

Professional Experts and Field Trips help students learn content, establish connections to life outside the classroom, address real world concerns and more.

World Beat Center  
 Pacific Relations International Cottages  
 Japanese Friendship Museum  
 Barona Cultural Center and Museum  
 Harmony Family Culture Center  
 SeaWorld  
 San Diego Botanic Gardens  
 Living Coast  
 Children's Museum  
 Birch Aquarium  
 Air and Space Museum - Moon Landing  
 Fleet Science Center - Space Gallery and Dome theater  
 San Diego Zoo: Landform Scavenger Hunt  
 Zoo, Old Town a walk through history  
 Star of India  
 Knott's Berry Farm  
 Old Town SD (Time Travellers Program)  
 USS Midway  
 History Brought to Life - Paul Revere  
 Walk Through the American Revolution  
 iFly  
 Sea Camp  
 Chinese Historical Museum- History and Calligraphy Workshop  
 6th Grade Camp- Catalina Environmental Leadership Program  
 YMCA for Advisory Olympics  
 Medieval Times  
 San Diego Railroad Museum Arches & Trusses Workshop  
 Pathfinder Ranch  
 Sea World San Diego - Physics Study  
 Physics Day at Knotts Berry Farm  
 Riley's Farm Civil War Experience  
 Museum of Tolerance - Holocaust experience  
 Safari Park Conservation Lab  
 National Parks Tour

# Welcome to Innovations Academy Exhibition Night

Thursday, March 26, 2026  
 5:00-7:30 p.m.



## TO DO BEFORE LEAVING TONIGHT:

1. Tour your child's classroom
2. Visit their explorations classes and electives
3. Visit 2 other classrooms

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

Statue of Liberty Time Capsule: Family Letter Writing to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!	Get ready to be part of something unforgettable! Local artist Joe Pisano is creating a one-of-a-kind time capsule filled with memories, stories, and letters from San Diego families, and you're invited to join in the magic. Stop by his booth to write your own letter. Your words will be sealed away and not opened again until the year 2076! Joe will be popping up at events all summer long, collecting "day in the life" snapshots from San Diego residents, including appearances at the San Diego Fair, so you'll have plenty of chances to take part. It's your moment to capture today and send it into the future. Don't miss out, swing by, share your story, and make your memory last for generations!
Summer Camp Booth	Interested in a summer camp?! Stop by the Summer Camp booth by the front entrance on the first floor to explore the wide range of summer camp options available for you this summer.

## What is “Project Based Learning”?

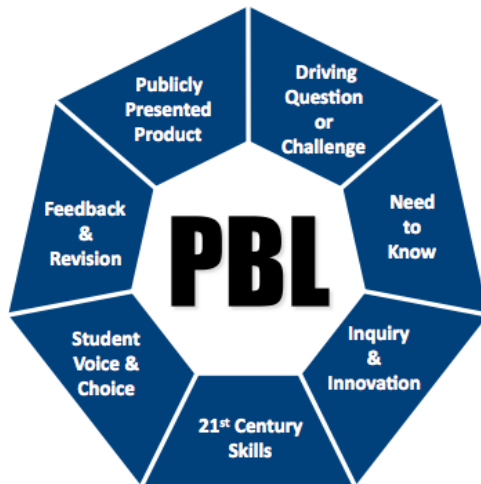
PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to a complex question, problem or challenge. ([www.bie.org](http://www.bie.org))

According to research by Dr. John W. Thomas,

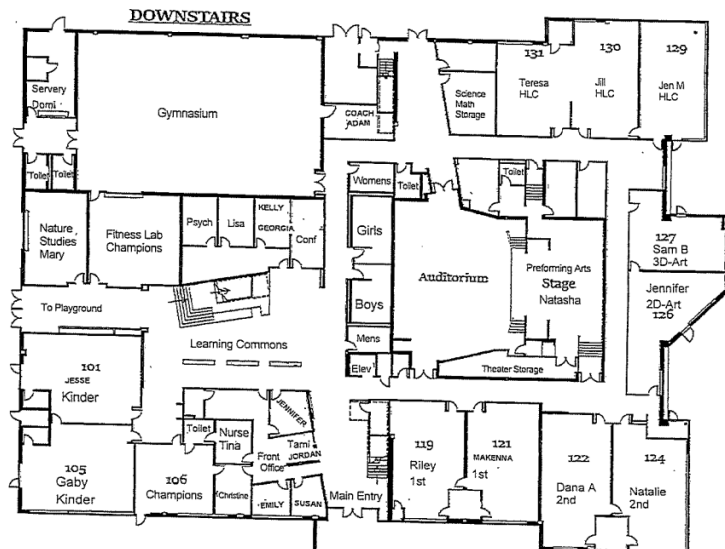
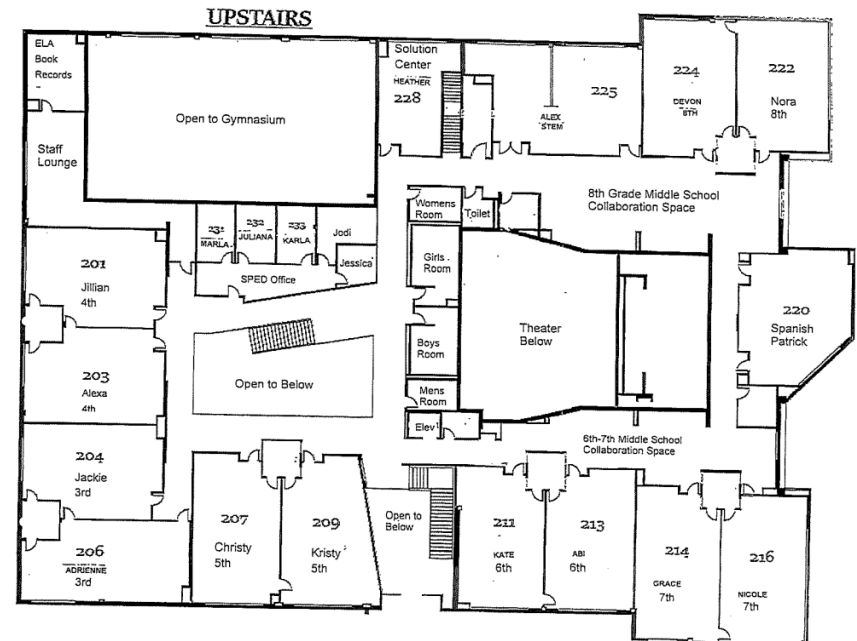
- PBL seems to be equal to or slightly better than other models of instruction for producing gains in general academic achievement.
- PBL is an effective strategy for teaching complex skills such as planning, communicating, problem solving, and decision making.
- Compared to other instructional models, PBL enhances the quality of student learning in subject matter areas.

At Innovations Academy:

- Project based learning is 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 and work with a variety of people.
- Our students are deep thinkers. They wonder about the world and other people and ask good questions.



## MAP OF INNOVATIONS ACADEMY



## Multi-Media Art

Jennifer

This Exhibition Night, please stop by the 2D studio to enjoy a botanical blast of creativity. Each group explored new ways of creating floral and natural art and every piece exhibited also has an element of printmaking involved in the process. When you walk in, find the Kindergarteners' bold Flower Meadows. Next, you might notice the second graders' art hanging in the windows. These double sided creations include personally made backgrounds to complement the fresh botanicals that were printed directly on them. On the tables you will find the first graders' mixed media blooms which were collaged from papers the students made to use for these pieces. And to top it all off, the third graders created still lifes of flowers in their own creative vases. Once you enjoy the studio as well as your child's work in their folders, remember to check the art up in the Art hall, too. Your children are just so creative!



## Engineering & STEM

Alex

There will be a variety of projects on display from middle school! 5th grade hand whittled model sailboat out of wood. 6th grade researched, drew, labeled and then created animal cell models. 7th grade learned about hovercrafts and created some of their own. They also explored different gravity energy storage systems. The infamous 8th grade created roller coasters will be on display in the auditorium.



## Nature Studies

Nathan

Come explore the garden to discover what students have been working on this semester. Kindergarteners and first graders may show off the critter-filled worm bins they have been maintaining, or the "Creature Corner" bench in the NW corner of the garden. Second graders would love to showcase their erosion projects, with the test area near the Outdoor Classroom in the roundabout and their own creations on the West hill of the garden. Third graders have been redesigning a garden bed and recently planted a strawberry tree. All grades helped dig and build our new hugelkultur bed in the NE corner of the garden and could discuss the amazing world of decomposition!

## Exploring Cultures from Around the world to Better Understand our Community

Kindergarten with Gaby

The Community of Artistic Builders have been enthusiastically exploring different cultures this semester! Through various hands-on activities and storytelling, they have been identifying similarities and differences between cultures. This exploration not only broadens their understanding of the world but also fosters appreciation and respect for diversity.



## Insects, Plants and Animals, Oh My!

Kindergarten with Jesse

This semester in kindergarten, we are learning all about plants and animals! We have been exploring how living things grow and change. One of our favorite topics has been butterflies. We learned about the butterfly life cycle and watched as our own caterpillars changed into beautiful butterflies right in our classroom. We also studied eagles and learned about where they live, what they eat, and how they take care of their babies. Along with learning about animals, we planted and grew our own plants! Students observed how plants grow and talked about what plants need to survive, like sunlight, water, and soil. It has been exciting for students to learn about nature by observing and exploring living things up close.

## To the Moon and Beyond!

First Grade with Makenna and Riley

Our first graders became space scientists as they explored the wonders of our solar system! Through hands-on investigations and inquiry-based learning, students studied the sun and shadows, discovered how the moon changes shape through its phases, and learned about the planets that travel around the sun. Students asked questions, made observations, and tested their ideas as scientists. They also became engineers by designing and building moon landers, thinking creatively about how astronauts safely land on the moon. In addition, students used their imaginations to write about what it might be like to travel to space or live on the moon. 3, 2, 1... blast off!!!



## Long Ago and Today

Second Grade with Dana and Natalie

We explored our school history through interviewing members of the Innovations Academy community, past and present. We learned about things that have happened a really long time ago, a long time ago, and recently, and compared them through creating a timeline. In addition, we explored how landforms are formed and how the process can take various amounts of time. Finally, our class studied erosion and how to prevent it.

## Life in the Ocean: Exploring Zones, Adaptations and Human Impact

Third Grade with Jackie and Adrienne

During Exhibition Night, our classroom will transform into a fully interactive ocean museum where students will guide families through the five ocean zones - from the sunlight zone to the trenches. As visitors move through each zone, students will serve as Aquarium Guides, dressed as the ocean animal they researched, and will explain their animal's adaptations, habitat, diet, and life cycle, as well as the human and environmental threats it faces. Families will interact with student informational books, narrative writing written from the animal's point of view, and a game that demonstrates the threats animals face in each ocean zone. Students will also connect their learning to our field trips, guest speakers, and real San Diego marine ecosystems, explaining how human choices impact ocean life and how people can help protect the ocean.



## Gold Rush Simulation

Fourth Grade with Jillian and Alexa

This semester, our fourth-grade classes dove deep into the California Gold Rush, and now we're bringing history to life with our Gold Rush Journey Simulation! We've transformed our classroom into an interactive experience where students take on exciting roles like route captains, shopkeepers, and even hecklers. Parents will step into the shoes of hopeful travelers deciding which path to take to reach California in search of gold. Will they brave the rugged trails, sail the long way around Cape Horn, or risk the dangers of the Panama shortcut? With student-led stations, real choices, and surprises along the way, our simulation brings the challenges and decisions of the Gold Rush to life. Come experience the adventure and find out if you'd make it to California—or get left behind!



## 3-D Art

Sam

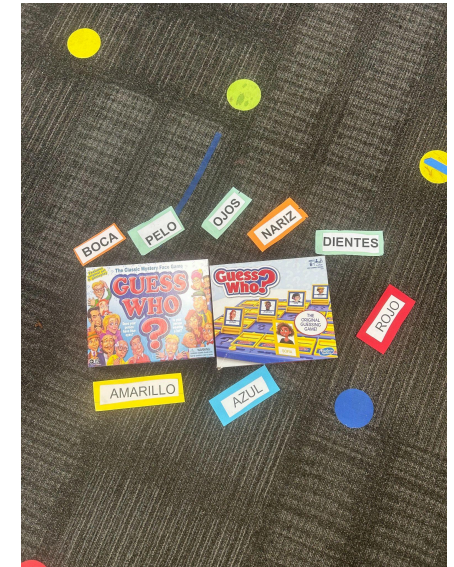
Spring Exhibition Night is here! This semester I worked with fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. All grades will be displaying their artwork made with me in their classrooms alongside their projects. Thus my classroom will be closed, and I will be upstairs moving around the different exhibits. Fourth grade created a variety of Gold Rush-inspired items intended for their Gold Rush Market. From tin cups to wash pans to sticks of dynamite to oranges, students recreated these historic objects in clay. Sixth grade looked closely at Ancient Greek pottery created during that time. Each student chose a Greek vessel and created their own coil-built pot based on that design. Their pottery is hand-painted with traditional patterns and includes a "depiction of life" scene of their own choosing. Seventh grade students created Italian Renaissance-inspired maiolica pottery. They were also tasked with creating three separate clay pieces, which were assembled to form a larger functional vessel. In true Italian Renaissance maiolica fashion, they glazed their pieces white and then added their own unique and intricate designs to the surface. Eighth grade students explored the artists and roots of Kinetic Art, art in motion. Students were given complete creative freedom to design their sculptures from start to finish and problem-solve how their pieces would move. Monday Elective artwork made by students in kindergarten through second grade will not be displayed. You will see their beautiful work as it goes home with each student. Room 127 has been buzzing with creativity and determination all semester long, so be sure to stop by each classroom and see how that energy has manifested into physical form.



## Spanish

Patrick

Hola a todos!!! Come to room 220 and join us on a GUESS WHO? Tournament (in Spanish). Students have been working on parts of the face, accessories and adjectives. Come and watch how they can do our fun routine in Spanish. They also have their portfolios to show. Os esperamos en clase.



## PE

Coach Adam

This year's Physical Education exhibition will showcase the progress students have made through our baseball and flag football units, with a focus on skill development, teamwork, communication, and confidence. In baseball, students once again participated in a Sport Education model, building on the same strong structure we used during soccer by learning through team roles, game play, and collaboration. In flag football, students worked through a skills-based unit using stations and mini-games to practice throwing and catching, running routes, understanding rules and strategy, and developing defensive movements like pulling flags. Across both units, students have been learning not only how to perform skills, but also how to communicate, give strong effort, and help one another improve. Exhibition Night will give families a chance to see and discuss what students are doing and learning in P.E., and I will also be glad to share FitnessGram state testing information for applicable grade levels.



## Performing Arts

Natasha

Tonight in the auditorium, Performing Arts will be hosting the 8th grade presentation of their projects.

This semester Natasha is working with the 8th grade on their podcast project. We are currently in rehearsals with 3rd grade (The Rainbow Fish), 4th grade ('Rush' a play about the gold rush), and all HLC classes on their presentations. We are also currently in production for the middle school senior show 'Bringing Down The House'. All of these productions will perform at various dates through April and May. Stay tuned for the dates!



## Exploring Our Place in the Universe

Fifth Grade with Christy

This semester, students have been exploring our place in the universe through a series of hands-on science projects. Students observed and recorded the Moon's changing phases in a 30-day Moon Journal and created large visual posters to demonstrate individual moon phases while learning how the Moon affects tides. A major part of our exhibition is the student-designed 3-D shadow box planet models, where students created their own planets and used scientific thinking to show the planet's environment, temperature, possible life forms, and what humans would need to survive there. Students also designed informational brochures explaining moon phases and tides. In addition, students explored engineering and space travel by designing and launching straw rockets, experimenting with distance, travel, and design to see how changes in rocket structure affect performance. Together, these projects combine science, creativity, and problem-solving as students bring their learning about space to life.



## A Journey to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

Fifth Grade with Kristy

Fifth grade has been exploring the Road to the American Revolution as we prepare to celebrate America's 250th birthday! Students have stepped back in time to experience history in action. We have read and analyzed key historical events, then brought them to life through our interactive Walk Through the American Revolution, where students portrayed famous historical figures, memorized lines, and performed short skits. Students also learned to play "Yankee Doodle Dandy" on the recorder, built colonial ships in STEM, sent postcards out to the 50 states, and entered the America 250 writing competition. Finally, each student designed and embroidered their own personal flag to represent themselves.



## The Ancient Marketplace

Sixth Grade with Abby and Abi

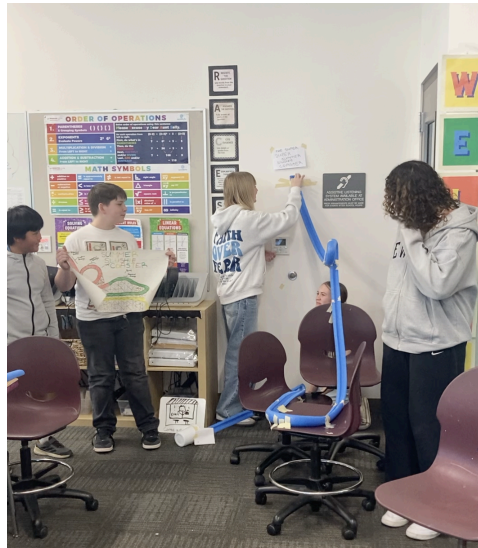
6th graders are displaying their knowledge of GRAPES (Geography, Religion, Achievements, Politics, Economics, and Social Structures) across ancient civilizations. Parents and guests will be immersed into an ancient marketplace as they dive into the GRAPES of different civilizations such as: Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Early China and Ancient Rome. As they enter, parents will pull an ID card that gives them their socioeconomic status and that will determine their participation in activities provided at each booth. Each booth has a hands-on activity related to the different civilizations/cultures and aspects of GRAPES such as: art, food, communications and currency. Our GRAPES classwork will be displayed on the wall as parents explore the market, in addition to the students' Greek clay vases and their scientific DNA writing and Cell City comics.



## Engineering Carnival

Seventh Grade with Nicole

The 7th grade students will be putting on an engineering carnival within our classroom! Students will take you for a "ride on their rollercoasters" and tell you about energy, you will play their catapult games where they describe simple machines, and there will be a gallery hall to exhibit all of their mechanical engineering constructions made in STEM class. We will also make carnival snacks, and students will be able to tell you about the forces and physics concepts at work!



## Medieval Comics

Seventh Grade with Grace

Our 7th graders are combining their knowledge of medieval Europe and Japan with narrative storytelling techniques to create engaging and unique comic books. In preparation for this project, students practiced using comic book illustrations to communicate powerful ideas through point of view, visual perspective, and intentional stylistic choices. They then worked collaboratively in groups to develop exciting and adventurous comic book stories based on their medieval topics. Stop by to explore the writing, sketching, and drafting process behind their work and to see the incredible finished comic books they created.



## Ideas in Action: A Student Showcase of Physics, Podcasts and History

Eighth Grade with Nora and Devon

This year, students will be showcasing three interdisciplinary projects in the theater that highlight their learning in physics, storytelling, and history. Their Physics Roller Coasters will be on display, demonstrating how teams applied concepts like energy, motion, and design through building and testing their own coaster models for the Knott's Berry Farm Physics Day competition. Students will also present their New York Times Podcast Project, with scheduled times in the theater for visitors to listen to episodes and participate in a short Q&A with the student creators. In addition, teams will share their World War II Ration Food Truck projects, where they researched how rationing shaped life in different countries and designed a food truck concept featuring a historically inspired ration-based dish, with small samples available for guests to taste.

