



Fall Newsletter

A Look Inside

- Youth Alliance Workshop
- Summertime Activities
- Olive Festival
- Fundraising Opportunities

Super Tech-Savvy Classroom Upgrades

Keith Thompson Nonpublic School has undergone some hugely significant changes over the last year. It began with the hiring of a new teacher last summer, who we introduced you to a year ago and has been an amazing asset to our organization and our children. His energy and enthusiasm set the tone for the amazing changes the class was about to go through over the coming months.

The changes to the technology and classroom infrastructure over the last year have been remarkable, especially for a one-room, multi grade level class such as this. It went from a class with a couple of student computers to being one of the most technologically advanced in San Benito County, employing technological tools that even many



mainstream public schools only wish for. Keith Thompson NPS is currently operating a class set of ten Google Chrome books thanks in large part to grants from the Intero Foundation and the San Benito County Office of Education. The funding we received from Intero was the second grant that we have received from them, and we are so appreciative of the relationship that we have had over the last couple of years. “Lorna Gilbert, Special Education Director; Christine Lompu, SELPA; and Mike Sanchez, County School Superintendent have been very supportive of our school and cam-

pus for many years. Lorna in particular has provided us with technical assistance and resources that have improved the quality of our school. This past year they have stepped up even more by providing funding that had transformed our classroom and will ensure our students have a great learning environment and be prepared for new testing standards,” said Robert Freiri. That funding was instrumental in initiating the changes we had planned. The Chrome books are used daily to teach students computer skills and provide differentiated learning in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The classroom is currently employing two newly acquired intervention programs called Lexia Learning and Mathletics. The first provides differentiated instruction in reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and writing. The other is a comprehensive math curriculum focusing on common core standards. This program provides many unique features to students, among them giving students the chance to compete in live mathematics, where students can complete math facts against students in their class, school, or around the world in real time! A range of other tools, including the use of Google Docs, Google Drive, and email, are all tools now being incorporated in our students’ classroom learning.

In addition to Chrome books, the classroom has acquired a set of 3 iPads, which use various applications to assist student learning. To make these tools accessible, the classroom has a mounted projector on the ceiling with both an Apple TV and Chromecast connected, which allows classroom staff and students to connect Chrome books and Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, and MacBook) to the projector and display their content on the big screen for all to see. To further add to accessibil-

Chamberlain's Children Center empowers at-risk children in a home-like environment to heal from past trauma, discover their strengths, and develop the skills they need to achieve life-long success.

Mission Statement:

Chamberlain's

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Save The Date!

September 24th—Keith Thompson Non Public School Open House . Community members welcome from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. October 11th—San Benito Olive Festival. If you are interested in volunteering on our behalf, please contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org or 831-636-2121, ext. 129. If not, still come out to enjoy the festival! It is open from 11am to 5pm!



Chamberlain's Children Center
1850 San Benito Street
Hollister, CA 95023
www.chamberlaincc.org

Hollister Youth Alliance Group at Chamberlain's

There are many great nonprofits in San Benito County that do amazing work for our community and we always feel very thankful when we are able to collaborate with one of them to better serve our clients. Chamberlain's Children Center recently partnered with the Youth Alliance in Hollister who conducted an 8-week group called "The Noble Youth" geared to our middle school and high school youth.

This 8-week group was a cognitive behavioral program that fostered the children's positive character development. The group was designed to encourage positive behaviors with weekly activities to support self-esteem, positive communication, and other healthy social skills. The group lessons also focused on goal setting, creating personal boundaries, anger management, healthy relationships, and history of cultural heritage.



The lessons also taught skills about handling life situations and living honorably while fulfilling personal goals. This was an enriching experience for both our children and our staff, both of whom were engaged throughout the 8-weeks. All of the principles that were covered each week were lessons that we try to expose our children to frequently. These are life lessons that many of our kids have not been exposed to until they come to

Chamberlain's. The opportunity to explicitly explore how these critical skills apply to real life situations was majorly beneficial. In a survey conducted by the youth facilitators at the conclusion of the 8-weeks indicated the number of children who reported an ability to connect with trusted adults increased by 91%. We are extremely excited about the results of this program and as a result of their positive participation, several of our children were referred to programs similar to this one that are currently being run at San Benito High School and soon to include Rancho Middle School. We are extremely appreciative of our fellow community organization for collaborating with us to offer their unique and enriching program to our children to ensure that they are instilled with skills they need to be successful in life and in school! Thank you, Youth Alliance!

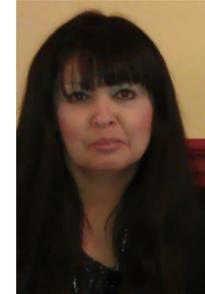
Local Girl Scouts Help Out Again!



One of the local Girl Scout Troops brought us another donation to help comfort Chamberlain's children. Just in time for Fall and Winter, they brought us handmade blankets to keep them warm! We are so grateful to this group and all the other community groups who think of our children throughout the year. It really is inspiring to see the community thinking about the needs of our children and reaching out to help. The values that the Girl Scout troops are concentrating on are all ones that we agree are important for all children to learn as they grow. We appreciate that they are frequently donating items that our children will enjoy, but we also

love that it provides our children with an example of being kind to people as well as being community minded. Peer and adult role models are very important to our children's success. We thank these young ladies for all their hard work and thoughtfulness!

32 years of Commitment!



We are always amazed at the hard work and dedication of our employees here at Chamberlain's Children Center. We recently celebrated the work anniversaries of two such employees who have given our children an amazing amount of their time and effort. Both Lupe Grimaldo and Rachel Hernandez recently reached 32 years of service to our kids. They are both valued staff members who have touched the hearts of many throughout the years. Lupe has been a thoughtful and caring person who always has our kid's best interests at heart. As a Cottage Supervisor, Lupe has had a positive impact on many children and for years she has trained countless staff to do the same. Lupe has always advocated for the importance of making the children's house a home. Her cottage, Powell house, has won multiple Chamberlain's Campus Pride awards. Rachel brings her many years of experience to both the classroom and the cottage and has been instrumental in assisting our teacher with training new staff and organizing various activities in the classroom. She is very nurturing, especially to our younger children. We are grateful to both Lupe and Rachel for all the years they have spent bettering the lives of the children in our care!

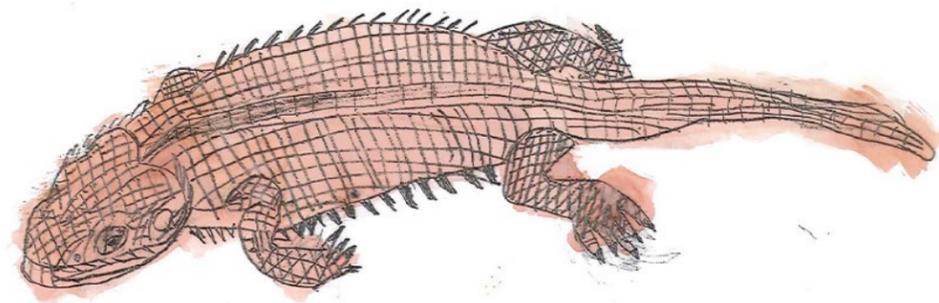
Classroom, Con'd

ity, the school also has use of a Mondo Pad, which serves as an interactive whiteboard and touchscreen computer. This device can also be used to make video calls to professionals outside the classroom. Last school year, the class contacted our Director, Robert Freiri, while he was attending a conference across seas! The classroom has received a new look over the course of the past year to complement its new technology upgrades. Students are no longer seated in individual desk, but now occupy cubicles that line the outer walls of the classroom. Work stations have been set up to provide small group instruction to students to advance their learning. These changes have drastically improved the learning experiences for all students. Not only does the new layout provide students with their own space to complete their work, but the addition of technology allows for more differentiated instruction so all students can obtain better access to a high quality education. The added equipment is also providing students with valuable technological and life skills they will be able to use in the future. The students of Keith Thompson have benefited greatly from these changes.



If you would like to see some of these changes for yourself, please join us for Back to School Night on September 24th from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about new instructional programs and how the classroom is taught and managed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Morrison at matt@chamberlaincc.org.

Keith Thompson Nonpublic School Student Art



Chromebooks and iPads are not the only unique features in our classroom. The children share their space with several animals as well. They have frogs, a leopard gecko, and a bearded dragon named Yoda. One of our students recently drew a picture of Yoda, who is one well loved dragon. He is actually quite big now and the children enjoy taking him out of his cage for a visit when they have the time! This is an amazing rendition of their little lizard friend!



Volunteer for Chamberlain's at the San Benito Olive Festival!

The Second Annual San Benito Olive Festival is right around the corner and for the second year Chamberlain's Children Center will be involved. It will be held on October 11th from 11AM to 5PM at Bolado Park at 9000 Airline Highway in Tres Pinos, CA. The festival is a unique opportunity to celebrate the area's agriculture and all of the culinary delights that are possible as a result. It highlights the olive and the region's world class olive oil that is produced locally, but also celebrates other superfoods grown here in San Benito County. This focus on nutritious foods and healthy oils aligns with the focus of Chamberlain's Children Center Health and Wellness Program perfectly and is one of the reasons we are enthusiastically motivated to get involved. The festival's organization also strives to support other local nonprofits such as ours. In addition to amazing food, drinks, and vendors, local celebrity chefs SacaBozzo will be entertaining guests with a cooking demonstration. Chefs Dorothy McNett, Mike Fisher, and Dave Boswell will also share their cooking with everyone. Live music will be provided by Mr. O's Jazz Band, Shiloh, The Flashbacks, and Retrospect. We are very excited to once again be involved and will be handling the ticket entrance for the day of the event. If you would like to volunteer on Chamberlain's behalf, please contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org. We are still looking for help in our second shift from 1:30pm to 6pm. All volunteers will receive a San Benito Olive Festival shirt and will be fed during their shift. This is one of our volunteers favorite events to help out with, so don't miss your chance to get involved!

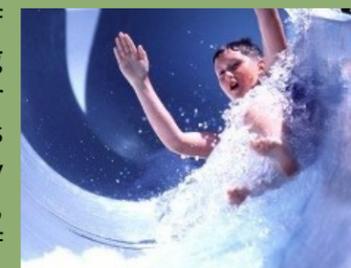


A Summer of Fun!

Summertime at Chamberlain's is always filled with fun activities for our children and this year was no exception. We had plenty to do this summer season to keep our children engaged, busy, and entertained! Below is a spotlight on some of the lasting memories we helped create for our kids!

Raging fun at Raging Waters!

The Raging Waters trip is an annual outing to reward all of our children who have reached level three in our behavior reward system. Our children and our staff consider making level three a big accomplishment. It means greater freedoms and responsibilities. Kids on level three are allowed to stay up later, have more screen time, walk around campus without staff supervision, and go on special outings such as this one. Because it is a smaller group, a smaller number of staff are required to accompany them making the outing a more intimate time for bonding with the children



while they are having fun. We had a wide range of ages going and it was great fun for everyone who went. Some of our kids spent more time in the faster water slides like the Baracuda Blaster or the Dragon's Den and some of kids enjoyed playing on the Endless River, in the Wave Pool, or at Pirate's Cove. The children were having so much fun and were so well behaved that day that staff decided to extend their time there to allow for more fun. It ended up being one of the most talked about events of the summer.

Day At The Boardwalk

Summers at Chamberlain's always include fun trips for many of our children, but this year we had a special outing. Chamberlain's uses a level system to reward children for good behavior. Usually special field trip opportunities are reserved for children who have earned a level three. On August 12th, we took every single kid no matter what level they were on plus all the staff including the administrative and clinical departments to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. This unique opportunity was initiated by a special Chamberlain's supporter who learned from some of the children that they had never been on a trip like this. She donated all the money for the children's tickets, activities, and food for the day with the stipulation that all children get to participate. It was a special day that united everyone who went on the trip and made memories that will last a life time for our children. The response was overwhelming. When staff members reported back about how the kids reacted to the trip, they were all excited about how happy it left the children. One of our newest girls lit up when recalling the trip in a way that we had not yet seen from her. Many of the other kids have had similar experiences and they were overheard talking about it long after the day had ended. It was a time that will not soon be forgotten.





The Holidays Are Coming!

A No Cost Way to Lend Your Support!



Want a simple and free way to support Chamberlain's Children Center while you shop online? We now participate in the Amazon Smile Program! If you visit Smile.amazon.com, sign on to your amazon account, choose Chamberlain's Children Center as your benefiting organization, and make sure when you are shopping that it says smile in the browser address window, .5% of your purchases will be donated to us! This is super easy and will cost you nothing if you already shop on Amazon to begin with! We are about to enter the heavy shopping period now that the kids are back to school and the holidays are right around the corner! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kim Meininger at kim@chamberlaincc.org or 831-636-2121, ext. 129.

Spooktacular Savings and Support!



Halloween and party season are right around the corner and we have a great opportunity to save you money on costumes and party supplies while raising money for our programs. If you are already going to be buying costumes for your kids or stocking up on party supplies throughout the holidays or any time of year, please consider helping us out. If you visit Costumeandpartyfundraiser.com for all your costume and party supply needs, you can save 10% on your purchase and Chamberlain's will get 15% of customers purchases. Just make sure to enter FUN3318 when you checkout! If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office at 831-636-2121 .



DONATION FORM

Name _____ Amount Donated _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to:

Chamberlain's Children Center, Inc.

Federal Tax I.D. Number 94-2357401

Mail to: Chamberlain's Children Center

Executive Director Report:



This summer the Children of Chamberlain's had one of the best summers ever! The Chamberlain's Children had field trips to baseball games, Arena Football, Monterey Bay Aquarium, to the movie theater, the farmers market, and Raging Waters as well as an amazing end of the summer party!

However the icing on the cake was a thoroughly amazing trip to the Santa Cruz Beach & Boardwalk that you will read about in this newsletter. I have been working with children for thirty years and it was a top five all time experience for me! So I have to rehash it through my eyes (as well as Program Director Patrick Ellis' eyes) as he states:

"For the first time ever, Chamberlain's entire group of kids and staff went on an outing together. The fun filled family-style day was a huge success for all. For some of our kids, this was their first family-style trip, first time at an amusement park, first time at the Boardwalk, first roller coaster, first funnel cake, and for three of our kids this was their very first time seeing the ocean. All of this was possible thanks to our generous donor, Diane Torre of The Gift, whose personal experience growing up in foster care keeps Chamberlain's close to her heart."

I couldn't have stated it better myself!!! I think we can all reflect back on family trips to amusement parks and how truly special they were. For me, it was Magic Mountain and Disneyland. They were truly magical experiences for me, going on my first roller coaster, seeing Disney's Magic Castle and of course seeing my brother hug Mickey Mouse for the first time. What made those experiences so magical, so transformative was the effort it took to get there, the attentiveness during the time we were there, and the reflection on the way home. These elements were all in play with our field trip to the Boardwalk. Our staff was so supportive of our children, guiding them, encouraging them to try new things, and holding their hands on rides. Laughing with them, tears of joy, and in a few cases, shared queasiness! I went on a ride I had no business going on, but a child wanted me to go with her, so there I went, and survived (barely!) The smiles and discussions before, during and after were so vivid they will stay with me for the rest of my days!

That is the type of experience we are trying to provide every day at Chamberlain's. With your continued support, we can continue to make every child's experience at Chamberlain's memorable, transformative and maybe just a little bit magical!!!

Robert Freiri
Executive Director

