

GRAND CANYON NEWS

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Singapore Math parent night New program implented at Grand Canyon School

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What do parents, ice cream, and math have in common? Simple: Singapore Math. What is that, you may ask? In light of the fact that math scores all across the country are faltering, Grand Canyon Schools took a step forward to reassess its approach to teaching mathematics.

The process was a short one beginning just last year under the leadership of sixth grade math coach Cynthia Bruno. Singapore Math caught the school's eye, with its eclectic mix of proven and true methods from countries all the world over - Russia, China, the USA, etc. After a handful of teachers were sent to training in Las Vegas, the program was implemented this school year and has required some adjusting from everyone involved. Concern arose among faculty that parents must also adjust as they seek to help their students in the home. After all, addition is not approached first as $1+1=2$, instead it is put in the form of "number bonds" and "branches." These are new to everyone, so it became apparent that parents and students alike would benefit to some exposure to the program. Therefore, the call went out for parents from the Canyon and surrounding areas to gather for a tour of Singapore Math.

Five different Parent Math Nights were planned. Over 150 were in attendance on September 29th at the school's Multi-Purpose Room, and upwards of 35 the next night at the Valle Airport. Parents received brief instruction for basic, 1st grade concepts and terms then led to see how they transfer to older elementary years.

Teachers were on hand to lend extra help and interpret into Spanish as needed. Perhaps most valuable for parents was the chance to play math games and work alongside their kids. Students victoriously shouted out answers and found success as they even taught their own parents. It was another sight altogether to hear, "I just really like this!" from a child and to see families having fun together with math concepts. When the evening ended, attendees left with materials for continued use at home, ice cream, and even better still - a working knowledge of their child's math curriculum.



Submitted photo
Parents and children take part in the Grand Canyon's Singapore Math program.

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