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Newsletter

for Homework Central...fostering academic success through tutoring & family support

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Calendar

details and locations at:
www.smhwc.org

Last Day 2014-15
Thur, 05/21/15

Please note the schedule has changes from previous years due to the new Blended School Calendar

Volunteer Orientation
Mon, 08/31/15 7:00pm

First Day 2015-16
Tues 09/08/15

Fall Break- NO HWC
Mon 10/12/15-Mon 10/26/15

Thanksgiving- NO HWC
Wed 11/25/15-Thu 11/26/15

Winter Break- NO HWC
Mon 12/21/15-Fri 01/01/16

MLK Holiday- NO HWC
Mon 01/18/16-Tue 1/19/16

Pres Holiday- NO HWC
Mon 02/15/16-Tue 02/16/16

Spring Break- NO HWC
Mon 03/25/16-Fri 04/08/16

Last Day 2015-16
Thur, 05/19/16 (tentative)

2015 Student Graduates

Spring is typically graduation time. The staff would like to acknowledge all of the Homework Central 5th Graders who are graduating from our program.

Park: Reyna C. Nelvin D., Rodrigo H., Jonathan A. and Jose P.

Sunnybrae: Christin G., Emelie P., Jacqueline D., and Ashley M.

UUSM: Jorge C., Evlyne D., Saray C. and Kevin and Brandon S.

Martin Luther King: Arturo L., Yazmin C., Suguey V., Victor C., Grace, Deiver, Jesse and Estevan.

Maria - Paid Intern

by Kathy Kinner

Maria joined the ranks of paid student interns at Park Elementary School in September 2014. Yet, she is a familiar face to many at Homework Central. Maria was once a Homework Central student beginning in the third grade. She had difficulty with learning and studying as a child. Homework Central helped Maria to become a better, more assured student.

In her words, when taking the job as intern, "I reflected on what happened to me as a kid. I wanted to help the kids who are struggling now... Because I am bilingual, I can also help to communicate with parents." Maria finds that through her work with the children of Homework Central, she is also learning new things. She sees the children as a source of inspiration and motivation. "They look up to me so much that it makes me do better."

Maria is now a junior at San Mateo High School. After graduating from high school, Maria hopes to attend CSM and then to transfer to Notre



Dame. She likes working with children and thought about becoming a teacher but has decided she would like to run a day-care instead. "I want to help families who need someone to look after their kids."

Maria is active in the Dance program at San Mateo High and also dances with Ballet Folklorico. Maria has performed with this group for five years. Maria will be performing with Ballet Folklorico at Central Park in San Mateo on June 6th.

No Homework Tonight Annual Event



Above: Christie Miller

Below, L-R: Daniel, Eynle, Oscar, Jacqueline



Our annual No Homework Tonight celebration was held on the evening of April 10, 2015. It was truly a gala event with many new faces, a beautiful setting with flowers and amazing speakers. Christie Miller, the Principal at Park Elementary School gave the keynote address about the need for after school programs and what they offer to children. It was a moment of reflection for all of us; one of those truly show-stopping stories. Christie had been one of those children who received tutor support after school and into college. Her education and career is evidence of her commitment to the education of children. Other speakers included long-time volunteer Brenda Sell and one of our Tutor Interns, Riley

Woo. The four children representing each of the four sites introduced their family members and read their essays for all to hear about why Homework Central is so important. The setting for the event was awash in yellow and purple, with flowers throughout the rooms. Guests were reviewing the children's books on each table. Food was skillfully prepared by our very own Board Member, Greg Graves. Just imagine putting on a reception for more than a hundred people and doing it all with amateurs as your staff. Greg's calm demeanor was ever present in the kitchen and Dawn (his spouse) helped pull the last minute items together. We had many of our interns and high school staff serving goodies during the evening. Each intern and staff bring something unique to the children in the program – whether it is an ability to help students with math, being a role model to a student, using their bi-lingual skills to help communicate with families, or having passion and enthusiasm for volunteering with children.

Our auction was quite an event as usual. Frank Seebode must have been an auctioneer in another life – he brought

energy, fun and laughter to the auction. Holly Miner donated a true gem of an item; a "signed" Forty-niner football from 1989. The bidding on that item was raucous. Several photos and books from Ann Silver were also part of the auction. The Civil War book produced by her husband Randy was sought after by several history buffs. Two little girls were very excited about making cupcakes with their mom – another auction item.

A number of local businesses donated to the organization including: 31st Union Restaurant, Aldo's Pizza, Amici's East Coast Pizzeria, B Street & Vine, Barloga Studio, Beeline Bikes, Cycling Coach Thomas Chapple, California Academy of Science, Children's Discovery Museum, CuriOdyssey Museum, Fish Market Restaurant, Golden State Warriors, Hiller Aviation Museum, Hillbarn Theater, Joseph Phelps Vineyard, Junior Gym of San Mateo, L'Ecole – Cindy Widmar, Laser Quest, Menlo Grill Bistro, Osteria Coppa, Planet Granite, San Francisco 49er's, Spokesman Bicycles, Stanford Park Hotel, Summit Bicycles, Tech Museum in San Jose, The Fish Market, Trader Joes, and WildEye Winery.

Our community of volunteers, staff, business owners, foundations and corporate sponsors make this event possible – thanks to each and every one of them.



Middle School Student Returns

by Matt Feuer

I unexpectedly bumped into Jose (not his real name) during my tutoring day at our UUSM site. Jose moved during the first grade from El Salvador to California to be with his mom and her second family. He didn't speak a word of English. Jose's father, with whom he lived in El Salvador, was unstructured in his parenting. Mom was all about structure and accountability. Jose entered Homework Central in the fourth grade and spent two years with us. According to Jill Wagner, our Site Coordinator, Jose needed to make a big leap in his English language proficiency plus he was still adjusting to his new family and life in America. Talk about a steep hill to climb.

By the fifth grade, Jose was on top of everything! He was organized for each day and came fully prepared to complete his homework assignments. I saw a thoughtful student who was transformed. He was fun to be around, displayed an eagerness to learn and was confident. Jose was the student that fellow classmates approached when it came to borrowing a book or finding out about homework assignments.

Jose is now in middle school. His favorite subjects are science and art, and let's not forget futbol. His brother attends Homework Central as a third grader.

Jose now tutors other students at Homework Central. Why? Per Jose, "When I came to Homework Central, other people came to help me and now I want to help other students."



SVGIVES & Cinco de Mayo

Silicon Valley Gives had their annual one day fundraiser on May 5, 2015 - Cinco de Mayo. The UUSM site celebrated with Mariachi music with our very own, Lucia and Lizabeth!

VOLUNTEER TUTORS are always needed. For more information, please check our website at: www.smhwc.org

Multiplication Masters

by Holly Miner

The children at our 2014-2015 Sunnybrae School site dived into the Multiplication Masters (and Division Daredevils) program with gusto! It didn't take long for all 23 students put their names on the chart and promise to practice their multiplication tables through twelve.

I let the children choose the numbers that they wanted to practice and, when they were ready, I tested them verbally and out of sequence. This can be challenging as many children learn their multiplication tables in order (perhaps you still sing the alphabet song?). For every set of three numbers they got correct, they could select a prize. I gave out 87 prizes, and made lot of trips to the Dollar Store!

By May 14, 2015, there were TEN Multiplication Masters and TWO Division Daredevils! The MM each receive two movie tickets and the DD get a \$10 gift card to use towards food at the theater. Multiplication Masters: Jackie, Christin, Yadira, Genesis, Luis, Ashley M, Emelie, & Wendy. Mariangel & Adhilene, for BOTH Multiplicationa Masters and Division Daredevils!

If you would like to help with Multiplication Masters next year at one of our sites, please contact Holly Miner via email: volunteer@smhwc.org It is really fun!

Homework Central

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Free Summertime Activities

Looking for something fun for the entire family? Get up close with science and animals for free at **CuriOdyssey's Community Days**.

Explore science and meet native California animals! CuriOdyssey's free Community Days take place on varying days, both during the week and on the weekend, so that more visitors have the opportunity to experience CuriOdyssey. Please be aware that Community Days are typically crowded in the morning and early afternoon. If you'd like to avoid the crowd, consider coming later in the day.

Upcoming Community Days: Wednesday, July 8, 2015 and Sunday, September 13, 2015 for more information visit their website at: www.curiodyssey.org/

Another fun way to interact with an animal for free is at the **San Mateo Public Library**. Come read to a dog. Paws for Tales/Read to a Dog where Independent readers spend time reading to a "great listener." Sponsored by Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA. At 4:00pm in the Book Bubble in the Children's Area on June 8, July 13 and August 10

For all of the storytime schedule and locations, go to: www.cityofsanmateo.org/DocumentCenter/View/42609).

California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco Golden Gate Park **Quarterly Free Sundays**

One Sunday per quarter, admission is free to the general public, thanks to generous support from Chase. Early arrival is recommended due to the likelihood of high demand. Our next Free Sunday is June 7, 2015. More information on their website: www.calacademy.org/admission

