

# THE EAGLE

*River Springs*  
CHARTER SCHOOL

Volume 6 / Issue 4  
Summer 2012

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**I CAN!  
I DID!  
AND  
IT WAS FUN!**



## From our Executive Director

Dr. Kathleen Hermsmeyer



Dear Parents,

It has been a mission-driven year at River Springs Charter School! We have launched several new programs to help our families reach our lofty goals to collaborate to personalize learning for each student, to empower parents and students and to use the community as our classroom.

Our I CAN! achievement program, featured on pages 27-28 of this newsletter, was a great success, both for homeschooled and academy students. This program helped us personalize learning for students based on the skills they needed to master, as well as empowering students by allowing them to set reasonable goals and work to reach those goals. Students earned mastery bracelets when they mastered I CAN! skills. Students who met their mid-year goals received a special logo t-shirt, and those who met their year-end goals received an achievement medal! Congratulations to all students who participated. We hope to see many more participate next year.

We have added many career and technical education (CTE) courses and internships opportunities to our high school programs. More than ever, our students will have the ability to use the community as the classroom to practice the academic skills they learn in the classroom. We have had medical CTE offerings available for several years, and this year we added business and engineering courses. Next year, we will be adding child development and education courses to some of our high school programs. Many of our high school programs will be changing their title to "Renaissance Real World Academy" to reflect the shift in focus from textbook learning in class three days a week with two homestudy days to interactive learning in class three days a week with two days of internship in real world jobs. These changes make learning personal for students, empower students and use the community as the classroom.

Many thanks to all of our parents and staff who made STAR testing so much fun for students this year. Our homeschooling parents did a great job preparing their kids- both ensuring that they worked at mastering grade-level skills and that they were familiar with the formalities of standardized testing. Staff made sure that the day was more than just testing; fun activities were added to each day. Our homeschooled students have never been so relaxed and ready for the test. We are sure to see these efforts pay off when our test results are published in August. Thanks to all for collaborating to make "in the box" testing work for "out of the box" families!

Next year is a renewal year for us. This means that in the fall we will make a petition to our sponsor, the Riverside County Office of Education, to receive another five year charter term. They will be looking at our academic progress and other factors to make their decision. Has the River Springs way of schooling made a positive impact on your child? Please consider sharing your experience, either in person at an RCBE meeting or in writing. Parents and students deserve high quality choices in public education, such as River Springs Charter School. Go Team RSCS!!

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to the coming year of more mission-driven education.

*Kathleen*

*Did you know that River Springs Charter is the largest charter in the state of California? We serve over 5,600 students in 5 counties!*

## Corona Student Center Won Lefty's Reading Challenge!!!

Our very own Corona Student Center won the Autoclub Speedway's Lefty's Reading Challenge! By having 100% participation in the Lefty's Reading Club as well as 100% completion of the Reading Challenge (20 books read during the month of February per student, our school received a \$5000 check at the Nationwide race at Autoclub Speedway in Fontana. The check was even awarded on stage before the race! All student participants and staff also received a ticket to the races. We hope to use the \$5000 to help purchase the Accelerated Reading Program through Scholastic for this next school year. We are proud of everyone who worked so hard to make this happen.



# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Annette Butler  
Director, Medical CTE Programs

CTE is the new vocationalism. Students develop skills that will give them the strategic labor market advantages needed to compete for good jobs. These courses combine a challenging academic curriculum with development of work-related knowledge and will help student enter easily and quickly into productive, rewarding, and interesting careers.

The CTE program has been a successful model in addressing the challenges of unemployment. Career pathways prepare students for successful completion of state academic and technical standards as well as more advanced postsecondary course work related to the career in which they are interested, thus leading to employment.

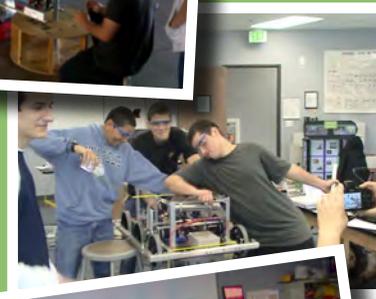
Our four career pathways are: **Engineering Technology**  
**Accounting Services**      **Health Informatics**      **Aviation & Aerospace Transport Services**

New career pathways for the 2013 school year:

**Education**      **Performing Arts**      **Network Communication**  
**Child Development**      **Media & Design Arts**

CTE courses are offered at our Temecula, Hemet and Riverside campuses and are open to all academy and Homeschool students. For more information about Career Technical Education, please contact your Education Specialist or George Essel at [george.essel@riverspringscharter.org](mailto:george.essel@riverspringscharter.org).

High intensity project based learning



## CTE Students Tour Riverside Medical Clinic

This year CTE students completed a series of medical classes offered at River Springs. Many of the students began taking classes in 9th grade and as graduating seniors this year received a certificate from the program, earning college credits for articulated classes. Some students were even offered jobs through our Internship class.

The Medical Informatics Program began in 2005, with an average enrollment of 90 students. Over the years, many of the classes have been articulated, which means students can earn high school and college credit at the same time. Medical Billing and Medical Terminology classes in the Fall of 2012 will be offered with the articulation option for the students.

There are no prerequisites to join. If you are interested in signing up for classes, please ask your guidance counselor or call Annette Butler at: 760-612-2340.



# Classroom Management Homeschool Style

By Jackie Dee  
Homeschool Director of Student Support

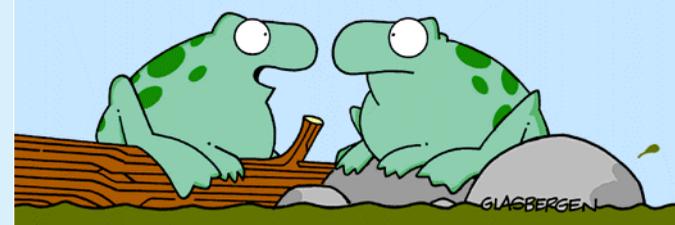
Homeschool parents often express how difficult it can be to balance their child's academic learning time with the "non-academic" life skills or electives. Maximizing academic learning often depends on the teacher's classroom management skills and maintaining an optimum atmosphere, avoiding disruptions and distractions in the classroom. However, the home environment has some distractions of its own. Classroom management activities such as setting norms, creating a realistic daily schedule, and weekly and monthly goal setting, are tools which parents can use to make their homeschool day more productive.

Setting "norms" is as simple as agreeing on expectations for behavior during the homeschool day with your children. Have a discussion with your child and pick three to four behaviors that you both feel are important. Examples of these behaviors would be:

- ☉ Being responsible.
- ☉ Be respectful.
- ☉ Be kind.



## Classroom Management ~ A Positive Approach ~



**"Looks aren't everything. It's what's inside you that really matters. A biology teacher told me that."**

Create a poster with the behaviors you select, and define how they look in your homeschool environment. For example, you and your child may decide that being responsible means starting each day with all of their school materials organized in their work area (not under a pile of clothes in their bedroom). Or it may mean completing the homework or chores that were assigned. Then post them where they are easy to see so behavior expectations are visible.

Setting daily and weekly schedules are essential to managing your time and your student's time. Schedule and plan for your core academic instruction. (Math and language arts require the most time, then science and social studies, followed by electives, life skills, and special interests.) Math and language arts instruction should take place daily at a time when your children are most alert and able to concentrate.

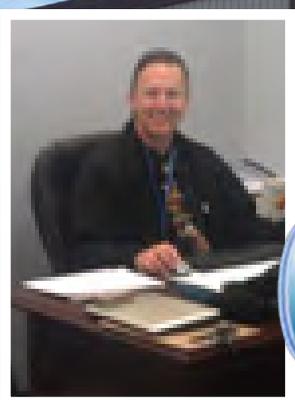


Plan breaks in instruction for students to move around. You might teach a math lesson followed by practice of the new objectives for 30 minutes at the start of your homeschool day. Then, have your child take a 20 minute break to go outside and shoot baskets or take the family dog for a walk. Then go back to work on math lessons for another 30-40 minutes. Twenty to thirty minutes of physical activity helps children to pay better attention and increases their comprehension. Block out periods of time for field trips and family outings that can reinforce and build on learning that takes place at home.

Goal setting is also an important tool for successful Homeschooling. Ben Franklin said, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Spend the time to decide with your student what you both want to accomplish each week. Identify clear, measurable, and attainable steps to accomplish the goals you set together. If your child is studying the Revolutionary War and the goal is for your child to demonstrate their understanding of what it was like to live during the War, you might plan for them to attend the field trip to Riley's Farm as one of the steps in that goal. Reading relevant chapters in a history text book and doing online research are other steps towards that goal. Once completed, have your child create a power point presentation to show what they learned.

Setting norms, creating a realistic daily schedule, and goal setting are effective classroom management tools which parents can use to help ensure success in homeschooling. Collaborating with your students in each of these areas helps your student take ownership in their own education and establishes lifelong learning skills.





DIRECTOR: SHANE WICKWIRE  
SITE FACILITATOR: RENEE ALBRIGHT

# CORONA STUDENT CENTER



We have come a long way since our open house in early August. Our school is looking fantastic! We have wonderful students, amazing teachers, interesting and challenging curriculum, and a top-notch site facilitator.



Our Corona Student Center offers a Learning Center for Homeschool students to enroll in enrichment classes. We offer a variety of courses for Homeschool families to take, including (but not limited to) core subjects, meet the masters, physical education, and specialized classes such as Lego League, American Girl, and Magic Treehouse. Each year the courses offered are subject to change according to the wants and needs of our families. The enrichment classes provide our students with unique learning opportunities in a way that is fun, interesting, and frequently hands-on.



## Lego League - Team Harvesters

- Competition at Lego Land on Sunday February 12, 2012
- 5 out of 40 Teams awarded trophies
- Harvesters received Judges Award for Showmanship and School Spirit
- Team Harvesters: Johnny Vasquez, Leighton Holley, Andrew Yerena, Kolby Sowers, Noah Taylor



## Meet the Masters

In this course we choose several notable artists along with media to best represent the artist's style. Students are introduced to the elements of art through texture, color, line, and spatial aspects of art exploration as they delve into painting, sculpting, and pastels. All students are introduced to California Standards in a positive and encouraging atmosphere of learning. Join us for an art adventure students will appreciate for years to come!



American Girls



American Girls



American Girls



American Girls

# Flabob Airport Preperatory Academy

Director: Shane Wickwire  
Site Facilitator: LaShon Samuel



## Physical Fitness Assembly



## NASA and FAPA

Flight engineer, Don Pettit, aboard the International Space Station, answered FAPA students' questions in front of a packed audience in historic Hangar 16A. Go to Flabob Airport's ISS webpage to learn more:

[www.iss-flabob.com](http://www.iss-flabob.com)  
www.RiverSpringsCharter.org  
877-438-4451



## History Day & Science Fair



## Staff & Parents vs Students Softball Game Staff & Parents win 14 to 7



# HEMET STUDENT CENTER

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER MARTIN  
SITE FACILITATOR: SHERI FAIN



# HEMET QUEST

DIRECTOR: JENNIFER MARTIN  
SITE FACILITATOR: MICHELLE HULL



## TEACHERS VS STUDENTS SOFTBALL CHALLENGE

May 4th  
Teachers win 20-19!  
*Team Spirit*



*Unity*



*Esprit de corps*

*LUAU* May 17th  
Sponsored by Hemet

## WRESTLING

Coach Robert Sigala had a great season of wrestling with some outstanding athletes.

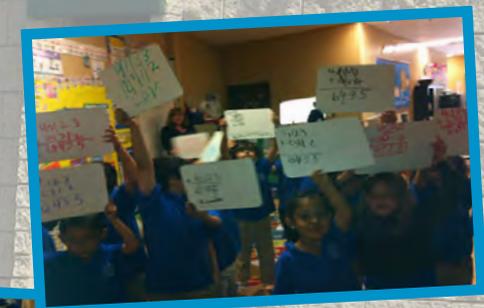


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## KINDERGARTEN PROMOTION

Two Hundred parents, grandparents and friends attended our kindergarten promotion ceremony. One student's grandparents flew all the way from Texas to see their grandson be promoted to the first grade. Students sang songs and were all given awards, medals, and a very special diploma. Students were proud to sing the song "First Grade, First Grade" to the tune of "New York, New York."



## FABULOUS FIRST GRADERS ENGAGE IN HANDS-ON LEARNING



# The Community is our Classroom

## Garden Learning

Thanks go out to: Miriam Rincon (1st grade teacher), Claire Carbonell (Ambassadors of the Earth), Erik Stephens (Lowe's), El Toro Company, and our many parent and student volunteers. The overgrown back area of our school was transformed into an irrigated garden with plots for each grade level, bench seating, a greenhouse, and a tool shed. Our ultimate goal is to have a full functioning garden where we will be able to offer a salad bar and fresh fruit during lunch.



## Field Trip Adventures

Heritage House, Sherman Indian Museum, downtown Riverside's Mission Inn and library, Riley's Farm for Colonial Days, Aquarium of the Pacific, Knott's Berry Farm's Adventures in Education tours, the La Brea Tar Pits, Olvera Street, La County Museum of Art, and the San Jacinto Wetlands



# MAGNOLIA STUDENT CENTER

Director: Monical Lopez  
Site Facilitator: Darlene Blackman

## Science Fair

Grades 4-12

The students did an exceptional job on their science projects. Mr. Giba, the high school science teacher, invited Mr. Wes Belsjo, the chairman of the engineering department, along with two of his students from Cal Baptist University to come judge the science fair. A representative from Peak Energy Time assisted with alternative energy projects. Three of our students won the Alternative Energy Award.



## Healthy Habits

SSAP (Strength, Speed, Agility, Power) Fitness talked to our students about physical fitness and eating healthy.





# Murrieta Student Center

Director: Luz Johnston  
Site Facilitator: Rachel Reiter

## Montessori Spirit Day

CRAZY HAIR DAY  
Teachers and students  
show off their craziest  
hair-dos!



## Willy Wonka Party

Students dressed as their  
favorite character with  
Ms. Luz as Willy Wonka  
"herself."



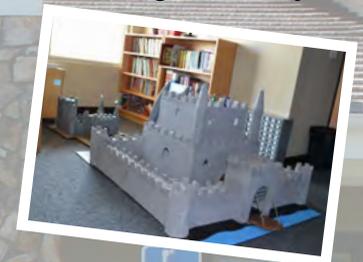
## Fontana Speedway

Luz and Rachel went to the  
Fontana Speedway to ride in  
a pace car for their reading  
program.



## Classical Academy

Mrs. Baynes' 6-8th grade class made homemade castles  
during their study of Medieval times.



## Montessori Science Fair (Upper Elementary)





# Orange County Student Center

Director: Melissa Magner

Site Facilitator: Myrna Teramura

## MONOLOGUES CLASS - A WRITERS FORUM

Teacher: Mary Hering

A sense of camaraderie and respect developed between the students as they positively critiqued each other's monologues. Most of the students' writings were pure fun and whimsical. Once in a while, a prompt triggered some real life experience. For example, one of Mrs. Hering's students shared his real life experience of having been bullied by his football team. Another student wrote about what it was like to be an adopted child. Writing monologues from real life was an amazing experience.



## ARTIST IN OUR SCHOOL

Micaela Manning is an intelligent and vibrant OC Learning Center student. She recently shared her artwork with us, and we found not only does she love to write, she is also an artist! The picture (left) was created by Micaela and colored by Micaela's mother.



## SPANISH CLASS AT MOLAA

"Is that a cupcake or a mushroom?" asked the Spanish students at the Museum of Latin American Art. This museum hosts and boasts art created by Latino artists from around the world. All the artwork at the museum captivated students' minds.



## High School Mathematics Classes

Teacher: Sarah Marsh

Our goal this year was to help students grasp difficult mathematics concepts such as logarithms, geometric proofs, and factoring quadratics while encouraging them to "discover" the patterns and theorems through investigative activities. Students took ownership over their own learning and developed critical thinking skills. Algebra 2 students were introduced the Fibonacci Sequence, studying its relationship to patterns in nature. This inspired students to see mathematics as a part of the complex world in which we live.

## Chemistry and Biology

Teacher: Russ Johnston

Classes implemented "hands-on" activities for students and encouraged creative and fun ways to learn scientific principles. Chemistry & the Collision Theory of Atoms: Students were blindfolded, placed in a roped off area, and counted collisions they made with other students. After varying the concentration (# of students blindfolded) and the change in temperature (speed they walked) they graphed the results. Biology & environmental adaptations: Students taped their thumbs down, & then tried to do some simple activities such as buttoning a shirt and tying a knot in a piece of string. Students were timed doing each of these activities both with and without a thumb. They reported on the study from their actual experiences. Don't worry. No injuries were reported.



## History of the World ~ Hands-On Science ~ Classical Book Club

Teacher: Jennifer Brink

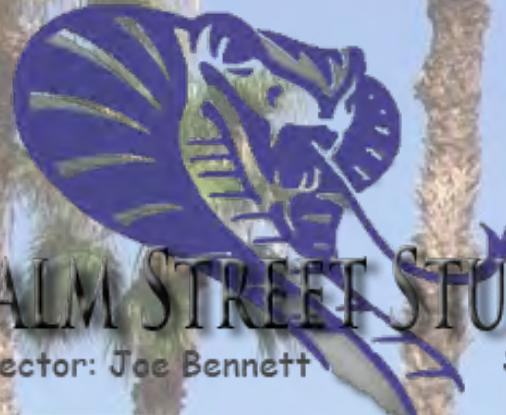
Students made a model of a Roman road, went on a field trip to Discovery Science Center, did hands on science experiments, planted seeds and observed them grow, leveraged their learning, completed community service by planting their flowers at our school, read *Treasure Island*, and made treasure chests to reinforce comprehension. At the end of the year, students enjoyed a pirate-themed party that made the learning even more fun!



# PALM STREET STUDENT CENTER

Director: Joe Bennett

Site Facilitator: Fabian Dean



## The Great California Shake Out



## City of Indio's Golf Cart Parade ~ Carnival Style ~

"Carnival - Our Style!" We leaned towards the Rio Carnival look. Our team consisted of the Banner squad, 2 hip hop dancers, the Flag team, Cheerleaders, and our school's families.



## Mexican Independence Day Celebration!

Students tell the story of Mexico's independence, the struggles, and the victories while performing in a play and dance numbers.



## Annual Tree Lighting Event City Hall

Palm Street opened the show on stage as the countdown began to light the tree.



# Riverside Student Center

**DIRECTOR: MARLA HART**  
**SITE FACILITATOR: KATHY KOBYLARCZYK**



## Musical Theater Productions

This year Mosaic Academy put on a production of "Tonight's the Night" and "United We Stand."

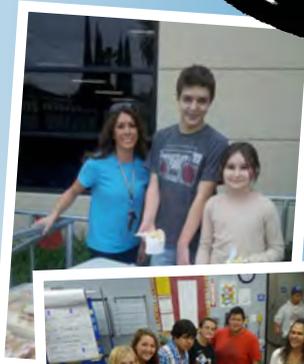


"My family was never into musical theater or being on stage until my son and daughter took this elective. Now my kids not only enjoy performing, but we love going to see shows together as a family."  
 Mosaic Parent



## Associated Student Body (ASB)

"ASB has been such an experience. My favorite part of being in ASB this year was having our monthly meetings. Coming up with wonderful ideas to make the school the best it could possibly be was the best part of it all. ASB gets the kids more involved in school, and once the kids are involved they care more about our school, and the school cares about them. That is why ASB is so important! I've had a wonderful year in ASB, and I honestly don't want to leave."  
 Mosaic ASB President



## Homeschool Enrichment Grades K-8

Enrichment classes for our K-8th grade homeschool students are better than ever! Popular favorites are Dance, Step Up to Writing, Jr. Lego League, and Computer Design/Photography. This coming fall we are excited to add I CAN workshops to our schedule!

Sign-up begins in the month of July and classes fill up early! Check our website for enrollment information at [www.RiverSpringsCharter.Org/Homeschool/hs-learning-centers/Riverside-lc](http://www.RiverSpringsCharter.Org/Homeschool/hs-learning-centers/Riverside-lc), or call (951) 225-7350.



## Annual Science Camp

Mosaic students attended science Astro Camp. Students learned using all the senses - experiencing everything around them in a new and unique way.



"This is our 1st year homeschooling and this is the best schooling experience my child has ever had! I wasn't sure I could do it, and it certainly isn't easy, but it's worth the work. The teachers care about the students, but they also care about helping the parents, which helps the student succeed even more! Astro Camp was the highlight of the year for my child - what an amazing experience!"  
 Mosaic Parent

## First Lego League

Our students attended a Lego League invitational this year at LEGOLAND. Competition included running a XT Robot through a field of tasks, presenting a group research project, demonstrating the core values of FLL, and participating in a question and answer session.



"First Lego League was the main reason I wanted to attend Mosaic. I ended up liking many more things about this school and have made a lot of friends."  
 Mosaic Student

# TEMECULA STUDENT CENTER

Director: Katherine Pangle  
Assistant Director: Philip Parks  
Site Facilitator: Jennifer Trochowski

## Renaissance High School Academy Exhibitions of Learning



Exhibitions held at school for a limited audience include topics such as quantitative reasoning, qualitative reasoning, social reasoning, communication, and personal qualities. Parents or guardians and people from the community are invited to be their audience, asking questions and critiquing the exhibitions.



## Relay for Life

DaVinci Middle School students, teachers, and family members participated in the Temecula Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The team raised over \$2000.



## Broadway & the Arts Trip

Students from the DaVinci and Mosaic Middle School Academies traveled with DaVinci Science teacher Cheryl Buettner to New York City for a history and arts experience that will not be forgotten. The tour was highlighted with an improv workshop led by a Broadway director and two Broadway musicals.

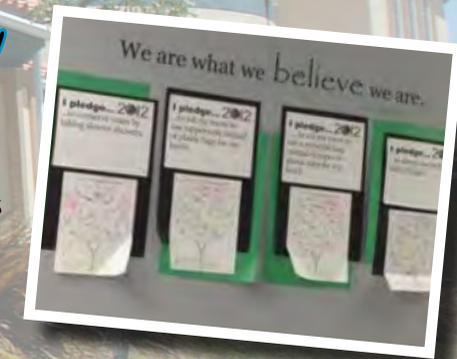


## Elementary Drama Club

The elementary drama club held talent show auditions and had a large turnout with various acts including, piano, puppetry, airplane design, dance routines, and vocal performances.

## Earth Day

Students were encouraged to participate in the "No-Waste Lunch Challenge," bringing lunch in non-disposable containers to raise awareness of waste. The amount of trash generated during the event was almost half what is usual. Students signed Earth Day Pledge Posters for everything from pledging to use both sides of a piece of paper to turning off lights and recycling whenever possible.



1-877-438-4451

# Building Blocks

By Stephanie Parshall  
Homeschool Director  
Curriculum & Instructional Support

**L**earning is like building with blocks. Concepts build upon each other. Think about the vast amount of learning your student has

engaged in over his/her years of schooling. It's pretty phenomenal! It is easy, though, to push forward with all of the new learning that needs to occur without reminding our learners of those important building blocks along the way. Division is difficult if multiplication facts aren't practiced. Advanced punctuation rules don't make sense if basic sentence structure isn't reviewed. The necessary review and practice should not take the place of learning new information, though. One idea for providing review of important concepts is to create an **independent binder**. Nothing in this binder should be new information. The idea is that students should be able to do everything in the binder independently to keep skills fresh and remind them of important information that was previously covered. The sky is the limit when it comes to filling the binder. Here are a few ideas: "I Can" activities, blank maps for labeling, worksheets printed from Enchanted Learning, problem sets or student book pages that were not completed previously, Scantron or ALEKS worksheets, blank writing paper with a prompt written at the top of the page, math fact practice pages, lists for memory practice (states/capitols, prepositions, math formulas), etc... Be sure to allow time each week for the student to work in the binder. You can even keep it in the car for long car rides or appointments. Your students may even have fun trying to find things to put in their binders!



## Photo Collage of our "I Can" Math Day!

By Homeschool Parent: Deena Fausett

My active daughter is a hands-on learner. I used this fun photo collage as a sample to capture our "I Can" Math Day! She loves "Button Beanbag Math" where I have her toss a beanbag to the pile of buttons that is more than or less than the other pile (two beanbags for equal piles) as well as addition and subtraction problems. We worked on counting, recognizing, naming, and ordering 29 hearts for our February calendar. Our "calendar time" helps her figure out the concepts of time—yesterday, tomorrow, day of the week, and month. We made and named common geometric shapes, and then she tried to balance each solid shape on her head, she identified, described, and extended simple patterns of foam stickers of different colors and shapes. She loved identifying, sorting, and classifying our big pile of buttons! Math is such an important life skill! And I want my children to LOVE it! Fun times!



### I CAN CAMP PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"I CAN Camp was great...the girls really liked it and said they want to do it next year...It really gave me a good idea where the girls stand and what to focus on. They sent home really good math books for each girl that reviews all the skills they need to know for their grade."

"My kids absolutely loved "I CAN" camp. They thought their teachers were nice and they came home excited about what they had done that day, and they were even excited about homework. Thanks for making the experience educational, fun, and memorable."

"I just wanted to let you know that both my first grader and my 4th grader had a great time at the camp. I am really shocked at how much they enjoyed it. Thanks for the hard work that you and your teachers put in."

# I can!

RIVER SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOL

Can I do it?  
Yes I can!

River Springs Charter School is built around the concept that students can become lifelong learners by taking charge of their own education.



In order to empower our students to achieve this goal, we have put the California State Standards for English language arts and math into student-friendly language. RSCS students can then look at what needs to be learned during the school year and set their own goals for that learning. Can a kindergarten student set his own educational goals? Yes he can!



To provide a kick-start to the student's motivation we have established an incentive plan:

1. At monthly meetings, the ES will provide the students with prizes for completing an "I Can" goal.
2. For every 5 "I Cans" that are mastered, the student receives a colored wrist band – a different color for every group of 5 "I Cans."
3. When students reach their semester goal, they receive an "I Can" t-shirt and attend an ice cream party.
4. When the annual goals are accomplished, students are treated to a year-end celebration field trip where they receive a medal!

## I CAN CAMP

This year we held our very first I Can Camp. It was a huge success! The kids received personalized instruction and learned some very helpful test-taking strategies. It was wonderful to walk by the classrooms and see all of the great things our students were doing. I saw kids singing, drawing, and beading. One class even created huge shapes out of toilet paper squares and then figured out the perimeter, area, and volume! We had themed snacks and fun games. The teachers did a fantastic job of creating fun learning environments for our students. We were very excited about the turn-out. I can't wait until we do it again next year!



Can your student set her own goals for learning math and language arts? Yes she can! Join us to empower her in the journey to lifelong learning. Check out our September 2012 issue for more great I Can opportunities.



# KUDOS FOR KIDS



**Sarai Wellington** is 14 years old and has had a passion for cooking since she could hold a spatula. This year, in particular, she has focused on French cooking. Every Sunday, Sarai cooks a four course French meal. The dishes have ranged from salads, soups, homemade Brioche bread, Coq au Vin, Souffles, and many more delicious dishes. With River Springs Homeschool program, Sarai has been motivated to apply her passion for cooking to her education. She began a blog that helps fulfill writing assignments. The blog includes recipes she has tried and how the experience went when creating new dishes. Sarai is gaining life skills that can be used for a long time to come.

Recently, Sarai applied and was accepted to the Arts Institute of California's Summer Culinary Adventure Camp. She is the youngest student to be accepted to the program. The program is geared towards high school juniors and seniors who desire to experience a taste of culinary school and to gain more information on pursuing a career in the culinary arts.

If you would like to check out Sarai's blog and learn to create delicious French cuisine, visit her at:

<http://frenchcooking101.blogspot.com>



My name is **Chandler Themm**, I am 9 years old and in 4th grade. I love science, and my goal is to be a doctor one day. I own and enjoy reading medical books for fun. I have a microscope, stethoscope, and other cool pieces of equipment I have started to collect. In the recent science fair project at River Springs, I did an experiment on the digestive system. This experiment tested natural and processed foods and their impact on the digestive system. I won a third place award. My doctor, Dr. Im, takes time to talk to me about all kinds of cool medical stuff and quizzes me all the time on what I know. I also like to diagram different systems in the body and am working on a medical book for kids.



## **Catherine Williammee**

(age 10) at her Show jumping competition: Equestrian Trails

E.T.I Corral 50

Two-1st place wins and Four-2nd place wins

For 12 and under

## **Joshua Williammee**

won first place at the "Way of the Warrior" 15th Annual Open Martial Arts Tournament on May 12th as an 11 year old in Sparring. He also won first place in forms for his division.



## **Olyvia Lauren Preciado**

After being homeschooled from 3rd-11th grade and finishing my senior year at River Springs Charter School Keys Program, I plan on attending Concordia University in Irvine to start my pre-med studies with a major in chemistry in hopes of becoming a cardiovascular surgeon. Before diving into this long journey I will be taking a trip to Port-au-Prince, Haiti where I will join a mission team from Harvest Christian Fellowship. We will be building a church for the Haitian people there. I hope that the trip will be a life changing experience. For quite some time I have had a strong desire to help others. Through this mission trip I not only want the chance to improve the lives of others but also to expose myself to other cultures.

In 2014, I once again hope to set out on another adventure to ten foreign countries for a whole semester with Concordia University where we will be studying, completing mission work, and becoming culturally acclimated. As my high school journey ends, a new and brighter journey begins.



# KUDOS FOR KIDS



**Kyle Johnson** was selected for USA Water Polo's National selection camp. The National selection camp is a pipeline to the Olympics. He is one of 40 top water polo players in California and Hawaii for the 8th grade and under age range.

## Randi Edge

Having a passion for music Randi strove to learn the violin and that led her to Carnegie Hall in June 2009. As a part of a Fine Arts Academy, Randi was able to experience New York as a visiting artist and played her violin to Schubert's Mass in G with her orchestra. Randi graduated from River Springs Keys High School program this year and has set new goals. She strives to excel and encourages others on the way. Randi's positive outlook and loving spirit are an inspiration.



## GREAT JOB, HOSANNA!

Congratulations to eighth grader Hosanna Collier for her participation at the Riverside County Office of Education SPELLING BEE in March! At the county level, each student must complete a short biography about themselves. In Hosanna's own words.....

"Of my thirteen years, I have spent endless hours reading novels of high adventure or historical fiction, learning and studying new words, and writing stories of my own, all because of my fascination with words themselves. While I am no expert, I find a certain thrill in new words, as if I have just discovered a pathway to a new world. In fact, one of my ambitions is to read the complete and unabridged dictionary, although I am also working to become a published author. However, my life consists of more than mere words (though the past few weeks have been spent having family members and friends quiz me over and over again) for I enjoy beading, knitting/crocheting, and sketching casually, as well as several other hobbies that require no words."



## STEM NIGHT

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

STEM Night at Temecula a great success!

RSCS -Temecula hosted a STEM night on Thursday, March 29th. Organized by middle school science teacher, Cheryl Buetner, STEM night included a multitude of demonstrations by students, teachers, vendors, and clubs all designed to engage students and foster curiosity. All grades of math and science were represented, from elementary through high school. Students, parents, and families were encouraged to attend, and the turnout was large and enthusiastic. Every table or booth included a "hands-on" activity, encouraging both students and their families to "light the spark of curiosity and wonder," from which all true scientific progress is born. Memorable demonstrations included the tornado vortex models, hosted by student David Roll. Telescopes were provided by the Riverside Astronomical Society, allowing observers to actually view the surface of the sun! A special shout-out to parent Michelle Bianco for contacting the Astronomical Society and arranging for their presence, it was fabulous! We are all looking forward to next year's STEM night.



# YOUNG AUTHOR'S WRITING CONTEST

**CONGRATULATIONS** go out to all RSCS students who participated in our "Young Author's Writing Contest." This year, we had 83 amazing entries! Students in grades K-8 were eligible to compete in the Caldecott and Newbery categories. Some of the creative titles included: "The Grapes of Cats," "The Mystery Dude and the Case of La Paz," "Fairynapped!," "The Adventures of Bea the Flea," "Keith von Heath! Before You Go to Bed, Please Brush Your Teeth!," and many more! Enjoy a few excerpts from our stories, and I guarantee that you will want to finish the book. Fortunately, you will have that opportunity at our Curriculum Conference in September where these stories and more will be previewed!

## "The Continuum" by Edward D. Eickmeyer, Grade 8

In an unexpected flash an oval projection appeared in front of Alex. This projection had a green glow to it. It showed Alex a space map with lots of grids in different directions. He could see the orbit of different planets like Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. And just as the planets appeared they disappeared, and now Alex was staring at a spiral mist. As he stood, there was a voice that came through the stone. He was trying to grasp everything that was around him. It was unreal. The voice coming from the stone told Alex, "This is the gateway to worlds beyond your own, the portal to things greater than existence." It continued to speak to Alex. The voice in the stone explained to Alex that it had been waiting for him for a long time. "This is your destiny Alex. You are meant for things greater than just your world." Alex was confused. "Who are you?" asked Alex. The voice answered him and told Alex, "It doesn't matter who I am but what you will become." Again Alex was confused. What was this voice trying to tell him?

## "The Determined Fairy" by Bethany Arabe, Grade 4

In a land high above the clouds was a place called Fairytasia. To an outsider it may seem like an ordinary city, filled with houses, playgrounds, parks, hiking trails, restaurants, buildings and stores. But it was a mystical place, full of fun, magic, and adventure. It was a place where imagination and creativity were unlimited. It was a land of fairies!

## "A Day In Whitecap" by Caroline Katzmann, Grade 6

Instead of a bag of chips and candy bars, a huge, thick venomous python was inside the box. They all jumped back and looked at each other frantically. "What are we going to do? We are going to die! Death at 12 years old! Why?" Deacon gasped. Then he started hyperventilating. Did I forget to mention that Deacon hyperventilated almost once a week? I guess I did. Ooops!

## "The Princess and The Unicorn Save The Day!" by Caitlyn Jennings, Grade 1

One day, a mean dragon came to Fairy Tale Land. He was as big as a dinosaur with shiny green scales and shimmering green wings. He yelled a loud "RAWRI!" and scared all of the magical animals away! Princess Buttercup wanted the animals to come back. She started looking all through the Enchanted Forest, and she saw a unicorn! It was a beautiful unicorn. She had a pink body with rainbow hair and a sparkly gold horn.

## "My Day At The Zoo" by Sophia Aberg, Grade 2

Then the next thing we went to see was a camel. The camel had a bump on its back. It had a tree in the cage. The camel was so orange. The camel was grumpy. The next thing we went to see was a cheetah. The cheetah had a lot of spots on it. The cheetah is so fast at running. The next thing we went to see was a hippopotamus. The hippo was in water. The hippo was so happy, like the giraffe.

# YOUNG AUTHOR'S WRITING CONTEST ENTRANTS & WINNERS

## Entrants

Aberg, Garrett; Aberg, Gabriella; Aberg, Sophia; Aberg, Madilynn; Adams, Alexis; Arabe, Savannah; Arabe, Bethany; Beck, Fiorella; Beck, Ederyn; Beck, Savannah; Bland, Bailey; Buck, Sky; Dixon, Jonathan; Doepner, Dabney Margaret; Doepner, Mary Travis; Dossi, Sofie; Dossi, Zakary; Egler, Sarah; Eickmeyer, Edward D.; French, Kaysee; French, Robynne; Hambrick, Catie; Healy, Micah; Healy, Aaron; Ivy, Jessica; Jennings, Caitlyn; Katzmann, Sean; Katzmann, Caroline; Kelley, John; Kelley, Rose; Kelley, James; Kelley, Anne; Konrad, Sadie; Krueger, Michael; Krueger, Morgan; Lehman, Troy; Lehman, Jakey; Lemasters Tahir, Eva; Lemasters Tahir, Benjamin; Lewis, Steven; Lewis-Sandlin, Karly; Lewis-Sandlin, Abigail; Loeffler, Luke; Means, Rebekah; Means, Micah; Means, Josiah; Nix, Austyn; Nix, Aubrianna; Ohara, Allison; Oliver, Jaden; Oliver, Rylen; Phillips, Nathan; Phillips, Ian; Piskulich, Franko; Piskulich, Nikolai; Porter-Olson, Ireland; Pregler, Chase; Richter, Catrina; Rizzo, Macy; Rizzo, Kiley LeeAnn; Sabol, Joseph Daniel; Sabol, Nathan Joel; Schmit, Bethany; Shaner, Timory Kelley; Silvia, Sofia; Smith, Leslea; Spranger, Caleb; Spranger, Cambria; Spurling, Elizabeth; Stites, Ephraim; Stites, Emmanuel; Summers, Jackie; Tangredi, Mercy; Tavarez, Aylee; Tavarez, Renan James; Themm, Chandler; Themm, McKenna; Tyo, Emily; Tyo, Robert; Tyo, Hannah; Vaughan, Chloe

## First Place

Last Name	First Name	Grade	Award
Jennings	Caitlyn	1	Caldecott
Stites	Emmanuel	3	Caldecott
Smith	Leslea	4	Caldecott
Dossi	Sofie	5	Caldecott
Eickmeyer	Edward D.	8	Caldecott
Sabol	Nathan Joel	1	Newbery
Arabe	Savannah	3	Newbery
Arabe	Bethany	4	Newbery
Silvia	Sofia	5	Newbery
Dossi	Zakary	7	Newbery

## Third Place

Last Name	First Name	Grade	Award
Lemasters Tahir	Benjamin	1	Caldecott
Spurling	Elizabeth	3	Caldecott
Porter-Olson	Ireland	4	Caldecott
Hambrick	Catie	6	Caldecott
Oliver	Rylen	3	Newbery
Piskulich	Franko	4	Newbery
Phillips	Ian	5	Newbery
Ivy	Jessica	7	Newbery

## Second Place

Last Name	First Name	Grade	Award
Stites	Ephraim	1	Caldecott
Piskulich	Nikolai	2	Caldecott
Themm	Chandler	4	Caldecott
French	Robynne	6	Caldecott
Egler	Sarah	7	Caldecott
Kelley	Anne	k	Newbery
Piskulich	Nikolai	2	Newbery
Loeffler	Luke	3	Newbery
Summers	Jackie	4	Newbery
Katzmann	Caroline	6	Newbery
Doepner	Mary Travis	7	Newbery

## Honorable Mention

Name	First Name	Grade	Award
Rizzo	Kiley LeeAnn	5	Newbery
Aberg	Sophia	2	Caldecott
Konrad	Sadie	7	Newbery

# Science Department



**Ashley Bianco** placed fourth out of 100 projects in the category of Plant Science at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair May 13-18 in Pittsburgh, PA. Intel ISEF brought 1,549 projects from 68 countries for the world's most prestigious science competition awarding over \$4 million in prizes. Ashley made friends with students from counties like Austria, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and many more. Intel and the Society for Science and the Public sent Ashley on an all expense paid trip to Sacramento, California. Ashley was invited to the California State Capitol to be recognized by the legislature for her contributions to science. Intel hosted the 26 elite STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) students at the Innovation Showcase. Ashley met with Senator Dutton and discussed the importance of STEM programs like the one at River Springs Charter School. Ashley presented her research to members of the legislature and was asked by Intel to carry on the legacy of inspiring more young scientists just as her science teachers have done for her. Ashley thanked Mrs. Kent of RSCS for inspiring her through the awesome field trips and mobile science labs. Ashley Bianco and RSCS were recognized as innovators in the field of STEM. Governor Brown paid a surprise visit to Ashley Bianco and spoke with about her research and its applications.

As a homeschool mother or home educator with River Springs Charter School, I worked hard to provide a fertile environment for my children's interests. Around middle school, my child's curiosity steered towards the sciences and as a member of River Springs Charter School, I used the field trips as the reward for hard work and academic challenge. I encourage parents to fully envelope your child's passion by watching, listening, and participating with them. Create themes around the house that everyone can participate in. Most of all, be your child's cheerleader, because the rest of the world will weigh them down, so why not lift them up? Eventually, my daughter learned to pursue her passions with great vigor, and the results remain to be seen.



**Mary Travis Doepner** is a 7th Grade Homeschool student and CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR WINNER! Mary Travis won Gold at the 2012 RIMS Regional Science & Engineering Fair in April and went on to the California State Fair to win a 3rd place of the entire state of California in the Junior Division, Environmental Engineering Category. Her sister is Dabney Margaret Doepner. Both won first place in their grade level groupings at the River Springs Science Fair held at the River Springs Student Center (Chicago Avenue, Riverside). Both went on to win 1st place in their grade levels at the district level fair held by River Springs in Temecula. From there, both went to RIMS and won gold medals. Dabney Margaret had to finish up there since only grades 9-12 go to the State Science Fair. <http://www.usc.edu/CSSF/Current/Awards/J10.html>

Mary Travis has the additional honor to be the first River Springs Charter student to place in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the California State Fair!

On Monday, May 14th Mary Travis Doepner presented her Environmental Engineering project at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Riverside Flood Control and Water Conservation District in the presence of the city mayor and many other dignitaries. They are using her science to design a \$2.5 million water project! Mary Travis was nominated to compete in a national middle school science competition with finalists going on to Washington DC, all expenses paid, and a chance at the top award of \$25,000.



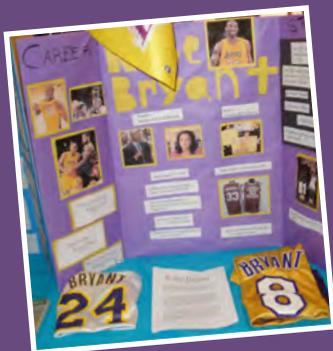
## TALENT SHOW & INSPIRED LEARNER

Homeschool Events ended with a big "BANG" this May as our very talented students performed in our Talent Show and presented their Inspired Learner projects! This year, we had a fantastic turnout with 42 acts and 15 projects! Families enjoyed a wonderful afternoon watching our students sing, dance, recite, play instruments, and perform martial arts. The program also starred a comedian and magician! Before, during, and after the show, families had the opportunity to "Meet an Expert" as they explored our Inspired Learner projects. These projects are designed by our students, and they become the "expert" on a specific topic. Each project contains a written, visual, and oral component. Once again our Homeschool students proved that River Springs really does have talent!

A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED...

# INSPIRED LEARNER EXPO 2012

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Savannah Arabe          | Evehenia Lemasters Tahir |
| Bethany Arabe           | Benjamin Lemasters Tahir |
| Kyler Aszterbaum        | Desiree Marcil           |
| Josie Aszterbaum        | Raquel Marcil            |
| Erin Betsworth          | Gavin Mares              |
| Jocelyn Buckley         | Agatha McIntyre          |
| Sydney Burr             | Hannah Noel              |
| Noelle Cardiel          | Mary Pendleton           |
| Kelsey Cardiel          | Lauren Reeves            |
| Devin Cardwell          | Nicole Reeves            |
| Lilliana Cardwell       | Kayla Reffner            |
| Olivia Cardwell         | Ben Ross                 |
| Hugh Carney             | Julia Ross               |
| Gwendolyn Carney        | Nathan Joel Sabol        |
| Carson Carroll          | Joseph Daniel Sabol      |
| Talia Craft             | Jeremiah Salomon         |
| Talon Craft             | Grace Seibel             |
| Mary Travis Doepner     | Annah Seibel             |
| Margaret Dabney Doepner | Timory Kelley Shaner     |
| Sarah Egler             | Sofia Silvia             |
| Kaysee French           | Jacob Tinker             |
| Robynne French          | Caleb Tinker             |
| Jessica Funk            | Chloe Wangler            |
| Sevrin Kessinger        | Paul Welsh               |
|                         | Ezra White               |



# Your River Springs Vendors

Discipline	Contact Information	Locations	Website
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The Clay Room	951-541-4382	Temecula	jensclayroom.com
<b>Athletics / Physical Fitness</b>			
B&G Ice Skating & Hockey	951-264-4233	Lake Elsinore	
Bonnie Grummett Swimming	951-678-0814	Wildomar	catkd@yahoo.com
CA Taekwondo Center	949-461-7700	Lake Forest	
Journey Martial Arts	951-283-2596	Lake Elsinore	journeymartialarts.us
Scott Marson Golf		Murrieta	smarson33@yhoo.com
So Cal Judo	951-699-8969	Temecula	socaljudo.com
Tennis Lessons	949-859-6914	Lake Forest	
<b>Music Education &amp; Performing Arts</b>			
Fountain Valley Yamaha	714-596-4788	Orange County	www.fountainvalleyyamahamusicsschool.com
Medici Music Studio	951-600-9296	Wildomar	medicimusicstudio.com
Music Star	951-780-5365	Riverside	musicstaracademy.net
My Music	951-229-4124		mymusicle.com
Nancy Peters - Violin	951-665-6401	San Jacinto	
Play Me a Song - Guitar	949-922-3115	Mission Viejo	playmeasong.com
Rhonda Parish Music Studio	909-772-3346	Temecula	rhondaparishvoice.musicteachershelper.com
Riverside Ballet Arts	951-686-0226	Riverside	riversideballetarts.com
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Westfall Voice	951-704-8643	Wildomar	www.westfallvoice.com
Zach Bell Guitar Lessons	951-468-0074	Murrieta	zachbellguitar.com
<b>Tutoring</b>			
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Crystal Hume	951-273-0153	Corona	
Greene's Tutoring	760-780-2257	Yucca Valley & Surround	openhumanlearning.com
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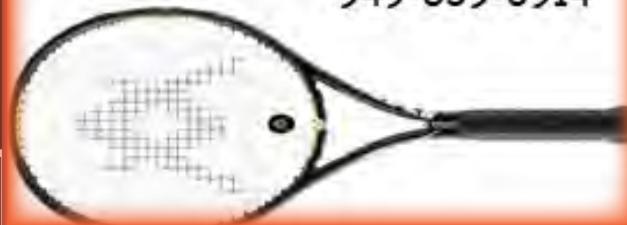
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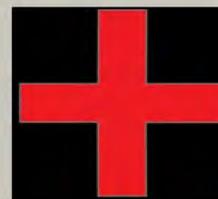
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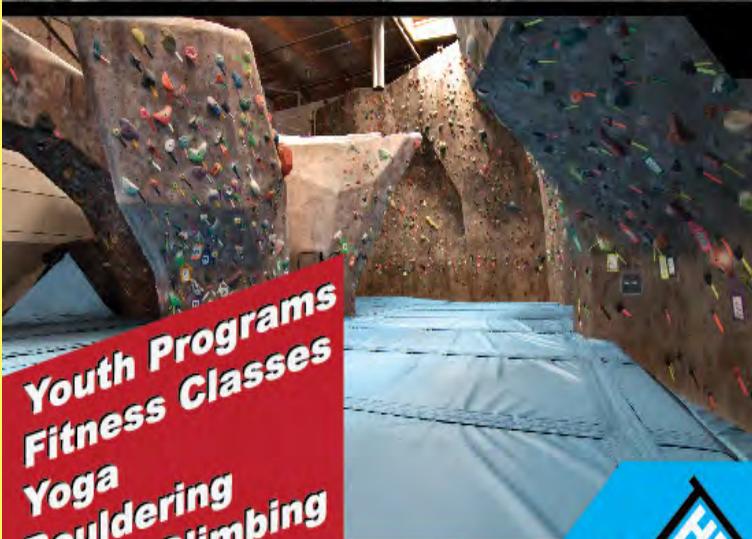
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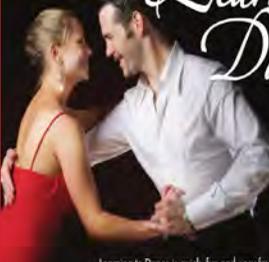
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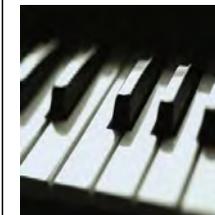
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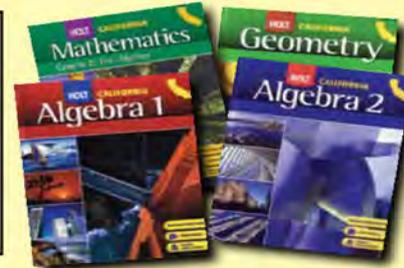


### Mathematics Review/Preview

\$149<sup>99</sup>/12 sessions • Starts June 19<sup>th</sup> • Tues-Thurs • 6-7 pm

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra • Pre-Algebra • Algebra • Geometry • Algebra 2

Prepare your child for next year or review last year's Mathematics. Strengthen your child's foundation of algebra—it's the base for all future mathematics classes. Don't let your child struggle next year—get him/her on track now. We review next year's textbook, chapter by chapter, and introduce many new concepts every day. This way when they are in class, they are already familiar with the concept.



### Small Reading Groups

\$179<sup>99</sup>/12 sessions • Starts June 19<sup>th</sup> • Tues-Thurs • 10-10:45 am

Our credentialed reading teacher will provide a solid foundation including phonics, decoding, fluency, while building vocabulary and comprehension. Students will be assigned reading, and homework. These are small group sessions with limited spots.

**Private Sessions and additional small groups are available.**

**Sessions can be combined with math tutoring.**



All Summer

### Silly Science on Tuesdays

\$49<sup>99</sup> / 5 weeks

Students will be exploring, discovering and creating a science project every week. Whether it's making slime, exploring space or learning about magnetism, this jam-packed activity will delight and engage your child on a whole new level. Boys and girls alike will enjoy the creativity and the eccentricity of our staff. Bring a friend for double the fun.



All Summer

### Creative Arts on Thursdays

\$49<sup>99</sup> / 5 weeks

Students will be painting, drawing, or working with sculpey clay to create a new project every week that is designed to delight them. We have lots of fun exploring the art world utilizing different medians.

*Available all Summer*



### Study Skills/Test Taking

\$99<sup>99</sup>/2 weeks • Starts June 19<sup>th</sup> or July 10<sup>th</sup> • Tues/Thurs • 5-6 pm

Middle School/High School

During this 4 session small group, students will be taught test taking strategies and study skills while learning effective study techniques, organizational skills, time management skills and note taking. Reading and listening skills as well as outlining will be included.

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