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### **Teacher Feature - Star Pedron**

Teacher/5th Grade Homeroom & 7th Grade History  
Sacred Heart Catholic School/Patterson  
Stanislaus County

### **Why did you choose to become an educator?**

It was something I felt "called" to do. It wasn't planned, I had been very happy in my previous profession. I was on maternity leave, and started subbing at my mother-in-law's suggestion. It all clicked and I got my

**DID YOU KNOW?!**

**One orange provides  
100 percent of the  
recommended daily  
intake of vitamin C.**



California Foundation for  
Agriculture in the Classroom

credentials for teaching.

**How long have you been teaching or working with students?**

In total, 15 years. At SHCS I have been teaching for 12 years now.

**Tell us about one person who has most influenced your own education and educational career.**

There are two people, the first was my 7th & 9th grade History teacher, Mr. Al McLaren. The other huge influence was my mother-in-law, Nadine Pedron, Ed.D.

**Tell us about a golden teaching moment.**

My funniest moment was when we were discussing a topic, and a student asked, "How do you spell that?" and without thinking, I spelled "T-H-A-T" and the student wrote it down! We had a great laugh for several years with that memory as a class. In fact, it's still a treasured "inside joke" with those students.

My best "look at that student shine" moment was when I was able to announce last year that Jake Martin won the "Imagine this..." competition to him and the whole school. It was amazing to see his whole face light up, and to see his class truly celebrate his amazing accomplishment with him.

**What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?**

I really enjoy using "What's Growin' On?" in my classroom-it's fun and it really engages the students. My absolute favorite though is "Imagine this... ." It allows the students to learn something new, and show off that knowledge in a fun and exciting way.

**How do you integrate agriculture into the curriculum or activities you teach?**

Since many of my students come from farming families, or families that are in an industry related to farming, I use agriculture all the time to draw parallels to all of the material I teach. Agriculture really is cross-curricular.

## **Describe any agriculture-based projects you have been involved in lately.**

Since we just finished studying the water cycle, we've been talking a lot about the drought, and different ways that we can conserve water. The students looked into some of the concerns that have been mentioned in the news about the water table. Water conservation is the basis for our Earth Day Activity as well.

## **Why is it important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?**

Without agriculture, we have no food, fewer clothing options, and no homes. Agriculture is the foundation of civilizations. How can they not be aware of how tied to agriculture their whole lives are?

## **1. *Imagine this...* Authors and Illustrators Recognized, Book Available**

The *Imagine this...* Story Writing Contest ceremony was held on March 19 in the Governor's Council Room at the State Capitol. The state-winning students were recognized by Secretary Ross and legislative members from the students' districts. The 2014 *Imagine this...* Stories Inspired by Agriculture book, featuring quail, artichokes, jobs on the farm, and more, is now available for purchase and the e-book is available for free download. For more information, visit [www.LearnAboutAg.org/imaginethis](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org/imaginethis).

## **2. 2015 Community College Scholarship from the California Women for Agriculture Sacramento Valley Chapter**

### **Deadline: April 15, 2015**

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of California Women for Agriculture is pleased to announce the sponsorship two \$500 scholarships to any high school senior planning to attend a community college to pursue an agriculture-related career OR continuing community college student who can show the intent to pursue an agriculture-related career. Only applicants from the following counties will be considered: Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba. To apply, or for more information, visit [www.learnaboutag.org/cwa/scholarship2015.pdf](http://www.learnaboutag.org/cwa/scholarship2015.pdf).

## **3. Eighth Annual Cal/EPA Earth Day and Bring your Children to Work Event**

**April 22, 2015, Sacramento**

Come and join the California Fuel Cell Partnership from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the 2015 Eighth Annual Cal/EPA Earth Day and Bring your Children to Work Event. CaFCP will be on hand to talk about fuel cell electric vehicles. As part of CaFCP's exhibit, California Air Resources Board employees and their children will learn ways to recycle, save energy and learn about alternative fuel vehicles. CaFCP staff will have a Honda FCX Clarity on static display. For more information visit [www.fuelcellpartnership.org](http://www.fuelcellpartnership.org).

**4. Life Lab Springtime Community Tour****- for grown-ups!****April 29, 2015, Santa Cruz**

Come experience Life Lab's programs and Garden Classroom! Participants will explore nature and imagination on a habitat hike, build a garden web of life, and meet Life Lab's friendly chickens!

At this free event learn how the local, regional, and national programs are changing lives.

For more information and to register online, visit

[www.lifelab.org/tour](http://www.lifelab.org/tour).

**5. SUPER Science in the River City****May 2, 2015, Sacramento**

Whether new to Next Generation Science Standards or if you understand the basics, come learn more about the intent, disciplinary core ideas, science, & engineering practices, crosscutting concepts and performance expectations. Experience exemplary, classroom-ready science lessons aligned with NGSS. Registration includes: 3 workshops, workshop materials, breakfast, lunch, and 6 professional development hours. Find More Information & Register online at [www.csus.edu/mase/sircsaturday](http://www.csus.edu/mase/sircsaturday).

**6. Look at Agriculture... Organically!****Educator Grants****Deadline: May 15, 2015**

CFAITC is partnering with the California Certified Organic Farmers to offer educator grants that will creatively enhance the understanding of organic agriculture for kindergarten through eighth grade students. Twenty \$1,000 grants for organic classroom projects will be awarded to K-8 teachers nationwide to support the integration of organic agriculture into their curriculum. For more information visit [www.LearnAboutAg.org/organicgrants](http://www.LearnAboutAg.org/organicgrants).

## 7. Tour de Cluck: A Bicycle Chicken

### Coop Crawl

**May 30, 2015, Davis**

This event offers the chicken lovers and the chicken-curious the opportunity to visit a variety of Davis' chicken coops by bicycle. Participation in the event benefits Yolo Farm to Fork's farm to school programs for gardening, recycling, farm visits, and nutritional education for Davis schools. For more information, or to register, visit [www.tourdecluck.org](http://www.tourdecluck.org).

## 8. National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

**June 16-20, 2015, Louisville, Kentucky**

Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 15, 2015

"Unbridled Possibilities" is the theme for the 2015 National AITC Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Through exciting, engaging, and interactive workshops, you will learn how to incorporate agriculture into all aspects of your curriculum. For more information, or to register, visit [naitcconference.usu.edu](http://naitcconference.usu.edu).

## 9. Delta Sierra Science Project/DSSP: Modeling and Engineering in Grades 4-5

**June 22-26, 2015, Stockton**

Engage in activities designed to illustrate and explore the Next Generation Science Standards and the Science and Engineering practices included in the standards. The focus will be on both the Modeling and the Engineering Design Process during this week-long institute. Technology will be heavily utilized and the laboratories and activities will be focused on building these skills including computer programming that is appropriate to these grade levels. This workshop is intended for teachers grades 4-5 only. For more information and to register, visit [Delta Sierra Science Project/DSSP](http://DeltaSierraScienceProject/DSSP).



## Lesson Plan: Food, Culture and Reading

Food, Culture and Reading is a nutrition education curriculum that uses literature to learn about food, healthy living, and different cultures. Through experiential activities, youth will be able to recognize a variety of healthful foods within food groups, taste new foods from other cultures, explore the similarities of food, and develop an understanding and appreciation of cultures that are different than their own.

[www.4-hmall.org/Product/food-culture-reading/08379.aspx](http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/food-culture-reading/08379.aspx)

### **Resource: Harvest of the Month**

Harvest of the Month features ready-to-use resources that can be widely applied within the school environment. Based on the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, this program provides educators with materials to give students hands-on opportunities to explore, taste, and learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and being active every day. [www.harvestofthemonth.com](http://www.harvestofthemonth.com).

### **Website: Junior Master Gardener Program**

The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the University Extension network. The website provides instructions for getting started with your Junior Master Gardener group as well as a kid zone, lessons, and recommended books.

[www.jmgkids.us](http://www.jmgkids.us)



### **Local Events**

**Apr. 25, 2015** San Benito EATs Workshop  
[San Benito County Farm Bureau](#)

**May 12, 2015** El Dorado County Farm Day  
[El Dorado County Ag in the Classroom](#)

**May 15, 2015** Napa County Meadow Muffin Golf  
Tournament  
[Napa County Farm Bureau](#)



SUPPORT  
AITC

### **Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy**

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

**Make a one-time or recurring donation.**



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ON FACEBOOK



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