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# Transition Times

WorkAbility & Transition Services

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

FALL/WINTER 2012

## EGUSD ILS/ATP 1st Annual Holiday Boutique

You'd better watch out  
You'd better not cry  
You'd better not pout  
I'm tellin' you why...

The ILS/ATP Transition Programs want to help you get into the holiday spirit! On December 1st, the programs held their first "Holiday Boutique" at Kerr Middle School. Once inside the doors, you could see table after table of wonderful crafts, jewelry, hand painted scarves, dog and cat toys, jellies, pickles and much much more.

Students in these programs worked all semester to design, create and organize their products to sell. No

matter the skill level or ability, everyone can participate!

You're probably kicking yourself right now because you didn't make it over to the holiday sale. Don't fret! Many of these great items are still for sale. Email the teacher of the program who made the items and you can be well on your way to finishing your Christmas shopping as well as providing support to some very hard working and talented students

Proceeds from these student run enterprises are used to fund independent living activities such as community field trips to restaurants,

shopping and recreational programs.

Participating programs :  
Joann Milligan-Link/VHS  
Florence Lemieux/Valley HS  
April Lemieux/Franklin HS  
Sayuri Sakamoto/Jackman MS  
Amy Phelps/ EG Elementary  
Michelle Young/PGHS  
Lori Spivey /Florin HS  
Amy Weaver/Eddy MS  
Therese Cauchon/LCHS  
Jan Stendahl/LCHS  
Tina Sandlin/LCHS  
Debra Van Hulsteyn/EGHS  
Michelle Young/PGHS

*Happy Holidays  
from  
WorkAbility & TPP*



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VHS - Milliga@egusd.net



LCHS- TSandlin@egusd.net



LCHS -JSTENDAH@egusd.net



PGHS - MDYoung@egusd.net

# WorkAbility = Experience

by Karen Marlow

WorkAbility  
Job Club Schedules



Cosumnes Oaks HS  
Wednesdays 8:00

Elk Grove HS  
Thursdays 8:00

Florin HS  
Thursdays 1st & 2nd  
Lunches

Franklin HS  
Wednesdays 8:00

Laguna Creek HS  
Mondays 7:45

Monterey Trail HS  
Thursdays 9:00

Pleasant Grove HS  
Thursdays 8:00

Sheldon HS  
Wednesdays 8:45

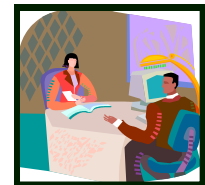
Valley HS  
Wednesdays 8:00

Have you been looking for work lately? It's a job in itself. And if you have no experience or very little it's not an easy task. There are a lot of people looking for employment right now so the more prepared you are the better. WorkAbility is there to help you get that first time experience. As long as you have an IEP, a 2.0 GPA, good attendance, a social security card, a photo I.D. AND a desire to work we are there to help. First there is the preparation period. You must attend Job Clubs at your school (find out who your Transition Specialist is and where the meetings are held). Fill out the "Blue Packet" given

to you by your Transition Specialist. Meet with Karen Marlow, Job Developer for the program and then be ready to answer the call when it comes. The call, is the phone call Karen Marlow will make to you, to have the interview at the work site and begin your work experience. In the photo below, Laurel Hochmuth (right), Transition Specialist for the Florin Region, met with students, prepping them for their work experience. The students are now out in the community working at job sites and preparing for their futures. Remember ...it is

approximately a 6 week experience and during that time you must continue to attend Job Club and put your "whole self" into the experience in order to really benefit and get ready for the next step. What is the next step? Apply, apply, apply and follow-up with all those applications you put out into the community.

**Remember, looking for work is a job ....**



# Middle Schoolers Today..Workers Tomorrow by Laurel Hochmuth

One of the many activities of the WorkAbility and Transition Services program is to provide our middle school students with career information and employment awareness through industry tours. We started off the school year with a middle school student tour at Tesco Controls, Inc. located on Florin Road in South Sacramento. Tesco Controls is an equipment manufacturer specializing in the water/wastewater, traffic and electrical utility industries.

It was an enlightening experience for the group of middle school students from Harriett Eddy, James Rutter and Joseph Kerr. The students were armed with safety glasses and words of caution before they were taken on a tour in the hub of the plant. The students were

given the opportunity to see huge sheets of sheet metal transformed by computer programs into utility boxes that are seen every day on street corners or on private homes and businesses. They observed how these utility boxes are made from start to finish. The tour became interactive and hands-on as each student was given the chance to go inside the large paint box and actually paint the finished products. The participating students donned masks and took turns receiving instructions from the Tesco employee on how to operate the paint gun. This clearly was the high point of the tour. Many students were so excited they chose to keep on their

“cool” masks. After the paint box, our tour leader Darrell led the group to more of the many work stations in the Tesco plant.



Darrell explained different types of career opportunities with Tesco and what

was needed to become a member of Tesco’s team. Opportunities varied from entry level, such as general clean up, to Welder, Shipping Clerk, Painter, Quality Controller and many more. The students left the tour enthusiastic and with a better understanding of the many career opportunities that exist in the world. After leaving Tesco many of the students said they could envision themselves working in metal, electrical, computer, fabrication, and painting careers. The Tesco Controls tour was an example of the purpose of the WorkAbility and Transition and Transition Services program...to open doors and windows and expose our students to all the opportunities that await them in their future.

## Preparing for Jobs in the Community by Linda Vargas & Susan McEntee

One of the great rites of passage for a young person is obtaining their first paid job. In our challenging economic times, finding that first job is becoming more of a challenge for our youth. Employers in the community are sending a strong message to students that participation in volunteer activities and community service projects are very important in helping them evaluate potential candidates for hire. These experiences not only help students build on the employability skills that employers are looking for, but the experiences can also set

them apart from other students who have no prior work experience. These skills include soft skills such as the ability to get along with co-workers, having a good attitude, being on time, being part of a team, following directions and having a good work ethic. Volunteer work demonstrates to employers that a student has gone above and beyond to give back to their community or an organization. Students interested in locating volunteer hours that match their interests and abilities, they can work

with their Transition Specialist to explore options that would be appropriate for them. Some things to consider when looking for volunteer opportunities:

- Be realistic and clear about the time you can commit
- Visit the organization before committing
- Find out about the agency’s purpose and your role as a volunteer
- Ask for a job description of your volunteer work

Students who want to apply for a WorkAbility training placement in the community will be required to have completed a minimum of 15 hours of volunteer work prior to applying for a placement beginning with the 2013-14 school year. Students should contact the Transition Specialist at their school site if they are interested in obtaining the form needed for documenting volunteer hours.

# Holiday Seasonal Employment Opportunities Are Here! By Jim Wirick

Looking for a seasonal job? Hopefully you have already begun your search and just need a little encouragement to keep the momentum going. If you haven't started looking, it's time to get going!

With the annual surge in holiday business, retail & service oriented businesses need to prepare early for the coming onslaught of consumers. So how do you get started looking for that job and when is the best time to begin? Here are some tips to get your job search started.

Get organized, update your resume and start applying with every employer that you think you would like to work for.



If you have had previous employment, check back with that employer to see what opportunities

they anticipate opening, let them know that you are once again seeking work and are readily available.



When it comes to availability, the more open your schedule is, the more attractive you will be to a potential hiring manager.



Be prepared to demonstrate that you have good knowledge of the company, their products and what motivates their customers.



Dependability, efficiency and above all patience with difficult shoppers are all skills that will be in demand.

Be prepared to work wherever you are needed. Once you are hired, demonstrate your competency on the job and you may end up with a permanent position.



If you are not retained for permanent employment, the new experience and skills you have attained will reflect well on your resume for your future endeavors.



Whatever your intentions for seasonal or other types of employment may be, try to remain positive & confident.

**Good luck with your job search!**

What does it take for a young adult to get a job in this economy? Determination, persistence and dedication are key words that come to mind. One young man who possesses all of those qualities, and a job, is Zolo Poole. Zolo graduated from Cosumnes Oaks High School in 2010. He began college at Cosumnes River College in the fall of 2010 on a part time basis but also needed to support himself so he came to our office for job search assistance.

The one key thing that set Zolo apart from other young adults in our program was his extensive work history, which included years of volunteer work experience (volunteer work is a great way to set yourself apart from other candidates in a job situation when you are young with little practical job experience).

## **Determination, Persistence and Dedication Pay Off With a Paycheck!** By Sherry Clifford



Zolo was a star client; he came to our career success workshops regularly, attended one on one session's with his employment placement specialist and applied for every job he could. Zolo's confidence and skills paid off with a seasonal job at All Clear Pool and Spa. The week after that job ended, he got another job with Goodwill. He is enjoying his job there and hopes to continue his education with a long term goal of becoming a Veterinary Technician.

His success is a direct result of the hard work, dedication and effort that Zolo put forth. Determination, persistence and dedication pay off with a paycheck!