



February 17, 2013

News

New Flower-Theme Workshops Starting *in Less than Two Weeks*

Two interdisciplinary classes, for children aged 6 to 9 or 8 to 12, will combine biology with art, geometry, poetry and stories to explore flowers from different and engaging perspectives. After brief introductions to a number of activities, children will be free to immerse themselves according to their own interests at exploration and expression centers around the room. Flower pressing, identification, origami, painting, and work in modeling clay are among the fun activities planned.

Each class will last a total of five or six hours held over multiple sessions. Toward the end, children will have time to present their discoveries and creations to one another and play educational games together.

The first class, titled "Busy Blossoms," is for children of ages 6 to 9. It will be held two consecutive Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:30 am, March 2 & 9.

The second class, "Waves of Flowers," is for ages 8 to 12. It will be held four consecutive Thursdays starting March 7 from 3:30 to 5 pm (but skipping the 21st for Spring Break; exact dates are 3/7, 3/14, 3/28 & 4/4).

Register now through the start of classes at the [Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department](#). (Once on their Website, click on the "Activities and Classes" link on the Web page's left side. Then scroll way down to click the "Science and Nature" link under the purple "Youth" column.)

Call Margaret Blauvelt at **(707) 893-7654** or email info@sparkamind.com for more information.

Workshops

The flower-theme workshops described above can be brought to your school, organization, or party, as can many other presentations and workshops. [Visit our website](#) or call us at **(707) 893-7654** for more information.

In the Works

Summer Club

We are contemplating a summer club for children ages 8-12 (possibly 8-14) that would meet a minimum of once a week for about eight weeks and involve inviting people in the community to give presentations *entirely according to the interests of the children involved*. We may also take field trips, again, according to children's interest. Of course, we will have science equipment available, since that is our primary business, but activities can be in any area, not just science.

This would be a club wherein participants use democratic processes to decide upon how the club will operate and work together and individually to bring in community members and resources, create their own projects, and even just play together if that's what they want to do. Rather than being a club by adults for children, this will be a club by children for children but with adult advisors. There will be at least one adult for every six children.

If you have children who would like to share in this adventure, please let us know. The more interest we have, the more priority we will give to making it happen. There will be a sliding-scale fee for tuition.

Adults who share our philosophy of truly student-directed learning are welcome to participate in various ways.

By the way, if anyone knows of a great space for meeting and learning together, preferably with a good play area (which could be as simple as a grassy field), please tell us about it. My personal preference for location is somewhere between Windsor and Hopland (since I live in Cloverdale), but I am willing to travel for a really good space.

New Blog Articles

[The Rope over the Abyss](#), November 17, 2013

Thought for the Day

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." - Albert Einstein

Warm Regards,

Margaret Blauvelt, Director

Spark a Mind, LLC

Accessible Science for Growing Minds

Workshops & Demonstrations for School, After School, Home School, Clubs & Parties

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