John Muir Charter School is a school like no other. We give young people the opportunity to earn a high school diploma while working with California Conservation Corps, Local Conservation Corps, YouthBuild, Job Corps and WIA sites around the state, doing exciting and valuable work for the community.

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Muir Review Staff
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Jeanine Engols; Contributor/Compilation
JMCS Staff and Students Statewide

John Muir Charter School has dedicated their efforts to provide young individuals ages sixteen to twenty-five an opportunity to get their high school education. What is astonishing about this is that John Muir Charter School has been providing this service to young individuals for almost fifteen years! John Muir Charter School began in Sacramento as a satellite around the Meadowview area and students from “broken homes and faltering communities” in dire need to complete their education came to John Muir for help. JMCS originally provided education services to the Sacramento Job Corps, adding client agencies over the years and now boasts 46 sites. John Muir isn’t just a school; it’s a place where you can regain hope and motivation for your future by earning your Education. I am currently enrolled in John Muir at the Pomona Satellite and I can honestly say that being here is the only time I have felt motivated to work towards earning my Education. Pomona Satellite has had over seventy-five graduates since 2001 and there will be plenty more I’m sure. Our school offers remediation for subjects that some students may struggle with such as Math, Language Arts, Algebra etc. John Muir also gives students the opportunity to prepare for the GED test with the textbook, practice tests, and study groups. Here at the Pomona Satellite we assemble GED study groups three days per week. Not only is the preparation for the GED test free, it’s free to take the test as well because JMCS is awesome enough to cover the expenses. In order to participate in such privileges you have to be eligible and in good standing of course. Did I forget to mention that John Muir also offers free studying for the California High School Exit Exam? I, myself, passed the California High School Exit Exam with the help of John Muir Charter School and their extraordinary services in helping young individuals complete their Education. John Muir is poised to continue offering services to students in need for many years to come.

By: James Allen
• Name: Lowell Brown
• Job duties: Teach 9th & 12th grade.
• What are you looking forward to most about working at CSET?
  Brown: I am most looking forward to working in a school environment where I can use my creativity in assisting the students to accomplish their goals.

• Hobbies: I enjoy anything outdoors, including: Whitewater rafting, canoeing, Nordic skiing, backpacking, camping, hiking, exploring, and camping. I also enjoy historical/war themed board games, reading, telling stories with friends, traveling, and nature study.
• If you won a hundred million dollars, what would you first buy?
  Brown: I would pay off my house first if I won a hundred million dollars.
• If you had an all expense paid vacation, where would you go?
  Brown: I would go to Australia.
• Favorite band?
  Brown: This is impossible for me to answer as I like many bands and types of music.
  Anything else you would like to add?
  Brown: Nothing, thanks.

Congratulations to Sequoia Community Corpsember, Jose Romo, for 100 days of perfect school attendance!

Jose with Chantel Medeiros; Education Director
“I came to John Muir hoping to change the lives of my students. I do not look at my students as troubled or in need, but rather as students with missed opportunities. Not only do I teach them academic lessons, but also lessons in life skills.”

“I try to develop a rapport with my students so they open up to me when they are having trouble with their studies or having problems that may keep them from doing their best.”

**Roger Rather**  
Teacher, Tulare Conservation Corps  
(C-SET)

“Imagine having the opportunity to be the turning point in a young person’s life. When they graduate, they are prepared to be successful in anything that they pursue.”

**Linda Weaver**  
Teacher  
Redding Satellite  
California Conservation Corps

“For 10 years, it has been an honor to work for our sponsoring organization, the CCC, and the entity that is the John Muir Charter School, serving the young adults who so desperately need our focused support.”

“The work of these two dedicated organizations to provide the best education for their students while being sensitive to the intricacies of our work schedule and population is peerless.”

**Ray Faulkenberry**  
Teacher  
Napa/Vallejo California Conservation Corps

“The best thing about teaching at John Muir Charter School is that I get the privilege of motivating and encouraging students to achieve their educational goals.”

**Cristina Vanderlaan**  
Teacher  
Camarillo California Conservation Corps
**JMCS Events/Important Academic Dates:**

- JMCS In-Service Sacramento >> January 14, 15, 2013
- CESAR CHAVEZ DAY Observed >> April 1, 2013
- CAHSEE TEST DATES >> March 12, 13, 2013
- REGIONAL IN-SERVICES >> APRIL 15, 2013
- MEMORIAL DAY Observed >> May 28, 2012
- CAHSEE TEST DATES >> May 14, 15, 2013

**DATES to REMEMBER**

- December 24, 2012-January 1, 2013 Winter Break
- December 25, 2012: Christmas Day
- January 1, 2013: New Year’s Day
- January 21, 2013: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 11, 2013: Lincoln's Birthday
- February 18, 2013: President’s Day
- April 1, 2012: Cesar Chavez Day
- May 27, 2013: Memorial Day

**What Our Students Say:**

"Our teacher is important to us and has made an incredible difference in all of our lives."

-Westin Decker, Redding CCC

**AUTHOR!!! AUTHOR!!!**

**JMCS TEACHER: RAMONA WINGART**

“Hmmm, let's see...I have a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and have worked with children, teens, and young adults for many, many years! I initially began as a substitute for John Muir Charter School (about two years ago). Then I received an internship and began teaching at our Pixley site. The following year brought me to the Visalia campus where I teach full time. We have a great team and I absolutely love teaching here! The children's books I have written, and illustrated, that are currently available are *Where is Brother Beaver?* and *Emily Suzanne Smith!* My book for all ages is in production, and it is called *The Little Cedar Tree*. I have several others that I have not yet submitted. I submitted some of my stories to publishers several years ago and received some rejection slips and, of course became discouraged, but then two years ago I submitted another story, and it was accepted. I love to write, but I must admit I am not the best illustrator. So far, though, it has worked for me.”
WE HAVE PHOTOS

CCC’s Hunt Drum discusses Capacity Building and CDT strategies

Tom Hunnicut: Giving agenda overview.

Christina Vanderlaan makes a point during CDT discussion

Chris Shaw; talking about his work with CDT

CCC’s Tony Vasquez; RJ Guess, and Mike Wegner;

Kris Escarda; CCC Addressing JMCS/CCC teachers regarding the CAP curriculum
During Fall of 2007, John Muir Charter School joined the Youth Justice Coalition / Work Investment Act to found free L.A. High School, an organization created to promote reliable leaders and to fulfill the youth development needs of the YJC members. The school serves as an organizing institute that provides an alternative for youth incarceration. Instead of the traditional vocational training in construction or conservation, the YJC / WIA Partnership has taken a different approach by serving in the vocational training of community empowerment and community development through education, training, action, and organizing. The school provides academic training in all core subjects so the students can get the proper learning and training skills that they need along with trying to integrate as much of the organizing tools as possible. The YJC / WIA Partnership and Organization Is highly committed to serving young individuals caught up in the system by achieving their High School Diploma. At Free L.A., it does not matter what is on the student’s “criminal record.” It is about the individual’s experience in life, interests in learning, and dreams for their future. What some students’ believe is impossible, becomes possible. The building of math, reading, and writing skills is a priority for Free L.A. High School. They incorporate all areas into the work that they do, because it’s stuff you’ll do, or use every day of your life. Currently, three days of the week are dedicated to core academic subjects: Math is on Monday and Tuesday mornings, English is on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and Science is on Thursdays. Wednesday and Friday are for Street University and Troublemakers – vocational instruction combined with Social Studies. Tuesday and Thursday evenings are for tutoring and assisting some of our full-time working students with their school progress. Additionally, we have special scheduled tutoring sessions that assist students to be open to math in ways that have never been possible. All the facts, disparity, injustice that have set YJC’S context make up the foundation of the vocational education component of Free L.A. High School. The vocational training that students receive incorporates Street University, Troublemakers, Meetings and Actions. Our curriculum stems from organizing materials, from the YJC over the last five years and is being revised every day to meet the academic needs of the school. Street University was developed to build student leadership. It helps develop youth skills and experience in public speaking, research, writing, budgeting, nonprofit administration, power analysis, public policy development and advocacy, organizing tactics and direct action; as well as an understanding the build-up and workings of the prison industrial complex and an appreciation for social justice organizing as a theory and field of work. Troublemakers introduces participants to US and international movement history through readings, music, films, guest speakers and discussion.

Many thanks to Kruti Parekh; YJC coordinator and Christian Chavarria; (School coordinator) for their commitment and dedication to John Muir Charter School and to the young men and women of Free L.A. / Youth Justice Coalition.