

# SCV Schools

## Kids create art festival

By Carol Stevenson  
For The Signal

More than 3,500 people attended Santa Clarita Valley International Charter School's second annual Kids Creating Art Festival, which featured a variety of activities for families and kids as well as an opportunity to view SCVi learners' work from the school year.

Young musicians performed original rock and cover music.

Drama groups presented "Hopeless Hamlet," their take on a Shakespearean classic, the SCVi Glee Club performed Colbie Caillat's "Brighter than the Sun," and SCVi's ninth- and 10th-graders organized a film festival.

Local martial arts groups Bright STAR Martial Arts and Shin's Extreme Martial Arts demonstrated their skills and allowed attendees to break boards.

The SCVi Dance Team and STAR Dance Studio donned the performance stage.

Six food trucks representing a variety of international cuisines were a welcome addition to this year's festival.

Attendees created handprint art, Korean art, paper-bag hats inspired by the Mad Hatter and faux stained glass.

SCVing Back, SCVi's learner-led philanthropic group, created an obstacle course to benefit Nickels for Nails, an organization that provides housing to local disabled veterans.

More than 30 learners sold various handcrafted items at the young entrepreneurs' fair.

Products ranged from marshmallow shooters to "dream jars" and custom-made music to teddy bears.

Fifth-grader Karlie Goeckeritz participated for the second



Karlie Goeckeritz sells accessories at the Kids Creating Art Festival at SCV International Charter School.

Courtesy photo

year, selling fabric headbands and bracelets.

Another entrepreneur, Cora Sweeney, used the fair as way to increase awareness of her charitable endeavor, Roots and Shoots.

She sold homemade doggie treats and handmade fridge magnet clips crafted from recycled objects and encouraged buyers to reduce, reuse and recycle.

"Roots and Shoots is doing something good for the Earth; and when you're doing something good for the Earth, you're doing something good for yourself, too," she said.

Through sales at the entrepreneurs' fair, Sweeney raised \$60 for the Jane Goodall Institute,

an organization that she learned about through a school project earlier in the year.

Parents and community members were able to see what the students had done as they went one classroom to the next, from kindergarten through 10th grade.

"Holding an open house at the end of the academic year is a longtime tradition for schools, but we wanted to take it a step further and allow the entire community to experience SCVi and take a look at what our learners have accomplished," said Amber Raskin, SCVi cofounder and executive director of business development.

From the festival logo to each performance and activity, SC-

Vi's learners worked individually and collaboratively to plan and organize the Kids Creating Art Festival.

Their involvement provided opportunities to further develop leadership and planning skills.

"By allowing learners to take an active role in executing the festival, they gain invaluable experience in managing projects and working with others," said Dawn Evenson, SCVi cofounder and executive director of education. "This is an integral part of our philosophy to develop 21st century leaders."

Carol Stevenson is a parent-volunteer for the Santa Clarita Valley International Charter School.

## Saugus graduate never missed a class

By Signal Staff

Ashley Slater recently graduated from Saugus High School after keeping perfect attendance from kindergarten all the way through 12th grade.

Along with never missing a day of school or being tardy to class, she graduated as an honor scholar with a 4.04 cumulative grade point average.

Slater has participated in cross country and track for three years at Saugus and was recognized as being a scholar athlete. She also has been a member of Honor Society, Key Club and California Scholarship Federation at Saugus High.

Slater has also been a member of Girl Scouts of America for 13 years and has completed her Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn, last summer at the Santa Clarita Valley's homeless shelter.

Slater also volunteers with other various organizations including 999 for Kids, SCV Relay for Life, Santa Clarita Valley Marathon and with her church, Blessed Kateri.



Slater

### WORLD In BRIEF

#### Obama, Putin seek common ground on Syria

LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP) — President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed Monday that Syrians should choose their own next government, marking a subtle shift for both the United States and Russia as they confront the prospect that Russia's main ally in the Mideast could slide into civil war.

Sharing pledges of common ground, yet hardly much eye contact or obvious kinship in front of reporters, Obama and Putin met for the first time since the Russian leader returned to the presidency last month. Obama spoke at greater length, emphasizing several areas of cooperation between the onetime Cold War enemies, but the unending bloodshed in Syria hung over the talks.

The two leaders



Associated Press

President Barack Obama participates in a bilateral meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin during the G20 Summit on Monday in Los Cabos, Mexico.

"agreed that we need to see a cessation of the violence, that a political process has to be created to prevent civil war and the kind of horrific events that we've seen over the last several weeks," Obama said. Putin, seated next to Obama following the private meeting, said: "We've been able to find many commonalities" on Syria.

But he offered no specifics on what those were, and it was unclear how much the closed two-hour talk did to close strategic gaps about how to end the violence.

#### Officials say insider killed a U.S. troop

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the latest likely case of an insider attack, an American service member was killed and several others injured Monday when individuals dressed in Afghan police uniforms turned their guns on them in southern Afghanistan, U.S. officials said.

Jamie Graybeal, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, confirmed the death and said that

the three Afghan shooters fled and are being sought. Although they were wearing police uniforms, it was not yet certain if they were actually Afghan police or were just wearing the clothing.

#### G-20 leaders call for Europe to fix financial woes

LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP) — European leaders at the G-20 summit struggled to reassure the world Monday that they were on the path to solving their continent's relentless economic crisis, defending the pace of their response even as market pressures pushed Spain closer to needing a bailout that would strain the world's ability to pay.

Less than 24 hours after an election that eased fears of a Greek exit from the shared euro currency, the interest rate that Spain pays on its debt surged above the 7-percent level that had forced Greece, Portugal and Ireland to seek international help.

### NATION In BRIEF

#### Administration mulls pared health care law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Covering all the bases ahead of a momentous Supreme Court ruling, the Obama administration plans to move ahead with major parts of the president's health care law if its most controversial provision does not survive, according to veteran Democrats closely involved with the legislation.

Even if the requirement that nearly every U.S. resident have health insurance is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts of the law would have far-reaching impact, putting coverage within reach of millions of uninsured people, laying new obligations on insurers and employers, and improving Medicare benefits even as payments to many service providers get scaled back.

The White House says President Barack Obama is confident the whole law will be upheld when the court issues its ruling in the next week or two, but officials will be ready for any outcome.

"We do believe it's constitutional, and we ... hope and expect that's the decision the court will render," senior adviser David Plouffe said Sunday on ABC. "We obviously will be prepared for whatever decision the court renders." Administration officials have not wanted to discuss contingency plans to avoid creating the impression that the president is preparing for a high court rebuke.

#### Romney eyes Midwest working class

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP) — Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney is pushing to win a band of Midwestern states that voted for President Barack Obama four years ago and that generally have a long history of backing Democrats in White House elections.

Romney faces hurdles and advantages in each state but his approach will leave Obama no choice but to spend time and money defending states he carried in 2008. That Romney is even making a play for the arc of states from Pennsylvania to Iowa also suggests his path to the 270 electoral votes he will need to win the White House may be widening.

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**www.umcv.org**

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