



Parent Newsletter

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Odyssey of the Mind

Teaching divergent thinking and celebrating creativity

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving program that engages students in their learning by allowing their knowledge and ideas to come to life in an exciting, productive environment. The program is designed to encourage and develop divergent or “out of the box” thinking while embedding differentiated instruction and addressing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), academic standards, and Future Ready Skills. This program supports students who are identified gifted/talented in the Creative Ability category and can serve as an excellent screening tool for students who may be potentially gifted/talented.

Gifted/Talented Programs has been supporting Odyssey of the Mind in LAUSD since 2019. Two LAUSD schools have teams moving on to the state competition in Moreno Valley on April 1, 2023. Principal Anna Aguilera and GATE Coordinator Anastasia Gonzalez from Clifford Street Math and Technology Magnet shared that students in grades kindergarten through 4th grade participated in an after-school Odyssey of the Mind enrichment class. Their 3rd and 4th grade team won first place in Problem 4 Division 1 “Where’s the Structure.” In this problem, the team designed and built a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that balanced and held as much weight as possible. It had three parts, and each part was hidden in plain sight. During the performance the team revealed each part and assembled them into a final structure for testing. The performance also included a poem about searching for something special. The props, costumes, structure and script were all created by the team of seven talented students.



Principal Susi DaCorsi and GATE Coordinator Clare Kearns from Welby Way Charter Elementary shared that this year, 28 students returned to the problem-solving competition after a hiatus during the pandemic. To prepare, student teams met after school and on weekends for several months prior to the regional competition on March 11, 2023. Three of their four teams will be advancing to the State competition.



Conservatory End-of-Year Gala Events



Talented students from all over Los Angeles Unified demonstrated their abilities at the Conservatory of Fine Arts 42nd Annual End-of-Year Gala Events on Saturday, March 25, 2023. The Visual Arts Final Show was held in the Fine Arts building of California State University, Los Angeles. Three hundred and twenty-five artists displayed their best artwork from the past season. Sixteen graduating seniors, many of whom have participated in the Conservatory for seven or more years, were awarded scholarships to continue their studies in college. More than 170 student performers were able to show off their skills through "On Broadway," an homage to Broadway hits. This well-attended show, generously hosted at Eagle Rock Jr/Sr High School, culminated the students' studies of dance, drama, vocal music, and musical theatre. Three seniors were honored.

Important Dates

- ◆ **April 3-7:** Spring Recess
- ◆ **April 19:** Deadline for Schools to submit Visual and Performing Arts Referrals
- ◆ **April 12:** GATE Parent Hour
- ◆ **April 24:** Unassigned Day - No school
- ◆ **May 10:** GATE Parent Hour
- ◆ **May 29 :** Memorial Day Holiday - No School



Conservatory of Fine Arts 2023-2024 Registration

The Conservatory looks forward to starting its 43rd season in the fall of 2023. We are looking forward to inviting new applicants and seeing returning faces. We anticipate a number of openings in performing arts for students talented in dance, drama, and vocal music. Applications for interested students can be found at <https://apply.lausd.net> from June 1 through August 31, 2023. Please note that students who are identified as talented in the arts have first enrollment priority into this program. New, non-identified students are accepted as space is available. If you are interested in your child participating in the talent identification process, please visit <http://achieve.lausd.net/GATE> or call Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning

Options, at (213) 241-6500. The next opportunity to participate in the auditions/demonstrations is coming up on Saturday, May 20, 2023, with a referral deadline of April 19, 2023. All referrals must be initiated by the school of attendance. Contact your school site GATE coordinator for more information.