



Family Partnership Charter School

Bringing the Best Together For Student Success

February/March 2018 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4



Science Fair

A school-wide science fair is not only an occasion to celebrate learning it presents an opportunity for igniting inspiration and stimulating creativity that transcends the isolation of a home-study program or individual learning center. Student participation in a science fair presents students with an opportunity to explore much more than science. It stimulates curiosity; prompting questions and a reason for seeking insight. In the process, the emerging scientist synthesizes knowledge about the world around them.

The science fair is the culmination of scientific inquiry, research, experimentation, and demonstration. Students develop an appreciation for the work of scientists and their discoveries. The exhibition is the culmination of much hard work and provides a platform to showcase the individual's learning and bolster their confidence while surrounded by the supportive company of their peers and the encouragement of the Family Partnership School community. While participating in the collaborative atmosphere of the science fair, students, teachers and participants self-reflect have conversations and gather new ideas for further study or inventiveness. Through the science fair we gather as a school to celebrate the creativity, talent, application and confidence of our students, capably guided through our family partnerships. Please join us at the Able Maldonado Youth Center, on Friday, February 9, 2018 from 10:30-12:30 for the 2nd Annual Family Partnership Charter School Science Fair!

Kathy Grbac, Interim Executive Director

Did You Know...

Family Partnership recently was awarded a California SUMS Initiative sub-grant of \$25,000 to support our professional development activities aligned to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is a SUMS endorsed strategy intended to support student learning through differentiated content, processes and tools (personalized learning) within a multi-tiered system of support.



Upcoming Events/Calendar

Feb 2

Valentine's Craft and Kindness Volunteer Event – Solvang Center

Feb 9

School Science Fair

Feb 16-19

Presidents' Weekend – No school

Feb 23

End of LP 5

Feb 28

'Intent to Continue' deadline

Mar 1

Open Enrollment for new students begins

Mar 13

Governance Council Meeting

Mar 30 – Apr 6

Spring Break



Student Spotlight – Dustin Crossman – Orcutt Learning Center

FPCS senior, Dustin Crossman, has a passion for all things Disney! He created a very in depth report on the Disney Theme Parks for his senior project under the guidance of FPCS teacher, Elaine Gay. Dustin has been attending Family Partnership since fifth grade. He has previously completed projects on the life of Walt Disney as well as a review of Disney Films. As a frequent visitor to the Disney Theme Parks, Dustin shared a lot of first-hand knowledge regarding the pros and cons of the various Disney Parks, their rides, attractions and future plans.



News From Our Learning Centers

Solvang –

In partnership with Youth Empowered, FPCS will be hosting a Valentine's Craft & Kindness Volunteer Event. This will take place on Friday, Feb 2, from 2-5 P.M. at the Solvang Center. All cards will be given to the local non-profit group, Angels Bearing Gifts. The mission of Angels Bearing Gifts is to bring happiness to developmentally disabled adults who have no one to remember them on special occasions. Our goal is to create 200 Valentine's Day cards.



Morro Bay –

Lots of activities are in the works at Morro Bay. In February, sixteen students from Morro Bay and SLO will participate in the Model Montessori United Nations program at the United Nations in New York City! The Montessori Parent Network has fund-raised over \$30,000 to facilitate this activity, students have studied hard and spent months in preparation for this event.

Also coming up in February is the Poetry Festival and field trips to the PAC.

The NOAA Ocean Guardian School garden project is

Family Partnership Staff Spotlight – Cate Threlkeld, Instructional Assistant – BUSD



Cate has been a welcome addition and tremendous support to our BUSD center staff and students. As a graduate of San Diego State University with a degree in Biology, Cate enjoys sharing her love of science and the natural world with our middle school students. Her students have responded with enthusiasm for their science fair projects and she has been a valuable guide as they engage in

the scientific method of inquiry and discovery.

Cate also plays the piano and flute and spends her free time hiking and bird watching in the company of her fiancé, Matt.

scaling up with the installation of a water line to the garden and the purchase of materials and supplies.



Students in 2-5th grades are learning about the formation of the earth and its layers.

The Trout in the Classroom project is also in process! Soon we will see baby trout growing in size in preparation for release in nearby fresh waters.



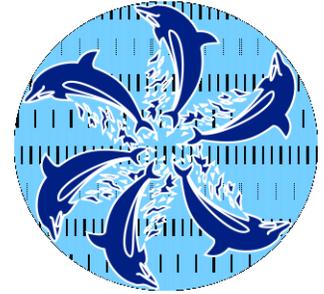
FPCS students on our playground in the shadow of Morro Rock!

Santa Maria Montessori -

Following the lead of the non-profit organization, Kids for Peace Global SMM students have set a goal to focus on and practice kindness. Class discussions on the topic of kindness and activities designed to promote kindness will encourage students to develop their own acts of kindness.

Students in Mrs. Kari Montano's 2/3 class are busy researching California landmarks and creating a slideshow which they will present.

4/5th grade students just concluded a 12 week study of German using the Duolingo app. They are now well on the way in their study of French and will conclude the school year learning Italian. They continue to employ rotations, which allow the student to get a dose of concentrated direct instruction. Additionally, they also include grade level group instruction and whole group instruction throughout the school week.



SBAC Testing - Meeting the Needs of All Students

Assessments help teachers and parents know if students are on the path to success. The Smarter Balanced assessment system provides accurate measures of achievement and growth while challenging students to think critically and solve real-world problems. A core principle of the Smarter Balanced system is accessibility for students who take the test. Accessibility resources provided on Smarter Balanced assessments ensure equitable access for students with diverse accessibility needs and preferences.

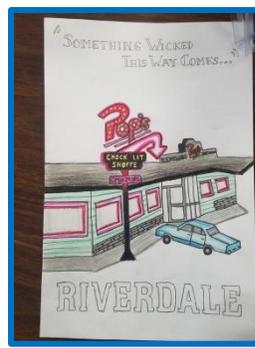
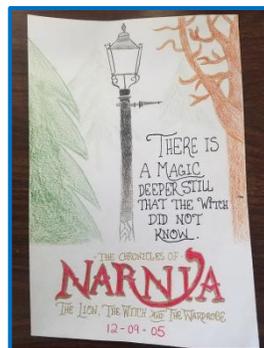
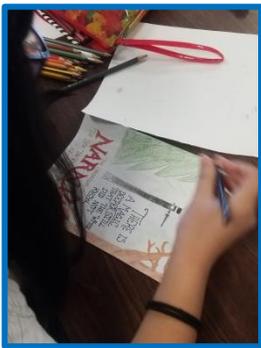
Smarter Balanced tests are designed so that students who take them—including students who are learning English or have special needs—can participate in the tests meaningfully and demonstrate what they know and can do. As a result, our end-of-year test includes accessibility resources allowing virtually all students to show what they know and can do without compromising the assessment construct.

BUSD –

Students at BUSD are busily working on their science fair projects. BUSD teacher, Stefanie Poland received a Target Field Trip Grant to enable middle school students to visit the J Paul Getty Museum this coming June. Art teacher, Tina Crozier continues to inspire the budding artists at BUSD.

Orcutt High School –

Art 1A recently finished up under the guidance of art instructor, Tina Crozier. Students completed "Movie Teaser" projects inspired by an upcoming art show at the SLO Museum of Art. The second section, Art 1B is just beginning.



In Partnership with Allan Hancock College, 18 FPCS students are taking the Professional Development – Life and Career Goals, taught by our very own, Michael Brajkovich. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get college credit while still enrolled in high school and to explore various careers and opportunities beyond high school.

San Luis Obispo –

Students have started the spring semester and are excited to share their science fair projects in partnership with students from all the FPCS centers at the Maldonado Youth Center. Middle school students have expanded options on Friday afternoons with the addition of Literature Craft class, keyboarding and math tutoring. They are also excited about the Renaissance Faire in April and are preparing to present the play Romeo and Juliet as they learn more about the Renaissance through literature, social studies, art and PE. Upcoming field trips to the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Cal Poly Learn by Doing labs are on the schedule for March, February and May.



In STEAM and elementary art, students experimented with hot cocoa and snowflakes.



Enrollment for 2018-2019

From now until February 28th, students currently enrolled in Family Partnership have priority enrollment for this coming Fall, 2018-19 semester. In order to reserve your child's space for next year, parents must complete and turn in the "Intent to Continue" form which can be found on our website – fpcharter.org or you can obtain a form from your student's teacher or the office staff at your center. **Additional registration forms will need to be completed before school begins next August.**

Open Enrollment for new students begins on March 1, 2018. Parents of new students must complete and submit the "Student Interest" Form. The form for 2018-2019 school year will be available on our website on March 1, 2018, or you may ask for a form from the office staff at one of our centers (on or after 3-1-18). Once your "Student Interest" form has been submitted an enrollment specialist will contact you to schedule a meeting. Priority is given to siblings of current FPCS students.

For more information or questions please visit our website: fpcharer.org or call: 805-348-3333