and cashier. This summer, he will continue with his educational goals of obtaining a Criminal Justice degree by taking his first Administrative Justice course at AHC. His senior year will be busy with three classes at AHC through their "College Now" program for high school students. Family Partnership will allow him to graduate next May at the age of 17 with about a year of college already under his belt. He enjoys hiking in his spare time and classic cars.

**We are so proud of our OLC students. They are the best!**

[SLO Vicente Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333, Ext. 2:](http://www.slovicentelearningcenter.com)



Congratulations to our seniors graduating on June 7<sup>th</sup>! The ceremony is at 6 pm at Santa Maria Elks Lodge. Student honors go to the following students: Hannah Sloan 2017 Valedictorian (graduating a year early), Annie Kitzman 2017 Salutatorian (graduating a year early), and Ryan Nett is graduating from Cuesta College (in addition to FPCS) at age 17. Ryan Nett was interviewed by The Tribune <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/education/article151647157.html>

Ten seniors who have registered for fall classes at Cuesta are well on their way to receiving the Cuesta Promise – fee free year.

We successfully completed SBAC/PE testing. Currently, we are conducting end of the year Benchmark/Scantron testing for grades 6-12. K-5 grades have completed their Fastbridge testing.

## Important Dates

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Celebration: June 2 from 11-1:30 pm

Graduation: June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Santa Maria Elks Lodge

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: June 9<sup>th</sup>

SLO Center Office Only: Last Day is June 16<sup>th</sup>. Closed all summer until August 8<sup>th</sup>. Santa Maria Office will be open and available at (805) 348-3333 x1010.

2017/2018 School Year begins August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>...more information to come.

## [Santa Maria BUSD Learning Center \(805\) 348-3333. Ext. 4:](http://www.fpcharter.org)

Greetings from the Santa Maria Learning Center!

June finds our center busy with many activities and projects to send our students off for the summer.

We were proud to promote fourteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders last Thursday, May 25 at the Orcutt Learning Center. The ceremony was hosted by advisors Ms. Stefanie Poland, Ms. Katrina Homer-Darg and coordinator Carl Krugmeier. School principal Mr. Jules Manfreda was also present. He gave a heartfelt speech to the students during the ceremony. A special moment at the ceremony was after the students came up to receive their promotion certificates went out to the audience to present their loved ones with a red rose of love and appreciation. It was a special evening had by all.



To enrich our program via cross-curricular study, the students will participate in the "Oregon Trail" class simulation. During this multi-day unit of study, students will experience westward expansion by participating in a wagon train from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon. Their experiences will include the planning stages of the trip, to problems on the trail, and concluding with the arrival at their final destination. They will then compare and contrast their experiences with the actual journey along the Oregon Trail. Not only will history be examined, but students will also explore and utilize concepts from math, science, and the English-Language Arts through their simulated journey.

Additionally, the junior high math curriculum is being enriched through a hands-on, real-world, project-based activity; the students are given a budget and must plan a vacation. Each student selected a state for which they will visit. With a designated budget, students must coordinate a 10 day, 9 night vacation to the state of their choosing. Researching real cities/towns, places of interest, hotels, cost of gas, miles, etc., students will apply real-world mathematical principles to finance their vacation. As the students complete

this project, they cannot go over their designated budgets. This project will also bridge mathematics with the other core curriculum to instill a sense of real life application of mathematical theory.



Our end of the year barbeque with students and their families will be held on June 8th at Miramonte Park. The day will be filled with an epic game of kickball, hamburgers, and special student awards. This event is always a fantastic way to end the year and begin a relaxing summer.

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

Staff and teachers at the Santa Maria Montessori Learning Center are enjoying the last few weeks of the school year with engaging activities and projects. Fourth and 5th grade students created biography projects to reflect a biography of their choosing. Jeff Kinney, author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, was just one of the many individuals highlighted in a creative visual display. Second and 3rd grade students are researching a personal passion. They are writing an essay and developing a project to reflect what they have learned. Topics include running, finger knitting, painting, the Navy S.E.A.L.S and much more! Students are making models, dioramas, paintings, and slide shows to share with their classmates. K-1 students will be investigating inertia and developing 3-D sculptures using materials to represent lines.

We will celebrate our last day of school on June 9th with a music performance by all students at 10:30 am. Families will be invited to participate in games, a short ceremony to mark the end of another school year, and a backyard luncheon.



The Scholastic book fair returns to the Santa Maria Montessori Learning Center for the second time this year . . . with a BOGO deal!! The book fair will be open through Friday, June 9th at 1pm. Come by and enjoy the benefits of the BOGO book fair from Scholastic! With THANKS to Bonnie Williamson for organizing this excellent event!!

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

The Solvang Learning Center was abuzz with activity during the month of May, drawing the school year toward its close and students closer to their summer vacations.

Two series of tests took place last month. At the beginning of the month, state testing in the areas of Language Arts, Reading, Math, and Science were completed. At the end of the month, students completed their third benchmark tests of the year. These tests are utilized for monitoring areas of student growth, and areas of need.

OH SPLAT, which stands for Open House and Students Presenting Lovely Artistic Talents, was a new event this year and highlighted the many talents and abilities of students of all ages. Some students created chalk art, while others displayed drawings, paintings, handmade jewelry, and photographs. It was a fun event, and students enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their creative sides.



A celebratory pancake brunch was held for graduating seniors. Teachers and parents provided pancakes, bacon, fruit, muffins, juice, coffee, and cake for seniors in honor all of the years of hard work and effort that has brought them to the end of their high school careers and to the new beginning ahead of them.

Finals' week this semester coincided with Spirit Week, a week-long schedule which included Crazy Sock Day, Hat Day, Mismatch Day and Pajama Day.

A Family Partnership Charter School banner went up over Highway 246 in Solvang for two weeks at the end of May and will be taken down at the beginning of June. As thousands of people see the banner daily, and it is expected to remind the community of our unique programs, and result in many inquiries into fall enrollment at our learning center.





For most seniors, the decision has been made by now where to attend college in the fall. Planning for your first year in college entails completing many items, but the first one on your list should be to notify your college of choice your acceptance and then paying for your housing. Most colleges have limited student housing, and therefore, the first students who submit their payment tend to obtain the best housing situation.

Other items to complete once you graduate from high school include sending in your final grades to your college along with any current AP test scores and college transcripts if you took classes at a local community college. Follow up with your college admission advisor to ensure you obtain credit for all of these courses. This will not only shorten your length of time in college, but save you money on tuition for classes you no longer have to complete.

Contacting the financial aid office is also a good idea to confirm the awards you obtained to help pay for your college tuition. Your aid should be a combination of grants, scholarships, work study, and/or loans.

Finalize your housing situation and meal plans once your deposit has been processed. You will be probably getting a roommate that you have never met before so you might want to get to know that person before school starts. Also, getting familiar with the housing unit that was assigned to you is also a good idea to better prepare for the start of school.

Additionally, find out when you are supposed to register for classes and contact your advisor beforehand to help you select your courses. Furthermore, find out when freshman orientation will take place. There is valuable information presented at these sessions. This event is usually for the entire family so bring your parents.

The more prepared you are before your first day of college, the better the experience will be for you. The transition from high school to college is overwhelming in itself so plan ahead; do not wait until the last minute to complete the items listed above, which might make this experience very stressful.

Enjoy your college years and make them your best.

Good luck!

### 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](mailto:submit@fpcharter.org). Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. Newsletter can be found at the following URL:  
[www.fpcharter.org/apps/pages/newsletter](http://www.fpcharter.org/apps/pages/newsletter)