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John Muir Charter School/Pomona CCC

California Conservation Corps—Pomona Satellite

Hello, my name is Shianne Black. I have been working with the California Conservation Corps for eight months. I am 22 years young, and recently transferred from Camarillo to Pomona. Non-residential is a lot different compared to residential. Before I got to the CCC I was working two jobs and going to school for my G.E.D. I wanted to start college for dance. It was really difficult to do all of this and pay rent. I started looking on the internet for a place that I could work and get my education, the CCC popped up. I read about how you earn your diploma and earn scholarships. I thought to myself “where do I sign?” I went to an orientation in Riverside. At the orientation they ask what center you would like to go to—I really didn’t mind where they sent me. I didn’t have a home at the time, I was moving from couch to couch. About a month after orientation I got a phone call from my recruiter; Michael Jackson, he informed me that I was going to the Camarillo center. I was ready to go—so I attended C.O.M.E.T. and started working November 12, 2011. At first I wasn’t too excited about working for the C’s, I was stuck on kitchen duty for two months. After working in the kitchen, they put me on the grade. It was hard at first, and at times I really didn’t think I would make it in the program. Over time—about five months into the program, I saw a change in myself. I started to really care about my future and I began to enjoy my time at the C’s. Graduating high school was never something I thought I would get to do, and it became more real to me the further I went.

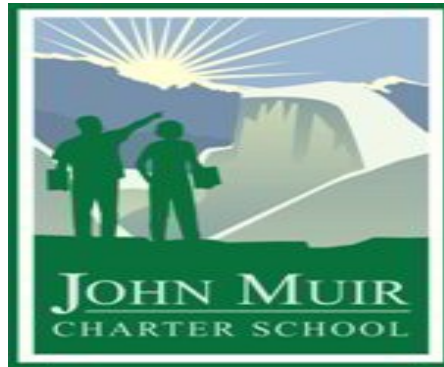


Shianne Black: In her own words

My leaders inspired me and motivated me, but it took me to realize I had everything to do with it. The message that I carried with me every day was “failure is not an option” and I need to just finish something that I start. So I stayed out of trouble and I started a pipeline to promote to a green hat as a Supply Specialist. At my eighth month my pipeline is almost complete I own a car, and I am just about 20 credits away from graduating! The CCC has changed my life for the better. I am a positive role model to my siblings, and I am continuing to make my parents proud. I love working for the environment, learning new things, learning from my peers and making a difference physically and mentally. I really enjoy working at the Pomona Satellite, it’s a big change from living where you work! After work and school, I get to go home to my family everyday. I would like to say that I am a better person because of the CCC and anyone who asks me about working here would get a recommendation from me. Thank you California Conservation Corps for all you do.

Graduation

by Robert Walker



The time has finally arrived after a long year the Pomona Satellite and the John Muir Charter School is proud to congratulate all of its official graduates for the 2010/2011 school year. All year long Corps members without a high school diploma hit books each day after work from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. As each student earns his or her credits they can eventually complete all needed courses and obtain a diploma. At the end of the school year (June) the CCC sponsors a graduation ceremony and based on what I've heard it's something on the pretty awesome side. They have a catering company come out and all the graduates get to invite family members. Students are awarded their diploma on stage in cap and gown. The CCC prefers to have the ceremonies in beautiful scenery, for example last year they hosted the graduation at Lake Gregory, which is surrounded with big green tree's fresh smelling air, and peaceful atmosphere including clean fresh water and green vegetation as far as the eye can see. The CCC along with the John Muir Charter School wants Corps members and their families to know how proud they are of them for bettering their lives, and they want to help make their graduation a memorable one. So work hard towards your diploma you will get rewarded for your hard work—that goes for anything you do in life.

So thanks to all the CCC Staff and Teachers of John Muir Charter School and the CCC that allow young men and women to have the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma. Many doors open for you once you are a graduate. So on behalf of myself and all of the Corps members that take School seriously, we thank you all. Students, enjoy your time off and be safe, good luck to our Graduates in moving forward in life.

Pomona Graduates

Ernest Basua
 Shararneta Brown
 James Burthe
 Noel Cachua
 Jessica Davis
 Angel Hernandez
 Jesus Ruiz





Safety Corner

By Zully Castillo

Many injuries result from the misuse of power equipment, accidents involving power tools or non power tool equipment result in severe lacerations and often real bad injury. Wounds; these accidents are prone to infection due to the unsanitary conditions of the environment, or rust from the old equipment if injury does occur make sure a tetanus shot is given to you by a Doctor. Help reduce these accidents by following a few simple safety precautions



Brush cutters require caution by consumers

Keep all people away from the operator during use. At least one manufacturer recommends keeping people including helpers, a minimum of 30 feet away. Before starting make sure the blade is properly secured.

Chainsaw Kick Back Hazard

Chain saw kick back can result in serious injury or death to the person operating the saw.

Kick back most often occurs when the saw chain moving around the nose of the guide bar accidentally touches another object such as a log, branch or twig. Contact like

this can throw the chain saw violently back toward the operator.

In 1982, kickback was involved in an estimated 24,000 medically attended injuries to chain saw users.



Types of Snakes on the Grade

By: Fernando Huerta

Southern California is known to have an estimated 33 native snake species. Out of these 33 only six are venomous. These following six are poisonous. If you see one, use extreme caution!!!

Reasons to know the types of snakes:

- * You may encounter one..
- * In case you get bit by a snake.
- * Knowing the types of snakes will hopefully make you less afraid of them.

Many of the non poisonous snakes that are also seen by crewmembers are gopher snakes, garter snakes, and king snakes. None of which are poisonous. So crewmembers shouldn't panic but should still use caution,

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake



The Western Diamondback is the largest rattlesnake in western North America—ranging in size from 3-feet to as long as 7-feet! Like all rattlesnakes, this species has a triangular shaped head, keeled scales, and heat seeking "pits" just below their nostrils. A new segment to the rattle is added during each shed of the skin

Red Diamond Rattlesnake



The Red Diamond Rattlesnake is one of the largest rattlers in the region. The longest on record measures a little over 5 feet, but most individuals are in the 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 foot range.

Southern Pacific Rattlesnake The color pattern consists of a pale brown, gray-brown, or



yellowish brown ground color overlaid with a series of large, dark brown dorsal blotches that may or may not have pale centers. The blotches are more diamond shaped, as opposed to those of western rattlesnakes that are more hexagonal, and are bordered by light scales. The tail rings are not clearly defined.

Sidewinder



The coloration of this small rattlesnake matches the pale tans and pinks of the sand where it lives. Its back is patterned with small, dark, square-shaped blotches.

Mojave Rattlesnake



The average size of a mature Mojave Rattlesnake is 3 - 4 feet in length, with some getting as large as 5 feet.

Speckled Rattlesnake



Most adult Speckled Rattlesnakes measure 24 to 30 inches in length. Some "giants" measuring almost 36. This species varies in color.

Thank You from >>>>> **The GRIT**

As another school year draws to a close, we at The Grit reflect on challenges and victories over the 2010-2011 School Year. We also have an eye toward the future.

Because we had lost some students along the way, the logistics for putting The Grit in the hands of our insatiable readers was difficult. We pulled together a crew, headed up by student and Acting Crew Leader Robert Walker. Robert, with the help of various students have put together several decent issues of The Grit in the short time they had.

John Muir Charter School is without question, a “School like no other.” It is like having a “One Room Schoolhouse” in sites throughout California. Teachers, assistants, and site personnel at the various programs work together to create an environment for learning that is unlike any other - each school site enjoys a collaborative effort in partnering with students with the goal of getting the high school diploma.

We here at the Pomona satellite are very fortunate to have CCC staff who genuinely value and support corpsmember education and the efforts of John Muir Charter School. We applaud the following people:

Scot Schmeir; Inland Empire Center Director

Jennifer Dulay; PSCW, Pomona

Lisa May; Conservationist I and Head of Corpsmember development at Pomona

Captain Reed; Conservationist I

Brandon Joanis; Conservationist I

James Rowe; Conservationist I

Deborah DePano; Special Corpsmember CMD office

Connie Noriega; Americorps contact at Pomona

“Peppy” Bravo; Maintenance

Thank you for all that you do for the students and for the school here at Pomona.

As we look toward the new 2011-2012 school year, there are some areas that can use improvement and some areas we will explore as a means to impact the students to a greater degree.

—————**JMCS CHANGES**—————

At the May 28, 2011 meeting of the John Muir Charter School Board of Directors, Executive Director; Buzz Breedlove announced his retirement effective June 30, 2011. At a June 3, 2011 meeting of the JMCS Board of Directors—the Board appointed RJ Guess as Executive Director of John Muir Charter School. The appointment is effective July 1, 2011.

During Buzz’ tenure as Executive Director, John Muir Charter School has Evolved into one of the premier Charter School entities in California. Those of us who have worked with RJ over the years are confident that the school will continue to evolve in a positive way, continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of the young people in the various programs—statewide that John Muir Charter School is affiliated with.

Join The Grit in wishing the best for Buzz Breedlove as he begins a new journey and join with us as we welcome RJ as the Executive Director of John Muir Charter School.