



Parents At The Park (PATP) Newsletter

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It was a rainy, chilly Thursday in Balboa Park when our third group of *Parents At The Park* (PATP) arrived at the Prado's Requa Room for their orientation to *School In The Park*. As we all warmed ourselves with hot coffee and pastries, we had a lively discussion about how the program works. One parent shared that her son was now so excited about science and art. Another parent said she was so confused when her son first told her he was coming to Balboa Park to go to school. She said, "I thought to myself, *Where will they sit? How can you go to school in a park!*"



Before we all headed out to the museums, we talked about how *School In The Park* helps children make important connections between many different subject areas. Parents talked about how *School In The Park* helps their children be more interested in learning back at Rosa Parks because they can see how what they are learning helps them in their everyday lives. Parents described ways they could turn everyday experiences such as cooking or grocery shopping into learning experiences for their children by having them read recipes, measure ingredients, compare the contents of two types of cereal, figure out how much 2 pounds of hamburger would cost, etc.

Then, off we went to explore the museums! We visited the *Museum of Man*, the *Natural History Museum* and the *Hall of Champions*.

At the *Natural History Museum*, the 4th grade students were learning about the properties of rocks and minerals and the processes that formed them. Fifth graders were doing experiments to help them understand meteorology – how water on Earth moves between the oceans and land through the processes of evaporation and condensation and how energy from the sun heats Earth unevenly, causing air movements that result in changing weather patterns.

Between the raindrops, one group of parents walked to the *Hall of Champions*, the sports museum, to see 5th graders learning about fractions, decimals, and percentages by working with information about baseball. Another group visited the *Museum of Man* where 3rd graders were studying archeology and anthropology using magnifying glasses to examine human skulls and look for clues that could tell them how people might have died. This day, these students also took an archaeological tour through the Children's Discovery Center within the museum.



Once again, our time was over and we had to say goodbye. As we parted, the parents talked about how wonderful it was to see their children so active and interested in learning. They all wished that their children could continue at *School In the Park* when they got to middle school. **POWER TO PARENTS!**

