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“One big happy CSD family!”

**High school students get together to illustrate
the meaning of their theme: “The Color of Friendship”**

Congratulations to the winners of the chalk competition:

Group 1: Nha Kim and Kevin Way

Group 2: Everett Glenn and Cody Dike-Pedersen

Group 3: Leila Hanaumi and Lizzie Finley

Group 4: Angelica Schmidt and Armando Davalos



Artist at work: Angelica Schmidt



Peer advisor Brittany Comegna gets the event started.



Proud artists: Guadalupe Jacuindes and Casey McCullough



Liz Jarashow expresses her creativity through mind, heart, and spirit.



Shayla Griffith works to impress the judges.



Creativity hour starts now: Aaron Foust



Proud winners:
Leila Hanaumi & Lizzie Finley

Big crowd, big success.



Friendship Expressed through Chalk

The Peer Advisor program has been reestablished on the CSD campus. Upon going through the application and interview process to screen applicants, three seniors were granted the honor of becoming a part of this program:

Brittany Comegna, Brenda Cavallaro, and Clara Baldwin.

The main focus of the program, this year is: expansion of and promoting awareness about the program. Each student decided on a strategy to accomplish the goal of the program; I chose to host a monthly event for the students to enjoy while learning about the peer advisors group.

On March 14, the peer advisors hosted a chalk competition. Each of the participants received 5 points and the winners received 10 points. Of course, the winners weren't easy to select. There were three judges: **David Call, Clare Cassidy, and Nathan Montoya.** The process was really difficult for them, because everyone drew beautifully!

During lunchtime, participants from the high school department went to the road behind the swimming pool. There, they drew their interpretation of the theme, "The Color of Friendship" using chalk. In groups of two, together as friends, they drew out their friendship, pausing once in a while

to admire their work together. Some drew pictures of the earth, holding hands, SpongeBob SquarePants, and flowers. Noticeable fads among the students were quotes and short phrases about friendship beneath their drawings.

The participants only had 10 minutes to draw. During the course of the activity, staff from the counseling department and some curious high school students came to view the event. Drawn in by the action, the spectators weaved their way through the various groups of high school artists, admiring their work. Some of the passers by even helped the participants by handing them their chalk or telling them how much time remained. The chalk competition was a beautiful sight to witness, the colors of many friendships were represented and they all merged together to become one.

When time was up, the judges viewed all of the drawings and the artists had to explain their justification for their work. Some students were nervous. They didn't know exactly how to express their vision into words. However, as soon as they began to share, they found that they were able to express through words naturally when speaking from the heart.

The judges announced the four winning groups. There was supposed to be only one group selected, but the student artists drew such beautiful drawings and demonstrated such talent and vision, that the judges couldn't decide on just one winner. Instead, they chose four winning groups. The reason those four groups were selected by the judges was that they had the six pillars of good character: trustworthiness, respect, caring, responsibility, citizenship, and fairness. To tell the truth, the four groups won, but everyone won together, because the purpose of this event was to come together as a community and that is what happened.

This first monthly event hosted by the peer advisors was a tremendous success. It warms my heart to know that everyone cares about each other, and we got to witness that. In the upcoming months before school concludes, the peer advisors will host two more events. We hope that they are not just equally, but even MORE successful than this one!

Written by:
Brittany Comegna,
Chalk Competition Moderator

Photos by:
Monserrat Vasquez-Fonseca
and Meta Metal



CSD alumna becomes a nurse



A story by A Xiong

When I was 6 years old, I got an ear infection and became deaf. I grew up with people calling me “dumb” and “stupid.” In the beginning, my parents viewed my deafness as a disability and didn’t believe I could grow up to become successful.

I grew up in Merced, Calif. where I attended school along with the hearing kids. Because I had always been around hearing people, I thought I was the only one in the world who was deaf. Finally, when I was in middle school, my speech therapist told me that there were other deaf people like me. He put me in a program with other deaf kids. That program was way too easy for me academically, but it was worth it to find my own identity. I learned about the deaf culture and how to communicate.

The program also taught me that I could function as well as a hearing person. My mom and cousin had told me that because I was deaf, I wouldn’t be able to drive or get a higher education—that I would be living on social security benefits for the rest of my life. When I told that to my deaf teacher, she laughed in my face! I asked her why she was smiling at me like that. She asked me to look out the window and pointed to her car. She said to me, “I’m deaf and I can drive.”

I replied, “Oh my gosh! I forgot you had a car.”

My deaf teacher had earned her master’s degree in teaching from the California State University, Northridge, so obviously it would be possible for me as a deaf person to continue on to higher education. From that moment on, a door opened for me. I realized that it would be best for me to transfer out of the mainstreamed program I had grown up with and attend the California School for the Deaf.

The teachers at CSD were really great! Not only did I have the benefits of a deaf program, but I also was able to be challenged academically. And, I was able to meet that challenge. At CSD, I participated in several activities that taught me to be a great leader, such as the *Yearbook* and the student body government. I was able to learn from guest speakers who were deaf, had graduated from college, and had careers. I also benefited from having some really great deaf teachers from good educational backgrounds, too.

After graduating from CSD, I moved to Santa Cruz, even though my parents had wanted me to stay home. I had a goal to become a dental hygienist, and started taking the prerequisite classes at Cabrillo Community College. I remember when I first signed up for my biology class, the teacher told me that he thought I would never be able to get through the class. He couldn’t believe it when we dissected a cat and I was able to name all of the veins and arteries. My biology teacher who had been so resistant to having a deaf student in his class later became an advocate of me as a deaf student. He went to the department of dental hygiene and told them that I would make a great dental hygienist. I am grateful to my interpreters, the deaf resource center, and to the Department of Rehabilitation counselors for all of their support while I was at Cabrillo Community College.

I completed my AS degree in general education and was ready to start working on a degree in dental hygiene. Much to my dismay, there was a 2-year waiting period to get into the dental hygiene program at Cabrillo College. A friend encouraged me to apply to any program I could get into. I applied to the nursing

program at San Jose State University, not having told them I was deaf. Four days later, they sent me an acceptance letter.

A sign language interpreter stood at the front of the room as they interpreted the orientation for the nursing program at San Jose State. Ninety nursing students were looking around trying to figure out who the deaf person was. Once they figured it out, the director pulled me aside and informed me that he had to see my hearing screening test results in order for me to participate in the nursing program, "since I wouldn't be able to hear the patients' heart and lungs." I refused to give them the information about my hearing loss on the grounds that I should be able to participate in the nursing program whether I was deaf or hearing. I was confident I could become a nurse! I told them, "You can see my hearing aid, but you cannot see inside my head. I am smart and I can do this!" After that, they started to give me a chance. In fact, the director of the nursing program hand picked my classes so that I would have the best teachers with the best possible support.

The teachers told me that if I had to take a patient's blood pressure manually—without the aid of a machine—I could ask a friend to do it. The teachers started to have a lot of confidence in me and told me that I would become a good nurse.

The deaf resource center staff at San Jose State informed me that there was a stethoscope that specifically relied on vision; not hearing. My Department of Rehabilitation counselor ordered one of those stethoscopes for me so that I could complete the nursing program.

I completed my last semester of nursing school in August 2006, and immediately started applying

for a job as a nurse. The mother/baby unit at Mercy Medical Center, in Merced called me in for an interview. During the interview, they said that if I didn't understand a question, I could repeat it back to them. I emphasized that being deaf would not stop me from providing good patient care. When they asked me how I would communicate with the patients, I explained that I could communicate with the patients through an interpreter, using gestures, and pointing—I could also use my voice. When they asked me what I believed about nursing, I told them that I felt teamwork made working with other staff easier. When they asked me what I would do if the patient wanted more diapers, I said that I would give it to them based on supply and demand; I would help the hospital save money while helping to enhance patient care.

Thirty minutes after the interview, they called and offered me the position. My new coworkers are great to work with. They ask me lots of questions. I love playing with the babies and offering patient education. I want the patients to go home feeling that they met an amazing nurse who taught them something about taking care of their baby.

Even though I had graduated from the nursing program and gotten a job, I still needed to get my RN license. I studied for a solid month before taking the test. It was a computerized test with 75 questions. Three days later, I found out that I had passed the test for my license.

I am no longer embarrassed to be wearing my hearing aid. I wear my hair up and show my hearing aid.

I am looking forward to an exciting career in the nursing field. No words can describe how happy I am. Many thanks to the staff at

CSD for empowering me. And, a special thanks goes to Susie Devergranne and Steve Orman for giving me the confidence to pursue my career.

On March 16 of this year, A Xiong returned to CSD to give a presentation to the health careers class taught by Suzanne Crook. During her presentation, "A" told the following story:

When I was 12 years old, I picked strawberries in the field and only earned \$1 per box. I decided back then that I would have to make way more money than that. It was what motivated me to make sure I pushed myself. Then recently, my elderly parents went back to work in the strawberry fields. When I found out, I told them that it wasn't allowed any more and that I would be paying their mortgage bill every month.

I grew up with 10 kids in my family, in a small 3-bedroom house. We had humble beginnings. But for me, my new job is not that much about the money. I like my new car (and being able to loan the car to my parents who love to brag about me) and I like being able to pay the bills for them. It is about the love I can give my family by being there with them and helping to support them. I am thankful for the sacrifices my family made to move from Laos to bring our family here to America.

Congratulations to Krishna Ferreira and Janel Schmidt of CSD for winning the Best Platform competition (tied with Maryland) at the 2007 Deaf Teen America Pageant that was held at the Texas School for the Deaf.

Camps for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kids

Summer 2007 California Camps



Camp Grizzly

Norcal Center on Deafness
4708 Roseville Road, Suite 112
North Highlands, CA 95660
916-349-7500 voice/TTY

Email:
Info@norcalcenter.org

Website:
www.norcalcenter.org

Dates:
August 5 – 11, 2007

Ages: 7 – 17

Fees:
\$375 (*financial assistance available*)

Camp Pacifica

California Lions Camp
P.O. Box 577663
Modesto, CA 95357

209-523-9403 voice
209-523-9418 FAX

Email:
pacific@californialionscamp.org

Website:
www.californialionscamp.org

Dates:
Session I July 15 – July 21, 2007
Session II July 22 – July 29, 2007

Ages: 7 – 15

Fees:
\$300 (*financial assistance available*)

Summer Sports Camp

California School for the Deaf
39350 Gallaudet Drive
Fremont, CA 94538

510-794-3766 voice/TTY

Email:
LGonzales@cddf-cde.ca.gov

Website:
www.cddf.k12.ca.us

Boys & Girls basketball:
4 – 12 Grade
July 9 – 12, 2007
\$100 (*After May 15: \$125*)

Wrestling:
4 – 12 Grade
July 16 – 19, 2007
\$100 (*After May 15: \$125*)

Volleyball:
7 – 12 Grade
July 23 – 26, 2007
\$100 (*After May 15: \$125*)

Camp SignShine

Camp Ronald McDonald
at Eagle Lake
P.O. Box 61121
Reno, NV 89506

530-878-1446 voice/TTY

Email:
campsignshine@aol.com

Website:
www.campronald.org

Dates: July 22 – 28, 2007

Ages: 8 – 16

Fee: \$375

Deaf Kids' Kamp

Sproul Ranch, Inc.
42263 50th Street West
Suite 610
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

877-399-5449 voice/TTY

Email:
deafkidskamp@earthlink.net

Website:
www.deafkidskamp.com

Dates:
June 17 – 22, 2007

Ages: 6 – 17

Fees:
\$100 (*Non refundable deposit*)

Lions Wilderness Camp for Deaf children, Inc.

P.O. Box 195
Knightsen, CA 94548

877-896-1598 voice/TTY;
888-613-1557

Email:
campinfo@lionswildcamp.org
campdirector@lionswildcamp.org
secretary@lionswildcamp.org

Website:
www.lionswildcamp.org

Dates:
North Camp Session
July 29 – August 4, 2007

South Camp I
July 8 – 14, 2007

South Camp II
July 15 – 21, 2007

Ages: 7 – 15

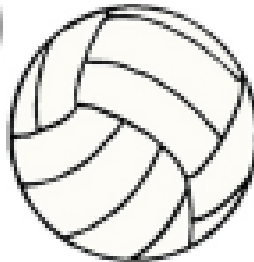
Home of the Eagles

Summer Sports Camp

July 9th - 12th: **boys and girls basketball**

July 16th - 19th: **wrestling**

July 23rd - 26th: **volleyball**



Grade:

Boys and Girls basketball

Students who will be in 4th - 12th grade this coming fall, 2007

Wrestling

Students who will be in 4th - 12th grade this coming fall, 2007

Volleyball

Students who will be in 7th - 12th grade this coming fall, 2007

GREETINGS!

Here is some updated information on our new Summer Sports Camp. Brochures were distributed to mainstreaming students after our fabulous school play "Annie" a couple weeks ago. CSD students will receive their brochures enclosed in their weekly Cal News. These brochures will also be mailed to different schools in the Northern and Central California. The Summer Sports Camp is limited to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students only.

The purpose of the Summer Sports Camp is to give every participant an opportunity to have hands-on experience and personal attention, to learn techniques and sound fundamentals, and to have direct communication access with our camp staff in their individual sport.

Please be aware that there is a limit of participants for each sports camp:

100 participants – **Boys & Girls Basketball**: July 9 to 12

100 participants – **Wrestling**: July 16 to 19

50 participants – **Volleyball**: July 23 to 26

Please encourage our CSD students to sign up ASAP!

Thanks for your wonderful support!

Go Eagles!



Athlete of the Week

March 1

Lizzie Finley
Varsity Softball

March 8

Alexa Miller
Varsity Softball

March 15

Cody Dike-Pedersen
Varsity Swimming



California School for the Deaf
Spring Recess 2007

Friday, April 6

Spring recess begins
Classes end at 1:45

Sunday, April 15

Students return in the evening

Monday, April 16

Classes resume

The California News is available online at:
www.csdf.k12.ca.us
Click on the **California News** link!

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