

# Innovations Academy

Community Outreach &  
Exhibition Night



March 26, 2015  
5:00-7:30 p.m.

*Welcome!*

We appreciate your presence. Be sure to do the following before leaving tonight:

- See the campus map on the back page.
- Visit at least 3 classrooms.
- Ask students questions about their projects.
- Support our student fundraisers (if you can).

## Special Scheduled Events

Visit the IA **Science Lab (Room 602)**

**Media Arts** students will also be out with cameras during Exhibition Night to take footage of everything going on and interviewing attendees.

Find our **Art** Room (off the lunch court) to view student artwork on exhibition

Time	Location	Event
ONGOING ALL NIGHT		
5:00	Room 506 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Reusable bag making
5:10	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Chicken Little featuring: Kaylee, Isabella, Chloe, Cecilia
	Room 402 (K)	Biographical Documentary
5:15		
5:30	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Three Little Pigs featuring: Adonis, Ashtyn, Isaiah, Xander
	Room 506	Robotics Demo & Ambassador Tours
	MPR (4 <sup>th</sup> )	"California Through the Ages" Performance
5:40	Room 402 (K)	Biographical Documentary
5:50	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Goldilocks and the Three Bears featuring: Sophia, Maren, Eva, Maya
6:00	Room 506 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Mindfulness Demo
	Room 505 (5 <sup>th</sup> )	Poetry Reading
6:10	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Jack and the Beanstalk featuring: Tyler, Jacob, Christian, Michael, Julian
	Room 402 (K)	Biographical Documentary
6:30	Room 506 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Reusable bag making and City Council Video
6:40	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Three Billy Goats Gruff puppet show featuring: Bryson, Mirriam, Jake and Curran
7:00	Room 401 (1 <sup>st</sup> )	Three Billy Goats Gruff play featuring: Savannah, Ryan, Demetri, Teagan

## What is Project Based Learning (PBL)?

PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem or challenge. ([www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org))

At Innovations Academy:

- Projects are highly academic. Students are asked to think deeply, construct questions as well as develop answers and work on complex tasks.
- During our projects students are challenged to create original products, interview professional experts, apply skills through field study and work with a variety of people.



Ways to appreciate the quality of education at I.A.-->

1. Read our website
2. Research
  - a. [www.edutopia.org](http://www.edutopia.org)
  - b. [www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org)
  - c. [www.alfiekohn.org](http://www.alfiekohn.org)
  - d. Article: Seven Essentials for Project Based Learning @ [www.ASCD.org](http://www.ASCD.org) (archives)
3. Volunteer in a classroom.



**Third Grade Rm. 505  
with Anja & Leslie**

## **Making a Difference in Local Government**

Our third graders have had several different areas of focus over the past trimester. We have extensively studied the impact of plastic on our environment. For this study, our class will have a station outside of our room where children and adults can learn to make reusable bags out of t-shirts (5:00 and 6:30). There will also be a project wall inside the room to view the work we have completed. Additionally, we have been learning about the functions of local government. Inside the classroom, visitors will be able to visit an ambassador station (5:30-6:00) to get their questions about local government answered. We will also be showing a video of our City Council speech (6:30) where we are speaking out in support of a plastic bag ban. Our third learning focus has been mindfulness. We will have a mindfulness demonstration (6:00) and people are welcome to ask students questions about how mindfulness has impacted our class. And finally, we will have a robotics demo at 5:30.

**Fourth Grade Rm. 507  
with Alexis & Casey**

## **Changes All Around**

In Fourth Grade, we have been looking into change. We have looked at changes to the physical structure of the Earth and how they happen, changes in California over time, ecosystems and the effect of changes on them, and how animals adapt to changes in their environment. Our students spoke to the San Diego City Council in support of changes to our plastic bag policies. The fourth graders will be performing a play at 5:30, "California: Through the Ages."



**Fifth Grade Rm. 508  
with Emily**



In fifth grade the students learned about energy. Their discoveries centered around the following questions: How do we produce and expend energy and how is it effecting our planet? How is our lifestyle changing the earth? How can we make a change in our daily lives to reduce our carbon footprint? Through data gathering, reflection and discussion, students learned how easy it is to make changes at home that would reduce their carbon footprint. They researched historical figures that scientifically advanced our lives and wrote a biography of their selected individual. In this 5<sup>th</sup> grade room, you will also see poetry written by students with information about energy use in other countries. The students will guide you through a collection of research, poetry and reflection. Class poets will be interpreting their poems at designated times. Please come to room 508 at 5:30 and 6:30 to hear them.

**Fifth Grade Rm. 505  
with Alex and Emma**

## **OUR MICRO REALITY**

Ever wonder what really lies beneath the surface? There is a whole world which cannot be seen by the human eye. Yet the world we live in is very similar, and in some ways identical, to our microscopic reality. We asked ourselves these questions: How does the microscopic world reflect our "real" world? How does meaning change based on perspective? We set out to answer these questions by studying cells and their functions. We also compared our macro world and micro world through a photographic lens, capturing how both worlds use similar forms and functions. We will also be sharing poetry that we created to help us better understand perspective and how it can change based on the subject. At 6:00 p.m. we will be reading our poetry and sharing our cell comparisons with the public. The Salk Institute helped influence and encourage the 5th graders to explore the world of microbiology and to one day perhaps pursue a career in science. Stop by. We would love to tell you all about it.





## Sixth Grade Rm. 603 Sally and Elzie

### Plastic: There is No Way

This trimester we have studied one of the greatest threats facing our planet: plastic pollution. We started by watching two impactful videos: It's A Plastic World and The Story of Bottled Water. Astounded by the facts in these videos, we decided to dig deeper into this plastic problem by watching the documentary Addicted to Plastic. We saw how the convenience of plastic has damaged our planet. We were amazed that plastic is a relatively new invention. We compared the packaging on several brands of chewing gum. We were astounded at the amount of packaging for the smallest packages of gum.

Our class created models of watersheds to understand the impact of waste. Guest speakers supported our learning. Katherine Weiler from the EPA spoke to us about plastic pollution and its impact on the ocean. Marika & Cory, a couple representing Schools of Sustainability, rode from Northern California to San Diego to teach about sustainability. With the 1to1 Movement, we learned about reducing the amount of waste we produce by collecting our trash from the week and writing reflections. Through our "Tuesday's with TED" meetings, our class learned from the TED talk 'Seas of Plastic' by Captain Charles Moore, 'How the Oceans Can Clean Themselves' by Boyan Slat and 'My Wish: Protect our Oceans' by Sylvia Earle. We participated in a beach clean-up at South Mission Beach jetty and we were very proud to present our poetry at City Council in support of a plastic bag ban. We are very passionate about plastics and we are excited to present all our knowledge to you at Exhibition Night.

## Sixth Grade Rm. 604 Michael & Jessie

### GOOD PROJECT

Half way through our first semester we noticed that our perspective about the current state of our country and planet was not very positive. From that awareness of negativity about our environment, government, and technology usage, the Good Project developed.

This project began with the students researching statistics and data to try to support the claim that we are currently living in the greatest period of world history. From here we moved onto lessons and research on mainstream media and the information they share with us. We had two professional experts come and share their perspectives.

After gaining an understanding of media delivery, we set out to become our own media outlet. We named our outlet 'The Good News Sandwich' and set a goal of creating four 25 page magazines and 20 YouTube videos. Each of our magazine articles and YouTube videos would be on something positive in San Diego or the world. Each student journalist was responsible for creating at least 2 written stories (one on something in San Diego and another on an event in the world) and at least one YouTube video. We then broke the class into different crews that worked to publish our final products.



## First Grade Rm. 401 Jen & Lisa



### BECOMING AUTHORS

The first graders in room 401 have spent the winter months exploring the skills of great story writing through addressing the following questions: 1) Why do people tell stories? 2) What makes a good story? They studied folktales to determine the commonalities and differences, listened to professional storytellers sharing their favorite stories, and learned what is important when retelling a story. They also interviewed storytellers in order to understand the process behind storytelling. Please come to our classroom to see the results of our hard work and take a look at the schedule for our events.

- 5:10-** Chicken Little featuring: Kaylee, Isabella, Chloe, Cecilia
- 5:30-** Three Little Pigs featuring: Adonis, Ashtyn, Isaiah, Xander
- 5:50-** Goldilocks and the Three Bears featuring: Sophia, Maren, Eva, Maya
- 6:10-** Jack and the Beanstalk featuring: Tyler, Jacob, Christian, Michael, Julian
- 6:40-** Three Billy Goats Gruff puppet show featuring: Bryson, Mirriam, Jake and Curran
- 7:00-** Three Billy Goats Gruff play featuring: Savannah, Ryan, Demetri, Teagan

## Second Grade Rm. 504 Michelle and Tina

### ANIMAL LIFE AND HABITATS

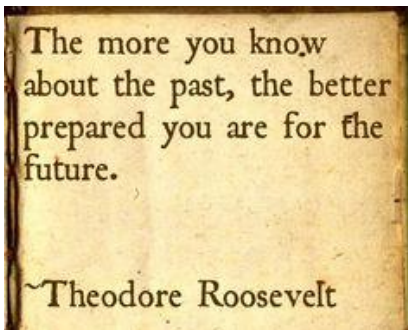
Second grade has been investigating and exploring living things. As part of our life science unit, students have been on various field trips to explore the living things that occupy grassland and ocean habitats. Additionally, students completed a research project on an animal of their choice. Each student will be displaying their portfolio and digital interview. Within the unit, students observed and reflected on the life cycle of a caterpillar, snake and hamster. Lastly, students represented the butterfly life cycle in a textured art painting. We invite you to come see and speak to our second grade animal experts.



**Kindergarten  
Rm. 402  
Gabriela & Clara**



The Loving Reading Scientists have been researching people from the past who have made changes in society that have helped others gain equity. Travel through time with us and hear about the various men, women and children who have impacted our lives for the better. Watch our 20 minute biographical documentary honoring these individuals and hear our thoughts on how we can help make the changes that are yet to be made! How will you make a change? Video screenings at 5:10, 5:40, 6:10, 6:40



**First Grade & Kindergarten  
Rm. 403  
Jennifer**

The class will share information from their research about sustainable, renewable energy, water pollution, the balance in ecosystems and how to make changes in your own home to help the environment. Look for our lift-the-flap info wall with photos we took at home.

We will be selling packs of nature-themed, uplifting notecards to raise money for two organizations which the students researched and corresponded with- Waves for Water and Solar Electric Light Fund.

The class will also be offering our new game to play on Exhibition Night- The Adventures of the Nature Savers, an interactive, cooperative game to help others connect with choices which help or hinder the environment. Come make your own sign using unique and found objects to continue spreading our message for others!



**Seventh Grade Rm. 605  
Tony and Emily**

**Medieval History**



"How can we create engaging Medieval History exhibits that educate people who interact with them?" was the driving question behind the 7th Grade Medieval World History Museum, which opens its doors for the first time tonight. Explore exhibits from civilizations in Medieval West Africa, China, Japan and South America. Experience the excitement of a rebirth of classical ideas during the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution that began as a result. Learn all about these momentous civilizations and time periods as you investigate student-created historical accounts and artifacts and play historically themed board games. Take a journey through time with the 7th grade, and experience history like you never have before!



**Eighth Grade Rm. 509  
Lisa and Cynthia**

**War: What Is It Good For?**

Students investigated wars from the past 225 years through the lenses of medicine, communication, espionage, weaponry and military tactics. They also created short anecdotes using media about historical figures who were influential during wartime in our US History. Travel through time and the evolution of technology as you visit our students' representations of wars from The Revolutionary War through the Cold War.



## Professional Experts

These professional experts have served as mentors for our students.

Cory Brown and Marika Ramsden - Schools of Sustainability  
Roger Kube - Chair - Surfrider Foundation - San Diego County Chapter  
Monica- 1to1 Movement  
Eldon Dew, WWII Veteran  
Katherine Weiler - the Environmental Protection Agency  
Peter Haro, History Professor and Department Chair at San Diego City College  
Dawn Dickerson- tide pool and ecosystem learning  
Robert Freing and Katie Fotofili from SELF, Solar Electric Light Fund  
Experts from SDGE center

## Field Study

Participating in field study is essential to connect the world outside of our walls to our project work.

South Mission Beach clean up  
Downtown, San Diego City Council  
San Diego Museum of Natural History  
San Diego Birch Aquarium  
Indian Hills  
The Poway Library  
Mt Soledad War Memorial  
The Getty Museum Exhibit: War of Images; Images of War  
Energy Coalition Center

## \$\$\$Fundraising\$\$\$

Thanks to all who participated in fundraising this year! Our fundraisers included our pledge drive, money raised from the Thursday food trucks, E-waste drives, gift cards, scrip

The fundraising money was used for the following:

- FOSS kits for Science
- Desktop computers for the learning lab
- An audio system for presentations
- A rainwater harvest system for the garden
- Peter and the Wolf Assembly (coming after Spring break)
- An author visit from Marilyn Morphie
- Materials and supplies for Performing Arts
- Science Lab equipment:
  - Microscopes
  - Electronic scales
  - Microscope slides
  - Handheld digital microscopes
- Plants for the garden
- Butterflies
- Field trip finance support

## Essential Questions for These Projects

K	How have the changes made by people from the past helped build equity in today's society? What social barriers are still impacting us today?
K/1	How can investigating causes that help others throughout the world make a difference in our own choices here at home?
1st	Why do people tell stories? What makes a good story?
2nd	How do we as researchers show respect towards living things?
3rd	How can I make an impact on my city by understanding my local government?
4th	How do people make changes? Who/what in California's history has made big changes? What changes do we see on Earth? What part do we play in the tower of life?
5th	How can I improve my life and my connection to the community while encouraging my classmates to do the same?
5th	How does the microscopic world reflect our "real" world? How does meaning change based on perspective?
6th	How can we, as heirs of the planet, educate others and solve our current plastic problem?
6th	How does the media influence us and how can we become a positive media outlet?
7th	How can we create engaging Medieval History exhibits that educate people who interact with them?
8th	How has technology used in war changed the outcome of future wars and influenced our society today?