

San Mateo Middle College

Spring Scheduling:

Returning students must log onto Websmart the morning of **Nov. 7th** and register for their spring classes. **DO NOT DELAY!** See your advisor if you need help!



Important Dates

- 11/3/17 End of grading period
- 11/3/17 Last day for math placement test
- 11/7/17 Students need to log onto their Websmart account and register for their Spring classes at 7AM
- 11/10/17 Veteran's Day- No Classes
- 11/15/17 This is the last day to drop a class and receive a "W".
- 11/30/17 University of California applications are due
- 12/11/17 College final exams begin
- 12/18/17 High School final exams begin

Arroyo Seco Canyon Adventure

A small group of Middle College students adventured into the Los Padres National Forest in late September. We left from CSM in the afternoon and set up camp that night. After killer breakfast burritos the next morning, students hiked up the canyon above the Arroyo Seco River. Four miles later the group descended into the river where we swam, crawled, jumped, and slid our way back to the campsite. The canyon offered a view of what California looked like before the arrival of Europeans. There were many exciting perches from which to jump into the water. However, the water was unseasonably cold. This resulted in half the group departing the river at the half way mark. The rest of the group sallied forth and was rewarded with majestic slot canyons and an immense swimming hole that contained several jumping platforms. Everyone returned cold, safe and thoroughly excited by the adventure.

We hope that their wonder and appreciation for the natural beauty of our state was reinforced. We encourage you to help them enjoy nature more. We are planning on having another wilderness experience in the Spring. Stay tuned!



Keep close to Nature's heart...and break clear away once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.

- John Muir



Community Day Mural Project

Creative Collaboration Creates Lasting Community Art

Every semester we spend one full day in an activity that is designed to foster a sense of community among our students. We were particularly lucky this semester to enlist the help of Little Artista's

(<https://www.littleartistas.com/>) Anna Calonje. Anna met several times with our Mural Committee to discuss the themes and ideas they thought would work on the walls of our classroom. She then met with each of the classes to flesh out those ideas further. Based on all of that input, she etched out three designs

that were loosely based on the past, present and future. The students helped her tape off the specific components of each work of art. On the day of painting, students selected a specific room in which they wanted to work. At that point, the students were free to paint specific parts of the mural.

The past was represented in Mr. Clardy's room in a design that was reflective of the Greek Parthenon. The present was reflected in Mrs. Rohrbach and Mr. Lance's room with giant Sequoia's and

constellations that represented all of our students. Finally, the future was represented in Ms. Regates room with a fish bowl because students are analyzing the creation of cultural norms (the "water in our fishbowl") and the impact that they will have on our future.

It was great to see the students engage in the artwork and with each other. Please stop by the classrooms if you have a chance. The murals are beautiful.

Immigration Empathy Challenge

<https://sites.google.com/smuhsd.org/theimmigrationempathychalleng/>

In our [September newsletter](#), we described an Immigration Empathy Challenge that MC students began during orientation. To face the challenge of building viable solutions for real-world challenges in the field of immigration, MC students collaborated together over a month-long period to create some fantastic prototypes and grant proposals. From the prototypes that were presented, two ongoing projects have emerged that will receive seed funding in the amount of \$300 each to support local implementation. These projects are:

A pen pal program between non-immigrant students at Middle College and immigrant students at the Adult School of San Mateo; together, these pen pals will collaborate on a children's book that features the stories of immigrant children. Seed funding will go towards a fieldtrip to a local elementary school in order to conduct the interviews that will be included in the book.

An on-campus club that works directly with the DACA and EOPS office to create and promote campus projects that will support the undocumented community at College of San Mateo. Seed funding will go towards campus awareness campaigns and activities to promote community building.

