

# Class Descriptions



## **"Spanish Music and Movement" and Spanish 1 and Spanish 2**

Beginning Spanish is being offered by Ms. Mercedes Margritz. Mercedes is a native speaker from Mexico. She has worked with school age children through her own company as well as several other language institutes in the County. She teaches Spanish through games, songs and dances, as well as through learning about Hispanic countries and their cultures. The class is taught primarily in Spanish and the children are provided opportunities for verbal and written use of the language.

\*Beginner 1 is a one hour class and is open to students K-2.

\*Beginner 2 requires some basic understanding of Spanish. During the first 45 minutes: Students will learn the different traditions of each state in Mexico through bailes Mexicanos (Mexican dances). The next hour, students will continue to learn Spanish grammar and practice through conversations and games and also using their Spanish 2 book.



## **Singing**

Ms. Elizabeth Podsiadlo, the Opera Singing Chef, is teaching a singing class offered to all grade levels. For the past four years, she has directed a children's choir comprised of local Mira Mesa Children called, the River Rim Children's Choir, with which she has performed and produced recordings to raise money for charity. During this class, she will teach the children many songs that involve challenging rhythms and simple harmonies.



## **Theater**

This course offers an introduction to acting for students from all grade levels. Short comedic plays and theatre games allow students to nurture their creativity, improve their verbal skills, and bolster their self-confidence. The class will culminate in a fun, theatrical performance for family and friends.

Instructor to be announced.



## **3 Dimensional Art**

Local artist and teacher, Andrea Heath, is offering a new and exciting mixed media 3-dimensional art class open to all students. This hands-on class will exercise student's creativity and problem solving skills while teaching students 3-dimensional design principles and a bit of art history. Students will work with a wide variety of media including wood, recyclables, clays, wire, found objects, etc.. Mrs. Heath has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alaska, Anchorage in painting and sculpture. In addition to creating and exhibiting her own art, she has worked as a teacher for fifteen years.



## **Sports**

In this active, fun-filled class, students will participate in variety of sports related activities. The class will be structured similar to a physical education class. This class is open to all students. Instructor to be announced.



## **"Threads through Time" Fiber Arts**

Did you know that you can make an elephant out of a dollar bill...or a heart out of rags...or a basket out of sticks? A hands-on exploration into fun and fantastic "fiber arts" is being offered to all students by Mrs. Ruth French. Having several years of experience teaching education programs in Old Town San Diego, Ruth brings her love of handicrafts and history to the Sandburg after-school program. Students will learn about the use of natural fibers, papers and fabrics throughout history; and they will have the opportunity to create beautiful and useful art pieces for today. Projects will include the use of weaving, braiding, knot tying (macramé), and origami skills.



## **"Write On!" – Computer Publishing**

An introduction to computer publishing is being offered to students in grades 2 through 5 by Mrs. Ruth French. A former computer educator, Ruth has more than 15 years of classroom teaching experience, and is the current editor of the "Poppy Paper" for the nonprofit organization, Boosters of Old Town (BOOT). This course focuses on utilizing basic software tools to create documents for publication.

Lessons will include page layout, graphic skills, ClipArt applications, and photo manipulation. A strong emphasis will be placed on keyboarding lessons to assist students with their typing skills.

The culmination of the project will be a student-created "newsletter." Ruth's teaching approach is to provide a meaningful connection between computer technology and the students' needs in fun and exciting ways.