



Stonestown Family Y/ExCEL/DCYF present...

Miraloma After-School Program Dragon Tales

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“So It Begins...” September Programming, Special Dates, and More!

An early flurry of enrichment classes, extended academic support, after-school athletics, and daily, structured recreational activities has come to stay at Miraloma Elementary’s Stonestown Family Y/ ExCEL/DCYF-supported after-school program! From baked pears to make-your-own refrigerator magnets, student have participated in a diverse selection of staff-led, standards-aligned learning opportunities which supplement and augment their regular daytime lessons.

The perception often exists, at any after-school site, that these free programs operate solely as a form of “child watch.” Yet, per our grant, we offer much more than a place for students to stay after their daytime classes are released. Each day, students may participate in 1 hour of enrichment class, 1 hour of extended academic support, and 1 hour of structured, active recreation.

At the beginning of September, students were able to choose from a variety of enrichment classes, featuring the ever-popular “Good Eats” cooking class, along with our “Glee Club” performance group. Other options included a student leadership group, line-art, murals, and drawing sessions, and Miraloma’s own intramural After-School Youth Sports (ASYS) Basketball team. Each enrichment class also culminates in a showcase project, presented to the Miraloma community during regular program hours on October 20th. *Please see inside this issue for more details! Thanks always for your support – The Miraloma Y-ASP Team!*



Upcoming Dates in October

- * Parent-Teacher Conference Week. Oct. 17th - 21st
Classes Out at 12:50/11:15AM (Oct. 18th).
Please note: After-school WILL run extended hours.
- * “Lights on After-School.” Oct. 20th
National day of after-school recognition!
- * Halloween/Fall Festival. Includes Oct. 31st
games, costume contest, spooky maze, and more!
- * All events occur 1:50 - 6:15PM during regular program hours.

What is an Enrichment Class & How Do they Differ From HW Time?

Background: Our after-school operating grant, provided by ExCEL and the Department for Children, Youth, and Their Families, mandates that we provide “1/3, 1/3, 1/3;” that is: enrichment time, academic support, and active recreation.

Yet, these categories may seem ostensibly amorphous to many families, and we are often asked, what is an “enrichment?”

Each program day, students are given 1 hour of extended academic support, primarily in the form of homework assistance and individualized subject tutoring. They also receive 1 hour of structured, active recreation, such as team soccer games, basketball technique practices, dance instructionals, etc.

Enrichments, therefore, are those classes which further

incorporate and develop the skills which students may be introduced to during their daytime lessons. Such classes are designed to be fun and engaging for students, yet they are also aligned with grade-level standards. We encourage all students to participate in enrichments when possible, and always welcome feedback or new ideas! *Look for our showcase on Oct. 20th! Thank you!*

Inside This Issue:

- ◆ *Enrichment Spotlight*
- ◆ *CalAcademy Visits*
- ◆ *ASYS Basketball*
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Spotlight On: "Glee Club" Enrichment Class

Back by student request, the ever-popular "Glee Club" enrichment class meets twice weekly, Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:30PM. In the class, students are led by Mr. Scotty and Ms. Kim in designing creative performance routines set to contemporary songs chosen by the students.

For their first number, students selected the song "Tonight, Tonight" by the group Hot Chelle Rae. After breaking out into smaller groups, they then began deconstructing the song's verses and chorus, in the process learning about musical structures and

common pop song templates. After analyzing the music, under the guidance of Mr. Scotty or Ms. Kim, students started to choreograph their



own detailed dance steps and maneuvers. Assisted by a plethora of

blue foam mats, their moves included some impressive cartwheels, somersaults and other gymnastic feats.

At the end of their allotted 4-weeks, students brought in costumes and accessories for their final performance. Using two high-definition video cameras, they recorded their routines for presentation to the school community. The videos can be viewed from any computer, mobile device, or HD television.

Up next: a possible special performance on-stage in a school-wide showcase!

A Visit from The California Academy of Sciences!

In September, the after-school program was very fortunate to receive four free classes from The California Academy of Sciences. Subjects included "Rocking Reptiles" and "Incredible Insects."

Led by a full-time CalAcademy staff along with a team of interns, the classes gave students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of natural biology through song, games, and, yes, even live specimens! Those students who felt up to the task were able to carefully interact with a skink, a small

boa constrictor, Madagascar cockroaches, and dark-wing beetles!

Other activities included dressing up like a giant lizard and learning songs which describe the different parts of an insect. The hardest part: getting the students to leave at the end!

Thanks again to everyone who came out from the CalAcademy!



After-School Youth Sports, Session 1: Basketball

This year, we continue our participation in the Stonestown Family Y's After-School Youth Sports (ASYS) league, beginning the fall term with basketball.

Students practice twice weekly, and any member of the after-school program may join free of cost. Students are provided with jerseys and equipment.



Other participating schools include Commodore Sloat Elementary and Sheridan Elementary. Games occur at the Stonestown Family Y main gym.

For their first game, the team played fiercely and returned undefeated. Coach Eric has put together a great group of players, incorporating not just on-the-court skills, but also overall values of good sportsmanship and teamwork.

Student Art Submissions - Select Works



2nd-grade student Sid Rezig stands next to his self-made magnets!



Claudia Ryckebusch (K) displays her best Halloween face and cut-out pumpkin!



3rd-grade student Danielle Lei's glitter and foam name magnet!

Pictures from September



Thanks for reading!
See you in October!

The Miraloma Stonestown Y/ExCEL/DCYF After-School Program accepts snack donations in the form of food (please note allergens) or gift cards to vendors such as Safeway and Costco. Thank you always for your support.