

Comic Book Club

Comic Book Club, started and run by Bryon, Athletics Director Downtown, will be a time for Club members to read and discover graphic novels, discuss storylines and favorite characters, and, ultimately, discuss what Club members love about Comic Book characters. The hope is to get more into the critical thinking part about what goes into a character, what makes them good or bad, and what makes them tick. The first assignment is to write one to two paragraphs about their favorite Marvel character, a brief history, powers, and why they like them. As Comic Book Club dives more into specific books, both American and International, they will begin talking about authors and artists, and looking into how and why they created characters and storylines. Comic Book Club will also encourage our Club members to create their very own characters and backgrounds. "My hope" says Bryon, "is to reach the creative side of these students and allow their imaginations to grow and aspire to something greater."

Upcoming Events

Fall Family Night, Live Oak Clubhouse

Thursday, November 16 from 5:00-7:00pm at Live Oak Clubhouse, 925 17th Avenue

A collaboration with Family Service Agency, Live Oak Clubhouse is hosting a Fall Family Night as part of our "Be There" Initiative! All are welcome.

GET FIT CLINIC hosted by Kaiser Permanente On Saturday, October 21st, Aaron Miles and the new Santa Cruz Warriors coaching staff invited Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County (BGSCC) Club members, their families and friends to Kaiser Permanente Arena for a special Get Fit Time-Out basketball clinic.

Youth who attended rotated through health-and-wellness activity stations with the Warriors' new training staff such as shooting drills, yoga, and food nutrition stations.

This Get Fit Time-Out Clinic, presented by Kaiser Permanente, is part of the "Get Fit" community program, a year-round community platform focusing on fitness, wellness, and nutrition education to build a healthier Santa Cruz community.

THANK YOU SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS AND KAISER PERMANENTE FOR THIS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE!

Garden Learning Center and Cooking Classes

Since classes started in April, the Garden Learning Center, run by Deirdre, Creative Arts Director, has been a success. In the garden program, Club members practice organic, farm to table gardening and harvesting. They grow herbs rosemary, sage, curry, oregano, and mint. They also grow onions, radishes, pumpkins, corn, snapdragons, sunflowers, milkweed, purple beans, white beans, and edible flowers.

From the products grown in our garden and other generous weekly donations, the Downtown Clubhouse has started a food program that revolves around a weekly cooking class and cooking daily. The food is homemade, used as meals for our cooking class and nourishment for our Club members. Our generously donated food comes from Second Harvest Food Bank. Some of our recent recipes include: cabbage soup with turkey and tomato, stuffed peppers, roasted carrots, onion soup, a salad bar, rice pudding with pears, and baked beans.

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 2nd at Downtown Clubhouse, 543 Center Street 11:00am-2:00pm Craft Fair Participants must register for \$15 a table online at <http://boysandgirlsclub.info/events/craftfair/>

Come on down and support young entrepreneurs as they sell their arts & crafts, baked goods, and wares. Customer admission is free!



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

November 2017



Now that the school year is in full swing, we are deep in our after-school programming- working hard to ensure that our Club members have a fun, safe space to call their own and have opportunities to learn, grow, and engage in their community.

This Newsletter we wanted to highlight and celebrate the programs that our staff have developed for our Club members. The Club is a place where your kids can be themselves, dream big and accomplish their aspirations. For us, we want to also create a safe space where Club members have access to opportunities where they can connect with caring, trained professionals and engage in enriching programs and activities.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County is a place for your kids to laugh, to learn, to grow, to grow, a place to belong. Together, we are creating a place to belong through the support of our community, our parents, our Business and Community Partners, and through the hard work and dedication of our staff.

There's No Place Like The Club,

Bob Langseth
Executive Director



Teens' Corner

Downtown Teen Center

Starting in November, Downtown Teens will be participating in Hispanic Heritage classes Fridays from 4-5pm. Teen Director, April, noticed through discussion with the teens that there is a lack of focus on Hispanic history and that our Club teens were begging to learn more about the history behind their culture. These classes are being taught by Doctorate candidates from UCSC. The purpose of this class is to teach teens about the history and culture of Hispanic youth.

Wednesday, November 1: The teens participated in Dia de los Muertos (or Day of the Dead) activities, where they remembered and honored loved ones who have passed away. The day was fun and filled with love.

Friday, November 10: Teens are putting on a babysitting night from 6-9pm. The cost is \$20 per child. Parents are welcome to drop off their children who will participate in fun activities with teens (and professional staff). 50% of the proceeds go to a nonprofit organization working with foster care youth.

Friday, November 17: The Downtown Teen program will be putting on its 4th annual "Teensgiving", where staff and volunteers prepare a full Thanksgiving dinner for the teenagers. Dinner is served at 6pm. If you or your teen feel so inclined to contribute a classic family dish to the night, you are more than welcome to do so!

Wednesday, November 22: The teens will be having an all day party leading up to the showing of Pixar's Coco. We will be buying tickets to this event two days before, so if you would like your teen to attend, please send them with \$11 to the Downtown Clubhouse by Monday, November 20th.



Live Oak Teen Center

Aloha U's have been meeting on a regular basis and have learned culinary and automotive skills. Aloha U's (also known as Smart Girls) is open to Live Oak teen members who are 12 years and older. In this group, those who identify as female build self-esteem and improve their self-image using body positive philosophies. Aloha U's also encourages these young women to become leaders in their communities, develop and enhance crucial relationships with female mentors, as well as develop positive nutritional habits.

Career Connections prepares youth for applying for jobs, resume building, interview techniques, and connections to local businesses. Working with Your Future is Our Business, Club members attended Career Connections every Tuesday throughout the school year. Congrats to Maliek Day-Kamaria, Faye Le, Steven Gallegos, Yesenia Guerrero, and Gisesla Hileman for receiving certificates!

Fashion Design students have learned basic sewing skills and how to work with patterns. Students are beginning to prepare their original designs. In Fashion Design, members learn industry standards of fashion illustration, and how to develop their own line using creative and technical aspects, as well as, teaching the members how to master tailoring techniques (hand stitching) and how to sew on a range of machines.

Cyber Patriots has been meeting at Harbor High, driven by two passionate students Sierra and Claire and are currently gearing up for competition right around the corner. Cyber Patriots is a national youth cyber education program open to middle and high schools students. Find out more information at www.uscyberpatriot.org.

GUEST SPEAKER HAEI ON PARTICIPATING IN THE PEACE CORPS

BY DANIEL GUERRA, EDUCATION DIRECTOR DOWNTOWN CLUBHOUSE

I am starting a Torch Club this Fall here at our Club. Torch Club is basically a leadership club, designed for 11-13 year olds. One key focus is service, which includes service to the Club as well as the world at large.

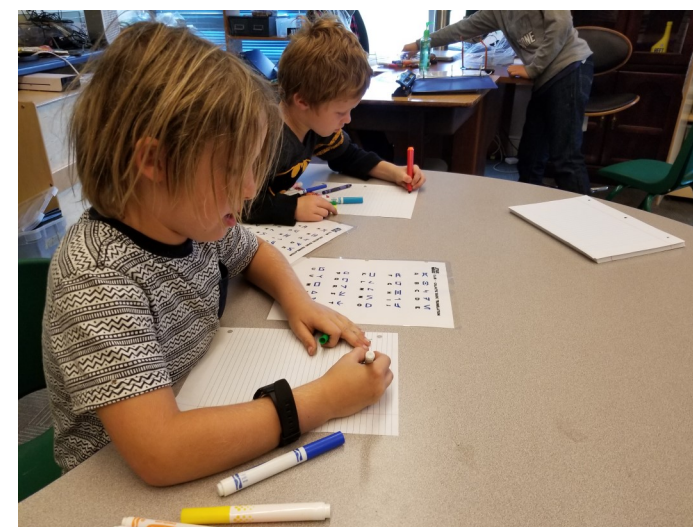
With service to the world community in mind, I invited my friend's sister Haeli Gustafson to give a presentation on Oct. 18 at 4:00 pm about her time in Africa volunteering for the Peace Corps. After she graduated from UCSC with a degree in Biology, she ventured out to Mbeya, Tanzania, to teach science. She spent three years there and recently returned to the United States.

During her presentation, Haeli shared with the teens how she lived and worked for three years in a village that had no running water, electricity or cell phone service (the horror! Nearly every teen gasped as this last remark). She spoke about the challenges of living across the world, far from her friends and family, and adjusting to a new culture. One way that she was able to adapt to living in Tanzania was by learning Swahili, the native tongue/primary language. She even taught the teens a few basic greetings in Swahili. The teens were quite impressed with her Swahili.

Haeli, however, did not focus entirely on the challenges of living abroad for three years, but also about the joy she experienced teaching science at an all-boys high school. In particular, she enthusiastically shared about the year that she helped the boys at the school design and create a water pit that caught rainwater so the boys would not have to walk down to the river every day before school to obtain water. Furthermore, she spoke about educating people in her village about the importance of sleeping with a mosquito catcher, which helps reduce malaria.

Haeli spoke for an hour straight, and during the entire presentation the teens asked her a number of questions about Tanzania, the Peace Corps, and what she is doing now (she recently moved to Washington D.C. and is applying to work for non-profit organizations).

I feel that this was a fantastic way to introduce our teens and tweens to leadership and volunteering. Our next step for the Torch Club is to write our charter and elect our officers.



STAR WARS CLUB STAR WARS CLUB

BY ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ, EDUCATION DIRECTOR LIVE OAK CLUBHOUSE

During Friday club time, I run Star Wars club. While it is a chance for me to nerd out on a fictional world that I probably spend too much time engaging in, it is also an opportunity to present mind stretching activities through a mode that the children are familiar with. For instance, one of our introductory activities is to translate a coded message from Galactic Basic (the official written language of the Star Wars galaxy) to standard English. The students spend time looking at the translation key, and write down the message that will save the Rebellion against the evil Empire! Sure it is plenty fun, but the

real blast comes from how smart the kids are becoming. In this one activity, they work on spelling, handwriting, critical thinking, teamwork, and overall mind strengthening. All of these skills are exercised, and they have no idea because they are using a fun fictional world to improve their own thinking and abilities.