



Murrieta Valley

Unified School District

Community Newsletter

www.murrieta.k12.ca.us

Spring 2014

CTE: Not Your Parents' Vocational Education

An important shift has taken place in schools and districts across the United States: a shift away from vocational education and toward career and technical education, or CTE.

Students in CTE classes at the district's high schools are clearly excited about learning — and they're eager to tell you why. They can also show you some pretty impressive skills they have learned that will serve them well in their future careers.

During a recent Law Enforcement class at Murrieta Valley High School students raced through an obstacle course stopping at six stations to handcuff a "suspect," recite the Miranda rights, identify penal codes and cite constitutional amendments such as search and seizure and the right to remain silent.

The race gave students a taste of what an officer in the field goes through during a foot pursuit. "They need to be able to think on their feet and be able to respond when adrenaline is pumping through their body," said CTE Instructor Karrie Carlson, who was a police officer for 13 years before she started teaching.

Learning crime scene investigation, evidence collection, and fingerprinting techniques draws students to the Law Enforcement and CSI classes. Once they get into the classes, students find out if they are cut out for a career in law enforcement.

Students have heard from several guest speakers who visit Carlson's classes throughout the year including DEA agents, Murrieta Police Chief Sean Hadden, local detectives who have shown videos of actual interrogations, a former MVHS student who is now a correctional officer and a local district attorney. Carlson said, "They tell students what they need to do

Erica Vincent, Zachary Raines, red Presley Svendsen, and Kayla Duff run through an obstacle course in the CTE Law Enforcement class.

to go into the field and they all stress the importance of a getting college degree."

Senior Christina Pena said, "The Law Enforcement class got me interested in being a criminal lawyer and now my goal is to be a district attorney." Jack Ester, Jr. plans to be a police officer after he gets a degree in criminal justice. "In the CSI class," he said, "I've learned how to find out what happened at a crime scene and figure out where each person was and what occurred."

CTE courses are funded and operated through Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). Today's CTE programs are designed to prepare students for success in college and careers. A large percentage of CTE courses meet the a-g admission requirements to the University of California and they also meet the criteria for community college credit.

Last year 1,344 district students took CTE courses including Law Enforcement and CSI, Video Production, Culinary Arts, Emergency Medical Responder, Sports Therapy and Sports Medicine, Banking and Finance, Interactive Media Design and Automotive Technology. Of those students, 723 earned certificates after completing a sequence of two or three courses. Students can take the certification tests at their school or at the RCOE office in Murrieta.

A visit to the CTE Video Production classes makes it clear that students are engaged in something worlds away from the vocational education classes of a generation ago. Students write and produce daily morning announcement shows that are broadcast across campus. They film collaborative and individual

projects with HD digital video cameras and edit videos in their television production labs using Final Cut Pro, the industry standard video editing software.

Vista Murrieta's Video Production students created professional videos of campus activities that won their school the Max Preps Award for the Most Spirited High School in the Nation for two consecutive years.

At the recent Murrieta Community Tech Expo MVHS alumni Jeff Dotson dropped by to thank his former Video Production teacher Carlos Santiago and talk about what Santiago's Video Production class did for him. Dotson went from making video yearbooks for his school to being hired right out of high school by a Los Angeles video production company. He has gone on to make quite a name for himself in the movie industry working with Dreamworks and Disney on films like Night at the Museum and Avatar. In 2011 Dotson won an MTV Video Music Award for Best Special Effects for a video with Katy Perry and Kanye West. "Having access to the video equipment in high school and the video production classes with Carlos Santiago are the reason I am here today," Dodson said.

It can take a while for old perceptions to catch up to new realities. With today's CTE courses high school students can graduate with a high school diploma and a certification in their field. CTE courses allow them to go directly to work in high-demand jobs, or continue their education at a community or four-year college. In today's job market, those skills and work experience can definitely give students a competitive edge when it comes to landing a job.

VMHS Video Production students Dakota Reed and Saul Vela show the latest HD digital video cameras they used to stream the Murrieta Community Tech Expo and the school's athletic events live on the internet.



MVHS alumni Jeff Dotson got his start in CTE Video Production classes. His Temecula-based visual effects company won Best Special Effects at the MTV Video Music Awards for Katy Perry's music video "E.T." featuring Kanye West.



Superintendent reveals survey results

By Patrick Kelley



I want to thank all of our parents, students, staff and community members for taking the time to weigh in on the recent surveys the district has conducted.

The State of California’s new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), requires school districts to submit a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) which outlines how the district will meet the State’s eight priority areas which are:

- Basic Services
- Integration of Common Core State Standards
- Parent Involvement
- Student Achievement
- Student Engagement
- School Climate
- Course Access
- Other Student Outcomes

Those who responded to the LCAP survey said these are their most important priorities:

- 98% Increased student engagement in learning
- 96% College and career readiness
- 96% Increased student achievement
- 96% A safe school and classroom environment
- 95% Computer systems and up-to-date classroom technology
- 92% High graduation rates
- 92% Interventions to support student learning
- 92% Teaching with and using 21st century technologies
- 92% Modern labs to teach advanced courses

After receiving the survey feedback, we are positioned to finalize our LCAP plan which will address stakeholders priorities. The LCAP will be aligned with our district budget and it will be a blueprint for our goals and the actions over the next few years as we work together to meet these priority areas.

The district’s Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) will be posted on the district website before it goes to the Board of Education for approval and then it will go to Riverside County Office of Education and the State Board of Education.

Many of you responded to a telephone survey conducted in December which also identified the importance of several issues. The key findings of the phone survey show our community ranks education and public safety at the top of their list of priorities.

Respondents also expressed a desire to see reductions in class sizes which have crept up over the last few years due to the reduced education funding.

There was widespread recognition that academic standards are rising and the district can advance the quality of education by improving instructional technology and emphasizing science technology, engineering and math as well as career tech and skilled trades.

The Ed Tech survey parents and community members received in the mail or completed online showed us that the majority of those who responded want to see the district upgrade classrooms, science labs, and libraries with current instructional technology in order to keep educational technology up-to-date over time.

Responders also say they want the

district to provide optimal facilities, equipment and instruction for advanced classes in math, science, engineering, and technology.

What was made abundantly clear by all the survey results is that our community values good schools and quality educational opportunities.

Since our mission is inspiring every student to think, to learn, to achieve and to care, we are thankful that your priorities are in alignment with ours.

AVID makes college acceptance a reality

Over the years, AVID seniors from the district’s high schools have achieved an amazing 98% four-year college acceptance rate which far exceeds the national college acceptance rate of 36%.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college readiness program that is designed to help students accomplish their dream of successfully attending a four-year college or university. AVID provides students with the skills they need to succeed in middle school and high school and the tools, guidance and courses necessary for college acceptance.

Murrieta Mesa Junior Cody Piche started AVID in 8th grade at Shivela and he is now in Murrieta Mesa’s AVID program. “I wanted to do it because it helps you with your college applications and getting scholarships,” said Cody.

Murrieta Mesa Junior Rachael Bill said, “My parents didn’t go to college and they wanted me to have the support.”

While AVID primarily targets students who are in the middle academically,

high achievers are also drawn to the program. Warm Springs eighth grader Wyatt Johnson said his grades have improved since he enrolled in AVID. “I took AVID,” he said, “because it helps you get in college and stay on track in your classes.

“Students have to want to do it and have the ability to do well in college,” said Warm Springs AVID teacher Ann Romero-Parks who is in her seventh year teaching AVID. A map in Romero-Park’s classroom shows the colleges her former students have attended, “I just got an announcement from a former student who is graduating from Boise State,” she said, “I believe in AVID; there is nothing else like it.”

Murrieta Mesa High School and Warm Springs Middle School were invited to apply to become AVID Demonstration Schools and are both going through the year-long process. Demonstration schools are models of the AVID College Readiness System. All teachers at the schools must use AVID strategies and methodologies which include an

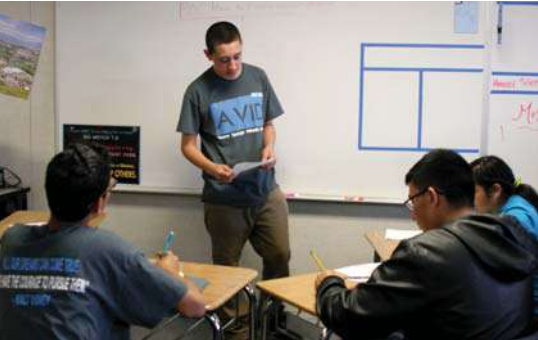
emphasis on organizational skills, Cornell note taking, critical thinking, academic vocabulary, tutorials and socratic seminars where students have an academic discussion.

During a recent AVID class at Murrieta Mesa teacher Steve Chavez observed his students engaged in a socratic seminar. “I like seeing students discuss something intelligently,” Chavez said. “It affirms for me their growth as students and thinkers.”

With college admission requirements becoming more and more competitive each year, middle and high school students are encouraged to talk to their school counselor to learn how the AVID program can make their college application stand out above the rest.



Above: AVID students engage in a Socratic seminar at Murrieta Mesa. Below: Warm Sp;ings AVID students take time in class to get tutoring on their homework.



Engineer your World

The President's Council on Jobs called for American universities to graduate 10,000 more engineers every year.

University of Texas faculty and Nasa engineers responded by developing Engineer Your World - an innovative, high school engineering curriculum. They piloted the course in Texas and expanded it to 100 schools across the country. Murrieta Mesa High School is first high school in California to offer the hands-on course that engages students in authentic engineering practices in a project-based environment.

Educators from schools in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties recently visited Pete Matus' class at Murrieta Mesa to see for themselves what students are learning in the innovative course and investigate bringing the curriculum to their schools.

University of Texas program manager Cheryl Farmer told the educators, "This curriculum gives students socially relevant engineering challenges and the opportunity to generate concepts, analyze data, verify performance and create technical documentation - all skills they will need to be engineers."

As the students explained their designs and demonstrated how their towers could withstand an earthquake, Murrieta Mesa junior Justin Plansky, said, "It's a

chance of a lifetime to be able to have a class like this."

Angela Alvarez, from West Shores High School in the Coachella Valley said, "This is a whole new way of learning that is going to get kids passionate about engineering."

This is the second year Matus has taught Engineer Your World, one of the courses in Mesa's Engineering Pathway. Matus said, "The curriculum helps students understand that engineering is not merely design and development, but also that documentation and presentation are very important requirements for an engineering career."

Engineer Your World aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards and Advanced Placement standards.

Freshman Trevor Knott said, "It's cool because we get to work with high tech equipment."



Above: Caleb Bryan shows his documentation to visiting educators.

Below: Justin Plansky and Aidan White explain their design.



Virtual Enterprise = real opportunities

The students in Murrieta Valley High School's Virtual Enterprise program are all business! They recently pitched their virtual company, West Coast Races, at a competition against the 20 top teams in the nation at Virtual Enterprise International's Youth Business Summit in New York City.

In the Virtual Enterprise course students learn first-hand how to set up a simulated business and run the day-to-day operations.

Students decide on a new product or service each year and they interview for the top jobs. Each student in the class has a job title and vice presidents oversee their work in human resources, public relations and marketing, sales and accounting. "They are learning real world business skills but they also learn interpersonal skills like how to be a boss and a subordinate," said teacher Joel Levin.

Like most entrepreneurs, the students



put in long hours to make their business a success. "We learn a work ethic that a lot of people our age don't have," said Megan MacPherson, the Chief Financial Officer. The work paid off for the team when they came in second in the state and fourth in the nation at the Youth Business Summit "I didn't think we would get this far, but it's rewarding knowing all your hard work paid off," said Rebecca Lam, the Chief Business Officer.

Virtual Enterprise students are not only gaining valuable experience, they are getting internships and scholarships. CEO, Tanner Force and Lam went to a summer business program last summer at Mercy College in New York where Force will study business on a scholarship.

The students are also developing a network of business professionals who advise and mentor them. Paul Nolta, assistant director for Small Business Development Center of the Inland Empire has worked with students since the program began six years ago. "The accounting, the budgeting, the marketing...It is amazing to watch the kids from the very beginning to where they are giving amazing presentations," Nolta said.

Levin said members of the local business community who would like to get involved are encouraged to email him at jlevin@murrieta.k12.ca.us.

Board of Education

Kris Thomasian, President
Robin Crist
Ken Dickson
Paul Diffley
Barbara Muir

Upcoming Meetings
May 8
June 26

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Community Newsletter

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New Principal and STEM Focus for E. Hale Curran Elementary



Creativity, curiosity, collaboration and critical thinking are the skills students need in order to be ready for college and career according to the new Principal of E. Hale Curran Elementary School. Pam Roden will begin leading the school on July 1 after current principal David Koltovich retires after leading the school for 17 years.

Roden came to the district in 2004 as a teacher at Warm Springs Middle School. She has been an academic intervention teacher for the district and a teacher on special assignment at Rail Ranch Elementary School for the past four years.

Mrs. Roden holds a B.ED in Elementary Education and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Calgary along with a multiple subject teaching credential, a Supplemental English Credential and an Administrative Services Credential.

Prior to coming to the district, Roden had 14 years of elementary teaching experience and she was Vice Principal at Foothills Schools Elementary.

Roden said, "I am thrilled to have been selected as the Principal of E. Hale Curran Elementary. I'm very excited to begin this journey!"

A New Vision

Roden said, "Energy and enthusiasm abound when we enter classrooms where children and teachers are curious and excited about learning. My vision for E. Hale Curran is a school where all stakeholders - students, staff and parents - are working together as a community of learners, towards a rigorous and exciting journey of discovery.

While the academic program at E. Hale Curran will be transitioning to the Common Core curriculum along with all the district's elementary schools, E. Hale Curran will also offer an integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focus.

STEM has become a big buzzword in educational circles in the last few years. But usually when people think STEM, they think middle school and high school—not first graders.

However there are a number of advantages to embedding STEM into elementary school learning. "Numerous studies have shown that the emphasis on STEM positively impacts children's critical thinking skills, and academic performance," Char Gollogly, the district's Executive Director of Elementary Education explained.

STEM Advantages:

- Innovative and inspiring
- Capitalizes on the natural curiosity of young children
- Engages students as life-long learners
- Integrates the Next Generation Science Standards
- Integrates into Language Arts, math, social studies and art
- Teaches children to use inquiry and investigation to analyse evidence

Plans are also underway to incorporate the STEM focus at Shivela Middle School to give students the option of continuing the STEM focus in middle school and then go into the STEM career pathways at Murrieta Mesa High School.

Roden recently told E. Hale Curran parents, "STEM is where my passion is. A number of teachers are already attending STEM trainings." Roden envisions incorporating STEM with inquiry-based projects, a school-wide community garden, robotics and Science Olympiad. "I see this as a way to enhance learning and create a personalized learning environment to meet individualized student needs,"

STEM Transfer Opportunities

With the start of the STEM program at E. Hale Curran, the school's enrollment will be opened to all elementary students in the district. Parents who wish to have their children attend E. Hale Curran instead of their school of residence may submit an Intra-District transfer request to E. Hale Curran.

Transfer requests will be approved on a space-available basis. Forms to request a transfer are available at the school office and on the school and district website.

Odyssey of the Mind

Front row right to left: Aaron Rutledge, Deanna Irwin and Taylor Lamb, back row Lydia Smith, Brynne Paiva, Mackenzie Wood and Ella Cruz



Cole Canyon Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind (OM) team hopes their skit, "How We Rule" describes their performance at the OM World Championships! The team of seven students took first place with their skit at the State Tournament and they are gearing up for he World Tournament in Iowa in May.

Odyssey of the Mind, sponsored by NASA, develops creative thinking and problem-solving skills. The Cole Canyon team was challenged to depict two mythical kingdoms in eight minutes which they did with their "How We Rule." skit. Lydia Smith, 11, said, "It took forever to come up with the story line but once we did, our teamwork and creativity came through."

Cole Canyon teacher and OM coach Cindy Branson Waller said, "They learn how to work as a team and create something totally on their own." Brynne Paiva, age 10, said, "We did everything - we made the set, the props and costumes and built the puppets," adding with pride, "We had so many creative

ideas!" The skit is loaded with puns, singing and dancing. The Cole Canyon team took first place overall at the State competition and first place in style, "Stuff you didn't have to do like props that are cool but you did it anyway," explained Lydia.

Students learn to work as a team, make decisions, and create solutions. Parent Jodi Smith said as a parent it was hard to sit back and and not jump in to offer help. "They had a situation come up right before they went on and they didn't let it throw them. They just solved the problem as a team and went on."

OM gives students confidence and, said Ella Cruz, "You also get to go on an airplane. I've never been to Iowa before!"

Students with Exceptional Needs

Children between 2 years 6 months and 21 years of age with the following suspected or identified disabilities may be eligible for special education services at no cost to the parent:

- Mental retardation
- Emotional disturbance
- Multiple disabilities
- Deaf or Hard of hearing
- Orthopedic impairments
- Autism
- Other health impairment
- Traumatic brain injury
- Speech or language impairment
- Specific learning disabilities
- Established medical disability
- Vision impairment or blindness

Depending on their needs, children in private schools, home schools, or other public schools may be eligible for:

- Specialized academic instruction
- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational and physical therapy
- Positive behavioral supports



- Behavioral intervention services for students with autism
- Preschool programs for students between ages three and five

Free parent training on special education issues and disabilities is also offered. If you believe your child may have a physical, academic, or mental disability, call the Special Education Department at 951.696-1600 ext.

1061. Staff will explain your rights and procedural safeguards under the laws and help with referrals and services that may be available. Visit the district website and click on Parents/Special Education.

Nighthawk Robotics Teams Look to Reclaim World Championship Title

Murrieta Valley High School's Robotics teams are looking to reclaim their 2012 World Championship title in their eighth trip to the VEX Robotics World Championships April 24-26.

The Nighthawks teams qualified for the World Championships at the VEX Robotics State Championships in March where 40 MVHS students competed against 73 high school teams in a fierce competition.

In the skills challenges, Team 569B won the CA State Programming Skills Championship title and brought home the Think Award for having the best autonomous strategy and execution at the tournament.

Team 569C and 569A performed brilliantly in the playoffs landing them in the finals, playing for the state title. Unfortunately they ran into some tough



competition and narrowly lost in the finals.

By the end of the weekend, all three of the Nighthawk teams qualified to go to the World Championships in April in Anaheim.

Team 569C has achieved the 19th highest score in the World in the Programming Skills challenge which

consists of a one minute time period where the robot moves on its own and scores as many points as possible.

There are over 7,300 teams registered worldwide and only 400 high school spots available at the World Championships. MVHS teacher and club advisor Kevin Bradley said, "I don't think words can begin to describe the excitement of the students. These students have worked extremely

hard since September improving their robots, programming, notebooks, and interview skills. I'm extremely proud of their efforts and accomplishments."

Thompson Robotics Team goes to World Championships

The odds were definitely not in their favor when the Thompson Middle School Robotics Club showed up at the Vex Robotics tournament with one robot and a dozen students. But that didn't stop them from going up against 37 high school teams.

"There were only three middle school competitions this year," explained Thompson teacher and club advisor Judith Howell, "and we were unable to get a spot. We ended up competing against six middle school teams and 37 high school teams"

Eighth grader Travis Claypool said, "I felt like we were the underdog. All the other teams had more robots so we really had to strategize."

Howel said, "We started out as novices last year but the kids have learned so much. There were times in the final rounds when our young students were helping the high school teams trouble shoot and fix their robots!"

A team from Sun Valley High School chose the Thompson team for an alliance and in the final match, the Thompson team went all the way to win the tournament championship. Their win qualified them to compete in the VEX Robotics State Championships in March where they were the only middle school team from Riverside County

to make it to the State Middle School Division.

Eighth grader Cade Robertson is the team's driver and lead engineer and he said the key to their success was teamwork and being organized. Seventh grader Adeline Lee-Blythe agreed, saying, "It was really thrilling because there were other teams that didn't have their wires and batteries connected right. It was those little things that gave us the edge."

Howell started the Robotics Club with a \$1,000 grant from Northrop-Grumman and she is beginning to get other sponsors including Sun Pro Solar who paid for their t-shirts.

With Thompson's close proximity to MVHS, the Thompson students use the high school robotics "field" once a week to practice and they receive mentoring from the high school students. Murrieta Valley High School Robotics Advisor Kevin Bradley said, "Teaching the younger students benefits my students as well because they get to practice their communication and delivery skills."

The Thompson team was happy with their sixth place finish in the

state. They were overjoyed to get a wild card invitation to compete at the World Champtionships along with Murrieta Valley High School's Robotics team!

Bradley said, "Thompson's program is certainly going to be a major factor in the future success of our high school program. This is an amazing accomplishment in only their second year of robotics."



Lisa J. Mails Science Fair



Can plants survive on a diet of Monster energy drinks? Does a dog have more bacteria on its tongue than a human? Lisa J. Mails fourth graders answered those burning questions and more by testing their theories for Lisa J. Mails' Science Fair.

"They experience the excitement of developing a hypothesis and testing their theories and if they are right or wrong, they are still learning about science exploration," explained Lisa. J. Mails teacher Sue Ackley.

Judges selected the top experiments which were entered in the 32nd Annual Inland Science & Engineering Fair. Trinity Guron and Averie Washburn won gold medals and Paige Kunze & Justin Schneider won Silver. Bringing home bronze medals were Peyton Cundari, Tikiaya Dunklin, Gabriella Leonhard, Joshua Torres, Colin Carney, Austin Noble, Katelyn Bowen, Kylie Langsdale, Gavin Walker, Troy Havlicheck, Alexa Powell, Caroline Murray, Jordan Waroff, Joel Cordova, Chloe Gaines, and Victoria DiGiovanni.

Parents at the school's Science Fair were impressed. Joel Frigillana (shown above with his son Ethan) listened as Ethan explained how propellers generate energy. "I'm glad to see he is conscious of the need to use renewable energy so we will have a better future," Joel said.

PTA President Linda Lunn said her daughter Johanna learned more than how fast mold grows on bread, "She learned organization and planning skills, internet research and scientific methods." Below: Trinity Guron shows her experiment which won a gold medal.



Arts alive & well in MVUSD

Top Speller Runner-up at County Bee

Southern California Public Radio Arts education survey of 41 school districts in Orange, Riverside, Ventura, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties showed MVUSD is ranked as the 3rd highest district offering the most access to dance, visual arts, music and theater every year. Approximately 75 percent of students in the district have daily access to all the arts. Check out these shining examples of their accomplishments!

MVHS Varsity Dance Team took 1st place in Jazz and Hip Hop at the State Championships before performing at the National Championships!



The Lisa J. Mails Monarchs dance team brought the house down @ halftime during the MVHS/TVHS Varsity Basketball game. The spirited Monarchs also cheered alongside the Nighthawk Varsity Cheer Team.



MVHS student Andrew Tang gave a magnificent performance at Carnegie Hall at the American Protegé International Competition!

Murrieta Valley High School's Band will perform a concert on May 10th on the deck of the USS Midway in San Diego. They will also perform at the National Festival of the States in Washington, D.C. May 22-26!



Vista Murrieta's Jazz Band performed at the 52nd annual Reno Jazz Festival, one of the biggest high school jazz events in the country featuring student musicians & renowned professional artists.



Drama students at all lthree high schools present several productions a year. Shown below are cast members



from Murrieta Valley High School's presentation of "Spam-a-lot." Six Vista Murrieta High School choir students were selected from 900 auditions for the ACDA High School Honor Choir in Santa Barbara where they performed at a concert with 200 students from five states.They also worked with Deke Sharon, the music producer who wrote the music for the movie, "Pitch Perfect." and is known as the father of acapella music.



Wearing tiny bumble bee earrings and a bee necklace for good luck, Thompson Middle School seventh-grader Olivia Landis beat out 29 other students to take first place in the 2014 District Spelling Bee. She placed second in last year's District Bee.

The two top spellers in grades fourth through eighth from Murrieta Valley Unified School District's 11 elementary schools and four middle schools went head to head for12 rounds during the two-hour event held at Thompson Middle School.

Landis had help preparing for the bee. Shruti Amin, the district's 2012 champion who went to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Maryland, helped Landis study for the bee and she was in the audience supporting Landis. "It was



awesome," Olivia said. "I mean, she knew what to do. She would find random, difficult words, and just quiz me on them."

Landis represented the district at the Riverside County Spelling Bee on March 12, where she spelled her way through 18 rounds & tied for second place.

As a seventh grader Landis will be eligible to compete in the Spelling Bee next year. It won't surprise anyone who knows her if she follows in Amin's footsteps and goes all the way to the national bee.

Remembering our Vets

Murrieta Valley Council PTA's Valentines for Vets Challenge set a new record with 14,732 hand-crafted valentines!

Dan Blattenbauer received one of the valentines and he posted on Facebook, "Yesterday at a VA appointment in Fargo, North Dakota. I thought it was pretty cool to receive a card made by a student. It said, 'LOVE, LOVE. Be safe, be careful, be confident.' Thanks from this disabled vet from the Vietnam era."

Using reams of construction paper, glitter and glue, students at Alta Murrieta, Antelope Hills, Avaxat, Buchanan, E. Hale Curran, Lisa J. Mails, Monte Vista, Rail Ranch, Tovashal, Shivela, Thompson, Warm Springs, Vista Murrieta and Murrieta Mesa spent lunch hours and time after school making the valentines. Alta Murrieta Elementary won the challenge and

a trophy for making the 3,007 valentines.

Kelly Stottman, military chair for Murrieta Valley Council PTA, organized the Valentines for Vets Challenge. This year the cards were distributed to:

Naval Medical Center San Diego, Operation Mend at UCLA, Brooke Army Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Center, Walter Reed Military Medical Center, 14 VA hospitals from Alexandria to Wisconsin, 6 USO's including Bagram and Kandahar, Wounded Warriors, VSSN and VFW in Temecula and March Air Reserve Base.



Scholarship Athletes

Students sign their letters of intent to compete at the college level.



Vista Murrieta High School Broncos

Beggs	Randy	Football	United States Naval Academy
Bolton	Curtis	Football	University of Oklahoma
Cook	Tyler	Football	Brigham Young University
Denby	Darryl	Football	Weber State University
Gerhart	Coltin	Football	Arizona State University
Hoyd	Greg	Football	Washington State University
Maloney	Jimmy	Football	University of San Diego
Mashack	Kwesi	Football	University of Arizona
VanDyk	Tyler	Football	Menlo College
Vasquez	Artie	Football	United States Naval Academy
Calderon	Kasey	Volleyball	Corban University (Oregon)
Parker	Kristen	Volleyball	Cal State San Marcos
Benjamin	Michelle	Soccer	Chico State University
Flexen	Clarissa	Softball	Northwestern College (Iowa)
Keller	Kylee	Softball	Howard College (Texas)
Ta'amilo	Selena	Softball	UCLA
Zamora	Taylor	Softball	Metropolitan State University (Denver)
Lillie	Ryan	Baseball	UC Riverside
McLeod	Kylie "River"	Rowing	San Diego State University
Russi	Ryan	Diving	University of Wyoming
Phetbenjakul	Angie	Swimming	University of San Diego
Dunaway	Sarah	Track & Field	University of No. Colorado
Norman	Michelle	Track & Field	University of Utah

Murrieta Valley High

Padlo	Kevin
Tebet	Ganem
Silva	Jordan
Sanchez	Maddie
Byers	Loni
Parzonko	Haley
Rogers	Brittney
Stead	Sarah
Webb	Samantha
Alderman	Lacey
Moreno	Stephanie
Mattson	Kelli
Milan	Korie
Neilson	Katelyn
Dudek	Tyler
Price	Evan
Reinhardt	Tristan
Virgil	Paige
Meza	Ruben
Peraza	Kristiana
Wallace	Jacob
Taverrite	Felicia

School Nighthawks

Baseball	University San Diego
Boys Swim	University of Utah
Football	University of Nevada, Reno
Water Polo	CSU Northridge
Soccer	Angelo State University
Soccer	Westmont
Soccer	UC Sanata Barbara
Soccer	Masters College
Soccer	CSU Monterey Bay
Softball	Cal State Long Beach
Softball	Valpo Univeristy
Volleyball	University of Toledo
Volleyball	Great Falls Montana
Volleyball	CSU Fullerton
Water Polo	Cal State Long Beach
Water Polo	University of Toronto
Water Polo	USC
Water Polo	UC Davis
Murrieta Mesa High School Rams	
Football	Sacramento State
Soccer	Cal Poly Pomona
Football	Central Methodist University, Missouri
Golf	Cal State Long Beach



Model Continuation High School

Creekside High School was designated as a Model Continuation High School for 2014 by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson who said, "These schools are being recognized for their exemplary programs that provide at-risk students the environment they need to flourish."

Creekside offers students aged 16 years or older an alternative high school diploma program. While most students who attend continuation high schools do so because they are behind in high school credits, others may be in need of a flexible school schedule because they have jobs outside of school, family needs, or other circumstances.



Senior Jessica Bolouri-Rad entered Creekside High School this year after moving back to California from Georgia where she had lived for the past seven years. "Being at Creekside

has changed my views about school," she said, "I learned that it is up to me to succeed and make my dreams come true." After high school Jessica plans to continue her education at the Fashion Institute of Design and Marketing.

Creekside is expanding course offerings and extra-curricular activities for students. Several clubs meet regularly including the Peace Alliance Club and Guitar Club. They started a SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) charter on campus and students held a blood drive this year. Students annually enter their art in the Press Enterprise High School Art Contest and for the second year they are entering designs for Van's Custom Culture shoe design contest. This year the school will hold their first Prom on May 2nd at Monteleone Meadows.

Creekside, which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, offers small class sizes and options such as concurrent enrolment in Career Technical Education classes. A Medical Assistant class and a Graphic Design Certification Program from Adobe are offered on the campus and students also take CTE classes at the district's other three high schools and they can pursue concurrent enrolment in community college courses.



Jacinto College, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Quality Control Solutions, Paulson Manufacturing, Cryoquip, So. Calif. Gas, Helio Power, Inviscid Clinical Software and Hollywood South Studios presented the latest innovations in the business industry. Loma Linda University Medical Center Marketing Coordinator Shirley Niell was impressed by the event, saying, "This is a great way to get parents, students and businesses together to realize the great potential of students and get them headed in the right direction."



Left: Jason Gold and his son Ari, a first grader at Cole Canyon, use the Raz Kids website which teaches reading fluency.



Right: Kimberly Davidson, Business Development Officer for the City of Murrieta, said, "We were all very pleased with the businesses and students that had demonstration tables and we were very happy with the attendees that were instrumental in bringing local businesses to the Expo. "



Left: Mt. San Jacinto College representative talks with a parent about the career and technical programs.



Right: Lisa J. Mails students use Learn Pads, an Android tablet built for educational apps. Teacher Beth Hankins said, "It works like an iPad but I can control which sites kids go to on the internet so it keeps them engaged and safe."



Left: Art Durbin, Emergency Medical Services Manager for Murrieta Fire Department said, "We can transmit a patient's vital statistics from the field with the Life Pak. We are working on connecting it to a computer and web cam so we can transmit images of what's going on inside the patient to a hospital or doctor's office."

Left: MVHS students show the graphic design arts programs they use in class.

Right: Murrieta Mesa engineering students Pedro Silva and Casey Fitzpatrick explain the use of a 3-D printer.

Left: The Nighthawks Robotics Team demonstrate their robots.

Right: Joanna Olson of Olsen Global Consulting is interviewed by a VMHS Video Production student Tatiana Navarro.

