



The New FCSN Times

2300 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536; Tel. 510-739-6900; Fax 510-739-6999

Issue #23: January/February/March/April 2012

☞ Letter from the Editors ☜

Dear Readers,

FCSN started the **Scrip Program** in April 2012. Thanks to many parents and staff to buy the scrip to support FCSN. The cut off day of ordering the Scrip is the **first Friday** of each month. Your orders are ready to be picked up after 7 calendar days. You can find the Scrip Order Form at FCSN Website (fcsn1996.org)- click on "Join Us", then "Make a Gift Today", and scroll down to click on "Order with Us Today" <http://fcsn1996.org/images/Applications/Scrip%20Order%20Form.pdf>

You can also find a hard copy of the order form at the last page of this Newsletter.

FCSN will be renting a charter bus to take students and families to Sacramento on **Disability Capitol Action Day (5/30)** to protest the DDS Proposal to Cut \$200 Millions on the funding to Special Needs children and adults. We need you to join us to tell the legislators to STOP hurting our loved ones. We are tired but Our Love for Our Children is Our Strength. Stand United & Be Our Children's Voices. Please RSVP to Sylvia (sylviayeh@fcsn1996.org) or Anna (annawang@yahoo.com) to save you spot. We only have 40 seats on the bus.

Please join us to celebrate **FCSN's 16th Anniversary** on 6/2 (Sat) 4:30-8:30 pm at 1269 Forgewood Ave., Sunnyvale. Join us to build a brighter future for our special children. **Please RSVP** to Rita Chen at adm@fcsn@gmail.com. We will also have **FCSN Cookie Sale**. The fund we raised will be used to purchase four more iPads. Cookie sale is \$10 per box. Please see the

Cookie Sale flyer on page 30. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

I also would like to wish all mothers "Happy Mother's Day". Congratulations to four FCSN Chinese Mothers who received the **Chinese Mothers of the Year Award** from Chinese Cultural Center on May 5th. Being a mother of a child with special needs is extremely challenging, add to this cultural stigma and family pressure, life is even more daunting. These FCSN mothers, besides helping their own children and families, volunteer their time to bring hope and support to many other children with special needs and their families. Our award-winning moms this year are: Auntie Jennifer Li (mother of Alan & Vincent), Auntie Mann-Ching Wang (mother of Tony), Auntie Yan-Sheng Lin (mother of Sammy) and Auntie Kaili Liao (mother of Julian & Anthony). Congratulations!!

Are you ready for **FCSN Prom**? It is the biggest event for ADP students. FCSN Prom will be hosted on August 25, 2012 6:00-9:30 pm. Please see the Prom flyer on page 31. Also RSVP to Kari Cheng at kicheng85@gmail.com to register.

We have set up a **new e-mail address** (fcsnnewsletter@gmail.com) to receive any and all newsletter articles, pictures, and announcements. This allows an official and widely accessible place to collect your ideas with less privacy issues. We encourage all students, staff, parents, social workers - everyone associated with FCSN!- to send your articles to this email.

Sylvia Yeh, Exe. Director (sylviayeh@fcsn1996.com)
Ingrid Cheng, Editor (fcsnnewsletter@gmail.com)

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Autism Awareness and Early Intervention

by Anna Wang

One of 88 babies born will have autism. One of 54 baby boys will have Autism. Such alarming numbers were announced by the CDC (US Center for Disease Control) in March 2012. There are two important things to know:

a) Early diagnosis and Early Intervention are crucial in altering their prognosis.

b) Never give up on your child - their true selves and their many abilities are waiting to be discovered. Many of them are late bloomers; some major discoveries were made in their adulthood.

For new parents, here are the signs of autism:

- Autism is characterized by language delays or other communication problems, poor or limited social skills and repetitive, rigid and other unusual behaviors.
- Autism refers to a spectrum of disorders with a wide range of symptoms that vary from mild to severe.
- Autism refers to a spectrum of disorders with a wide range of symptoms that vary from mild to severe.
- A child is diagnosed with autism every 20 minutes.
- Autism is four times more common in boys than in girls and occurs in children of all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. It is more prevalent than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric aids combined.
- A significant number of symptoms of autism are present by 18 months of age or even earlier. However, children are typically not diagnosed until 3 to 4 years of age or later.
- Research indicates that early identification and intervention can result in significant positive outcomes for many children with autism.



Autism Red Flags - the 24 Month "Red Flag" Checklist

*For numbers 1-9, place a check mark

even if the behavior is not present now, but has been in the past

- 1) Child has lost language skills.
- 2) Child does not show interest in other children.
- 3) Child does not engage in pretend play.
- 4) Child does not engage in reciprocal social games like peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake.
- 5) Child's eye contact is minimal, for only a second or two.
- 6) Child does not point with index finger to show you something.
- 7) Child does not bring objects to you to show you.
- 8) Child does not use spontaneous meaningful two word phrases.
- 9) Child does not engage in spontaneous imitation of adult verbalization or gestures.
- 10) Child is overly sensitive to foods, noises, and textures.
- 11) Child tantrums excessively when there is a minimal change in routine.
- 12) Child engages in ritual or obsessive play (ie. lining toys up or doing same activity repeatedly).
- 13) Child makes repetitive body movements (like rocking or spinning) or unusual hand/finger movements.
- 14) Have you ever wondered if your child is deaf?

A check for any of the 14 items indicates a referral for assessment to the Regional Center.

Going to Sacramento

by Nancy Eddy

On March 26, 2012, Emerald Brown, Christy Eddy and Nancy Eddy went to Sacramento to attend the State Senate Budget Committee hearings about the proposed budget for the coming year. Since Emerald and Christy are deaf, the committee provided a sign language interpreter. We watched/ listened to testimony about the State Development Centers (institutions for people with disabilities) and learned that those institutions are being closed or the population decreased. Those people are being moved out into the community in supported living arrangements or small group homes. People who have lived their entire life in a hospital like setting are being able to live just like the

rest of us. What good news for them!

Auntie Anna Wang had arranged for the three of us to meet with Senator Ellen Corbett. She has an important job in Sacramento as the Senate Majority Leader. It was an honor to meet with her and her staff. She was interested in learning what Emerald and Christy's daily life was like. We talked about attending FCSN, Special Olympics, square dancing, and other activities. Emerald expressed how hard it is to find a job. Christy talked about the difficulty of getting good transportation to her job in Pleasanton.

Senator Corbett's staff actually followed up with me later to get more details about transportation.

(Back) Ellen & Nancy; (Front) Emerald & Christy



It's important to continue to attend meetings in Sacramento to make our voice heard. There will be more hearings in May about next year's budget. We need to show up at those so the legislators understand that budget cuts are not acceptable - we've had our share already.



Ellen supports FCSN students and families

Gifts of Love

by Christy Daniels

In my mind's eye I see and remember gifts of love. Yes, love offered by the teachers of FCSN to our remarkable clients. Let me share a few of these lovely gifts.

One day, during exercise time, the music was fast and energetic. I looked into the kitchen and saw *Miss Angela* cooking and dancing to the beat of the music. She was happy and smiling and students who looked

her way were uplifted by her energy and fun loving spirit. I shall never forget her wink and nod of encouragement to others as she danced and cooked.

I see *Miss Amy* kindly taking the hand of her client to help her up or just to be there and encourage her. I see patience and kindness by *Miss May* to students who are reluctant to join in games. She is always offering and encouraging but never forcing, allowing the students to make their own choices. I see *Miss Daphne*, her soul full of music, sharing the beat and timing of songs. Her students have faces that shine with enjoyment as they keep the beat with creative instruments that make fun and different sounds.

I see teachers reaching out to deaf students in basic signs that say, "good morning" or good job". I see *Mr. Brian* patiently helping, teaching, and offering gentle correction to his students in the Computer Lab. Inspiring me that a sense of humor and laughter is healthy and fun while we teach, I see the flashing dimples and hear the throated laugh of *Miss Jennie* as she uses the magic of humor to teach and direct her students. Thursdays are made special with the well-planned baking activities of *Miss Kathy*. Organized and helpful *Miss Joyce* helps the students sign in and out and make a daily count of our clients attending that day.

The exercise times taught by each teacher and volunteer, revs up and rejuvenates; each teaches and leads the exercise time with their own flavor of culture and style. From *Mr. Darryl's* hip, funky jive to the *Miss Maria's* Latino spice; to the soothing introspective sounds and movements of *Miss Daphne*, and to the well loved and familiar songs and dances that *Miss Kathy* leads. Our students receive a cross-cultural experience of body awareness and movement. To those students who prefer a more macho exercise experience, *Mr. TY* takes them outside to play basketball.

We are blessed with volunteers who come on a regular basis to assist, teach and enrich our student's curriculum. We love our volunteers.

During Money Management and Reading time, I'm reminded of the one room school house. I hear the murmurs of instruction and answers by the different

teachers and their class. The teachers are prepared to meet their students at their own level and seek to help them understand and learn the next step up. Their words are kindly, non-judgmental, and encouraging. I see our teachers' commitment to support each other with creative instruction in every class, each teacher seeking to reach the inner heart of each student. They do it in gentle words and kindly explanations and...often with a sense of humor. I see the everyday structure that defines and helps students to modify their behavior. I love witnessing their growth and development.

This kind of environment, full of kindness, patience and dedication stems from leadership and organization. Our Executive Director, *Miss Sylvia*, and Program Manager, *Miss Vivian*, wear many different "hats". They are very interactive with our FCSN clients as well as managing and keeping our program planned and organized. *Miss Lena* and *Miss Kari* are constantly helpful, available, and instructive to the staff as well as taking their share of clients.

The trickle-down of their examples show up in the team work and support the teachers offer each other. I see and have experienced many times support and camaraderie from various teachers as I work one to one with my client or as I cook in the kitchen. There is always a hand of help, often without even being asked.



Gifts of Love- FCSN EBADP staffs

Is it any wonder that our clients look forward to coming to FCSN every day? Isn't it wonderful that each person arriving has special words of welcome by *Miss Lili*? Isn't it amazing how *Miss Ping* designs the seasonal decorations, rallying help along the way to

make and put them up? And each teacher and student is always grateful for the organization of field trips and events, taken care of by *Miss Ingrid*. Isn't it obvious why this program keeps doubling and tripling itself? I hear parents state this is the best program their child has been in. They appreciate the on-going education their child receives, the social interaction, the fun classes and discussion groups of current events. They appreciate their child being able to go to the prom, join in performances and art classes. Our clients become the "big fish" in the pond. Parents and caretakers appreciate knowing their child or client's mind and body are exercised everyday in a safe, creative environment.

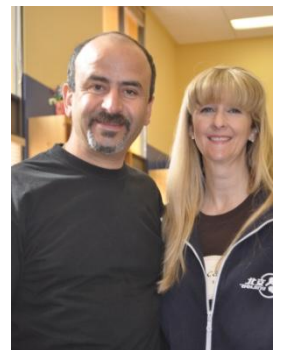
So I see these kind, gentle acts by teachers and staff as gifts of love. In my mind's eye I will always see kindly faces and hear the echo of laughter in the halls and classrooms of FCSN. In this world of debauchery and rudeness, it's a breath of fresh air to step into the world of FCSN and feel loved, accepted and safe.

A Mug for You

by Ingrid Cheng

FCSN was so blessed to receive an endorsement of \$1,000 from **Tony Boudame** to bring our students to his studio, **Color Me Mine**, for ceramics work. At the end of March, forty students from EBADP and CIDP had an opportunity to design their own ceramic mugs at Color Me Mine. Located near the crossroads of Peralta Blvd. and Fremont Ave., Color Me Mine is a bright and arty ceramics studio where one can paint any number of ceramic objects of your choice. Our students got to work on ceramic mugs - a perfect and practical choice for if they wanted to use the mugs at school.

The owners of Color Me Mine are **Heather and Tony Boudame**. In 2009, while the family was going down Mission Blvd., they noticed that the old *Color Me Mine* workshop was going out of business. This place held wonderful memories for them, especially for their son who was very



sad when he saw the "closing in two weeks" sign. The Boudame family had spent birthday parties and summer days at *Color Me Mine*. Then and there, they decided that the closure wasn't going to happen - they went in and paid for *Tony & Heather* the business with one written check. Most of what they needed (supplies, etc.) were already in storage in the back. After planning and hard work, they moved *Color Me Mine* to where it now stands.

Color Me Mine became not only an art business, it also became a way for Tony and Heather to give back to the community. To understand how and why is to know what they love to do. They love to bring a little something into the lives of others: they have volunteered in hospitals, driven ambulances, built homes, and other works of charity in places like Romania, Lebanon, and Hungary.

Through *Color Me Mine*, they have brought artistic pleasure to schools, hospitals, elderly homes, and other programs (like FCSN) not only at their current location but in travelling to at least twenty seven other states, doing what they're doing best. *Color Me Mine* also hosts regular events for anyone including holiday events, birthday parties, ladies' night, and a Midnight workshop where you can wander in until the witching hour to do some painting.

FCSN students had a wonderful time of it. The space was neat, comfortable, and



(L-R) Raymond, Mr. Darryl, Brian, Ms. Maria & Kin

appealing. Each table was set with water and sponges and brushes - the store employees and teachers helped squeeze different color paints into numbered palettes and passed them out. We were instructed to paint our mugs at least three times over so that the colors would come stand out and come out bright. As soon as everything was set and everyone got their mugs, the students fell to designing.



(L-R) Miss Ingrid, Alice, Marge & Yu-Huan

It took thoughtfulness and concentration, the careful choosing of colors and the imagining of design. The teachers guided but didn't tell the students what to put on their mugs - each student fully painted their own, in accordance to what they liked. Some did wonderful washes of colors while others added small design of flowers or stars. Many painted the insides of their mugs one color and the outsides a different color, making a lovely contrast.



Joanne

Bryce

Luis

Near the end of their artistic labors, students wrote their name on the underside of their mugs with a charcoal-like pencil and were anxious to know when they could take them home. The workshop had to first glaze, and then fire them in an oven. This turned the mugs from the sandy material of raw ceramic to the polished look of a finished product - like what you might see in a store. It will take them a week to do, but our students were patient and excited, expressing many thanks to Tony and Heather, and fervent wishes to have an opportunity to do this again.



"Thank You, Heather & Tony" from EBADP students



"Color Me Mine = Fun" from CIDP students

Here Come the iPads

by My Yee

Steve Jobs called it a magical device, and so does Mrs. Stanley, Heather's mother. With the advent of the iPad, a new door was opened to the many ways that autistic people can communicate and learn that was previously not possible. All it took was an enthusiastic endorsement from Mrs. Stanley to seal the deal, and bring this touch of magic to the center.

Back in November 2011, EBADP staffs/volunteers built elegant cookie boxes and raised \$1,590 for the purchase of three iPads; donations from parents, staff, and friends raised an additional \$1,300. The iPads finally arrived with small fanfare and received a lukewarm reaction from the staff. However, the reaction of our clients showed that was anything but the case.



(L-R) Janice, Thomas, Ray & Karina enjoying the Ipad

" I like the iPad because I am learning more things. It is very cool and I am learning to use Skype and the camera is big and easy to use; the games are easy to play. Ms. May teaches me how to do a timetable," *Jose Trevino* comments.



"I want an iPad to play music. I want the garage band to do the guitar chords. I will play keyboard in the FCSN iPad band," *Vivian Sun*, had to say about using the iPad.

While using the iPads, each client and teacher have their preferences. Some like math apps, some puzzles, and some coloring. Ms. May, however, believes in the power of music. And what better way to make music than Garage Band? Students are hard at work learning their C and G chords, and our FCSN Garage Band debut will be at FCSN EBADP for the Cinco De Mayo Celebration. Our next venue is heading to- **Carnegie Hall!**



(L-R) Jessie, Vivian, May, Ingrid, Becky, Ya Ya and May

A Slice of Heaven

by Christy Daniels

We were all excited for St. Patrick's Day! Lots of fun and games and food were planned. Just to tell you, the most fascinating and exciting event happened the day before St. Patrick's Day. A lot of the food was being prepared for the 150 people we planned to feed. One of the foods was the scalloped potatoes. Well...to feed 150 people we needed 30 pounds of potatoes. They all needed to be washed and sliced. We prepared to slice them all with our handy dandy food processor, but we found that the spout to feed the potatoes into was way too small. We couldn't even begin to make the slices we wanted.

Sylvia happened to come in and we told her of our dilemma. She agreed with us that we would have to slice them by hand, but what a chore! There were only three of us (two fast slicers and one slow one). We had to slice 30 pounds of potatoes by hand!? Wow! We thought we would be slicing potatoes forever! But Sylvia called in the troops! She asked all

the teachers to come in to the kitchen and help slice. Zoom! They all came in to help. We had about 20 teachers cutting the potatoes. We were all laughing and talking. Do you know that some of the experienced teachers are very good at food prep? Well, Mr. Hung was laughing and talking with everyone and slicing away. He was not even looking at the potato he was slicing! The other teachers are equally fast, slicing up the potatoes.

Potato after potato was sliced up. Christy was kept busy taking the sliced potatoes off the cutting boards and putting the sliced potatoes into the salt water. She could hardly keep up - they were slicing so fast! The whole 30 pounds of potatoes were done in 10 minutes!! Now that is team work. The cheery chatter, the quick hands and flashing knives, and everyone helping made the chore quick and easy. A drudge chore was made a fun experience that will never be forgotten!



(L-R) Kelly, Manuel, Auntie Marie & Ray



St. Patrick Day Celebration at FCSN

A Note from Nancy Eddy

Dear FCSN Friends:

I have been official gone from FCSN for about 6 weeks now and a busy 6 weeks it's been. I so enjoyed by years at FCSN managing the supported and independent living programs! I miss all my consumers, families

and staff friends. Actually, I still show up frequently for all the hugs and smiles.

As a parent, I have felt that FCSN has the best adult day program I've seen. Everyone is active, busy and involved all day, every day. But my first love is the deaf community since my daughter is deaf and disabled. A full year ago, some of us (including Emerald's mom, Vanessa) got together and applied for a grant from Regional Center of the East Bay and received start up funding for a center based adult day program for deaf and deaf/blind who may have behavior issues. So here is what I'm doing:

Deaf Plus Adult Community (DPAC)

Deaf Plus Adult Community is an exciting new day program for adult consumers who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and have developmental disabilities. In addition, we serve a small cohort of blind/low vision (hearing) participants.

Our vision is to create a deaf-friendly, deaf-blind friendly, communication rich environment, where participants really belong. Each individual has his/her own plan for personal and educational growth, and we encourage positive social and community connections. Many of our staff are deaf or hard of hearing. All staff working with deaf and deaf-blind consumers are excellent signers. Our staff interpreters facilitate communication between deaf/signing and hearing (blind/low vision), non-signing participants, with family members, and in the community.

DPAC has leased a space in Newark, and we hope to open our doors in Summer, 2012! But first we need to make it welcoming and accessible to all our participants and staff.

Even with RCEB funding, we need to raise additional funds to cover some start-up costs. We need your help! Your contributions in any of the areas below would be gratefully welcomed, and we would honor you as a founding supporter of DPAC.

Please make checks payable to DPAC/ARC Associates and send to 428 13th Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94612. You can also donate via paypal at www.arcassociates.org, click on "get involved" tab, and then the "donate" button. Put DPAC in the "purpose" box.

Questions, or want to volunteer? Contact Nancy Eddy, neddy@deafplus.us.



Violence Prevention

A Talk on Bullying, Teasing, and Exclusion

*summary of Carol Menz's, M.F.T., 4/28/'12
speech at FCSN Family Support Seminar*

FACT: For people with a disability, there is a 90% chance they will at some time in their life become a victim of some type of abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, or some other type of predatory behavior

The Special Problem of Autism Spectrum

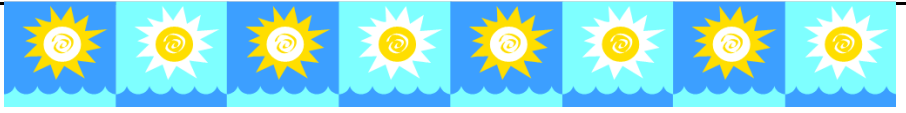
Disorders: It is my belief as a practitioner that we have only begun to graze the surface of how to love, understand, and meet the complex needs of people who fall into this spectrum. In order to do so, we have an uphill battle confronting archaic and incomplete schema with which to view these types of disability. For our own ease, we threw people with autism into the general boat of those who are cognitively “not as smart as us” because that was the easiest way for us to process our dis-ease with relating to them. This was easy to do whenever there was some obvious gap, such as inability to control impulses, special fixations with certain subject matter, rigid and precise behavioral comfort zones, and clear differences with handling social cues and relationships. We then readily concluded that people with autism were not smart and should be treated accordingly. We also preferred a continuum with ourselves at the far right extreme left,- those who are not smart or able. In doing so, we missed a much more sensible and instructive way of viewing disability, which is multifaceted and more like a collage than a continuum: it works better to look at a person as having an array of strengths mixed in with an array of limitations, with possibly some off-the-charts strengths and some striking gaps. In this way, all people (even those without obvious disabilities), fall all over the continuum, rather than being relegated to only on “level” and expected to perform there routinely with regard to all functioning.

The Challenge for the Rest of Us: What will be needed is to educate our young people with autism spectrum disorders who to train and work with their support people. They will need to learn how to handle being misjudged and misunderstood (including being talked to as if they are not intelligent), as well as learning how to communicate what does work in terms of offering substantial and successful support. This might include special instructions about wanting to be told (kindly) whenever they misread social cues, about physically proximity and privacy, about obsessive focusing on hobbies and/or interests, about quirks that can be handled knowledgeably, about respecting their rights as adults about how they live, work, and keep house, and in general about their tolerance for company and contact.

Sample Scripts for Practicing/ Demonstrating How to Handle Teasing from people with a developmental disability

1. Converting Insult to A Request for Information
2. “What-what-what-oh!”
3. “You Don’t Even Know Me”
4. “Tell That to My Mother!”
5. “Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!”
6. “Just the Way I Want It....”
7. “Luck You’re Not Me...!”
8. “No Means Yes....!”
9. “Space Out On Them...”
10. “Turning the Tables....”
11. “Teaching the tems”
12. “Becoming An Educator/Ambassador”





Happy St. Patrick's Day

Marge Presa: I enjoyed celebrating the St. Patrick's Day at FCSN very much. It was really fun. I am sad that my teacher, Ms. Lili, was busy preparing drinks, so she did not have the chance to sit down and enjoy the whole celebration like me. I love the band playing violin and singing. I also like Ms. Marie's story telling. It reminded me of the red cape I wore last year for last year's play. People called me Little Red Riding Hood. After the performance, we enjoyed a yummy Irish meal made by FCSN teachers. Thank you, Auntie Marie and all the teachers. What a happy St. Patrick's Day at FCSN!



Khine Khine Aung: I remember last year's (2011) St. Patrick Day celebration. I was very happy to be chosen to dress as a Celtic girl and the red cape was worn by my shy friend, Marge. We were so excited. Thank you so much, Auntie Marie (Kelly's mom). Now, St. Patrick's Day celebration will always bring me warm feelings.



A Comparison of iPad & Laptop

By David Li

I don't very like the iPad because I don't want to get involved into spending a lot more money in a new system. I already have a laptop so I don't need to use two systems. If I use two computer systems, I'll get confused as. I'll definitely choose my laptop over iPad because it has a lot more features I can use. I really don't care for the iPad, even though it can take pictures because you have to pick up

your iPad to take the picture and it's bigger than a camera, so why not just use a camera? An iPad is small and a laptop computer is bigger, but some laptops are smaller, about the same as the iPad; but if you choose to use the iPad instead of the laptop you already have, later you're going to have to think: "Did I choose the right system?" or "Did I do the right thing?"



Major Events in My Life

By Khine Khine Aung

Hi, my name is Khine Khine Aung. I was born in Burma. My father is from Burma and my mother is from Taiwan.

I am so happy that I became a big sister when I was five. Four years later, when I was about nine, I visited my grandma - my mom's mom - in Taipei, Taiwan. We had a very good time.

When I was seventeen I came to the USA with my family and studied at American High School. I left AHS when I was 21 and shortly after, I came to FCSN and I enjoy the program very much. I have made many good friends like Ya Ya, Vivian, Marge, Jessie, Heather, etc. FCSN teachers are very nice to me.



Khine & Heather

When I was 26, my sister Mow went to UC San Diego for study. She is a dear sister who is very kind to me always, and I miss her. I want to be more independent like my sister. I hope I can live in FCSN SLS apartment one day just like my sister in a college dorm.

My Snow Trip

by Jocelin Chen

I went for a snow trip to Bear Valley with SLS friends and staff (*Maria Chang, Matt, Tiffany and Dante*) from Feb. 3rd to 5th, 2012. It was a lot of fun. We stayed at a cabin with many other people. We made dinners together and had a party afterwards. I like to sleep in the cabins with my friends and wake up in the morning, make breakfast, clean up, and then go have fun.

I put on snow shoes, gloves, a hat and a warm jacket to go for a cross country ski. Wow! I was quite exhausted. We also had snow fights and I like it the most. We threw snow balls at each other and ran away. We took a lot of pictures. After ski, we walked around the shops. We returned to the cabin and staff read stories to us. We drank hot chocolate.

After I came back from the trip, I got sick. I had a headache, stomachache, and I felt nauseous. But, I want to go next year again!



Chinese New Year

By Cindy Chua

Chinese New Year is the most important festival, not only for Chinese but also for most of the Asian countries like Korea and Vietnam. It lasts for two weeks until the Lantern Festival.

This year, Chinese New Year fell on January 23 on a Monday. I was with staff in the

apartments at FCSN. Raymond was not there. The staff, Diana, bought a whole live fish with



a head and tail; she steamed it and she made ginger and green onion sauce and poured it all over the fish. She helped me with the bones; it was so tasty. The reason we had fish is that in Chinese, the word sounds like *yu*, which means “extra”. When you have extra things, it means you will not be poor. We also had dumplings and a bowl of salad. Diana and I really had fun.

That weekend, I visited my parents and we celebrated more by eating a monk vegetarian dish call *zhai* which sounds like “rich” in Chinese. We had little mandarin oranges - *zhu ze* - which sounds like “good luck” in Chinese. My mother made a Chinese steamed cakes for desert called *niangao*.

We watched the Chinese New Year parade on TV. This year is the year of the dragon, so we saw many long dragons of different colors; it was spectacular!

American War History: A Brief Comparison

By Raymond Hu

At the turn of this century, we thought the world would end in 2000, but it did not! On September, 11, 2001 Instead of taking us forward it took us back nearly three generations ago when the United States was attacked by a different but comparable force. American history has a tendency to repeat itself.

December 7, 1941 was a date that will live in infamy. Japanese forces launched an invasion on America, and with it took down the American Naval base Pearl Harbor. Sixty years later, five United States airline airplanes took down the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Both of them resulted in the United States involving itself in war.

In my opinion, looking back ten years to the September 11 attacks, I am excited that the United States killed Osama Bin Laden like we helped defeat Hitler (although we did not kill him directly like we did Osama). Once again, the United States remained victorious. I think our culture played a huge part in the



war effort both nowadays and back then. Technology, education, entertainment, and the arts were used to convey support and/or caution about each war.

My Friend, Juanita

By Tatiana Gudjohnsen

I was very happy to get to know Juanita when she came to FCSN CIDP a year ago. She was very happy to join FCSN. I was hoping to be in the same group with her but I can't because I am at EBADP.

Every time we had a big joint party of EBADP, CIDP and SBADP, I asked Teacher Kari if I can sit next to Juanita and we were sometimes able to. Juanita taught me how to dance better. Every morning, Juanita will give me a hug when she gets off the MV Bus. In the afternoon, I will give her a hug before she gets on the bus to go home.

Juanita calls me *Mr. Tickle* - a nickname that makes me laugh. These are questions about Juanita that I asked her. I asked Juanita what her three favorite friends are. She told me they are *Tatiana Gudjohnsen, Sarah Brock, and Chelsea.*



BFF- Tatiana & Juanita

Juanita's favorite class in CIDP is playing basketball on Tuesdays and Thursdays at an indoor gym of Centerville Presbyterian Church. Her favorite teacher is Miss *Christine Chen*. She likes blue color.

Though Juanita is a Philippino and Spanish descendent, she likes American food, such as pepperoni pizza, hot dogs, hamburgs, chocolate chip cookies, chocolate ice cream, Coke, Pepsi, and Root Beer.

Juanita and I both love Disney characters. My favorite character is *Winnie the Pooh* and hers is *Rodger Rabbit*.

We both are crazy of *Twilight*. We watch all *Twilight* movie series- *Twilight* (2008), *New Moon* (2009), *Eclipse* (2010), and *Breaking Dawn Part I* (2011). We can't wait to see the Part II movie in November this year. We love the characters of *Bella and Edward* the most because they got married in *Breaking Dawn*.

Juanita is not only a great dancer she also enjoys singing very much. She likes *Britney Spears, Katy Perry, Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls,* and *Kenny Chesney* the most. She also likes TV shows and movies: *I Carly, Good Luck Charlie Brown, Victories, Ant Farm, Switched at Birth, Twilight, Up, Camp Rock, High School Musical, and Rush Hour.*

Juanita is a fun person to be friend with.

FCSN Beauty Class

By Shannon Caldwell

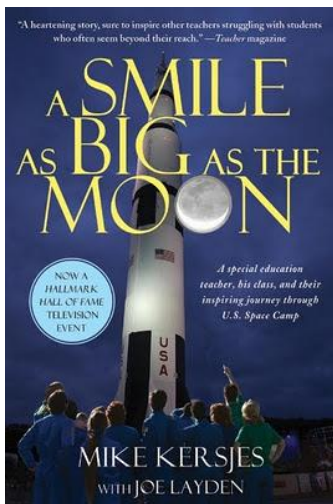
In ADP, we have had the Beauty Make-Up Class once a month for more than a year by now. I have learned to apply makeup. It is fun and cool. I have learned the basic steps: clean my face with cleanser and follow with toning lotion. Put on moisturizer and I am ready for concealer to cover freckles and blemishes by lightly tap on problem areas. I will then put on foundation. Ms. Jennie helps me find a foundation that matches my skin tone. I apply the foundation slowly all over my face with a wedge sponge. For my eyes, I apply eye shadow on upper eyelids, then follow by eyeliners and mascara. A touch on the eyebrow with eyebrow pencil, apply blush on to make myself look healthy and lively, then complete my make up with my favorite lipstick. Yay! I look stunning! Do you agree?



"Let me blow a kiss to you!" Shannon & Ms. Jennie

A Smile as Big as the Moon

by Kari, Ingrid, Minh and students



In the 1980s, the social attitude towards those with special needs and disabilities was a long way from the earned acceptance of present day. Case in point, the special needs classroom in *A Smile as Big as the Moon* was located in the far corners of the school basement, hidden away from the rest of the students and staff.

The special needs students weren't expected to achieve much - so when their teacher decided to take the risk and petition for a summer at space camp, many dismissed and dissuaded them from even trying.

This was NASA, where only the smartest most high-achieving candidates got to start their training. In all respects during that time, the students in *A Smile as Big as the Moon* were not seen as "smart or high achieving". While they may not have been astronaut material, this didn't stop their teacher from trying to give them a unique experience - to even try something that no one thought possible. Through determination, donations, support, and hard work (it cost a lot of money for space camp, to be sure), they began on a journey that would certainly change their lives.

Each student had their disabilities, sure; but throughout the movie, they struggle to overcome their disabilities through coaching and teamwork. Most of all, each student had their *talents*. What seemed like a negative attribute became an asset. One student had a strong personality that made him loud and often frustrated or angry - but he learned to channel that into a strong leadership role.

Despite all obstacles, the students and their teachers in *A Smile as Big as the Moon* set a precedent for other special needs students who wanted to experience their dreams of space. The NASA space program

now accepts and includes those with disabilities and/or special needs.

A Smile as Big as the Moon was a fun and inspiring movie for our FCSN ADP & CIDP students. They got to see those like themselves overcome discrimination and work towards a dream - something that they could relate to.

Teacher Minh: At CIDP, the staff and students watched the movie "*A Smile as Big as the Moon*" where it helped show us that we are not alone in our vision to help people with special needs and the movie also helped to remind us on why each of us chose to become a teacher, a mentor, and a friend to all our students. The following are feedback from a few of our students:

Shannon: *"My favorite part of the movie was when they were swimming and making the space shuttle under the water. I also like Scott, the artist who made the patch. It is really important to work as a team. I also liked Stephanie - she gained courage in the end."*



Hassan: *"I like the part where they go to space camp, because special needs were not given a change. I also felt bad because other people gave them a hard time for their disability. My other favorite part was the bake sale and cookies."*



Renee: *"I liked the swimming, exercise and training. Most of all, it teaches you how to lose weight. I like the teamwork because we are a family. Please don't fight with each other!"*



Cathy: *"My favorite part was when they went into the spaceship and saw the stars during the mission. They were able to accomplish the mission. I really appreciated the teachers' hard work."*



Anthony McIntyre: *“Even though Scott was not special needs, he became an inspirational leader in the movie and he really cared about his classmates. I like how at the end of the movie, he cut his ribbon award and shared each piece with all his classmates saying that they were a team.”*



Mike Hammond: *“I like the character Scott where he was able to say to his teacher “I can handle it” when his classmate got sad and left the room, and Scott went out to comfort him and bring his classmate back to the room to make their team logo. Scott was a good leader and showed a lot of growth from being a selfish, uncaring person to a compassionate and patient person.”*



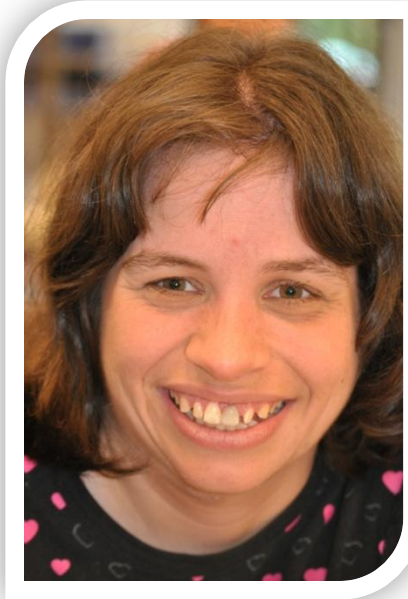
Kristin O'Rourke: *“I like how they created the pyramid under water by being a team and not complain about mistakes. It was really inspiring that they were the fastest team. Watching how they first practiced and made so many mistakes and then becoming a real team in the end was incredible.”*



Sarah Brock: *“I like the teacher Mike. He was really caring and always tried to find ways to make his students better despite how many challenges were keeping him down. He was always positive and did not show negativity which I hope I can learn to be like him.”*



Student of the Month

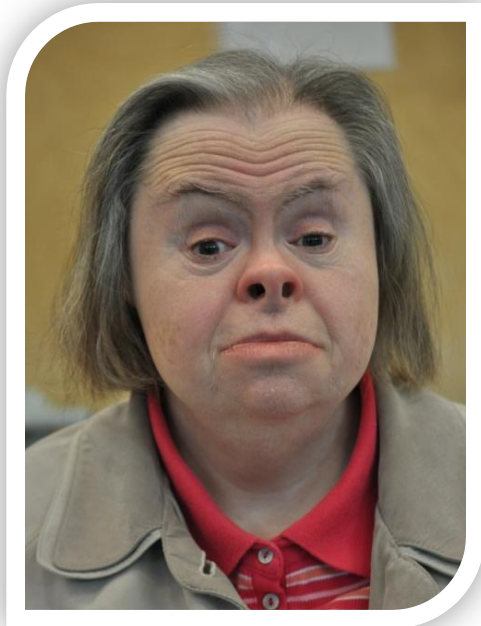


Jessica W.

Jubilant
Energetic
Sociable
Sentimental
Inspiring
Confident

Jessica is sweet, cheerful, and musically talented individual. She loves music, has a pretty soprano voice and a good memory for lyrics. Jessica seems to be always enjoying herself; smiling and singing anytime, anywhere.

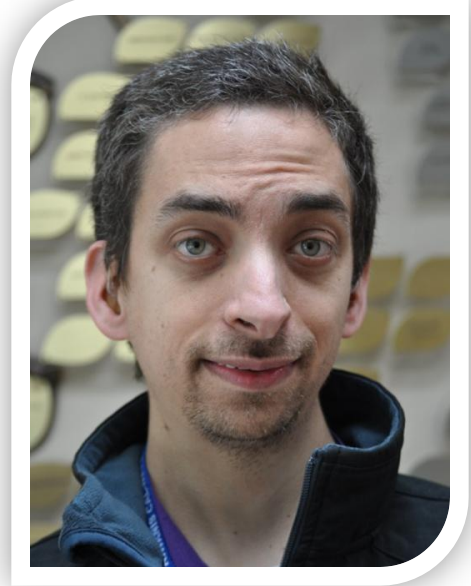
Student of the Month



Mary Kay Pelicano

Mary Kay achieved student of the month by achieving her daily objectives consistently. She will go wash her hands before eating, with little to none verbal prompts. Mary Kay knows that when she washes her hand, she will carefully dry her hands. She also will exercise for 15 minutes consistently. She loves going on field trips. She is very independent. For example, when the bus arrives, she will get ready with mostly no prompt and walk to the bus with teachers.

Student of the Month



Aaron Meyer

Amiable

Accommodating

Reliable, responsible

Obedient, observant

Not shy anymore

Aaron has become more self-confident. He has been chosen as the percussion band leader and has the responsibility of getting the students together and helping clean up the instruments. He also passes out the instruments and reminds the teacher of the time. This has helped him become less shy and interacting with more people.

CIDP (Community Integrated Day Program)

Laurie the Lavender Fairy: An Ecological Fable

by Laurie

In a forest of bunched up trees, Laurie the Lavender Fairy sees a river filled with lots of garbage and soil. Next a goldenrod fairy, Ronald, came to the rescue helping Laurie the Lavender Fairy clean up the river. They used a net to scoop up the garbage and soil.

Ronald and Laurie used a special filter to purify the water of the river. Later, they saw the trees getting cut down by some evil gnomes. Ronald and Laurie decided to stop the evil gnomes who were behind the pollution of the forest. The wicked gnomes were stopped by the fairies to save the forest and restore this pure world.



Painting at Color Me Mine

Kristin O'Rourke: On Thursday the 22nd of March, we went to *Color Me Mine Ceramics*. We sat at different round tables and painted mugs. Then the studio lady fired the mugs we painted and after it was done, we brought the mugs home with us and I used it. The colors that I painted were orange, pale pink, pale blue, purple, yellow,

gray, and brown. It was so artistic and I really want to go back there again and to paint something else. It will be for the teachers and they will love it so much and they will bring their mugs home that are from me.

Sarah Brock: I went to *Color Me Mine* with my CIDP friends and teachers on 3/22. I really enjoyed going to Color Me Mine; it was my first time painting a ceramic mug. There were all

different art pieces you could paint, with different colors that they give you. They put the paint on a paint pallet. They gave us two different paint brushes and I painted my mug with red and yellow and green on the rim. I really want to go back to Color Me Mine. I really like my mug and I want to use my mug for a holiday mug. I really wish I could take my family to Color Me Mine one day.



My Trip to India

by Sukhroop Atwal

I went to India from 2/22 to 3/21 this year and I had a lot of fun there. I went to my uncle's house and stayed there, went to a hotel to eat fine food like Indian and Chinese cuisine. I also had ice cream and went to the movies - we watched *John Carter*. I went to a Sikh Temple and I also ate Samosas: it's a kind of pastry. I bought Indian sweets and ate them and I saw my brother and sisters. Then I came back to the states and unpacked.



My Favorite CIDP Classes

by Don Potestio

My favorite class is vocational training because it teaches me how to behave in a real job position. It gives me job experience that I can put on my resume.

My next favorite



class is job preparation because we get to practice filling out real job applications. My teacher helps me understand the questions on the form and how to answer them correctly.

I want a job so I can earn money. I hope that I can get a paying job real soon. Right now the economy is bad so getting a job will be difficult. I am still going to try to get a job even though it will be hard.

Celebrating Easter at South Bay

by CIDP Students

Shawna Cox: When I went to FCSN South Bay Center for the Easter Party, I rode with my



teacher Jen Lebrun. When we got there I made a bunny out of a sock. I brought two socks. The small bunny had a scarf and a bow. Later I made another bunny out of another sock. It also had a scarf and a bow. The two bunnies turned out to be fun to make. The small bunny, I was going to give

to Connie Banaga. The big bunny, I would keep for myself.

We had lunch at 12 o'clock noon. The lunch had ham, corn, mashed potatoes and cake. They all tasted real good. Later, after lunch we did the Limbo, it was fun and I had to not let the bamboo stick touch me. I went under the bamboo stick. I did it a couple of times. Later, we danced to music and I had lots of fun. It was fun and nice to be there for the second time. We went back to the center and my teacher Jen gave me a bag of candy and other stuff.

Edward Chen: On Friday April 6th, FCSN held an Easter Celebration at South Bay ADP. We all made Easter bunnies using our own socks and danced.

For lunch I ate ham, mashed potatoes, corn cake, strawberry cake and drank pineapple cocktail. It was delicious. My favorite item was the ham. We also had veggie patties



for non meat eaters. I liked the mashed potatoes as well. I guess the mashed potatoes are also popular for Easter as well as Thanksgiving. The sliced corn was also delicious. The Strawberry cake was also delicious. I really liked the pineapple cocktail especially. "Thank you, teachers for making everything so yummy for us!!!"

We planned to do an Easter Egg hunt and we didn't, due to time. It was a pleasure to have Easter Celebration at South Bay this year. I hope to do the Easter Celebration again. I really wish that we could have the same food as well.

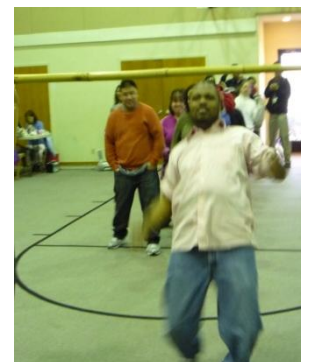
Rachelle: FCSN's Easter Party in South bay was nice. I liked when we made sock bunnies. I decorated my sock bunny with button eyes and a black multi scarf. Then Ms. Joyce helped us by drawing a face on it. I had a veggie patty because I couldn't eat any meat for fasting. I'm Catholic so I had to make a sacrifice for Good

Friday. But the Veggie Pattie tasted good.

We played Limbo and then we had dancing. I didn't enjoy the limbo but I just gave it a try. The reason I don't like it is because we have to walk down and lower ourselves down to the ground. It's kind of hard for me. The dancing was fun and I enjoyed it a lot.



"Go! Luis! Go lower!!"



"Way to go, Anthony!"

Andrew Chiang: On Friday April 6, ADP and CIDP teachers and students traveled to FCSN South Bay Center in San Jose for Easter Party. In my car were teacher Jen, my friends Shawna, Rachelle and Stephanie. The ride

there took 45 minutes one way. In the car on the way there and on the way back, I felt like a squishy pancake because I was stuck in between two female fellow students.

When we got to San Jose every student had a sock. Every student had to stuff cotton into the sock. We made the sock into a little cute bunny. I named the bunny *Skippy* because *Skippy* is the name of my all time favorite Disney character. For lunch we had baked ham, cooked corn, corn bread, mashed potatoes and raspberry cake. I didn't really like the mashed potatoes



because there was no gravy and gravy tastes better with mashed potatoes. At the table for lunch where I sat were Tammy, Miss Yan, Jennifer, Brian, Jerry, Maureen, Miss Emily and Manuel. After lunch we played limbo and danced to music. I was irritated a little bit when we were dancing because my girlfriend wouldn't dance with me at first. Then my girlfriend's friend Jessica M. told my girlfriend to dance with me, then I was happy. This was my 2nd time going to SB Center but I wouldn't mind going back to SB one day if I have to leave EB because SB center is close to my parents' old house in Campbell and every time I go to SB I feel so homesick, since I moved to EB in 2006.

Martin Pantango: On April 6th I celebrated Easter. I had a veggie patty with mashed potato and corn. They had ham, but I didn't eat it because it was Good Friday. For dessert I had strawberry cake. Before I ate I made an Easter bunny sock. After I ate, I played the game Limbo; it was boring.

I had an Easter giveaway when I got back to FCSN East Bay. The FCSN South Bay is a nice facility. The facility is in San Jose.



(L-R) Matt, Jonathan, and Vito with the sock bunnies

My Hawaiian Vacation

by Andrew Chiang

In the last minute my family decided to go to Hawaii for the Christmas break in 2011. On December 21st we flew to Oahu, Hawaii. We came home on December 29th. It was my second time going to Hawaii, but my first time to go Oahu. My first time to Hawaii was six years ago to the island of Maui. United Airlines took us from SFO to Maui. From Maui to Oahu we flew on Hawaiian Airlines. I had fun on UA flight because all of the passengers participated in a contest called "Half Way to Hawaii". Each passenger was to guess how many miles between SFO and Hawaii and what time was the half way point between SFO and Hawaii. The winner of the contest won a guide book of the island Hawaii. When the flight got near Hawaii, we were excited to see the beautiful shore line in white sand, the sea water in amazing turquoise blue and the screen like green mountains.

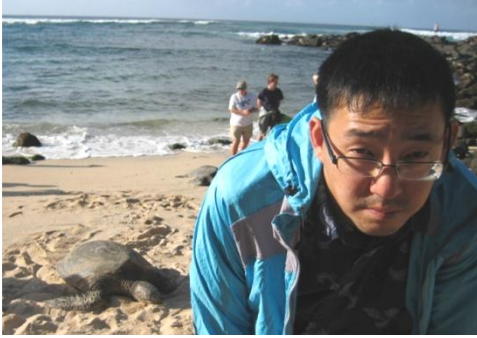
We took our rental car near the airport and stayed at a hotel near the Waikiki beach. We visited the points of interest below during our 7 day 6 night trip:

Pearl Harbor was the first to visit. A boat took us out to the USS Arizona Memorial. It was kind of boring to me.

Hanuma Bay was impressing. The coral reef is inside the bay. I can go snorkeling even though I cannot swim. I saw gold fish, rainbow fish and black fish swim by me. Late afternoon, North Carolina State Women's basketball team came here in bikinis.

I never miss a zoo on my vacation. **Honolulu Zoo** has a lot of interesting animals including a two-toed sloth. The sloth is the first animal I ever encountered that sleeps upside down. This is the only zoo I have ever been to in my lifetime that has no kind of bears.

Sea Life Park seemed like a place not to miss. I purchased the ticket myself to get in. It was the first time in my life to feed sea turtles. I fed them cabbage, carrots, and broccoli.



This park also carries the only wholphin in the world. A wholphin is a mix between a whale and a dolphin.

I went hiking at **Diamond Head Crater**. The hike roundtrip up to the top of the crater took 2 hours. I was so tired walking down the trail; I fell down on the ground. We drove to Turtle Bay on the North shore of Oahu on Christmas Day. We had our lunch at the famous Shrimp Truck, it was good and worth for the money. My cousin told me about these sea turtles lying on the beach sunbathing. So I went walking on the beach and got very close to the sea turtles but I didn't get to touch one or ride on one.

We rode on the choo choo train at the **Dole Plantation** that took us out to the pineapple field. I saw many different types of plants growing. There were banana, pineapple, papaya, coconut, and mango trees. The only unlucky thing was that it was raining that day. That might be the reason why the world's largest maze was closed, I was upset that I didn't get to run around in this maze.

Rainbow Classic, an intercollegiate basketball tournament was held in Honolulu that week. I saw many basketball players on the boardwalk at nights. They straddled like us tourists and watched street artist performing. Basketball players were from Clemson University, Southern Illinois University, and last but not least I saw Long Beach State University basketball players. The tournament was at Stan Sheriff Center at Hawaii University. I watched two basketball games, the first game was UTEP vs. Auburn, the 2nd game was Kansas Sate against Long Beach State. We also drove to Chaminade University when time allowed. It has a beautiful campus situated on a hill. I know

this catholic university because of its basketball team.

We walked along the boardwalk at nights. I saw a group of street dancers from Brooklyn New York that had been on America's Best Dance Crew. They were the most interesting entertainers. Four random people were pulled out of the audience to line up in a single-line and one dancer jumped over the four people. Another dancer was the basketball man. The basketball man could dribble four basketballs on 1 finger at the same time. Wow! I was very impressed. I have never seen anybody dribble a basketball on their finger in person.

We kept passing a large mall over and over so we decided to visit. **Ala Moana Mall** is the world's largest open air mall. It also has a large Japanese shop. On the second floor, hot Japanese foods were made from scratch by real Japanese people. I ate the most delicious rice wrapped in tofu skin.

Ah, I visited Wal-Mart on Ala Moana Blvd., I wanted to see how the Wal-Mart in another state looks like and if Wal-Mart in different states sells different merchandise than they do in California. This Wal-Mart has its parking in a garage instead of a parking lot.

I was wondering about the new Disney Aulani Resort Hotel that was built in Fall. I saw a TV commercial about Aulani a few months ago and I called the phone number on TV for a brochure. A stay at Disney Aulani costs \$300 a night. It was very expensive, that's why I didn't stay the night there. I visited Aulani during the daytime and I think it's the most beautiful hotel. There was a lazy river ride and waterslides too. My favorite thing is the snorkeling pool and a little pool where you can pet devil rays.

This was a fun and memorable vacation.



A Field Trip to Hiller Aviation Museum

by Edward Chen

On April 20th, CIDP had a field trip to Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. We left FCSN about 10:15am and arrived there at 10:45am. We travelled both ways on the Dumbarton Bridge. Minh's group got stopped in traffic after he scanned his Fas Trak. The traffic jam occurred after the tollbooth. I just can't believe we got stuck even with Fas Trak.

When we got to the museum, the docents welcomed everyone in. We toured the helicopters and the jumbo jets. Also, we toured the aircraft held in San Bruno, Ca. There was aircraft in the early days in San Bruno. We also talked about the Tanforan shopping center. The jumbo jets were my favorite part of the museum. Also, we toured many other planes in the museum. It was awesome.

We also toured the Blue Angels in the museum. (Blue Angels occur yearly around the second week of October in San Francisco. This event is called Fleet Week. Fleet Week is San Francisco's most popular event.) We were indeed very lucky to ride on some of the planes.

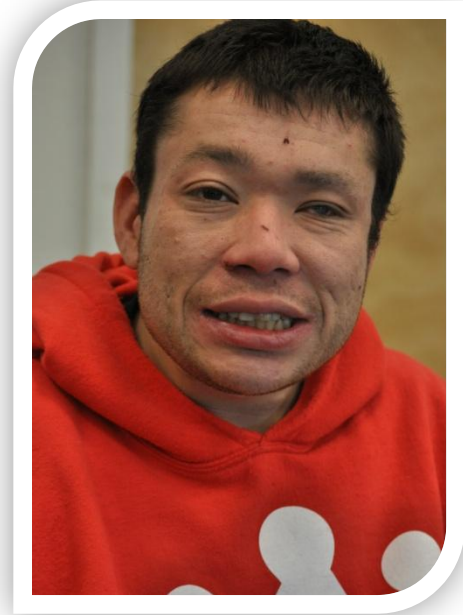
One of my favorite part was to ride in US Navy plane. It was so much fun riding in it. However, they didn't move.

Also, we had lunch on one of the plane benches. It was so much fun and an adventure for me to eat on the airplane seats. This makes me imagine that I am flying even though the plane didn't move. It just sat in the museum as a display. It was so nice for me to have the opportunity to sit on the airplane seat models.

I hope to go back to the museum someday soon. It was so much fun and an awesome experience.



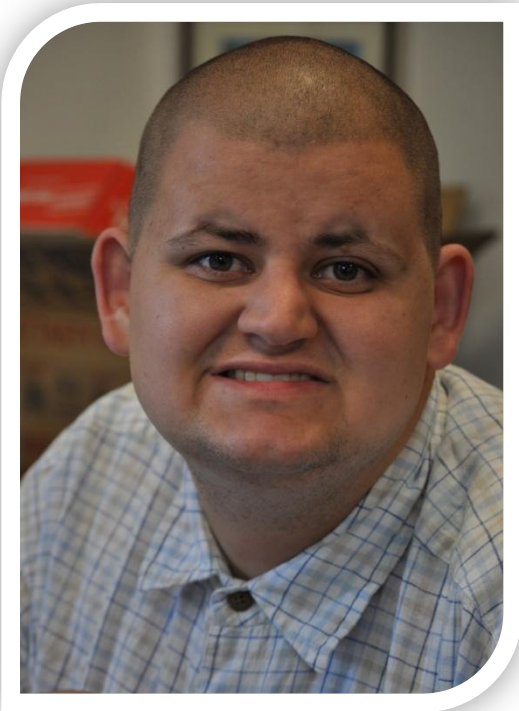
Student of the Month



Jerry Abasolo

Jerry retains his cheerful, positive, and adventurous character, pairing that with a soft temperament. Jerry has worked very hard to earn stars. He has to achieve three goals every day in order to get a star. Such as, cleaning his table after lunch, brushing his teeth after meal, and turn in his pill case to teacher as soon as he arrives. These tasks seem very trivial but it is not easy to be consistent every day. Throughout the month, Jerry showed his determination and consistency.

Student of the Month



Bryce Jones

Bryce is a very friendly and outgoing person. He loves to meet new people and spend time with his friends during CIDP. He likes to draw and play with puzzles. Bryce also likes to sing and dance with his friends. During vocational training, he is helpful and attentive to directions. His time is well spent there because after his work is finished he usually gets to buy a nice item. Bryce, Way to Go and We Are Proud of YOU!!

Student of the Month



Andrew Chiang

Andrew has a great attitude at CIDP, always participating and cooperative. He gets along well with students and teachers alike. He's social and very helpful to staff and peers. He helps to set up tables and chairs and he picks up lunch for his peers. Sometimes Andrew sets a good example by working hard at Wal-Mart and showing everyone that he can be independent. Andrew is a joy to be around and his personality earned him student of the month in March. Keep up the good work, Andrew!

Tour of Beijing, China

by Van Hai Nguyen

I went to Beijing, China with my mom, FCSN artists, musicians and the FCSN Dream Achievers. It took us about 12 hours to get there. The airplane has TVs with earphones to watch and the magazines for reading. The flight was two hours delay. It took 12 hours to fly to Beijing.

The plane landed in Beijing at around 5:30pm in Asia time, that was 3:30am at California time. Thanks to Samuel's mom for making hotel reservations for us. My mom and I shared the room. Our hotel served Chinese breakfast every morning. The food tasted great, much better than American breakfast. After breakfast, we went back to our hotel room to freshen up, then sightseeing. Outside of hotel, there were KFC and Pizza Hut. Also, there were people dancing and what so impress was a guy writing Chinese calligraphy on the ground with a sponge that attached to a long stick. He dipped the sponge in a container can of water, then write on the ground. Chris from Dream Achievers wanted to eat KFC for brunch and take a break at hotel.

After lunch, we had rehearsal practice with Chinese Talenters. We took some group pictures on the street. The rehearsal was held at Youth Talent of Chinese School. We brought our music instruments there at their theater to practice. After rehearsal, we went to have dinner and then rest at hotel.

Everyone got up early on the performance day (4/9/'12). There's a bus took us to the school. We got our lunches ready and loaded our music instruments. Chris and Gregory's father bought Pizza Hut and KFC for lunch. After lunch, FCSN talenters got ready for one last practice, then the show started at 1pm. There were total of 21 performances. After finishing up the show, we headed back to the hotel to take breaks and then went out for dinner celebration. We went to see World Heritage and Great Wall of China, which were just like in the movies, Big

Bird in China, Karate Kid with Jaden Smith, Hong Tas, and Destination Truth on the scene. I took pictures of them all. After finish the tour, Mr. James, the tour guide, took us to visit at Jin Nan Cloisonne Factory and had lunch at the restaurant. After lunch we went to see potteries, pictures, and more cloisonné wares. With 45 minutes up, we headed to another performance at Chinese Middle School. It was a very fun experience of the trip to China.



Van Hai (far left) playing Zhong Ruan instrument

My Work at the Campbell Library

by Lily Luk

Every Thursday after doing some of my arts and crafts assignment, Ms. Annabelle takes my friends and me to the library to do volunteer work. When we arrived at the building, we get our cleaning materials which include gloves, sanitizer, cottons, and pins. Ms. Annabelle assigned the students what they need to organize, or clean the books and DVD. Recently, I organize the books in numerical and then alphabetical order. Sometimes, I clean the books from the shelves.

I am the most experienced at the library. The reason is that I used to volunteer at another library at Santa Clara.

The people that I used to work with were very nice and helpful. They taught me



the basics and I quickly learned how to put the things in order. Organizing is something I like to do. Numerical numbers and alphabetical letters are the arrangements I can do. I could also take the books, DVDs, CDs, VCRs, and games for the people who ordered them.

Going to the library is my favorite trip. Ms. Annabelle is nice and understands how well I can do for this job. She often gives me the hardest tasks and I would most likely to do them nicely. Doing repetitive arranging never bores me! I would like to do this trip to the library as often as I can.

Work at Boston Market

Helen Yau: I like working at Boston Market because I can help wipe picture frames, plants, chairs, counters, drawers, trash cans, and chairs. When I do good, Ms. Annabelle is pleased. I get to eat free food with my friends, Malia, Lily O., and Matt. I like to get Macaroni & Cheese, Spinach Casserole, and Squash Casserole. I like drinking their lemonade, sprite, coke, and tea. I hope to continue working there as a volunteer with my friends.



The people working there are friendly. They always greet us when we come in. I try to do my work fast before they open the store. They open the store at 10:30 am. Then, the customers start coming in to order their food. I would mop the boys' and girls restroom. I even help with the table and benches outside. I like working at the one (Boston Market) close to our center because it is bigger. Annabelle would take us there every Tuesday once Malia and Matt arrive at the center. Lily L. sometimes comes with us too. We stay focused whenever we are there.

Edmond Ma: Today I had a good time at Boston Market. I haven't been there for a while ever since I started taking classes at San Jose City College. When I finish my classes at SJCC, I want to work there



again. It's my favorite place to work at. I like the food there and the sodas. At Boston Market, I clean the blinds, picture frames, chairs, and tables. I tried to make everything clean. Sometimes I might miss something, but most of the time, I do a pretty good job. If I have another week off from San Jose City College, I'd definitely like to go to Boston Market to volunteer. Next time, I am going to learn how to clean bathrooms. I've never done that before.

The Super Power

by Jonathan Chen

If I could have one super power, I want to be *Flash*. He is the fastest man alive right now. If I am *Flash*, I will be super fast to save people from evil. I will also be the fastest man in the world- *The Super Jonathan Flash*.



What I Did Last Week...

by Lily O.

Monday, I went to the Apple Bees. I ate salad, chicken, and some chips. Tuesday, I went to school. Wednesday is our cooking day at school. Thursday, I learned how to use the copier and scanner. I took a walk with my friends at lunch at school. Friday, I'll go grocery shopping. I have to buy some pork, carrots, and vegetables. I will also go to my brother's house. I will play with my brother's puppy dog. On the weekend, I'll call outreach to schedule rides and help my mom carry her purse when we go out. Sometimes, we eat at restaurants.



The Weather

by Matthew Walton

I feel worried about the weather because it is going to rain soon! I know it is going to rain because the clouds are gray! On a rainy day, I have to wear a raincoat and get my umbrella, a rain hat, and rain boots.

During the rainy day, I stay indoors and I play on the computer and watch television programs.



Spring is the first season. Spring starts in March. I like spring because the flowers bloom. I like to feel the warm of the sun! The weather is clear and the sky is blue!

Man, summer is coming. Oh, it is so fast! Dan and I like wearing short sleeved shirts, and short pants. We both like going to the Santa Cruz beach board walk and having picnic on the beach.

My School

by Van-Hai

My school is FCSN South Bay Adult Day Program. My teachers are Ms. Lily and Mr. Po. I like that FCSN I can join many activities. I can eat lunch with everyone and go onto field trips on most Fridays. I miss my old classmates. My teachers also take me to San Jose City College to take classes like Adapted Fitness for Life, Beginning Weight Training, and Guitar. Thank you, Mr. Po & Miss Lily.



Awesome SBADP Teachers!!



SBADP Students and Teachers

Student of the Month



Jonathan Chen

Jonathan is a friendly, intelligent, and outgoing young man. He is always full of energy. He is a great and inspiring dancer!! When Jonathan receives an assignment or a task from his teacher, he tries his best to complete it without any complaint. In addition, if he sees his peers need help, he takes initiative to assist them right away. Also, he will focus on what he is doing, and he is always willing to take any challenge. Jonathan is certainly a great model to other students. Good Job, Jonathan, and we are very proud of you!!!

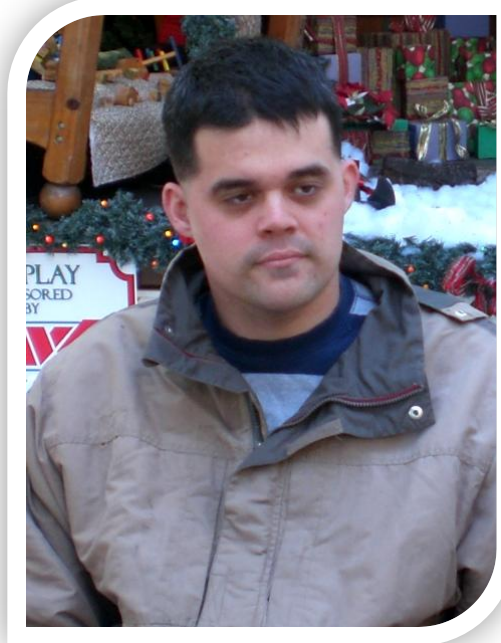
Student of the Month



Edmond Ma

A dreamer and an achiever - that's Edmond. Edmond has also dreamed of working at Starbuck's to make great coffee to serve people and hoped his coffee will bring out the happiness and satisfaction. One of the things Edmond has been working on is to take a good control of his laugh by closing his eyes and counting numbers. He had achieved his goal. Congratulations Ed! We are proud of you and happy to see how much you have improved! Keep it up!

Student of the Month



Matt Walton

Matthew came to FCSN in September 2011. You will never miss his colossal eagerness to come to FCSN. He also takes a PE class in San Jose City College. He always makes sure that he is punctual and ready for the activities. Matt is usually quiet and enjoys reading picture books. He also loves spending time in the computer surfing games, movie theme songs, trains and trucks. In achieving his goal for the day gains him to be in the computer lab the next day. Congratulations Matt and we look forward for more progress in the future.

FCSN Local Program

Sometimes...

By Sohum Shah

My name is Sohum Shah and I am 9 years old! I am a 4th grader at Brookvale elementary! This poem is about nature. I watch nature every day! This inspired me to do this poem and so here it is....



Sometimes
When I look out my window...
I see the horses
running across the grassy plain.
Sometimes I see them
trample each other
to crunch, and munch
my yummy carrots for lunch.

Sometimes I see garden spiders
busy knitting their webs
as if getting ready
to lay their eggs.
Sometimes I like to see
the squirrels
leap from tree to tree
Gathering acorns
for their oak trees.

Many a times I hear
the birds tweeting and singing
Spring's most happiest songs
But sometimes if I'm lucky
I catch a glimpse of
the butterflies fluttering by
sometimes I see

a blue jay or two
perched happily
on my birdfeeder

But rarely do I see
a turtle dove build
her nest on my window sill.

Sometimes I hear the raindrops
bouncing off the concrete
Sometimes I hear the wind
howling hard
But Don't you worry!
he won't blow your hats off
he does not mean any harm.
Sometimes I hear the lemons
drop from the tree and get carried
by the wind one by one

Sometimes I like to see
the sun setting
on the horizon
Sometimes I see the evening sky
full of red, orange, yellow and purple

I adore nature
How about you?
Do you too? **The End!**

FCSN's Musicians Performed in Beijing, China

Anna's FCSN Weekly Announcement

As parents of children with Autism, we have experienced tremendous challenges, but add to that cultural stigma and shame, the task of raising our children become even more daunting. Even though here in the US, the services for our children are scarce and extremely expensive, we are still considered fortunate. In China, the children with autism and other special needs are hidden and their families isolated, invisible to society. It is the Dream of Auntie Lin (FCSN member) and FCSN to spread awareness, hope, love and support to this population in China.

We organized, along with China's autism organizations, the first US-Sino Joint-Concert/Performance for children and young adults with autism in Beijing. Among the FCSN music and art ambassadors are: *Samuel Rachlin, Chiling Wu, Van Hai Nguyen, Chris Koraltan, Alice Jen, Gregory Hebert* and

Lawrence Wang. Special thanks to Auntie Lin (Samuel's mom) for initiating, organizing and publicizing this project. The trip is endorsed by our Congressman, Mike Honda. The trip is partially funded by China TV, FCSN, Auntie Raincat and her studio, and various donors.

April 8 was the first US-China Joint Autism Concert and Art Exhibition. Our United States Deputy Ambassador to China, Dr. Robert Wang, attended. He proudly addressed the concert for FCSN initiated such a meaningful and goodwill event between the 2 countries. On April 9, our musicians performed at Beijing's High School Conservatory of Music. Both events were so successful and fruitful for all the participants and audience.

I uploaded some pre videos on youtube. Hope you enjoy!! All the families in China were surprised by the talent of the children and young adults. Some families charged the stage to try to put their children up for a last minute additional performance. The goal of getting the families with autistic children to come out of "their closet" was very successful :)! I am sorry we couldn't get more recordings up because we had some malfunction on my video. Fortunately, we have professionals recording the official version, but we won't see those for a while yet.

Together, we can make a difference for the children with autism in the world.

- 1) Cute autistic Chinese children dance. They looked to me like they came out of the birth delivery room and walked onto the stage :). Soooo Cute.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swKYMFx7EjA>
- 2) Cute autistic Chinese boy sang "Mommy and Daddy Love Me Most"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jL5bFRikcw>
- 3) Wei Jun's Erhu solo (from finalist of China's Got Talent) - He is from a different part of China and he was able to join this event because of Auntie Raincat's sponsorship. He was so good and so happy to join us.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-SjC8_X5vo
- 4) Our Chris's Popping Dance
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8Q095_xXyM
- 5) Our Chiling's dulcimer solo - The General's Command
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc5seK1ZDLM>

- 6) Our Samuel's Pipa Solo - Dance of the Golden Snake <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfpl1KWNnYs>
- 7) Our Alice's piano solo - Un Sospiro, Lizst http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykZ_Er2f6gE
- 8) Our Lawrence sang the Beijing Love Story song Di Da Di
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPfMRF_y2ds
- 9) Our Dream Achievers' Michael Jackson Medley
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iUnrPVt2_s

FCSN Summer Camp Preparation

By Mannching Wang

I always think of having my son to go to a camp activity like regular children. However, it is very hard to find a camp that fits my son's needs. He needs a lot of individual attention in the camp. I want the camp not only to provide outdoor activities, but also provide indoor activities in the hot summer and the cost should be affordable for us. Finally, some parents and I decided to make one camp that fits our children's needs.

This year, we want to continue FCSN South Bay local program's teaching in the summer camp. For example, we will review the skills that were taught in WEP and LEP class. We will also take some programs, like dance/movement from our Saturday Family Support gathering, and incorporate the lessons there into our summer camp program. Hope that the summer camp can combine most FCSN local programs' work together to make a comprehensive learning experience for our children in summer time.

Therefore, we can see movement/dance, social skills, pre vocational skills, art/craft, cooking, self-helping skills, music, and exercise in the summer camp. Other than above, we will add field trip to take our children to nearby community and swimming activity once a week.

Our preparation work already started from February. In order to provide our children a safe and fun summer, we are recruiting youth volunteers to help out in the summer camp now. The space will be limited and we encourage parents to enroll your child early once it is announced in the beginning of May. If you have any suggestion for our summer camp, please contact Mannchingw@yahoo.com

FCSN Summer Classes & Camps

East Bay

- a) **Basketball Camp** at Club Sport - 6/25-7/6; M-Th 4-5pm; no class on 7/4, makeup on 7/6.
- b) **Basketball Camp:** 6/25-6/28 Mon-Thu and 7/2 Mon, 7/3 Tue, 7/5 Thu, 7/6 Fri; 4-5pm at Club Sport for \$30 for 8 classes - Registration deadline 6/15.
- c) **Soccer Camp** at Club Sport - 7/9-7/19; M-Th 4-5pm (to be confirmed)
- d) **Badminton Camp** in August (to be announced)
- e) **Swimming Camp at Club Sport Fremont-** 6/25-8/23 various afternoon timeslots - Swim Camp (for ages 3 & up), 45 minutes swim lessons. The spots are filling quickly, Don't delay and Register TODAY! \$50/kid/week (4 classes per week) and \$75/kid/week for non-special needs siblings. Session 9 is FREE if you registered for all sessions #1 - #8.
Contact: Auntie Sally Wu at sally.w.wu@gmail.com
- f) **Golf Camp**- Auntie Sally coordinates with our partner WHHS for special needs kids. Please contact her for the summer sessions Sally Wu at sally.w.wu@gmail.com.
- g) **Drama Camp** - 8/16 through 8/19 (9:30am- 3:30pm)
- h) **Ceramic/ Painting/ Felt Art Class** on Sundays 3-4pm at FCSN Fremont Center: The new summer section schedules are as followed: May 6, 13, 20, (no class on 27th, Memorial Day long weekend) June 3, 10, 17, 24 July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Material fee: 33 dollars 6 classes for ceramics 3 classes for art 3 classes for felt art & beading
Contact Auntie Jessica at r36339@gmail.com

South Bay

- a) **Summer Camp** - 7/23 - 8/10 (M-F 9 am - 4:30 pm) extended hours available
Incredible Activities: Dance/movement, art & craft, cooking, music, self help skills, social skills, pre-vocational skills, sport activities, field trips, and swimming. Outings & Fieldtrips via walking, public transportation, and Cupertino District School Bus
Contact:Mann mannchingw@yahoo.com

- b) **Music Camp**- 8/8- 8/11 Mon-Fri; 9am-4:30pm (Further information will be announced)
Contact:Mann mannchingw@yahoo.com
- c) **New FCSN Chinese Music Class** - Percussion at California Youth Chinese Symphony (CYCS) in Santa Clara. New session will start from Jun 17 to Aug 5, the time is Sat. 10:30 - 11:30 AM
The fee is \$100 for 8 classes for members, or \$125 for non-members
Contact: Jessica Chen r36339@gmail.com
- d) **Class on Saturdays** (except 5/19 & 5/26) through the Summer at FCSN South Bay Center: 3675 Payne Ave., San Jose 95117
 - 1) Felt Art Class 1pm - 2pm
 - 2) Ceramic/Painting Class 3-4pm
 - 3) Chinese Class 3-4pmContact: Auntie Kaili at kaili95014@yahoo.com
- e) **Life Empowerment Program (LEP)** on Tuesdays 3pm - 6:30pm. Activities: Social skill class, pre vocational skills class, cooking class and small group activities (Computer/iPad education program, OT, art, homework tutoring..)
Contact: Sherry Meng at meng.sherry@gmail.com or Mann Ching at mannchingw@yahoo.com

FCSN Got Talent

FCSN's first annual FCSN's Got Talent got on spotlight on 3/10/'12 at the FCSN Dream Center in Fremont. One of FCSN's dreams is to explore their hidden talents and to show the world that people with "disabilities" have many special "ABILITIES". Due to deficits in communication and social skills, seldom would our special needs loved ones be given a chance to show off what they've got. This is their big opportunity to be recognized. Their eagerness to perform is reflected in the number of entries for the show. This is only one of a series of events to explore and foster of talents of the special needs population.

You are invited to view K Chang's photo album: [FCSN Got Talent 2012](http://www.fcsn1996.org)
(www.fcsn1996.org)



FCSN 2012 Pastry Fundraising



*1 Pineapple Cake, 1 Blueberry Cake, 3 Marble Cookies,
3 Raisin Football-Shaped Cookies, 1 Cranberry Scone and 1 Chocolate Scone*

\$10/ Cookie box

Pre-sale: 5/31 & 6/1 at FCSN

Sale: 6/2 at FCSN Family day in sunnyvale

If you would like to buy cookies to support us, please contact **Sylvia Yeh** sylviayeh@fcsn1996.org;
510-739-6900 x 3300

The fund we raised will be used to purchase four more iPADS for students.

Thanks for your support to FCSN!!

FCSN Prom 2012

*Hollywood
Glam*

When: Saturday, August 25, 2012

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Where: 2300 Peralta Blvd.,
Fremont, CA 94536**

**\$30/Consumer; \$15/Family Member or Caregiver
(Food, photos, and a chance at prize drawings included.)**

Please wear formal attire. Costumes are welcome.



Friends of Children with Special Needs Scrip Order Form

Family Information					Accounting Dept. Use Only				
Parent's/Staff's Name:			Student Name:		Order Received By				
Phone #:			Program/Dept:		Order Picked Up By				
Address:					Pick Up Date:		Amount Received:		
FCSN Contact Info: 510-739-6900 x3304 Email: admfcns@gmail.com					Check #		Cash		
Product	%	QTY	Value	Subtotal	Product	%	QTY	Value	Subtotal
Albertsons	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Marina Supermarket	6.00%		\$10.00	\$
Amazon.com	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Ranch 99 (\$25/50/100/200)	6.00%			\$
AMC Theatres	7.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Rite Aid	4.00%		\$25.00	\$
Applebee's	8.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Ross Dress for Less	8.00%		\$25.00	\$
Banana Republic	14.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	REI	8.00%		\$25.00	\$
Best Buy	3.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Safeway	4.00%		\$25.00	\$
Bloomingdale's	12.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Save Mart Supermarkets	2.00%		\$25.00	\$
Boston Market	12.00%		\$ 10.00	\$	Shell Gas	2.50%		\$25.00	\$
Burger King	4.00%		\$ 10.00	\$	Six Flags 1 Day Admission Ticket	8.00%		\$35.00	\$
Carrs	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Smart & Final	3.00%		\$25.00	\$
Century Theatres	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Starbucks	7.00%		\$10.00	\$
Chevron Gas	1.50%		\$ 50.00	\$	Subway	3.00%		\$10.00	\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill	10.00%		\$ 10.00	\$	Sweet Tomatoes	8.00%		\$25.00	\$
Food Maxx	2.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	T-Rex	9.00%		\$25.00	\$
Gap	14.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Taco Bell	5.00%		\$10.00	\$
Groupon.com	7.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Target	2.00%		\$25.00	\$
Home Depot	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Toys-R-Us	1.50%		\$20.00	\$
Lowe's	4.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Walmart	2.00%		\$25.00	\$
Lucky Supermarket	2.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	Whole Foods Market	3.00%		\$25.00	\$
Marshalls	7.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	P.F Chang's China	8.00%		\$25.00	\$
Macy's	10.00%		\$ 25.00	\$	PetSmart	4.00%		\$25.00	\$
Subtotal of Column 1					Subtotal of Column 2				
Total Amount of Column 1 & 2:									
Please make sure check payable to FCSN.									
Thanks a lot for your support.									