



The Summerbridge Spirit

Fall 2007: Words From The Director

Welcome back to Summerbridge!! After school tutoring and enrichment classes are running well and we are very happy to have Ned Diamond, Jake Sproull, Megan Montgomery and Darin Crawford back teaching the enrichment classes. Please read more about their classes on page two of this newsletter.

We are also excited about our family engagement this fall. We have had great turn out at the SBFA meetings. Keep it up!

I would like to share with you some of the results from the Summerbridge family survey from the Spring of 2007. We had 74% of our families responding to the survey. Thank you for your feedback! *All rankings were based on 1 to 5 lowest to highest.*

Summerbridge Academic Components receiving the highest marks in helpfulness: Summer program: 4.6, Kaplan SSAT classes: 4.4, High School Counseling: 4.3, Master Adult Teachers: 4.3 and Students Teaching Students Model: 4.0.

Families found the following services helpful or would be helpful if offered: Student progress reports for school year enrichment classes: 4.3, Workshop on financing high school and college: 4.3, Quarterly newsletter: 4.0, Community building events for families: 4.0 and Workshop on parenting and adolescent development: 3.8.

There are clearly parts of the program families regard highly and we will continue to offer and strengthen these aspects of the program. There are some additional services and support you would like to see and we will work to include them in our programming such as: progress reports for enrichment classes and workshops on financing high school and college educations. This feedback is very important and helpful to the Summerbridge office. Please feel free to contact either Deundra or me if you have additional ideas on how to keep Summerbridge strong.

My Best, Meredith

Words From The Assistant Director

I was asked the following questions today.

Why do I do youth work?

Why do I work with the youth of San Francisco?

My response was quite simple:

I work with youth here at Summerbridge because they are the key to ending:

- Homelessness
- Mis-Education
- No-Education
- Racism

- Environmental In-Justice

- Lack of Health Care

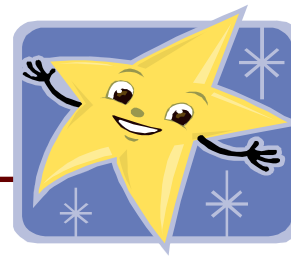
Do I need to list anymore reasons? Your children are amazing, smart, kind and very conscious of what is good and bad in the world. In fact several of them already have some pretty good ideas on how to solve some of the problems listed. Thank you for giving (me) Summerbridge the opportunity to work with them and be a part of their academic and social growth.

This school year has started off with great energy and

purpose. Thank you in advance parents/guardians and students for making the commitment to your students education by arriving every day your scheduled whether it's for enrichment class, tutoring or SSAT Prep (8th graders) at SB on time and ready to L-E-A-R-N. *Just a reminder students must be picked up on time (6:00pm) Meredith and I work really long and hard daily and there isn't any scheduled supervision after that time.*

Take care, **Deundra**

DON'T WAIT FOR A STAR. BE A 7th Grade Enrichment Classes



Math Curriculum with Darrin Crawford

The curriculum will focus on developing the students' skills in four areas: arithmetic, elementary trigonometry and geometry, pre-algebra, and problem solving. The curriculum seeks to develop mastery of arithmetic, exploring rational expressions, integer manipulation, order of operation, and similar topics. Furthermore, the curriculum will pursue concepts in elementary trigonometry and geometry, and their practical applications, i.e. working with area, circumference, triangles, and the likes. The curriculum will review pre-algebra focusing particularly on the skills that would benefit the class. Also, the students will evaluate word problems to help develop problem-

solving techniques. Ultimately, the curriculum seeks to develop mastery of rudimentary mathematics skills for each student.

The goals of the after-school math curriculum are as follows

1. Develop mastery of rudimentary mathematics skills.
2. Develop problem-solving skills.
3. Encourage productive group work.
4. Cultivate a love for learning
5. Create an enjoyable environment for enrichment

Writing and Literature with Megan Montgomery

The 7th grade Writing and Literature curriculum will focus on developing the

students' skills in four areas: close

reading, writing responses to literature, writing mechanics/grammar, and

vocabulary. Students will belong to small groups (literature circles) in which they will read and respond to challenging short stories, poems, plays and articles and will develop their critical-thinking and leadership abilities. Students will build their vocabularies through studying common SSAT terms as well as Greek and Latin roots and affixes, and they will complete weekly grammar/mechanics "blooper" activities.

8th Grade Enrichment Classes

Math Class with Ned

Diamond

In our 8th grade After-School Math Class, students will be reviewing, practicing, and mastering the fundamentals of Algebra I in addition to strengthening general problem solving skills. Problem solving is at the heart of mathematics so learning about new strategies for solving problems is important for the growth of a student's mathematical ability. In addition, to Algebra I, we will study other

interesting topics like Number Theory, Probability, and Geometry.

At the beginning of each class, students are encouraged to ask mathematical questions that they may have in their current regular school class. I will attempt to weave them into that day's lesson or future lessons.

The goals of the after-school math class for the students are:

- 1) to develop a strong

foundation of Algebra through reinforcement;

2) to expose students to exciting ideas in mathematics that they may not be introduced to in their school;

3) to strengthen their basic math facts;

4) to build confidence in problem-solving;

5) to enjoy the power and beauty of mathematics;

6) to provide a resource for questions about their current math schoolwork

"Summerbridge taught me how to be more confident and how to succeed in eighth grade"

Writing and Literature with Jake Sproull

In this course students will focus on how to complete a successful high school application. Students will learn about the application process, interviewing techniques, essay writing, and SSAT test skills. Students begin each class period by analyzing a famous quote, which is an opportunity to explore both the power of

language and discuss important vocabulary. Students also review the class "blooper," which is a short grammar lesson on how to clarify ambiguous writing. Students will learn tips and strategies for improving their vocabulary and reading comprehension on the SSAT test. They will also take two practice tests during the course. In order to learn about traits of effective writing, students will analyze sample high school essays and discuss the skills authors use to reach a

target audience. Students will have an opportunity to write one high school application essay and get teacher feedback on it before submitting it to high schools in January.

High School Counseling

I would like to thank every family that has completed and/or scheduled your high school counseling appointment with me. If you haven't scheduled an appointment with me yet please contact me today. I would like to say to everyone not to give up keep working chipping away at each application, shadow visit and open house. **YOU CAN DO IT!!!!!! ~ Deundra**

October 2007 Attend Public School Fair 10/27/07 www.sfusd.edu
RSVP High School Open Houses & Shadow Appointments
SSAT Prep Class starts 10/3/07 @ Summerbridge
Begin/continue filling out high school applications (Deadlines are approaching!!)

November 2007 RSVP High School Open Houses & Shadow Appointments
SSAT Prep ends 11/14 & **SSAT Saturday, 11/ 17** (*Rest & do your best*)
Financial Aid: Parents/Guardians if applying for financial aid 2007 completed taxes & forms are due February 2008
Continue filling out high school applications (Many application deadlines this month!!!)

December 2007 **Financial Aid:** Parents/Guardians if applying for financial aid 2007 completed taxes & forms are due February 2008
Complete high school applications (Many application deadlines this month!!!!)

Spotlight on Penny Drive by Julia Angeles

This summer, I organized a charity drive at SB. It was a summer-long Battle of the Classes against seventh, eighth, ninth, and faculty (although I think most faculty members tried to help their grades win instead of themselves, wherein we donated loose change to class water jugs. The goal was to raise more money than the other classes; therefore, the community's

competitive spirit/want to benefit a good organization allowed the drive to be quite a success. I was very pleased with the collaborative efforts of the SB community (and with the efforts of my ninth-grade class, who won)! We raised an amount just shy of \$200 and voted to send the money to The Firelight Foundation, which supports African children affected/orphaned by AIDS.

The charity drive showed me how connected all of us at SB are when it comes to reaching a goal, proving yet again why I have always loved this place.



Calendar of Events

Monday, September 17-School-After-School Begins
Tuesday, September 18 -- Enrichment Classes Begin
Saturday, September 29—SSAT Diagnostic Test- 8th grade only
Wednesday, October 3-SSAT classes begin
Monday, October 8 —No School-After-School or Enrichment Classes, Indigenous Peoples Day
Tuesday, October 9th -SBFA meeting
Sunday, October 14-SBFA picnic in Golden Gate Park

Wednesday, October 17—SSAT class meet- 8th graders only
Wednesday, October 17 – No Enrichment Classes or School-After-School, UHS Professional Day
Thursday, October 18 -- No Enrichment Classes or School-After-School, UHS Mini Break
Saturday, November 10-SSAT final Diagnostic Test for 8th graders only
Wednesday, November 14-Last Day of SSAT classes for 8th graders only

Saturday, November 17-SSAT test for 8th graders only
Wednesday/Thursday, November 21 & 22 - No Enrichment Classes or School-After-School, Thanksgiving
Saturday, December 8th– Alumni Winter Event
Thursday, December 13 – Last Day of Enrichment Classes or School-After-School

<http://www.summerbridgesf.org/>

We are on the Web!

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SUMMERBRIDGE SAN FRANCISCO
UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL



Reflections: Hearing from Students, Alumni, Teachers & Parents

These excerpts from stories and letters of Summerbridge San Francisco participants and their family members.

“SB was the key stepping stone to my success... If it weren't for my involvement in the program as a student and teacher, I would not be where I am today.”- Class of '96

Summerbridge means so many things as a function of the fact that everyone involved is simultaneously learning and teaching. The teachers are learning to be teachers, learning from their students, and teaching from what they've learned as students themselves. The students are learning from their teachers, learning that it's cool to be a teacher, and teaching each other to take their role as a student seriously. As I said, it gets complicated quickly. But it's this complexity that makes Summerbridge such an important, dynamic place.” SB teacher



Summerbridge students help clean up at Heron Park

“Without Summerbridge, I would not have much of the drive and motivation that I have today. I would not have received the extra support and guidance that helped me get in to the high school that I did, and in turn the college which I attended. Without Summerbridge I do not think that I would have realized or reached my full potential,,, and I would not have learned to challenge myself and strive to achieve more out of each academic experience.”

~ Alumna class of '96