



INNOVATIONS ACADEMY

SELF EXPRESSION - COMPASSIONATE CONNECTION - PURPOSEFUL LEARNING

Highlights DEC 2012

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CALENDAR

Dec 24 - Jan 4 **Winter Break**
no school

Jan 7 (Mon) **Staff Development**
no school

SCHOOL RESUMES ON TUES JAN 8

Jan 21 (Mon) **Martin Luther King Jr.**
no school

Jan 22 - 25 **POL's**

the Coffee connection



Coffee & Chat
with our director
Christine Kuglen.

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning
from 9:15 - 10:30 am.

Meet in the front office.

CHRISTINE'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Taking Time to Reflect on the Importance of a Quality Education

As parents we are making decisions about our children's education. As taxpayers we are paying for it. As products of a society and culture we must be aware that we have been acculturated to believe certain things about learning. Only through reflection, discussion and analysis can we come to a place where we can set the expectations that will drive the our decision making.

We are not alone in this. There are many folks lobbying and writing about what does and does not work. One of the educators that I admire most is Alfie Kohn. Here is an excerpt from an article he wrote. I caution you that this article is in direct conflict from much of what you will read and hear. If you are not up for the challenge at this point, save it for another day. This is only an excerpt. For the full article, go to: <http://www.alfiekohn.org/teaching/ohanian.htm>

Standardized Testing: Separating Wheat Children from Chaff Children

Excerpted from the foreword to Susan Ohanian's book What Happened to Recess and Why Are Our Children Struggling in Kindergarten? (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2002)

By Alfie Kohn

Of all the chasms that separate one world from another, none is greater than the gap between the people who make policy and the people who suffer the consequences. There are those who reside comfortably on Mount Olympus, issuing edicts and rhetoric, and then there are those down on the ground who come to know the concrete reality behind the words. It's the difference between a legislator who casually runs his pen through a budget item (perhaps smiling to himself about reducing the size of government) and a struggling single Mom who learns that there will be no help with heating oil expenses this winter. It's the difference between a man with a chest full of ribbons who pokes a pin into a map (perhaps muttering about the need to push back the enemy's perimeter) and a young man on the scene whose liver is suddenly punctured by a sniper's bullet.

And it's the difference between important grown-ups who piously exhort us to hold our educational system "accountable" and a nine-year-old who has come to detest school because the days are now full of practice tests in place of projects and puzzles. Up there: people pounding the pulpits about the need for World-Class Standards. Down here: little kids weeping, big kids denied diplomas on the basis of a single exam score, wonderful teachers reduced to poring over the want ads.

There is a lot to be said about the spurious logic of the Tougher Standards movement and about the way standardized tests measure what matters least. The arguments and evidence are there, for anyone who cares to peer behind the sanctimonious rhetoric, or investigate the way exams are designed and used. My file cabinets are bulging with arresting arguments and damning data.

Christine



MEET THE TEACHER:

Jill Keltner & Tiffany Vilaria



Grade: Home Learning Community - 1st - 4th

Birthday: August 29th

Where I grew up: San Jose, CA

My academic background is: degree in English from UC Berkeley

What I like about

teaching: I love learning with the kids, I love exploring the world together, I love the creativity, the fun, the excitement, the curiosity

My favorite school subject: hmmm... I love them all...

What I do for fun: travel, do yoga, read, hike

What I like you to know about me: I believe learning should be a wonderful exploration of life.

How I relax: reading

What I collect: rocks

My favorite foods: grapes

My favorite drinks: smoothies

My favorite colors: depends on my mood

My favorite flowers: lupine

My favorite animals: orca

My favorite artists: too many...

Innovations Academy would like to specially thank:

Priority Moving for all their services helping IA move furniture and relocate classrooms over the summer.

Bryan Bloom is the BEST!



Grade: 2nd

Birthday: August 10th

Where I grew up: Born and Raised in San Diego

My academic background is: I attended private school all my life where I was lucky to have the privilege of having some project

based learning as well. For my first year of college, I attended the University of San Francisco. I then transferred down to the University of San Diego where I graduated with a BA in Diversified Liberal Arts and a concentration in Multicultural Studies. After receiving my teaching credential from USD, I went on to Grand Canyon University where I received my Masters of Arts in Teaching.

What I like about teaching: I love being able to help students learn to their fullest potential. I am able to learn from them as they reach for the stars doing what they love while becoming extraordinary citizens.

My favorite school subject: Math and Reading

What I do for fun: I pick up a book and read whenever I can, spend time with my family and friends, do crafty projects, and bake! I love do it yourself projects and decorating cakes and cupcakes.

What I like you to know about me: I enjoy helping people whenever possible and love to travel.

How I relax: Reading, watching movies, and baking.

My favorite foods: Sushi

My favorite drinks: Jamba Juice

My favorite snacks: Popcorn

My favorite colors: Blue and Brown

My favorite flowers: Hibiscus

My favorite animals: Monkey

My favorite artists: M.C. Escher and (musical artist) Anuhea

My favorite movies: The Princess Bride

My favorite books: Mr. Popper's Penguins



ASK A QUESTION!

Every month we will ask our teachers a question. If you would like to ask **YOUR** question, please contact newsletter@innovationsacademy.org.

This month's question is:

“What has been your favorite fieldtrip and why?”



Kindergarten, For “Zero Waste Week” Gaby’s class went downtown to the Children’s Museum where they enjoyed living art and viewing different ways that people can use trash to beautify the world. They were even surprised by trash monsters which were people dressed up in “trash” costumes.

Kindergarten, Jennifer’s class went to the Scripps Ranch Library. Their goal was to research trees. The librarian did an amazing job of helping them learn about how to use the library as a resource. The class also went to the Blue Sky Reserve. They learned about native trees and wildlife.

One field trip **the first grade** class has gone on this year was a trip to the California Wolf Center. Students got to observe wolves in their natural habitat with their pack. Students learned about the animal food chain and learned new vocabulary words such as prey, predator, and habitat. The first grade has an upcoming field trip to the San Diego Food Bank. We will take a tour of the Food Bank and help them organize food donations. We are very excited to help out our community.

Second Grade has been exploring the community around our school. The question about what makes a great community has been on the agenda. The park and the businesses across the street are very different places to start gathering this information.

Third Grade. A student in the 3rd grade was interested about polar bears and was encouraged to plan a field trip. With the support of the teachers a trip was planned to the Zoo in late October.

Fourth Grade students have been creating news shows in class. The newscasts have been about current events, science experiments, information on the electoral college and the school band after school class. This has generated interest in a visit to a news station. The students are interested in the design of a news studio, how the production of a program takes place and what equipment is used. With a visit to San Diego 6 studio they will be able to make some real world connections.

Fifth Grade went to Chicano Park in Logan Heights. Aside from the majestic portrayals of Latino culture, it was amazing to hear one of our students describe the history of the park to the rest of the class. She told a story about a young man who protested the neighborhood being divided by the freeway and how his struggles eventually led to the formation of the park. This information, which was new to me, was gathered by her previously for a research paper she was working on. It was a wonderful reminder that at Innovations Academy, I am often humbled by what my students have to teach me. When our class went to Chicano Park, students were awestruck and inspired by the murals. We chose to go there because a group of our students are working on a project that includes painting murals around our school (starting with our classroom doors and moving beyond...) Often unprompted conversations popped up between students about the symbols, colors, painting techniques, and the composition of the paintings. It was an amazing learning experience for everyone including teachers, parents and students!-Alexis

Sixth Graders went to Balboa Park where they explored the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the Natural History Museum. They have also been to Mission Beach with the other middle school classes and had a sleep over celebration in the classroom to complete phase II of their project.

Seventh Grade has gone on **10** field trips so far this year! The students’ favorites were the Mount Woodson hike, Middle School Beach Day and Sea World. One of my favorites was Suzie’s Farm because it was organized by Max Blaine. Max had an interest in getting the whole class on a bus instead of using parent drivers. In order to use the bus, our class had to raise \$250 dollars over the course of one week. At Suzie’s Farm, our students saw greenhouses, triangular chicken coops and many different kinds of edible crops. For Jennie, one of her favorite field trips this year was the 7th grade trip to Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Several of the students didn’t think they could do the whole hike and it was great to see the entire team motivate these students and encourage them. At the end, when everyone completed the hike, there were many emotions, but the one that everyone felt was pride.

8th Grade’s favorite field trip took place at Birch Aquarium. Our students attended an ocean lab called “Science of the Sea.” They worked with graduate students to perform experiments similar to those that oceanographers conduct every day. The graduate students split our students into groups and explored sampling techniques together and learned to measure the Ph, salinity, turbidity and oxygenation of their seawater samples. Our students learned about current Scripps Oceanography research and discovered possible careers in this exciting field. This trip directly prepared the students for the experiments that they performed on the samples that each group collected as part of their “Rate Our Beach” project.



Inquiring Minds Want to Know...

IA Charter Renewal Process

By Christine Kuglen

Innovations Academy is a charter school. Charter schools are public schools that may provide instruction in grades kindergarten through 12. They are usually created or organized by a group of parents, teachers and/or other educators, and community leaders or community-based organizations. An existing public school board usually authorizes charter schools. The specific goals and operating procedures for a charter school are detailed in the agreement (or "charter") between the board and the organizers. The key objectives of charter schools are to:

- Provide choices for parents and students within the public school system for innovative, high-quality learning opportunities.
- Stimulate competition in the educational market.

To meet these objectives, charter schools are granted increased autonomy in exchange for increased accountability for results. During its term, the school must meet the student performance and operational goals listed in its charter,

As an accountability measure, charter schools are given initial 3-5 year terms. Innovations Academy was initially given a 5 year term ending June 2013. Due to these time

constraints we are in the renewal year of our charter.

The process for renewal is:

- Each year the charter is reviewed by a district team
- During the final year of the charter, a revised charter is submitted including budget for review (For I.A., November 2012)
- The revised charter is reviewed by the district team
- There is a public hearing to consider the renewal of the charter (for I.A. that happened on December 4, 2012)
- A final hearing is held to vote of the new charter (our meeting is scheduled for January 9th) PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

So far the process has been very smooth for Innovations Academy and we do not anticipate any problems in the renewal of our charter.

If you have any questions about this process, please come see me or send an email to:

Christine@innovationsacademy.org

Innovations Academy Business Resource Directory

Name	Email	Website	Phone	
Alice Olsher	aliceolsher@gmail.com		(619) 855 2345	Teacher of the Alexander Technique
Annette White			(858) 693-5854 – phone (858) 693-3367 - - fax	Small Business & Employee Benefits Specialist
Cicity Scull	cicity.scull@yahoo.com	www.arbonne.com	858-888-2165	Skin Care & Wellness Advisor. Shop Online: www.arbonne.com ARBONNE Int'l., Ind.Consult. #10828730, Join my Facebook page, Stepping Up To Wellness with Cicity: http://tinyurl.com/azllgrc
Jennifer Kuebier	jennifer@jenniferkuebier.com	www.ienniferkuebier.com	858-722-2442	Life Coach, Marriage and Family Therapist Trainee, Certified Positive Discipline Parent Educator
Jo Thomas Blaine	joblaine@aol.com	www.mandalaartplates.com	(619)867-1225	Licensed Acupuncturist, Holistic Healer, Artist and Graphic Designer
John Wherry	Gtech_JFW@yahoo.com	www.visualcv.com/iohnwherry www.youtube.com/user/GhostKnightTech	(619) 957 3113	Computer Network Consultant - Computer Problems ? Need Help ?
Ryan Andrews	ryan@envoypictures.com	www.envoypictures.com		Videography business for corporate video commercials
Sara Andrews	sara@cyclonefit.com	www.cyclonefit.com		Fitness studio in Sabre Springs called Cyclone Fitness. Indoor cycling and personal training
Usha Tunnell	info@birthpeace.net	www.birthpeace.net	(442) 999-1224	Hypnobabies® Childbirth Hypnosis Instructor - Offering classes in Vista, CA
Usha Tunnell	utunnell@gmail.com	http://beachbodycoach.com/esuite/home/USHATUNNELL	(442) 999-1224	Independent Beachbody coach offering free nutrition and fitness coaching!

Encouragement as part of Positive Discipline

by Talin Yesaie, LCSW - Roots & Wings Consulting



"A misbehaving child is a discouraged child," Alfred Adler is one of my favorite quotes because it rings so true in my experiences in working with not only children but also adults. Misbehavior is like a foreign language we must translate in order to understand the true message the child is trying to send. The behavior translates to, "support me, believe in me and help me believe in myself," encouragement.

ENCOURAGE
EMPOWER

Encouragement is what gives both children and adults power to push themselves, to keep going against all odds.

According to Rudolf Dreikurs, a psychiatrist and educator, to encourage is to support the development of a person's self-estimate and self worth, encourage to learn more, think big, be better and learn from mistakes. Encouragement is more than being a cheerleader, it is about giving specific feedback to grow and do things you never thought possible. Encouragement help people believe in themselves and helps turn dreams into realities, encouragement fuels motivation. Parents are responsible for the development of healthy, well-adjusted contributing members of society. To help children believe in themselves, to believe that they can accomplish whatever they choose to do.

Encouragement also sends the message that growth and learning also come from mistakes we make. Some of the

biggest life lessons we learn may be the most embarrassing moments of our lives, but the belief that it will be okay, that we will get through it keeps us going, continuing to take risks. Rudolf Dreikurs had an idea of how we develop courage; "*Courage is found in one who can make a mistake and fail without feeling lowered in his self-esteem.*" We hold ourselves to unachievable standards, yet put ourselves down when we think we have failed. I have to regularly remind myself that life is not a pass/fail course, rather the risks I take are worth the experience and what I may learn from them. The way in which we teach children this sense of courage is to be courageous ourselves- to take risks and challenges focusing on the experience rather than the result that comes. Furthermore the rubric in which we must use to grade ourselves is whether or not we took the chance, if we are better for it and grew because of it.

5 Encouraging Statements for Children:

1. I saw how long you were working on that picture and how hard you concentrated to get it just the way you liked it.
2. I believe in you, you will get it with practice.
3. It's okay, it was a mistake we can learn from for next time.
4. You look like you are stuck; can I help you with that?
5. Don't be afraid to try something new, I will always be here to help you figure it out.

Roots & Wings Consulting offers individual, couples, and family therapy, as well as coaching, parenting classes, and other consulting services.

*Their focus is on building stronger individuals, stronger families, and stronger communities by helping each person find what we are all looking for: those roots and wings. Why? Because **when your feet are planted firmly on the ground, it's easier to fly.***

<http://www.rootsandwingsconsulting.com>

Coming soon:

Positive Discipline Workshops
by Innovations Academy



SCHOOL HOURS		
Kindergarten	Mon - Thur	9:00 - 2:30
Grades 1-8	Mon - Thur	9:00 - 3:30
Grades K-8	Friday	9:00 - 12:00
HLC	Tues & Thur	9:00 - 3:00
LUNCH & PLAY		
Grades K-4	Mon - Thur	11:45 - 12:30
Grades 5-8	Mon - Thur	12:30 - 1:15
HLC	Mon - Thur	11:45 - 12:30

TEACHER BLOGS

All teachers have their own classroom blogs. Here you will find information about what's going on in the classrooms, projects the students are working on and the wishes and needs that the teachers and students have.

Make sure to check the blog on a weekly basis to stay updated!

Go to innovationsacademy.org and click on 'teacher blogs'

Innovations Academy
 10380 Spring Canyon Rd.
 San Diego, 92131
 Phone: 858-271-1414
 fax: 858-271-1418
info@innovationsacademy.org

CONNECT WITH OUR TEACHERS

Gabriela (Gaby) Badillo - Kindergarten

gabriela@innovationsacademy.org

Jennifer KirkbyTatro - Kindergarten

jenniferkt@innovationsacademy.org

Alicia Wescott - 1st Grade

alicia@innovationsacademy.org

Tiffany Vilorio - 2nd Grade

tiffany@innovationsacademy.org

Patrick Garland - 3rd / 4th Grade (SS/LA)

patrick@innovationsacademy.org

Elizabeth Grimes - 3rd / 4th Grade (Math/Sci)

elizabeth@innovationsacademy.org

Alexis Stoner - 5th Grade (Math/Sci)

alexis@innovationsacademy.org

Bill Thomas - 5th Grade (SS/LA)

bill@innovationsacademy.org

Michael Grimes - 6th Grade (SS/LA)

michael@innovationsacademy.org

Emily Luscomb - 6th Grade (Math/Sci)

emily@innovationsacademy.org

Jennie Ganesan - 7th Grade (SS/LA)

jennie@innovationsacademy.org

Wes Davis - 7th (Math/Sci)

wes@innovationsacademy.org

Tony Spitzberg - 8th Grade (SS/LA)

tony@innovationsacademy.org

Lisa Moncrief - 8th Grade (Math/Sci)

lisa@innovationsacademy.org

Teresa Dragucevich - (K-1)

teresaD@innovationsacademy.org

Jill Keltner - HLC (2,3,4)

jill@innovationsacademy.org

Jennifer McMakin - HLC (5,6,7,8)

jennifer@innovationsacademy.org

Steve Smith - Media Arts

steve@innovationsacademy.org

Brian Kane - PE

brian@innovationsacademy.org

Around The World

Home Learning Community Celebrates Diversity

by Jill Keltner - HLC teacher



As we move towards the winter holiday break, the **Home Learning Community is preparing for our Around the World in the HLC Festival.**

We will celebrate the amazing diversity of our community. Families are working at home to create displays of their own cultures and religious traditions: from Islam to Judaism to Christianity, and from Jamaica to Poland to Argentina. Some students have even chosen to share historical traditions such as the way the ancient Celts celebrated the Winter Solstice and the way Laura Ingalls Wilder celebrated Christmas.

The most wonderful part of this celebration is the excitement of the kids. **All three classes – K-8 – will be sharing their knowledge and experience with each other.** The younger kids get a chance to spend time with their heroes, and the older kids get to take an adoring child under their wings. At the beginning of the year, the students created mind-heart maps describing what they would like to learn. This project includes many of the students' interests: the astronomy of the solstice, the reading and writing of Native American Indian legends, mapping the world's population, graphing the length of daylight hours, and lots of art – dream catchers to dreidels to stars and moons.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season with lots of Joyful Learning!

“ . . . [Of course it's possible to] succeed in raising average test scores. You deprive kids of recess, eliminate music and the arts, cut back the class meetings and discussions of current events, offer less time to read books for pleasure, squeeze out the field trips and interdisciplinary projects and high-quality electives, spend enough time teaching test-taking tricks, and, you bet, it's possible to raise the scores. But that result is meaningless at best. When a school or district reports better test results this year than last, knowledgeable parents and other observers respond by saying, “So what?” (because higher test scores do not necessarily reflect higher quality teaching and learning) – or even, “Uh-oh” (because higher test scores may indicate lower quality teaching and learning).”

-- “Standardized Testing: Separating Wheat Children from Chaff Children”

You Shop...

Our Kids Win!

Sign up with eScrip and everytime you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations, a percentage of your purchase will go to our group.

- Go to www.escrip.com
- Click on Sign Up
- Enter our Group ID# 500022874

It's Free,

It's Easy,

It's Powerful!





EXPLORATIONS PLUS

Extended Care at Innovations Academy

Enrichment Class Schedule

MONDAYs Session starts 1/14	TUESDAYs Session starts 1/15	WEDNESDAYs Session starts 1/16	THURSDAYs Session starts 1/17	FRIDAYs Session starts 1/18
Sew Fun K-4 3:45-4:45 \$80 Contact LuAnn Wherry luann.wherry@gmail.com	Mandarin K-3 8:10am-8:55am \$150 (10 Sessions) Contact Ellen sandiego@yakacademy.com	Cheer4Fun K-8 3:30-4:30 \$137.50 (11 sessions) Contact Kim kim@cheer4fun.com	Spanish K-3 8:10am-8:55am \$150 (10 Sessions) Contact Ellen sandiego@yakacademy.com	Band/Orchestra 2-8 (two days per week) 12:20-1:40 Contact Pam pmeuph@gmail.com
	Chess K-8 3:45-4:30 \$100 (10 sessions) Contact Martin martin@chessmindsinmotion.com	Kinder Music K/1 (two days per week) 2:30-3:30 Contact Pam pmeuph@gmail.com	Kinder Music K/1 (two days per week) 2:30-3:30 Contact Pam pmeuph@gmail.com	Soccer Shots 1-6 1:15-2:00 \$120 (10 week Session) Contact Juan 619.587.0806
	Stretch/Yoga K-8 3:45-4:45 \$80 (10 week session) Contact Natasha nippidoggs@gmail.com	Band/Orchestra 2-8 (two days per week) 3:45-5:05 Contact Pam pmeuph@gmail.com	Band/Orchestra 2-8 (two days per week) 3:45-5:05 Contact Pam pmeuph@gmail.com	Mad Science K-6 Info to follow on 1/11/2013 info@madsciencesd.com
			Capoeira K-8 3:45-5:00 Contact Alex alex@innovationsacademy.org	

Specific information on all enrichment classes will come via email. All enrichment providers can be contacted as noted above.

Extended Care Pricing

	Before Care Weekly Fees	After Care Weekly Fees
5 days per week	\$25 \$15 (sibling)	\$57.50 \$25 (sibling)
4 days per week	\$20 \$12 (sibling)	\$47.50 \$20 (sibling)
3 days per week	\$15 \$9 (sibling)	\$36.00 \$15 (sibling)
2 days per week	\$10 \$6 (sibling)	\$12.00 \$10 (sibling)
1 day per week/drop in	\$10 \$5 (sibling)	\$15.00 \$8.00 (sibling)

Hours of Operation:

The IAEC operates on every school day. General hours are listed below. Please note that we are open on all early release days from 12:00pm to 6:00pm. brandy@innovationsacademy.org

Monday-Thursday 7:00am to 6:00pm
Friday 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Enrichment Classes:

Enrichment class hours are on a class by class basis. You will not be charged for attendance in the Extended Care Program if your child is attending a paid enrichment class. All payments for enrichment classes are handled by the provider of the class.

Sew Fun! Luanne Wherry. LuAnn.wherry@gmail.com. K-4 Mondays 3:45-4:45, \$80
A class that offers sewing, beading, tie-dye, and more.

Mandarin. Ellen-Yak Academy. sandiego@yakacademy.com K-4 Tuesdays 8:10am-8:55am, \$150
Fun emersion class in Mandarin language and culture. www.yakacademy.com

Chess. Martin Nillson. martin@chessmindsinmotion.com. K-8 Tuesdays 3:45-4:30, \$100
Experience the game of chess with your friends! <http://chessmindsinmotion.com/>

Stretch/Yoga. Natasha Starbucks-Smith. nippidogg@gmail.com. K-8 Tuesdays 3:45-4:45, \$80
Combination class of stretching, yoga, and mindfulness.

Cheer4Fun. Kim Moser. kim@cheer4fun.com. K-6 Wednesday 3:30-4:30, \$137.50
Enjoy the sport of cheerleading in a non-competitive environment. www.cheer4fun.com.

Kinder Music Pam Miller. pmeuph@gmail.com. K/1 Wed/Thu 2:30-3:30, TBA
Musical experience for K/1 students including, voice, percussion, keyboarding, and more.

Band/Orchestra. Pam Miller. pmeuph@gmail.com. 2-8 Wed/Thu/Fri 3:45-5:05, TBA
Choose an instrument and learn to play in a musical group.

Spanish. Ellen- Yak Academy. sandiego@yakacademy.com K-4 Thursdays 8:10am-8:55am, \$150
Fun emersion class in Spanish language and culture. www.yakacademy.com

Capoeira. Alex Antohin. alex@innovationsacademy.org. K-8 Thursdays 3:45-5:00, \$50
A Brazilian martial arts/dance/music class.

Soccer Shots. Juan. 619.587.0806. 1-6 Fridays 1:15-2:00, \$120
Work on your soccer skills in a high energy and fun environment.

Mad Science. Info will follow. Fridays. Time and cost TBA.
info@madsciencesd.com

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions,
please contact Brandy Adkins, Progam Coordinator,
brandy@innovationsacademy.org





Innovations FUNdraising

FUNDRAISING HAS BEEN UP AND RUNNING! HERE ARE SOME QUICK UPDATES:

If you love to shop or give gift cards as holiday gifts, this is the fundraiser for you! Go online at www.shopwithscrip.com (Great Lake Scrip-gift cards) and go through over a 1,000 stores, and purchase gift cards! There are gift cards for everyone in your life and just in time for the holidays! No stepping foot in malls or standing in lines at discount stores!

We are asking all our IA families to take a moment and sign-up with **eScrip!** It's free money to our school and all you need to do is register your grocery cards and charge cards. Every time you grocery shop, dine out, or shop at department stores. Every time you swipe your cards, our school gets a percentage from eScrip. Go to: www.eScrip.com and sign-up!

Start saving your old clothes and shoes! The IA Parent Association is working on setting up a fundraiser that will raise money for the school by your contributions of used clothing and shoes.

Keep saving your Fresh + Easy receipts through 12/31/12. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped us raise \$742 at Fresh + Easy shopping night on October 29.

The **Pledge drive** brought in approximately \$11,000. We are so grateful for Sinead King, who volunteered her time to get this off the ground. There will not be another pledge drive this year, but donations are always accepted through the "Donate Now" link on IA's website.

Food Truck Thursdays will continue on an ongoing basis. The winter hours are 5-8 p.m. To get updates about which trucks will be coming each week, "like" our page at <http://www.facebook.com/IAFoodTruckThursdays>

The IA Parent Association now has a welcoming committee! Jessica Nalley, a new parent at IA this year, has graciously volunteered to help make the process of moving to our school easier for families. She sends a welcome letter and the IA family handbook to the new family and makes herself available to answer any questions they may have. She also notifies the Room Parents of their classes how to contact them.

On behalf of the entire IA Parents Association Group, we would like to wish our entire IA community a very Happy Holiday!

Sincerely,

Debbie Kutyla, President
Parents Association Group
Innovations Academy
dkutyla@san.rr.com

Kim Knox, Vice-President
Parents Association, Innovations Academy
kim@kk2.com

ScripNow: The Perfect Last, Last, Last Minute Gift

Or the perfect early, early, early gift. With the ability to schedule a time to send eGifts automatically, your families can just choose a ScripNow™ retailer that suits their needs, and pick a delivery date! Early planners can pick out and schedule eGifts weeks, even months, in advance. But if they accidentally forget their uncle across the country, they can send a gift in minutes!

With ScripNow eGifts, they'll be able to get it to that special person the day they want it! So tell your families the perks of using ScripNow this holiday season:

- No shipping! Instantaneous gifts!*
- No hassle! A crowded mall on a Saturday? Or the comfort of your home, whenever you wish?
- Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Who can beat ShopWithScrip® hours?
- eGifts can be sent to any email address you choose.
- Plan in advance, plan in the moment or plan just in time. Schedule when you want your eGifts to be delivered!

So, have your families support your organization by using ScripNow this holiday season. With these options, your families will be able to find something for everyone!

Some numbers:

Innovations Academy received from

Food Trucks: **\$4610.00**

Pledge Drive: **\$11,000.00**

Spook-a-grams: **\$93.75**

Fresh & Easy Shopping Night: **\$742.28**

Thank you for your contributions!!

IA PARENT ASSOCIATION



Greetings Innovations Community,

Welcome Innovations Academy families to the brand new IA Parents Association Group! We are so thrilled to have such a wonderful group comprised of IA parents who are graciously giving of their time and talents. **The Parents Association Group is not a membership club; there are no fees, dues, or secret handshake. All our IA families are welcome and members of the IA Parents Association Group.**



My name is Debbie Kutyla and I am your new Parents Association Group President. I'm a stay-at-home mom, married for 29 years, parent to an 8th grader at Innovations Academy, and live in the Scripps Ranch area.

Kim Knox is serving as our Vice-President and Secretary. She too, is a parent at IA, married for 10 years, parent of a 4 year old and has a 3rd grader attending Innovations Academy, and resides in the Poway area.

At the present, we are in the midst of creating a Board that we feel best serves our school community. The Parents Association Group has been working closely with both IA's Director, Christine Kuglen and Front Office Staff, Donna Napier. The committees that are now in place are the most needed at this time. As time goes on, more positions can always be added. Kim and myself are working together, looking at how to best to improve and serve our families, teachers, and staff. It's our hope that once our committees are finely tuned, we are able to have Parent Association meetings with our IA families, beginning at the end of February. We will make sure to communicate in advance as to the date and time when we will be holding this.

One of the issues the Parent Association Group is working on bettering communication between our IA families and our teachers. Every Sunday evening, you will be receiving updates the various following ways:

- Our Director Christine Kuglen via the **Sunday evening phone and e-mail blast**. If you are not receiving one or both of these informational messages, please contact the Front Office and make sure they have a correct phone number and e-mail address you can be reached at.
- If you happen to delete you e-mail blasts, you can always find the same information on our school website:

www.innovationsacademy.org. New information is posted every Sunday night or Monday morning at the latest. The schools new website will be up and running any day now so look for more information coming soon!

- It is so important you check your child(s) **teacher's blogs!** The information on these blogs tells you on a weekly basis, what your children are working on in their classrooms! Also, some teacher's will lists their weekly vocabulary words and study links so parents can help their children study for their weekly tests. If your teacher's blog is not up-to-date, please let me know.
- Our school has a their own Facebook page! You can find it at: is **<http://www.facebook.com/groups/InnovationsAcademy>**
- You will start receiving a **weekly informational blurb from your class Room Parent**. The information will possibly let you know about a class party coming up or a future field trip. If you find you are not receiving any information in about 2 weeks, please contact your Room Parent to find out if your e-mail address is correct or needs to be added to the class roster.

It is our suggestion that you check weekly on Sunday night or Monday, one or more of the items above to stay informed at Innovations Academy. We are trying to be a paperless school unless there's an event that necessitates paperwork.

If our IA families have other suggestions, please feel free to e-mail myself or Kim. We are open to any and all suggestions! Our e-mail addresses are: Debbie (dkutyla@san.rr.com) and Kim (kim@kk2.com).

Debbie Kutyla , President/Fundraising Director, Family Dance Coordinator
Kim Knox , Vice President/Secretary/Food Trucks Coordinator
Ans De Ranter , Treasurer
Kim Ackerman , Community Outreach Co-Director
Pernille Frandsen , Community Outreach Co-Director, Book Fair Coordinator, Suzie's Farm Raiser Box Coordinator
Elise Potter , Room Parent Coordinator
Kara Ramirez , Volunteer Director
Jennifer Franklin , Gifts and Grants Director
Brenda Loveall , School Support Director
Jessica Nalley , Welcoming Committee
LuAnn Wherry , Passive Fundraising
Patty Martinez , Yearbook Committee
Beth Foster , Sustainability Director
Sinead King , Pledge Drive
Lon G. , Communications Director
Alice Olsher , Community Inreach Director
John Wherry , Tech Support

Innovations Academy was featured with a 2 page centerspread (Focus)
for the November 2012 issue of the SRCA Newsletter:



Innovations Academy

Innovations Academy is a K–8 public charter school whose mission is to “powerfully create our lives through self-expression, compassionate connection, and purposeful learning.”

At Innovations Academy we believe children learn through collaboration, problem solving, inquiry, exploration, and high-level critical thinking. Because of this belief, we do not use textbooks and only assign “purposeful homework.” Parents ask, “If you do not use textbooks or give homework, how do students learn?” Below are pictures reflecting a kindergarten math lesson. On the next page are outdoor activities and an 8th grade environmental studies project.

Kindergartners: How Much Is That Number?

Kindergartners explore math concepts so that we can create a foundation of understanding to base our further math inquiry. A key goal is for students to have concrete understanding of the quantities that go with the symbols we use.

Phase One: Initial Estimates and Exploring Quantity

As the students make their guesses, they check for number sense. The class will ask: “Do you know how many that is?” The students represent the number they have guessed so they can check their work and ask, “Is that truly the number of items I think is in the jar?” Students may change their estimates until their guess becomes an educated guess.



Phase Two: Size, Shape, and Volume

The students begin taking out a small quantity of each item in the jar to see what that looks like. For instance, five toothpicks take up a different amount of space in the jar than five corks. By looking at how much the jar is diminished by the quantity they take out, the students might be able to see if their estimates are on target.

Phase Three: Counting, Grouping, and Skip Counting

The students count the items to see how many are really in the jars. At this time they will explore other options of counting larger quantities quickly.

Field trips introduce kids to activities and sights to which they may not otherwise be exposed. Also, children understand that classrooms are not the only place where learning happens. The world is our classroom and we learn all the time.



1st Graders: Learning About The People in Their Community

Officer Paul Hernandez (below) is the brother of one of our students. He brought his police dog named "Sat." The students interviewed the officer with some of the following questions: "How long will your dog work as a police dog?" "How does your dog get the scent of a bad guy?"



5th Graders: Los Peñasquitos Canyon

The 5th grade class goes on a hike and visits the historic Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House.



8th Graders: Pristine Beach Project, San Clemente

Cooperative and collaborative learning is paramount to our school. To help facilitate this learning, the 8th graders participated in a two-night camping trip to San Clemente State Beach. During the day students performed a cleanup and examined what they found. They filled out charts that reflected the most prevalent materials. Students also took sand and water samples. The sand came from three separate parts of the beach: the water line, mid-beach, and the bluff. At school the students researched individual beaches and picked the one that will be the subject of this project's inquiry. Students will display their findings at our school exhibition on Thursday, Dec. 13.

Innovations Academy Charter School – Christine Kuglen, Director

10380 Spring Canyon Road

858-271-1414

[www.innovationsacademy.org]



ALL ABOUT THE STUDENTS

where students can express themselves, show their work and share their message

We asked the students: **“Tell us about a fieldtrip you have taken this year”**



Kindergarten- Jennifer

Natalie: What I liked about when we went to Poway Lake is when we saw the big goose and it made a loud noise and I saw a duck swimming in the water, that was fast.

Lia: I liked the Blue Sky Preserve because we saw a hawk.

Rachel: I liked the library because we got to find books that were on our card.

Demetri: I liked how we went to the lake and saw the pelicans and the seaguls and there was ducks.

Rowan: I liked Blue Sky Preserve because we got to see nature. I liked the the oak.

Kayla: I liked Blue Sky because we got to see tracks on the ground.

Rachel Lee: I liked the Blue Sky Preserve because we got to walk like baby foxes.

Amelie: I liked the library because the librarian read to us. The book was happy and it was about Question Boy and he asked everything.

Kai: I liked when we took a picture at the Poway Lake park. I liked it because we got to be on the rocks.

Brianna: I liked the Oak trees in the Blue Sky Reserve because they were cool looking.

Evelyn: I liked Overlook Park because we got to play on the slide.

Joshua: I wrote a part of a big word in my journal at the Poway Lake.

Malaya: I liked the library because I liked when Questions Boy said to the girl, “Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?”

Mason: I liked Poway Lake because we got to see the ducks and the goose.

Haden: I liked Blue Sky Reserve because we got to see a snake there.

Mathis: I liked Blue Sky Preserve because we got to see a yellow flower called a California Poppy.

Preston: I liked the in of Blue Sky Reserve that we got to hiking

Kindergarten - Gaby

Responses from the New Children’s Art Museum Exhibit- TRASH:

Mikayla- Climbing up on the wall

Andrew- Climbing up on the tires and going in the dumpster

Vikas- Climbing up the wall

Jack- When we were using the broken toys to build [a collage]

Fiona- When we were in the rain house and doing the different sounds

Merrick- I liked it when we watched the videos and then going down the slide, and climbing on the walls

Michael- The maze and watching the Trash Monsters

Brooklyn- The dumpster

Lyla- The dumpster part

Lauren- I liked when we played in the park and climbed the wheels and slid down the slide

Nyala- My favorite part was going down the stairs and climbing up the tires and seeing the big trash bags in front of me

Ashley- When we watched the tv

Lincoln- Mine was the maze. It was really fun cuz I couldn't get out.

Avani- When we were putting the gloves on our hands and putting them on the tv

Jake- When we climbed up the tires and silde down the slides

Kai- I thought there was trash in the black bags put they were really stuffed with pillows

Gaby- My favorite part of the museum was seeing so many people were trying the "hard wall"

First Grade - Alicia

"We went to the California Wolf Center and after that experience, I learned to love animals a lot more" -Maximus

"The experience I enjoyed was when we went to Corcran Apple Orchard and picked apples. We got to eat them and they were so good!" -Liam

"The experience I enjoyed was when we went apple picking because we picked the apples and they were good." -Brice

"I liked when we went to the Wolf Center because we wanted to learn about wolves and we liked it." - David

"I'm excited to go to the food bank because I've never been there." - Angelo

"I'm really excited to go to the food bank because not everyone has food and it is an important issue to learn about." - Avery

"I liked when we went to the Wolf Center and learned about the wolves because it was really fun."- Gabriella

"I liked when we went to the Wolf Center and we saw a real life wolf up close."- Robert

"I'm excited for the food bank because we are going to help organize the food. They usually don't let kids do that." - Skye

6th Grade - Emily/Michael

We love hanging out with friends

They are educational

Learning new things

Having fun, while learning

New friends/ new connections

Discovering new things

New experiences

Learning self awareness

Seeing smiles on people's faces and learning

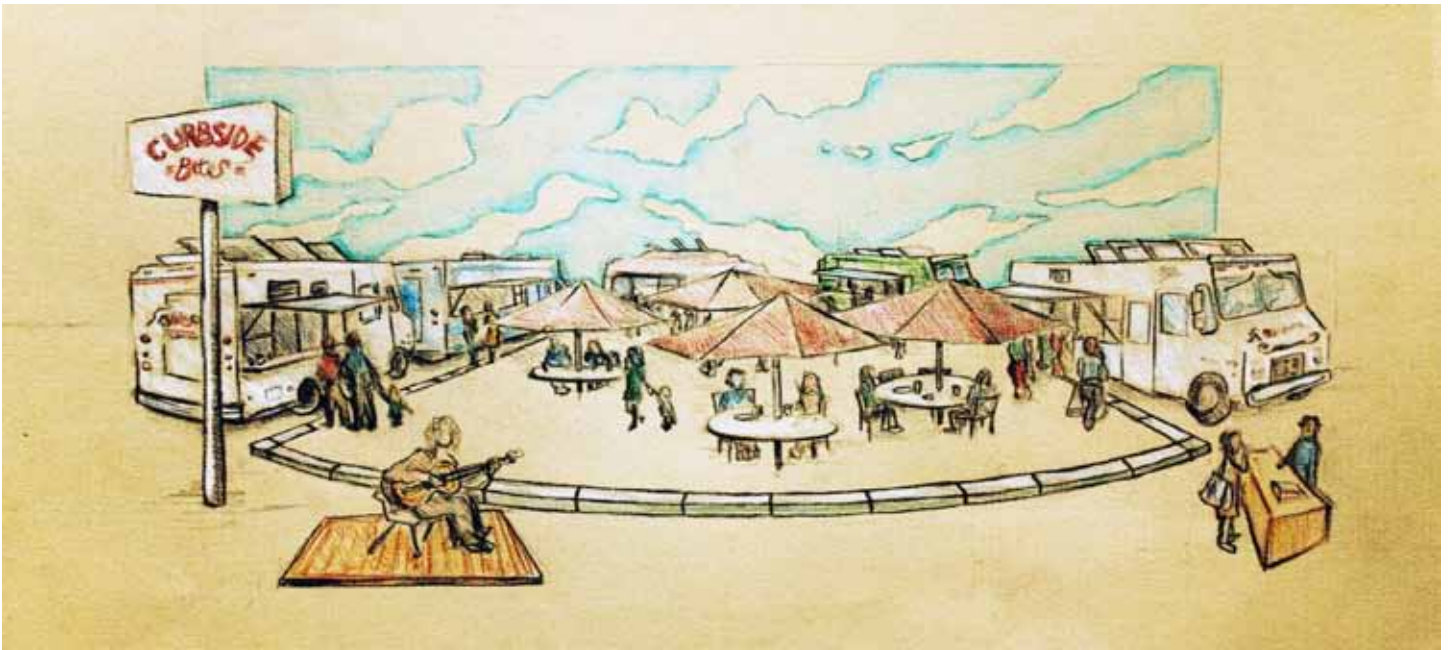


8th Grade - Lisa/Tony

Michael – "The middle school beach trip because it was a bonding experience with games and fun!"

Tori – "The overnight camping trip at San Clemente was special because it really brought everyone together."

Trevor – "The San Clemente beach trip was important because bringing us together helps us learn."



Scripps Ranch

Food Truck Thursdays

This weekly gathering of gourmet food trucks is a fundraiser to benefit the non-profit Innovations Academy S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program. Innovations Academy is a free, public K-8 charter school.

EVERY THURSDAY 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Innovations Academy
10380 Spring Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92131



For weekly updates and a current list of trucks, visit
<http://www.facebook.com/IAFoodTruckThursdays>

