

# MOUSE Squad Moments

MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA)  
Student Tech Leadership Program

2010 - 2011 School Year

## Director's Notes

We are thrilled that MSCA, in its 8th year, is implemented in 90 sites throughout California. MSCA now serves over 1,500 students in grades 4-12.

Help desk projects abound with Squads using the online curriculum to communicate and collaborate in innovative ways.

We are committed to empowering our students with technology and leadership skills, and our new Advisory Council assists us by making recommendations regarding Program and Evaluation, Volunteer and Outreach, Public Relations and Funding.

New nonprofit partner, Computers for Youth is strengthening the school-home tech connections in Los Angeles middle schools with MOUSE Squad. As part of a class, University of San Francisco students volunteer at SF MOUSE Squad sites and provide valuable input on our evaluation tools.

Our "mighty" MOUSE Squad team is growing ...

Corporate Connections/Volunteer Coordinator: Kathleen Lynn

Program Coordinators:

Iris Clyne (Northern CA)  
Juanita Croft (Northern CA)  
Kristin Gunn (Central CA)  
Mary Beth Coyne (Los Angeles)  
Sharian Lott (San Diego)

Special Projects:

Candy Bandong  
Rosemarie Dias



Questions or comments?  
Contact Jan Half, Program Director  
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408-712-5912



KIPP Summit Academy



Parkview Elementary



Novato High

## Squads in the Spotlight

### KIPP: Who Ya Gonna Call...?

Sylvia Gonsalves runs a very busy MOUSE Squad. In their first year, MOUSE Squad Middle School students assisted many teachers and staff at KIPP Summit Academy, San Lorenzo School District, by repairing virus problems and replacing parts on a variety of desktops and laptops. They transferred lab computers into classrooms to make way for new equipment. One honorary fifth grader was responsible for moving a teacher's computer/projector setup from one class to another several times a week.

KIPP MOUSE Squad, actively involved on the [mousesquad.org](http://mousesquad.org) online curriculum website, was recognized by MOUSE NY as the "Best New MOUSE Squad of the Year!". The students participated in several projects and competitions including The Tech Museum's Tech Challenge and a Digital Stories project, "Who Ya Gonna Call" featured on the MSCA website.



Sylvia appreciates the impact of MOUSE Squad.

*"The response and outcome has been fantastic! Not only has my life been a lot easier, but my students have grown tremendously. They are expanding their skills by demonstrating their knowledge through troubleshooting, repairing and taking on many tasks that I could not achieve due to my busy schedule."*

Unlike many tech coordinators who lost their positions, Sylvia Gonsalves was rehired primarily due to the success of MOUSE Squad.

### GATE Opens Doors for MOUSE Squad Parkview Elementary, Chula Vista SD

Parkview Elementary 5th and 6th grade MOUSE Squad students have provided help desk services at their site since 2009. Faculty Advisors, Monica Castillo and Sarah Buck saw MOUSE Squad as an opportunity to satisfy the needs of their Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students as well.

Sarah Buck reports, "We taught some basic computer skills to our GATE students and then using a student-centered approach, we created small tasks for students to complete. We didn't "teach" PowerPoint or Microsoft Word explicitly, but allowed them to work together to explore and then teach each other."

GATE students who completed their MOUSE Squad certification assisted with software and technical issues as students created original digital stories. At a special story time presentation, family members were impressed and students were proud. Parkview MOUSE Squad students have demonstrated leadership skills through presentations at CA League of Schools conferences in San Diego for the past two years.

### Mission Command at Novato High

*"Work warning: we are NOT receiving new computers, we have 7-10 older computers on standby. Some may have issues, like a bad hard drive. Long live the new computer lab! Long live MOUSE Lord!"* SO RooRocket

Watch the Novato High MOUSE Squad in action — it's like watching mission command at NASA. Dr. MOUSE Lord (aka volunteer, Suzanne Rivoire) started the squad on curriculum modules while students developed a work hierarchy. They rallied and developed a hierarchy of trainees and officers.

Senior officers are MOUSE Squad certified and have titles such as personnel, coordination (coordinate cases) and logistics (tech experts) officers. Two or three trainees shadow them while they resolve tech issues and document the cases.

Trainees confirm skills acquired through quizzes and documented cases, and are promoted from trainee to member to technician. Personnel officers track trainee accomplishments and cases through their Google spreadsheets and forms.

Novato High MOUSE Squad works closely with their campus IT Specialist, Paul DeLoria. Working part-time, there is always more tech work than time. Thank goodness for MOUSE Squad. Their main responsibilities are upkeep and managing aging computers on campus. MOUSE Squad students learn to take apart, diagnose, fix, upgrade and maintain these computers.

*"I can bring vibrance, common sense, lots of energy and technical know-how. If I had a speciality, it would be working with old operating systems. I like solving problems through shortcuts and I want what I do to benefit people on a day to day basis."* SO the aliengirl



MOUSE Squad of California  
<http://ca.mousesquad.org>

# MOUSE Squad 2010 Volunteers of the Year

## Rambus Donates Flat Screen Monitors to MOUSE Squad Schools

"At Rambus, we love how MOUSE Squad fosters students' self esteem through transfer of IT knowledge and exposure to working with adults. We believe this is the key to raising future leaders and innovators in the high-tech field."

Louie Lu, Rambus engineer

## Congratulations winners!

### Balboa High, San Francisco

"MOUSE Squad benefits Balboa by having students learn about technology, communication, and teamwork skills. Some subjects we have specialized in include cybersafety, software applications, and hardware maintenance. We also hone valuable life and professional skills in MOUSE squad which we can apply in the outside world. For example, MOUSE Squad helps us analyze situations and systematically apply problem solving strategies. MOUSE Squad is like a safe haven to us getting out of trouble and one of the best afterschool programs offered."

### Irvington High, Fremont

"MOUSE Squad at our school has become the core of tech support. We operate an online help desk and students come in during lunch, before and after school, to help out on level 1 and level 2 issues. So far, we've accumulated 25 hours of technical support in the last 3 weeks from our team — and that's just what was documented."



**Vinay Verma, Xilinx**  
Oster Elementary School, San Jose

For two years, Vinay, a Xilinx engineer, has volunteered at Oster Elementary, a Xilinx Global Educational EcoSystem sponsored school. Oster ES 4th grade teacher wrote, "Thank you for all the time that you give to these kids, I can't stress how important it is and what it means to them."



**Louie Lu, Rambus**  
Fischer Middle School, San Jose

Former principal Nancy Gutierrez says, "Fischer students are very lucky to have Louie, our Rambus engineer, as a volunteer for the past two years. He is very enthusiastic in teaching our students about technology, like identifying parts of a computer, ghosting laptops and exploring inside a Play Station 3."



**Dan Chan, Xilinx**  
Dartmouth Middle School, San Jose

Dan, a Xilinx engineer, says of MOUSE Squad, "Computer In A Box and the other hands-on activities really get the kids engaged and help the students become more interested in computers and technology." Last year, Dan also volunteered at Oster Elementary as co-instructor.

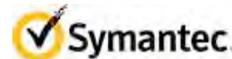


## MOUSE Squad Students Intern with Xilinx IT Support Leigh High School, Campbell Union High School District

In summer 2010, two MOUSE Squad students from Leigh High School, participated in work-study internships with Xilinx Corporation's IT department. The impact of this MSCA opportunity exposed the students to real-world applications of the industry-relevant workplace skills they develop through participation in MOUSE Squad.

Allison Barry, grade 11, commented, "Interning at Xilinx increased my understanding of how tech support operates and solves problems. The people I worked with taught me a lot about computers, problem solving, and communication skills. It was a great experience to be actually participating in a work environment, and it has inspired me to someday take on a career in technology."

Joshua Bowen, also a junior at Leigh HS added, "Going into work at Xilinx the first day I was really nervous because I had no experience with working in a commercial industry. After my time there, I had learned many computer skills, but most importantly it taught me how to work with other people."



## San Francisco MOUSE Squad Meet-Up

In response to MOUSE Squad students' request to meet other MOUSE Squad students in San Francisco, Miranda Lux Foundation sponsored MSCA's first **MOUSE Squad Meet-Up** at Zeum: San Francisco's Children's Multimedia Arts and Technology Museum.

Over 75 MOUSE Squad students from seven schools participated in MOUSE Squad-themed technology activities including claymation, music video filming, news broadcasting and Scratch programming.



A faculty advisor expressed her appreciation saying, "For many of our students, not only was this their first field trip to Zeum, they got to work with mediums they never would have been exposed to otherwise!"

Make a tangible and lasting impact by supporting MOUSE Squad of California (MSCA)

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

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

Or donate online at

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

Summit and  
Recognition Reception

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Computer History Museum

Save the Date