

Greater San Diego Academy Homeschool

Where every moment is a learning opportunity!



September
2008

Words from the Director

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.

Dear GSDA Families:

Welcome to the best school year ever! Each year we bring you more opportunities for support in the vital and rewarding work of educating your children, and this year is no exception!

Your consultant has several new tools to share with you during your first consultations this year. The staff is working with materials that help paint a picture of your children's learning styles and preferences. We also have a new on-line tool to assist you in pinpointing those areas where students already have a firm knowledge base so you can concentrate your teaching efforts in areas that need more attention.

In the high school arena, more support will be available on site for students in Algebra I, Business Math, Basic Math, Biology, Chemistry and Physical Science. If you haven't already done so, your consultant will ask you to indicate the level of support that you want for your student in these important areas. Plans are in the works for adding more subject areas in the future.

Mark your calendar for the Back to School Family Math Event: September 8th at the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. While you are at it, mark your calendar to attend our GSDA schoolwide event every first Monday of the month. We have an exciting line up of events and activities. Visit our website to see these events and also for information on opportunities to attend performances by the San Diego Junior Theater.

Charter Council meetings will begin in October. If you are interested in serving with this group of parents and educators, please call my office (619-669-3064) or email me at glevine@jdsd.net. This is both our Charter renewal year and the year of our WASC mid-term revisit. There is much work to do. We will meet four to six times this year for input and information sharing on these important items.

I hope your 2008-2009 school year will be both fun and rewarding. Please let us know your ideas for enhancing our ever growing program.

See you around the campuses,

Gail Levine

Special Points of Interest:

- * Director's Letter
- * Family Math Day
- * Mad Science
- * 08-09 Events
- * Websites
- * Class schedules
- * Much, much more...

Inside This Issue:

Resource Center
Site News

GSDA Locations &
Phone Numbers



"We must become the
change we want to
see"

Mahatma Gandhi

Homeschool Site Council Meetings

All parents are invited to attend our site council meetings once a month. Please mark your calendar.

North County: Third Thursday 10:00-11:30

East County: Fourth Thursday 1:30-2:30

South County: First Thursday 9:00-10:00

Central County: Second Wednesday 9:00-10:00



RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
Bring a Friend!
GSDA's Back to School
Family Math Day !



- ◆ Get fresh ideas for teaching and learning
- ◆ Collaborate with other home school
- ◆ Families
- ◆ Learn how to teach across grade levels!

Date: Monday, September 8th, 2008

Time: 9:30-1:00

Location: Hall of Champions

2131 Pan American Plaza

Balboa Park

Contact Laurel at (619)669-3050 to RSVP for

RSVP your spot and order a Subway lunch for \$4!



What is Family Math?

Is math important to your child's future? Yes!

Should math be fun? Yes! Should the whole family be involved? Yes!

Come make, play and take fun math games and activities with your children!

What Will The Day Look Like?

9:30	Welcome Reception	11:45-1:00	Breakout Sessions:
10:00-11:30	Family Math Activities For Grades K-Algebra covering: -Algebra and Functions -Measurement and Geometry -Number Sense -Probability and Statistics		-Homeschool Ins and Outs -Meet with Math Teachers for Q&A -School age children will have outdoor activities
11:30-11:45	Family Break		



Sparking
Imaginative
Learning



MAD SCIENCE®

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION FORM

ENERGY, FORCES & FLIGHT

CHE-MYSTERY

Explore one of the most exciting areas of science as you grow a crazy crystal garden & make your own "chemical" soda.

CURRENT EVENTS

Learn about conductors, insulators, transistors, current and other elements of the world of circuit electricity.

STUNT PLANES & GLIDERS

Learn the fundamentals of flight. Build your own stunt plane and "football" glider. You'll be a Top Gun before you know it!

UNDER PRESSURE

Uncover the science behind aerodynamics and the properties of air. Make air pockets with zing and levitate ping pong balls!

WACKY WAVES

Investigate waves, density, buoyancy and the impact of tides on the environment. Create your own multidensity wave bottle!

FUNDAMENTAL FORCES

Experiment with gravity, inertia and centrifugal force. You'll build amazing devices to see these forces at work.

Classes being offered in:

East County on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m.
September 11 – October 16, 2008

South County on Thursdays from 11:30-12:30 p.m.
September 11 – October 16, 2008

Registration Deadline: September 3, 2008
Cost: \$69.95 per student

www.madscience.org/sandiego

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Child's Name: Birthday: / / Grade/Teacher:

Parent's Name: Phone #s:

Address:

Street City State Zip

My Child will: Attend Day Care at the School Walk Home Be Picked-up by Phone:

Please list any health concerns:

Return Check and Form to: Your Local Resource Center,

Payment Checks Visa/MC *Make check payable to "Greater San Diego Academy".*

Method:

Name on Card Number Exp. Date MM/YY

Parent Email (required for confirmation)

GSDA / Sept. '08

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet's Homeschool Program

San Diego Civic Youth Ballet has a ballet program especially catered towards homeschool students. Ballet Classes for Ages 6-14.

The Fall Session begins September 8th!

Performance opportunities are available for all!!

All classes are held in the Casa del Prado building in beautiful Balboa Park.

Register now by calling 610-233-3060, or email sdcyb@sdcyb.org. for more information.



SAN DIEGO JUNIOR THEATRE

Come join other GSDA families for a day at the theatre. Enjoy great performances from some of our own GSDA students. Tickets are FREE to GSDA students (while supply lasts). Adults and non GSDA students are \$5. Tickets go fast so reserve now by calling Beci at the Miramar site (858)536-7930. All ages.

Upcoming Performances include:



Blue's Clues September 23rd Noon at La Jolla Firehouse

Cats October 29th Noon at Balboa Park

Experience what San Diego Junior Theatre has to offer at their **Open House** on Saturday, September 6th at 9-11am in Room 102 of the Casa del Prado Building in Balboa Park. Participate in free classes in acting, singing and dance for ages 3-18. To RSVP email info@junibrtheatre.com. Questions? (619)239-1311.

Let's go to Legoland

Did you know that Legoland has Home School Days?

Save up to 75% off the regular price of tickets.

The Home School Days are on selected Mondays and are for the main park and the new aquarium.

Visit their website for more information and get teaching guides that are available online!

<http://www.legoland.com/groups/education/homeshool.htm>



Cans for Critters

Help GSDA make this a **GRRREAT** year.

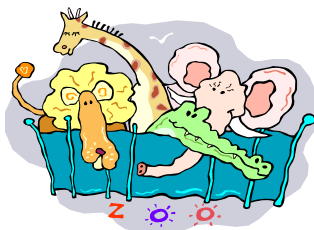
Don't be **Lion** around.

Bear down and donate.

Lets **Seal** this deal.

Help house the **Mouse**.

And save the **Moose**.



Donate your cans, plastic and glass drinking bottles. Bring the clean cans and bottles to your site. The zoo will award prizes once the drive ends. Please refer to the flyer at your site for more information. The top 30 collectors in the school will be invited to a jamboree for a celebration on April 17, 2009.

GSDA/Sept.'08



Greater San Diego Academy Events for 2008-2009

First Monday Events

At the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

September 8	Family Math Day
October 6	International Culture
November 3	Fine Arts
December 1	Canine Capers
January 5	Exploring History
February 2	Home School Conference
March 2	Save the Earth
May 4	Career Day
June 13	Graduation/Showcase Presentation

Other Events

September 23	"Blue's Clues" at SD Junior Theatre at La Jolla Firehouse
October 29	"Cats" at SD Junior Theatre in Balboa Park
December 3	Sea World
April 23	Revolutionary War Adventure at Riley's Farm
April 17	Cans for Critters Jamboree at San Diego Zoo

Reaching new heights with these websites...

Check out these online subscriptions GSDA makes available for parents. Contact your consultant to get the login and passwords. How fun and easy is this!!!!

Enchanted Learning—<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>

Links to Learning— <http://www.linkstolearning.com>

There is a CA standards based website that carries study guides for A LOT of different lit books. It's even broken up into grade level groups. It's like Sparknotes.com but it is all CA standards based!!!

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/cyberguide.html> (no password needed)



South County

Spring Semester Elective Schedule (Effective September 8th)

Day	Time	Grades	Class	Fee
Tues	9:00-10:30	7-8	Earth Science Lab	Free
Tues	9:00-10:30	9-12	Career English	Free
Tues	10:30-12:30	All	Art	Free
Tues	12:30-1:00		Lunch	
Tues	1:00-2:00	All	Writer's Group	Free
Wed	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Biology Lecture and Lab	Free
Wed	9:00-11:00	9-12	Business Math	Free
Wed	11:00-12:00	8-12	*Physical Science Lab	Free
Wed	11:00-12:00	9-12	Foundations of Algebra alternating weeks with CAHSEE Math	Free
Wed	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Chemistry Lecture and Lab	Free
Wed	1:00-3:00	8-12	Algebra 1 (open to 8 th graders)	Free
Thurs	9:00-10:00	K-2	Bilingual	Free
Thurs	9:00-10:00	3-6	Art	Free
Thurs	10:15-11:15	K-2	Blooming Writers	Free
Thurs	10:15-11:15	3-6	World Cultures	Free
Thurs	11:30-12:30	All	Mad Science	\$69.95/6 wks
Thurs	12:30-1:30	All	Lunch With Friends	Free

***See lab schedule for all class dates**

Possible Add-Ons: Band Available through the Jamul Dulzura Union School District. All students are free to sign up!

Sign Language Grades K-5 – See Mercy for more information

Show Choir – 10:15 grades K-6, Show Choir – 10:45 grades 7-12

East County

Spring Semester Elective Schedule (Effective September 9th)

Day	Time	Grades	Class	Fee
Tues	9:00-11:00	9-12	Biology*	Free
Tues	9:00-11:00	9-12	Business Math*	Free
Tues	11:15-12:15	8-12	Physical Science (Lab only)* (open to 8 th graders)	Free
Tues	11:15-12:15	9-12	Foundations of Algebra alternating weeks with CAHSEE Math*	Free
Tues	1:00-3:00	9-12	Chemistry*	Free
Tues	1:00-3:00	8-12	Algebra 1* (open to 8 th graders)	Free
Wed	9:30-10:30	6-12	Earth Science Lab	Free
Wed	10:30-11:30	6-12	Writing	Free
Wed	11:30-12:00		Lunch	
Wed	12:00-1:00	6-12	Math Tutoring	Free
Thurs	9:30-11:30	K-2	Literacy/Math/Art Block	Free
Thurs	9:30-10:30	3-5	Writing	Free
Thurs	10:30-11:30	3-5	Art	Free
Thurs	11:30-12:15		Lunch	
Thurs	12:15-1:30	K-5	Public Speaking	Free
Thurs	1:30-2:30	K-5	Mad Science	\$69.95/6wks

***See lab schedule for all class dates**

Possible Add-Ons: Band Available through the Jamul Dulzura Union School District. All students are free to sign up!

Wednesday: Show Choir 1:00-2:30: Guitar 2:30-3:30 **Call Laurel for more info 619-669-3050**

North County**Spring Semester Elective Schedule (Effective September 16th)**

Day	Time	Grades	Class	Fee
Tues	9:00-10:00	3-5	Stand Back, I'm Going To Try Science!	Free
Tues	9:00-10:00	6-8	Earth Science Lab	Free
Tues	10:00-11:00	K-12	Tutoring with Ms. Thompson	Free
Tues	10:00-11:00	3-8	Ancient Cultures	Free
Tues	11:00-12:00	3-5	The Writers' Group	\$10/month
Tues	11:00-12:00	6-8	Wizwriters: The Magic Of Writing	\$10/month
Tues	12:00-12:15	3-8	Lunch Break	Free
Tues	12:15-1:15	3-8	Art With Linda	\$40/month
Tues	12:15-1:15	6-8	Communications/Current Events	Free
Tues	1:15-2:15	6-8	Junior Improvisation	\$20/month
Tues	1:15-2:00	3-5	Spanish Experience	\$15/month
Tues	2:00-3:00	K-12	Guitar with Blake	\$60/month
Wed	9:00-10:00	K-1	Math In Action 1-2-3	\$30/month
Wed	9:00-10:00	K-2	Starfish Readers	Free
Wed	9:00-10:00	K-12	Tutoring with Ms. Marquez	Free
Wed	10:00-11:00	2-3	Math In Action 1-2-3	\$30/month
Wed	10:00-11:00	K-2	Rocket Readers	Free
Wed	10:00-11:00	K-5	Junior Drama Club	\$32/month
Wed	11:00-12:00	K-2	Let's Get Cooking	Free
Wed	11:30-1:00	6-12	Senior Drama Club	\$32/month
Wed	1:00-3:00	9-12	Teen Improvisation	\$25/month
Thurs	9:00-11:00	9-12	*Biology Lab	Free
Thurs	9:00-11:00	9-12	Business Math	Free
Thurs	11:00-12:00	9-12	Cahsee Math	Free
Thurs	11:00-12:00	9-12	Foundation of Algebra	Free
Thurs	11:15-12:15	8-12	*Physical Science Lab	Free
Thurs	1:00-3:00	9-12	*Chemistry Lab	Free
Thurs	1:00-3:00	8-12	Algebra 1	Free
Fri	10:00-11:00	K-6	Kindermotion®	\$45/month
Fri	11:00-12:00	K-6	Kindercombo™	\$45/month

Central County

Spring Semester Elective Schedule (Effective September 8th)

Day	Time	Grades	Class	Fee
Tues	12:30-1:30	K-5	Art Enrichment	\$120/10wks
Tues	1:30-2:30	All	American Sign Language	\$35/month
Wed	9:00-10:00	2-5	Thematic Units	Free
Wed	10:00-11:00	2-5	Sing and Sign	Free
Wed	1:30-2:30	K-1	Fun with Friends (begins 10/1)	Free
Fri	9:00-11:00	8-12	*Biology	Free
Fri	9:00-11:00	8-12	Math Tutoring (by appointment)	Free

* See lab Schedule for all class dates

F.Y.I.'s



Let's get active.... **California Athletics for Home Schools** is available for almost any activity you want to get involved in. Todd Nash heads up this program and is ready to assist you with your favorite sport or try a new one! For more information go to www.CaliforniaAthletics.com or email: CalAthletics@sbcglobal.net.



Jet Propulsion Lab

Do your students love science, space and astronomy? Our friends at the Jet Propulsion Lab have a website especially for children. Visit it for games, fun projects, cool podcasts and educational animations. It even has a Teacher's Corner for you! <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/>



Student Bulletin

Visit www.fastweb.com to search over \$3.4 billion in scholarships!

Volume 5
High School
Edition

2008-2009 Quick Reference Guide for High School Students

Here are some important Web sites and dates to help you prepare for your academic year.

Information about Financial Aid

FastWeb's College Gold.....www.collegegold.org
Federal Student Aid for Students.....studentaid.ed.gov
FinAid.....www.finaid.org
Mapping Your Future.....mapping-your-future.org
Project Scholarship Scam.....www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams
Taxes for Students.....www.irs.gov/individuals/students

Sources of Aid

Scholarship Search.....www.fastweb.com
*AmeriCorps.....www.americorps.org
*City Year.....www.cityyear.org
CSS/PROFILE.....profileonline.collegeboard.com
Direct Loans.....www.ed.gov/directloan
FAFSA (Free App. for Federal Student Aid).....www.fafsa.ed.gov
FAFSA PIN.....www.pin.ed.gov
Resources by State.....finaid.org/otheraid/state.phtml
* Award upon successful program completion

General Information

Social Security Administration.....www.ssa.gov
Selective Service.....www.sss.gov
Student Gateway to U.S. Government.....www.students.gov
Study Abroad.....www.studyabroad.com
U.S. Department of Education.....www.ed.gov

College Admissions and Testing

ACT.....www.actstudent.org
AP.....www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html
SAT.....www.sat.org
PSAT.....www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html
Admissions Information.....www.admissions.com

Choosing a Major and Career

Career Planning.....www.fastweb.com
Monster (Job Search).....www.monster.com
Monster Trak (Entry-level jobs).....www.monstertrak.com
America's Career Infonet.....www.acinet.org
Bureau of Labor Statistics.....stats.bls.gov
Occupational Outlook Handbook.....www.bls.gov/oco

Important Phone Numbers

FAFSA (Free App. for Federal Student Aid).....
.....(800-4-FED-AID) 800-433-3243
ACT.....319-337-1000
SAT.....866-756-7346

2008-2009 Planning Calendar

September

9/9: SAT registration deadline for 10/4 test
9/13: ACT test day (selected states)
9/19: ACT registration deadline for 10/25 test
9/26: SAT registration deadline for 11/1 test

October

10/4: SAT and Subject Tests test day
10/15: PSAT/NMQST test day
10/18: PSAT/NMQST test day
10/25: ACT test day

November

11/1: SAT and Subject Tests test day
11/7: registration deadline for 12/6 test

December

12/6: SAT and Subject Tests test day
12/13: ACT test day
12/26: SAT registration deadline for 1/26 test

January

1/1: First day to submit FAFSA
(early completion maximizes chances for aid)
1/6: SAT late registration deadline for 1/24 test
1/6: ACT registration deadline for 2/7 test
1/24: SAT and Subject Test test day

February

2/7: ACT test day (Not NY)
2/10: SAT registration deadline for 3/14 test
2/27: ACT registration deadline for 4/4 test

March

3/14: SAT test day (SAT I, only)
3/31: SAT registration deadline for 5/2 test

April

4/4: ACT test day
4/15: Deadline to file your 2008 federal
income tax return

May

5/2: SAT and Subject Tests test day
5/4-5/8: AP Testing Week 1
5/5: SAT registration deadline for 6/6 test
5/8: ACT registration deadline for 6/13 test
5/11-5/15: AP Testing Week 2

June

6/1: SAT and Subject Test test day
6/13: ACT test day
6/30: Last day to submit 2008-2009 FAFSA on the
Web applications

July

7/2: AP scores available by phone



Student Bulletin

Visit www.fastweb.com to search over \$3.4 billion in scholarships!

Volume 5
High School
Edition

Scholarship Scams Tip Sheet

How do I recognize a scholarship scammer?

A scammer:

- States you've won an award for which you didn't apply.
- Does not supply valid contact information.
- Guarantees you will win an award
- Requires personal financial information (such as credit card numbers or checking account numbers to verify or hold a scholarship).

How do I recognize a legitimate scholarship service?

A legitimate service:

- Sends information about awards when you request it
- Makes contact information available upon request.
- Does not guarantee you will win an award.
- Should not direct you to a fee-based provider because they know that financial aid information is readily available for free.

What If You Suspect a Scam?

- Save all of the forms you receive from the company.
- Keep copies of written details about the offer and any correspondence, emails or other paperwork.
- Make sure all materials are dated.
- Take notes during any seminars or phone conversations. Record the date, time, phone number and the person's name with whom you spoke.
- Include a detailed account of your conversation.
- Take a copy of all literature and correspondence concerning the scholarship to your guidance counselor's office. They can verify that the foundation is legitimate.

Report the suspected scammer to any of the following organizations:

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC)

Ph : 800-876-7060 Web : www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Ph : 877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)

Web: www.ftc.gov

State Attorney General's Office

Visit your state's Web site to obtain state attorney general's contact information. Ask them about filing a complaint with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in your state.

Better Business Bureau (BBB)

Ph: 703-276-0100 Web: www.bbb.org

United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

Phone 800-654-8896

Web: www.usps.gov/postalinspectors/fraud

Popular (But False!) Claims

"For a small fee, we'll give you a list of scholarships."

Never spend money on a fee-based matching service. The biggest and best award databases are available for free on the Internet.

"We'll help you complete complicated forms."

Information about the FAFSA and other forms is available for free from your guidance counselor, your library and the Department of Education. You still have to fill out the same basic information for a fee-based service that you would for the FAFSA; how else would they get your information? For general financial aid or FAFSA related questions call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

"You are guaranteed a minimum of \$1000 in awards."

A service can't guarantee any scholarships because they have no control over the scholarship judge's decisions.

"We have a 96% success rate."

These false success rates indicate the percentage of students they've successfully matched with the database, NOT the number of students who actually receive money.

"We'll need a bank account/credit card number to verify your information."

Your bank account and credit card information is confidential. A legitimate scholarship provider won't ask for this information.

"We will do all the work for you."

To win a legitimate scholarship, you must submit your own applications, write your own essays and solicit your own letters of recommendation. There is no way to avoid doing the work!

Financial Aid Seminars & Consultants

How do I protect myself from being scammed by a consultant or financial aid seminar?

Consultants

When choosing to utilize the services of a consultant, consider their qualifications carefully. Find someone who has worked as a financial aid administrator, CPA or CFP.

Seminars

Some seminars will state that their presentation is free and use high pressure tactics to get you signed up for their service, while only answering questions after you agree to pay a fee. Keep in mind that no one can find loopholes to help you save money. Don't trust anyone who encourages you to do something unethical. If you falsify financial aid forms, you can end up with a \$20,000 fine, be sent to prison or both.

If you need help with your financial aid paperwork or understanding the process, contact your guidance counselor as soon as possible.

Counselor's Corner

11th Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

September/October

- Meet with your Consultant/Counselor to review career plan, course of study, classes and grades
- Clarify your college and career plans; explore our Career and Exploration link for career planning, college and scholarship/financial aid search
@http://www.gsdacademy.com/page4/files/page4_7.pdf
- Attend FREE ACT/SAT, financial aid and college fairs. Visit the <http://sandiegocalsoap.com/> website and click onto Events Calendar.
- Make sure your high school classes meet college entrance requirements
- Get involved in school activities
- Find your Social Security Number; you'll need it for college applications
- Register for the ACT @ <http://www.actstudent.org>
- Register for practice tests for the ACT @ <http://actstudent.org> and the PSAT @ www.collegeboard.com

12th Grade Graduation and College Bound Planning Calendar

September

- Meet with your consultant to review career plan, course of study, classes and grades
- Clarify your college and career plans; explore our Career Exploration link for career planning, college and scholarship/financial aid search @
http://www.gsdacademy.com/page4/files/page4_7.pdf
- Make sure your high school classes meet college entrance requirements
- Get involved in school activities
- Find the exact forms you'll need to apply for the college you want to attend
- Attend FREE ACT/SAT, financial aid and college fairs. Visit
<http://sandiegocalsoap.com/events/eventscalendar.php>
- Find the exact form for any financial aid you want. See <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Start a rough draft of your entrance essay
- Register for the ACT, PSAT, SAT I, or SAT II @
www.collegeboard.com, <http://www.actstudent.org/>
- Find your Social Security # for applications.

GSDA LOCATIONS

web: 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