

Press Release-For Immediate Release

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Cupertino Library and Library Foundation Bubble Up Scientific Research **Middle-schoolers reap benefits of online and support services**

SEPTEMBER 10 -- CUPERTINO, CA—The Cupertino Library, a member of the Santa Clara County Library District, and the Cupertino Library Foundation (CLF), have partnered with the Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) to introduce middle-school students to the Library's online databases as a means to support critical thinking in the area of scientific research. This pilot program will run throughout the 2011-12 school year.

"The *Scientific Research Can Be Fun* initiative is being kicked off as a pilot program," said Rebecca Carino, curriculum support teacher for the Cupertino Union School District. "We worked carefully with the collaborative team to make available databases that correlate with the California Science Standards at each grade. We anticipate some intriguing student-generated research resulting in detailed papers, demonstrations and presentations." Learning to express ideas effectively is one of the key outcomes desired.

The collaboration began in spring of 2011 with the realization that middle school students were not as aware as their high-school counterparts of the Library's extensive subscription (no advertising) online databases. The Cupertino Library Foundation, who funds multiple Cupertino Library and system-wide initiatives, reached out to the Cupertino Unified School District to partner in this effort. The Cupertino Library has four members of this 16-member team.

"We have great expectations that this pilot program for 700 students could eventually serve the entire CUSD middle school population, close to 5,800 students, in subsequent years," commented Mark Fink, Cupertino's Community Librarian. "Our online services are ideal because they can be accessed from anywhere by patrons with a Santa Clara County Library District card."

All teachers and students taking part in the pilot program will be issued a library card. Tracy Snow, Cupertino Library's teen services librarian, and Elizabeth Bartholomew, a children's services librarian, will serve as the primary points of contact between the classroom teachers and the students.

The teachers involved in the pilot are: Mary Alarid-Enright, Cupertino Middle School, 8th grade; Len Esparza, Cupertino Middle School, 7th and 8th grade; Susan Harter, Cupertino Middle School, English Language Arts; Khadija Iyer, Kennedy Middle School, 8th grade; Lauren McGrath, Kennedy Middle School, 6th grade; Carol Nolan, Lawson Middle School, 7th grade; Hannah Sun, Lawson Middle School, 6th grade.

"We are fortunate to have fine partners in our community," said Phil Quon, superintendent of the Cupertino Union School District. "In these challenging economic times, our students can use all the resources these collaborative ventures bring to bear. We are very grateful."

To facilitate the group, the Cupertino Library Foundation has engaged the services of a coordinator, Lloyd McIntyre, a district substitute teacher, scientist, and project manager with seven patents of his own. "I know these young people, and their keen desire to learn. This will be a fulfilling opportunity for them-and for me," said McIntyre.

The Cupertino Library Foundation has budgeted \$14,000 for this initiative. "We believe that the more our efforts reinforce community involvement and life-long learning, we will be living out the mission of the Foundation, and of the Library system," said Eno Schmidt, president of the Cupertino Library Foundation. Bev Lenihan, CLF board member, serves as the project manager.

For further information go to: www.cupertino.library/foundation.org

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