



RKC Reporter

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MUSCATEL TEAM WINS SO CALIFORNIA SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

“We’re #1!” flashed the e-mail message at 10:41 p.m. Saturday, April 1, 2006.

But it was no April Fools joke. By 11:30 p.m. the news was on the rosemeadkiwanis.org web-site. By the next week it was in the local papers.

Muscotel Middle School had won the Southern California Science Olympiad championship!

It would be competing against 59 other groups in the National Championship finals.

It wasn’t done as a rich school – Rosemead schools essentially serve a lower income minority population – 93% Asian and Hispanic.

It was done using committed after school students and volunteer coaches.

They wore team shirts emblazoned with the number “23” as a reminder of the margin of their loss at the state



Five Olympiad Team Members and Mr. Lugue

level in 2005. They knew they were from an under-funded Title One school competing with fully funded embedded science programs from richer districts.

In the end it didn’t matter.

According to the team’s assistant coach, science teacher Jeff Tully, after last year’s second-place finish at state, they regrouped. The coaches analyzed the scores to determine the areas they could improve in.

Their analysis bore fruit. This year a Muscotel juggernaut

swept the Los Angeles County competition - the second-place team was 45 points behind! According to Tully the students then “knew without a doubt they could win the state championship.”

He was right. Heart and commitment won against the odds – a Rosemead team was going on to the National competition (held this year at Indiana University) for the first time in history. There they scored in the top twenty positions in all but one of twenty-three categories in the Middle School division. (See Science, p. 3)

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‘Since 1945’

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RKC SOAP REPORT – May, 2006

(SOAP = "Supported Organizations and Projects" of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club; for information on K-family groups mentioned here please see links on the right side of the rosemeadkiwanis.org website home page)

KEY CLUB HOSTS BUILDER'S WORKSHOP

by Bianca Hong,
RHS Key Club
President-elect

On Monday, May 8th, 2006, Rosemead KEY Club hosted a Leadership Workshop for the Muscatel Middle School Builder's Club. With the help of at least 20 KEY Clubbers and 5 officers we met after school at Muscatel Middle School from 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm.

The workshop took a long while to plan, dealing with issues such as what they should be learning from the workshops to when the event was going to be held. The leadership workshop included the details of the different officer positions, an introduction to KEY Club and its club cheers.

The seventh & eighth grade members had the chance to play a few icebreakers. The idea was to introduce one another, get involved in speaking up, and illustrate the etiquettes of e-mailing, speaking, and being well organized.

The workshop started with a call to order by the KEY Club President-Elect Bianca Hong, followed by the introduction of Key Club to the Builder's members. We talked about life after middle school and the Kiwanis Family.

Following that, the members from Builders & KEY Club had the opportunity to go outside and play a fun icebreaker game, called Jump! Sea! Land! As we headed back to the room, each KEY Club officer talked about their positions, from President to Membership Chair.

Next, Calvin Thanh, our outgoing KEY Club President, talked about etiquette. The members from Builders & KEY Club learned the importance of a handshake, listening courteously to others and the dos & don'ts when speaking to someone formally. Following that, Tina Ngo, the newly elected KEY Club Secretary, talked about prioritizing and not being caught up in stress. As the workshops went on, we included Power-Point presentations, fun



RHS KEY and Muscatel Builder's Clubs hold joint Leadership Workshop.

games and questionnaires to members.

With the short amount of time left, we taught the members the importance of leadership and communication with some icebreakers. They built pyramids, and learned that communication is certainly a huge key in good leadership, and untangling a human knot.

The leadership workshop concluded with a snack provided by the Builder's Club. RHS KEY Club hopes to hold more workshops with Builder's Club in the future, educating and boosting the self-confidence of our younger Kiwanis Family members.

MUSCATEL AFTER-SCHOOL PIZZA PARTY

Co-ordinated by Rosemead Art Instructor Kreg Asplund, 28 members of Muscatel Middle School after school groups shared pizza and fellowship Tuesday, May 30, at the Di Pilla's Restaurant in Rosemead.

Included were Mr. Asplund, School Librarian Dawn Douglas, Rec Room Coordinator Judy Caldera, the crochet class and its instructor, Kiwanian Elizabeth Landing, her husband, Kiwanian Art Landing, members of the Art Club and participants in the PB3

(From Science, p. 1)
Getting there wasn't easy. \$19,000 had to be raised in 40 days to help pay travel costs. Wal-mart kicked in \$3,000, Southern California Edison and Rosemead Kiwanis each tossed in a thousand. Special fundraisers at local McDonalds and Shakees Pizza brought in \$2000. Individual donations came in as well and much of the goal was reached.

How significant was the victory?

It ended a nine-year state domination by Orange County – and erased the bittersweet 22 point loss of 2005.

Volunteerism triumph

By first winning the Los Angeles competition two years in a row the Muscatel team proved it is not a fluke. It is com-

prised of 17 Muscatel Middle School students, 4 Rosemead High student coaches, 7 Muscatel staff members headed by Jun Lague and Jeff Tulley) plus a former Muscatel teacher and her daughter.

This team must prepare projects in 23 designated areas. They are judged both individually and as a team on each project. This requires kids to be pushed – and push themselves "If there was no teacher to yell at us and put us to work, we wouldn't be able to win the state championships," eighth-grader Karen Chan told the San Gabriel Valley Tribune.

"Mr. Lague will tell us that we have the coaches, we have the resources and we have the experience and the potential. All we need to



do is try and work hard."

States Muscatel Principal, Kiwanian Dean Wharton, the "Science Olympiad students stay after school on a daily basis in addition to coming in on Saturdays from 8:00 to 5:00 to practice their events. The teachers and students coaches volunteer their time.

"The Muscatel program is supported through student fundraising efforts plus donations from both private industry and service organizations such as Kiwanis."

"Parents play a significant role by providing meals and snacks on many of the weekends, as well at the two competitions. They also provide all of the transportation to and from the county and state competitions."

Event descriptions

Events, says the Science Olympiad website are knowledge or engineering based.

"Knowledge-based events generally have two participants either taking a test, performing experiments, or

(To Science, p. 4)

KIWANIS AREA CLUB MEETINGS

There are regular meetings of other Kiwanis clubs in our area, including those listed below. For current information see our Rosemead Kiwanis website under 'Meetings' at RosemeadKiwanis.org.

- Alhambra
- Altadena/Crown City
- El Monte
- Montebello
- Monterey Park
- Pasadena
- Pico Rivera
- San Gabriel
- San Marino
- Sierra Madre
- South El Monte
- South Pasadena
- Temple City





Quiet! Olympiad Students Working!

(From Science, p. 3) mathematically analyzing data. Examples of such events are Designer Genes, Forensics, and Chemistry Lab."

"Engineering-based events have a team of two to three participants. They are to construct a device following a specific event's parameters and test the device against others. Examples include Robot Ramble, Bridge/Tower Building, and Storm The Castle."

The purpose of the program is to show how science works by emphasizing problem solving and understanding the science concepts.

This year's competition involved 23 projects, such as the distance a specific student-built car shall travel within 2-inches of a given 5-10

foot contest-span, build the largest self-supporting bridge with small-sticks (no glue), length of time a student-built rubber-band-propelled airplane can stay afloat within a room, balloon races, etc

Indiana Experience

Says the Science Olympiad Website.: "The National Science Olympiad competition is held in May at a different university in a different state every year. Teams either stay in student dorms or nearby hotels.

"The competition officially begins on the day before Saturday's competition with opening ceremonies. Usually a notable speaker, such as a Nobel Laureate, will give a speech.

"Following this is the traditional Swap Meet, when all the teams

bring bags of state memorabilia to trade with other teams from all over the country. Most popular items include hats, license plates, and t-shirts.

"Saturday includes seven time blocks. Each block includes a 50-minute section for each study event, while building events are usually "walk-in," where competitors sign up for a time slot. That night, a semi-formal Awards Ceremony is held. It opens with a short speech, which is followed by the awarding of medals for the top six teams in each event, including trial events (events that do not count to the overall team score). At the end, the top ten teams are awarded trophies."

Upon returning the team was invited to a June 1, 2006, luncheon, jointly sponsored by Rosemead Kiwanis the California Mission Inn where the Club meets. Inn residents and others were invited.

The luncheon objective was to both honor team members and enable them to illustrate some of the projects that aided in their triumph.

**.KIWANIS
'We Build'**

**Over the years
Kiwanis themes
have included:**

- **Business mutual aid**
- **Young Children**
- **Education**
- **Spiritual Development**
- **Economic Education**
- **Community Health and Recreation**
- **Developmentally Challenged**
- **Parent Education**

'Helping and changing the world—one person and one community at a time'