

Mt. Diablo Unified School District
El Monte Elementary School CARES After School Program
(Collaborative for Academics, Recreation & Enrichment for Students)
Established 2009

1400 Dina Drive
Concord, CA 94518
(925) 682-8000

Principal: Christina Boman
Academic Coach: Carissa Sugden
Site Coordinators: Kathy Davis, Mariana Gonzalez

Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

Strengths: The El Monte Elementary School CARES opened its doors September 7, 2009 with strong support from our community partners as well as from our school site and administration. With the awarding of a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant award, we were able to open a program serving 120 students daily during the 2009-10 school year as well as during a 6-week summer program. This federal source of funding is available for 5 years. In January 2011, El Monte was awarded state After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program funding, bringing the total attendance number to 160 students. This award stems from a history of excellent programming, coordination, and strong program leadership. The principal provides valuable assistance, support, and guidance that is vital to sustaining a well rounded program. Regular school day teachers also provide assistance in the form of student updates, homework support, and help with behavioral issues.

Challenges: In order to maintain high quality services being offered to our students and families, additional funding sources are continually being pursued. There is an ongoing need to maintain high quality training and mentorship for CARES staff to ensure qualified staff are serving our students. Opportunities for culturally diverse and enriching opportunities prepare students with life experiences. These challenges focus our attention on the ways in which we can continue to grow as a program that fosters the growth of children in the community.

<u>Who We Serve</u>	<u>Programs for Youth and Families</u>
Number of Students served... 267 % Free & Reduced Lunch ... 52 % % English Learner 25 % % Special Education 0% % Male 50% % Female 50%	After School Programming includes: Homework Help, Academic Intervention Program, Nutrition Education and Cooking, Dance, Arts and Crafts, Gardening, Character Counts Life Skills lessons and Musical, Choir, Family Nights and Urban Farming. Snack Programming includes: Daily nutritional snack provided in partnership with Food Services Department and USDA.
<u>Demographics</u> % Latino 42% % African American 7 % % Asian Pacific Islander 1.5% % Other White 26 % % Other Non-White 23.5 %	
<u>How We Serve</u> Staff to student ratio: 1:20 Number of credentialed staff: 1 Number of volunteers: 4 Number of CARES staff : 13 Number of subcontractors: 1 Number of Community Partners: 9	<u>Links to the School Day</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School day teachers instruct the Intervention portion of CARES. ▪ Representative of CARES in Student Care Team (SCT) attends faculty, Leadership, and grade level meetings. ▪ Informal and formal means of communication in place to facilitate discussion between CARES staff and school day teachers. ▪ CARES staff complete and share Bi-monthly Student Progress reports with classroom teachers.

<u>Community Partners</u>		<u>Funding Sources</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ambrose Recreation & Park District ▪ Bay Area Community Resources ▪ City of Concord ▪ MDUSD ▪ <i>Network for a Healthy CA</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concord Police Department ▪ UC Cooperative Extension ▪ Center for Collaborative Solutions ▪ Contra Costa Co. Dept. of Health 	Grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st CCLC • ASES • <i>Network for a Healthy CA</i> 	Year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009- 2012 2011-present 2011-12 	Amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 125,250/year \$112,500/year \$248,000 total program

Description of Homework Assistance Programs:

- **Homework Help:** 1 hour homework assistance which includes 20 minutes of Daily Interactive Read Alouds, Journal Time & Graffiti Walls.
- **Intervention Program:** 1 hour of academic Intervention with a Credentialed teacher in either English Language Arts or Mathematics. Student to teacher ratio is 10:1. In 2010-11, students in grades 2-5 who were struggling with math and reading were targeted.
Curriculum and Subject:
2nd grade Reading - My Skills Tutor and the SIPPS reading intervention program
3rd grade Math and Reading - CST release questions and 3rd grade curriculum supplements
4th/5th grade focused on math and reading using 4th/5th curriculum supplements and results of curriculum associates data for their grade levels to determine instructional goals
- **My Skills Tutor:** Computer based academic program by Houghton Mifflin leveled to challenge students academically in Grades 1 - 8.

Description of Enrichment Programs:

- **Enrichment opportunities:** 1 ½ hours structured enrichment or recreation. Enrichment programming includes arts and crafts, athletics, leadership, and home economics programs. Programming focuses on the youth development model.
- **Nutrition Education:** 1 hour per week per student of nutrition education and 1 hour per week per student of cooking classes. Standards-based curriculum from UC Cooperative Extension, Farm to Fork, plus *Children's Power Play!* and Harvest of the Month. 60 minutes daily of mild to vigorous physical activity promotion. Students participate in nutrition lessons, cooking classes, and field trips to the gardens.
- **CARES Gardens:** The Bay Point CARES Garden hosts daily classes in the garden, serving all 14 CARES After School programs. Students learn nutrition, youth development and community development. El Monte established an on-site garden in 2009-2010.
- **Urban Farming:** Students care for 4 chickens in a coop built by CARES High School Students.
- **Character Education:** Character Matters and Munchkin Mediation character education plays as well as Aesop's Fables Deluxe for the students in grades K-3, and a musical performance of our Friday Afternoon Choir
- **Interest Specialty classes:** A trained technical artist leads classes two times a week onsite for selected students, instructing them in the skills of portrait design.

“Children Learning to Change the World”

- **Clubs:** A wide variety of clubs are offered to students every Friday during enrichment time. The clubs are selected and led by the recreation specialists based on their own interests. Clubs include Basketball, Movie, String Art, Science, and Art. A new selection of clubs is available to students on a rotating cycle every four weeks.

Description of Peer Resources and Youth Development Programs:

- **Improving School Climate:** Multiple programs offered to ensure a safe environment for students and families.
BEST: School-wide behavior management program
Steps to Respect: Bullying prevention program instituted through weekly lessons
Tribes: Acclaimed program includes teambuilding activities for all grade levels
- **Digital Safari Academy (DSA) at Mount Diablo High School:** A new partnership developed in conjunction with the DSA offered in Spring 2011. 12th grade student volunteers in the DSA performed 50 hours of community services projects teaching movie-making and editing to 4th and 5th grade CARES students.

Description of Family Education & Assistance Programs:

- **Family Nights:** Parents are given a variety of opportunities to attend events at the school to educate or support their students in visual art education.
Oct 19, 2010 Lights On! After School: To celebrate national day of celebration of after school education. This night included 6 stations highlighting the activities we do with the kids in the classrooms: science experiments, cooking, gardening, literacy, and art projects.
- **Parent Volunteers:** Throughout the year, parents volunteer their time to assist with homework tutoring and enrichment activities as well as volunteering time and supplies for special events such as Fall Festival.