

Napa Valley Kids Connect News

December 2014

Napa Valley Kids Connect continues to support local children in need of communication, technology to make curriculum accessible, and to provide movement opportunities for children with physical disabilities.

In 2015, we will continue to provide trainings to Napa Valley parents, teachers and specialists interested in learning about assistive technology and communication practices. May 18th and 19th we will be bringing the Prentke Romich Company to Napa for an intensive 2 day Augmentative Communication (AAC) training.

We are also excited to support movement opportunities in 2015 by working with the community to provide recreation and movement programs for children of all abilities. Our first event is sponsored by Napa on Ice December 29 from 10-11:30. Napa on Ice has graciously opened up their rink free of charge to children with motor challenges. Wheelchairs and walkers are welcome!

Kids Connect was able to send a group of six: local specialists, teachers and parents, to the annual Closing the Gap Conference in Oct. 2014. 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. Each of these attendees will present what affected their practice at upcoming NVUSD sponsored meetings. We will post these dates on our website as they become available. Here are some comments about how this conference has made a difference:

Krystie Yeo, Middle School Special Education

Teacher: *I learned so much from attending closing the gap which has affected my practice in so many positive ways! Most importantly, I've been given access to learn from experts in the field and gained extremely valuable insight on how to work with students with significant disabilities, and the necessary steps that need to be taken to ensure that they too have access to a quality education.*

Susan Dawson, NVUSD Speech Language

Pathologist: *It was wonderful to learn more about various ways to access communication devices, including scanning and eye gaze. The technology*

keeps improving which makes it easier for our students to access their "voice". It is all very exciting!!

Michelle Hugo, Special Education Transition

Instructor and Parent: *I was excited to see accessibility and how seamlessly it worked with Google.docs. My son is in high school and he struggles with reading and writing, when I got home from CTG, we added texthelp.com for Google docs application to his Google account and now he has access on any internet computer. This is really a great tool that he can use in school and even as an adult.*

Lampyridae Vineyards

All of the profits from the Lampyridae Vineyards Communication Block wine project are donated to Napa Valley Kids Connect. To find out more or to order our wine visit:

www.lampyridaevineyards.com

WINE UPDATE: *The Communication Block wine was stored less than 5 miles from the epicenter of the Napa earthquake, and we're happy to report that the wines were unscathed! We helped our friends unbury their wineries, and feel so fortunate that both of the wineries that were making our wine were safe as well. Amazing really!*

THANK YOU to our local businesses who continue to support us: **UCPNB, NVUSD, NCOE, Napa Valley ATLL, Aaron Pott, Pott Wine, John and Michele Schulz, Schulz Cellars, Quixote Winery, Corley Family Wines & Napa Tax**

Thank YOU for supporting our efforts. Your donations really make a difference! Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated. To find out how to help visit:

www.napavalleykidsconnect.org

*Wishing you the Happiest of
Holidays and a Prosperous New
Year!*

Ashley Derr, President
Mary Ferons, Vice President
Carri Mello, Treasurer