



Parents At The Park (PATP) Newsletter

4th Edition February 21, 2008

Parents arrived at the park and warmed themselves in the Requa Room with coffee and pastries. We had a lively discussion about how to help other parents better understand what *School In The Park* is. Like those at the last PATP gathering, today's parents were concerned that many parents had misunderstandings about *School In The Park*. Some parents think their children come to a park and play all day. Everyone agreed that the Rosa Parks Parent Center could play a very important role in educating parents about the museum learning that happens. Information about *School In The Park* could go on a special bulletin board. Pictures of students' work could also be shown. Several parents volunteered to help with the bulletin board.



While parents were very happy to hear about the new *School In The Park* web site, they said that many parents don't have access to the internet at home so they would depend on the Parent Center bulletin board for information. Marilyn suggested working with parents on computer skills in the Parent Center to familiarize them with the web site. She thought this might be a great way to get parents more interested in learning about the computer. What wonderful suggestions!

Now, it was off to the museums to see their children in actions. From the *Natural History Museum* to the *Reuben H. Fleet Space Center* to

the *San Diego Zoo* and *Museum of Man*, parents had the chance to see the exciting learning opportunities their children have everyday at *School In The Park*. At the



Museum of Man, students were learning about cultural anthropology through the study of folk art, archaeology, and other areas of culture. Today, students are visiting the Egypt Exhibit. Here they get to see actual Egyptian mummies, learn about the process of mummification and learn about the culture and religion of the ancient Egyptians. Later in the week, students will also examine Ancient Maya cultures.

The opportunity to see and study so many actual artifacts is exciting and motivating. One parent shared that her son comes home from *School In The Park* so motivated by what he is learning that he worries if he thinks he is going to miss any days at the park. He talks with his little sister about what he is learning and she is looking forward to her time at *School In The Park* when she gets to third grade. After watching instruction at the Fleet Space Center, another parent asked about what things she could do at home to reinforce what her child is learning about chemistry. "Maybe we can all think about ideas and put them on the *School In The Park* bulletin board in the Parent Center!" she said. GREAT IDEA!

