

## Spring Offerings: Staycation Extravaganza plus New Academic & Enrichment Workshops

### Tutor Triumphs: Connecting with Students

On a recent afternoon at the Montclair library, the parent of an 8th-grade student generously thanked her son's Succeed2gether (S2G) tutor. "He loves you," she said, "he really loves you."

The tutor, a retired engineer, beamed. But it was more than a feel-good moment, research shows. In a 2013 TED Talk, lifelong educator Rita Pierson describes the necessity of human relationships in education. Pierson's address, viewed by more than 5 million on YouTube, also describes the basis of S2G's after-school tutoring program, which has paired nearly 100 students with private tutors this academic year.

Pierson argues that "every kid needs a champion," that there is no learning without liking. "A colleague said to me one time, 'They don't pay me to like the kids, they pay me to teach a lesson. I teach it, they learn it, case closed,'" Pierson told the crowd.

"Well, I said to her. 'You know, kids don't learn from people they don't like.'"

Similarly, the best moments in S2G tutoring occur when tutor and student connect. It is easy to see when it occurs. Tutor and student take a few moments to catch up, then pour over schoolwork,

and finally round out their hour together with a game of Scrabble or Division War or chess.

Those moments, in turn, begin to add up - to real academic progress. How do we know? In part by quantitative results, in part by anecdotal feedback. One student made the honor roll; another aced a math test in a course she had

been failing; and a third is behaving in the classroom now that he is able to read.

"She's getting letters from the College Board congratulating her, as well as college recruitment letters," wrote the proud parent of one longtime S2G client, who performed well on her pre-SAT. "Her sister didn't receive those until the 11th grade. So thank you."



Students say the feeling of mastery in even one area of study leads to more self-assurance at school. "There's a security that comes with it," said another longtime S2G client. "You can go to class with more confidence."

Since September, S2G has held three tutor training sessions, the most recent focusing on math. Last month, educator Jodi Paroff led 14 tutors in the art and practice of math tutoring, ending by teaching two simple math games. In a follow-up survey, one tutor described the takeaway: "It taught me how to have fun with the student while actually learning!"

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**A Little Help Can Make the Difference in Your  
Child's Test Performance and Final Grade**

Are your children feeling overwhelmed about grades?  
Are they anxious about testing?  
Are they performing up to their potential?

**Succeed2gether's After-School Tutoring Program  
Gets Results!**

- ✓ Extra preparation for tests and increased confidence
- ✓ One hour, one-on-one subject specific or general tutoring
- ✓ Free to qualifying families - affordable to all others
- ✓ Pre and post-testing administered

"My grandson has been with Succeed2gether for over three years. His grades have improved, and his math teacher said he now helps other students do their algebra."

To register or for more information, please contact Succeed2gether by phone at 973-746-0553, or by email at [info@succeed2gether.org](mailto:info@succeed2gether.org), or visit our website at [www.succeed2gether.org](http://www.succeed2gether.org)

What is Succeed2gether?  
Succeed2gether offers high-quality educational enrichment to underserved children from the greater Montclair area including an after-school tutoring program, fall, winter and spring workshops, and an all-day summer enrichment program, as well as family support programs.

Registration deadline is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016



## Cue The Violins: New Workshops Teach Music, Math, Computer Coding & Game Design, Mindfulness and Art+ Staycation

In addition to tutoring, Succeed2gether seeks to enrich our students' learning with an array of after-school and weekend workshops taught by topnotch educators.

Some high-pitched sounds around the S2G offices on Pine Street offer a clue to its newest winter workshop: Suzuki Violin. The class is being taught by violist John Batchelder, a member of the award-winning Julius Quartet. "The Julies," as they are known, are this year's graduate string quartet-in-residence at Montclair State University, where they are being coached intensively by the Shanghai Quartet. The Julies are not only passionate chamber musicians, but committed to spreading the arts to children. One student, Abigail, above, was learning how to place bow to strings just last week.

"I have heard so many songs where the violin is the strongest instrument," Abigail wrote, in describing her enthusiasm. Her classmate, Nataly, said she, too, is drawn to

the violin. "The instrument sounds beautiful, it moves people to different emotions." She added: "The teacher is nice, he explains pretty well, I understand him, and he is high quality."

Other students are diving into a math workshop taught by Trina Wooten, a PhD candidate in mathematics education at Montclair State. Trina (pictured at right) is making math tangible and visual with games and plastic pieces that you can hold in your hand. One-half may not look like 6/12 until students enroll in this workshop, where they can see, touch, and ultimately understand fractions and other math concepts. "I like learning math so you can pay for stuff," wrote one practical-minded student. Wrote another: "I like math because it makes you smarter, and I want to be happy and fun and smart."

Meanwhile, a computer workshop has kids creating their own computer games, and offerings in algebra and writing are helping students sharpen their basic skills. Workshops from last fall, in creative writing and filmmaking, to name just two, resulted in a collection of poetry and a film trailer, "Breakfast Club Jr.," available on YouTube.

We are finalizing a wonderful lineup of 2016 spring workshops — in sports math and public speaking, drumming and violin, computer game design and word wizardry, as well as math and writing basics. And, for the first time, we will offer our students a workshop in mindfulness, to decrease anxiety and increase focus. Who can't use that?

Finally, for parents looking for activities during spring break, April 11th through 15th, check out Succeed2gether's staycation. See the flyer below for more information

Stayed tuned and sign up!



**Register NOW**  
**Spring 2016 After-School/Weekend**  
**Enrichment Workshops**  
 Beginning week of March 28<sup>th</sup>

*At Community Services Center, 11 Pine Street, Montclair*  
*To register or for more information contact:*  
**Ph: 973-746-0553, email: info@succeed2gether.org**

**MATH**  
**FUNDamentals - Grades 3-5, Five wks**  
**Sports Math - Grades 6-9, Four wks**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**  
**FUNDamentals, Grades 3-5, Five wks**  
**Wizards of Words, Grades 6-9, Five wks**  
**Public Speaking- Prose Slam - grades 6-9, Five wks**

**FINE ARTS**  
**Suzuki Violin, all levels, grades 3-8, Six wks**  
**Drum Circle - grades 3-8, Four wks**  
**Game Design- grades 6-9, Six wks**

**MINDFULNESS Through Meditation, Yoga, & Art**  
 This workshop will run for six weeks for grades 3-8

*\*Workshops are free for qualifying families.*

**We are also offering a Staycation Program for April 11- 15 2016.**  
 Visit our website [www.succeed2gether.org](http://www.succeed2gether.org) for more information.

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**Register Now**  
**Staycation**  
**Extravaganza**  
 A week of fun from April 11-15  
 Grades 2-6  
 Monday through Thursday 9am-12 pm  
 Held at the Community Service Center, 11 Pine Street, Montclair  
 Friday at the Montclair Art Museum 10am-12pm  
 Contact Succeed2gether to register or for more information  
 Ph: 973-746-0553, email: info@succeed2gether.org

Arts & Crafts

Chess

Mindfulness

Ping Pong

Knitting

Fun, Fun, Fun!

Native American Art at Montclair Art Museum

Drum Circle

Poetry Slam

"like" us on Facebook

Facebook.com/succeed2gether.org

\*Succeed2gether's Spring Staycation  
 Will be offered the week of April 11th through April 15th, Call the office for more details  
 Ph: 973-746-0553 email: info@succeed2gether.org  
 \*Discounted rates available according to income.