

Restoring the Environment



Students from Patrick Oliver's ROP Environmental Science class at **Mt. Diablo High** on a habitat restoration field trip

Students from Patrick Oliver's ROP Environmental Science class at **Mt. Diablo High** have gone to Fernandez Ranch in Martinez several times this year to work on a habitat restoration project for the Muir Heritage Land Trust. They plant and stake willow trees, a form of bioengineering which stabilizes the creek, reduces erosion and improves the creek habitat.



James Koch, ROP Landscaping instructor at **Liberty High**, displays tiny oak tree

Students in James Koch's ROP Landscaping class at **Liberty High** are growing oak trees for the City of Oakley, which wants to plant 1,000 oak trees around town. March 15th was proclaimed to be Arbor Day and ROP students were recognized by Mayor Bruce Connelley for their outstanding work in the horticulture program.

The students are also growing native grasses and flowers for restoring the Marsh Creek watershed to provide a habitat for wildlife, insects, and birds, but not impede the water flow.

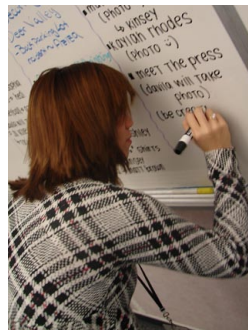
ROP Journalism Leads to Career Goals

"When I was in elementary school, I would leaf through catalogs of local children's classes and programs, looking for activities that interested me," writes Debbie Henderson, in John Brown's ROP Journalism class at **Hercules High**. "I remember placing check marks next to almost every single course title and sheepishly handing the marked-up catalog to my mom, entreating her to enroll me in all the dance, martial arts, or music courses available."

In high school, Debbie's love of learning has led her to take ROP Journalism, ROP Creative Writing, and ROP Careers in Teaching. Combining all her skills, her career goal is to become an English teacher.

"I have found my perfect career fit through our ROP Journalism program..."

—Elizabeth Azevedo
Monte Vista High
Rebecca Liron's class



Michelle Davila
ROP Journalism
Deer Valley High
—Charleen Earley's class



Debbie Henderson
ROP Journalism
Hercules High
—John Brown's class



Pam Mardo
ROP Journalism
California High
—Brian Barr's class

Forensic Science



Travis Conley, now a police cadet, returns to **Liberty High** to discuss his career path with the ROP Analytical Forensic Science class

Travis Conley took ROP Analytical Forensic Science at Liberty High three years ago, and is now a Police Cadet with the Livermore Police Department. He was chosen along with three other cadets out of a field of 75 applicants. The ROP class gave him an edge. He says his knowledge and experience in fingerprinting, DNA analysis, and report writing, which he learned in Julie Hubbard's ROP class, gave him an advantage over other applicants. He is currently going to Los Medanos and will soon transfer to Cal State for a degree in Criminal Justice.

Sean Kipp
ROP
Analytical
Forensic
Science
Liberty High



Even though he plans on a career in engineering, Sean Kipp signed up for forensic science because, "I watch CSI and I thought it would be fun," he says. And it has turned out to be, but he's also learned a skill that will help him in engineering, as well.

"This class has allowed me to find new ways to observe things," he says. "It teaches me to look at how everything fits together, instead of just focusing on one thing. This skill will help me in engineering. It's not just for forensic science. And Ms. Hubbard is a fantastic teacher." Sean plans on going to UC Davis in the fall.