



Outlook

San Joaquin County Office of Education - <http://www.sjcoe.org>

January 2008 - Volume 62, Issue 5

Upcoming Events . . .

High School Honor Band and Choir Concert

January 12: 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for the 2008 Annual High School Honor Band and Choir Concert on Saturday, January 12 at 7 p.m. in Delta College's Atherton Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public. College level guest conductors lead talented high school students from throughout San Joaquin County in a memorable performance. For more information, call 468-4973 or email mculpepper@sjcoe.net.

5th Annual Bilingual Student Financial Aid Workshop

January 19: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The deadline for filling out the FAFSA is March 2. If you know someone who needs some assistance with filling it out, recommend that he or she go to the 5th Annual Bilingual Financial Aid Workshop held in Raymond Great Hall at University of the Pacific. It is open to all students and parents of grades 7 - 12. It not only will help individuals complete the FAFSA by March 2, as well as expose students to higher education.

Inside this Outlook . . .

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San Joaquin Students represent Stockton

Stockton students selected for 2008 U.S. Senate Youth Program

Franklin High School senior, Zaphanii N'shea Smith, from Stockton Unified School District (SUSD), and Lincoln High School senior, Lang Parks Luntao, from Lincoln Unified School District, were two of four students chosen as a California delegate to the prestigious and highly competitive United States Senate Youth Program.

"I congratulate these academically talented and politically conscious young people," O'Connell said. "Their profound commitment to education, community causes, and civic duty makes them a natural choice for this prominent leadership program."

Out of more than 125 applicants, Smith and Luntao were selected based on their scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, extra-curricular activities, and service to the community. Both hold well above average grade-point averages, positions as interns for Representative Jerry McNearney, D-Pleasanton, and are in the process of applying for college.

More importantly, both stated that they are honored to be a positive reflection of Stockton.

Also chosen was Hayley Elizabeth Campbell, from Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District and Ilan Uri Ben-Meir, from Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The delegates will participate in a week of

intensive study of the federal government as guests of the U.S. Senate from March 1-8, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is an annual scholarship competition funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and endorsed by the U.S. Senate. Each state and the District of Columbia select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the

program. The Foundation pays all expenses for the delegates and provides a \$5,000 college scholarship from the Foundation.

The students will personally experience their national government in action, hear major policy addresses by senators, cabinet members, and officials from federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Students were nominated by their high school principal to participate in the program. A selection committee from the California Department

of Education reviewed eligible nominees who submitted the required paperwork. After a rigorous review process, State Superintendent, Jack O'Connell selected the awardees based on the following criteria: the quality of the application, high academic achievement, excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to speak well, knowledge of American government and U.S. history, involvement in school and community activities, and demonstrated qualities of leadership.

For more information on the program, please visit www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/us/.



Pictured above is Lang Parks Luntao, from Lincoln Unified School District, an alternative delegate chosen for the 2008 U.S. Senate Youth Program. Luntao is one of two students chosen to be part of the program from San Joaquin County.

Annual Spelling Bee sends students to State competition

On December 5, San Joaquin County Office of Education held its 11th Annual San Joaquin County Spelling Bee Championship. The Bee had two divisions: fourth-through sixth-grade and seventh-through ninth-grade.

Nikki Drake, a fifth-grader from Claudia Landeen in Lincoln Unified School District, took first place in the fourth- through sixth-grade competition. Drake's winning words were "resorcinol" and "pirouette". Second-place went to Rommel Bermejo, a fourth-grader at South West Park in Tracy Unified School District (TUSD), who spelled words such as "hebephrenia" and "mucilaginous" correctly.

Caitlin Dong, a ninth-grader at Tracy High School in TUSD, won the seventh- through ninth-grade division. She prevailed by spelling "multifarious" correctly; however, winning is not new to Dong. In fact, this is her second first-place triumph within the last six years. The runner-up was Dong's friend and classmate at Tracy High, Hector Sanchez.

First and second-place winners from both divisions will continue on to the State competitions. SJCOE's Educational Foundation will pay the entry fee for all four students. First-place winners received a \$100 savings bond and a plaque. Second-place winners received a \$50 savings bond and a plaque. All participants received a certificate and a medal.

For more information, go to www.sjcoe.org/sae/spelling/asp.



Pictured above are the fourth-through sixth-grade winners of the 2008 San Joaquin County Spelling Bee

Regional System of District and School Support recognized for its assistance

This year, prestigious state awards were presented to two schools for which Regional System of District and School Support (RSDSS) has provided technical assistance: Ripon Elementary, part of Ripon Unified School District (RUSD), and Waterford High School, Waterford Unified School District (WUSD). Both schools were recipients of the 2007 Title I Academic Achievement Award. California Department of Education recognizes Title I schools that exceed Adequate Yearly Progress for two or more years or significantly close the achievement gap among numerically significant subgroups. Waterford High School was also a recipient of a 2007 California Distinguished School Award.

"There are multiple criteria a school must meet in order to receive this award including high academic expectations for all students based on California's state-adopted standards and performance levels," said Charles Vidal, director of RSDSS at San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE).

RSDSS also received recognition for their Instructional Time Survey by the California School Boards Association, so Vidal and Shela Seaton, RSDSS Program Coordinator, co-presented at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Education Conference and Trade Show in November.

RSDSS provides research-based training and support in effective instructional practices for schools in Region 6, which include San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Amador, and Tuolumne Counties. This year, 11 schools from five districts participated in the Direct Instruction Year 1 Institute. Schools receiving professional development at the Institute gained knowledge and skills in the phases of direct instruction, Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE), and efficient use of instructional time. Schools that completed the Institute in 2006-2007 returned this year for the Year 2 Institute. Participants refined their skills in effective instructional practices and participated in grade-level and content-specific lesson study groups.

During the Year 2 Institute, administrators participated in their own break-out sessions led by Don Davis, principal, Waterford High

School. Follow-up, on-site coaching is provided for Year 2 Institute teachers and administrators.

The Foothill Instructional Strategies Institute continues this year for schools in Tuolumne, Amador, and Calaveras counties. Training is provided by certified coach and Jamestown Elementary teacher, Laurie Blackmore.

"I have enjoyed helping teachers work toward becoming better teachers. I get to see teachers pick up new ideas and see their excitement as they come back to share their success," said Blackmore.

Recognizing that districts and schools can continually improve the quality of the instruction by examining their teaching strategically, RSDSS developed the RSDSS-6 Instructional Strategies Survey. This tool measures the classroom implementation level of direct instruction and SDAIE strategies.

RSDSS provides technical training and assistance to schools to build instructional capacity. Cognitive coaching training was provided to the region to ensure that districts and schools have the skills to create and maintain collaborative learning environments. The training gave participants skills to be effective coaches at their sites and within their districts.



Title I Academic Achievement Award – from left to right: Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Don Davis, Principal, Waterford High School

Character-Based Literacy Program shows increase in scores for At-Risk Students

For one. Insight teacher, Nancy McCormick, her goal as a teacher was met when results of an increase in comprehension were evident through an improvement in quiz scores and her students' love for the structure that was provided by lessons.

This goal was met when San Joaquin County Office of Education's (SJCOE) Alternative Education's **one.** program started using the Character-Based Literacy (CBL) Program, which was specifically designed for youth who demonstrate at-risk behaviors and end up in the juvenile justice system.

CBL is designed to produce outcomes in three areas: knowledge, skills, and character. Teachers create a safe learning environment where students discover concepts with structured activities that focus on five value theme units:

Responsibility Requires Action, Change Requires Effect, Justice Requires Restraint, Courage Requires Moderation, and Integrity Requires Wholeness. Positive social thoughts, values and behaviors are taught through the language arts standards and literacy skills.

"The curriculum has provided an environment for teachers to come together and plan as a team," said Court School teacher, Leslie Alday.

This curriculum was developed at Santa Clara University to serve students who have had marginal success in school and are at serious risk for school failure and antisocial behavior. At one. Peterson, part of SJCOE's Court and Community Schools, positive results have been found with both teachers and students.

"The curriculum has provided an environment for teachers to come together and plan as a team, to give feedback to each other and yet have some freedom to add our own professional twist to things," says Court School teacher, Leslie Alday.

The **one.** program has made a commitment to the CBL curriculum and has purchased the novels for the 2008 - 2009 school year, now more community school teachers outside the court school are requesting the curriculum. In addition, SJCOE teachers introduced administrators from Jane Frederick Alternative School in Stockton Unified School District to CBL and invited their teachers to collaborate with them.

For more information on Character-Based Literacy visit www.scu.edu/character.

Students of all abilities dance the day away!

Almost 200 special education high school students and young adults from San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE), Manteca Unified, and Tracy Unified special education programs kicked off the holiday season with the 5th Annual Holiday Dance held on December 5. Escalon High School Kiwanis Key Club and Friends Helping Friends (FHF) Club hosted the event, which gives students of all abilities a chance to connect in a fun, festive environment.

Overseen by Escalon High Special Education teacher, Tim Reed and Key Club Advisor, Rick Heflin, the students are able to enjoy an opportunity to see old classmates and party the day away with their new friends from the Key and FHF clubs. Students also made a donation of canned goods and \$3 for the needy in the community.

Reed and his instructional assistants started FHF Club by meeting with incoming freshman each year and talking about the abilities and disabilities

of students with special needs in his class. FHF is for students who want to be involved with the students in Reed's class. Club members are involved with students in activities throughout the year such as the Halloween and Valentine's parties and bowling, fishing, and sporting events.

Lori San Julian, one of the instructional assistants in Tim Reed's class says, "The friendships our students and club members form are what make our club so special."



More than 30 club members participated in planning, set-up, decorating, serving the food, and cleaning up after the event. FHF members showed their unity at the dance by wearing black T-shirts with the logo. The Kiwanis club donated the food, provided the Santa, and the sound system for the dance.

To learn more about the 5th Annual Holiday Dance watch January's edition of "Outlook: The Television Show" on Comcast channel 95 on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Delta Studies helps kids learn about the Delta

In October, Joe Serna Charter School, located in Lodi Unified School District (LUSD), held a Delta Studies week dedicated to learning about the San Joaquin Delta. San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) coordinated the week of activities.

During this week, kindergarten through eighth-grade students went on a field trip to learn about the Delta. This included a trip on the Delta River Cruise for sixth-through eighth-graders, which provided them with a lesson about the waterfront.

In conjunction with the California State Science Standards, all grade levels learned about a range of topics concerning the Delta. Then, at the end of the week, a festival was held where students shared what they learned by putting on a play, giving presentations, and providing tours of various murals housed in classrooms.

"This was a great opportunity for our students to learn about the local environment," said Michael Gillespie, principal at Joe Serna Charter School. "The students really enjoyed it."

For more information, please call 468-9119.

Jumpstart Program helps Migrant students visualize that college is in reach

As 13-year old Jose Lopez wrote about his shopping adventure for an XBOX 360 on the day after Thanksgiving, he did not realize that he was writing an autobiographical essay. Although this is a common assignment done within his eighth-grade English class at Morada Middle School, located in Lodi Unified School District (LUSD), the Migrant Education Jumpstart Program provided him another opportunity to enhance his writing skills.

As part of the California Migrant Education Project Pipeline (C-MEPP) grant awarded to San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) in July, the Jumpstart Program was designed to help migratory children gain the motivation, study skills, and English and math skills needed to prepare for college or jobs.

Manuel Nunez, program manager for Migrant Education at SJCOE, shared that the difficulty in motivating these students to go to college comes from the fact that the majority of them have never left their neighborhood.

"Our goal is to get students to take an active role in school and take ownership of Pacific and other college campuses," said Nunez. "More importantly, we want these students to understand that college is in reach for them."

After a rigorous recruitment program,

Jumpstart started in September with 45 students from Stockton, Lodi, and Tracy Unified School Districts. Each month these children visit University of the Pacific with their parents. While the children participate in the program, parents sit in with School Psychologist, Dr. Palomares, to better understand the educational system in order to ensure their children will be successful in school.

"The present educational system is radically different than it use to be; therefore, it is more

"Our goal is to get students to take an active role in school and go on to college," said Manuel Nunez, program manager for Migrant Education.

difficult for today's parents to understand what it takes to get their children into college," said Palomares. "Moreover, a lot of problems with kids stems from their inability to succeed in school. Therefore, it's important for these parents to help learn what it takes for them to succeed."

Each month 45 parents and students of seventh- and eighth-grade from Lodi, Stockton, and Tracy Unified School District gather at University of the Pacific to gain tutoring and counseling from educational specialists. C-MEPP is designed to increase the number of graduating migrant high school students who are eligible for admission and enrollment at the University of California and California State University systems. The goal is to provide supplemental academic support services and activities to address the special needs of migrant students. The services include outreach designed to identify and track eligible students, supplemental academic counseling and advising, summer institutes, university campus visitations, mentor programs, academic enrichment programs and activities, and academic leadership program and activities.

For more information on C-MEPP, please visit www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r8/cmep06result.asp.



Dr. Palomares works with parents of migrant students to help them better understand the educational requirements for their children

YouthBuild program is making strides

YouthBuild ventures into its second-year of helping change the outlook on life for young adults.

"I hated geometry. Just the word scared me," said Marquis, a YouthBuild student. "But with the help of my teachers they've made geometry theories makes sense now."

Marquis is a member of the YouthBuild Leadership Team, which consists of current students and alumni, who were peer nominated and elected to represent YouthBuild. In November, San Joaquin County Office of Education held a Leadership Policy Committee training day in which the students discussed YouthBuild's philosophy and '07-'08 goals.

This spring, YouthBuild San Joaquin will begin their first construction project, a single-family home located at 2007 Washington Street in Stockton. YouthBuild San Joaquin Youth Policy Committee and staff from the Housing Authority of San Joaquin are planning the groundbreaking ceremony for 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. Stockton Mayor Edward Chavez along with a number of other county dignitaries will speak.

YouthBuild is a program dedicated to helping young adults, ages 17-24, work toward completion of a high school diploma or GED. These students also learn construction skills while building affordable housing, develop leadership skills, and secure apprenticeships and jobs within

the construction industry after graduating from the program. YouthBuild provides comprehensive program that focuses on non-traditional approaches to education and paid on-the-job training.

For more information, call 468-9246; or watch January's edition of "Outlook: The Television Show" on Comcast channel 95 on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.



Beyond Incarceration helps decrease recidivism



Mayor Chavez and San Joaquin County Office of Education's Deputy Superintendent of Student Programs and Services, Mick Founts, greet one another at Beyond Incarceration, a program used to teach parolees how to successfully integrate back into society.

Juanita Herran-Newton credits her transformation from prison inmate to rehabilitated citizen to a program called Beyond Incarceration and the individuals that are part of it.

"Both judges that sent me to prison are in the room today, and I stand here a changed woman because of them," said Herran-Newton. "Without the encouragement of programs like this one, I would not be the person I am today."

In November, Juanita Herran-Newton shared her story, along with other rehabilitated citizens, at Beyond Incarceration Family Day hosted by San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) in conjunction with Rehabilitated Citizens, San Joaquin County Superior Court Judges, Kennedy Community Center, and CA Department of Corrections

and Rehabilitation Office of the Ombudsman, Adult Parole, and Juvenile Parole. The audience consisted of 200 State and local officials, representatives from local service agencies, and recent parolees and their families.

Judge Richard Guiliani, who, in his early years, was a correctional officer at San Quentin, shared his support of the program when speaking to parolees.

"This is a program that is on your side," said Guiliani. "We put forward our best and honest effort to ensure that you have the skills to be successful."

According to the California State Department of Corrections, California prisons are at 200 percent capacity and 70 percent of California's parolees return to prison within three years of release. Guiliani stated that this shows the need for programs like Beyond

Incarceration to help prevent these parolees from becoming part of a statistic.

Beyond Incarceration teaches these individuals how to prepare for a job interview, how to write a resume, and how to integrate back into society. For example, a Beyond Incarceration class at the Honor Farm in Stockton includes contacting service agencies and pre-release classes to make the transition back into society easier.

A theme throughout the day was recognizing the importance of giving all of your efforts to rehabilitation. Nate Summers, released from prison in 2006, shared his feelings with the audience.

"This program has given me a platform to be involved in my own recovery," said Summers. "Because of it, this past year I have been able to go to sleep without concern."

Lodi Unified breaks ground

On November 20, Lodi High School, located in Lodi Unified School District, held a ground breaking ceremony in honor of the new cafeteria and gym being built on campus.

"This new gym will not only be more convenient for students, but it will provide a safer place where they can enjoy themselves,"

said Gary Knackstedt, Lodi High School athletic director and teacher.

Funding from Measure K, passed in 2002, made the new building possible.

For more information, call (209) 331-7819.



Lodi Unified School District representatives break ground for Lodi High School's new cafeteria and gym

Research to Practice

The 5th annual Superintendents' Summit for Reading First districts was held on October 26. The summit's theme "Research to Practice" supports reading instruction based upon scientific research and standards-based reading and language arts content. The Summit heralded esteemed researchers such as Mabel Rivera and Coleen Carlson of the Center on Instruction for English Language Learners, Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics; Diane Haager, Professor, California State University, Los Angeles; Maria Elena Argüelles, Research Associate of the Florida Center for Reading Research; and John Mockler, President John Mockler & Associates.

Approximately 100 district leadership teams from across California, including 17 teams representing five counties in the central valley, attended the Summit. Leadership in the central valley has been diligent in working toward a common understanding that virtually every student can learn to read at grade level if taught adequately. The Summit captured the spirit of this lofty goal by presenting the most current and confirmed research in the field.

Maria Elena Argüelles, Ph.D. was especially well received as she provided guidance and practice to close the achievement gap for English Learners. Dr. Argüelles will be returning to California to present at the Coach Principal Summit in January.

"We have to implement systematic change," according to Argüelles. "Once we get to third-grade, we change from learning to read to reading to learn and if you don't know how to read by then, you're in trouble. We want to provide intensive, explicit, research-based reading instruction to all children, including English-language learners."

For more information, contact Constance Tate at the Reading First Regional Technical Assistance Center, 468-4868 or visit www.sjcoe.org/rtac/.

Learn how to increase student achievement

Last year, SJCOE initiated the Leadership Coaching Program, which teaches principals in San Joaquin, Calaveras, Amador, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne County skills in increasing student achievement. Officially named the CASST Leadership Coaching Program, its goal is to increase student achievement.

The program is now recruiting for principals who are interested in developing productive leadership and communication habits. It will also teach how to overcome and identify challenges posed by diverse and unique school and district cultures while building an ongoing capacity for growth through reflective practices.

Coaches will provide one-on-one support to candidates six hours per month at the school site. They also must be trained in certified coaching methodology in order for students to receive the best possible outcome.

For more information, or to sign up, email Rhonda Cicolani at rcicolani@sjcoe.net.

How did you get hooked on teaching?

Outlook is interested in knowing why you chose to work in the field of education. Please share how you got hooked on education and/or teaching, by emailing jmontelongo@sjcoe.net.

Musical Chairs Concert Series

Musical Chairs Children's Concert Series still has seating for school groups for the following shows: Greg & Steve on 1/29 at 10 am, 1/30 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., 1/31 at 10 a.m., and 2/1 at 7 p.m.; Banana Slug String Band on 3/14 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; DinoRock on 5/2 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The group price is \$8.00 a person. For further information, call 462-2536, or visit www.musicalchairsconcerts.org.

San Joaquin County Science Fair Celebrates 50 Years!

The San Joaquin County Science Fair will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on March 3-6 in the ESC building; however, there are several deadlines that must first be met. Research Plans for projects involving human subjects/vertebrates or tissue samples only, must be submitted by January 25, 2008. Individual schools must file intent to participate by February 6, 2008 and Individual Project Registration is due by February 22, 2008.

For any questions regarding the Science Fair, please access the website at www.edserv.sjcoe.net/sciefair/ or contact Stephanie Anderson at standerson@sjcoe.net or 953-2119.

Visual and Performing Arts Professional Development Opportunity

The Valley Sierra California Arts Project (VSCAP) will be sponsoring a program for K-12 teachers on the Visual and Performing Arts Framework and Content Standards for five Saturdays from February to May. During this 30 hour program, teachers will receive a VAPA Framework, have hands-on experiences in each of the four arts disciplines, 2 integrated lessons, and begin creating standards-based instructional plans. More information and a brochure are available online at https://ois.ucop.edu/csmp/calendar.php?mo=2&viewing_mo=1&yr=2008&projectID=9.

Sign-up deadline is January 25 and space is limited. Please contact the VSCAP office for further information or questions at 946-2754, or email Sand Kakuda at skakuda@telis.org. Online registration is available at <http://csmp.ucop.edu/frameworkSeries>.

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JANUARY 2008

											
<p><i>11:15 a.m.</i> Video Game Day Margaret Troke Branch Library Teens grades 6-12 Call Tara at 937-8221</p>											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
		<p><i>4:00 - 7:00 p.m.</i> CTEL Nevada County Prep to take tests 1,2,3 Contact Toni Ludolph at 468-4978</p>									
13	14			15	16	17	18				
<p><i>6:30-7:30 p.m.</i> Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Business Meeting Contact Sharon Gaines at 468-4908</p> <p><i>7:30-9:00 p.m.</i> CAC Open Forum Bring Your Questions for the Expert Featuring Dr. G. David Demetral, Ph.D. Contact Sharon Gaines at 468-4908</p>		<p><i>4:00 - 6:00 p.m.</i> We the people...The Citizen and the Constitution Teacher Workshop Learn how to implement lessons plans in the classroom Call Veray Wickham at 468-9021</p>						<p><i>8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i> English Learner Leadership Academy (ELLA) Contact Seng Kingkhilsack at 468-4865</p>			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26					
 <p><i>Martin Luther King Day</i></p>		<p><i>8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i> Capitol Area Science Education Leaders (CASEL) Contact Patty Voller at 468-4880</p>		<p><i>4:30 - 7:30 p.m.</i> CTEL Fair Oaks Prep to take tests 1,2,3 Contact Toni Ludolph at 468-4978</p>		<p><i>8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</i> 15th Annual LSH Winter Symposium SOS strategy-based instruction Call Patti Farhat at 468-4928</p>		<p><i>8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.</i> 5th Annual Bilingual Student Financial Aid Workshop sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Helps students in grade 12 complete the FAFSA Contact Manual Nunez at 468-9291</p>			
		27	28	29	30	31					
						<p><i>8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</i> Transitional Services & Agency Linkages Transition for students over 16 Contact Patti Farhat 468-4928</p>					

Outlook

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Submissions and story ideas are welcome and must be received by the 5th day of the month before publication.

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Students from San Joaquin Career and Technical High School's Aviation Academy use computerized flight simulators during class held at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

For more information about San Joaquin Career and Technical High School's Aviation Academy, call (209) 468-5940, or visit www.ventureacademyca.org.

To learn more about the students use of computerized flight simulators watch "Outlook: The Television Show" on Comcast channel 95 on Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

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