

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF SAN DIEGUITO  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO  
FIFTH DIMENSION



533 LOMAS SANTA FE DRIVE  
SOLANA BEACH, CA 92075



Dear Friends of the Lomas Santa Fe Branch  
of the Boys and Girls Club,

For 15 years, your local Boys and Girls Club has engaged in a unique partnership with the University of California at San Diego that has been a great benefit to us all. For three 9-week-long sessions, UCSD students interested in entering professions where they will be working with kids have been coming to the Club to participate with the children in a specially designed activity called "The Fifth Dimension." When the 5thD is in session, the club is home, four days a week not only to your kids but to UCSD students happy to help them learn and have fun at the same time. The 5thD mixes play, learning, and friendship among the generations of young people as a way of promoting everyone's development. Although centered in the computer room, you will find that Fifth Dimension activities go on all over the club, providing a model of after-school activity for the state of California and beyond.

This booklet, created by two UCSD undergraduates, provides you with some idea of how the Fifth Dimension works and the experiences of those who participate. Enjoy reading...and always feel free to stop by and join the action.



Michael Cole  
Professor of Communication, Psychology, and  
Human Development  
Fellow of the National Academy of Education  
Long Time Resident of Solana Beach

## WORKING TOGETHER

Families are our partners. The collaborative aspect of the Fifth Dimension does not end within the confines of the Boys and Girls Club. When parents get involved, the achievements and lessons from the Fifth Dimension can come to life and thrive in the home and other settings that the child participates in outside of the Fifth Dimension. One way that the Boys and Girls Club works to increase the collaboration and communication between parents and the Fifth Dimension is through letters that the club sends out at Christmas and throughout the year. These letters give parents a “behind-the-scenes” look into the workings of the Fifth Dimension. The letters illustrate their child’s achievements and successes in the words of a UCSD undergraduate who has had the opportunity to spend time with their child within the Fifth Dimension environment.

In partnership with families, the Fifth Dimension offers an environment that provides a unique opportunity for students from the university to interact with Boys and Girls Club members in the roles of tutors, mentors and friends.





# FROM THE DESK OF THE WIZ:

Hello there! I've been expecting you, and now that you've arrived our tour may begin. I've created a space where children of all ages can play and learn and interact with each other. I call this space the Fifth Dimension.

A dot is the first dimension.

A line is the second dimension.

A cube has three dimensions.

Time is the fourth dimension

...and this is the fifth dimension.

It is a place outside of everyday life where children can imagine new possibilities, negotiate boundaries and at the same time develop academic and social skills.

I am always available to answer questions, settle disputes and help out in the Fifth Dimension, but I love to have fun just as much as the next person! I've been criticized for being forgetful but lucky for me I have wonderful Wizard Assistants of all ages to help me out from time to time. We play hard and we work hard together at the Fifth Dimension...where all can meet and do great things!



**The Wizard's Birthday is on Valentine's Day. It's a very special day in the land of the Fifth Dimension!**

## The Wizard

Who is the wizard? What is the wizard?

Is the wizard someone you know? Is he a visitor from some distant star? Is she a mythological creature, half-human and half beast? Does he really know everything?

Wizard... Wisdom... Does being the wizard have something to do with being wise?

Was Yoda a wizard? Was Luke Skywalker? Does the wizard teach us or do we teach the wizard?

Are you a wizard...? Am I...?

Many ask these questions, few learn the answers. So many questions. So few answers. How can you ever really know?

Maybe we should ask the wizard.

# WIZARD'S ASSISTANTS



"I had to work hard to become a Wizard's Assistant."  
– Faith (12)

"I help kids on games, help other people become Wizard's Assistants, and tell other people what the Fifth Dimension is if they want to know." – Dillan (9)

"I love being a Wizard's Assistant because I can teach people how to play games and play the special Wizard Assistant games."

– Taylor (10)



"The best thing about being a Wizard's Assistant is that you can play cool games. The biggest responsibility of being a Wizard's Assistant is helping people in 5D. To become a Wizard's Assistant I had to finish ten good levels."

– Zaul (9)

"It feels good to be a Wizard's Assistant because I worked hard to earn it. I get to play special games that are only for Wizard's Assistants, and I get to help other kids."

– Garrett (10)



"The Wiz is both a boy and a girl, because probably there are two. The Wiz knows everything we're doing because he's psychic, he even knows I clean the screens."

– Roy (11)



"For the Wizard's birthday we could make origami flowers, make cards, decorate and make invitations!"

– Kysha (9)



## MENTORSHIP...

A unique aspect of the Fifth Dimension is the collaborative effort behind it. In linking a handpicked team of University of California, San Diego, undergraduates and the children of Solana Beach, the Fifth Dimension offers an opportunity for a rich exchange of knowledge and ideas. With an interaction ratio that is often as low as 1:1 the children become active participants in their own development. As co-conspirators, the children and their UCSD friends create an environment in which social roles are redistributed and the children are often the teachers. In assuming this role the children demonstrate their knowledge and build a cognitive foundation from which to grow more advanced problem-solving skills.

The friendships that develop between the children and their UCSD buddies further enrich the experience at the Fifth Dimension. Together the children and undergraduates strive toward a common goal, breaking down the traditional age/grade hierarchy and in the process form close bonds unique to the Fifth Dimension.



“Erin was cool. She taught me a lot about volleyball. She’s a really cool friend. I felt like she listened to me a lot and knew what I was talking about.”

– Faith (12)





"I am thrilled that William is improving and does so well. The simple fun that I enjoy so much with the boy is incomparable. He even said he would bring some candies that he got from trick-or-treating for me on Wednesday! Ultimately my goal is help him learn indirectly through the fun of playing chess, and I thought I might just be able to do that."

– Hung (20)  
UCSD undergraduate

"I remembered seeing a letter from the Wiz up on the board for Erik so I asked if he had got it yet and he said he didn't know anything about it and got a big smile and asked if we could go get it. He had told me before that he couldn't read so I was surprised to see that he started to read the letter only stumbling on a few words which he was able to correct himself. I looked at him and said, 'You can read.' He answered with, 'no I can't.' I asked him to look at me and told him he could read. I had him say, 'I can read.' He did and had the biggest smile on his face. I gave him a high-five and told him I was proud of him."

– Lauren (20)  
UCSD undergraduate



"We've been friends for three years. We like to do art and computers. We look forward to seeing each other at the Boys and Girls Club."

– Gerie (9) and Daniel (8)

...FRIENDSHIP

## EDUCATION...

Here in the Fifth Dimension at the Boys and Girls Club, the kids are able to engage in a variety of activities including computer games, art projects, board games, homework help, and outside activities. From “Multi-Media Mondays” to chess tournaments, the activities offered at the Fifth Dimension are designed to encourage imagination, reflection and association. The children’s play is guided by task cards – a tool that provides a framework for their activities. The task cards lay out the criteria for three levels of achievement: beginner, good and expert. Each level helps the children establish goals within their activity as well as within the Fifth Dimension as a whole. The children are encouraged to help others by writing hints in a hint book, practice their writing skills by writing letters to the Wizard, and reflect on their own learning by teaching others. The children’s movement through the Fifth Dimension is at an individual pace and self-motivated, the ultimate goal being the honor of becoming a Wizard’s Assistant.



Pictured: Emiley and Robin working on their strategy for playing Mancala

## MANCALA

“I asked Daniel if he knew what a strategy was and he said no. I explained that it was having a plan or some idea in mind that would help you win the game or make good moves. I then explained what some of the strategies for Mancala are...he caught on very quickly. He started counting stones and even planning for the next move he would get.”

– Lauren (20)  
UCSD Undergraduate

## COMPUTERS

“Zachary began to reason logically about where certain items might be in the game. He suggested that the broom would most likely be in the closet and that the hair band was probably left at school or in Sabrina’s room. I was pretty amazed at his reasoning. Zachary was on his way to reaching the ‘good’ level.”

– Lauren M. (21)  
UCSD Undergraduate



Pictured: Julia and Aaron



## ART PROJECTS



Pictured: Jazmin

“Together we glued the shirt to her doll. Jazmin then decided to draw fingers. She drew ten fingers on one hand. “Wow!,” I said, “She has a lot of fingers.” “No she doesn’t” Jazmin said. We began to count how many fingers we had. Jazmin went all the way to ten using both hands. “That’s ten total,” I said, “but how many do we have on each hand?,” I asked. Jazmin smiled, she held up her hands, “five” she concluded. On the other hand she only drew five fingers.”

– Sachi (22)  
UCSD Undergraduate

## HOMEWORK

“Hyland told me that he didn’t like division and didn’t know how to do it. I explained to him that if you can do multiplication, then you can also divide. I told him that I remembered how well I had seen him multiply a couple weeks back when I helped him with homework, so I knew he could divide just as well, which put a smile on his face. The first problem we tried was 15 divided by 3, so I asked him what number times 3 will equal 15. He thought for a minute and I noticed him using his fingers. At first he answered 4, but after I asked him what 3 times 4 was, he thought for a minute and then told me the first answer was 5. I told him I was proud of him and that he really could do division after all.”

–Lauren M. (21)  
UCSD undergraduate



Pictured: Erik and Lauren M. doing multiplication

## OUTDOORS

“Erin, Faith, Michael and Kysha were playing four-square outside. Faith explained the rules to us and we joined in. She used words such as ‘babies’ for really soft balls and ‘sidees’ for balls hit in the corner on either side of someone’s square. After a while we had a large game going with a few more undergrads and a lot more kids. Many of the disputes were solved by ‘do-overs’ or ‘democracy rules’, which were the kids’ ideas.”

– Jamie (21)  
UCSD undergraduate



Pictured: Dax, Rodolfo and Austin

...PLAY

# COMMUNITY...



SARAH TAYLOR  
BRANCH DIRECTOR

"I believe we have a lot to offer the children who participate in the Fifth Dimension after-school program. In Mike Cole we have one of the top people in the field actively participating in order to help the program continue to succeed. We have enthusiastic and hardworking students from one of the most highly regarded universities in the country and, to pull it all together, we have a staff of experienced professionals who strongly believe in the program. Like Dr. Cole, I'm a Solana Beach homeowner. I feel strongly that the Fifth Dimension program contributes greatly to our community."

"We are so fortunate to have a program like the Fifth Dimension. What the children obtain from this program, and from the UCSD students, is immeasurable. It is because of people like Mike Cole and dedicated UCSD students that this club is filled with creativity, learning, energy, a positive outlook, and fun."



JIM NICHOLS  
5D ON-SITE COORDINATOR

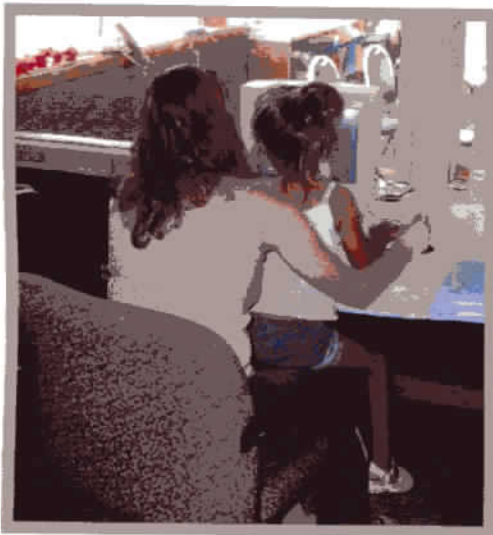


**The Fifth Dimension is a collaboration between the Solana Beach Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Diego, and the University of California at San Diego**



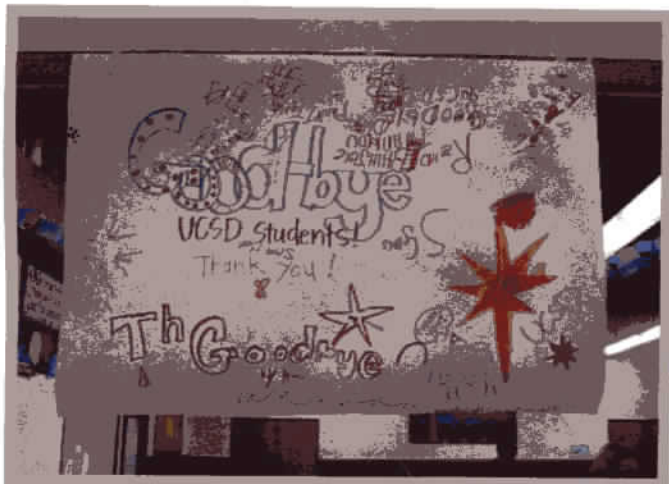
## WHAT UCSD STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE FIFTH DIMENSION

“If there is one thing the Fifth Dimension has taught me, it is that kids are far more aware that we give them credit for. Also, that they can teach us so much more than we think. They are a link to the present, as we often find ourselves out of touch with our world.”



“While I thought that I would be helping the children at the Boys and Girls Club, I found that they really helped me. I learned to listen, believe in the Wizard, and realize that it is amazing to be taught something from a five-year-old. While I may not ever be able to really explain the Fifth Dimension, I experienced it and now even understand a thing or two about it. I will really miss the Boys and Girls Club, the kids, and even the Wizard.”

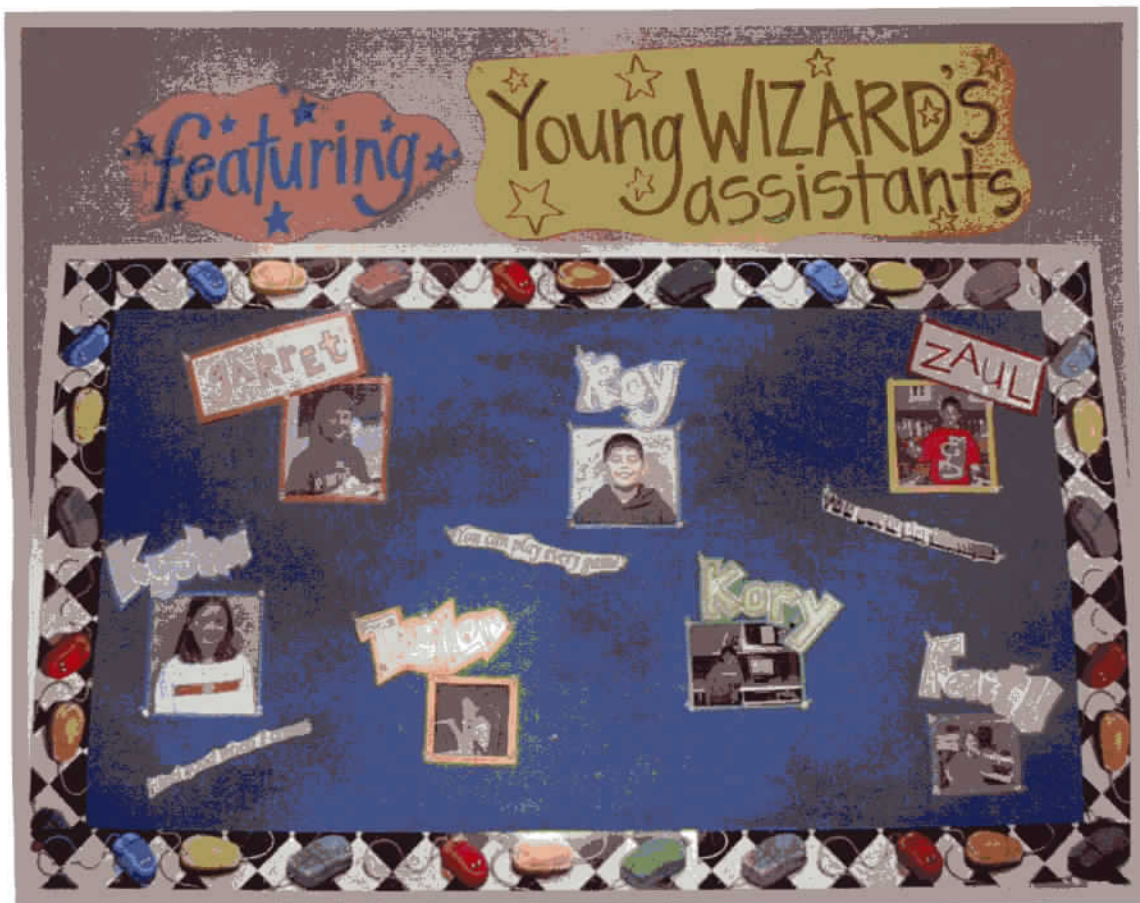
“The Boys and Girls Club was really different from anything that I have ever experienced. It was such a wonderful environment to work in, it was the kind of place that just made you relax and have a good time after a long, difficult day. You couldn't walk into the club and not smile as soon as you saw the kids. And you always have a story to tell when you leave because these are funny, amazing kids.”



“I was hoping that I would be able to teach the kids a couple of things during my experience, but I did not realize how much they would teach me. Mostly the kids taught me what it was like to be them and the things people their age experience. They showed me their interests, their concerns, and their talents.”

...TEAMWORK AND RESPECT





Lomas Santa Fe Branch  
Boys and Girls Clubs of San Dieguito  
(858) 755-9373

<http://www.bgsdto.org/branches/solana.htm>

See the Fifth Dimension at:  
<http://lhc.ucsd.edu/FifthDimension>



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