

Some thoughts from our Board Member Carrie Pilakowski.....

Being an active part of my children's education was never a question in my life. From the time our first of four children was about three years-old my husband and I felt confident in a plan that included homeschooling. We knew we could supply the academic education that our children needed, but, as many homeschooling parents can appreciate, we worried that the kids' lack of exposure to the typical school environment where they would be not only be exposed to other children daily but also to having a teacher, a desk, a school to call their own and a principal who watches over all of it, would be cause them to lack socially and not develop the ability to confidently interact with others because they did not have the same or very similar experiences in their schooling. I also experienced a bit of sadness for myself because I knew that I would not be active in PTA, helping teachers set up classrooms, volunteering on a regular basis in my daughters' classrooms, knowing the principal or getting to know other parents. When we signed up for our first homeschooling program all of our fears came true.

In our first program there was little exposure to other children or parents, no sense of school as a place outside of our home for our child to call hers, and although I really liked our supervising teacher we only saw her monthly and beyond that had little to no interaction. It was a sad time because although I did not want the typical school experience I was looking forward to my children and myself getting to have some of the perks of the typical school experience. After two years we left and we found a program that has suited us better than we could have asked – CORE. From the time at CORE's original Philadelphia Square offices to the time at our current campus, all of the perks that we had desired not only for ourselves, but most importantly for our children, have been realized.

CORE has provided my daughters with classes that have enriched their educations in ways in which my husband and I were not able, given them a school to call their own, allowed them to get to know other homeschoolers, and exposed them to a supervising teacher that they have regular ongoing interactions with and have gotten to know and enjoy as a person. For myself the perks of being a part of CORE have meant that I not only know our regular teacher but also all of the teachers that my daughters have, our principal, and many of the teachers that my daughters have yet to take classes with at the Center. I also have the opportunity to help out around the school, impact the direction of our school by being a part of the charter advisory board and board of directors, and, most importantly, form friendships and hopefully lifelong bonds with other homeschooling families.

Homeschooling at CORE has met our desires for our children's educational experiences. Although I am sure there are always improvements that can be made and work to be done just to maintain the current excellence at CORE, CORE already has much to offer to those who want to take advantage of all of its possibilities. Any parent who thinks that a homeschool environment can't offer the benefits of a traditional school environment to children and parents without a lot of the hassles or problems that bring people to homeschooling to begin with doesn't know all that CORE has to offer. If you haven't gotten involved with CORE beyond its function as an address, you should definitely look more deeply into CORE and tap into some of the benefits and opportunities like my family has.

## Governance Board Meetings

### CORE @ TCA

### CORE Placer

### CORE Butte

- ♦ March 11– Marysville
- ♦ March 10– Colfax
- ♦ March 12– Chico
- ♦ April 8– Nevada City
- ♦ May 12– Colfax
- ♦ June 11– Chico
- ♦ May 13– Marysville

## GRADUATION!!!

Date: May 29, 2010

Time: 10am

Location: Western

Gateway Park

18560 Penn Valley Drive

Penn Valley, CA 95946

\*\*\*\*\*Bring chairs\*\*\*\*\*

# CORE Field Trip Report: Bay Area Passages Article written by student Ashley Hankins.

You've waited your whole life for this moment. High school is coming to an end. When it's over, you'll be free! What will you do first? There are multifarious options to consider! So many places to go, and even more things to do! How will you ever decide? Here, let me help you out a little. You see, I've got an idea...How about college? Welcome to the annual Bay Area Passages Trip; a group of teachers, parents and -most importantly- students, touring colleges in the San Francisco area. From personal experience, I can say that high school is interesting...but high school field trips are on a whole different level. This particular outing happened to consist of a handful of parents and teachers, one straightforward bus driver wearing a leather vest, a bathroom that was prejudice against teenagers, an innumerable amount of cell phones and iPods, a well mixed group of 37 sophomores, juniors and seniors, and of course, one pair of vivacious green crocs.

At 7:30am on Thursday, February 18th 2010, everyone met at the Marysville center, getting ready to depart for the Bay Area. As we were waiting for our transportation, we introduced ourselves to one another and very quickly developed the cliques that would stick together for the next two days. The students who had been on this trip last year hastily mentioned that the few cars that took them down in 2009 would not fit this group of over 40, and so we all wondered what we would be crammed into. A few moments later, we found out. A huge bus that fit around 80 people pulled up and excited laughter broke out. When all the luggage and students had been loaded, the teachers took advantage of the microphone system and informed us that we would all be assigned numbers for the trip so that we could 'count off' every time we were separated and brought back together, so as to not leave anyone behind. Immediately following the first successful count off, the bus rumbled to life and so did the sarcastic remarks about teenagers being able to count to 38. And with that, we were off. The first stop was the Maritime Academy. This is a college where you learn to either operate on or drive ships. For those who aren't so happy on the water, there is also a program in the academy that teaches you the business side of the Maritime industry. As part of our tour, we went on the ship called the Golden Bear, and saw all the different areas: the engine room, the engine control room, the deck, and the bridge to mention a few. After we got off the ship, we were taken into a simulation room where students are trained how to drive the ships before they actually get out on the water. This room was a big hit with all of us high school students because of all the cool buttons we could press and how we got to navigate the simulated coast guard ship through the Bay.

After the tour, we went into the cafeteria for an all-you-can-eat lunch. When lunch was over, it was back on the bus for us and our next count sounded off. We once again congratulated each other for being able to count to 38 (that would be all of the students and our #9 teacher). The next stop was the King Tut Museum. We waited in a huge line and then finally got to the exhibit. There was a 90 second intro video, and then we were set free to look at the artifacts. We went from one small, dark room to another, and made our way through the whole tour. Some students were finished in about ten minutes, while others got out just in time to meet up with the rest of the students and leave. But if you did get out and had some time to kill, there was a cool viewing room on the seventh floor of the museum where you could see an amazing view of the surrounding park and the city. And if you ventured a little more, the employees would direct you to 'the circle room,' which was a cylinder-shaped room outside that you could go in and experience the creepy echoes and heated stone chairs. Following the museum and another count off, we headed to the Hostel, which would be our home for the night. When we arrived, we split up according to gender, and found our rooms. After claiming bunks and freshening up, the group set off to Fisherman's Wharf where there was a small restaurant row. From there we sectioned off, each going to eat separately according to taste. Of course, there was small bicker about who wanted to go where, but in the end, we all got food in our stomachs, and one of the teachers even took a group of us to the beach for a little foot soaking.

The next day breakfast was served at 8:00am. After a morning stroll on the wharf, a group photo, and about a dozen count offs, we got back on the bus and headed to our next destination: Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy. We toured all around the Culinary Academy and then were treated to a three-course lunch that they prepared for us. The first course was a Ceaser Salad. The main course was chicken with potatoes, green beans and gravy, topped with onion rings. And the dessert was a delicious Banana Foster. Even the kids who didn't seem so ecstatic about the trip said they could have almost died because the food was so good. The final stop on our journey was Ex'pression College for Digital Art. This college seemed to be the most interesting for all of us. We got to see where students go through 'drawing boot camp', where they mix music records, and a few of us even got an inside look at a student who had spent over twelve hours trying to finish up a back track for a five minute movie scene. After touring three colleges and a museum, sleeping in rooms where everyone was snoring, last minute pits stops and confusion about a lost student, we were all ready to call it quits and head for home. Friendships were made, wallets were lost, and memories will be imprinted for good in the brains of all those who had a part in this field trip. The Bay Area Passages Trip has been a good success in the years past, and we hope that it will continue to be so in the years following.



# CORE Placer Highlights



## Colfax Community Cares

During these economic times with budget cuts and penny pinching we are so grateful for the support of our community.

Recently, the CORE Placer Charter School Drama & Guitar classes put on a performance of *Sherlock Holmes' Last Case*. We were very fortunate to have the use of the recently restored historic Colfax Theater, courtesy of the Jacobs family. The theater was made available to us not only for the performance but for several rehearsals as well. During the performance the owner's family made popcorn for the audience which we sold along with homemade baked goods as a fundraiser. Our play's title was even put up in lights on the marquee!

That same evening, our local Colfax pizza parlor, Pizza Factory, gave us a fantastic discount on pizza to sell by the slice as part of our fundraiser. This kind gesture has been extended to a weekly event. We will be selling pizza by the slice every Wednesday at lunch to help offset budget cuts. We estimate the money made each week will just about cover our weekly paper expense. We are "Paying for our Paper, One Slice of Pizza at a Time", thanks to the generous support of this local business. The next time you want pizza, please remember this merchant, Pizza Factory in the Colfax Shopping Center.

Our Colfax Parents care too! There have been many recent grocery cards issued and registered. These cards have enormous earning potential. They are a great way to support the school by simply doing your usual grocery shopping. We have Save Mart and Raley's cards in the Colfax Office and Nevada City Classroom. We will sign up Safeway cards for anyone who is interested, and can register out of town shoppers too!



Above: Pizza Factory Owner (Carey Roblez) & Employee (Ashley Miller)

Brian Best is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at CORE Placer Charter School. Recently he completed a restoration project on a 1948 Farmall tractor. The tractor belonged to Lloyd Davenport, who had it torn apart for restoration, when he passed suddenly. Lloyd's son Mike is a family friend, so Brian took over the restoration and presented it to Mike on Christmas Day in honor of his father Lloyd. Brian is a T.A. in the Colfax Center Auto class and according to his dad is "pretty mechanical". He is currently restoring a 71 Chevy step side, and works on various projects around the house, like dirt bikes, tractors and rototillers. Great Job Brian, we can't wait to see your Chevy truck!



Jessica Liu won 6<sup>th</sup> out of 43 competitors in her age group for the Downhill Slalom Race at Boreal last week! She's a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at CORE Placer and has been skiing since she was five. This is her second year with the Auburn Ski Club. She practices 2 to 3 times a week and does the "Insanity" work out with her family almost every day to keep in condition. Soccer is another favorite sport. What she likes most about skiing: "The medals" (of course!) "and Free Skiing". Other things Jessica enjoys are violin and piano; she takes lessons for both at the Colfax Center.

Jessie is truly part of a CORE Placer Family. She has been a CORE student since kindergarten. Her sister graduated from CORE last year and her brother Christian is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Mom Sandra, is also a fixture at the school; currently teaching a HS Finance course as well as a K-3 Computer class. Jessica likes to help out in the office and has an infectious giggle. When asked what she likes most about CORE Placer, she said "Nobody talks too bad and the teachers are nice" After a little prodding she added "The Office People are nice too!" Her favorite Center classes are "Ceramics and Movement with Kathleen". Jessica wants to be a professional skier when she grows up. The "Office People" in Colfax think she will be great at any thing she tries.

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**CONTACT YOUR  
CENTER FOR  
MORE INFO ON  
CALENDAR EVENTS!**



**Check out our calendar on  
our website [www.coretca.org](http://www.coretca.org)**

## Mark Your Calendar

### CORE Placer

**March 4-6** Reach for the Future HS Conference  
**March 9** Hearing, vision and Scoliosis Screening 11am  
**March 10** Maidu Interpretive Center Tour Deadline to sign up. Trip is April 23rd 9:45-1:30  
**March 15-19** Shady Creek Camp  
**March 18** King Tut Exhibit Field Trip. Contact Susan Fleming @ [Susandpf@netzero.net](mailto:Susandpf@netzero.net)  
**April 19-23** STAR testing - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATES

### CORE @ TCA

**March 4-6** Reach for the Future HS Conference  
**March 9 2pm-6pm** Leadership Workshop Grades 7-12  
**March 10** Maidu Interpretive Center Tour Deadline to sign up. Trip is April 23rd 9:45-1:30  
**March 15-19** Buy one-get one Book Fair  
**March 15-16** Ski Trips  
**March 17** Literary & Art Fair 4-6  
**March 15-19** Shady Creek Camp  
**March 29-April 5** Center Closed for Spring Break

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