

Mill Valley GATE Parent-Initiated Event Proposal

EVENT TITLE: Pixar Private Tour

WHEN: First tour Wed April 4, 3:30-5:00pm. Second tour in May, date TBA.

WHERE: Pixar Animation Studios, 1200 Park Avenue, Emeryville, CA

WHO: Six GATE students per tour, ***no parents except one chaperone, Rob***. This is a private tour and they can only accommodate 6 kids and one parent at a time. Pixar doesn't offer any public tours. Two tours possible between now and end of May, for a total of 12 kids.

ACTIVITIES:

The tour is hosted by Barney Jones, music editor at Pixar. Barney will talk about the history of Pixar near the famous Luxor lamp sculpture outside, then take everyone through the large atrium and then upstairs to show the original storyboards from *Toy Story* and other classic Pixar films. He uses the storyboards to explain how important the story is to a Pixar film, and as a jumping off point to explain the whole animation film production process in general. He and I ask questions as we go, and student participation and questions are encouraged (and usually enthusiastically given). If available, we go to the screening room where dailies are shown, and he speaks further about that process and asks and answers questions. Then we go to the wall where various famous voiceover actors have signed their names (e.g. Tom Hanks), and Barney then explains the importance of voiceovers and recording sound. This segues into a tour of the recording studio (if it is not being used), where kids can see the mics and equipment and see how recording is done. Finally we tour the music and sound editing suite, and Barney's sound workstation. In the sound editing suite, highlights include showing how music is added to animated storyboards early in the film, and also how Foley and other types of sound effects are recorded.

Each tour differs somewhat depending upon Barney's workload and whether or not some of the venues are in use, and sometimes there are confidentiality issues.

WHAT TO WEAR: School clothes are fine.

TRAVEL: Self-drive to Emeryville or carpool. If carpool, drivers self-organize from list of 6 attendees. Rob can't help with carpools. The drive is about 45 min. No on-site parking.

PARENTS: ***Parents drop off kids*** at the Pixar main entrance gate guard station where I will be waiting to get them badges. There is no access to the Pixar parking lot. Parents can then go for coffee or go shopping in Emeryville; there are plenty of restaurants and coffee shops, IKEA, etc.

SPONSORSHIP: none

MORE INFO AT: Students may want to explore the Pixar website beforehand (and maybe re-watch their favorite Pixar film) so they can ask informed questions: <http://www.pixar.com/>

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT: Pixar charges no fee, but tickets at \$10/child benefit GATE treasury. Registration: Rob needs list of attendees in advance so Pixar security can print badges.

TECH SUPPORT NEEDED: Collect RSVPs via Evite. Run ticket lottery from RSVPs received by cutoff noon Monday (see below). Collect \$10, either via EventBrite or simply in person; with only six kids, doing it in person may be easiest.

YOUR NAME & CONTACT: Robert Thomure (parent, MS-6) <robt388@gmail.com>

BEHAVIOR: Barney is taking time out of his working day to show us his business during business hours. Last year some kids got a little wild. *All kids must be on best behavior, all the time.* If there's any doubt, please err on the side of caution and RSVP no.

TICKET ALLOCATION: Last year Rob allocated tickets via lottery, because the tour was hugely popular and only six kids could go at once. Three tours were given that year. This year, because GATE is starting late, we can fit only two tours for a total of 12 kids. Since this is New GATE's first time running a ticket lottery, let's be transparent: out of all "yes" RSVPs that Evite receives by noon on Monday 4/2, we'll reduce that to a list of unique kids (to avoid the problem that if both parents RSVP for one kid, it would double his/her chance). That list of unique kids will be imported into Excel, where each kid will be assigned a random number using RAND. We'll sort the list, and the highest six numbers will get their choice of a ticket in April or May. The next six get a spot for May. We'll work down the list until both April and May are filled up, then the next kids form the head of the waiting list in case someone cancels. ■