

# MCOE News

*The newsletter of the Monterey County Office of Education*

Volume 4, Issue 2

March 2015

## Mission

The Monterey County Office of Education provides the leadership, support and service excellence needed to prepare the diverse students of Monterey County for success in each step of their educational journey.

## Vision

Every student's educational experience will prepare them for success as productive and contributing members of our global society.

## MCOE Launches New Website

After weeks of careful design and development, the new Monterey County Office of Education website was launched this month.

The first thing you'll notice is the clean, new look. Explore a little more, and you'll find it's loaded with useful information about the people, services and programs of MCOE.

The redevelopment and design team, led by Dave Paulson, Bernard Burchette, and Marci McFadden, wanted the new site to be both easy on the eyes and easy to navigate, allowing visitors to access information in just a couple of clicks.

Parents can use the website to connect with programs such as Head Start or Migrant Education. School districts can access forms. County teachers and staff can register for professional development classes, and the public can learn about school governance, and read our annual report on education.

See it for yourself! Visit the all new MCOE website at [www.montereycoe.org](http://www.montereycoe.org).



## Message From the Superintendent: *Highlights from a busy February*



*Thanks to the efforts of  
District Attorney Dean  
Flippo and his team,  
Monterey County has one  
of the lowest truancy rates  
in California..*

*- Dr. Nancy Kotowski*

February has been a busy and exciting month for the Monterey County Office of Education. In this edition of MCOE News, our cover story reports on the launch of our newly redesigned website. It features a fresh new look, and offers easy access to our programs and services.

February also brought us the annual Farm Day in Salinas, where thousands of third grade students got a close up look at the local agricultural industry. You'll find the story on Page 3.

You can also read about the Christina's Smile mobile dental clinic, which traveled to Salinas this month to offer free dental care to 80 Migrant Education students. There is also the heartwarming story of community involvement in King City, where civic groups came together to brighten the holiday season for the families of special education students at Gabilan School.

As the month came to a close, we conducted a joint news conference with the Monterey County District Attorney's Office to report on the success of the county's Truancy Abatement Program. Thanks to the efforts of District Attorney Dean Flippo and his team, Monterey County has one of the lowest truancy rates in California.

I hope you will enjoy reading these and other stories in this month's edition of MCOE News.



(L-R) Diana Rosenthal, Monterey County Deputy District Attorney, Dean Flippo, Monterey County District Attorney, and Dr. Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools, pose with the Golden Bell Award.

## Migrant Education Students Prepare for Speech and Debate



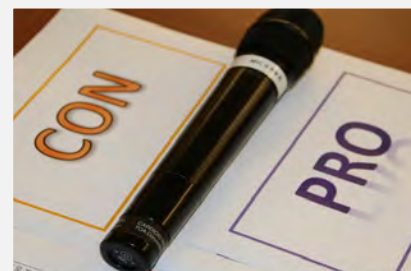
In many ways – with teams huddled around their coaches -- it resembled baseball’s spring training, except there were no bats or balls to be found. Instead, the training involved research, note cards and microphones, the tools of the intellectual sport of Speech and Debate.

Over 100 students and coaches met at the MCOE offices this month to prepare for the 6th Annual Migrant Education Speech and Debate Tournament, to be held on Saturday, March 21st at Salinas High School.

Training sessions were held over two days. During the first all-day session, debate teams studied debate format, learned how to research and present

an argument, respond to rebuttals, and polish their public speaking skills. The second session was focused on preparing for the speech competition.

“Our goal is to provide students a meaningful context in which to sharpen their public speaking skills and experience the excitement of prepared argumentation and persuasion,” said Robin Cohen, Migrant Program Specialist and event organizer.




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## Mobile Dental Clinic Serves Migrant Education Students

Eighty Monterey County children now have healthier smiles, thanks to Christina’s Smile Children’s Dental Clinic, a nonprofit dental clinic operated in conjunction with the PGA TOUR and the Champions Tour.

The 53-foot long mobile clinic travels with the PGA TOUR. When the AT&T Pro-Am was played in nearby Pebble Beach, it set up operations in Salinas. During its stay, 80 children served by the Migrant Education Program – Region XVI received no-cost dental treatment, including cleanings, fillings, crowns, root canal treatments, and extractions, if needed.



“This program ensures that migrant students in Monterey County have access to quality dental care, and given the high cost of healthcare, that is a significant thing,” said Dr. Ernesto Vela, Director of MCOE’s Migrant Education Region XVI.

Dental treatment was provided by local dentists and assistants who volunteered their services.

## Salinas Third Graders Experience Farm Day Tradition

On a Thursday in February, thousands of Salinas third graders along with hundreds of teachers and parent chaperones converged at American Growers Cooling on Abbott Street to participate in one of the region's most popular annual educational opportunities – Farm Day.

Every year the local agricultural industry, operating through Monterey County Agricultural Education, Inc., provides hundreds of volunteers to make this event a memorable and hands-on learning experience free of charge. All expenses, including bus transportation, are funded by Monterey County Agricultural Education, a non-profit organization. Funds come from a variety of sources including the agricultural industry, private citizens, the Office of the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner and various local foundations.

The Farm Day Experience provides many basic and current facts about the agricultural industry of our county. It gives students and teachers the opportunity to become familiar with food production, and makes the important, personal contact with farming that has been lost through increased urbanization. It also gives those involved in our industry a chance to interact with the enthusiastic and interested children – and adults.

Farm Day is a successful example of business and industry joining with education for the benefits of students.

To learn more about Farm Day or to sign up to volunteer at future events, visit <http://www.montereycountyageducation.org/>



## Fast Takes: Students and Staff on the Move



*Monterey County Home Charter School held its annual spelling competition in February. Winners: for Grades 2-5 were : 1st Place - Taimoor Syed, 2nd Place - "KK" Hunter Thaxton, 3rd Place - James Beck and 4th Place the Grade 2/3 Winner was Alexa Velez. For Grades 6-8: 1st Place: was Nico Skow, 2nd Place was Arsalaan Syed and 3rd Place: was Colin Toohey.*



*"I Can't Breathe" is an original 3-minute monologue written by Sabria Henry-Hunter, a 13-year-old student from the International School of Monterey. This February, in observance of Black History Month, her presentation was recorded for broadcast in the studios of MCOE's Media Center for Art, Entertainment and Technology (MCAET).*



*Students from Millennium Charter High School in Salinas provided video services for a 2-day event centered on Arts education. "Create CA" was held January 30-31 at the Oakland School for the Arts.*



*Eighty children were served by Christina's Smile Children's Dental Clinic, a nonprofit dental clinic operated in conjunction with the PGA TOUR. With the annual AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament nearby, it made a stop in Salinas.*

**Submit your picture today.** If you have pictures from a student or staff event that you'd like to see published, please send them to [barrybrown@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:barrybrown@monterey.k12.ca.us) with a brief description of the event or activity, along with the names and departments represented.

## Gabilan Students Say Thank You to King City Agencies



Students from Gabilan School in King City took a field trip this month to the King City Police and Fire Departments. They brought along colorful thank you posters, in appreciation of a Christmas toy drive that helped brighten the holidays for three families, whose children attend the Special Education school operated by the Monterey County Office of Education.

Just three days before the school was scheduled to take its holiday break, Gabilan teacher Ravi Lal determined that three of his students would be without gifts on Christmas Day. He contacted MCOE social worker Phrani Diksa, and in a matter of days, a team of volunteers from the King City Chamber of Commerce, Police Department, Fire Department, US Marines, and US Army (Ft. Hunter Liggett) was on the job.

“TJ Plew from the Chamber was a real hero,” said Diksa. “She whipped everything into shape in no time flat.” Volunteers worked with Diksa to provide developmentally appropriate gifts for the special needs students. They also provided gifts for the students’ siblings. “That was one of the cool parts,” said Diksa. “The families were so touched and appreciative. It was a complete surprise.”

“They went above and beyond,” said Lal, who hopes the toy drive can be expanded to his entire classroom in 2015.

## MCOE’s Technology Training in March

### List of Upcoming Classes:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>
Introduction to Excel	3/3/15	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
Introduction to PowerPoint	3/3/15	3:00 PM	4:30 PM
Introduction to Outlook	3/10/15	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
Word: Beyond Basics	3/10/15	1:30 PM	3:00 PM
Teacher Tech Series #2: Collaboration	3/12/15	3:30 PM	5:30 PM
Google Apps: Beyond Basics	3/17/15	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
Excel: Beyond the Basics	3/17/15	1:30 PM	3:00 PM

Register, see full schedule, and get more information at: <http://monterey.k12oms.org>

## MCOE Director Engages in School Facilities Organizations



Joshua Jorn, MCOE's Executive Director of General Services has been selected to be a part of C.A.S.H. (Coalition for Adequate School Housing) which is the premier school facilities organization in the State of California since 1978. The academy is an institute that fosters the development of current and future highly educated and skilled professionals in the area of school facilities and maintenance. The Academy is limited to no more than 30 participants every two years, so it is an honor to be selected. C.A.S.H. was formed to promote, develop, and support state and local funding for K-12 construction and the organization is your voice in Sacramento to advocate for funding to build, modernize, and maintain K-12 public schools in California. More information about C.A.S.H. can be found at <http://cashnet.org>.

Mr. Jorn was also recently nominated as the new Chairperson (with a 2 year term) for the Californians for School Facilities Board (CSF). He will take over on July 1, 2015. CSF advocates for Federal action in support of school facilities, visiting Washington D.C. twice a year to carry the message that schools should be treated like national infrastructure deserving of federal investment and interest. Qualified Zone Academy Bonds/ Qualified School Construction Bands and E Rate are just a few of the legislative programs in which they work hand-in-hand with representatives of Congress.

## Sonia Jaramillo Named New Head Start Director



Migrant students and English language learners don't have to look very far for inspiration. Sonia Jaramillo, the new Director of Head Start, has walked a similar path.

"I am originally from Mexicali, Mexico, right across the border," said Jaramillo. "I've wanted to be a teacher since I was very young."

When her family migrated to California and settled in Gonzales, she faced many of the same challenges that today's migrant students face. "I had to learn English, I worked in the fields, you name it," she said. "Once I had learned English, I was able to pursue my education."

Jaramillo studied at Hartnell College in Salinas, and earned her Bachelor's degree from San Jose State University. She subsequently received her Teacher Credential, Administrative Credential, Reading Specialist Credential, and Master's degree. Over a 24 year career in education, Jaramillo has been an elementary school teacher and principal. She has also been a professional development trainer, coordinated the Migrant Education program at the district level, and served as the Language and Literacy coordinator for the Educational Services division of the Monterey County Office of Education. "Being a teacher, administrator, trainer, director -- everything -- I learned so much from every one of those positions."

In taking her new position, Jaramillo comes full circle at Head Start. She began her career in education as a Head Start Family Service Advocate.

Now, as Head Start director, she looks forward to working with teachers and staff to provide quality programs for students and their families. She calls it, "a perfect fit."

"My goal is to work with the families and make sure they understand the system, and how they can use the resources to empower themselves and their kids and send them to college. I want them to see it's not impossible."



**MCOE News**

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Nancy Kotowski, Ph.D.

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Welcome to the Monterey County Office of Education. Please join us in working together to prepare our students for the future. Preparing students for success requires a unified and coordinated effort between home, school and the community.

The Monterey County Office of Education provides leadership to galvanize our community around support for the public's educational system.

Our goal is to equip every student to thrive in the global economy, to enrich the cultural and intellectual resources of their community and state, and to contribute to a strong and democratic American society.

Monterey County has many world-renowned resources. And, of them all, our children are our most precious resource and hope for the future.

Please send items for publication, comments and suggestions to Barry Brown at [barrybrown@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:barrybrown@monterey.k12.ca.us). or Teri James at [tjames@monterey.k12.ca.us](mailto:tjames@monterey.k12.ca.us).

## MCOE's Head Start & Early Head Start Program awarded Family Development Credential certificates to 18 trainees and five facilitators at a ceremony on February 13, 2015.

