

MIND Research Institute

A neuroscience and education research-based non-profit corporation

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MIND RESEARCH INSTITUTE HONORS SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS' MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENTS

Astronaut Sally Ride keynotes Awards Dinner saluting schools in Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, San Jose and Chicago that increased math performance

SANTA ANA, Calif. -- September 23, 2010 -- The non-profit education researcher and publisher [MIND Research Institute](http://www.mindresearch.net) will honor several pre-K-8 schools with its annual award for outstanding math achievements. The schools in Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, San Jose and Chicago transformed students' math scores and will be honored live at MIND's annual [2010 Awards Dinner](#). The event on Oct. 8 at the Hyatt Regency Irvine is MIND's primary fundraiser for the year. Former NASA Astronaut Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, President and CEO of Sally Ride Science, is the keynote speaker. She will share with guests the important role that math, science and technology played in her life and how she encourages all children's interests in these fields. The evening also includes a live auction, entertainment, dinner and awards ceremony. Proceeds enable children and teachers at new schools to begin using MIND's math education program, ST Math, to dramatically increase math achievement.

During the dinner, MIND will award three outstanding elementary schools from Huntington Beach, Santa Ana and San Jose, as well as a group of schools from Chicago Public Schools Area Thirteen in IL. The honorees were representatives chosen from 774 schools participating in MIND's math program, for impressive increases on math test scores from year to year. The results document the effectiveness of MIND's program as well as tremendous school staff and student commitment.

"MIND's *ST Math* program is highly motivating to students from all walks of life," said Andrew Coulson, President of MIND Research Institute's Education Division. "Our school honorees have demonstrated amazing effectiveness at helping students achieve in mathematics. They all proved beyond question that students can succeed in math when their school leaders and teachers work together with powerful software tools to make it happen."

School Honoree Stories:

The California honorees achievements are documented by the Academic Performance Index (API) system used to measure schools' performance and improvement. The API is based on year-over-year test score performance through a two-year cycle. The difference is the API. Schools in CA are expected to show a minimum of 5 points of growth, with a target score of 800 or better. API scores will be cited for each honoree.

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Huntington Beach:

The first honoree is **Huntington Seacliff Elementary School** in **Huntington Beach**. The K-5 school of 700 students serves a high socioeconomic community. The school's student performance has always been good, but their goal was to be great. In 2004, before implementing MIND, 85% of **second grade** students were proficient or advanced in math. In 2005, after its first year of participation 92% of second grade students were proficient or advanced. The number reached nearly perfect at 98% in 2009! Seacliff gradually added all grades to the program, supported by a generous donation from the OL Halsell Foundation this year. Their overall percent of all students proficient in mathematics for grades 2-5 increased to 93% in 2009.

"Our API increased from 884, which was good and well above the California target, in 2004 to 940, moving toward GREAT, in 2009!" said Principal Ann Sullivan, Huntington Seacliff Elementary School. "MIND's *ST Math* helped us achieve this school-wide accomplishment."

Each year, Seacliff implemented the optional music portion of MIND's program, which was an important part of the school's success. Piano keyboarding instruction provided students a rich music program that enhanced mathematical understanding and inspired many to study a second instrument.

Santa Ana:

MIND's second honoree is El Sol Science and Arts Academy in Santa Ana. In its first year of using MIND, the school celebrated the fact that 99 percent of second graders reached proficient or advanced in math. And 86.2 percent of all students reached proficiency in math in 2009. Its API score increased 114 points -- from 754 in 2007 to 868 in 2010. With schools expected to show a minimum of 5 points of growth annually, a 114 point improvement over 3 years is truly dramatic!

This pre-K-8 charter school features a dual-language immersion program where all students learn to speak Spanish, and students who are English Language Learners become fluent in English by 4th grade. It is among the few schools in California to receive a GreatSchools Rating of 8 out of 10.

El Sol also received a Distinguished School Award from California, and was highlighted in *eSchool News* this month as a top performing ELL and Latino-based charter. El Sol is also ranked in the top 10% of schools with similar demographics in CA.

"Our kids are highly competitive and so there is an intrinsic motivation to MIND's *ST Math* program, based on their interest in getting to the next game," said El Sol Chief Executive Officer Monique Daviss.

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San Jose:

Honoree number three is **Leroy Anderson Elementary School in the Moreland School District in West San Jose**. Faced with years of declining test scores among a heavily Latino and ELL student body, Anderson took drastic improvement measures and implemented *ST Math* in its 2nd and 4th grades in fall 2007, with astounding results. The 2nd grade students improved their math proficiency by 26 points and 4th graders gained 30 points on standardized tests. The small school, formerly on Program Improvement status, increased their API by 36 points (from 638 to 674) in only one year. The next year, the program was implemented in all tested grades 2-5 and the overall math proficiency level jumped from 32.9% to 73.2%, more than doubling the percent of students proficient in math. Anderson's API also increased to 810, earning them a California Distinguished Schools Award.

"*ST Math* connected with quality core instruction led to our significant gains in mathematics. Our API has increased from 638 to 810 in a three-year period and we were honored with the California Distinguished Schools Award," said Anderson Principal Tasha Quinonez.

Chicago:

The fourth honoree is a group of schools from **Chicago Public Schools, Area Thirteen in IL**. The schools serve nearly 7,000 primarily African-American students, almost all on free-and-reduced lunch. After using MIND's *ST Math* software for approximately three hours each week as a core instructional tool in grades 3 to 5, math achievement at the 14 lowest performing schools in Area Thirteen grew by almost 10 points—what a recent *Chicago Tribune* article called "staggering" results. An analysis of comparable schools not using *ST Math* showed just over 2 points of growth, so the Area Thirteen schools improved their math achievement levels over 4 times more.

"Results from the 2010 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in Area Thirteen reached record heights," said Dr. Shawn Smith, Chief Area Officer of Area Thirteen. "A large part of our success was our partnership with the MIND Research Institute."

2010 Awards Dinner Details:

Individual Awards Dinner tickets include a cocktail reception and four-course gourmet dinner for \$300 per person. Classic sponsorships, including a table for 10, are available for \$3,000. Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsorships are also available. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Maria Cervantes at 714-751-5443, ext. 239, or e-mail mgcervantes@mindresearch.net.

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Honorary Chairs of the event are Dave and Michelle Horowitz and Committee Co-Chairs are Vivian McCluney and Lynn Selich. Lead sponsors to-date include Microsemi Corporation as a Platinum Sponsor. Gold Sponsors are The Boeing Company and The Horowitz Group. Silver Sponsors include: Abbott Medical Optics, Capital Group Companies, The Dirk Family-TROY Group, Catherine and Jim Emmi, Ellie and Mike Gordon, Matthew and Roberta Jenkins Family Foundation, and Jim and Vivian McCluney. Classic Sponsors are: John Bishop, Richard Reisman (Publisher of the Orange County Business Journal), SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Senator Marian Bergeson, Retd.

The MIND Research Institute is a neuroscience and education research-based, non-profit corporation. MIND applies its distinctive visual approach to illustrating math concepts and building problem-solving skills as the basis for innovative, research-proven math education programs for elementary and secondary schools. MIND's programs currently reach over 260,000 students and 10,000 teachers in more than 950 schools in 19 states. For more information, visit <http://www.mindresearch.net>.

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