

Wagner Ranch holds biggest ever Makers' Faire

By Sora O'Doherty



Photos Sora O'Doherty

This year's Wagner Ranch Elementary School Makers' Faire on April 19-20 expanded to include a family night with food trucks, with over 200 people attending that evening, and all 19 classes of students given the opportunity to attend the two-day faire in cycles of two hours each. The faire was started four years ago by Andrew Anagnost, CEO of Autodesk, whose children attend Wagner Ranch. This year offered a variety of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) projects from which the students could choose. Students could fly drones or paper rockets, use coding to operate robots, observe different effects on a water wall, a marble wall, help make furniture in the garden, and construct harmonicas from tongue depressors, as well as many other choices available. The faire was staffed by

teachers, volunteers and company representatives, including employees from Autodesk and Maker Lab Extreme, a company that offers science, art, engineering and design camps and classes in Walnut Creek.

James Strickler, a retired entrepreneur and inventor, works as a substitute teacher and volunteered at the faire. Holding a doctorate from Cornell in engineering/physics, he offered a variety of activities, including working with pieces of "Olive," an olive tree that had to be cut down. Students sanded the pieces to make pendants, key chains, and other items. At his table, students could also construct dodecahedrons. Strickler noted that there are a lot of brilliant students in Orinda, and the goal is to keep them challenged and leverage that to have them help other students. His philosophy is, "A

teaching standard is not a speed limit."

Anagnost spoke of the development of the event. "It's amazing," he said. The first year was just a few tables for two grades, and it has grown tremendously, now offering a plethora of tables and time for all 19 classes of students to cycle through. "Parents bring amazing ideas," he added, "and Megan [Natal, fourth-grade teacher at Wagner Ranch] is a super star."

Natal said that the faire is now a hybrid of company reps, parents and volunteers, including former teachers and former students. The faire, she summed up, "gives kids a chance to create and build, and use the sense that, if something doesn't work, try again. It teaches perseverance."

Summer Math With A Sense of Humor

Very Flexible Sessions

Hourly, daily, bi-weekly, weekly

Classes, small groups, pairs, or individual tutoring

22 years as a Bay Area Public School Teacher

Loves Math and having fun



Only missed 1 problem on his Math SAT

Let me pass on my passion to your student

Open to 3rd - 12th graders

Michael Adler (m.adler@sbcglobal.net)



Total Clean would like to thank Arcelia Leon

15 Years of Dedicated Service!



Is There a Future Doctor in the House?



Comprehensive and Personalized Counseling Services
25 Years of Experience in Graduate and Professional School Admissions

Free 30 minute phone consultation

Elizabeth LaScala, PhD
Founder, Doing College and Beyond
College and Graduate School Admissions Services
Lafayette, CA

(925) 385-0562
elizabeth@doingcollege.com
www.doingcollege.com



Bay Area Greenscapes, Inc.
Synthetic Grass - Installation - Landscaping

1801 Saint Mary's Rd. Moraga, CA 94556

Phone (925) 819-2100

- Design & Consulting
- New Landscape Installation • Re-Landscape & Remodel
- Residential & Commercial • Green Landscape Options
- Maintenance & Clean Ups • Synthetic Lawn Installation

CA Lic# 938445