



Salinas Circle for Children

Celebrating 45 Years of Giving

January—February 2013

President's Message

Once again, I am the President of this amazing organization. It is a privilege to step back into this position. Much has occurred over the last three years and I know that there are many more good things to come to our way.

As a group we are doing a wonderful job meeting our mission and raising funds to enrich the learning and living environments for children with special needs. We also continue to recruit new members to help us with the fundraising efforts. It has been identified that we are the only funding source amongst a consortium of Monterey County non-profits serving the needs of children with disabilities. Our work is an important piece to the puzzle for many of these children. We couldn't do this without the dedicated members.

In some cases, we are able to assist a child in becoming more mobile and independent by providing equipment like wheelchairs and standers. I watched a heart warming video clip of a toddler with spina bifida manipulating her wheelchair so she could play ballerina with her older sister.

Technology seems to be the name of the game for many of the kids. The most requested grant item in 2012 was the Ipad. Educators and Parents find that the Ipad is a great learning tool. There are many Apps that are available to assist with communication skills, behavior management, reading, writing, arithmetic and in some cases health management.

Some of the most important grant items are those that give the teenagers job skills so that they can be employed after they graduate out of the school system. Just as important are the grants that fulfill a teenagers dream to participate in a sport where they can learn about victory, defeat and the benefits of teamwork.

All of our recipients want to fit in and be the same as typical children. They have desires and dreams. It is our mission to help them achieve these by providing the right tools. I see good things for this year, put on your seat belt it's going to be an E-Ticket ride.

It's a good life,

MJ Viglizzo



WANTED - 8 New Active Members...

...to join Salinas Circle for Children over the next 4 weeks.

Looking for enthusiastic, energetic, excited, passionate for a cause, not afraid to get involved kind of people that will support the mission of SCFC.

Experience not required. Need eight new active members with a variety of

skills, including but not limited to those with a good sense of humor, computer skills, creative mind, likes to have fun and is not afraid to get their hands dirty.

If someone you know fits this description invite them to the next meeting so they can get involved.



A Chalk in the Park

A Free, Family Fun, Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival with Live Entertainment, Food & Craft Vendors.

Watch your step on May 4, 2013 10-4pm for a street-level gallery of chalk masterpieces! A Chalk in the Park is a free, family-friendly event where artists transform the sidewalks of Spreckel's Memorial Park into colorful works of art. Help complete a super-sized street mural or roll up your sleeves and make a work of your own. Let creative spirits soar!



This community event is an opportunity for locals and tourists alike to appreciate and participate and learn more about Salinas Circle for Children.

If you would like to participate, sponsor or volunteer or to learn more about this fun event go to www.salinascircle.org or email salinascircle@aol.com for details and information.

Education Apps for iPad

Meredith // July 14th 2011 // Education technology, Special Education

In my classroom, I was blessed to have students from amazingly diverse backgrounds and with an array of skills and strengths. I worked relentlessly to build in supports and foster an inclusive community for all of my students. This meant cutting, laminating, velcro-ing, washing, re-making, and constructing what felt like a million supportive learning devices for my students with and without special needs. Now, having an iPad, I often play around with apps that I realize would have been incredibly beneficial for my students with special needs.

Continuing with our Education Apps for iPad series, here are some apps grouped by category that students, parents, and teachers can leverage to support all learners!

Communication

Proloquo2Go. If you're familiar with PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), you know how effective implementation of a picture-based communication system can be for children with linguistic or cognitive delays. Proloquo2Go is steeply priced, but it is perhaps the most highly recommended app for children and adults with a wide variety of special needs. Check it out if you're serious about utilizing tech for special needs support. (\$189.99)

Grace. Grace is a picture-based communication app that is a bit more accommodating for people with a budget. It was developed specifically for children with Autism, but as any teacher with nonverbal students knows, PECS can be helpful for students across the developmental continuum. (\$37.99)

iConverse. iConverse is a simpler and cheaper AAC device that focuses on basic needs. By creating custom commands, children can express needs beyond the basics and get the support they need and want (\$9.99)

TapToTalk. Love this because it's free and flexible. With a comprehensive picture library, teachers and parents can work with children with special needs to create libraries to make communication fun and personalized. (Free)

iCommunicate. In addition to the picture-based expressive features that the other AACs offer, with iCommunicate, teachers can create routines, custom pictures, learning aides, schedules, and audio clips. (\$39.99)

Behavior

First Then Visual Schedule. Transitions can cause a lot of frustration and angst for students and teachers in inclusive classrooms. First Then Visual Schedule makes transitioning easier and more concrete for those who need a boost understanding sequencing. (\$9.99)

AutismXpress. For students who have difficulty understanding and coping with different emotions, AutismXpress displays fun and instructional basic facial expressions. (free)

CBTReferee. CBT is a "cognitive behavioral therapy" app that serves as a referee to curtail negative thinking. For students in need of a more optimistic outlook and some encouragement, CBTReferee could be super helpful. (\$4.99)

Earn It Stars. Earn It Stars doesn't have the most elegant design, but with a high utility and low price point, it may eliminate the bulky sticker roll buried in your desk or behavior printouts that have you standing in line at the staff room copier. Set goals and benchmarks for receiving stars as positive reinforcement. (\$0.99)

Skills

Everyday Skills. From riding buses to measuring ingredients, Everyday Skills provides self-directed lessons for living independently. (\$39.99)

iDress for Weather. This one is helpful for morning morning routines in that it assists users in making sound clothing choices for local weather. (\$1.99)

Dance Party Zoo. Advancing basic motor skills can be difficult for students dealing special needs. Apps like Dance Party Zoo are fun and funny, supporting children in controlling and exploring physical movement. (\$2.99)

iWriteWords. Fine motor skills are important not only to writing but in completing day-to-day tasks (tying shoes, snapping buttons, drinking out of a glass). iWriteWords is a fun and engaging way to support fine motor and literacy development. (\$2.99)

Thanks to www.b12patch.com, specialchildren.about.com, and the Apple App Store for helping me explore some of these great apps!

For more iPad app inspiration, take a look at our post on apps for early childhood education, elementary school, and overall. Also, don't forget that Apple has a Special Education section in the apps store. Explore and have fun!

SALINAS CIRCLE FOR CHILDREN

P.O. Box 2064
Salinas, CA 93902
Phone: 831-424-7232
www.salinascircle.org
E-mail: salinascircle@aol.com

2013 Meeting Schedule

January 8, 2013
February 5, 2013
March 5, 2013
April 2, 2013
May 7, 2013
June 4, 2013
July & August TBD
September 3, 2013
October 1, 2013
November 5, 2013
December 4, 2013

Meeting starts promptly at
6:30 PM.

Over the past 47 years Salinas Circle for Children has raised and given more than \$600,000 to programs that are essential to the development of children with special needs in Monterey County.

The purpose of the Salinas Circle for Children is to raise and provide funds, and to perform needed services, to assist children with physical, mental, or emotional needs in Monterey County.

Our mission is to provide the tools and support needed so that they may thrive in their living and learning environments.

facebook

**Become a fan of
Salinas Circle for Children.
It is easy, all you have to do
is LIKE the facebook page.**



**Get your Irish on!
Wear your best green to the
March meeting in honor of
Saint Patrick's Day.**

**There will be a members choice
award for the best green.**