Advanced Learning Options
Gifted/Talented Programs
Parent Newsletter

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Summer 2016

Ideas for Summer Fun in L.A. with the Family!

Arroyo Adventure at Kidspace Museum
Kidspace Museum in Pasadena has always been a great family destination, but this summer there’s a brand new reason to visit. They just opened Arroyo Adventure which features new interactive areas, including the Flood and Erosion Plain, Mud and Clay Outdoor Studio and Hawk’s Nest; a towering structure where your kids can make their way into the hawk’s home and look high above the trees. http://www.kidspacemuseum.org/

City of LA Department of Recreation and Parks
Check out your local park for fantastic summer camps, fieldtrips, classes and more. http://www.laparks.org/dos/recenter/recenter.htm

Clifton’s Cafeteria
This historic restaurant in downtown LA was closed for 4 years for a 10 million dollar renovation and reopened in October of this year. In addition to getting lunch, your kids can check out all sorts of stuffed animals from buffalos to lions and also see a real 250 pound meteorite! http://www.cliftonsla.com/

Griffith Park Playground:
Re-opened in March of 2015, this new playground in Beverly Hills delights kids of all ages with a myriad of spinning and climbing structures and walls.

Griffith Park: A Destination
With its kid height zipline, this park is worth the visit. Kids from 2–22 (and you, too) can take turns zipping across the sand. The park also has a giant rock climbing structure.

The Broad Museum:
The Broad contemporary art museum opened in downtown LA on September 20. With over 2000 works of art, there’s plenty to see. Make sure to check out the Infinity Mirrored Room. Reserve your free tickets at http://www.thebroad.org/

The Petersen Museum: Newly renovated and reopened in December, Petersen Automotive Museum has added on 300,000 square feet and 22 new galleries. http://petersen.org/

The La Brea Tar Pits: Visit the revamped theater and check out a super cool 3-D show. http://www.tarpits.org/

Meet our Newest Staff Member: Susanna Choi Furfari

Ms. Furfari has been with the Los Angeles Unified School District since 1992. She worked as a teacher, Title 1 coordinator, and literacy coach at Hoover Street School. Upon leaving Hoover, she worked as a specialist for English Learners at the LAUSD Central Office. Upon her return to the school site, she was the Assistant Principal at Logan Street School and Eagle Rock Elementary School where she worked closely with the Gifted/High Achievement and Highly Gifted Magnets. Prior to coming to the GATE office, Ms. Furfari was the principal of Micheltorena Street School from 2007–2016.

Ms. Furfari has a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from the University of Southern California and a Master’s degree in School Administration from Pepperdine University. She has also studied abroad at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. Ms. Furfari received her teaching credential through the LAUSD’s District Intern Program. She is proud to have learned to read, write, and speak Spanish as an adult and believes that all children should have the opportunity to learn to speak more than one language.

Ms. Furfari devotes much of her free time to her family including her twin daughters who now attend kindergarten at Micheltorena. She also loves to bake, eat, and play music.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 10: Last day of school
- June 29-July 20: Limited GATE Office Staff available.
- July 4: Independence Day, District offices closed
- August 16: First day of school
- Mid-August: Conservatory of Fine Arts application available
- Mid-September: Conservatory of Fine Arts application due

LAUSD Core Beliefs: 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success is in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.
Conservatory of Fine Arts Showcase

The Saturday Conservatory of Fine Arts held their End-of-the-Year Showcase Performance and Student Art Exhibition on Saturday, May 7. Performing Arts students showcased their talents in a variety of dance, drama, and vocal numbers at Burroughs Middle School. Visual Arts students displayed their works of art which included portraits, landscapes, still life, sketches and sculptures at California State University, Los Angeles.

Many thanks to all of the dedicated Conservatory teachers who worked with students all year to help them develop their talents. Special acknowledgment goes to Program Directors, Christine Mallouf (Visual Arts) and Karen McDonald (Performing Arts), program assistants, and GATE Office staff for organizing and supervising the program to make it the best it can be. Lastly, thank you to all the dedicated parents who brought their children each week!

If you are interested in applying to the Conservatory for your child, visit achieve.lausd.net/gate. Applications for the 2016-17 school year will be available in mid-August.

GATE Students Bring Literature to Life!

On Wednesday, May 18, Mrs. Saute’s third grade GATE class at Pomelo Elementary in Winnetka delighted parents, staff and students with a production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” The cast included Justin Zelden as Charlie Bucket, Jordan Dashevsky as Veruca Salt, Ryan Slohn as Agustus Gloop, and Ruby Lupoff as Violet Beauregarde. Haylie Plusko and Etai Cohen shared the role of Willie Wonka and other students played supporting roles as squirrels, Oompa-Loompas, Charlie’s grandparents and other characters. Mrs. Saute shared the students designed the sets and costumes and even wrote some of the dialogue and jokes. Congratulations to the students on a wonderful and delicious production!

10 Common Myths about Gifted Education

Adapted from the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

1. Gifted children will do fine on their own. TRUTH: Gifted students still need guidance from well-trained teachers to challenge and support them.

2. Teachers challenge all students in the classroom. TRUTH: Many teachers may not be sufficiently trained to address the specific needs of advanced learners.

3. Gifted students are role models for other students in the classroom. TRUTH: Often, students look to those with similar abilities as role models.

4. All children are gifted. TRUTH: All children have strengths and positive attributes, but not all are gifted in the academic sense of the word.

5. Academic acceleration is socially harmful for gifted students. TRUTH: They are often happier with older students who share the same interests and abilities.

6. GATE programs are elitist. TRUTH: Gifted students are found in every ethnic and socio-economic group and offering GATE programs allows schools to meet their needs.

7. Students getting poor or average grades cannot be gifted. TRUTH: Being identified gifted does not guarantee academic success. Often, gifted students underperform because they are not challenged.

8. Gifted students are happy, popular, and well-adjusted in school. TRUTH: Many gifted students deal with social-emotional issues such as perfectionism, sensitivity, emotional intensity and/or low self esteem.

9. A child receiving special education services cannot also be gifted. TRUTH: Some gifted students may also have learning disabilities. Support should be given to address both strengths and disabilities.

10. GATE programs require an abundance of resources. TRUTH: Having a belief in differentiated instruction and a commitment to professional development are critical in developing a successful GATE program at school.