



# monthly - October

**Projects:** Model Science - Wind Energy - Speak Up

## First Saturday Academy 10/22/11: Chaperones

Our first Saturday Academy experience of the year is soon approaching, and we are excited to take a nice sized group of Rafer Johnson students up to Fresno State to get some hands-on experience with engineering projects. Saturday Academies give MESA students the opportunity to gain knowledge as they attend workshops and learn about engineering principles in preparation for the MESA Day Preliminaries – the engineering design competition to be held at CSU Fresno on March 10, 2012. Students attending the Saturday Academies gain exposure to a wide variety of activities – such as gliders, hot air balloons, model rockets, robotics, air powered vehicles, and many others. Through these experiences, students learn to apply these learned concepts to their own projects in hopes of earning a spot for competition at the MESA Day Preliminaries.

In order for the day to run smoothly, I am still looking for a couple of chaperones for the day to assist with student movement on the Fresno State campus. If you are interested in chaperoning for the 10/22 date, please send a written note, or e-mail me at [ddedini@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us](mailto:ddedini@kingsburg-elem.k12.ca.us) to indicate your ability to chaperone.

### Saturday Academy ~ Fast Facts:

**Date:** Saturday, October 22, 2011

**Time:** 7:00 a.m., then returning around 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** KHS gym parking lot, then travel by KHS bus to CSU Fresno

**Why:** Hands-on academic experience with engineering concepts in preparation of MESA Day project work, and exposure to a collegial atmosphere

**What:** Experience a college campus first-hand, attend free workshops focused on math and science concepts through engineering design, and enjoy a FREE pizza lunch!

**Who:** Any student currently a) enrolled as a MESA student with CSU Fresno MESA Center, b) has reserved a place for this academy on line, and c) has a completed and returned parent permission form to ride the KHS bus

### Reminders:

1. It is a **mandatory requirement** for all **MESA elective students** to attend all four Saturday Academy dates.
2. It is also **mandatory** for all MESA students to attend at least two Saturday Academy dates in order to compete in the preliminary competition on March 10, 2012.
3. The dates for upcoming Saturday Academies are as follows: **11/19/11**, **12/3/11**, and **2/25/12**. I will post reminders for sign up cut-off dates as they draw near.

# M

# E

# S

# A

The “M” in MESA stands for **Mathematics**, which is exactly what MESA students will be studying in preparation for success in both their math classes at school, as well as in the upcoming Solo Math and Team Math Quest competitions at CSUF. In past years, Rafer students represented our school well at the MESA Day regional competition in both the Pre-Algebra and Algebra competitions. We look forward to reclaiming this tradition of mathematical expertise and excellence at Rafer with this year’s MESA students. We will be forming our math teams soon – so work hard to brush up on those math concepts in class, and we will also work on developing these skills in MESA class on “Math Mondays.”

“E” means **Engineering**. Fortunately, the engineering part of MESA is what attracts most students to the program. Designing the perfect project, testing new ideas, then building and destroying all over again...what more can a student ask for? Using hands-on engineering as a means of experiencing science and math concepts is the focus of the MESA Day projects. Over the course of trying the various projects, students will qualify for *at least one* with which they will advance to the preliminary competition at Fresno State. To this project(s), the student must dedicate the time, energy, and research behind the **design / build / test process** to see their project through to competition level at the MESA Day preliminaries in March.

The “S” in MESA means **Science**. There is definitely science involved in the MESA program. Rafer’s own expert scientists, Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Walls, are great school experts whose knowledge can be tapped for technical expertise in this field. They bring a wealth of knowledge to our MESA students, and are highly valuable resources when it comes to designing, testing, building, and *recording data* over the course of the design-build-test process.

Finally, our “A” stands for **Achievement**. MESA students are expected to conduct themselves honorably as they go about their business as students and community members. One of our many goals in MESA is for our students to attend a four-year university upon graduating from high school. To accomplish this, we require our students to maintain a **95% or better** attendance record, earn a **3.0 grade point average** or better, attend **all four MESA Saturday Academies**, complete **at least one project** to enter in the MESA Day competition, serve as role models for other students by **following all school rules**, and actively participate in MESA events. We will also continue to implement monthly **ABI grade checks** as part of our MESA grade.

**Trimester One  
Projects are  
DUE soon!**

Friday,  
November 4, 2011

How is YOUR  
project coming  
along?

RJJH

**MESA Leadership**

2011-2012

<b>Celeste Bollinger</b>	<b>Connor Charpentier</b>	<b>Sarah Derfelt</b>	
<b>Chase East</b>	<b>Jack Molles</b>	<b>Brent Oge</b>	<b>Destinee Rodriguez</b>
			<b>Israel Sahagun</b>

## Catalina Island Marine Institute News!

For the ten MESA students registered to attend the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) trip, please consider the following important facts as you prepare for your trip:

1. You are responsible for speaking with your teachers and getting your assignments in advance of the trip. We will return just in time for the weekend, so you should be able to get caught up on all your missed work then.
2. We will be leaving *after school* the afternoon of Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.! Plan on packing your bag the night before so you will be prepared to roll out of town quickly that day.
3. You will need to pack Wednesday’s lunch for the road (non-perishables, please!) – all other meals are included in the cost of the trip, including dinner on the way down Tuesday evening. If you’d like to bring some extra spending money for the CIMI store and/or incidentals, you may do so.