

June 2017 Newsletter



“You cannot write for children. They're much too complicated. You can only write books that are of interest to them.”

-**Maurice Sendak**, author of *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Nutshell Library* (and many other children's books)

Volunteer of the Week – Congratulations to John Settano who was recognized as



Volunteer of the Week in the *Marin IJ* on March 15, 2017!

John has been an EC Marin tutor since our program began in

2007! John currently tutors in 1st grade at San Pedro

Elementary. His teacher, Emma Rosaschi, had this to say about

John: "John is just amazing. He comes 4 days a week and has

been doing this for over 9 years, longer than most staff

members have been here. John is so positive and the students

love him. All of the students that he works with have made huge progress."

2017 Golden Bell Award teachers – The Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) announced the 2017 Golden Bell Awards. The teachers who were honored at our schools are:



Laura Helvig, Bahia Vista

Chandos McEowen, Coleman

Jon Anger, Hamilton K-8

Maggie Dawes, Laurel Dell

Tom Martin, Loma Verde

Patricia Talke, San Pedro

Danelle French, Short

Karen Lloyd, Sun Valley

John Seligman, Venetia Valley K-8

We are thrilled to have tutors in so many of these talented teachers' classrooms.

MCOE also honors a select number of support staff with Golden Bells, several of whom are at our schools:



Sara Sonnet, Librarian, Coleman
Beatriz Garcia, Librarian, Hamilton K-8
Laura Lasko, Instructional Assistant, Short
Gayle Hartsook, Administrative Assistant, Sun Valley

NCPHS Annual Report – Venetia Valley tutor Beatriz Ferrari was kind enough to represent the EC Marin program in the 2016 Annual Report for Northern California Presbyterian Homes & Services (NCPHS; our host organization). In addition to working at a paying job and volunteering as a tutor with us, Beatriz has written and illustrated a series of bilingual books (the text is in both English and Spanish) – she is holding “Corkie the Surfer Dog” in the picture here. Beatriz purposely creates her books so they can be easily printed and sent home with children. If you would like a copy of NCPHS’ 2016 Annual Report or of Beatriz’ books, please contact Judy Kramer at jkramer@ncphs.org or 415-464-1767.



SEAL (Sobrato Early Academic Language) in San Rafael Schools - Shawn McEowen, SEAL coach at Coleman Elementary, led an overview training on SEAL which is now used in San Rafael schools. SEAL is not a new program but an amalgam of “best practices” in research and programs, especially focused on English language learners from preschool through 3rd grade. When teachers are trained in SEAL, they begin with oral language - Shawn reminded us that talking in any language contributes to the development of literacy. Less intuitive was his reminder that reading in any language leads to literacy in English. This discussion was so valuable that we expect to repeat it in the fall.

Diving into Common Core Mathematics, Kindergarten-5th Grade – Back by popular



demand, trainer Paula Hammons took us on a dive into 21st Century Common Core Math. She reminded us about the 8 “habits of mind” a student can use when approaching math problems. These “habits” reinforce a “growth mindset,” a resilient student who looks for strategies to solve the problem and keeps trying new approaches when their chosen strategy doesn’t work. These 8 habits include:

- make sense of the problem and persevere in solving it

- construct viable arguments – make a plan (a strategy) to solve the problem
- model and use appropriate tools – start with what you know and see if that works; if it doesn't try a different strategy
- make use of structure – what do I already know that I can apply to solving this problem?
- be precise

These strategies are consistent with what we've discussed in our literacy trainings – Have you seen a word like this before? Can you sound it out? And so forth.

Social Emotional Development

We also partnered with other non-profits to learn more about social, emotional and developmental issues that may be impacting our students, such as:

- Sandra Ramirez-Griggs spoke to us about **"What's behind Behavioral Challenges and How to Address Them."** She is a bilingual, bicultural mental health professional who works in Marin County Schools (including ours). In short, the behavioral issues you're having with a student may have nothing to do with you or what you're trying to tutor. While experienced tutors know this, Sandra went deeper especially in suggesting some new tips and tricks. Sandra provided so much useful information, both academic and practical, that we hope to have her speak again next year. This event was sponsored by Volunteers-4-Youth.
- Volunteers-4-Youth also sponsored the free showing of two documentaries by James Redford that explore factors that affect the wellbeing of young people:



“Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope”

“Paper Tigers: One High School's Unlikely Success Story”



Both movies talk about ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences; different types of abuse, neglect, and other hallmarks of a rough childhood) and how these can adversely affect your life and academics as a youth (“Paper Tigers”) and your health in adulthood (“Resilience”). If you'd like to know more about ACE's,

- You can start with a 2015 NPR article which includes an ACE quiz - <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/03/02/387007941/take-the-ace-quiz-and-learn-what-it-does-and-doesnt-mean>
- In the recent bestseller “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” by J.D. Vance, he paints a picture of what it was like to grow up in an

ACE environment. As an adult, he learned he'd experienced 6 ACE's compared to his wife's 0. No wonder he thought her family's interactions were "odd."

Picnic in Piper Park – Volunteers demonstrated their resourcefulness and resilience as they dealt with strong winds at our May 12th volunteer recognition picnic in Piper Park, Larkspur. Tutors and staff enjoyed the chance to chat with old friends and meet some new ones. It was the perfect way to celebrate the end of another successful school year. Here are some pictures from the event:



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Fri., September 8th – EC Marin's 10 year celebration.
Details to follow.

Thurs., September 14th (tentatively) - Back-to-School Get-together
Details to follow

School starts:

Novato – Thurs., August 17th

San Rafael – Thurs., August 24th

Calendars for both school districts are attached to this newsletter.

❖ *We look forward to hearing about your summer adventures!* ❖

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Month	M	T	W	Th	F	Workdays/Holidays	Days: Students Attend/Teachers work
July 2017	3	4	5	6	7	Jul 4 Independence Day Observed	0
	10	11	12	13	14		
	17	18	19	20	21		
	24	25	26	27	28		
	31						
August		1	2	3	4	Aug 14 Staff Development Day Aug 15, 16 Teacher Work Days Aug 17 First Day of School	11/14
	7	8	9	10	11		
	14	15	16	17	18		
	21	22	23	24	25		
	28	29	30	31			
September					1	Sep 4 Labor Day Observed Sep 22 Secondary Progress Report Period Ends Sep 25 Minimum Day	20
	4	5	6	7	8		
	11	12	13	14	15		
	18	19	20	21	22		
	25	26	27	28	29		
October	2	3	4	5	6	Oct 26 Minimum Day Oct 27 Secondary Progress Report Period Ends Nov 3 End 1 st Trimester (56 days)	22
	9	10	11	12	13		
	16	17	18	19	20		
	23	24	25	26	27		
	30	31					
November			1	2	3	Nov 9 Staff Development Day Nov 10 Veteran's Day Observed Nov 13-17 Parent Conferences Nov 20-24 Thanksgiving Break	15/16
	6	7	8	9	10		
	13	14	15	16	17		
	20	21	22	23	24		
	27	28	29	30			
December					1	Dec 22 End 1 st Semester (84 days) Dec 25-Jan 5 Winter Break	16
	4	5	6	7	8		
	11	12	13	14	15		
	18	19	20	21	22		
	25	26	27	28	29		
January 2018	1	2	3	4	5	Jan 1, 2 New Year's Day Jan 15 Martin Luther King Day	17
	8	9	10	11	12		
	15	16	17	18	19		
	22	23	24	25	26		
	29	30	31				
February				1	2	Feb 1 Minimum Day Feb 16 Secondary Progress Report Period Ends Feb 19 President's Day Feb 19-23 Mid-Winter Break	15
	5	6	7	8	9		
	12	13	14	15	16		
	19	20	21	22	23		
	26	27	28				
March				1	2	Mar 2 End 2 nd Trimester (62 days) Mar 19 Minimum Day	22
	5	6	7	8	9		
	12	13	14	15	16		
	19	20	21	22	23		
	26	27	28	29	30		
April	2	3	4	5	6	Apr 6 Secondary Progress Report Period Ends Apr 9-13 Spring Break	16
	9	10	11	12	13		
	16	17	18	19	20		
	23	24	25	26	27		
	30						
May		1	2	3	4	May 25 Staff Development Day May 28 Memorial Day Observed	21/22
	7	8	9	10	11		
	14	15	16	17	18		
	21	22	23	24	25		
	28	29	30	31			
June					1	Jun 7 Last Day of School Jun 7 End 3 rd Trimester (62 days) Jun 7 End 2 nd Semester (96 days) Jun 8 Teacher Work Day	5/6
	4	5	6	7	8		
	11	12	13	14	15		
	18	19	20	21	22		
	25	26	27	28	29		
cc 3.24.17						TOTAL:	180/186

First Day of School August 17
Last Day of School June 7
Teacher Work Days (no school) Aug 15, 16, Jun 8
Staff Development Days (no school) Aug 14, Nov 9, May 25
Holidays (14) July 4 September 4 November 10, 22, 23, 24 December 25, 26, 29 January 1, 2, 15 February 19 May 28
Parent Conferences Nov 13-17
Thanksgiving Break Nov 20-24
Winter Break Dec 25 -Jan 5
Mid-Winter Break Feb 19-23
Spring Break Apr 9-13
Elementary 1st Trimester Ends Nov 3
Elementary 2nd Trimester Ends Mar 2
Elementary 3rd Trimester Ends Jun 7
Secondary 1st Semester Ends Dec 22 (84 days)
Secondary 2nd Semester Ends Jun 7 (96 days)
Secondary Progress Report Period Ends Sep 22, Oct 27, Feb 16, Apr 6
Minimum Days Sep 25, Oct 26, Feb 1, Mar 19 SEE SITE CALENDAR for time
Early Release Back-to-School Night & Open House <i>varies by school site</i> SEE SITE CALENDAR
Approved by Board: 11.1.16

SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS

2017-2018 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Month	M	T	W	T	F	Calendar Details	Calendar Development	
August 2017		1	2	3	4	6	Aug. 21: K-8 Staff Development Aug 22 & 23: K-8 Teacher Workdays Aug 22: 9-12 Staff Development Aug 21 & 23: 9-12 Teacher Workdays Aug. 24: First Day of School, PreK-12	<u>First Day of School:</u> ALL STUDENTS August 24, 2017 <u>Teacher Workdays</u> K-8 Teachers: August 22 and 23, 2017 9-12 Teachers: August 21 and 23, 2017 K-5 Teachers: October 16, 2017 6-12 Teachers: January 8, 2018 K-5 Teachers: March 19, 2018 6-12 Teachers: June 15, 2018 <u>Staff Development Days</u> K-8 Teachers: August 21, 2017 9-12 Teachers: August 22, 2017 6-8 Teachers: October 16, 2017 K-5 Teachers: January 8, 2018 6-8 Teachers: March 19, 2018 K-5 Teachers: June 15, 2018 <u>Classified Staff Holidays</u> July 4 September 4 November 10 November 23 and 24 December 22, 25 and 29 January 1 January 15 February 19 and 23 April 13 (Friday of Spring Break) May 28 <u>Thanksgiving Break:</u> Nov. 22-24, 2017 <u>Winter Break:</u> Dec. 22, 2017 - Jan. 8, 2018 <u>Mid-Winter Break:</u> Feb. 19-23, 2018 <u>Spring Break:</u> April 9-13, 2018 <u>1st Semester ends:</u> December 21, 2017 (85 Days) <u>2nd Semester ends:</u> June 13, 2018 (100 Days) <u>K-12 Last Day of School:</u> June 14, 2018
	7	8	9	10	11			
	14	15	16	17	18			
	21	22	23	24	25			
	28	29	30	31				
September 2017					1	20	Sept. 4 : Labor Day Holiday	
	4	5	6	7	8			
	11	12	13	14	15			
	18	19	20	21	22			
	25	26	27	28	29			
October 2017	2	3	4	5	6	21	Oct. 16: K-5 Teacher Work Day Oct. 16: 6-8 Staff Development Oct. 16: 9-12 Non stud/Non tchr day	
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
	30	31						
November 2017			1	2	3	18	Nov. 10: Veteran's Day Nov. 22 & 24: Local Recess Days Nov. 23: Thanksgiving	
	6	7	8	9	10			
	13	14	15	16	17			
	20	21	22	23	24			
	27	28	29	30				
December 2017					1	15	Dec. 22 & 25: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day (Observed) Dec. 29: New Year's Eve (Observed)	
	4	5	6	7	8			
	11	12	13	14	15			
	18	19	20	21	22			
	25	26	27	28	29			
January 2018	1	2	3	4	5	16	Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Observed) Jan. 8: K-5 Staff Development Jan 8. 6-12 Teacher Workday Jan. 15: MLK Holiday	
	8	9	10	11	12			
	15	16	17	18	19			
	22	23	24	25	26			
	29	30	31					
February 2018				1	2	15	Feb. 19-23: Mid-Winter Break	
	5	6	7	8	9			
	12	13	14	15	16			
	19	20	21	22	23			
	26	27	28					
March 2018				1	2	21	March 19: K-5 Tchr Work Day March 19: 6-8 Staff Development March 19: 9-12 Non-stud/ Non tchr day	
	5	6	7	8	9			
	12	13	14	15	16			
	19	20	21	22	23			
	26	27	28	29	30			
April 2018	2	3	4	5	6	16	Apr. 9-13: Spring Break	
	9	10	11	12	13			
	16	17	18	19	20			
	23	24	25	26	27			
	30							
May 2018		1	2	3	4	22	May 28: Memorial Day	
	7	8	9	10	11			
	14	15	16	17	18			
	21	22	23	24	25			
	28	29	30	31				
June 2018					1	10	June 14: Last Day of School June 15: K-5 Staff Development June 15: 6-12 Workday	
	4	5	6	7	8			
	11	12	13	14	15			
	18	19	20	21	22			
	25	26	27	28	29			

Student Days:

Staff Development Days (K-8): **3**

Teacher Workdays (K-8): **3**

180

High School Staff Development Days: **1**

High School Teacher Workdays: **3**

Board Approved: 12/12/2016