



the

Newsletter

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

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

Changing Times for Homework Central

There are several changes that impact Homework Central this year. Our program at Martin Luther King Center has been moved into a smaller room. We currently support 19 students at this site. Our hope is to relocate to one or both of the elementary schools served by this location.

We have a new San Mateo-Foster City School Superintendent along with two new principals who serve two of the four elementary schools supported by Homework Central. Our new Superintendent, Joan Rosas returns to the San Mateo-Foster City School District from her role as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, San Mateo County Office of Education. In addition, Robin May is the new Principal at Sunnybrae Elementary School and Sandra Phillips-Sved is the new Principal at Park Elementary School. Welcome to all!

Molly Wagner has resigned as the Park Site Coordinator. Taking Molly's place is Phil Lind. Mr. Lind recently retired from the Redwood City Elementary School District. He worked as a first grade teacher for 7 years before entering administration. He was, for three years, an assistant Principal and fourteen years the principal of Clifford School. Phil holds a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, an Administrative Services Clear Credential, and a Masters Degree in Educational Administration. His most recent work for Redwood City was Director of Assessment and Student Services and he was the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Coordinator for the Smarter Balanced and CASSPP Assessment systems. Phil has also been one of tutors at the Sunnybrae School site, as well as a volunteer at many of our Family Night events, so he is very familiar with Homework Central.



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Calendar

Details at our website:
www.smhwc.org

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

Understanding HWC
Students & Families
Sat, 02/20/16 10am
Congregational Church

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

No Homework Tonight
Annual Fundraiser
Fri 04/08/16-6-9pm

Tutor Thank You Tea
Wed, 05/18/16
Congregational Church

Last Day for Tutoring
Thur, 05/19/16

Year End Celebration
Sat, 05/21/16
Congregational Church

Parent Advisory Group

by Rosa Molina

We are looking forward to continuing our new Parent Advisory Group this school year. Parents from our UUSM, Park School, Sunnybrae and Martin Luther King sites have come together to help achieve Homework Central's core mission of advancing the learning needs of at-risk elementary school students. We believe that family support begins with parents being involved in their children's education. During these meetings, parents learn more about the Homework Central program and we gain knowledge about the needs and concerns of families. One thing is certain- parents want to be involved any way they can in helping their children to be successful in school.

The Parent Advisory Group is supported by Board Members Rosa Molina and Melodie Lew. The group was formed last year. New family members have joined the group.

Feedback from parents has been very positive.

- Parents want their children to be well prepared to attend and graduate college/university.
- Parents notice that since their children have attended our program, homework gets completed and turned in on time. Children have also taken greater personal initiative for their learning. When at home, children get books to read on their own without being told to do so by their parents.
- Students REALLY like the snacks they receive each day. These kids can eat! Students also talk to their families about the books they read at Homework Central.
- Parents would like to see Homework Central sponsor more evening programs geared toward both student and parent education.

NO HOMEWORK TONIGHT
Friday, April 8 6:00pm
at the Congregational Church of San Mateo
Invitations coming soon

San Mateo Elks Lodge Gives Grant to Homework Central

by Matt Feuer

Thank you San Mateo Elks Lodge for your generous donation to Homework Central. Your donation will be earmarked to pay a one year salary for Jasmine, one of our student aides. Jasmine graduated from San Mateo High School in May 2015. She now attends College of San Mateo and is in her second year working as a student aide at Homework Central. Jasmine helps students complete their homework assignments; works on skills improvement in mathematics, reading and writing; and mentors students to learn problem solving strategies. As a bilingual speaker, Jasmine is able to communicate with parents in Spanish. She enjoys helping children and is considering a career as a teacher, social worker or maybe a pediatrician. For Jasmine, "coming to Homework Central is the highlight of each day." We

are very proud of Jasmine. Together, we are encouraging students to be life-long learners.

Founded in New York on February 16, 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a patriotic, nonpolitical, and nonsectarian organization of over 2,100 Elks Lodges throughout the U.S. The San Mateo Lodge No. 1112 was chartered in 1908 and currently has over 1,400 members. The San Mateo Lodge participates in many charitable causes which includes providing support to children and young adults, often in the area of education.



Technology Staff



In our commitment to increasing the computer skills of our students, our latest employee and Technology Analyst is Ada Crutchfield. The organization is very pleased with her skills. Ada is furthering the implementation and use of Chromebook computers at each of our four sites.

Ada's background is an excellent match for our program and the needs of children at school. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from San Jose State University and a Master of Science Degree in Educational Technology from Fullerton State University.

Ada has been working with our Site Coordinators and the High School and College

Student Aides on ways to coordinate the prudent use of computers and technology tools among our students. Her passion and commitment to children is a tremendous asset for the organization.



Mad Science Night

Family Night - September 23, 2015

Mad Science Night is always a favorite of children and parents. The normal science laboratory becomes a classroom experience for children in amazing and wonderful ways. How many third graders can say that they saw Bernoulli's Principle in action? Science based programs such as Mad Science Night brings excitement and engagement to our students and their siblings. Opportunities like this can be the "aha moment" for children, thereby encouraging them to explore science in school and maybe carve out a future career in one of many science disciplines.



Our organization has made a commitment to families and students to offer more night and possibly weekend activities throughout the school year. If you have ideas about other programs that might enhance the educational experience and curiosity of our students, please get in touch with Richard Geimer, Executive Director at rgeimer@smhwc.org or better yet attend one of our family nights.

