



The Flip Side

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Merced Scholars Charter School

Editor: Lexie Pivrotto-Britton

The High Schools of Today Making the Middle Schools of Tomorrow

By Andrew Roberts

You may have heard about the new middle school that Merced Scholars Charter School (MSCS) is opening this fall, and might be wondering about it. MSCS has been quite successful for the last two years and the middle school stands to follow suit. We have many families that have expressed interest in having a middle school for their younger children to attend.



The school will be open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and will follow the guidelines of the high school which follows a personalized learning model. Our high school is much more than a "home-school". The students have customized learning plans that meet their individual needs. We have many opportunities to interact at workshops,

labs, reviews, fieldtrips, and activities.

In speaking with Mrs. Nishihama, I learned that the middle school will be more "hands-on" since that age groups tends to learn better when the material is presented in many different forms.

If you have siblings in that age group, have your parents contact our school secretary, Cindy Strange, at 385-5361 to enroll or for more information.

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Scholars Storm Sacramento!

By Mrs. Nishihama

Have you ever wondered what elected officials really do? What the process is for a bill to become a law? If you have a voice in what happens in our state? We did too! Well, on March 6, 2006, our questions were answered by visiting our State Capitol in Sacramento.

Twenty students and parents made the journey to Sacramento to receive a VIP Tour from Senator Denham's office. We began the tour in the Rotunda and from there attended a session about healthcare at

which time the public was offered the opportunity to speak about the issues that concerned them. It was interesting to be a fly on the wall and listen to both the public and the politicians. We had the opportunity to see the different chambers and meeting rooms and also learned about California's history. We were even invited to view the sitting room of the Governor's Office (I have his business card now, thank you very much!). Students raised questions about the process of law-making and gained some

insight on how bills become laws.

After leaving the Capitol we were able to spend some time and eat lunch in Old Sacramento. All-in-all we had a great time while learning more about this great state that we call home.



The Challenge

Answer this and Win a Candy Bar!

- Submitted by Megan Riise

What row of numbers comes next?

- 1
- 11
- 21
- 1211
- 111221
- 312211
- 13112221

Meet Josiah Garcia!

By Tiffany Bailey

If you're looking for an honest, trustworthy, just plain nice person, you're sure to find one in Josiah Garcia.

Now a sophomore here at MSCS, Josiah has been here since our school started last year. This year, he says that his favorite subject is Business Math, because he thinks that it's extremely useful in everyday life.

Josiah enjoys school, but he also enjoys helping out in his community and church, spending time with his family, hunting, swimming, playing

video games, and cheering on his favorite football team, the Oakland Raiders.

Some of Josiah's favorite movies include "Sky High" and the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. His favorite TV show is "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter". He likes bears as well as his three cats. His favorite book is Perloo the Bold by Avi. Josiah enjoys many different kinds of music but some of his favorite artists and musicians include

Bond, Toby Mac, and Third Day.

Josiah was raised in a Christian household, and his faith is very much a part of who he is. He would like to become a minister when he gets older, because he says that he wants to "know God for himself."

Josiah is a bright, outgoing person, who's kind and loyal to his friends. So get out there and meet him!



Upcoming Events

By Nathan Moreno

April 7th



The Murder Mystery party will be held on April 7th at MSCS and will begin at 6:30pm and end at 8:30pm

April 10th – 11th

The **new CST testing dates** will be April 10th and April 11th and will be held at the Challenger Learning Center.



April 17th—21st

Spring Break will be from April 17th through the 21st. Have fun and please be safe!



April 27th

Oral History Presentation will be held on April 27th 9-12 at MSCS. Juniors will be presenting their interviews in front of staff and community members.



Cell Phone Addiction

By Rachel Timmermen

At the beginning of this year, I received my first cell phone, a Nokia 3390. Compared with all of the fancy new cell phones being introduced at the time, it was rather old and outdated. However, I didn't mind, since I quickly realized the benefits of having a cell phone.

I could now be reached at any time; not just when I was at home. My parents could keep track of where I was, and I could make new friends and keep in

touch with them, regardless of how far away they lived. Also, a whole new form of communication was introduced to me—text messaging. I could keep myself in good humor by communicating with my friends all day, without detracting from my personal responsibilities.

The only drawback I've come to recognize is addiction. I used to be able to leave the house without even thinking



about what my parents were doing, or my friends 400 miles away. Now it's like I have this leash constantly on me—I freak out if I realize I don't have my cell phone.

My world has become much smaller. However, I do believe the benefits outweigh the drawbacks because as long as I try to keep a balance and not let my phone control my life, I think I'll be okay.

Learning History From Those Who Have Lived It

By Mrs. Nishihama

While much of history is contained in written documents, oral history interviews provide a new technique for filling in the gaps in a written historical record. Formal records often do not reveal much about peoples' every day lives such as; what guided their decisions, why they made the choices they made, in what things people believed, and what contributions they made to society. These are all questions that oral history can help to answer.



in the 11th grade U.S. History Course. As the basis for this project, students will be reaching out to the local community to interview senior citizens in order to get first hand information regarding topics they are studying in U.S. history as well as getting to know a member of the community personally. Students will gain a valuable perspective about the United States and those who lived through the history about which they have or will study.

MSCS recognizes the importance of oral history and has implemented an oral history project to be completed

Presentations to be given
April 27, 2006 9:00 am—
12:00 pm

*Older people could teach us so much
 If we would only listen
 Their wisdom
 Their simplicity
 Their experiences
 Their many years of living
 We need them to live with us
 With our families
 To teach us and our children
 All they know
 To love us and to let us love them
 When they need it
 A family is not complete
 Without its eldest members*

*From To My Daughter With Love
 By Susan Schultz*

A Light

By Tiffany Bailey

There is confusion all around me,
 In this world so bound all around me,
 Darkness surrounds me, far and wide,
 The world is trying to stop me.
 Oh no, is the world going to drown me?
 But then Someone found me.
 His voice so kind like no other,
 His smile is not like another.
 His light surrounds me, I don't feel the
 World that once was all around me
 A Light helped pull me away from the darkness



That once surrounded me.
 The Savior took all my pains and confusion
 away, so I can be happy, and free from
 All the chains of the world that once bound
 me.
 Temptations far and wide,
 But with the Savior by my side,
 I can conquer anything I strive for.
 With my shield and sword, I shall fight away
 sin.
 With the Light upon which I stand
 I can do anything I demand.

I shall be as one on a
 hill,
 Like a lighthouse on
 the sand.



**If you have a poem or story you
 would like to submit please see
 Mrs. Nishihama**

Merced Scholars Charter School

Celebration of Learning

By Rochelle Miranda

With the school year coming to an end, it's time for our annual **Celebration of Learning!**

The Celebration of Learning is a time for our work to be showcased and our talents to be appreciated. Members of the community, as well as your family and friends are all invited to view our school and to witness our achievements over this last school year.

Last year, the Celebration was extremely successful. Some students shared their musical talents, singing or playing an instrument, while others read stories about their lives and their families. Student boards were displayed and those attending the Celebration were able to walk around and view them.

This year, the Celebration of Learning is on **May 1st at Merced Scholars Charter School, from 5 pm to 7 pm.** If you would like to play your instrument, sing, dance, or act something out, contact your teacher for details. We hope you'll join us.



**Celebration
2005**



Shhhhhh! It's a Silent Auction!

By Mrs. Nishihama

Our Celebration of Learning this year has a new feature. The Student Organization, which brings you this paper, is putting on a Silent Auction. We have been asking businesses within our community and they have been gracious enough to donate items to be auctioned off during our celebration.

The students have been learning how to effectively communicate with members of our community while sharing information about what our school is all about.

All of the proceeds will benefit a trip to Camp Green Meadows to formulate our work plan for next year.



We have received some fabulous items for this auction. All of the businesses that donate will be listed on our program for the evening. If you are interested in donating, please contact me at 385-5361.