Bringing out the BEST in Students
Carol Davis

Since 2005, Kaiser Permanente and Save Every Child A Chance (GEAC) have been partnering to provide health education dates and innovative education opportunities to the children in the GEAC programs. We are proud to share such a strong partnership with one of the leading community advocates in San Joaquin County.

On October 16th, Kaiser Permanente and GEAC will be co-hosting a Health Teen Summit entitled ‘Be the BEST (Juniper Engaged Students Thrive) Teen Summit’. The Teen Summit will be offered to approximately 300 students, in grades 7th-12th, who attend school in Manteca and Ripon Unified School District. Golden West Elementary School in Manteca, will be the host school, with children being bused to and from the event from their home schools. Be the BEST Teen Summit is being offered during Fall Break.

Be the BEST Teen Summit will open with a presentation from TEEN TRUTH LIVE: BODY IMAGE. This interactive, multi-media presentation, incorporates motivational speeches with an award-winning, 31 minute film, that was created by students. The presentation provides students, parents and educators with a critical understanding of body image. It raises awareness of the self-esteem issues associated with body image, and teaches ways of preventing this self abuse among students. The purpose of this assembly is to challenge the audience to have a positive impact on others, every day, in order to make schools safe, healthier place.

Following TEEN TRUTH LIVE: BODY IMAGE, the students will disperse into breakout sessions. These sessions will include topics such as: Multi-Media/Graphic Design, Martial Arts–Be Safe & Alert, Positively YOGA, Col Power Play, Cooking Matters, The Health and the Brain, A Career in Firefighting, Cyber Bullying, Tattoos/Piercing, and Gang Awareness. They will be able to attend 2 of the 12 clinics above.

We would like to extend a special invitation to parents and guardians to attend a free preview of TEEN TRUTH LIVE: BODY IMAGE on Monday, October 17th, at 7 p.m., located in the Golden West Elementary School auditorium (300 Main Street, Manteca). Because the TEEN TRUTH LIVE: BODY IMAGE program has such a positive impact on families and in the community, GEAC wanted to give community members an opportunity to share in this experience. This presentation will differ slightly from the presentation for the youth. Light refreshments will be served.

INSIDE this issue...

GECAC Presents... Reader’s Theater
Jamie Anderson

GECAC Introduces... Reader’s Theater!

Florence’s latest 4th grade reader’s theater, “The Reader’s Theater”, will be performed by students in Manteca. The show opens on October 18th. The show will feature a variety of voices and talents of students from grades 1st-3rd. The show will be held at the Manteca Middle School auditorium (5201 East Road, Manteca).

SESSIONS!

Panasonic Stereo System
Samsung TV/Monitor
For more information call Chuck Crutchfield at 209-825-7003.
STEM Boosts Student’s Interests

Oscar Munguia

The Give Every Child A Chance (GECAC) After School Advantage Program (ASAP) was originally designed to provide a supervised and healthy environment for the youth of the Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, and Escalon Unified School Districts, during the hours outside of the school day. Now, however, the purpose of ASAP is not only to provide a safe place, but to foster additional learning. GECAC is always trying to find new ways to make our programming more enriching and educational for our students. During the upcoming school year, ASAP is going to focus on encompassing a curriculum entitled Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) into the everyday curriculum. By utilizing after school time for STEM, students are more likely to develop an interest. This is especially important currently because simply, only a limited number of students are interested in pursuing STEM-related occupations. By using curriculums such as Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, Project Wild, National Partnership for After School Science (NPASS), and Fantasy Sports, ASAP hopes to create and foster an interest for STEM in our students. Students who participate in STEM activities regularly improve in their confidence using math skills and willingness to engage in math. Additionally, using their problem solving skills and their overall interest in STEM.

The GECAC After School Advantage Program has proven to effectively support our students on a variety of fronts, including; boosting students’ academic achievement and self-esteem, fostering healthy lifestyles, and helping young people find and develop their passions. As the community and parents become more concerned about today’s students falling behind in math and science, they are realizing that extra hours after school GECAC provides, can be used to help our students keep up and even excel. If you would like to participate in any of the ASAP endeavors please contact Oscar Munguia, ASAP Program Director, at (925) 825-7003.

Improving Youth

Meridith Payne

The goal of the Employment Monitoring Program is to help students gain the skills and confidence needed to be responsible for their future and career goals. This program allows students to determine if they have the skills and aptitude for their career choice and to decide if they want to pursue this career.

Mentoring requires a willingness to share, listen, and provide advice in a flexible relationship shaped by the needs of the mentee. Just as any profession demands high quality care and a commitment to help individuals, mentoring is a way for every professional to improve their field, one person at a time.

The Employment Monitoring program has been emerging throughout San Joaquin County, and is now entering Merced and San Benito Counties. The program offers an opportunity to showcase a place of business. It convenes community commitment and involvement, while providing a life changing experience for our youth to discover their future career possibilities.

If you are a business or student, interested in participating in this program, or would like more information, please contact Meridith Payne, Director of Employment Monitoring at (925) 825-7003 or panning@geac.net. You may also visit our website at: www.geac.net.

Employment Monitoring Program is improving the quality of life for young people.

Falling for the Bounty of Fall

Jennifer Cornejo

Students are back in school, days are shorter, and the leaves are falling off the trees; IT’S AUTUMN!

This is a great time of year to focus on your health. October is a time of plenty in the Central Valley, where there is a cornucopia of fresh produce just waiting to be picked. Carrots in the field, a Fall color, and a cabernet. Moreover, the brussel sprouts are another vegetable that is a healthful bounty right now. Here in our backyard? Do yourself a favor and make it a goal to try a new fruit or vegetable this week.

Falling is great. It means more physical activity too, the days are cooler, and it’s a great time to be out doors. October is National Walk to School Month! If you can, try to walk with your kids to school this month, rather than driving. It’s good for you and your kids, and it saves gas money!

For more information about walking to school, check out this great website http://www.walktoschool.org. It is designed to help parents start a “Walking School Bus” where one or more parent volunteers walk a group of children to school.

Equipping Students for Success

Marisol Munguia

This is its namesake, Give Every Child A Chance (GECAC) is a program committed to the overall success of each of its students. One of the avenues GECAC uses to achieve this is the implementation of student goals throughout the various school locations for the After School Advantage Program (ASAP). Goals are assessed, set, and tailored individually at each school site, based on the overall needs of the students. The incorporation and development of student goals, in correlation with ASAP school sites, better equip students for success in further academic ventures and real-world applications.

One of the ways in which a particular student’s goal can be achieved is through supplementation of school studies into ASAP program activities; essentially meaning that the classroom areas of study are extended to after school program activities. In addition, state standards are used on a continual basis to ensure the highest quality of assistance and program integrity. By using after school program site goals, following state standards, and continually finding innovative ways to reach these students, this program is ensuring that success is on the horizon for each of its participants.

The After School Advantage Program (ASAP) is divided into three components; Enrollment, enriching students with activities that students may not have the opportunity to be exposed to otherwise, Homework Assistance, assist the student with their daily homework assignments and encourage them to become independent learners; and Recreation; physical activities that will provide students with a change of pace. GiveEveryChildAChance is committed to every student in his program.

“GECAC IS COMMITTED TO EVERY STUDENT”

Technology Together

Aaron Vaudrey

Everywhere you look technology devices are in use by a majority of people. From laptops, cell phones, iPads, and iPods, technology is everywhere. It is hard to track the inception date for each type of technology tool one uses. However, it is clear that for most who are utilizing the World Wide Web the term originated with the vision of Tim Berner Lee who invented it in the early 1990’s, and has since branched out into an array of rapidly increasing technology. With the generation ever more aware of the World Wide Web one can only read in history books on or a fridge foilbacked.

As the Technology Outreach Director, I am often faced with the struggles this generation would face without technology devices. High School students, who are entering the workforce, are challenged to know entry level computer skills, at the minimum. It is almost impossible to receive a job if students can’t operate a simple or the basic suite of office programs currently.

The pressure students face to learn and have the latest tool can be overwhelming.

If you are a parent/guardian who struggles to keep up with the fast-paced world of technology, there are also many ways to help you connect with your students as you become more tech savvy.

TIP 1: Use Google. Google is your friend. Ask your student to teach you how to look up recipes, address favorite hobby, or to help your student research a homework assignment.

TIP 2: Learn about the latest gadgets. You can use useful information at your local library, visit a class, research on the computer, and even downloaded books. You might also want to use Cleaner; to find your way into computers.

Engage with you students and learn together the possibilities that can be found throughout a world of technology.

One Community at a Time

Chuck Cribbeldt

Give Every Child A Chance (GECAC) now has three independent programs operating in the communities of Tracy, Tuolumne County, and Merced County. Each community has cooperated to help enthusiastic students in their educational goals by working with us to open tutoring sites, within their own school districts. Tuolumne is operating with two additional sites to open this year, and Merced has one site that was still in the planning stage this year. With the added sites, we have a total of 11 tutoring sites to assist students in 3 counties. We also conducted an open house with local dignitaries from the Merced area that was very exciting.

Their board of directors, staff and volunteers are committed to sustaining a program that will have a direct impact on their children for years to come. It has been said that “every child matters.” Why? Because of the many obstacles today’s children face, including those who are at risk of falling behind in school.

“Every child matters” because the country’s future and its health are dependent on the success of the next generation. Providing a quality education that helps students develop life skills and academic skills is essential for a healthy and successful future. By providing students with the tools to succeed, we increase the likelihood of that success. We, at GECAC, are determined to provide our children with the help they need to succeed.

“Students who perform better in school are more likely to graduate, go on to higher education, and succeed in life. They are less likely to smoke, drink, or do drugs; less likely to become pregnant as a teenager; and more likely to end up in a better job.”

–Charles Schwab

“...the people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most average. They are the ones who care.”

–Charles Schwab