

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

# **SUCCESS! Learning Center**

*presents*

# **THE SPOT**

May 2012

No. 35

## **Raising a Reader**

*Audio Books Help Dyslexic Students Succeed*

For some students, trying as hard as they can just isn't enough. These students may be at a disadvantage because of widespread learning differences such as dyslexia or because of disabilities like visual impairment. Studies show that for these students to succeed, an online audio library of core curriculum textbooks and literature titles can make all the difference.

Research by Johns Hopkins University and case studies in the Baltimore City Public Schools showed significant improvements in students who use audio books. Reading comprehension improved by 76 percent, content acquisition by 38 percent, reading accuracy by 52 percent and self-confidence by 61 percent.

(Excerpt from "Helping Struggling Students to Succeed" published 12/8/11.) Read the article: <http://www.granitebaymirror.com/education/helping-struggling-students-to-succeed.html>

To apply for audio books: [www.learningally.org/](http://www.learningally.org/)

### ***Public Libraries Have Audio Books Too!***

Your local public library has many audio books available, both on CD and downloadable. You may even be able to get some of the older tape cassettes, as well. Children who struggle with vocabulary and sentence decoding benefit greatly from listening to an audio version of the book *while they are reading the print version*. Hearing *and* reading together increase both comprehension and enjoyment.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## **SIX-WEEK SUMMER SESSION**

**June 25-August 2, 2012**

*Classes Meet Monday through Thursday*

Applications for our six-week Summer Session are rolling in and teachers are preparing curriculum. Success! Learning Center is a non-profit educational and tutoring center, and we are committed to serving our community by offering high-quality academic instruction at the lowest tuition possible. Please see page 3 for schedule and fees.

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 plan to schedule your student(s) for make-up days in another class.

Please note that classes meet four days per week, Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes), for a total of 54 hours of instruction over the six-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 family members enrolled in the same session.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Success! Learning Center**

*a non-profit educational and tutoring center*

**Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 3-12**

**Director:** Cliveden Chew Haas

**Location:** 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas

**Phone:** (408) 263-9754

**E-mail:** [success@cliveden.com](mailto:success@cliveden.com)

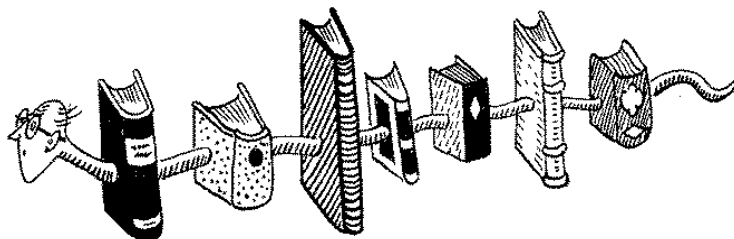
**Website:** [www.successlearningcenter.org](http://www.successlearningcenter.org)

## Raising a Reader

Children's reading ability directly correlates to several home factors, including: number of books in the home, educational level of the parent, and number of hours reading aloud with children. Fill your home with fun, exciting, good reads, read them along with your student, and discuss your reading in the family. Check out the audio versions along with the print copies, and have a good time following the story on the printed page while listening to the professional reader.

(Continued from Page 1)

Find an especially good book? Bring us a book review—We'd love to print some student recommendations for g-r-r-r-eat reading!



## The Book Nook

Ready for the summer break? Pick up a good book and **READ!** We've asked our staff to suggest some books they enjoyed reading as youngsters. Here are some great reads for students recommended by Mrs. Haas. Adults will enjoy them, also. Try reading them aloud to the family! (Audio books, too!)

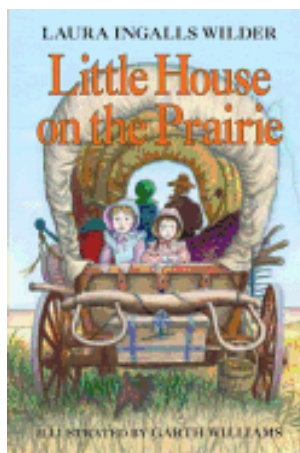


### The Jungle Books by Rudyard Kipling

Look for an edition (such as the one illustrated) which reprints the original text, first published in 1894 (*The Jungle Book*) and 1895 (*The Second Jungle Book*).

There are many retellings, simplifications, and Disney versions around—Pick up the Real Thing and enjoy Kipling's inimitable story-telling. No wonder he was one of the most popular English writers of his day. He writes a blisteringly-good tale, and this collection of short stories is among his very best. Each is easy to read in one sitting.

I found them quite by accident while browsing the shelves as a young student, and from the very first tale, I was hooked. I dreamed myself right into the stories, running through wild jungles, hunting the fierce killer tiger, and playing with my friends the wolves.



### Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Find out what all the fuss is about. Quite by good fortune, I found this book, one of the best of an excellent series, first on the library shelf. Laura's tales of moving with her pioneer family to the wild, untamed prairie, living among Indians

who weren't at all happy about the settlers, and building a house and farm where none had ever existed before, are simple, understated, and based on her family's actual experiences.

Boys will enjoy this book just as much as their sisters. What would it be like to be trapped crossing a creek in flood, fall sick with malaria when everyone else in the family was sick too, or try to build a chimney without bricks? Angry Indians are gathering down along the creek, wolves prowl the flat lands, and Christmas seems likely to arrive without any Santa Claus. Pioneer life first-hand was mighty difficult!

## Summer Session

(Continued from page 1)

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. Be sure to register early!

Courses this year include our updated **Math Workshop** focusing on intensive practice of math and logic skills. This workshop helps struggling students to master skills appropriate to their grade level and prepare for the next school year. The curriculum includes daily homework, recall and review, and a strong emphasis on basic skills as a foundation for academic success.

The **Summer Writing Workshop** offers individual and small group work with an experienced teacher. Daily essays, practice writing and correcting complex sentences,

vocabulary, and other language arts assignments teach students to write clear, concise, and effective compositions. Strong preparation for AP and Honors classes.

Don't forget our **Summer Shakespeare, Introduction to Geometry, Beginning Calculus, SAT Test Preparation, Reading Comprehension**, and many other class offerings. Our Individualized Curriculum lets us prepare an individual course of study for each student focusing on particular needs. (Please see pages 4 & 6.)

Registration information is on page 7. Please call the Director for more information or to schedule an appointment for enrollment.



## Class Schedule & Fees

### 6-Week Summer Session June 25-August 2, 2012

*Please Note: Classes meet Monday through Thursday (no Friday classes)*

Class #1: 8:00–10:15 a.m.

Class #2: 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Class #3: 1:30–3:30 p.m.



### Class #1 or #2 (54 hours)

\$580.00 (two payments of \$290 each, second payment due 7/16/12)

**OR \$522 paid in advance** (10% discount)

*Two or more students in same family*

*Or multiple classes (same student)*

*\$45.00 discount per additional student or class*

### Class #3 (48 hours)

\$520.00 (two payments of \$260 each, second payment due 7/16/12)

**OR \$468 paid in advance** (10% discount)

*Two or more students in same family*

*Or multiple classes (same student)*

*\$40.00 discount per additional student or class*

**Registration/Deposit Form on Page 7**



**Summer Programs Include:**

- ❖ **Math Subjects** (arithmetic, general math, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus)
- ❖ **ESL (English for Non-Native Speakers)**
- ❖ **Improving Reading Skills** (all levels)
- ❖ **Writing Workshop** and/or **Math Workshop** (all levels)
- ❖ **Focus on Study Skills & Test-Taking Strategies**
- ❖ **Vocabulary and Composition for AP and College Classes**
- ❖ **Preparation for the SAT I and SAT II Subject Tests**
- ❖ **Summer Shakespeare Class**
- ❖ **U.S. & World History**
- ❖ **Physical & Life Sciences**
- ❖ **Adventures in Literature**
- ❖ **Learning to Research**

**Summer Is the Time to:**

**Review Class Work**

**Prepare for Next Year's Courses**

**Upgrade Skills in Reading, Writing, and/or Math**

**Study for College Board Exams**

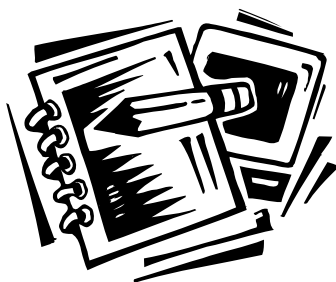


⇒ An excellent education is more important than ever in our technological world!

⇒ Many students need stronger math and reading skills to improve their grades.

⇒ Bright students can be bored and frustrated in "average" classes.

⇒ College preparation and advanced placement classes require writing proficiency, top-notch vocabulary, and a firm command of English grammar.



## 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 each 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 in 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 without real understanding of the setting.

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, beach chairs and a blanket, and all the kids, and enjoy a Shakespeare play as it was originally performed—in the open air!

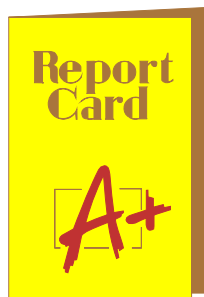
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival performs *Henry V*. Enjoy the Bard's exciting tale about the rise of a young king and the glories and costs of war. This would have made a great Marvel comic—the Avengers would feel right at home! Free shows in Pleasanton, Cupertino, and the Presidio. Visit their website for details: <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](http://www.calshakes.org), the Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company in Sanborn-Skyline Park [www.shadyshakes.org](http://www.shadyshakes.org), Shakespeare Santa Cruz under the redwoods on the UC Santa Cruz campus [www.shakespearesantacruz.org](http://www.shakespearesantacruz.org), and Livermore Shakespeare Festival <http://livermoreshakes.org/>.

Look for local productions, too. Go and enjoy a play! Have fun and get a bit smarter!





*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, while 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.

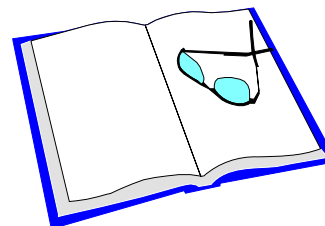
The lead teacher then prepares an individual plan of study for each student, based on his or her particular needs, learning styles, and interests. She works closely with teachers and aides to ensure that the course of study is successful and to make any necessary adjustments during the session.

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.



Mark Gaare is a credentialed elementary teacher with experience in language arts, math, social studies, science, and other topics. Students enjoy his active and supportive teaching style.

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



<b>Success! Learning Center</b>	
P.O. Box 361195 ❖ Milpitas, California 95036	
Location: 355 Dixon Road	(408) 263-9754
Cliveden Chew Haas, Director	success@cliveden.com

Headin' for **Success!**

## 2012 Summer Deposit

*Yes! We want to register for the 6-week 2012 Summer Session. I have enclosed a \$100.00 deposit for each student listed to register in the indicated class(es).*

### **Student:**

_____	_____	_____
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
____/____/____	MALE FEMALE	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 COL.
SCHOOL NOW ATTENDING	(CIRCLE ONE)	(CIRCLE <b>2011-12</b> GRADE)
IS ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER ATTENDING THE 2012 SUMMER SESSION? YES _____ NO _____		
IF YES, LIST NAME(S) & GRADE(S) _____		
_____		

### **Parent:**

PARENT:	MR./ MS.	_____	_____	( ) _____
GUARDIAN	(circle one)	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DAYTIME PHONE NO.
_____		_____	_____	_____
HOME ADDRESS NUMBER & STREET		APT. #	CITY & ZIP CODE	
( ) _____				
HOME PHONE NUMBER				

### **Schedule:** June 25-August 2, 2012

- Class #1: \_\_\_\_ 8:00–10:15 a.m.
- Class #2: \_\_\_\_ 10:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
- Class #3: \_\_\_\_ 1:30–3:30 p.m.



**Deposit:** *Please enclose \$100.00 per student as your deposit for the 2012 Summer Session. The balance of the fee is due no later than June 25th if you wish to claim the 10% discount for paying in advance. Please mail to:*  
**Success! Learning Center, P.O. Box 361195, Milpitas CA 95036-1195**