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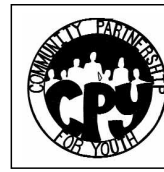
“What standards mean to me.”

A student's understanding of the CPY standards



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CPY Storyteller



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH **NO. 6, NOVEMBER, 2004**
Editor: Mark C. Anderson

Intersession Energizes CPY Summer for 200+ Youth

With a range of partnerships and enrichment activities complementing a core curriculum of academics and personal responsibility, CPY's 14th Summer Intersession met the lofty standards set by summers past.

Before students from fourteen local schools arrived for the first day, staff met for an intensive two-day training. Safety, prevention, and working with the "whole" child were focal points of the training, as was giving the diverse staff - called "the best summer staff ever assembled" by CPY Program Director Cynthia Faine - a chance to identify and build team strengths.

A CPY Standard was featured each week of the program. Small groups met to share the personal significance of each Standard. "My favorite standard is #4 because it says to honor and respect each other," said Ajuana Vaughn, 8. "I think that everyone should do that so that the world will be a better place."

Tireless volunteers and local partnerships enhanced traditional academic activities designed to keep student skills sharp over the summer. Monterey County Reads provided the individual attention necessary to build

comprehension and retention while exemplary young men and women from Robert Louis Stevenson High School invested their passion and energy. Several mother-daughter teams from the National Charity League dedicated an afternoon a week reading, writing thank you notes, creating arts projects and playing games with students.

Volunteers also made key contributions to CPY's Summer Art Academy endeavors, a highlight for students. Through CPY's partnership with First Night, Ms. Charlise worked on a visual art project that combined the work of Picasso and Matisse into personalized, multi-dimensional pieces that will be shown at the Monterey Museum of Art in December. Longtime CPY supporter J.W. Winslow took time to guide students through the patience-demanding but rewarding process of making over 50 "painted bottles."

CPY Art Academy Director Ms. Sue Ann inspired no small amount of creativity and patience through the construction of paper maché "Flying Pigs." Even Red Beans and Rice's lead singer Bishop Mayfield stopped by to add an energizing musical accompaniment and instruction on his African and Caribbean drums. The process of creating everything from stepping stones and lanyard key chains to clothes pin dolls and puppets, meanwhile, was a daily favorite.

CPY Students on Intersession Lessons

Students reflect on lessons they learned over the six-week program:

"I learned that CPY is our family, no matter if there are different colors or if they are small or tall or if they have problems."

Nadia Castillo, age 10, 4th Grade

"What I learned in CPY is to be determined to succeed, to never give up."

Rosa Garcia, age 9, 4th Grade

"I've learned that respect is not a gift, you have to earn it. I even know life is more than winning or losing, it's choosing to do what's right."

Jennifer Fabian, age 8, 3rd Grade

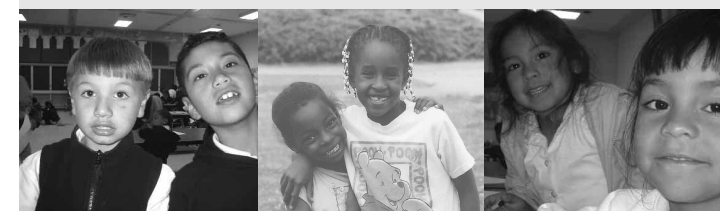
"I've learned that success is getting up just one more time when you fall down."

Amaryllis Bazaldua, age 10, 4th grade



From left to right, 4th graders Jennifer, Yari, and 2nd graders Ingrid and Celeste bask in the friendships and fun activities of another CPY summer.

Other partnerships complemented the academic and art-based enrichment activities. The Ventana Wilderness Society took CPY students on a weeklong tour of local nature landscapes as part of the Ventana Natural Science Discovery Camp (see "CPY Students Learn to Observe and Preserve Peninsula Habitats", page 2). Several students attended Herm Edwards Football Camp, then returned to CPY to share what athletic and life lessons they learned. A group of teens from the Safe Teens Empowerment Project of Salinas (STEPS) even visited CPY to conduct an interactive alcohol and drug prevention program.



CPY STANDARDS

1. In CPY, we greet each other everyday with a smile and a handshake to strengthen the relationship between us.
2. In CPY, we honor and respect each other so we address one another with the proper language and speech.
3. In CPY, we value the space of ourselves and others and are careful not to intrude or injure each other.
4. In CPY, we are mindful of what is true and strive to be honest in word and deed.
5. In CPY, we treasure our rich heritage and hold the cultures of all people in high regard.
6. In CPY, we strive to reflect our beauty both inwardly in our understanding and outwardly in our appearance.

Former CPY Students Continue Growth as Mentor-Tutors

Opinion on what makes Manzanita Mentor-Tutor Ervin Douglas such a valuable part of the CPY family varies. "He dribbles cool," says Chris, a 3rd grader. "He's tight," offers 9-year old Kennedy, smiling. Young Joicet, 7, claims it's because "he's always honest." 3rd grader Aja Vaughn has a slightly different angle. "He's cool," she said, "Because he's been in CPY like us."

FROM THE *Executive Director*

I'd like to share a story from our last staff training that's taken on a life of its own.

True story: a navy pilot named Charles Plumb, after 75 combat missions, ejected and parachuted to safety when his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile in Vietnam. When he was approached years later (after years as a POW) by a man who identified himself as the soldier who had packed his parachute aboard the USS Kitty Hawk, Plumb realized how little appreciation he previously had for the man who had meticulously ensured his well-being. As a motivational speaker, he now poses the question to groups: who's packing your parachute? The crucial point, he tells his audiences, is that there are any number of parachutes—physical, mental, spiritual—provided by those around us that support and keep us safe. When you fail to appreciate those who take care to offer you these supports - or forget to provide them for someone else - you are missing what is really important. We encouraged our staff to recognize those who were packing their parachute and to make sure they used great care when packing another's. They were also encouraged to ask for a parachute when they felt in over their heads or had a need.

I could not be more proud of the way CPY Staff and its supporters, from top to bottom, embrace Plumb's "parachute principle." It is so encouraging to hear Staff still ask for and provide parachutes for one another at the After-School Program. Then there's you: I could fill the entire newsletter listing the generous contributions the Monterey Peninsula community makes to ensure our student's safe journey through the most critical years of their development. Our summer survey reveals just how at-risk our students are: over half have friends or family in jail, half have seen someone use drugs, and more than one in four have touched a gun.

Each donation, in-kind contribution, or volunteer hour plays an integral part in maintaining and enhancing the nurturing environment CPY provides. Your involvement transforms the peak hours for juvenile crime and victimization, whether after-school or over the summer, into an opportunity to improve our community from the inside-out, giving our vulnerable youth the resources and support they need to realize their potential.

On behalf of the CPY family, thank you for taking care in packing CPY's parachute. We recognize that without the support of the community, we would not be able to continue "building a community one child at a time."

Shari Hastey

According to Executive Director Shari Hastey, this is no coincidence: nearly half of current leaders attended CPY. "CPY makes it a priority to 'grow' our own leaders," she says. "We want to help each one to continue to develop leadership and responsibilities as they mature." For many former attendees, CPY provides their first job and the invaluable experience that comes with it.



Ervin offers a study group help and encouragement on their math homework.

However, she adds, as much as alumni leaders grow as a result of the experience, CPY students may benefit the most, as students easily identify with alumni leaders "who truly understand the challenges and hardships they face." They are also more motivated to become leaders themselves, whether as Junior Leaders (during Middle School) or as volunteers and employees later on.



Future CPY role models pose with one of their favorite role models.

Ervin and his CPY-driven development will no doubt inspire youngsters like Kennedy and Chris to contribute to CPY well beyond their graduation from middle school. Ervin, who first joined CPY as a Manzanita 3rd grader, can recall when the Standards and CPY's Conflict Resolution Steps became more than just words (4th grade); today, he recognizes that he has developed from a leader hesitant to resolve student conflicts "into a position where I can help mend [student] problems" using those same Standards and Steps. CPY's leadership training, he says, played an essential role in his growth: like all CPY alumni, he volunteered for the after-school Mentor-Tutor program and a two-week all day intersession before he was hired.

Ervin enjoys the challenge of helping students cope with life's challenges for the same reason he loves his job. "The kids," he says with a grin, "Just have so many different personalities—the comedy kid, the rebel, everything you can think of. It's win/win – I get a paycheck for making a difference."

Students Learn to Observe and Preserve Peninsula Habitats

Thanks to the Ventana Wilderness Society, twenty-five CPY eleven and twelve-year old students did everything from hob-nob with highly trained sea lions to track foxes as part of the Natural Science Discovery Camp this July.

The week-long camp revolved around understanding the Peninsula's diverse habitats, ultimately covering every coastal environment from Moss Landing to Big Sur. An early highlight came Monday, when the students took in a unique presentation on the importance of recycling and litter clean-up starring 'Sake' the sea lion. Later, those students who collected the most litter during a beach clean-up contest got to guide 'Sake' through a series of tricks.

Over the next few days, the students completed a far-ranging crash course on observing and preserving local wildlife: the students monitored sand crabs to determine toxicity at Del Monte Beach, watched whales in Monterey Bay,

Continued next page

How can I help?

- Help with homework Listen to a child read
- Invest financially in a child Sponsor a family at Christmas
- Invite a representative from CPY to come and speak to my group

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Evening) _____

email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please bill my MC/Visa account for \$ _____ or \$ _____ per mo.

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

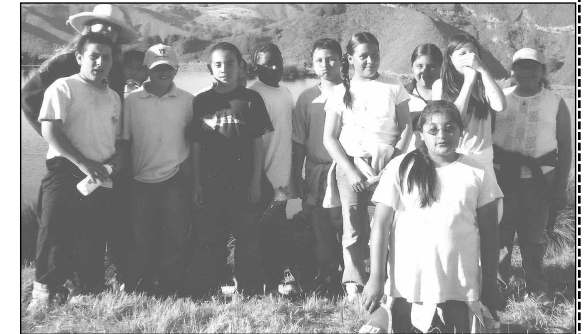
Make checks payable to:

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CPY Wish List:

- Computers/printers
- Sponsor a child, \$10 a month
- Art supplies
- Games Puzzles
- Sports Equipment
- Sponsorship for Newsletter

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Observe and Preserve *from page two*

studied tide pools at Asilomar, followed fox, bird, rabbit, and snake trails in Fort Ord, all while remembering to move lightly and quietly so as to minimize their impact and maximize wildlife sightings.

The increasingly aware group eventually made their way to Andrew Molera State Park, where a bird-banding tutorial preceded a hike to mist nets where trapped birds were rescued and tagged. The hike marked the first of three rambling Big Sur hikes where the students gathered still more rich experiences they translated into journals, paintings, and personal courage. "Even though I was scared on the night hike," wrote Rhina Romero, 11, "I got over it because it felt really weird being scared."

Come the final night, s'mores and a night spent camping under the stars capped a week choc full of first experiences, whether it was a first time on a boat, seeing a deer, or touching a hermit crab. CPY Site leader and camp chaperone Mr. Jared echoed other CPY students with his thoughts. "The kids learned so much about wildlife," he marveled. "It was a wonderful experience for everyone and I wish we could have stayed longer."

5th grader Erika Lopez had thoughts of her own on the week. "Thank you Ventana for taking us to new places to teach us about the outdoors," she said. "You have really brightened our summer."



The budding CPY marine biologists watched a grey whale come close enough to their boat to see its barnacles.

Bachelor Auction

November 19, 2004

6:00 pm

Marriott Ferrante Room

no host bar

complimentary wine from Cypress Wines and heavy hors' d'oeuvres

T.G.I.F.—Time to relax, laugh and have fun with your friends. Twenty bachelors will be available for you to bid on for a fun date

Tickets \$35.00. Call 394-4279 for reservations. \$40.00 at the door

Auctioneers- Julie Paisant and Dennis Murphy

**Sample date packages (bachelor included):
Chardonnay II + Fisherman's Wharf Feast; Spanish Bay hiking & biking + Bernardus Dinner; Picnic Lunch for 12 ladies with 4 bachelors at Blackstone Winery; Chef, Musician, and Clean-Up (single or not!)**

**All proceeds to benefit
Community Partnership for Youth**