

## What's happening

### Today and Thursday

Da Vinci Charter Academy hosts parent information nights tonight and Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the Da Vinci campus, 1400 E. Eighth St. Da Vinci will be accepting applications for students for the 2013-14 school year for grades 10 through 12. Applications are available at [www.davincicharteracademy.net](http://www.davincicharteracademy.net).

### Wednesday

Community members are invited to Da Vinci Charter Academy's first science fair. Students have been working to design and carry out an experiment that provides data to answer a real-life question. They will be presenting their experimental research from 6 to 8 p.m. at Da Vinci's campus, 1400 E. Eighth St. Questions range from "How does water salinity affect the power output of a hydro-turbine?" to "How do flavor volatiles affect the perception of sweetness?"

### Monday, March 4, and Tuesday, March 5

Prospective students can visit Da Vinci Charter Academy during a student preview day on Monday or Tuesday, March 5, from 9:45 to 10:50 a.m. (session 1) or 12:30 to 1:35 p.m. (session 2). Call Debbie Martin at 530-757-7154 to RSVP. Families should make sure to arrange for transportation and to clear student attendance at their school.

### Thursday, March 7

The sophomore class at Da Vinci Charter Academy invites the community to the annual World War I Museum Night and Open House from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the school, 1400 E. Eighth St. Admission is free and all are welcome.

### Saturday, March 9

Davis Parent University Lecture Series continues with a program on understanding and preventing drug and alcohol use. "How to Help Your Kids Say No" takes place from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Brunelle Performance Hall, 315 W. 14th St. Speakers include Dean Blumberg, adolescent and family programs manager at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco, and Jon Daily, author of "How to Help Your Child Become Drug Free." Tickets are free but must be printed in advance at <http://helpyourkidssayno.bpt.me>.

### Friday, March 15

The Annual Father-Daughter Dance benefiting the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society is from 6 to 10 p.m. at the El Macero Country Club. Tickets are \$35 for dinner, dessert and dancing and may be purchased at the dental offices of James Meinert, 604 Third St.; The Avid Reader, 605 Second St.; or at El Macero Country Club. Dress is formal and a photographer will be available for pictures.

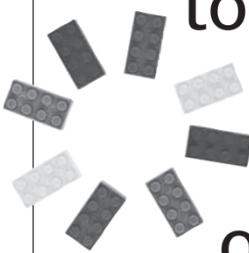
### Saturday, March 16

Spend an hour learning about dreams at "Night Time Dreams," sponsored by the city of Davis. The event is at 2 p.m. in the Veterans' Memorial Theater, 203 E. 14th St. Tickets are \$7 general and \$5 for children in advance at the Community Services office, 600 A St., Suite C; Armadillo Music, 205 F St.; or The Avid Reader, 617 Second St. Tickets are \$8 at the door. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

### Now through April 1

Sophomores and juniors: Interested in doing research at UC Davis this summer? The UC Davis Young Scholars Program offers summer research opportunities in biology and the natural sciences for high achieving high school students. Applications are due April 1. Go to the Davis High School Career Center for more information and an application.

## From Legos to horses, the city offers fun options for spring break



ENTERPRISE STAFF

Need something to do for spring break? The city of Davis has several opportunities to check out:

■ **Lego Pre-Engineering:** Have your child become a play-well engineer, building cities, bridges, motorized cars and planes. With access to more than 100,000 Legos, students will be able to build what they have only dreamed of with the support of an experienced instructor.

The class (No. 514569 01) is designed for children ages 5-7, and meets from 9 a.m. to noon April 1-5 at the Redwood Park Building on Anderson Road. The fee is \$188.

■ **Lego Engineering Fundamentals:** Students will explore concepts in physics, architecture, mechanical and structural engineering, from Gear Cars to Battletracks. The engineer-designed curriculum challenges new and returning students to reach higher levels of engineering comprehension while having fun.

The class (No. 514579 01) is designed for children ages 5-7, and meets from 1 to 4 p.m. April 1-5 at the Redwood Park Building. The fee is \$188.

■ **Wild Child Outdoor Photo Camp:** Campers will learn to capture images using various manual settings on digital cameras provided by the instructor. All camps are conducted entirely outdoors, so dressing appropriately for the weather is necessary. Instruction includes composition, portraiture, macro (close-up), self-timer, lighting, depth of field and tips and tricks. Self-evaluation and critique are also explored.

Camps take place in Central Park and include shooting assignments in the Demonstration Gardens. Photos can be viewed in an online gallery. Campers receive their best photograph printed and matted and displayed in a public gallery show before taking it home.

All enrollees will receive a T-shirt declaring them a photographer and graduate of Wild Child Outdoor Photo Camp.



FRED GLADDIS/ENTERPRISE FILE PHOTO

Kids position themselves to catch water balloons at a city of Davis summer camp. The city's Spring Break Safari offers games, arts and crafts and outdoor activities for kids from April 1 to 5.

The class (No. 512456 01), designed for children in third through fifth grades, meets from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 1-5 at Central Park. The fee is \$120, plus a \$22 materials fee paid directly to the instructor.

■ **Spring Break Safari:** This weeklong camp for children ages 6-12 includes organized games, arts and crafts, cooking, outdoor and indoor games and field trips including a scavenger hunts, bowling, and a trip to Golfland Sunsplash. The fee includes all activities and field trips.

Participants will gather at the Community Pool Building in Community Park for activities, which run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1-5.

The class is No. 511387 01. The fee is \$150.

■ **Mini-Horse Camp:** Not only will beginning students learn how to ride, they also receive instruction in horse behavior, grooming and care of equipment. The camp takes place at Sterling Riding Academy on County Road 102 north of Davis. Parents can see their kids in action on the last day during a mini-horse show.

Designed for students ages 7-12, the class (No. 517310 01) meets from 9 a.m. to noon April 1-5. The fee is \$180. For directions or more information, visit [www.sterlingridingacademy.com](http://www.sterlingridingacademy.com).

Registration for each of these classes is accepted at the city of Davis Community Services Office, 600 A St., Suite C, or online at [www.cityofdavis.org](http://www.cityofdavis.org). For more information, call 530-757-5626.



COURTESY PHOTO/CANSTOCK PHOTO

Mini-Horse Camp at Sterling Academy, top, will teach riding and grooming, while Wild Child Outdoor Photo Camp, above, will bring out the nature photographer in children in third through fifth grades.

## Summertime, summertime, sum-sum-summertime

No, it's not really summertime yet, but it is time to start making plans for summer. Why? Because how you — and here are I am targeting high schoolers, but in particular rising seniors — spend your time over the summer provides meaningful information to colleges about your skills, interests and level of commitment.

And, deadlines for applying to certain summer programs are approaching or, unfortunately, have passed. Also, don't forget that you soon-to-be seniors most likely will be writing essays with some variation on the theme of "what you learned from your summer experience."

Does this mean you need to solve world hunger or pad your résumé with some buzzworthy (and probably exorbitant) prestigious summer program? Not necessarily. However, it is wise to be strategic. The goal is to find something you genuinely like to do, do it well and learn something from it that will interest colleges.

In this column, I will provide some broad ideas and particular recommendations for what's right for you this summer. In a nutshell, there are four standard options for a typical high schooler's summer: travel, work, volunteer and enrichment programs.

### The low fare option

Before I explain more about these options, I want to emphasize that there are low-cost alternatives for how to have a valuable summer. I call this the "two meaningful things" rule — basically, each student needs to do some soul-searching and set a goal of accomplishing two meaningful things over the summer.

Examples abound. Read all of "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy. Memorize all the capitals of the world. Research your family tree. Start a blog. Teach yourself calligraphy. Whatever

### Attend a free workshop

What happened to those lazy days of summer, you wonder?! Well, there is no easy answer except to be prepared and keep a balance as much as possible. Along these lines, I will be leading a free workshop titled "What Should I Do This Summer to Get Ready for College?" if you want to get a jump-start.

**When:** Saturday, June 1

**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Blanchard Room, Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St., Davis

the two "meaningful" things are, keep a journal about it and record what you learn. Cheap, simple, effective ... and, hopefully, fun.

### The standard fare option

If you are fortunate enough to have more resources at your disposal, here are the standard summer options.

■ **Travel:** Expand your frame of reference and learn about different cultures and their perspectives; perfect fodder for a college essay, not to mention a valuable personal growth opportunity.

Either make the most of an already-planned family trip or try striking out on your own. There are plenty of ways to accomplish this — become an exchange student and live with a host family through American Field Service ([www.afs.org/usa](http://www.afs.org/usa)) or Youth for Understanding ([www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org)). Participate in a language immersion program such as EF International Language Centers ([www.ef.com](http://www.ef.com)) or Global Routes ([www.globalroutes.org](http://www.globalroutes.org)). Plan a road trip and visit national parks and historical landmarks.

■ **Work:** College admissions officers like to see that students are responsible, take initiative and work well with others. Having a steady job and getting pro-

moted is a way to show you have these skills. It is not bad for the wallet either. While it is sometimes challenging for high school students to find employment, keep in mind that this type of work experience does not have to be highly professional to be worthwhile. Jobs such as bagging groceries, baby-sitting and coaching are viewed favorably.

If possible, it's best to show commitment over time — depth rather than breadth. Consider applying for jobs through the city (<http://administrative-services.cityofdavis.org/part-time-employment-opportunities>), look on websites ([www.summerjobs.com](http://www.summerjobs.com), [www.snagajob.com](http://www.snagajob.com)) and network.

■ **Volunteer:** There are many kinds of volunteering opportunities to consider when thinking about summer. Community service, unpaid internships, tutoring, and getting involved in a cause are all examples of ways to demonstrate dependability and learn valuable skills. There are "psychic rewards" as well, such as personal satisfaction, being part of something bigger than yourself, connecting to your community. Check out the YMCA, local religious organizations, FamiliesFirst or a charity of your choice.

■ **Enrichment programs:** What is an enrichment program? It is a fancier way to say education opportunities, i.e., schooling. There are multiple avenues to finding the right enrichment summer program for you.

Start by figuring out what you would like as a focus — math, science, engineering, music? Then consider what type of arrangement you would like ... daily, weekly, for months at a time. Options range from a chance to live in dorms and go to classes on a college campus, to commuting to classes on campus, to online opportunities.



JENNIFER BORENSTEIN  
COLLEGE CORNER

*Basically, each student needs to do some soul-searching and set a goal of accomplishing two meaningful things over the summer.*

Costs vary depending on the level of service and can run from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Most colleges — such as the UCs, the Ivy League and art/music schools — have their own summer programs for high school students. Check websites of campuses you're interested in for more information. This is a great opportunity to "try on" the school. But keep in mind, participation in these programs does not mean automatic acceptance to the college come fall.

### Tend to business

Along with your summer activities, be sure to keep the ball rolling with college admissions. Summer is the time to work on drafts of application essays, put together an academic résumé and visit colleges in preparation for the busy application season come fall. In the midst of all of this, many students also are busy with sports camps and team tournaments.

Until next time, remember that as Henry David Thoreau said, "One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter."

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published on the last Tuesday of the month. She lives in Davis with her husband and two daughters. Reach her at [jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).