

MOUSE Squad Moments of California

Volume 1 Issue 1

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Aragon Ambassadors

Students at Aragon High School in San Mateo do more than troubleshoot their teachers' computers. Since the Aragon MOUSE Squad program is in its 3rd year, students showcase their expertise by participating in conferences.



Students presented last spring at the Computer Using Educators (CUE) conference in Palm Springs and the Silicon Valley CUE Conference in Palo Alto. At the recent Innovative Learning Conference (ILC) in San Jose, they helped set up computers for workshops.

“Community building is key. It’s not just about technology, it’s about how we work in teams while we help out,” says Candy Bandong, faculty advisor for the Aragon MOUSE Squad.

Aragon parent, Barbara Caldwell says her son has developed the confidence in reaching out to others as a result of participating with the MOUSE Squad program at Aragon High School.

Computer-in-a-Box

How can students experience the internal parts of a computer safely? That’s the question Inez Paepcke, Instructor at Menlo Atherton (MA) High School, posed to MSCA’s Program Coordinator, Juanita Croft. Together they created the Computer-in-a-Box. Weirdstuff, a computer recycling company in Sunnyvale, contributed the components. Then MA students grouped the parts and put them in boxes.

Some MOUSE Squad students have never seen the inside of a computer before. Now they can grab and investigate each part. Students practice connecting components to a motherboard and learn safety procedures when working inside the computer.



The Menlo Atherton students assembled boxes for other MOUSE Squads to share the activity. Taking pride in putting boxes together, some students even personalized their boxes with notes to the receivers.

Director’s Notes

Welcome to the 1st issue of the MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA) Student Tech newsletter!

In the MSCA program

- Students learn computer and communication concepts using online curriculum and hands-on activities.
- A student-run help desk is set up to troubleshoot equipment.
- Community volunteers assist the students and educators.

We are thrilled to have a “mighty” MOUSE Squad team:

- Program Coordinators:
Iris Clyne & Juanita Croft
- Corporate Connections/
Volunteer Coordinator:
Kathleen Lynn
- Special Projects:
Candy Bandong



Our program began as Student TECH CORPS in 2003 with 5 Silicon Valley schools. We now have 50 schools with over 700 students in Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Oakland, Central Valley and even a few in Southern California!

We are now the Student Tech Leadership program of Aspiranet, a nonprofit that provides after-school, youth development, and community technology programs in California. MSCA is a licensed partner of MOUSE, a New York City-based nonprofit.

Questions or comments?
Contact Jan Half, Program Dir.
jhalf@ca.mousesquad.org
408.712.5912

Save the Date: Annual Spring Summit and Reception
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Computer History Museum in Mountain View



MOUSE Squad Student Tech Recognizes 2008 Volunteers of the Year



Matt Hill
Chinatown Beacon Center, SF

“Matt has been an inspirational volunteer and role model for the MOUSE Squad students. He gave students a greater understanding of the world of technology,” wrote Tim Fung, CBC instructor. Matt demonstrated running diagnostic tools on machines and how to install memory. He also took students ‘behind’ a computer showing them what the ports and wires do. “I think all the students now have a higher level of comfort with computers and a better understanding of what parts are inside a computer,” Matt stated.



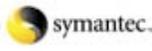
Siddharth Vajirkar
Luther Burbank School, San Jose

Sid, an employee of Cisco, made a significant contribution to Luther Burbank’s program by taking an active leadership role as co-instructor. Sid guided the students through MOUSE Squad’s ten modules by assisting them in reading and understanding the online curriculum and quizzes. Sid applied his engineering knowledge and skills to enhancing the students’ experience and understanding through hands-on activities, which helped to reinforce the concepts.



David Wickemeyer
Union Middle School, San Jose

David has volunteered over 50 hours this past school year. He assists the students in managing the student-run help desk by helping to identify possible solutions when troubleshooting. He also mentors students in developing their communication skills while working with teachers and staff. Instructor, Janette Adams wrote, “I’ve received multiple compliments on students’ professionalism and skills.” David’s positive demeanor and sense of humor create a welcoming environment for the students.



Corporate Connections Global Educational Ecosystem

MOUSE Squad Student Tech is proud to provide the technology component of the Xilinx Global Educational Ecosystem, a collaboration created to transform science and technology education. “Committed partnerships with non-profit organizations such as MOUSE Squad, enable the Ecosystem to flourish and helps our youth to become the global workforce of the future,” says Patty Nation, Community Relations Manager. Xilinx employees are an important element of Oster Elementary’s MOUSE Squad where they are the co-instructors. Other employees are volunteering at Union MS, Leigh HS and other San Jose area MOUSE Squad schools.



IBM Sponsors Los Arboles Elementary

MOUSE Squad Student Tech is pleased to announce our partnership with IBM and Los Arboles Elementary School in San Jose. IBM provides funds and employee volunteers to assist students with completing the MOUSE Squad curriculum and implementing the student-run help desk. “Teaching useful skills to students, which they get to apply in service to their school, is a winning proposition for all concerned,” states Doug DeFrees, IBM volunteer. The MOUSE Squad instructors and students work closely with the Franklin-McKinley School District to provide tech support to the school. Principal Carla Haakma adds, “Los Arboles is fortunate to have partners like IBM. Without their support, we would not be able to provide our students with this valuable opportunity to learn about technology.”



You are invited to support MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA)

Donations are tax deductible (Non profit I.D. # 94-2442955)

MSCA c/o Aspiranet, 400 Oyster Point Boulevard, Suite #501, South San Francisco, CA 94080

or

Donate online at

<http://ca.mousesquad.org/Partners/donate.html>

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