

CLUB NEWSLETTER Fall 2016

Fantastic Club Opportunities Lead to **GREAT FUTURES!**



GREAT FUTURES START [HERE.](#)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF HUNTINGTON VALLEY

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HUNTINGTON BEACH BRANCH

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OAK VIEW BRANCH

17261 Oak Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

PACIFIC LIFE FOUNDATION BRANCH

15744 Golden West Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

LEARNING CENTER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL
17565 Los Alamos Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ROBERT MAYER CHILD

DEVELOPMENT PRESCHOOL
15744 Golden West Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CLUBHOUSE ACADEMY

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Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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Oak View Kids Improve Reading Skills at the Club This Summer

This summer, 100 kids at our Oak View Branch had a special opportunity to participate in an intensive summer reading program called KidzLit thanks to a grant from the LA Times Family Fund. The goal is to reduce summer learning loss so that our most at-risk kids start the new school year on track for success. The kids' reading levels are tested at the beginning and end of the summer to see what progress they've made.

This year, the kids put in a lot of effort and got BIG results. At the start of the summer, more than half the kids were reading below grade level. At the end of the 8-week reading program, 56% of the kids improved their reading by a full grade level. And, about 75% of kids are now able to read at or above grade level. That's a huge improvement! One 7th grader even went from reading at a 6th grade level to reading at an 11th grade level!

Program Director Becky Sanchez says, "We couldn't be more proud of all the kids for really putting in the effort and making such big improvements. KidzLit makes it fun for them with a lot of interactive activities. It's a lot more than just reading quietly to themselves. They get to work in small groups or with partners to read aloud, act out scenes from their books, talk about what

they're reading, draw pictures about the characters, or do their own creative writing to extend the story."

By engaging kids in so many different ways, they're improving their reading comprehension, building their vocabularies, and lots more. Working on these reading skills is especially



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important for our Oak View Branch members, where all our members are English Language Learners who are also from very

low-income homes. Kids who speak a language other than English at home have a much higher rate of summer learning loss than their English speaking peers because of lack of opportunity to speak and read in English when they are home for the summer. Likewise, kids who are living in poverty typically have less access to reading material during the summer. With double the risk factors for summer learning loss, the Club makes double the effort to make sure our Oak View Branch youth have every chance for success.

Club Members Join the Los Angeles Rams at Training Camp

50 of our members got to help give a warm welcome to the new Los Angeles football team. Kids from our Huntington Beach, Kingston, and Pacific Life Foundation Branches spent a day with the Los Angeles Rams! Our 50 Club members joined 100 other youth from Boys & Girls Clubs in Orange County.



Thanks to the Rams and HBO, who sponsored this special VIP day for the kids, our members got to meet the players, watch the Rams in training camp, meet the Rams Cheerleaders, and spend some time with the Rams' mascot, "Rampage." The kids even got to take the field and practice like the pros! Kingston Branch member Alex Tran says, "I'm so thankful and so happy that I got this chance to play with the field and the players and practice like they would."

For teen Club member Kneesa Hougen, the players were the most exciting part of the experience. "I've been watching football since I was a little girl and it's just absolutely amazing that I got to meet the players!" Not only were kids thrilled to meet their sports heroes, the football players had a lot of fun on the field with their young fans. Rams running back Chase Reynolds commented, "I just want to be the guy who inspires the little kids and lets them know that we're here for them and it's cool that they're supporting us."



Master Class with American Ballet Theatre Inspires ClubHouse Academy Dancers

This summer, aspiring ballerinas at our ClubHouse Academy had a very special experience – a master class taught by ballerinas from American Ballet Theatre (ABT). ABT is one of the three leading dance companies in the US. Even better, its prima ballerina Misty Copeland is a Boys & Girls Club alum, who started her great future by taking her first dance lessons at a Boys & Girls Club. She is the first African American prima ballerina to dance for one of the top dance companies in the country. Inspired by Ms. Copeland’s story, ABT has made a very special

that they wanted to hold master class at our club. I am extremely happy that the Clubhouse Academy received this opportunity, and I know that it has opened the doors to the world of ballet for lots of kids at the Club.”

She was right – other dancers in the program were encouraged, motivated, and inspired by the experience:

“Learning about Misty Copeland was very inspirational because she first danced at a Boys & Girls Club, just like me.”



“Getting to have a class with an American Ballet Theatre teacher was so exciting for me. I loved how she worked on body placement so much and focused on every detail. Learning about Misty Copeland was very inspirational because she first danced at a Boys & Girls Club, just like me. I truly learned so much more about ballet and I know that my other classmates have as well.” – Jessica, age 9

“Project Plié was a unique and special experience for me and my fellow dancers because it inspired us to keep dancing and working on our craft. When I and many of the other dancers heard about Misty Copeland, who had all odds against her in her path to becoming a professional dancer, it encouraged us to follow our dreams no matter our circumstances. Although many of us may not aspire to become professional dancers, it showed us that whatever our dreams are for our future, they can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance.” – Sydney, age 16

commitment to reach out to children from diverse racial and economic backgrounds through a program called Project Plié.

When Amanda Hay, one of our teen dancers, heard about Project Plié, she knew she wanted to bring the program to ClubHouse Academy. She worked with our dance instructor Allison Horner and took the lead on contacting ABT. Amanda says, “I was ecstatic when I first read the email that Project Plié sent me saying

At ClubHouse Academy, it has always been our goal for instructors to give students high quality training that is accessible to all aspiring dancers, no matter their socioeconomic background. We are grateful to have found an ally in American Ballet Theatre. Not only did this partnership help kids improve their ballet technique, it helped our Club members see that it’s important to dream big and work toward making those dreams for a great future come true.

You Can Change a Life through the Club's Scholarship Program



Thanks to donors like you, the Boys & Girls Club is able to keep its fees at less than half the average cost of care for school age kids in Orange County, according to the annual Conditions of Children in Orange County Report. But, for a lot of families, even modest fees can be more than their budget allows. That's why the Club offers a sliding scale scholarship program so that every family who needs the Boys & Girls Club can afford it. This year, the Club is on track to give out more than \$725,000 in scholarship assistance to families in need. Much more than just a number, those dollars make a big difference to families at the Club.

A mom at our new Pacific Life Foundation Branch writes, "This scholarship makes it so I can keep my job and continue to live in Huntington Beach. I am a full-time employee as well as a full-time single mom. My son's education and happiness is what's most important to me. Having him at the Boys & Girls Club for before and after school care ensures that he is in a healthy, safe, educational program where he can learn and grow while having fun."

Did you catch all that? Thanks to your support, she can keep her job. Thanks to your support, she can keep her home. Thanks to your support, her son is safe. Thanks to your support, her son is learning and having fun. All that is life changing. And all that is thanks to you when you make a gift in the enclosed yellow envelope. Please

make your gift today so that the Club can keep its fees low for all families and provide scholarships for those who need it most.

Great Futures Start With You

The Club's Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction "Great Futures Start Here" wouldn't be the same without you! Please join us on October 15, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa. Together with 600 of our community's business and civic leaders who come together every year at this event, you can help the Club support kids in our community who need the Boys & Girls Club the most by raising \$450,000 through ticket sales, sponsorships, and silent and live auctions. Your support provides free programs and scholarships for disadvantaged youth to attend the Boys & Girls Club right here in the local community. Now in its 38th year, this event has become one of the biggest and most fun in the Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley community. We hope you'll join in on the fun! To buy your tickets or make a donation of silent auction items, visit:

bgchv.com/greatfutures

Full STEAM Ahead

Club Kids Get Ahead with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Programs

Through hands-on programs at our school age Club sites, kids are making the most of their out of school time. Learn a little about some of the newest STEAM programs being offered at our Clubs this fall!

Snap Circuits

Thanks to a grant from Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, the Club is introducing kids at our Fountain Valley Kingston Branch to the world of electrical engineering through Snap Circuits. With kits full of hundreds of pieces of materials, kids work through guided lessons and learn to build radios, digital voice recorders, doorbells, alarms, fans, and a lot more. Unit Director Ryan Brenes says, “It’s a great way to show kids how electricity works and give them the chance to better understand things that they see and use every day – like a radio or doorbell. Now, instead of overlooking it or saying, ‘I wonder how that works,’ they say, ‘I wonder how I can make that - let’s find

out.” Inspired by Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and the program at the Fountain Valley Kingston Branch, Molex made a contribution to expand the program to reach the Club’s Huntington Beach and Pacific Life Foundation Branches. Now, three of our school age branches are helping spark kids’ interest in engineering!

BitsBox

In today’s world, coding is everywhere, from phones, to computers, to tablets. All the apps, programs, and games we love start with coding. Like any “language,” kids learn best when they are young. That’s why we’re teaching kids to code with a new program called BitsBox. Kids learn to use Javascript in the BitsBox environment to build video games, puzzles, drawing tools, music apps, simulations and more. The simple, step-by-step instructions make the program easy to use. And, though there are basic instructions, kids





get to customize every app so it becomes truly their own. As a program designed just for kids, it's made to be fun. So, while the staff see BitsBox as a way to help kids become computer literate and technologically confident, kids see the program as a game. And that's what our education programs are all about – making learning fun!

Meet the Masters

Thanks to a grant from Hyundai Motor America, the Club has introduced a new art program to our kids called Meet the Masters. This curriculum was created by artists right here in Orange County to teach youth about the biggest names in the world of art. Kids get to learn all about Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso and more. They learn the basics about each of the art movements that the great artists are associated with. And, since we know that kids learn best by doing and by having fun, the best part is that kids get to create their own masterpieces.

DIY STEM

The Club is excited to be part of the pilot for a brand new program that Boys & Girls Clubs of America will roll out in 2017 in Boys & Girls Clubs across the country. That means our kids are among the first in the nation to get to use this

evidence based approach to improving children's attitudes about science, math, and careers in STEM fields. They'll get to do hands-on experiments in engineering, electricity, food chemistry, and aeronautics, just to name a few. As our Unit Director Grisel Voigt said, "It's always a good day at the Club when kids get to blow things up or make things fly. This program is going to be tons of fun!"

KidzMath

A companion program to our successful KidzLit program (read about it on the first page), KidzMath aims to help young people who are struggling with

math not only get on track, but also develop positive attitudes about math. KidzMath uses storybook-based activities and cooperative games to help kids learn math concepts, learn to work together, and most of all, have fun doing math. Like the Meet the Masters program, KidzMath is supported by Hyundai Motor America. Program Director Diana Kacic says, "We're seeing kids who really lacked confidence in math begin to look forward to their time in the KidzMath program. It's transforming how they feel about math. Instead of something to dread, math is turning into something fun for the kids. They're building confidence and now the kids feel like they are good at math."



Open the Door, Take a Tour

You helped us open the door to a brand new Boys & Girls Club, now we want to show you what our new Kingston Technology Family Campus is all about! Thanks to you, kids in our community have a new school age club, preschool, and a gymnasium. Their out of school time is filled with fun, learning and friendship. None of that could have happened without you. **Please come see what your generosity made possible.**

We want to show you how you helped the Club reach out to kids in 13 more Huntington Beach schools in the Ocean View and Westminster School Districts.

We want to show you how you help kids discover that science and math are fun in our STEM programs and our technology lab.

We want to show you how you help kids explore their creativity in our arts programs.

We want to show you how you help kids learn important life skills in our teaching kitchen and our teen room.

We want to show you how you help kids do better in school because of all the support they get in our education center.

We want to show you how you help give kids a safe place to just be kids and play sports and games in our gym, in our activity center and in our games room.

The dream of this new Boys & Girls Club Family Campus has been a long time in coming. In fact, the Club has been working toward this goal for more than 10 years! But thanks to you, it's not a dream anymore.



The new Boys & Girls Club is a reality. The Kingston Technology Family Campus is complete with the Robert Mayer Child Development Preschool, Pacific Life Foundation Branch School Age Center, and Harry & Jayne Board Gymnasium, all changing the lives of kids and families throughout our community every day!

Please join us for a tour to see our programs in action and talk with our board and staff about the Club's programs and how you can get involved. We hope you'll

bring a friend to help us spread the word!

To set up a tour at a time that is convenient for you, please call Eileen at 714-899-5900 ext. 206 or email eluong@bgchv.com.

Want to support the programs at the brand new Kingston Technology Family Campus? You can make a contribution in the yellow envelope enclosed in this newsletter.



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