

# Napa Valley Kids Connect News

[www.napavalleykidsconnect.com](http://www.napavalleykidsconnect.com)



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## Kids Connect Classroom opens at Alta Heights Elementary



We are four months into the school year and lots of exciting things are happening in the Napa Valley Kids Connect classroom. We are fortunate to be at Alta Heights Elementary school with Karla

Alcantar as our special education teacher. She comes with three years experience working at the Bridge School, the model school for the successful integration of Augmentative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) for educational advancement. Karla recently returned from the Peace Corp where she was also working with special education students. We are truly lucky to have her.

In the first few months, our talented network of professionals have established work stations for each student, giving them appropriate computer access and tailored individual programs to help them achieve their academic goals. With the AT in place we are looking forward to the advancement of communication from each child with the help of our Augmentative Communication Specialist. As more funding is made available we hope to provide more AAC training in the coming months. We also are looking forward to having our staff trained to provide more movement opportunities and incorporating each child's functional mobility skills into daily practice.

Napa Valley Kids Connect is moving forward thanks to all of the support we have been given. We are very grateful to United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay (UCPNB), serving as our fiscal sponsor while we apply for our own non-profit status. We are equally grateful for our partnership with Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) and their commitment to this project. Your support is very much appreciated and is what makes this program possible. Our goal is to continue to raise funds to support the Kids Connect Classroom and to attain our vision of expanding the Assistive Technology Lending Library where all local children in need could receive AAC and AT support. Thank you all for helping us come as far as we have!

## Lampyridae Vineyards

Launches Communication Block

*Click picture to watch video*



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[www.lampyridaevineyards.com](http://www.lampyridaevineyards.com)

## Closing The Gap

*Changing lives with assistive technology*

Part of our commitment to the Kids Connect program is to provide training to staff and parents. This October we were fortunate to send Karla Alcantar our teacher, Diane Parker our AAC specialist, Jennifer Klute our speech therapist and Mary Ferons a parent/KC co-founder to attend the annual Closing the Gap Conference in Minneapolis. Closing The Gap provides professionals, parents and consumers with the information and training necessary to best locate, compare and implement assistive technology into the lives of persons with disabilities.

All four participants came away with a wealth of information and are presenting their findings at a conference held by the ATLL. Our program would not be what it is without the help of Pat Howard and Diane Parker from the ATLL. We appreciate their time, expertise and commitment to this program.

**THANK YOU to our local businesses!**

UCPNB, NVUSD, Napa Valley ATLL,  
Whole Foods, Ranch Markets, NCOE &  
Napa Tax