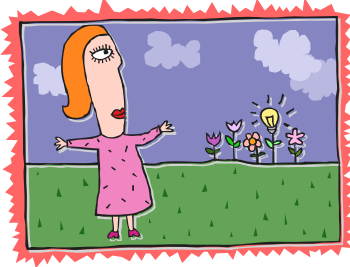


GATE Discovery Days

Class Catalog 2009-10



Dear GATE Parents and Students,

This catalog describes the new lineup of exciting Discovery Days classes. Please look through the class descriptions, make your selections, and complete the enclosed/attached registration form. Please note that some classes are offered to certain grade levels only. When you've completed the registration form, submit it to the District office. Registration is on a **first-come-first-served basis until classes are at capacity** - yet we do our best to make sure that each student is enrolled in their top choice. Classes may be canceled if there is not sufficient enrollment.

The Discovery Days program is an optional program which provides extended instruction and educational activities designed to inspire students and to broaden or deepen their learning in a variety of curriculum areas. When selecting classes, please keep your child's after school schedule in mind to avoid conflicts. We realize that students are very busy; please try to prioritize your child's commitments. If you sign up for a class and then cannot attend, it prevents other students from enrolling. We really appreciate cancellation calls. Parents need to provide transportation to and from class.

Students will receive a confirmation letter, call, or e-mail **beginning October 2, 2009**. (This is not a *registration* deadline. Registration is ongoing.) Classes #1, 2, and 3 will be confirmed first since they begin on October 7th. When you receive your confirmation, please add these classes to your child's calendar, noting the date, time and place of each class (ALL sessions). Please notify the district office if you need to cancel your child from class as we often have wait lists and would like to fill the spot with another interested student. Thanks very much!

Sincerely,

Judith Arrow

492-3703

**Remember – enrollment is on a first-come-first-served basis.
Return your registration form via fax, e-mail, mail, or drop off at the District office.**

New for 2009

Creating a Science Mini-Zine

Class No. 1

Imagine a mini-magaZine you make yourself. Now make it smaller – nope, smaller still! From a single 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper you can make an 8-page booklet that fits in the palm of your hand. You'll be amazed how much entertaining science can be packed into a zine and shared with the world! Students will choose a Year of Science (YOS) theme, a research topic, and create a mini-science magazine which they can submit to the YOS Zine-a-Thon Contest.

Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 3 Wednesdays – October 7, 14, 21*, 2009

Time: 1:45-2:45 pm,

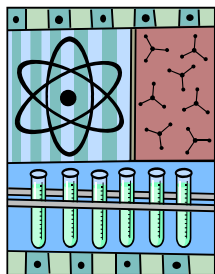
*12:45-1:45pm (during conferences)

Location: Dixie School, Computer lab E2

Maximum class size: 20 students

Class Fee: \$10 payable to *Alfia Wallace*.

Please bring check or cash on October 7th.



Instructor: Alfia Wallace – Ms. Wallace founded and runs the Marin Science Seminar, a program for high school students interested in science. She is also the computer specialist at Dixie School.

Nature's Geometry

Class No. 2

Geometry is all around us in nature, sometimes seen in surprising forms, and in some surprisingly recurring patterns. What are the basic shapes that we see again and again in nature? Why are these patterns there? What number systems can we use to make sense of the huge diversity of forms in the natural world? How can we create our own beautiful forms using nature as an inspiration? This class will explore these questions using an experiential, project-based approach to inquiry. We will look at spirals in sheep horns and explosions in dandelion seedheads and the branching in our lungs to find these basic patterns. We will also look at the basic platonic solids, the Fibonacci series, Leonardo's theory of transformation and the modern study of fractals to compare mankind's

methods with the forms in nature. Students will examine artifacts, measure and record data, create mathematically based art, and be encouraged to invent.

Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 3 Wednesdays – Oct. 7, 14, and 21*, 2009

Time: 3:00-5:00pm,

* 2:00-4:00pm (during conferences)

Location: Dixie School, room E7

Maximum class size: 12

Material Fee: \$15 payable to *Tom McKeag*.

Please bring check or cash on October 7th.

Instructor: Tom McKeag – Mr. McKeag teaches bio-inspired design to students at UC Berkeley and the California College of the Arts. He is also the founder of BioDreamMachine, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing bio-inspired design curricula for K12 schools.



New for 2009

Beginning Journalism

Class No. 3

This course will serve as a gateway for middle-school students into the world of journalism, where they will leave with a good understanding of the importance of the profession as well as a sense of the ethics and guidelines modern journalists conform to in order to produce informative, honest and fair writing. They will also learn how to inject life and creativity into their stories while remaining factual in order to fashion entertaining feature stories. Students will participate in team-based activities and group discussions as well as having their own independent writing time and will write at least one article per session. All student work will be eligible to be published in FastForward magazine, and at least one of every students' stories will be laid out in a small newsletter that they will receive at the end of the program.

Continued on page 3

Beginning Journalism (cont'd)

Some of the news writing skills that students will learn include: the 6 Ws (who, what, when, where, why, and how); keeping readers interested; interview basics; where to find sources; taking notes; journalism ethics; and how writers can avoid getting the facts wrong. Feature writing skills that will be covered include: entertainment and music reviews; celebrity interviews; food writing; and writing style.

Grades: 6th-8th

Dates: 7 Wednesdays – October 7, 14, 21, 28*,
November 4, (skip Nov. 11), 18, (skip Nov. 25),
December 2, 2009

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm, *12:05-2:05pm (conferences)

Location: Miller Creek, room M4

*Rm D-3 on October 28th

Maximum class size: 30 students

Material Fee: \$20 payable to *Stephanie Foo*.

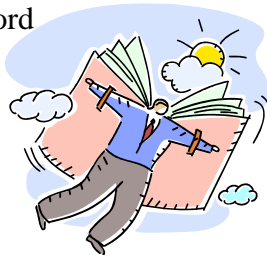
Please bring check or cash on October 7th.

Instructor: Stephanie Foo – Ms. Foo has worked as a freelance writer and columnist for nationally distributed magazines. She has also worked as an editor for several years and is currently the Editor of FastForward magazine, a Marin publication written for and by kids.

**Create Your Own
Multimedia Adventure**
A book! A radio program! A TV show!
Class No. 4

New for 2009

Create a story, publish a book, record a radio program and a video broadcast all in one class! This new two-part class is a unique opportunity to write, illustrate, critique, and publish your own book, *then* record it for radio and TV! In session one, students will learn the elements of a good story, practice writing a story and reading aloud to others in the workshop, learn how to constructively critique others' stories and get their own story critiqued. Then, based on those critiques, rewrite, revise and finalize their stories. Working with a professional illustrator, students will learn where to look for possibilities to illustrate their stories and using different materials will create the illustrations for their stories. Final stories and



illustrations will be published in book form and presented/read to families and friends during class on December 8th. (Additional copies of the book will be available for purchase through the instructor.)



In session two, students will practice their stories in class and discuss sound effects and adding background music. Students will then record their stories on a tape recorder

in the classroom and experiment with sound effects and music if they choose. Students will learn to how to “tell” rather than “read” their stories. Students will take their polished stories to the KSVY radio station in Sonoma to professionally record their stories for the Story Lovers World radio program, which is broadcast live to the whole world! Students have the option to attend a production session at SVTV 27 (Sonoma) to view the video production of the stories for a Story Lovers World Rainbow online TV broadcast. All students will receive a CD of the radio program and a DVD of the video program (including all class stories)

This will be a two-part program and students would have to commit to both sessions.

Requirements:

Each participant must be able to:

- work with a home computer.
- send and receive e-mails
- be able to work with MSWord.
- get to the radio station KSVY in Sonoma for one or two classes in session 2 (Half of the class will record on February 2nd and the other half will record on February 9th. February 23rd is optional for those who wish to view the creation of the video production.)
- work in groups and accept group input.



Grades: 6th-8th

Maximum class size: 10

Session 1

Dates: 8 Tuesdays – October 13, 20, 27*,
November 3, 10, 17, 24, (skip Dec. 1), and
December 8, 2009

Time: 3:05-5:05pm

* 12:10-2:10pm (during conferences)

Location: Miller Creek, room M4

Continued on page 4 

Multimedia Adventure (cont'd)

Session 2

Dates: 5 Tuesdays– January 5, 12, 19, 26,
February 2 or 9 and Feb. 23 (optional), 2010.

Time: 3:05-5:05pm

Location: Miller Creek, room M4 and downtown
Sonoma (KSVY radio, SVTV 27)

Material Fee: \$50 payable to *Jackie Baldwin*.

Students will receive their printed book, a CD of
the radio program and a DVD of the TV
broadcast. Please bring check on October 13th.

Instructor: Jackie Baldwin – Ms. Baldwin is a Bay
Area multimedia producer, teacher and writer
who has written and produced children's programs
for PBS television for many years, has recently
written and published 10 storytelling books,
teaches Create-a-Book workshops for adults and
children, and publishes one of the largest web
sites in storytelling on the Internet. She received
the 2006 ORACLE national service award from
the National Storytelling Network.

Assisting Ms. Baldwin will be:

Kathryn Otoshi is an award winning author/
illustrator living in the Bay Area whose work
includes “What Emily Saw” and “Simon & the
Sock Monster”. She is best known for her anti-
bullying book “One” which was this year’s
Teacher’s Choice Award and the E.B. White Read
Aloud Honor.

Brian Flora is an art director and concept artist at
Disney’s ImageMovers Digital, whose work can
be seen in films like *Batman Returns*, *Matrix
Reloaded*, *Matrix Revolutions*, and *Star Wars
Episode I*.

Mad Science Class No. 5



The **Extraordinary Earth**: See
how plants turn sunshine and water
into food and the air we breathe.

Peek beneath the earth’s crust
and uncover how rocks and
gems are formed. Go hunting
for dinosaur fossils and make

molds of the bones you find! Discover the importance
of weather and how tornadoes form. Take home your
own potted plant and volcano!

Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 5 Tuesdays – October 27, November 3, 10,
17, (skip Nov. 24), December 1, 2009

Time: 2:50–3:50pm

Location: Dixie School, room E7

Maximum class size: 20

Material Fee: \$15 payable to *Mad Science*.

Please mail or drop off check or cash to the
District office by October 19th. We will forward
all payments to Mad Science.

Instructor: Mad Science staff – Mad Science
instructors are trained on all of their curriculum
and classroom management techniques.

*** See Class #10 for another great
Mad Science offering.*

Bio-Inspired Design Class No. 6

This is a course about innovation. Bio-inspired
design means looking to nature for inspiration in
improving the ways we design products, services,
and systems. The most known example of this is
Velcro[®], a fastener system inspired by a seed burr.
This course uses the context of biomimicry to
introduce students to a variety of biological
principles and some of the physics and chemistry

underlying those principles. These
principles are explored in the context of hands-on
activities, discussions, and design.

Three basic themes are introduced:

1. What are some of the jobs
of the patterns we see in nature?
2. How do pressures in nature
shape the features of organisms?
3. How can biomimicry and our
day-to-day choices help us to
live sustainably on the earth?



Students conclude the course with the design of a
“Bio-Dream Machine”, an invention that exhibits
successful qualities from nature to solve a particular
problem chosen by the class.

Continued on page 5 

Bio-Inspired Design (cont'd)

Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 3 Wednesdays – October 28, November 4, (skip Nov. 11), 18, 2009. Presentation date to be determined.

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Location: Dixie School, room E7

Maximum class size: 12

Material Fee: \$15 payable to *Tom McKeag*.
Please bring check or cash on October 28th.

Instructor: Tom McKeag – Mr. McKeag is a landscape architect and environmental planner who co-teaches the biomimicry course at the California College of the Arts.

Sew Fun!
Class No. 7

New for 2009

In this introduction to sewing class students will learn the basics of hand sewing. Students will become familiar with the terms and vocabulary of hand sewing through hands-on activities. Students will design and create three simple projects - mittens, scarf, and hat - using the popular polar fleece. Time permitting students will create polar fleece cancer caps for kids as an outreach project, individually or as a group.

Grades: 4th–8th

Date: 3 Wednesdays – December 2, 9, 16, 2009

Time: 2:15–3:45 pm

Location: Miller Creek, room M4

Maximum class size: 12 students

Material Fee: \$15.00 payable to *Barsha Elzey*.
Please bring check or cash on December 2nd.

Instructor: Barsha Elzey – Ms. Elzey is a former high school home economics teacher and department chair. She is vice president of the Marin Needle Arts Guild and a member of the Marin Arts Council. Ms. Elzey judges several needle arts exhibitions and has received awards for her own work. She currently teaches several classes at Doodlebug in San Anselmo.



Sew Fun Plus!
Class No. 8

In this beginning sewing class students will learn the basics of hand sewing and machine sewing. Students will become familiar with the terms and vocabulary of hand and machine sewing through hands-on activities. Participants will also become familiar with different fibers and learn how to manipulate fabrics to create an item. Students will create a simple project(s) using the machine and will create an outreach project individually or as a group.

Grades: 4th–8th

Date: 5 Wednesdays – January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2010

Time: 2:15–3:45 pm

Location: Miller Creek, room M4

Maximum class size: 12 students

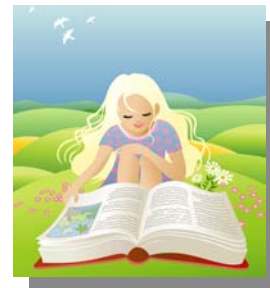
Material Fee: \$25 payable to *Barsha Elzey*.
Please bring check or cash on January 6th.

Instructor: Barsha Elzey – See class #7

Junior Great Books
Class No. 9

The Junior Great Books curriculum is a program of higher literacy to give students opportunities to interact with thought-provoking stories as they develop their reading, writing, oral communication, and critical-thinking skills. This course's interpretive activities enable students to develop a sensitivity to language, to value their own curiosity about text, and explore new ideas through writing.

Students may read and discuss children's classics, folk tales and fairy tales, poetry, or modern short stories from cultures around the world.



Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 8 Thursdays – January 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, (skip Feb. 18), 25, March 4, 2010

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Location: Vallecito, room 25

Maximum class size: 12

Instructor: Meryl Elinson – Ms. Elinson is a 3rd grade teacher at Vallecito School.

More on page 6

Mad Science
Class No. 10

Crazy Chemworks: Use your hands as a real Mad Scientist in this whirlwind class on how a lab works! Students will learn to recognize chemical reactions and mix up a few reactive ingredients for some sensational results. We will explore the pH extremes with our Reaction Tubes in what is sure to be a popping experience! Create slime using the Mad Science recipe, and then enter the Slime Olympics to test your polymers. Probe the properties of light and explore some unusual applications of glow-in-the-dark technology! We will melt metal in boiling water and freeze water with just a breath of dry ice!

Grades: 4th-5th

Dates: 5 Tuesdays – January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 2010

Time: 2:50–3:50pm

Location: Dixie School, rm E7

Maximum class size: 20

Material Fee: \$15 payable to *Mad Science*. Please mail or drop off check or cash to the District office by January 4th. We will forward all payments to Mad Science.



Registration Information

Registration for each class is first-come, first served. If a class reaches capacity we will begin a wait list.

We cannot accept class registrations for students that are not within the listed grade range.

Instructor: Mad Science staff – See class #5.