



Congratulations to the NMCHS Condors MESA Team - Nathan Laage, Mikey Madrigal, Jonathan Nolasco, Lupe Rosas, Chelase Earp (back row), Gabriela Rosas, Hunter Nichols (behind Gabriela), Allysen Ehresman, and their Advisor, Katie Kriscunas. Jonathan Nolasco and Nathan Laage took third place overall at the Regionals. Chelsea and Hunter, took first place with their prosthetic arm!

## *The Future Is Coming*

Here are some highlights of our 2011-12 calendar. There are a few changes that you will probably notice right away. For starters there is a 3-day 'Teacher Professional Development Institute' being offered August 3 - 5. This is a professional development opportunity that all teachers can choose to take advantage of to get a good solid start on the year. These three days are voluntary since they are funded categorically with money that may not be available again, and must support professional development and training.

The intent of these days is to get teachers any needed training and planning/collaboration time. All elementary teachers will get training for the new Language Arts curriculum. Kinder and First Grade teachers will also be offered Expressions (math program) training as well. There will be grade-alike time to work collaboratively on curriculum mapping, lesson development and assessment development.

The secondary teachers will continue to work on lesson design, curriculum mapping and formative assessment development as well. There will be more details coming to you before school is out.

Another difference is that the first student day (1<sup>st</sup> day of school) is a Thursday. We could not avoid this without adding another holiday since we need to teach at least one day in June for our CSEA members.

You may also notice that our Spring Break is much earlier next year. This helps separate Spring Break from CST SAT, and the AP testing windows. In deference to many teachers' requests we put a furlough day on Good Friday and the Monday after Easter.

We will continue to add new information to the calendar as we gather it, so check our website for updates to the 2011-2012 academic calendar!

We hope you find it useful.

### **DEAR COLLEAGUES:**

Spring has sprung, and our well-deserved respite is almost here. It is my deepest hope that you all have a relaxing, rejuvenating and fun Spring Break. It sure feels like it's been a long time coming!

Speaking of time, our calendar committee has agreed upon a calendar for next year, and I have attached it to this email for your reference. It was a great group and we all worked hard together to make sure we represented all of the varied preferences and needs of the staff and students for next year. In the 'Future...' column I highlight some of the changes and explanations for some of these differences.

Big shout out to all the excellent CST test-taking and coordination efforts around the district. I know we are all excited to see that the gains our students have made this year are reflected on this assessment.

So, sit back, read a little NMCUSD news, and have a great break!

Happy Spring!

*Jamie Marantz*

**Assistant Superintendent**  
Curriculum and Instruction



## Hot off the Press (we hope!!)

After several months of examining and piloting two different language arts curriculum, the adoption committee has made a choice with added input from the K, first, and second grade teachers! It was a difficult decision since many of the components of both programs were rated very highly by all the teachers. The real tie-breakers were the ELD program components, the 'Side by Side' daily lessons in the Bilingual course curriculum, and the technology pieces that Pearson's 'Reading Street' package provides. Oops, I let the cat out of the bag! Pearson's reading Street will be our new and improved language arts materials next year! Yes, next year all Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be provided with all of the materials they will need to implement the new program with fidelity. The forward-thinking, collaboratively minded principals helped make the K -2 inclusion in this process possible by supporting the purchase of these materials with some of their site discretionary funds.

I am already preparing our order with the representative from Pearson. I will do everything in my power to get, at the minimum, teacher editions in everyone's hands before this school is over in June, and all other components to be at the school, ready for use by the time the 2011-12 school year begins.

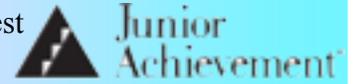


## Mighty Math Moments....

Math success in high school starts early, I mean really early - that's right, in the mighty 'K-1'. This fall several 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers presented me with some compelling evidence that the alternative package, 'Expressions', that comes with our 'California Math' program, does a better job of developing students fundamental math knowledge. They proposed a pilot, and a reflection of their experience to other K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers. After a successful pilot experience, and consideration by all kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers, next year, 'Expressions' will be used as the K-1 curriculum. This inquiry based approach builds conceptual understandings slowly and deeply, giving students the time and the teachers the methodology to deliver this constructivist approach effectively. This will be a great transition towards the Math Common Core Curriculum coming soon.

## CENTRAL BAY STAFF REACH OUT

Central Bay Staff have made connecting their students' lives to the curriculum a focus of their work this year. Ramona Warren, an economics teacher, reached out to Junior Achievement, or JA. JA is the world's largest organization dedicated to



educating students about work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. JA programs are taught by volunteers in inner cities, suburbs, and rural areas throughout the United States and in 122 countries around the world.

The CEO and other staff from the Pacific Valley Bank will be spending the day at CB to teach students through real world activities about banking! Aida Ramirez, principal, shared with me that KSBW and the Californian might show up, so you may see more of NMCUSD in the news.



## Tech Terror Tamed... for now....

There have been some difficulties lately with our internet connectivity, as some of you, especially at the high school. When Sharon and Jeanine, our fearless tech-namic duo, solved this problem they discovered some other issues with our network. That's a good thing, because we now have a better picture of why our networks have been slow even when they 'work'. And as they say, "Knowledge is power!" We will be able to change certain parameters and increase our speed and reliability. Our goal is to have a reliable and faster network in place for next school year. We want our students and teachers to be able to truly benefit from all of our great new technological curriculum and resources and assessment options.

## New Arrival!

Join me in welcoming Denisse Uribe, Administrative Assistant in the Curriculum and Instruction office! We are happy to have her join our North Monterey County family!