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Sir Sequoia of Camelot

by Maria Swanson

"Arthur and The Brave Knights of Camelot", doesn't this sound like an exciting adventure? It's actually a recently authored book by one of San Onofre School's 6th graders. Sequoia Beckman, is a remarkable storyteller, publisher, philanthropist, determined visionary, and only eleven years old. Sequoia Beckman is a bright, charismatic, brown eyed long black hair, young man who looks more like a surfer than an accomplished author. However, at such a young age he has done more than most frustrated writers have ever dreamed of, by attaining recognition for writing not one book, but a series of books.

Sequoia attends San Onofre School at Camp Pendleton and has donated all profits from the sale of his book to the Injured Marines Semper Fi fund. His idea to write this book and donate the profits to the Semper Fi organization was a result of conversations with his stepdad who was deployed in Afghanistan, and who told him about the men in his unit who had been wounded. Sequoia continues to write and has conducted several book signings while becoming a semi-finalist for the Military Child of the Year award. A literary star is in the making and his Mom, Sherry, is his biggest fan and supporter. Sherry continues to invest in Sequoia's writing and quest to help the Injured Marines fund. We have great expectations for such a young author and wish him the greatest success. I have bought four of his books myself and I have his autograph to prove I knew him before he became truly famous. Hopefully, he will remember all his original fans on the way to the top.

Meet the Author & Illustrator: Sequoia Beckma and Charlotte McGehee. Charlotte designed three of the dragons in the story. Both are sixth grade students at Son Onofre School.

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Inspiring Torch Club Fundraiser

By Maria Swanson

On January 10, 2011, Trevor Romain and his team started off the day with an uplifting morning assembly at Mary Fay Pendleton School. Later in the afternoon, I went back to the same cafeteria to visit Mary Fay Pendleton's Torch Club, where I discovered that positive energy still lingered and there was excitement in the air. Amidst nervous giggles I was introduced to the president of the Torch Club, Briana, a soft spoken, gentle, but deliberate hazel -eyed young lady. The Torch Club promotes positive self-esteem and personal growth, builds listening and speaking skills, reinforces academic achievement and encourages the development of conscientious citizens. Chelsea Comey, is the School Age Care (SAC) coordinator and teacher as well as Torch Club advisor at Mary Fay Pendleton, and she was the mentor and catalyst for this fundraiser effort supporting the Trevor Romain Foundation. Ms Comey, read of Trevor Romains' book, the "The Art of Caring", sparking the children's desire to know more about Trevor and the work he does.

Trevor Romain is the creative mind and spirit behind The Trevor Romain Company. As a compelling children's motivational speaker, best-selling author/ illustrator, and award-winning video personality, Romain has traveled to schools nationwide, delivering his brand of inspirational, self-help messages to tens of thousands of children. Putting a human face to the need of social, emotional, and physical fitness, Romain uses his own childhood struggles, shared with humor and creative flair, to teach children ways to manage life's ups and downs. Because Romain demonstrates such terrific rapport with students, educators have turned to Romains' strategies to help students learn the rewards of self-management and higher academic achievement.

According to Ms. Comey, the Junior Patriots Torch Club has raised $450 to date to benefit the Trevor Romain Foundation which Trevor has stated he will match dollar for dollar. "The majority of our kids know what it's like to have a parent deployed and they can relate to Trevor's mission to help military children around the world", she stated. The Torch Club raised the money through a variety of different fundraisers which they planned and organized themselves. They sold giant stockings, ran a snack bar, and sold raffle tickets. The Junior Patriots have had much success with their snack bar and since then they have raised $800 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. My experience with the Torch Club at Mary Fay Pendleton tells me the world is in good hands as the new generation embodies purity of heart, and the spirit of commonwealth spearheaded by selfless, inspirational teachers. I stand in reverence and raise the torch to all the wonderful military children at Camp Pendleton and the world over. You are truly magical!

Torch Club Students with Trevor Romain at Mary Fay Pendleton.

Blue Dog Goes To Kindergarten

by Rose Ingersoll

Army Captain Marion Alston, VMD and Animal Care Specialist SGT Brittany Shannon presented an animal safety program to kindergarten students at Stuart Mesa Elementary School. Blue Dog is an interactive computer based program that was purchased by the Army Veterinary Corps to provide families with visual lessons to teach young children what behaviors may lead to an accidental dog bite.

Through a series of interactive vignettes, Blue Dog and the family children Simon and Sarah demonstrate the typical behaviors that may result with a dog bite through the unique perspective of Blue Dog. Dog bites occur most frequently with children under six, within the family home and with a dog that children are familiar with. Most of these bites, were a result of an inappropriate behavior usually initiated by the family child.

Students were thoroughly engaged as they viewed the individual vignettes of *The Bath Story, Simon & Blues Food, Blue Steals the Lilac Rabbit and Sarah Chases Blue.*

Captain Alston and Sgt Shannon managed to captivate the attention of 60 kindergartners which in my humble opinion is a is noteworthy accomplishment!

Captain Alston and SGT Shannon

School-to-Career Exposure to Worms and E-Coli *by Maria Swanson*

On a crisp, sunny Tuesday morning High School students from Fallbrook High School accompanied by a teacher and FUHS District, Superintendent Dr. Mitchell, were given a tour of several specialty departments at the Naval Hospital as part of Camp Pendleton's School- to-Career program organized by Community Plans and Liaison. The School-to-Career program provides job shadowing at twenty two different organizations on Camp Pendleton, this program supports seven local High Schools and over 600 students attend annually. The students who visited the Naval Hospital on this particular day, learned that X-Ray techs make a lot of money; were educated on what causes infections and the smells of specimens in the microbiology lab; were exposed to large amounts of blood in the blood bank, got fitted with a cast; and found the speed of the elevator to the eighth floor fascinating. Their curious wide open eyes, nervous smiles and crinkled noses demonstrated attention and eagerness to learn about the medical profession to solidify their interest in pursuing a career in healthcare, or not. The Naval Hospital hosts at the different medical departments were incredibly informative and took pride in exposing students to their jobs in the medical field. I too was impressed with how much ultrasound techs make and I am entertaining the idea of possibly making a career move, or not...

Fallbrook Union High School Students along with their Superindent Dr. Mitchell take a look at worms & tonsils!

Fact: As of April 2011, Camp Pendleton has had 645 high school students participate in the S2C program and over 8,500 students since 1995.

A Caring Community by Rose Ingersoll

Fifth grade students in Ms. Orbaugh's and Ms. Siem's classes volunteer their time at Santa Margarita Elementary School. This motivated team of student leaders has been industrious this school year as they provide monthly community service and outreach in their quest of building a caring community through service.

Their projects this year include: Soup & Beans for Angels' Depot which supports local senior citizens , Pennies & Pasta with Olive Garden, a Halloween coin drive for Unicef, Letters to students in Afghanistan, students made 4 dozen paper cranes for the OshGosh paper crane project where the company donated one item of clothing for each paper crane to the children in Japan, Daily Trash Pick Up on the Santa Margarita playground, and volunteering weekly with the Beacon Preschool Program.

Students, in support of Earth Day, launched a letter writing campaign requesting that the EPA ban the chemical atrazine because of the harmful effect it has on frogs in our environment.

A hearty congratulations to Santa Margarita's 5th grade team of students and teachers for improving their community. Bravo to these fine young citizens!

MCB Camp Pendleton
School Liaison Program

You can reach us at:
(760) 763-7385
(760) 763-7386
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Www.pendleton.usmc.mil/services/SchoolLiaison.asp

DOD and the USDA have collaborated to provide low-cost, high adventure camps for military teens 14—18 years of age.

For a brochure of camps take a look at the following link:

http://militaryfamilies.extension.org/military-teen-adventure-camps/

Listing of camps by date:
https://www.extension.purdue.edu/Adventure_camps/campsdate.html

Each camp has specific registration instructions and contact information.

Costs will vary, and travel to camp may be the responsibility of the family and camps are expected to fill quickly.

Low-cost SAT/ACT Test Preparation for College Bound High School Students

By Leigh Ann Corey

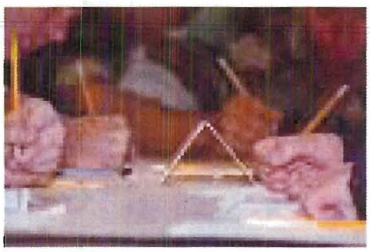
Attention military parents of high school students! eKnowledge is offering a low cost DVD that includes over 11 hours of video instruction and test preparation for high school students preparing to take the SAT and ACT tests. Through a partnership with the Department of Defense, and a strong donation effort, eKnowledge is able to keep the fee very low for our families, and is asking only $17.55 (includes shipping and handling), for the standard program. Don't miss this opportunity to have your child benefit from this exciting opportunity!

2011 SAT test dates – March 12th, May 7th and June 4th.

2011 ACT test dates – April 9th, June 11th, September 10th, October 22nd, and December 10th.

Eligible recipients include; Active duty military, Retired, Veterans, National Guard, Reserve, DoD employees, and civilians working in support of the military.

To order this software online, visit:

www.eknowledge .com/CampPendleton

To order by telephone, call: 951-356-4076 (reference Camp Pendleton)