

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

May 2017

No. 44

Book Reviews By Students, For Students

*G-R-R-E-A-T summer reading
recommended by Mr. Gaare's students!*

Valkyrie
by Kate O'Hearn
(Fantasy, 356 pages, 2013)

If you had to take on the full duties of a Valkyrie, what would you do? Valkyries are mythical creatures from Norse mythology.

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Four Popular Myths About College Admissions

Don't Make These Common Mistakes!

In spite of all those advisers offering all their supposed expertise for money, the process of applying and being accepted into college is full

Continued on Page 4

2017 Top-Ranked Colleges and Universities in CA

Here are the top-ranked colleges and universities in **California**, based on **U.S. News College Rankings** which classifies colleges into categories (in order to compare schools with similar goals) and then ranks them into four

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7-Week Summer Session

June 12-July 27, 2017

**Review Schoolwork
Prepare for Next Year
SAT Test Preparation
Enrichment & Learning Activities**

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 pages 2-3 for more information.



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

Summer Session

June 12-July 27, 2017
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 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 63 hours of instruction over the seven-week session. We offer a discount for students taking multiple classes or for family members enrolled in the same session. Limited scholarships are 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.

Each year several Learning Center classes fill completely before 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!

Using computers effectively is much more than just clicking buttons until something happens. **Beginning Computer Science** gives students in grades 4-9 a chance to learn about computer hardware and software, how they actually work, accomplishing common student tasks, and much more. Students use listening, speaking, reading, writing, research, and hands-on exploration to build new technical skills and prepare for our increasingly computerized future. Taught by Mr. Gaare, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Other courses include our popular **Math Workshop** focusing on intensive practice of math and logic skills. This workshop helps struggling students master skills appropriate to their grade level and prepare for the next year. 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.



is a great time
to work on improving skills in
MATH, READING, and WRITING!

Class Schedule & Fees

7-Week Summer Session June 12-July 27, 2017

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)

\$712.00 (two payments of \$356 each, second payment due 7/10/17)

OR \$640 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)

\$634.00 (two payments of \$317 each, second payment due 7/10/17)

OR \$570 paid in advance (10% discount)

Two or more students in same family

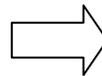
Or multiple classes (same student)

\$45.00 discount per additional student or class

Beginning Computer Science

Learn about computers

Kids often think:



"I know ALL about computers!"

But when we test them, we find out they know *almost nothing!*



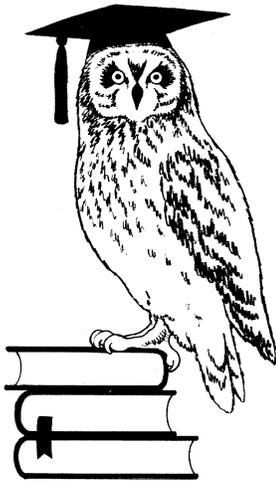
Learn about hardware, software, and creating your own programs!

Topics Covered:

History, Circuits, Logic, Hardware
Software, Introduction to Programming
Reports & Essays,
Spreadsheets, Presentations
Photoshop, Typography, Internet Safety
Creating games and websites
TENTATIVE FIELD TRIP: Computer
History Museum in Mountain View

For students in grades 4-9
Class size: 3-6
Mondays thru Thursdays, 1:30–3:30pm
7 weeks, June 12 to July 27, 2017
Teacher: Mr. Mark Gaare

Students need to bring a USB flash drive to class



Four Popular Myths About College Admissions

Continued from Page 1

of misconceptions: that colleges don't check applicants' social media pages (most of them do), that famous people can get in easily, that most students aren't admitted to their first choice (they are, but many can't attend because of cost). Here are four commonly believed but erroneous college application myths:

Myth No. 1: Admissions essays don't matter.

In 2014, Time magazine suggested that those finely honed, painstakingly crafted essays "might not make a difference for your college admission chances." After all, at some schools, the pool of applicants is much too large for every essay to be read. But that doesn't make them irrelevant. In fact, essays can be decisive when it comes to students whom admissions counselors are on the fence about. A student with borderline grades and test scores could secure a spot in the freshman class with an insightful, well-crafted essay, or be rejected because of a lousy one, or when it's clear that an adult, not a student, has written it. And a poorly constructed essay, or one marred by punctuation and grammatical errors, can sour even a great application.

Myth No. 2: The more extracurriculars, the better.

Many American high schools push their students to excel in as many extracurricular activities as they can, often because they think this helps those students gain admission to top colleges and universities. So do many college counseling services. This is an outdated way of approaching college admissions. Well-rounded students enjoy many types of diverse activities; focused students delve deeply into one or two areas. Nowadays, schools look for both kinds of students as they attempt each year to create an interesting, diverse, high-performing freshman class. That may include an applicant extremely passionate about the viola and another who plays every sport and is a member of a dozen clubs. The best way to impress admissions counselors, as always, is to authentically pursue what interests you.

Myth No. 3: Ivy League schools are the most selective.

There are eight schools in the Ivy League (named for the ivy growing on their campuses): Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. The least choosy among the Ivies, Cornell, took 14 percent of applicants for the Class of 2010; the most choosy, Harvard, took just 5.4 percent. But these aren't the most selective schools around. Stanford University often takes less than 5 percent, and it isn't in the Ivy League. MIT, Caltech and the University of Chicago, all with acceptance rates of about 8 percent for the Class of 2010, are more selective than some of the Ivies, too. Plus, many schools may take a higher proportion of applicants but are equally picky about their credentials:

Myth No. 4: Average grades in hard classes are better than A's in easy ones.

Schools often weight difficult classes more heavily when tabulating GPAs, so these tips seem to make sense. Not so fast. Yes, colleges and universities like to see students take challenging courses in high school. But selective schools usually don't like grades below a B, and struggling in more than one tough class is not seen as a plus. So unless students can keep their grades in higher-level courses at or over the B range, it probably makes more sense to take regular classes and earn those As. Many colleges have their own systems for recalculating GPAs, too.

Based on an article written by Valerie Strauss, Washington Post, March 24, 2017,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-college-admissions/2017/03/24/673a03a2-0f2a-11e7-9d5a-a83e627dc120_story.html?utm_term=.ffce6e44deba

Book Reviews: G-R-R-R-E-A-T Summer Reading

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They live in Asgard, specifically in Valhalla, which is located in the sky. Valkyries fly down to Earth and take the souls of humans who die in battle. The Angels of Death take the rest of the souls.



Valkyries are not allowed to go to Earth without the god Odin's permission. Freya is a young Valkyrie who has turned 14, and she has to take on the duties. She hates humans because she thinks all they do is war. That is not the only way she is different, though. Her wings are black, and all other Valkyries' wings are pure white. She is also the last Valkyrie to ever be born.

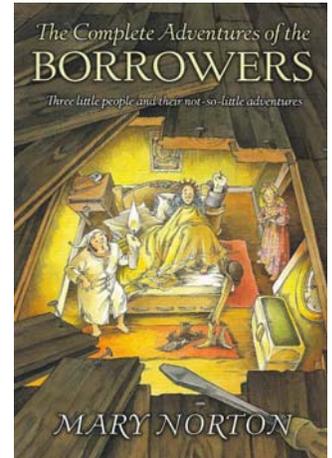
Now that she is no longer considered "a child", Freya goes on her first mission with her faithful companion, a talking raven named Orus. On Earth, she takes the soul of a caring man named Tyrone. He is really worried about his family, but Freya takes his soul anyway. Now Tyrone's soul is in Valhalla, but he is still worried about his family. Reluctantly, Freya agrees to go to Earth and save his family--if Odin lets her.

But the following night, Freya and Orus go for a walk. Odin's trickster brother, Loki, convinces Freya that Odin will never let her go to Earth and she should just sneak there. Orus warns her that Loki is just trying to get her in trouble, but she doesn't listen. She and Orus sneak to Earth. Down there, she makes friends with humans and tells them her true identity, acts which are not allowed. Orus keeps warning her, but she doesn't go back to Asgard. Her favorite sister, Maya, soon comes after her. Maya warns Freya too, but she doesn't listen. When the time of truth comes, will Freya be a true hero, or will she simply accept her destiny?

This book is part of a series. Book two is called "The Runaway". I recommend this book to girls from ages 9-15. It is a fun, interesting, and suspenseful book. I can't wait until I get the second book. I chose to read this book because of the cover and because I really love fantasy. Once you pick it up, you won't put it down!

-Reviewed by Khadija R., 6th grade

The Borrowers
by Mary Norton
Fantasy, 1952,
180 pages



Under the big grandfather clock there is a small gate. If you go through the gate and the tunnels, you will reach a tiny house, the home of little people called Borrowers. The main character of this story is a fourteen-year-old Borrower named Arrietty who lives with her parents in a small house under the kitchen floor. The Borrowers "borrow" whatever they need from the "human beans" who live above.

At home, Arrietty gets lonely and bored. It is too dangerous for her to get out of the house because she might be seen. Then her parents finally decide she can go borrowing with her father. Once alone outside, Arrietty meets a human boy who has just moved in and secretly befriends him. Unfortunately, their friendship soon creates problems for Arrietty and her family.

I started reading this book because my uncle sent it to me on my birthday. After I finished this book, I read two more in the series, *The Borrowers Afield* and *The Borrowers Afloat*. I like how the author thought about how Borrowers could use all of our things. I recommend this book to kids who like stories with mystery and a bit of adventure.

--reviewed by Maryam M., 6th grade

2017 Top-Ranked Colleges and Universities in California



Continued from Page 1

tiers. We present here a **very few** of the many top-ranked **California** colleges and universities in two categories.

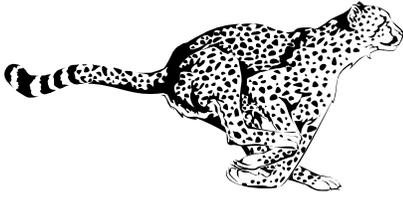
For lots more information on many more schools, visit the article on our website at www.successlearningcenter.org and click on **Top CollegeLinks**, visit the full rankings found at *U.S. News: Education*, <https://www.usnews.com/education>, or visit the Learning Center to consult our copy of the *U.S. News 2017 Best Colleges Guidebook*.

National Universities offer a full range of undergraduate majors, master's, and doctoral degrees. These colleges are also committed to producing groundbreaking research.

Name & Address	Tuition	Undergrad. Enrollment	Accept. Rate	SAT 25th-75th %tile	Top 10% of HS Class	HS GPA 25th-75th %tile	Classes Under 20 Students
Stanford University, Stanford	\$47,940	6,999	5%	1390-1580	96%	(avg. 4)	71.3%
California Institute of Technology; Pasadena	\$47,577	1,001	9%	1500-1600	99%	N/A	62.2%
University of California-Berkeley, Berkeley	In-State: \$13,509	27,496	15%	1250-1500	98%	(avg. 3.9)	59.6%
University of Southern California; Los Angeles	\$52,217	18,810	18%	1270-1500	88%	3.6-3.9	60.6%
University of California-Los Angeles; L.A.	In-State: \$12,836	29,585	17%	1190-1470	97%	4-4	50.6%
University of California-Santa Barbara; S.B..	In-State: \$14,022	20,607	33%	1130-1370	100%	3.8-4	48.7%
University of California-Irvine, Irvine	In-State: \$14,750	25,256	39%	1040-1310	96%	3.8-4	58.4%
University of California-Davis Davis	In-State: \$14,046	28,384	38%	1070-1340	100%	3.5-4.0	35.8%
University of California-San Diego; La Jolla	In-State: \$14,705	28,384	34%	1210-1450	100%	3.9-4	35.1%
Pepperdine University, Malibu	\$50,022	3,533	38%	1100-1320	48%	3.4-3.9	69.2%

Liberal Arts Colleges emphasize undergraduate education and award at least half of their degrees in the liberal arts fields of study.

Name & Address	Tuition	Undergrad. Enrollment	Accept. Rate	SAT25th-75th %tile	Top 10% of HS Class	HS GPA 25th-75th %tile	Classes Under 20 Students
Pomona College, Claremont	\$49,352	1,663	10%	1360-1530	92%	N/A	67.8%
Claremont McKenna Coll., Clare.	\$50,945	1,328	11%	1340-1530	73%	N/A	83.5%
Harvey Mudd College, Claremont	\$52,916	815	13%	1400-1560	93%	N/A	59.3%
Scripps College, Claremont	\$50,983	973	28%	1280-1448	72%	(avg. 4)	83.2%
Pitzer College, Claremont	\$48,660	1,067	13%	1250-1440	60%	(avg. 3.9)	72.7%
Soka Univ. of America, Aliso Viejo	\$31,076	433	46%	1070-1390	33%	3.6-4	96.2%
Occidental College, Los Angeles	\$51,070	2,112	45%	1200-1380	55%	3.4-3.9	63.8%



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!**

2017 Summer Deposit

Yes! We want to register for the 2017 Summer Session. I have enclosed a \$100.00 deposit for each student listed to register in the indicated class(es).

Student:

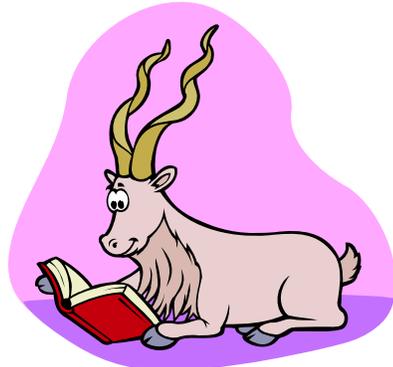
_____	_____	_____
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
_____	MALE FEMALE	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 COL.
SCHOOL NOW ATTENDING	(CIRCLE ONE)	(CIRCLE 2017-18 GRADE)
IS ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER ATTENDING THE 2015 SUMMER SESSION? YES _____ NO _____		
IF YES, LIST NAME(S) & GRADE(S) _____		

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 12-July 27, 2017

- 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 2017 Summer Session. The balance of the fee is due no later than June 12th 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