

# Greater San Diego Academy Homeschool

Where every moment is a learning opportunity!

*Our vision is to help every child develop the knowledge, talents and abilities to become a successful, contributing member of society by supporting families through personalized learning.*



**May  
2009**

## Mother's Day

*GSDA would like to wish all mothers a very Happy Mother's Day  
XX*

### **Congratulations to the GSDA Class of 2009.**

You have achieved a wonderful milestone. Best of luck to you in all of your future endeavors. I look forward to your ceremony on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

This is the fifth official graduating class for GSDA. We have come far in our quest for exemplary education and we will continue our journey as we have begun: with dedication to the success of each child and the belief that there are a multitude of pathways to that success. It has been my privilege to serve families of The Greater San Diego Academy for five years. As I reflect on that service, I think of the parents and students I have met, the friends I have made and the roads we have all traveled. I value the experience I have gained here and thank each of you for your part in the growth of our fine school.

As you complete your school year, please take time to congratulate yourselves on a job well done. Consider the opportunities of which you have taken advantage for the benefit of your child or children. Enjoy the knowledge that you are the most important person in your child's life and that you have acknowledged that by giving your child the most precious of all gifts: your time, your talents and your belief in their unique gifts and abilities.

You will find in this newsletter other items that I should mention: re-enrollment information, STAR assessment dates and places, and more hows and whens and wheres for your busy days ahead. But, most importantly, please take time to enjoy your journey as you work with your family to provide the foundation that is so important in the life of a child.

Have a wonderful summer break.

See you around the campuses,

Gail Levine

Special Points of Interest:

- Director's Letter
- Conservation Field Trip
- Showcase 2009
- Boomer's or Belmont Park Party
- \* Websites
- \* Class schedules
- \* Much. much more...

Inside This Issue:

Resource Center Site News

GSDA Locations & Phone Numbers



**Star Testing**

**Grades 2-11**

**May 4th-7th**

**Contact your site for time and location**





## Conservation Field Trip

**Where:** Beckman Center at the Wild Animal Park (WAP)

**Date:** May 11, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. Meet GSDA staffer at Guest Relations at the Wild Animal Park (**WAP**) to obtain tickets for the day

**Cost:** Free to GSDA Students and younger siblings (**Beckman Center is limited to the first 36 GSDA students in each group but there is no limit for the WAP**)

\$10 per GSDA parents (Limit to one parent per GSDA student)

Passes to WAP may be used

**Parking:** Free when you mention you are with GSDA's self guided tour

**RSVP:** Laurel at 619-669-3050 or [worrall@jduisd.net](mailto:worrall@jduisd.net)

**Chaperone:** **First five** parents (one per family and no siblings) to volunteer (with Laurel) may join the lab class along with a GSDA staffer. Other parents and siblings may wait in Beckman Center lobby or return to WAP.

**Deadline:** **May 4 for RSVP & payment** (Cash or checks made out to GSDA)

### Directions:

Meet GSDA staffer at Guest Relations at the Wild Animal Park, 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido, 92027, to obtain tickets for the day. The Journey into Africa is not included but can be purchased for \$5 per person once you arrive at the WAP. **If you do not arrive by 9:30, you will not be admitted with the GSDA Group.**

**Group 1** & parents will then drive to the Beckman Center. Turn left (east) out of the WAP and make a left into the next driveway. At the gate, press the button labeled "Beckman" and tell them you are with GSDA for the conservation education. Inside the gate, make an immediate left turn and proceed to the last building on the right.

**Group 2** & parents will enjoy the WAP until it is time for them to follow the above directions for their visit to the Beckman Center at 1:00 p.m.

**This trip is limited to GSDA families only.**



<b>Group 1 (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> <b>Beckman Center Lab</b>	<b>Group 2 (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade)</b> <b>Beckman Center Lab</b>
Behind the scenes look at conservation efforts to save endangered species. Students will be able to participate in DNA extraction, sequencing and analysis for species identification.	Behind the scenes look at conservation of the California Condor. See how scientists raise Condors in captivity so they will be able to live successfully once they are released into the wild, and then track them with radio telemetry.
<b>9:30</b> Meet at WAP Guest Relations <b>10:00</b> Meet at Beckman Center <b>12:30</b> Enjoy self-guided tour of WAP <b>3:00</b> Return to Beckman Center <b>3:45</b> Return to WAP if desire	<b>9:30</b> Meet at WAP Guest Relations & enjoy self-guided tour of WAP <b>1:00</b> Meet at Beckman Center <b>2:45</b> Return to WAP if desire

**Greater San Diego Academy Home School****Showcase 2009: "A Time to Be a Star"****Special Edition**Showcase 2009 At-A-Glance

When: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Time: 11am-1pm (following the Graduation)

Where: Balboa Park's Hall of Champions San Diego, CA

\*Join us for a morning of celebration, fun and imagination

\*Explore a variety of unique and informative research projects created by our GSDA students.

Directions to the Hall of ChampionsFrom 94 west:

Take 94W to F St.

Turn right onto Park Blvd.

Turn Left onto Presidents way

Turn Left onto pan American Plaza

From 163 South:

Take the Park Blvd exit

Turn left onto Park Blvd

Turn Left onto Presidents way

Turn Left onto pan American Plaza

From 5 North:

Take the B St. exit toward Pershing Dr.

Take the B St ramp toward Civic Center

Turn Left onto B St.

Turn right onto Park Blvd.

Turn Left onto Presidents way

Turn Left onto pan American Plaza

Tips for Showcase 2009 Participants

**Select a topic of interest for your research project**

**Plan:** Brainstorm and jot down ideas for your research project (resources, props, etc....) and create a plan

**Prepare:** Begin gathering sources and start researching on your topic. Ask your consultant for help or advice

**Practice:** Put your research project together and begin practicing for your showcase. Begin working on your research report (if assigned by your teacher). See your consultant for guidelines on your research report.

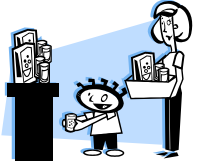
**Present:** Be sure your research project is ready to go and make sure to prepare any handouts or demos that you will provide for your audience. June 13, 2009 is the big day and is time for you to present your research project and be a STAR!!!!

\*\*\*Poster Boards are still available at your sites for only \$2.



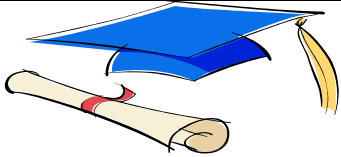
### Parents and High School Student Volunteers Wanted

GSDA is in need of volunteers for this year's Showcase and Graduation Event. Meet new parents and students while helping out during GSDA's biggest annual event. Volunteers are in need for Saturday, June 13, 2009 during the showcase. Students will earn community service hours. If you are interested, please contact Grace Ingrande at (619)669-3057 e-mail: [gingrande@jdsd.net](mailto:gingrande@jdsd.net)



### Donations Wanted

We are seeking donations of raffle prizes for the GSDA Showcase Event and Graduation Ceremony. Please submit donations to your GSDA Resource Center. All businesses and individuals who donate will be acknowledged in our event program and listed on our web-site! Please see your consultant or administrative staff for more information. Thank you in advance for helping to make our event a success!



## 2009 Graduation Ceremony

June 13, 2009 at the San Diego Hall of Champions  
in Balboa Park at 9:30am

If you have not RSVPed for the ceremony and senior breakfast,  
please contact Kristie Remaly at 619-669-3063 or [kremaly@jdsd.net](mailto:kremaly@jdsd.net).

Please RSVP by May 8.

## STUDENTS IN GRADES 2-11 WIN A FAMILY NIGHT OUT AT THE MOVIES!

**SIGN UP TO TAKE YOUR READING AND MATH  
SCANTRON ASSESSMENT AT YOUR SITE BE-  
TWEEN MAY 15TH AND JUNE 8TH AND GET YOUR  
NAME IN A DRAWING FOR A FAMILY PACK OF  
TICKETS TO THE MOVIES!**

**A WINNING FAMILY AT EACH SITE!**







## Camp Report



On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 24 GSDA students embarked on an amazing adventure! These 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students boarded a boat in Long Beach and headed for Catalina; more specifically Emerald Bay Marine Science Adventure Camp.

Upon landing in Emerald Bay, these students that represented all four GSDA sites were immediately shown how to take notes on their learning and create data charts. Kudos go to Audrey Nigos for being voted student with the best notes from our camp leader.

On Day One the kids were already snorkeling through coves while identifying three local fish. Then they were dissecting squids and learning about the systems of the squid and writing with real squid ink. Each of the students' academic lesson was also coupled with a character trait. They included things like conquering fears, perseverance and love.

On Day Two the students headed out on sea kayaks to identify three local birds; visited a million dollar aquarium where they were able to touch sharks, rays, anemones and more; and took a hike around our side of the island in search of bald eagles, dolphins, bison and quail - we saw all of those but the bison. We also had lessons, watched videos and played games about the environment. The students performed hysterically funny skits showing off what they learned and we ended Day Two with a powerful experience at the campfire discussing our fears and which fears we had conquered on this trip.

On Day Three the students were able to take another kayak trip.

Throughout the three days, we ate well. Thank goodness because we had worked up some appetites. Our students were commended by the camp staff as the best kitchen patrol group there (two other schools were there at the same time). The assistant director also mentioned that in all his time at the camp we were the best and most respectful group he had ever had.

Thank you to Nicole Schoolsky who put this trip together! Thank you to the site admins and Melinda who helped with the paperwork! Thank you to Ms. Bittner, Mr. Alberts and Mrs. Quihuis for being amazing chaperones on this trip!

Please take a moment to view some of our fun:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/michelledaugusta1/AdventureCamp2009?authkey=Gv1sRqCMuFuL-M-KG0cw&feat=directlink>

If any of you that went have pictures, you can send them to me and I will disburse them to the group of campers.

If you were not able to make the trip this year, but are interested in attending next year, let your consultant know.

-Michelle D'Augusta (aka Moon) and Ann Mortimore (aka Seagull)

Educational Consultants in East County and Adventure Campers

## Elective Classes

Many families have elective funds available to use by the end of this school year. Plan now and submit your forms!

**All Request to Reserve Elective Credits forms must be turned in by May 31<sup>st</sup>** and classes completed by June 8<sup>th</sup> in order to use the current school year's elective funds.

**Final** invoices and Reimbursements must be submitted by **June 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Year-round students:** *you will need new vouchers for classes beginning July 2009. Don't delay—submit your Request to Reserve Elective Credits Forms by May 1<sup>st</sup> for the new school year!*

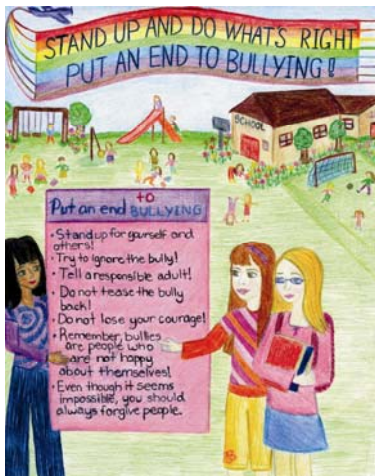
**Math & Science Classes– Last week is June 1st**

Site	Day	Time	Grades	Class	Fee
East	Tues	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Biology	Free
East	Tues	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Business Math	Free
East	Tues	11:00-12:00	9-12	*Foundations of Algebra, alternate w/CAHSEE	Free
East	Tues	11:15-12:15	9-12	*Physical Science	Free
East	Tues	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Chemistry Lab	Free
East	Tues	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Algebra 1 Lab	Free
South	Wed	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Biology Lecture and Lab	Free
South	Wed	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Business Math	Free
South	Wed	11:00-12:00	9-12	*Physical Science Lab open to 8th graders(\$5.00/month)	Free
South	Wed	11:00-12:00	9-12	*Foundations of Algebra alternating weeks with CAHSEE Math	Free
South	Wed	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Chemistry Lecture and Lab	Free
South	Wed	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Algebra 1 (open to 8 <sup>th</sup> graders)	Free
North	Thurs	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Biology Lab	Free
North	Thurs	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Business Math	Free
North	Thurs	11:00-12:00	9-12	*CAHSEE Math & Foundation of Algebra	Free
North	Thurs	11:15-12:15	8-12	*Physical Science Lab	Free
North	Thurs	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Chemistry Lab	
North	Thurs	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Algebra 1	Free
Central	Fri	9:00-11:00	8-12	*Biology (See Becca's Calendar)	Free
Central	Fri	11:00-12:00	8-12	*Business Math	Free

\*See lab schedule for all class dates

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

GSDA would like to Congratulate **Anastasia Trachenko**, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at the Miramar Site. Anastasia participated in an American Girl campaign. She was selected as a first place winner in their "Stop the Bullying" Poster Contest, which received more than 20,000 entries nationwide. A replica of her poster is displayed at each GSDA site. Next time you are in please take time to enjoy her beautifully created message to stop bullying. Awesome job Anastasia!



## 2009 GSDA YEARBOOK

Purchase your memories now!

100% color and 100% fun and friends.

See your site to reserve your yearbook today!

## Enroll now for 2009-2010!



Pick up an enrollment packet from your site administrative assistant.

Returning families submit your completed packet (including 2 current proofs of residency & K & 7<sup>th</sup> graders need immunization records) and choose curriculum by:

May 1 (year-round) to guarantee delivery of curriculum in June.

May 8 (traditional) to guarantee delivery of curriculum in August.

New students please visit our website for a list of documentation needed to complete your application for admission.

Returning high school students must attend an orientation to learn about new and exciting things in place for next year. Returning 8<sup>th</sup> grade (this year) students must attend a high school orientation to learn all about our high school program.

Please contact a site administrative assistant to sign up for one of the dates below. You may attend an orientation at any site that is convenient for you.

Central County: May 4 after testing (approx. 12:30)

May 12, 20 & 26 at 11am

East County: May 20 (10am returning high school/1pm returning 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

May 21 (10am returning 8<sup>th</sup> graders/1pm returning high school)

North County: see your consultant or site lead to schedule an orientation

South County: May 19, 21, 26 & 28 at 9am

[Nobel Recreation Center & North University Community Library](#) 8820 Judicial Drive (off of the I-805/Noble Drive)

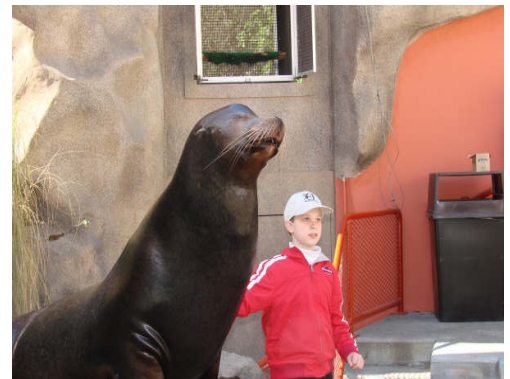
For more information call 858-581-9637



### Cans for Critters

Thank you for participating in the 2009 Cans for Critters recycling drive. GSDA came in third place for number of recyclables collected out of all schools that participated. The following students collected and donated cans and bottles for the drive.

Danni Blackmun  
Sam Blackmun  
Rio Robles  
Elyssa Sobel  
Robert Sobel  
Carlee Wood





**Chula Vista Resource Center Families  
STAR Testing Information**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, testing will be at the South County Office of Education at 800 National City Blvd., National City, CA 91950

Take Interstate 5. Exit 8th Street (National City). Travel east on 8th Street to Roosevelt. Turn right on Roosevelt and then left to enter Parking Structure (located at the back of the building...free parking on the top level.)

**Testing will begin at 9:00am each day. Please arrive no later than 8:30am.**

**Students should bring a light snack.**

**All students who participate in all days of STAR TESTING will be eligible for the following special events:**

Build-Your-Own Sundae Party – Ice cream and all the toppings you can eat on Wednesday after testing!

## East County End of Year Class Party

Aloha, friends! Please join us Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00-12:00 for a day of island fun.

Be sure to wear your most festive Hawaiian attire. This is our end of year party day, parents are welcome to join us. Feel free to bring appetizers, snacks or desserts providing they are store bought.

Mahalo!!



## CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO

*The Cultural Heart of San Diego North™*

<http://www.artcenter.org/aboutusdirections.htm>

\*\*\* Parent sponsored field trip\*\*\*

**Wednesday, June 3, 2009**

**10:00 a.m.**

### **Tour & Hands-on Workshop**

This will be an interactive tour of current exhibitions led by docents trained in *Visual Thinking Strategies*, a program used in museums nationwide for pre-k through medical students. Its goal is to help students become more observant and to truly think about what they see, nurturing their critical thinking skills. Students will engage in discussions as they make discoveries about the artwork on display.

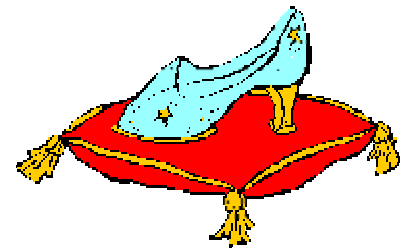
After the tour, students will attend a hands-on workshop in the Center's art studio. Younger students will cast and mount their works of art using molds provided by the Center. High Schoolers will be creating their own molds.

This should be a fun and challenging opportunity for K-12 Students.

Contact: Ellen Albistegui-Dubois (760) 806-6459 or ealbistegui@yahoo.com

Cost: \$3.00 Participating students \$5.00 Adults

Payment: Due by May 15, 2009. Checks made out to Ellen Albistegui-Dubois and Mailed to 573 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084.



GSDA Drama Class  
Dates

**Change of Schedule**

The presentation of  
Cynder-Rock will be  
on

May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

## Counselor's Corner

### 11th Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

#### May/June

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

- Attend college fairs. Visit the <http://sandiegocalsoap.com/> website and click onto Events Calendar.
- Take SAT & ACT Tests
- Check out different careers and find what college education is needed. Explore our Career and Exploration link for career planning, college and scholarship/financial aid search @ <http://www.gsdacademy.com>
- Study, Study & Study — Your GPA will determine what college you attend
- Make a profile of colleges that interest you, and then research them. Books from these sites can help.

[Collegboard.com](http://Collegboard.com)

[Liquidmindz.com](http://Liquidmindz.com)

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

[Princetonreview.com](http://Princetonreview.com)

[Barnes & Nobles.com](http://Barnes & Nobles.com)

[CollegeApps.com](http://CollegeApps.com)

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

#### May

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

- Notify all schools of intentions to attend or not to attend.
- Send PELL grant Student Aid report to your college. See [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Take as many AP exams as you can if you are not taking any community college courses. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jpf>
- Prepare a budget for the summer and for your first year of college.

#### June

- Send final high school transcripts to the college or university you choose.
- Send final community college transcripts to the college or university you choose.
- Complete the exit interview with your consultant
- Graduate from High School—great job you've made it!!

## GSDA LOCATIONS

web: [www.gsdacademy.com](http://www.gsdacademy.com)

#### Central County – Miramar

9235 Activity Road, Suite 108

San Diego, CA 92126

Phone: (858)536-7930

Fax: (858)536-7935

#### East County – Jamul

13881 Campo Road, Suite A-5

Jamul, CA 91935

Phone: (619)669-3050

Fax: (619)669-3066

#### North County – San Marcos

1645 Capalina Road, Suite 600

San Marcos, CA 92069

Phone: (760)752-7100

Fax: (760)752-7110

#### South County – Chula Vista

2232 Verus Street, Suite I

San Diego, CA 92154

Phone: (619)424-4100

Fax: (619)424-4113