



Calaveras County Office of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
November 19, 2018

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Students Satisfy Their Appetites for Knowledge at “Dinner with a Scientist”

Angels Camp – Local students, teachers and scientists gathered on November 15, 2018 to enjoy a delicious three-course meal and engage in stimulating conversation at this year’s “Dinner with A Scientist” at the Calaveras River Academy/Mountain Oaks gymnasium in San Andreas. It was a packed house, with 117 students and teachers mingling with 22 volunteer science professionals, making this one of the biggest turnouts for this event.

Local science professionals shared their experience and passion with students as they rotated throughout the evening to three scientists’ tables, with a fourth “free” rotation to visit the scientist of their choice. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) professions represented included technology specialist, physician, nurse practitioner, optometrist, mathematics educator, railroad engineer, forensic investigator, aerospace engineer, veterinarian, wildlife biologist, civil engineer, physical therapist, solid waste and recycling instructor, ground water geologist, electrical engineer, water scientist, forester, computer programmer, wastewater treatment operator, and geology instructor.

Citizen Scientist Ted Tagami, creator of project-based science education company Magnitude.io, provided the keynote address. At the start of the evening, Ted and four students constructed and launched a high-altitude weather balloon. The balloon is capable of traveling around the globe and students are able to follow its location as it travels. Mr. Tagami spoke to the group about space and space travel, and engaged the group in a discussion about their ideas. One student wants to travel to Saturn; another student talked about how to deal with waste on Earth. Over 15 students shared their thoughts with the group.

Superintendent Scott Nanik volunteered his time by cooking the meal with the help of an efficient volunteer staff. Mr. Nanik addressed the group, thanking the scientists, teachers, students and volunteers for making the event so successful. “Dinner with a Scientist is a partnership between education and the community to serve students and spark their interest in science-related fields,” he said.

Students were enthusiastic about the experience, with one fifth grader exclaiming, “This was the best night ever!”

Each year the Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE) hosts this event for Calaveras and Amador students. Funding for the event comes from the Teichert Foundation. Additional events hosted by CCOE include the Science Fair in March, the Spelling Bee in April and the Math Mini-Bowl in May.

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