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mccsmwtc.com

Bridgeport celebrates 60 years of history

By Lance Cpl. Sarah Dietz, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms



Marines, six decades' worth, gathered at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Sept. 22, 2011, for the installation's 60th anniversary celebration.

Old and new-school Marines alike observed the dedication of a new museum, designed to look like the quonset huts used to house students there.

The museum also features uniform and gear displays from every era the base has been in operation, and an exhibit of the Corps' premier high altitude and cold weather training facility.

"The stories are flowing fast and furious," said Col. Phillip Chandler, MCMWTC commanding officer. "We always talk about the ones who've gone before us. Well, yes we have the guys who've gone before us, but they are still alive, and they're right here where we can talk to them."

The Training Center, which opened in 1951 as a result of the number of cold weather related casualties the Corps suffered

during the Korean War, became the predeployment training requirement for Marines deploying to Korea. Time spent there acclimated them to the high altitude and snowy terrain.

The ceremony's date held a special meaning for the installation personnel. September 22 marked the exact day the first Marines with the 14th Replacement Draft, stepped aboard the MCMWTC for training.

"I was here 60 years ago to this day," said Roy Cratty, a veteran of the Korean War and one of the very first trainees at the MCMWTC in 1951. "The year was colder than it is now. We didn't have shelters then. I don't remember being in a tent. They gave us blank ammunition for our M1s and that's all we had really."

Gunnery Sgt. Henry Vozka, retired, shared memories of time spent as an instructor guide at the Cold Weather Training Center from 1959 to 1961.

"I enjoyed the outdoors, I enjoyed the challenge of living with and looking after the troops," Vozka said. "We lived in today's fashion – grim, with quonset huts and the oil stoves. We were only making \$150 a week. We made do with what we had, and nobody complained."

Veterans from Korea to the current fight laughed together as they talked about their time at MCMWTC. This not only gave the veterans a chance to reminisce, but also gave the younger Marines a chance to learn about a very specific section of the Corps' history, one that directly relates to them. □

2011 Turkey Bowl Champs: Communication!

By David Warden, Marketing and Sponsorship

Marines and families enjoyed a beautiful fall-like day in this year's Annual Turkey Bowl. All units represented in this fierce tournament which ended with S-6 ('09 and '10 Runner Up), crowned 2011 Turkey Bowl Champions. Formal Schools, who held the Turkey Bowl title three consecutive years (recorded), smashed the Mess Hall/S-1 in the first round 34-14, but were blanked 12-0 in 2nd round action by Fac Maint/HE who faced off against S-6 in this year's Championship. Two-time Turkey Bowl veteran SSgt Cates, who played both sides of the ball for S-6 (O-Line/Middle LB), said the key to victory was the athleticism of his department. "The event was good in helping units build camaraderie," he added.

S-6 Team Captain, Quarterback and two-time Turkey Bowl MVP ('10 and '11) Cpl Noel Williams said his team's weekly practice improved when players were in correct positions. "We gelled after discovering individual talents and checked our emotions," he



2011 Turkey Bowl Champs: Communication (S-6)

Continued on pg. 7

Mom & Tot Playmorning Hosts Harvest Costume Party

By Deb Drew-Goodman, PHN



The Cub (Carly S.) and the Poul-Baby Turkey (Wyatt L.) debut their costumes during their first Harvest Party with Moms Carolyn (left) and Deanna.

Mom & Tots held a Harvest Costume Party in October. Kids and Moms dressed for the occasion, enjoyed treats, made seasonal crafts and received prizes. The New Parent Support Program (NPSP) offers Mom & Tot Playmorning Wednesday mornings from 10:00-12:00 in the Community Center. This program is available for all families and is a great way to get out of the house with your kids and have a fun time.

For more information on services provided by the New Parent Support Program including Mom & Tot Playmorning, go to mccsmwtc.com or contact Deb Goodman at 530.495.9358 or: drew-goodmanda@usmc-mccs.org.



Tony C. (aka Moto Mite) offers his Mom Heather a ride.



Moove over for this cutie, Hunter P. who attended his first costume party with Mom, Summer.



Holding his prize, Cooper S. is unveiled as the real Spiderman.

New Parent Support Program to Offer Spring Class Series

New Parent Support Program will begin a series of classes February through April for families expecting a child or with children up to age five. Classes held at the Marine and Family Services Center will discuss topics designed to help parents augment skills necessary to raise healthy kids. These include: Childbirth, Baby Boot Camp (newborn care), Baby Sign Language, Parenting the Toddler and Protecting Our Kids (car seat safety). Look for dates, times, topics and special events details on posted flyers in your area. Classes will offer free child care at the Child Development Center, but requires reservations two weeks in advance. ☒

Have questions about classes or information on the New Parent Support Program? Contact Deb Drew-Goodman at 530.495.9358 or 760.910.3302, or email directly at drew-goodmanda@usmc-mccs.org.

Acknowledgements & Appreciation



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Interstate Compact Helps Smooth School Transitions

By Tessa LoPresto, School Liaison Program

Moving every few years between duty stations is challenging for military families. Those families with school-aged children encounter additional challenges when changing schools because each state has different regulations for enrollment, eligibility, placement and graduation. Assisting in the transition for military families, 39 states, including California and Nevada, joined together in a "compact" to help military families resolve education issues related to frequent transitions. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children covers educational issues, specifically educational records, Kindergarten age requirements and special education services. This Compact also addresses absences related to deployment activities and allows students to obtain diplomas from sending school versus receiving school. Nearly every state with a Marine Corps presence has enacted legislation to become part of this Compact. If you are dealing with educational issues related to a military move or transition and would like assistance using the Interstate Compact to resolve your issue, please contact your School Liaison Program at 760.590.3015 or email the manager directly at tessa.lopresto@usmc.mil. ✉

Love and Respect Couples Class

By Gail Jacobs, MCCS FAP, EFMP & Counseling Services

In October, couples participated in a three-week class entitled "Love and Respect." The focus of the class was to help couples recognize the deepest needs of their spouse. By learning to recognize their differences, couples were able to seek understanding of their partner rather than becoming defensive or angry at perceived slights. For example, what a husband hears as complaining or criticism may be a wife asking for affirmation. A husband who stonewalls and refuses to talk to his wife may be telling her he feels disrespected or threatened with rejection. When couples acknowledge that their spouse may not know exactly how to communicate their deepest needs, but has good intentions, a marriage becomes more loving and respectful. Participating couples expressed a desire for more information and longer classes—a sure sign that learning the language of love and respect is a needed skill! The class series ended with one lucky couple winning a \$50 gift certificate for Café Girasole in Gardnerville. ✉

Developing Capable People, a parent education class for school-aged children begins February 1 and will last six weeks. Space is limited. For more information please call Gail Jacobs@ 530.495.2685.

MCCS STAFF UPDATES

NEW HIRES

Darius Crisp
Jimna Mendoza
Cristabel Ortega
Francisco Gomez
Brittany Lombardo
Sage Garcia
Marilyn Seidel
Susan Ingles

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Gina Macabales



(L-R) Mike McClure, Bridgeport Command Consultant, Katherine Catlin, MCCS Director, celebrate Gina Macabales' second selection as Employee of the Quarter along with ChéVonne Barksdale, Semper Fit Coordinator.

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Invigorating

MCCS Spotlight

By David Warden



Mmeet Jami Hunter, Lead Preschool teacher for the Children, Youth & Teen Program (CY&TP). Jami has more than eight years experience in child development and 24 credits toward Early Child Education. Focused on her goal of Master Teacher Certification by 2013, this mother to Amanda, 26, Lindsey, 24, and Abby, 14 has years of childcare experience. She first heard about the position at the Bridgeport Child Development Center

(CDC) through a contact at the Walker Community Center and after touring the CDC she knew she'd found a home. "[The CDC] is a clean, safe place to work," she said. Jami also encouraged spouses and Marines to come by the CDC and check out the information and opportunities for their children's growth and development. Renee Summers, CY&TP Director says she enjoys having Jami as an employee of the CDC. "Jami is awesome! A team player, who's very knowledgeable and a talented teacher who oftentimes helps out in other classrooms," Summers said. While providing students with solid foundations and building their confidence is important, it's teaching compassion for others that kids (and their families) seem to appreciate most. "Our kids get attached, so even when their classmates are transferred with parents, we keep the relationship going through letters, photos, Facebook and email." In Jami's classroom, kids are learning to build relationships and think critically. She is amazed by the children daily and recalls Nathaniel D. a whiz in Constellations and Aiden F., 4, telling her, "I think we should all have teamwork, Ms. Hunter." Stop by and meet this invaluable member of the MCCS team and whether you're in Pre-School or Pre-Med, you might just learn something. ☺

Single Marine Program's "Gone Fishin"

By LCpl Cody Irvin



Five Marines from the Single Marine Program (SMP) embarked on a fishing expedition to Little Walker Lake. Jim Moran, a former Marine Corps officer and pilot, covered all the license requirements and communicated with the lake's caretaker who said membership for private members started at \$100,000

with an additional \$30,000 for a lakefront cabin. Mr. Moran also provided SMP Marines with poles, leaders and power bait while fishing for trout. So many fish were caught that Marines began "catch and release" protocol. Feature authored by LCpl Irvin, stationed at MCMWTC since April 2011, ("and loving every minute of it") says he loves the outdoors. "Every [Marine] who went on this trip had a blast, and can't wait until it happens again next year!" He added. ☺

**Pictures available on the MCCS Website:
www.mccsmwtc.com**

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CY&TP Hosts Fall Festival

By Maria Quintana, Assistant Director, Children, Youth & Teen Program



One of our favorite little monsters, Jacobie H. testing a cupcake fresh off the line.



Sydney H. (left) demonstrates her cupcake decorating skills for Julie Beutz.

The Child Development Center (CDC) held its 4th annual Fall Festival in October on the playground of its new location on Champagne Avenue. The goal and focus of the event was to offer as many games and prizes as possible to the children of the community in a fun and entertaining environment. Many children were dressed in costume and were excited about the prizes and snacks, including candied apples and popcorn. The event also brought smiles to parents who participated in a cake walk. ☺

Military Spouse Appreciation Essay

CONTEST

Married Active Duty personnel aboard MCMWTC, write a short essay (200-500 words) about your Military Spouse.

- What makes them special?
- What makes them strong?
- What do you love about them?

Keep it PG please!

A winning submission will be selected by a three person committee from the following categories: Enlisted, SNCO, and Officer.

Please submit essays to:

Jamie LaBarge, MCFTB Office

700 Champagne Ave., Coleville CA 96107

or via email to labargejl@usmc-mccs.org by February 3, 2012.

Chicken and Corn Enchiladas Makes 16

Recipe by The Pickle Chalet

INGREDIENTS

3 c. shredded cooked chicken
1 ½ c. diced red onions
1 ½ c. frozen corn kernels, thawed
¾ c. sour cream
¾ c. chopped fresh cilantro
1 tsp. ground cumin

2 c. grated Pepper Jack Cheese (about 8 oz.)
3 c. purchased thick and chunky mild salsa
3 c. red enchilada sauce
16 6-inch corn tortillas



PREPARATION

For this easy to make enchilada filling, purchase a whole roast chicken from the supermarket and shred or cut into pieces. Lightly oil 15 x 10 x 2- inch glass baking dish. Mix first 6 ingredients and 1 cup cheese in medium bowl. Season chicken filling with salt and pepper to taste. Mix salsa and enchilada sauce in a large bowl. Heat heavy medium skillet over high heat. Add 1 tortilla and cook until heated through, about 10 seconds per side. Brush tortilla with some sauce mixture. Spoon 1/3 cup chicken filling into center of tortilla. Roll up. Place seam side down in prepared baking dish. Repeat with remaining tortillas, some sauce and remaining filling. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and chill enchiladas and remaining sauce separately.) Preheat oven to 350°. Spoon remaining sauce over enchiladas. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup of cheese. Cover with foil. Bake until heated through, about 35- 40 minutes (or up to 45 minutes for refrigerated enchiladas).

Serve with Spanish rice and pinto beans.

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Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Held at New Child Development Center

By Maria Quintana, Assistant Director, Children, Youth & Teen Program



October 12, 2011, marked the official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Child Development Center (CDC). The doors to the newest MCCA facility were open to Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) patrons on August 8, 2011. The ensuing celebration was imperative for the project's completion, as was a public venue to acknowledge supporters. The ceremony held at the entrance of the CDC, was kicked off by Ms. Renée Summers, Director for the Children, Youth & Teen Program (CY&TP) who thanked those attending and expressed deep gratitude for the organizations and personnel involved in the project.

Among the audience were guests from the Bridgeport/Coleville area, along with special guests Capt. Michael Williamson (NAVFAC SW Officer in Charge of Construction), Ms. Katherine Catlin (MCCA Director), Joseph Garcia (President, J.I. Garcia) and Col. Phillip Chandler (Commanding Officer, MCMWTC). During his speech, Col. Chandler reiterated that the CDC staff are child development professionals providing vital services to the children of the MCMWTC community.



Following his remarks, the ribbon was cut and guests were treated to refreshments and a tour. While the grand opening has passed, the facility's impact continues to resonate with the community. Amanda Hoover, whose child is enrolled, has witnessed the changes. "The new facility is fantastic... there is more space, it's brighter, and the environment feels more like a school," she said.

A new building isn't what makes the CDC special explained MSgt Beutz (UTG), whose child is enrolled in the preschool program. "The CDC offers high quality care, it's convenient, the kids love coming here and the staff is great." ✕

Not sure if the CDC is for you? Call our staff and get some additional information today at 530.495.2640.

Belle of the Ball, a Big Hit in its 4th Year

By Latashia Smalls, Belle Fitness Coordinator



*R to L: Belle - Bethanie Dunseith, lost 22.4 lbs and 19 inches.
1st runner up - Melissa Smith, lost 17 lbs and 14 inches.
2nd runner up - Ying Morgan, lost 13 lbs and 18 inches.*

Semper Fit's Belle of the Ball program commemorated its fourth year aboard MCMWTC with an awards brunch held at the Pickel Chalet. This eight-week intensive training schedule with twice-a-day classes, nutrition seminars and stress management discussions took 21 participants to new heights (and weights). The program runs during September and October, and is designed to help spouses prepare for the annual Marine Corps Ball. Classes included cardio kickboxing, Zumba, sculpting, running, hip-hop and step aerobics. Weekly personal training sessions and assessments were a major motivator for participants. Sponsors included Body Language Spa, Velvet Touch Salon and Allied American University, with a total prize package valued at over \$1,500 for the winner. Belle winners were also announced at the Marine Corps Ball. While there were three top winners, prizes were also awarded for Ms. Congeniality, Ms. Bronze & Brains, Ms. Biggest Loser and Ms. Friend Happy. Whether participants won a prize or not, everyone was a winner. Cumulatively, participants took more than 200 pounds off, including over 110 inches from arms, waistlines, hips and thighs by participants. Kim Hunt (Body Language Spa) shared that the program edified women and she was proud to be associated with the event. ✕



MCFTB hosts 2011 Jane Wayne Day at the Mountain Warfare Training Center

By Penny Mouradian, MCFTB Admin Assistant

Marine Corps Family Team Building partnered with Marines in hosting Jane Wayne Day during the month of September. Thirty-Three spouses arrived at the Training Center to begin their experience living and training in their spouse's boots for the day.

Following welcoming remarks from Col. Chandler, Commanding Officer of MCMWTC, participants attended safety briefs, received their schedule of events and were set to train. Half of the group went to shoot M16s at the firing range. Several participants had never fired or even held a gun before, and commented on the adrenaline rush felt when shooting for the first time.

The other half of the participants began their expedition by repelling down a mountain side, after being transported by bus to the location used by Marines for repel training. After safety instructions and properly secured gear, these one-day

warriors took the plunge, inching their way down the mountain face. Jane Wayne Day concluded with Col. Chandler awarding Michelle Byrne the Top Shot Award. Michelle, who hadn't fired a weapon prior to Jane Wayne Day shot an almost perfect score. Don't miss out on next year's Jane Wayne Day! ☺



Col. Phillip Chandler is seen here with the participants of JWD 2011.

2011 Turkey Bowl Champs: Communication!

By David Warden

(cont.) said. With a fired up Fac Maint/HE team standing between them and the trophy, his squad overcame an 8-0 deficit in the championship game to win the tournament. Elected Team Captain after his 2010 performance, Cpl Williams demonstrated his agility and throwing accuracy with six passing TDs and rushing for another seven as his team racked up a tournament record of 78 total points. This first generation Marine who played safety for the East Ascension High School in Gonzales, LA, had never played quarterback before last year's Turkey Bowl. "I couldn't have done it without the offensive line and receivers Dewey Pettiford and Sgt Smalls," he added. S-6 edged out the team made up of Motor T, Medical, S-1, Safety and Administration, 28-24 to qualify for a chance to win. During that game MCMWTC Commanding Officer Col. Chandler was part of the action, hauling in three TD passes from Capt. Boykin (S-1/Adjutant).

ChéVonne Barksdale, Semper Fit Coordinator was surprised by the competition's intensity. "The Marines we see every day in uniform had amazing talent and athletic ability on the field. Cpl Williams [MVP] could easily walk onto any university football program," she added.

After falling in early rounds of 2009 and 2010, Fac Maint/HE entered the championship with something

to prove. Team Captain GySgt Simerka shared that practice and dedicated players were vital to their bid for this year's title. "A redemptive feeling" was his response when asked about this year's tournament in comparison to being soundly defeated by UTG ('09) and Formal Schools in 2010. Key standouts offensively were Sgt Gant, Cpl Porter and Sgt Stevenson. Outstanding defensive efforts were noted by Defense Captain SSgt Clate and Brad Robasciotti.

This year's Powder Puff Championship (debuted 2010) was led by "Ball-N" Team Captain Sherry Hutton (S-1), behind the mobility of quarterback SSgt Cobb (S-6) and speed of Cpl Eckerson (S-1), who defeated the "Chains" 6-0 in a grueling game of ladies football. Chains Coaches SSgt Fregoso (S-4) and Ms. Devina Fregoso, responsible for coordinating "Chains" warm up for practices, felt the weather was a significant factor. "This year was a different game from the first year, there was more traction, less dropped passes and the ladies had a lot more fun playing," SSgt Fregoso said. SSgt Fregoso and GySgt

Simerka (Ball-N coach) agreed that the execution for each team was better than the previous tournament.

A major part of the event's success was due to the 21 supporters, including sponsorship from Lincoln Military Housing, Les Schwab (Gardnerville, NV), and Don Weir's Reno Dodge. Semper Fit staff thanked referees MSgt Buetz (UTG), MSgt Webb (S-3), GySgt DeLuca (1st Sgt), SSgt Buquoi (Fac Maintenance), Tony Robinson (Fac Maintenance), Working Party Marines, HQ Co. staff and the Pickel Chalet. ☺

For scores and highlights go to:
<http://www.mccsmwtc.com/pages/pickelpost.html>



Col. Chandler, Commanding Officer of MCMWTC (Center) along with Ball-N Coach GySgt Simerka (far left) and Chains Coach SSgt Fregoso (far right) pose with Ball-N and Chains Powder Puff teams.

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