

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

# **SUCCESS!** Learning Center

*presents*

# **THE SPOT**

July 2012

No. 36

## **Learning Center Office Is Closed During August**

*E-Mail and Phone Messages Are Best*

The Learning Center Office will be closed after the Summer Session ends on August 2nd. Mrs. Haas and Mr. Gaare are looking forward to pleasant summer vacations!

SLC will re-open on Tuesday, September 4th, for the first day of tutoring in the After-School Program. Visit our website for details on scheduling, fees, registration, etc.

Although our office will be closed during August, we will be accepting registrations for the fall session. Simply print the Registration Form found on the website, fill in the information, and mail to: Success! Learning Center, P.O. Box 361195, Milpitas CA 95036. Please include a \$100.00 deposit for each student registering (the deposit is part of the first month's fees).

Questions? Concerns? Mrs. Haas will be checking regularly for phone and e-mail messages and will gladly return your call, answer questions, and help in any way she can. See phone and e-mail details on the right.



## **Now Enrolling**

*After-School Session Begins September 4th*

*Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs ❖ 3:00-6:00 p.m.*

*Tues & Thurs Evenings ❖ 6:30-9:30 p.m.*

The After-School Session begins Sept. 4th. Each class period runs for three hours, and students may attend two, three, or four tutorials each week. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling the office (see below).

During the school year we concentrate especially on helping students understand their coursework, complete homework accurately, and prepare for tests. Additional enrichment activities, supplementary skills practice, and English tutoring are also available.

Our classrooms are led by experienced, credentialed teachers, and our T.A.s are highly-skilled college and high school students who enjoy sharing their knowledge. We maintain a very low teacher/student ratio of 1 to 4.

Rates and fees are explained on Page 4.

## **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

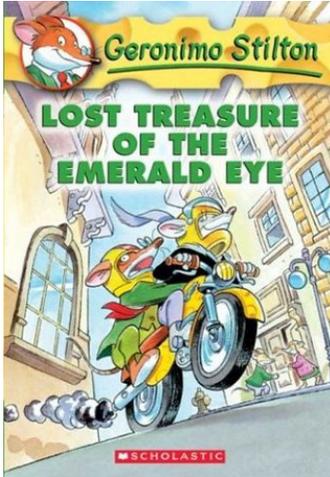
**Phone:** (408) 263-9754

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

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

## 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 enjoy reading. Here are some great reads for students recommended by Ms. Shen. Adults will enjoy them, also. Try reading them aloud to the family! (Audio books, too!)

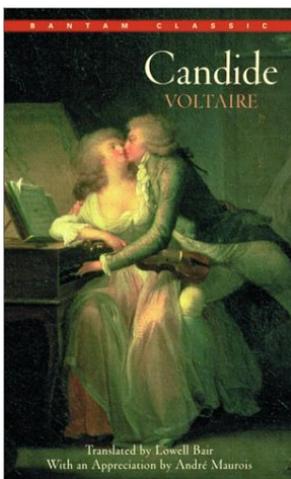
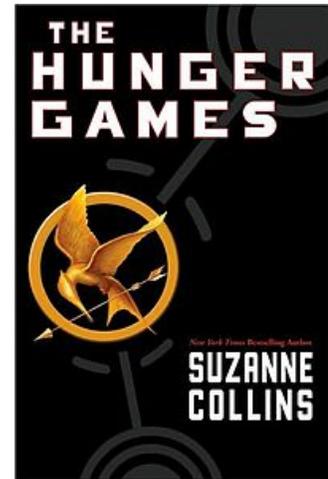


### **Geronimo Stilton series** by Geronimo Stilton

Travel through the wonders of the world with Geronimo Stilton! Being a journalist, Geronimo documents all of the many adventures that he becomes involved in. From visiting The (Cheese) Pyramid to learning Karate and self defense, Geronimo encounters and explores them all! This series is almost like the new and improved generation of The Magic Tree House series. It is targeted for the general elementary level, with chapters of fully colored pages and graphics. Vocabulary words are also highlighted creatively, giving young readers a better grasp of the essence of the words. Start earning some Reading Counts points with this Scholastic series! Also available in audio books at the library—listen to the audio while reading the book.

### **The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins

Like reality shows? War and gore? Or Greek myth? Well blend those together and you've got The Hunger Games! In the distant future, present North America is known as Panem – a country comprised of an opulent capitol, surrounded by 12 poverty-stricken districts. Some time ago, the districts engaged in an unsuccessful attempt at overthrowing the capitol. As a sign of defeat, one boy and one girl from each district is chosen to participate in the annual "Hunger Games" – a fight to the death broadcast as the modern parallel of a reality show. This twisted and unpredictable plot never ceases to catch the viewers off guard. And for girls who are looking for romance, there is also a tear-jerking love triangle intertwined within all the chaos. This novel is also the first in a trilogy, so be sure to read the entire series before the second movie is released! Viewer discretion is advised. Pick up the audio book, too, and read along.



### **Candide (or, Optimism)** by Voltaire

One of the classics that tends to be judged much too often by its cover. This satirical roller coaster read was written by famous French philosopher Voltaire. It explores the human condition and surveys social issues through the dramatic adventure of the protagonist Candide. Don't let that scare you off now! This novella might not have survived without its still relevant and fantastic plot. Readers are guaranteed to experience a handful of emotions and half the world – both real and fantastical. The main conflicts presented are almost like reading an intellectual version of present-day tabloids. In addition, new translations also make it an easy and fun read. This book is recommended to advanced readers with mature minds for its profundity. The library also has the audio book, so read along and enjoy!

## Essential Equipment for Study

Students need a few essentials for their study area at home. Successful students have appropriate resources and know how to use them. You don't need to spend a fortune, and, happily, these essential tools will last for many years. Set up your student's study table in a quiet location with good lighting, ample work surface, and some parental supervision.

The first item, however, is one to get rid of. Move, turn off, or remove the Internet connection from any computer in the same room with a student attempting to study. Surfing the web, checking out Facebook, and chatting with friends will trump boring ol' homework every time, so close it down.

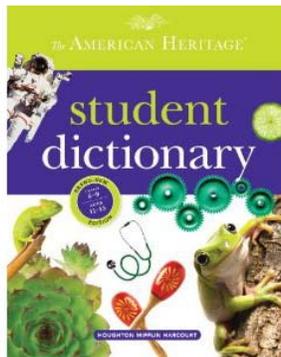


The Internet isn't even very helpful for students trying to find information. Too many students turn to a search engine rather than making the effort to read and understand their textbooks, and too often they find the wrong answers. Someone who doesn't have the patience to use the index and read the chapter certainly doesn't have the patience to search through hundreds of webpages looking for just the right information. The Web is filled with gargantuan amounts of information, but that's the problem. Finding the exact right piece of information is often like trying to get a cup of water from Niagara Falls—There's plenty of water rushing past, but it's not very feasible to just hold out a glass for a drink.

So, print out any notes or assignments posted by the teacher, and then turn off the cell phone, and the Internet. A computer without internet access still works and can easily be used for typing reports. Writing notes and information by hand will help students learn far more than cutting and pasting from one place to another will ever teach them. Here are a few other essentials for the study corner:

Keep necessities such as pens, pencils, erasers, felt-tips, colored pencils, white-out, etc., in one place so they're easy to find. Be sure to buy the right size of lined (filler) paper: 8-1/2" x 11" (not the 8" x 10" sold in some stores).

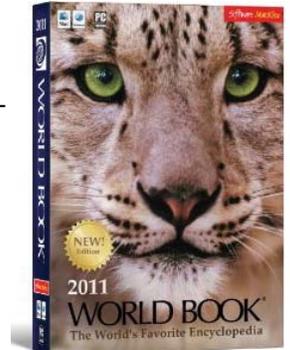
Invest in a top-notch student dictionary such as the *American Heritage Student Dictionary* easily available in bookstores. Students should have a good dictionary on their desk and use it regularly. Student dictionaries have concise definitions, plenty of pictures, and lots of examples of the word in use, which makes them very useful.



Students 11th-grade up will benefit from also having a more advanced volume such as *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* to look up those pesky SAT study words. Buy the full dictionary on CD for a few bucks, load it on your computer, and look up words even faster! Students can take the

collegiate dictionary off to college, too, ready for late-night study sessions.

Another important research tool is a high-quality encyclopedia such as *World Book*. It's now possible to buy the entire encyclopedia on CD for a few dollars. A good encyclopedia (and the habit of using it) will help students learn more about subjects they are studying and provide quick, easy introductions to almost any topic. Use it in family discussions, too—a great way to find out if the cheetah is really the fastest animal on earth or how long table tennis has been an Olympic sport!

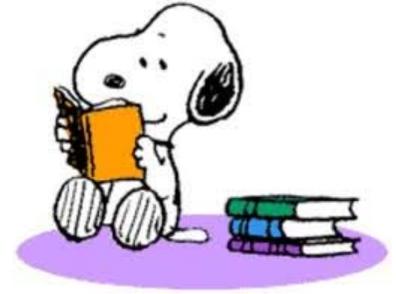


Students complaining they need music to study? Soothing background noise can help some students focus on their work. Unfortunately, most popular music is designed to grab the attention and not very helpful. Try a white noise generator, something mechanical like a fan, recordings of water, or even (gasp!) classical music.

## **SLC Tuition**

### ***10% Discount for Full Semester Paid in Advance***

Fees for the after-school session are paid every four weeks, generally during the first week of the month. The tuition for a student who attends two days per week (24 hours total tutoring in four weeks) is \$268 per month, three days per week is \$332, and four days is \$396. A discount is available for families.



Some months, such as December and February, have only three weeks of teaching due to school vacations, and parents thus pay only three weeks of tuition. Check the complete 2012-2013 calendar including holidays and payment schedule online at [www.successlearningcenter.org](http://www.successlearningcenter.org) (click on “2012/2013 After-School Session”), or pick up a copy of the calendar at the Learning Center.

This year we are again offering a semester pre-pay. Several parents have asked if they can receive a discount for paying the entire semester at once, and we’re happy to oblige. It’s a lot easier on everyone when there is only one payment to deal with. We’ve warmed up the calculators and figured out the numbers. The Fall Semester runs from 9/4/12-1/31/13, a total of 19 weeks. We are offering a 10% discount when the entire semester is paid in advance. A student attending two times each week will pay a total of \$1,273.00 when the monthly fees are added up; the discounted rate is \$1,146.00 paid in advance. A similar 10% discount applies on fees for students attending three times and four times each week.

Success! Learning Center is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Donations are gladly accepted to help underwrite our educational program. Limited scholarships are available for those in financial need. Please see the Director for more information.

## **Improving English Language Skills**

*Success! Learning Center offers English writing, grammar, vocabulary, and reading practice.  
Lessons are adjusted to the individual student’s needs and weaknesses.  
Includes daily composition and grammar practice, pronunciation, and language effectiveness.  
Strengthens speaking and listening skills; improves reading and writing skills.  
Students may also work on study skills and note-taking exercises.  
Also available for ELD (English Language Development) and bi-lingual students.*

## **Math Workshop**

*Practice classroom skills  
Learn new math subjects  
Enrichment and review*

*Word problems and turning English into math  
Analytical thinking plus creative problem-solving  
Elementary topics include telling time, handling money,  
fraction, decimals, place value, and math manipulatives  
High School topics include algebra and geometry  
through trigonometry and calculus*



## PSAT at High Schools

Saturday, October 20, 2012

The PSAT (preliminary SAT) provides excellent practice for the SAT Reasoning test. It also gives 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students a chance to compete for National Merit scholarships.



by low scores—they will be compared against 11<sup>th</sup>-graders. Remember, this is a practice test—the “real” test is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

The PSAT is offered only once each year. Students register for and take the test at their high school. There is no online registration. Most high schools will offer the test this year on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Remember to register and pay the fee (about \$25) early!

Scores on the PSAT enable students to compare their performance on an admissions test with others applying to college. Juniors can also receive information from colleges and universities interested in their abilities by checking “yes” to the Student Search Service.

We recommend that college-bound students take the PSAT in 10<sup>th</sup> grade in order to become more familiar with the types of questions and the skills necessary for the SAT. However, it’s important that sophomores not be discouraged

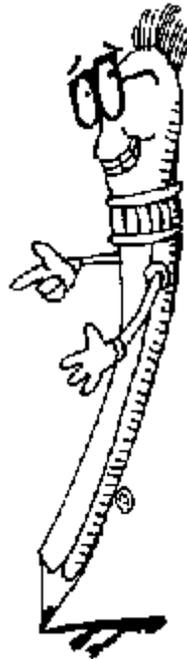
Success! Learning Center has PSAT practice tests for those interested in a little extra preparation. You can also find practice materials online:  
[www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html)

### Electronic Library Open 24/7

[http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/electronic\\_library/](http://www.santaclaracountylib.org/electronic_library/)

Wow! Look what’s available free online from the **Santa Clara County Library!** Magazine, journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, music, dictionaries, websites, databases, e-books, e-videos, and more are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. A valid library card is required.

A short list includes Chinese, Spanish, and other language magazine and articles, Project Gutenberg e-books, Oxford Reference online, Sesame Street e-books, audio books, homework help, music files, and lots lots more. Way too much stuff to list here. Check it out!!



### SLC Office Is

## CLOSED

during August

**After-School Tutoring**

Grades 3-12

begins on

Tuesday, September 4th

**For More Information**

Visit our website

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

Phone

(408) 263-9754

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