

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

May 2013

No. 37

Stanford Research on Math and Reading

Scope is an award-winning medical blog produced by the Stanford University School of Medicine. It provides high quality, engaging coverage of scientific and medical developments around the world. Find full articles by searching on math anxiety, poor reading, etc.:

<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/>

A new study from a Stanford team looks at the neurological basis of **math anxiety**. This study in second- and third-graders directly compares brain activity in individuals with low and high levels of math anxiety. The same part of the brain that responds to fearful situations, such as seeing a spider or snake, also shows a heightened response in children with high math anxiety.

In the children with high math anxiety, the scans showed heightened activity in the amygdala, the brain's main fear center, and also in a section of the hippocampus, a brain structure that helps form new memories. They also had decreased activity in several brain regions associated with working memory and numerical reasoning. Interestingly, analysis of brain connections showed that, in children with high math anxiety, the increased activity in the fear center was driving the reduced function in numerical information-processing regions of the brain. Further, children with high math anxiety also showed greater connections between the amygdala and emotion-regulating regions of the brain.

(Continued on Page 2)

Summer Session

June 17-August 1, 2013

Classes Meet Monday through Thursday

Applications for our seven-week Summer Session are now being accepted. 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. See page 2 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 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 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

Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

Stanford Research

(Continued from Page 1)

A better understanding of how math anxiety affects the brain could help researchers develop more-effective methods for helping kids overcome the problem. Such intervention is important because studies by others have shown that children with math anxiety often go on to avoid math classes and end up with a substandard math education.

Another study identifies the neural structures associated with **poor reading skills** and shows that brain scans can distinguish the neural differences between children with strong reading skills and those who struggle. The findings could help shape reading lessons for pre-elementary children by tailoring them to youngsters' needs.

Neuroscientists examined the cognitive, language and reading skills of children aged 7 to 15 over a three-year period. They also conducted



MRI scans of participants' brains annually during that period. In each case, the rate of development in the white matter regions of the brain, which are associated with reading,

accurately predicted their test scores. Specifically, children with above-average reading skills exhibit an FA value in two types of nerve bundles – the left hemisphere arcuate fasciculus and the left hemisphere inferior longitudinal fasciculus – that is initially low, but increases over time. Children with lower reading skills initially have a high FA, but it declines over time.

Once we have an accurate model relating the maturation of the brain's reading circuitry to children's acquisition of reading skills, scientists suggest, it will be possible to develop early intervention protocols for children who are poor readers, and tailor individualized lesson plans to emphasize good development. Work continues.

Class Schedule & Fees

7-Week Summer Session June 17-August 1, 2013

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 (63 hours)

\$640.00 (two payments of \$320 each, second payment due 7/15/13)

OR \$576 paid in advance (10% discount)

Two or more students in same family

Or multiple classes (same student)

\$50.00 discount per additional student or class

Class #3 (56 hours)

\$570.00 (two payments of \$285 each, second payment due 7/15/13)

OR \$513 paid in advance (10% discount)

Two or more students in same family

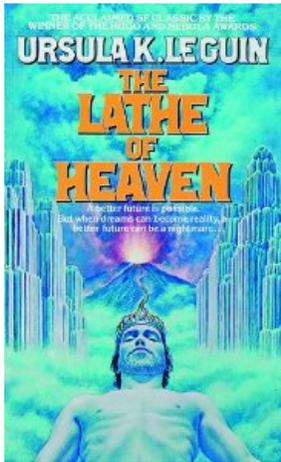
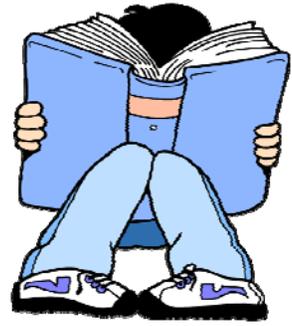
Or multiple classes (same student)

\$45.00 discount per additional student or class

Registration/Deposit Form on Page 7

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. In this issue, Mr. Gaare reviews three important books for middle school and high school students. Adults will enjoy them, also. Try reading them aloud to the family! (Audio books, too!)



The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula K. LeGuin (science fiction, 192 pages, 1971)

This story first captured my imagination when I was an early teen. There was a BBC adaptation that played on TV. **Lathe of Heaven** delves deep into the human mind, into the world of dreams, where even psychologists fear to tread. That is, except for the opportunistic Dr. Haber. After being arrested for a minor drug offense, George Orr is ordered to seek treatment from Dr. Haber. Meek and mild George would never hurt a fly, yet he's haunted by his dreams, which sometimes become realities

I read the novel later in my life. Written by Ursula K. LeGuin, **Lathe of Heaven** is considered one of the masterworks of science fiction. And LeGuin is perhaps the most renowned woman in science fiction, yet it never felt like I was reading a "girl's book". **Lathe of Heaven** is both entertaining and thought-provoking. In fact, it was difficult to put this book down—the pages just flew

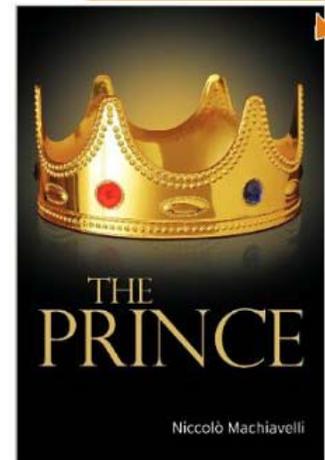
by! In 2002, a second movie adaptation was made starring James Caan and Lisa Bonet. I love both versions. The new version has beautiful special effects, but purists will favor the original BBC version which remains truer to the book. There aren't many sci-fi novels that can spawn two movies, so take notice of this one. And remember to be careful what you wish for!

The Prince by Niccolò Machiavelli (non-fiction classic, 164 pages, 1532)

I was so bored in my senior English class. The teacher had us read 10 of the world's great "classics". So after slogging through **The Brothers Karamazov** (700 pages!), **Madame Bovary** ("chick flick"), and some existential drivel, I was beginning to hate classical literature. Then came **The Prince**, and I was saved! At last, a practical guide for becoming a prince or any type of leader, and the book was speaking directly to me from the distant past. Who knew that 16th century Italy was full of politics, intrigue, and the analytical genius of Niccolò Machiavelli.

What do leaders think about? What moral issues do they struggle with? Which is better for a leader: to be loved, or feared? Machiavelli's answers may shock you, or they may just motivate. **The Prince** is probably the most infamous and misunderstood works of all time. When he wrote **The Prince**, Machiavelli was only a deposed politician giving advice to the local ruler. He based his writings on keen observations from his past positions, and on his knowledge of history. So why do many people fear and despise Machiavelli's ideas? It was because Machiavelli didn't sugar-coat his words, and he wasn't concerned about being politically-correct. How refreshing! Shouldn't he be exalted for that, and not villainized?

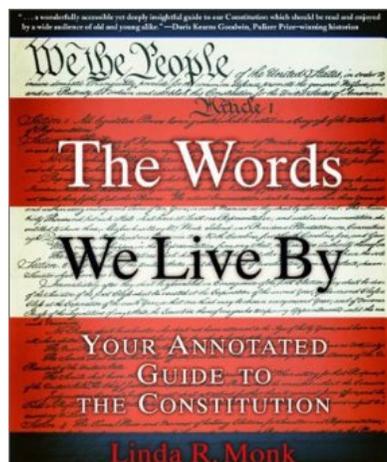
Many studies of Machiavelli's works have been written in the fields of politics, business, and war. The King of Prussia even wrote an entire book called **Anti-Machiavelli!** But it was **The Prince** that started it all, so check it out, and you'll be the judge.



Continued on Page 4

The Book Nook

(Continued from Page 3)



The Words We Live By by Linda R. Monk (non-fiction, 288 pages, 2003) THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. “Oh no, here comes another boring topic to study. I mean, this document is long, it’s dry, and it was written a long time ago by a bunch of guys wearing wigs!”

At least that’s what I thought when the Teacher’s Commission required me to study and take a test on the Constitution. I needed some help. I needed a way to make this topic interesting and relevant. The book that rescued me was **The Words We Live By**. This book breaks down the illustrious Constitution, and steps readers through it in an annotated fashion. The book is full of pictures, cartoons, stories, and interesting sidebars. It covers the entire Constitution, from the Preamble to the Bill of Rights to the 27th Amendment. It even covers the repealed sections, such as when slavery was legal and alcohol was illegal. Each section also tells us what social issues were happening at the time that led to the particular amendments being passed.

Words We Live By also helps its readers to understand that the Constitution is not a dead document. The rights of U.S. citizens are constantly being challenged today, and debates are being waged between freedom/privacy vs. security/government control. The last thing I was surprised to learn was that the Constitution laid out a government structure that was designed to work slowly, some might say *inefficiently*. This was intended to prevent the rash and hasty decisions of a few politicians from negatively affecting the whole country. There are lengthy procedures, checks and balances, and different levels of consensus required for each new law. **Words We Live By** has become my lifelong companion to the Constitution, giving me a deeper understanding and appreciation of the document and our government. It helped me get an “A” on that test, and I guess those old guys in wigs weren’t so dumb after all!

Summer Session

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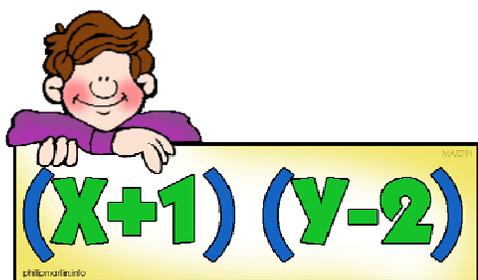
Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before mid-June. Our individualized curriculum and extremely low student-teacher ratio (one teacher or teacher aide for every four students) limit the number of spaces available in our learning groups. Be sure to register early!

Courses include our popular **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 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. .



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 Classwork

Prepare for Next Year's Courses

Upgrade Skills in Reading, Writing, and/or Math

Study for College Board Exams

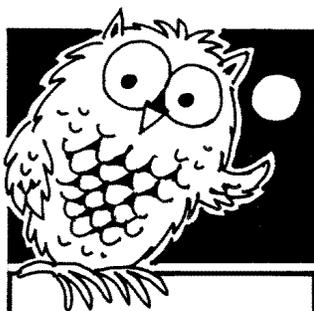
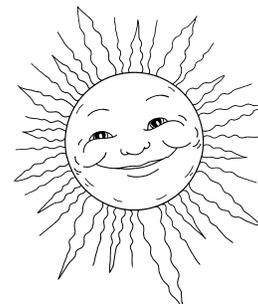


⇒ An excellent education is more important than ever in our technological world!

⇒ 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.



**2012-2013
After-School
Session**

*Last Day is
May 30th*



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 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.

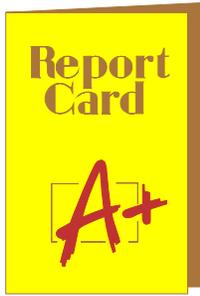
Seeing a play in live performance, however, is completely different—exciting, humorous, and fascinating. Language and image flow easily into the mind and everyone enjoys laughing at the many jokes enlivening even the darkest tragedies. You can pay as much as \$75 or \$100 to see a top-level dramatic 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 *Macbeth*, one of the most suspenseful and thrilling tragedies. Witchcraft! Swordplay! Storming the castle! Audiences will recognize Macbeth's famous soliloquies, including "Is this a dagger which I see before me?" and "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow", as well as the witches' rhymes "Double double toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble", which are a part of every Halloween. Free shows in Pleasanton, Cupertino, Redwood City, and San Francisco. 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, the Shady Shakespeare Theatre Company in Sanborn-Skyline Park www.shadyshakes.org, Shakespeare Santa Cruz under the redwoods on the UC Santa Cruz campus 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, 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.

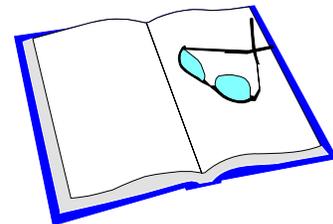
The lead teacher then prepares an individual plan of study for each student, based on his or her particular needs, learning styles, and interests. She works closely with teachers and aides to ensure that the course of study is successful and to make any necessary adjustments during the session.

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.

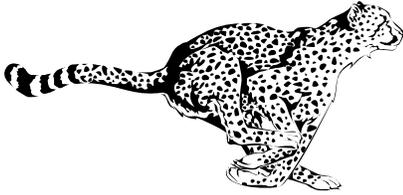
LEARNING CENTER STAFF

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.



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

Headin' for **Success!**

2013 Summer Deposit

Yes! We want to register for the 2013 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 2013-14 GRADE)
IS ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER ATTENDING THE 2013 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 17-August 1, 2013

- 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 2013 Summer Session. The balance of the fee is due no later than June 17th 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