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SCHOOL MATTERS

Google doodles expert to speak at ArtSpeak

ArtSpeak, sponsored by the Palo Alto PTA Council, has finalized its lineup of events for this year that stress the importance of visual art and visual thinking in the schools.

All talks, which are free and open to the public, will happen at 7:30 p.m. in the SDC, the same room where the school board meets at 25 Churchill St.



**PREEVA
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The series begins on Oct. 8 with a talk by Dennis Hwang, international web-master and logo designer from Google, titled "Google and the Power of Doodles." Hwang is known for his creative reinventions of the Google logo, which has been changed for all kinds of special and offbeat occasions. He's also a driving force behind Doodle 4 Google — a nationwide competition for K-12 students to reinvent the Google logo.

On Nov. 12, the series will continue with a program on all the services offered by the Palo Alto Art Center, which teaches art to thousands of young artists during the summer and after school. The Stanford School of Design on Dec. 10 will do a workshop called "Developing Confidence in your Creative Ability Through Design Thinking."

This will be followed by an unusual program on Feb. 4 called "The Big Picture" — a graphic facilitation session where Ann Bedillo, a business strategist, corporate coach and Paly mom, will demonstrate how extremely complex challenges can be understood only by drawing a picture of them, and how they can be solved through visual thinking.

In the spring, ArtSpeak continues with a talk on March 4 by Cara McCarthy, the curatorial director for the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York, on "The Importance of Design." On April 8 there will be panel of art teachers from both Palo Alto high schools, who will show their own art and share their philosophy of teaching art.

Creative children who would like to show off will have an opportunity May 15 at the Palo Alto Art Center, where the PTA members who are behind the ArtSpeak series — Roxane Mehta, Tom Scarpino, and Susan McCarthy — are planning a one-day fair for Palo Alto school children similar to the annual do-it-yourself "Maker Faire" in San Mateo.

There will be a judge's panel to screen the applicants, but the show, called "You Made It!", will show any creative thing that a child is proud to present, Mehta said.

"We will start out with the kids and we will figure it out as we go along," shr said.

ArtSpeak has its own page on the Palo Alto Council of PTAs Web site at artspeak.paloaltopta.org and any questions about the speakers and the art fair can be directed to Mehta and the planners of "You Made It!" through artspeak@paloaltopta.org

Please e-mail any comments to schoolmatters@paloaltopta.org to reach Preeva Tramiel, who is writing the column this year. Look on the PTA Council Web site, www.paloaltopta.org, and pull down the leftmost menu, and click on "school matters" to see submission guidelines for press releases.