



Parents At The Park (PATP) Newsletter

2nd Edition December 11, 2007

Our second group of Parents At The Park (PATP) stepped off the van at the Prado on a brisk Tuesday morning. A cup of hot coffee and some pastries in the Requa Room warmed them as they received a brief orientation. Kitty Gabriel, our SITP Instructional Technologist, also introduced parents to the new SITP website set to premiere toward the end of January, 2008.



We then headed for the SITP museums. The parents of 3rd graders visited both the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Historical Society. At the zoo, parents joined students in learning about ways the elephant has adapted to survive and thrive in different regions of the world. As students left the classroom to see the elephants and talk with the elephant keepers, parents examined elephant artifacts and talked about ways to help children at home better understand the concept of 'adaptation'. Everybody agreed that they would like more information about what their children were studying during their weeks at SITP.

Then, it was off to the Archive Room at the San Diego Historical Society where students were examining old photographs and other artifacts related to the Kumeyaay Indians. Parents donned the required white gloves and became enthralled in the history of the Kumeyaay of the northern Baja and San Diego areas. As we exited the Archives, parents asked if they could return at some point to explore the archives more extensively.

Parent of 4th graders visited the Museum of Man to learn about mummies and explored the interactive exhibits within the museum alongside the students. From there, they went to the Natural History

Museum to watch students creating their own 'rocks' as they learned the processes involved in sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rock formation.

The parents of the 5th graders visited the Fleet Science Center where students were generating hypotheses about why water was on the outside of a glass of ice water as part of an examination of physical properties of objects such as hardness, electric conductivity, magnetism, shape, etc. Parents sat with groups of students and talked about how students were using scientific tools to understand beginning chemistry. They discussed how chemistry links to the home, especially to cooking.

Once again, PATP time flew by and all of us left more energized and committed to the importance of parental involvement in children's academic lives. **POWER TO PARENTS!**



Follow Up:

- *The SDHS Archive Room is open to the public Wed-Sat from 9:30-1:00. For non-members, the cost is \$6.00. Also, Jane, the archivist, has offered to provide an orientation for interested SITP parents at no charge.*

- *SITP will soon begin developing podcasts for students with very limited English language proficiency to provide them with an overview in their primary language of each week's focus and activities. Parents will also be able to access these podcasts on the SITP website.*

