



SUCCESS! Learning Center *presents*

THE SPOT

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

May 28, 2007

No. 22

Computer Games For Students *Summer Fun & Learning Too*

Children's Technology Review offers excellent reviews of children's software for teachers and parents. Subscribers can read the magazine reviews of new games or search the massive website database.

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Two-Thirds of Incoming SJSU College Freshmen Need Remedial Courses *English Language and Math Skills Not at College Level*

Help your students prepare for a successful college career by improving their skills. English is not most students' favorite subject, but high-level reading and writing skills are crucial for college and professional success!

Now Enrolling

Seven-Week Summer Session

June 25-August 9, 2007

Classes Meet Monday through Thursday

Applications for our seven-week Summer Session are now being accepted. Although our overhead expenses continue to rise steadily, we have worked very hard to keep our class fees as low as possible!

Of course, at these low rates it is not possible for us to offer any discount for days missed. If you know your family vacation plans in advance, we will try to schedule your student(s) for make-up days in another class.

Please note that classes usually meet four days per week, Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes except the first week), for a total of 63 hours of instruction over the seven-week session. Our class times are 8:00-10:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m.- 12:45 p.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m. We offer a discount for students taking multiple classes or for brothers and sisters enrolled in the same session.

Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before mid-June. Our individualized curriculum and extremely low student-teacher ratio (one teacher or teacher aide for every four students) limit the number of spaces available in our learning groups.

Registration information is on page 2. Please call the Director for more information or to schedule an appointment for enrollment.

Success! Learning Center

a non-profit educational and tutoring center

**Tutoring, test preparation, and homework
assistance for students in grades 4-12**

Director: Cliveden Chew Haas
Location: 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas
Phone: (408) 263-9754
E-mail: success@cliveden.com
Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

Summer Session Pre-Registration

Information and registration forms for the 2007 Summer Session are enclosed. Applications are being accepted now. If you would like to register your student, please fill out a 2007-08 Student Application for each student. Do remember to indicate next year's grade level! Return the Application along with the Schedule and Fees sheet showing which classes you'd like and a \$100 minimum deposit (per student) to: Success! Learning Center, P.O. Box 361195, Milpitas CA 95036-1195

Please remember that After-School tutoring ends June 7th. Our office will be open from 2:00-6:00 p.m., June 11 & 13, and 11:00-3:00, June 12, while Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Taylor and Ms. Bui complete the student progress reports and prepare for the summer session. Bring completed application forms to the Learning Center or mail to the address above.

See you this summer!

Computer Games

Continued from Page 1

Kids love to play computer games, but too much "educational" software is boring, repetitive, or frustrating. CTR tests software with teachers, librarians, students, etc., and prints very useful reviews of the games and their learning potential. Read the reviews and search for creative software: <http://www.childrensoftware.com>

Another excellent site is Little Clickers, a collection of educational web sites for children in the 3-to 12-year age range. The pages were previously published in *Children's Technology Review*. The links are checked regularly. Lots of fun and learning available here! Check it out: <http://www.littleclickers.com/>

Below are a few of the top-rated (out of 5.0) games published in the last few years: We searched for Windows software, but many other platforms are also covered in the database.

Reading:

Clicker 5

Rating: 4.6

Publisher: Crick Software, Inc.

Copyright Date: 2005

CSR Issue: Summer 05

Platform: Win, Mac

Grade Level: P, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Age range: 3-up

Teaches: writing, letters, reading, creativity

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Her Interactive Inc.

Copyright Date: 2005

CSR Issue: May 06

Platform: Windows XP

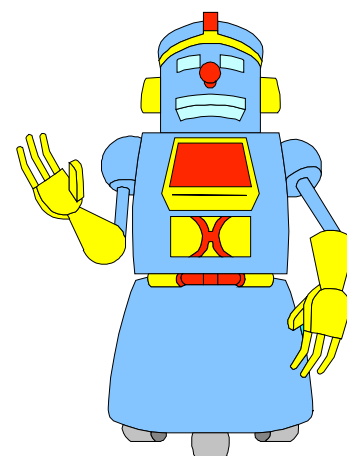
Grade Level: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 10-up

Teaches: Language reading comprehension Logic deductive reasoning spatial reasoning inductive reasoning memory classifying patterns observing making a hypothesis evaluating synthesis

Continued on Page 3

Nancy Drew: Last Train to Blue Moon



Recommended Computer Games

Continued from Page 2

Genui\$: The Tech Tycoon Game

Rating: 4.6

Publisher: Viva Media

Copyright Date: 2005

CSR Issue: April 06

Platform: Windows 98 Windows XP

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 8-up

Teaches: physics, history, creativity, problem solving observing scientific vocabulary reading

Soliloquy Reading Assistant Version 4

Rating: 4.9

Publisher: Soliloquy Learning

Copyright Date: 2007

CSR Issue: April 07

Platform: Windows 98 or better

Grade Level: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 6-up

Teaches: reading fluency

Math:

Math Arena Advanced

Rating: 4.7

Publisher: Sunburst Technology

Copyright Date: 2002

CSR Issue: 9/02

Platform: Win, Mac

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 12-up

Teaches: math, algebra, geometry, measurement

Math Advantage 2004

Rating: 4.6

Publisher: Encore Software

Copyright Date: 2003

CSR Issue: 7/03

Platform: Windows

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 11-up

Teaches: math, algebra, geometry, calculus, trigonometry, statistics

Learn to Play Chess with

Fritz & Chesster Part 2

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Viva Media

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Winter 04

Platform: Win ME, Win 98, Win XP

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 8-up

Teaches: chess, logic, math, deductive reasoning

The Number Devil

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Viva Media

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Fall 04

Platform: Win XP, Mac OSX, Mac OS9

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 8-up

Teaches: math, place value, roman numerals, addition, subtraction, prime numbers, fractions

The Sims 2 (PC)

Rating: 4.9

Publisher: Electronic Arts, Inc.

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Fall 04

Platform: Win XP (requires ATI or NVIDIA Graphics with 32 MB or more)

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 12-up

Teaches: creativity, economics, math

Nancy Drew: The Creature of Kapu Cave

Rating: 4.6

Publisher: Her Interactive Inc.

Copyright Date: 2006

CSR Issue: November 06

Platform: Windows XP Windows 98

Grade Level: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 10-up

Teaches: problem solving Logic ecosystems patterns Mathematics

Science:

SimCity 4 Deluxe Edition

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Electronic Arts, Inc.

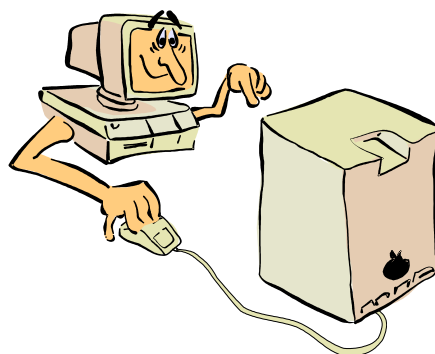
Copyright Date: 2003

CSR Issue: 11/03

Platform: Windows XP, 2000, Me or 98

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 12-up



Teaches: creativity, language, economics, science, urban planning, politics

More Computer Games

Continued from Page 3

Zoo Tycoon 2

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Microsoft Corp.

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Winter 04

Platform: Win 98, Win XP (DirectX 9.0, 16 MB graphics, uses 900 MB of hard disk space)

Grade Level: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 7-up

Teaches: business, animals, biology, science, logic, creativity

Zoo Vet

Rating: 4.6

Publisher: Legacy Interactive

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Fall 04

Platform: Win 98, Win XP, (450 MHz); Mac OS 10.2 (G4)

Grade Level: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 9-up

Teaches: science, biology, medical science, animals, veterinary sciences, zoos

Social Studies:

Food Force

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: United Nations World Food Programme

Copyright Date: 2005

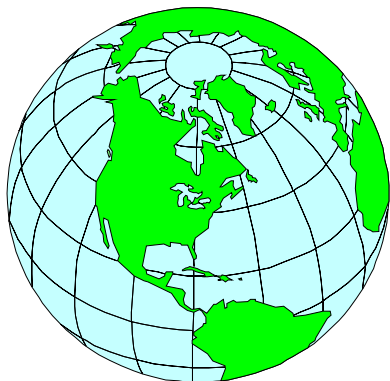
CSR Issue: Spring 05

Platform: Win 98, Win XP, Mac

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Age range: 8-13

Teaches: social studies, science, memory, math, food, diplomacy



Art:

Barbie Fashion Show CD-ROM

Rating: 4.8

Publisher: Vivendi Universal Games

Copyright Date: 2004

CSR Issue: Fall 04

Platform: Win 98, Win XP (DirectX, 400 MHz, 300 MB HD)

Grade Level: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Age range: 5-up

Teaches: creativity, art, decorating clothing

corefx Three Level

Rating: 5.0

Publisher: Core Learning, Ltd.

Copyright Date: 2005

CSR Issue: Spring 05

Platform: Win 98, Win XP

Grade Level: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 5-up

Teaches: art, painting, drawing, animation, photo-editing, creativity

Reference & General Messing Around:

Encarta 2004 Reference Library

Rating: 4.7

Publisher: Microsoft Corp.

Copyright Date: 2003

CSR Issue: 9/03

Platform: Windows

Grade Level: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 8-up

Teaches: reference, content-rich subjects like science, geography and social studies

Google Earth

Rating: 4.9

Publisher: Google, Inc.

Copyright Date: 2005

CSR Issue: Fall 05

Platform: Windows

Grade Level: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, S, Jr, Sr.

Age range: 7-up

Teaches: geography, science

UC Urges Students To Improve English Skills *Home Language Can Meet Foreign Language Requirement*

The University of California, along with most other colleges and universities, requires applicants to study a foreign language.

The following information is taken from the University of California Office of the President website, which includes an excellent guide to the a-g Requirements. In general, students prepared for the UC and CSU (San Jose State) also meet requirements for top colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The intent of the ‘e’ requirement (two years of study of a language other than English) is to ensure that freshmen have a minimal level of competence in a language other than English; this level corresponds to what is normally expected of a student who has completed two years of high school study with grades of C or better.

Generally, bilingual students are considered to have met the “e” requirement and may choose not to enroll in language other than English courses. These students may be better served by enrolling in additional electives or, if their English is limited, English as a Second Language. Students who elect not to take language other than English courses must certify satisfaction of the “e” requirement by one of the following:

- 1) Earning a satisfactory score on a recognized test (such as SAT II Subject, AP, or HLIB) or a proficiency test administered by a UC or other university.
- 2) Two years of formal schooling at the 6th-grade or above with grades of C or better where language of instruction is not English.
- 3) Certification by the high school principal, based on the judgment of language teachers, advice of professional or cultural organizations with an interest in maintaining language proficiency, or other appropriate source of expertise. [See www.ucop.edu/a-gGuide/ for more information]

Many, many students who speak a second language at home, or whose parents are not native speakers of English, need additional work in grammar, reading, and writing to work at the college level.



Free Shakespeare Performances

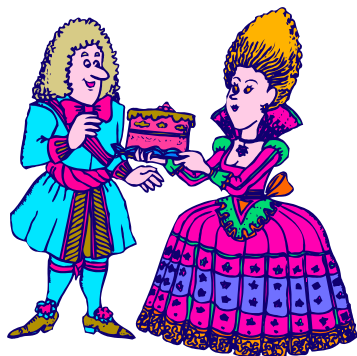
Stimulate your child’s mind, increase vocabulary and reading comprehension, and have a great time at some of the free Shakespeare performances offered in area parks this summer. Students need to experience directly, not just read about, history, culture, and science in order to move beyond rote learning. We all know the many, many excellent museums in our area. (Surely you’ve taken your students to the Rosicrucian Museum to walk through an Egyptian tomb and enjoy grimacing over that very authentic mummy!)

The best students and the most successful school are those who can link what they read in books with what they’ve actually seen, touched, heard, and felt at parks, events, historical sites, performances, etc. Thus, middle school students reading *Dragonwings* who have also visited historic sites in Chinatown and San Francisco’s famous Octagon House (both featured in the book) have a clear advantage over those simply reading.

Every high school student studies Shakespeare. Most college preparatory classes will read a Shakespeare play each year. Many students struggle with the vocabulary and language and miss all the humor when simply reading a play. They just don’t “get it” when staring at the words.

Seeing a play in live performance, however, is completely different—exciting, humorous, and fascinating. Language and image flow easily into the mind and everyone enjoys laughing at the many jokes enlivening even the darkest tragedies. You can pay as much as \$75 or \$100 to see a top-level dramatic company put on Shakespeare in a professional theater. Head out for a park and it’s free! So, pack up a picnic, low chairs and a blanket, and all the kids, and enjoy Shakespeare as it was originally performed—in the open air!

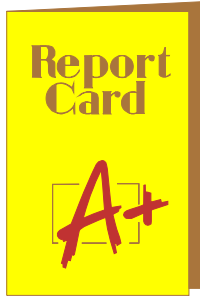
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival performs “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (powerful fairies! mixed-up lovers! regular-guy actors! that famous donkey’s head!) in four Bay Area cities this summer including Pleasanton and Cupertino. Visit their website for details on free shows: <http://www.sfshakes.org/park/index.html>



Reasonably priced tickets in outdoor settings (especially previews, seniors, students) are available for many professional performances. Summer is the time to enjoy Shakespeare (and other plays) outside in amphitheatres under the stars. Check out the California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda (www.calshakes.org), the Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company in Sanborn-Skyline Park (www.shadyshakes.org), and Shakespeare Santa Cruz under the redwoods on the UC Santa Cruz campus (www.shakespearesantacruz.org)

Look for local productions, too. There will be plenty this summer—Go and enjoy a few!





What is an . . .

INDIVIDUALIZED CURRICULUM?

An Individualized Curriculum is a course of study designed specifically for each individual student. In a typical large-class setting with 20–35 pupils, students are forced to work at the pace and intensity of the majority of the group. One student may find the class too slow and rather superficial, another might find the same course too rapid and struggle to master material not fully understood.

Students at Success! Learning Center work in very small groups (usually 2–4 students) with a teacher or teacher aide. Because the instructor has only a few students to monitor, there is plenty of time for personal attention and encouragement. Students receive one-on-one tutoring as needed and progress at their own pace, moving from one level to the next as they are ready.

Students in each group work individually on their own curriculum, which is adjusted as necessary during the course. Thus one student may be working on language arts,

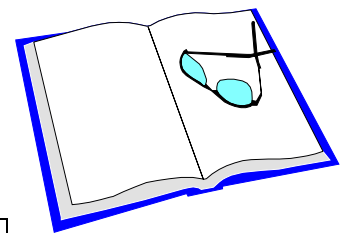
another on advanced math concepts, and a third on improving language arts skills.

During the registration process, parents and students discuss their goals for the class. Once the study subjects and any particular needs have been identified, students may complete a series of placement tests to identify their specific strengths and weaknesses.

The Director then prepares an individual plan of study for each student, based on his or her particular needs, learning styles, and interests. She works closely with teachers and aides to ensure that the course of study is successful and to make any necessary adjustments during the session.

Parents and students are an important component of any successful study plan, and their input is welcomed throughout the class.

At the end of the session, we prepare a detailed Final Report summarizing the progress achieved by each student and discussing any other pertinent material.



LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Cliveden Chew Haas, M.A., the Learning Center Director, is credentialed to teach academic high school subjects. Originally studying science as a pre-med major, she completed degrees in English Literature, with additional training in English as a Second Language and learning disabilities. Cliveden brings extensive experience in various areas of education and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.

Our teaching aides are extremely successful college and high school students who are also skilled instructors. They enjoy sharing their talents and their knowledge.