

## Mill Valley GATE Parent-Initiated Event

EVENT TITLE: Pixar Private Tour

WHEN: Wed Mar 6, 4:00-5:00pm.

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

WHO: Six MVGATE students, ***no parents except one chaperon, Rob.*** This is a private tour and they can only accommodate six kids and one parent at a time. Pixar doesn't offer public tours.

ORGANIZER: Robert Thomure (parent, MS-7) <[robt388@gmail.com](mailto:robt388@gmail.com)>

### 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.

To thank Barney for his time and effort, let's give him a little gift: nothing fancy, but a snapshot of the participants out in the courtyard, signed with a little "thank you" message, would be nice.

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. Parent drivers can then go for coffee or go shopping in Emeryville; there are plenty of restaurants and coffee shops, IKEA, etc.

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: Rob needs list of attendees in advance so Pixar security can print badges.

BEHAVIOR: Barney is taking time out of his working day to show us his business during business hours. Two years ago 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. ■