

MOUSE Squad Moments of California

2009 - 2010 School Year

Squads in the Spotlight Sponsored by Danford Foundation



Fernando Rivera Intermediate Daly City

Student In Charge, Cianna, comes to school every morning ready to assess students' abilities to respond to the troubleshooting tickets left by Fernando Rivera teachers.

Most problems so far have related to printers or Internet, but

many times a MOUSE Squad student is also training teachers on using the technology in their classroom.



Faculty advisor, Susan McMahon-Dyogi creates an atmosphere where students take charge. She "broke" her computers in the lab by thinking of problems that might occur around campus. Unplugging cords, changing printers, turning on or off preferences and hiding files allow students to practice how to find and resolve issues.

Students in MOUSE Squad have risen to the challenge taking on responsibilities and leadership roles in their school and community. After a presentation at a staff meeting by Sibane Parcels, VP, the teachers are now receptive and excited to have MOUSE Squad on campus. Next on their agenda? A presentation to their school board and a MOUSE Squad parent training in Microsoft programs. ✨

El Crystal Elementary San Bruno

MOUSE Squad is making a difference at El Crystal Elementary where budget cuts and staffing shortages have left technology in the school a bit behind the times. Fourth through sixth graders are proud to take on the various jobs required. Cleaners work throughout the school keeping the hardware pristine and germ free, while also maintaining disk space and clutter free desktops.

Updaters keep a calendar of what programs are on each machine, what is missing and what needs updating.



Installers are keeping computers running with new software acquired. Tasks like these can require time,

so Updaters and Installers are often found catching up on their homework while the software loads.

Distributors turn on all the computers in the lab every morning and get the laptop cart to the classroom scheduled for use. Teachers can complete a ticket request for a MOUSE Squad student to come and assist younger students in the lab. Can't remember how to save to the server or properly take care of the school computers? Never fear, MOUSE Squad at El Crystal is producing instructional videos to help. ✨

Director's Notes

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA) Student Tech Leadership newsletter!

In the MSCA program:

- Students learn technology concepts and problem solving skills using online curriculum modules and hands-on activities;
- A student 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 (N CA)
Sharian Lott (S CA)
Rosemarie Dias (Central Valley)
- Corporate Connections/Volunteer Coordinator: Kathleen Lynn
- Special Projects:
Candy Bandong



We are now in 70 schools serving 1,000 students, grades 4-12 in Silicon Valley, East Bay, San Francisco, Central Valley, and Southern California!

We are the Student Tech Leadership program of Aspiranet, a California nonprofit that provides afterschool, youth development, and children and family services.

MSCA is a licensed partner of MOUSE (Making Opportunities for Upgrading Schools and Education), a New York City-based nonprofit organization.

Questions or comments?
Contact Jan Half, Program Dir.
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408.712.5912

Save the Date: Annual Spring Summit and Reception
Wednesday, May 19, 2010
The Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose



MOUSE Squad of California

<http://ca.mousesquad.org>

MOUSE Squad 2009 Volunteers of the Year



Doug DeFrees, IBM
Los Arboles Elementary, San Jose

Doug DeFrees, IBM volunteer, was instrumental in IBM sponsorship of MOUSE Squad at Los Arboles Elementary stating, "The IBM Silicon Valley Employee Driven Fund Council is excited to continue its support of MOUSE Squad. Teaching useful skills to students, which they get to apply in service to their school, is a winning proposition for all."

As a volunteer, Doug applies his engineering knowledge to enhancing the Los Arboles' MOUSE Squad students' experience and understanding of tech concepts.



Alan Schaevitz
MSCA Webmaster

Alan Schaevitz maintains the MOUSE Squad of California website, <http://ca.mousesquad.org>.

Alan's contributions to MSCA are invaluable. He provides his service to MSCA with much attention to detail and commitment to excellence. Alan provides invaluable insights as well as technological expertise as we continue to develop our web site.

We are fortunate that Alan has remained just a click away for the past four years.

Where Are They Now?

Paul Revere MOUSE Squad Alumni, SF

Bryant Catambay: Lowell High School freshman "MOUSE Squad helped me in understanding the way computers operate, which benefited me when I had to set up my own computer. Now I am able to help teachers, friends and family with their computers."



Aragon HS MOUSE Squad Alumni, San Mateo

Tyler Couch: College of San Mateo, Politics He wants to keep coming back to Aragon to help new MOUSE Squad students.

Tyler Mark: Foothill College, Technical Theater Currently working as the technical support person for Aragon High School. The district pays for him to come to Aragon for 20 hours a week.



Kyle Masters-Gutierrez: UC Santa Cruz, Computer Science He writes about reconfiguring the acoustics in his dorm to accommodate his technology gadgets.



Corporate Connections Field Trips Engage MOUSE Squad Students

Through MSCA's unique corporate partnerships, we provide field trip opportunities for our MOUSE Squad students to visit Cisco, Electronic Arts (EA), Intel, The Computer History Museum and The Tech Museum of Innovation.

Field trips promote students' understanding of career pathways and job opportunities, and engage students through their experience of the relevance of their acquired MOUSE Squad skills in the workplace.



After visiting EA, MOUSE Squad instructor, Carrie Tibbs said, "The field trip was an overwhelming

success. It was great to have the IT professionals reinforce the importance of math [in relation to technology], staying in school and doing your best every day. Our MOUSE Squad students had terrific questions for the panel and I saw a lot of "ah-ha" moments as they experienced a real-life purpose for what we teach them every day."



program helps students develop not only technical skills, but also life skills." ✨

Brand Identity
CISCO Manager, Joan Banich wrote, "MOUSE Squad is a great program and even though the intent of the field trip is to benefit the kids, I know that our employees get just as much out of being involved. I see the potential for how your

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>

