

Join us on the Pathway to Science Learning: Etch Your Name into YSI History!

Dear Friend of YSI,

2006 was a watershed year for YSI. This year, for the first time in our history, YSI moved beyond being a “one-room schoolhouse.” We broke ground on a new facility to add 2,803 square feet of learning space at YSI Vasona.

Building the new Robert Brownlee Learning Center was an imperative step for YSI, one we had to take if we are ever to achieve our 10-year vision of increasing the number of children we teach each year from 30,000 (10% of the public school population) to 125,000 (50% of that population).

We also needed to achieve this milestone for several prudent financial reasons. As costs continued to rise, waiting any longer to build would have meant letting go of the eight-year dream and design process that YSI worked so hard to keep alive. We could not throw away that investment of time and money.

While construction carried on, we were busy doing our most important work: teaching science to eager children. We delivered 1,205 hands-on science programs to 26,605 classroom students, engaged 1,985 children in Summer Science Camps, and exercised the exploration muscles of 1,005 students in our After-School Programs. A third of our students came from low income “Title One” schools, and almost one third were English Language Learners.

We are very proud of what we’ve accomplished this year!

Keeping up with the rapidly increasing demand for our excellent programs, completing the building project, and keeping pace with the consistently increasing costs of doing business—all have placed a financial strain on YSI.

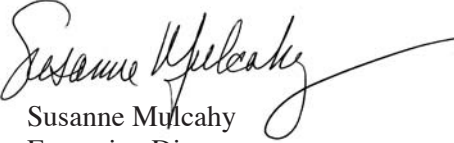
The new Learning Center project cost \$1,037,000. We have successfully raised \$733,700, and we have \$303,300 to go to reach our goal and complete the project. Until we do, the resources we can allocate to programs for children will still be strained.

You now have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of YSI’s legacy. I invite you to become a permanent part of YSI in a brand new way. Etch your name into our history by purchasing an engraved paver brick in our “Pathway to Science Learning.” Each stone can be inscribed with a personal message, your family name, individual names, or to honor or memorialize a special person. Consider giving the gift of an engraved brick at the holidays—a very special way to honor someone you love who is passionate about nature, science, children or learning. A limited number of bricks will be available in the pathway leading to the entrance of the new Learning Center. We hope you’ll leave a lasting impression on our new building as an investment in YSI’s future.

The pages that follow are packed with information you will not want to overlook. In addition to details on purchasing a brick, we’ve included important updates on Summer Camp Registration 2007 (it’s earlier!), the re-birth of our Membership Program (it’s easier!), and on how YSI will be communicating with it’s members and supporters moving forward (it’s email!). For now, this is our last printed newsletter. If you don’t have access to email, please let us know on the enclosed form so we can keep you up-to-date in other ways.

All of us at YSI wish you and yours a safe and beautiful holiday season.

Regards,



Susanne Mulcahy
Executive Director

PS: If you or someone you love has enjoyed a YSI program, or if you believe in the importance of science education and the experience of nature for our children, then please make your mark on our new building and YSI by donating a paver brick...or two...or more, today!





Learning Center "Soft Opening"

It's been more than a decade since its conception, but less than a year since the actual start of construction. While at first glance the building may look finished, we are just short of project completion and are still putting the final touches on the building, inside and out.

In response to the high demand for our programs and needed space, we are fortunate to have our occupancy permits so we can accommodate fall program requests from teachers. We have already pressed the two new classrooms into service, in a "soft opening."

At 2,803 square feet, the new Robert Brownlee Learning Center doubles the size of the YSI Vasona's current facility, which also houses both our museum education area and the administrative staff for all three YSI Centers.

The two new classrooms, four science labs, storage area and restrooms are entirely devoted to program delivery. This new facility will allow us to meet current demand for programs,



significantly enhance what we can currently offer, and allow us to expand programs to reach more children.

With the "Pathway to Science Learning" Brick Campaign announced in this newsletter, we launch our final, public phase of our fundraising to complete the project. Watch for our special Grand Opening Celebration later in 2007.

Pathway to Science Learning Campaign Launched

The construction of the new Learning Center gives YSI supporters the opportunity to become a lasting and visible part of our new teaching facility through the Pathway to Science Learning Brick Campaign.

Donors can invest in a personally engraved brick in the pathway that leads to the new Learning Center. These distinctive bricks will be engraved with the text of your choice and proudly installed for public display.

While we do have our occupancy permits, the Learning Center project is not yet complete. We have important work yet to do inside and out, and funds left to raise. Our goal is to raise \$303,300.

Bricks are available in three sizes: 3"x 6", 6"x 6", and 6"x 9". They will be laser engraved with your choice of a personal message, your family name, individual names, or to honor or memorialize a special person. They also make excellent gifts.

As a special benefit for those purchasing a brick, you will be automatically enrolled as a YSI member in our 2007 Membership Drive. By purchasing a brick, you will receive all the benefits of a YSI membership, including priority registration in the 2007 Summer Science Camp Programs for your children. This year, this

includes a special member-only Summer Camp registration period beginning in January.

For details, please read and complete the enclosed form and return it to us by January 31, 2007.

Science Visionary Society Launched

YSI proudly launched its Science Visionary Society in June at the Science Matters! luncheon. Society members have pledged a minimum of \$1,000 per year for five years to underwrite general operating expenses.

Please contact Susanne Mulcahy at 408-356-4945, x11, if you would like more information about becoming a member of the Science Visionary Society. YSI is grateful to these inaugural Society members:

- Alan and Doris Burgess**
- Jon and Mari Esther Kaplan**
- Cheryl Lander**
- Susanne Mulcahy and Jan Raissle**
- Nancy and George Valby**
- Werle Family**

NEW! January Summer Camp Registration for YSI Family Members

Summer Camp planning will come earlier to YSI this year! In response to feedback from YSI families, and in order to better market our programs, we are moving up our Summer Camp promotion and registration.

To aid in your planning, the list of 2007 Summer Science Camps will be posted on the YSI website (www.youthscience.org) in mid-December. We will also email a 2007 Summer Camp notice at that time.

Because we will no longer produce a printed newsletter, we will not be sending

a list of 2007 Summer Science Camps in a mailed newsletter.

Instead, here's how you can obtain summer camp information:

- 1) Download a PDF from our website, www.youthscience.org, after December 15th.
- 2) Refer to the special Summer Camp email that will arrive after December 15th.
- 3) Call YSI at 408-356-4945 x10 to request that a printed copy of the PDF be mailed to you (make this request as soon as possible to ensure timely registration!)

Early Summer Camp registration for YSI Family Members only will open January 16, 2007. (See the enclosed information and form for a Family Membership in YSI.) Registration for the public will begin February 12, 2007. As in past years, those with Family Memberships will continue to get priority registration over non-members after February 12th.

We are already planning for 2008! Stay tuned later in 2007 for news of on-line registration for YSI programs, including Summer Camp.

Newsletter Changes: How We'll Keep in Touch in 2007

Like many nonprofits, YSI has found it necessary to cut back on printing costs, including the printed version of our "Explore" newsletter. We also want to minimize our impact on natural resources (cutting trees.) By utilizing electronic media to keep in touch with our members, supporters, and teachers, we are able to re-direct resources to support our program delivery.

Since January, those for whom we have email addresses have received several YSI "eNews" to announce events, classes, and news. Feedback has been very positive,

and we have received greater response to these emailed communications than we do, in general, to our printed newsletters and other publications. In fact, many who call request an electronic version of our publications, rather than a mailed copy.

YSI will continue to keep you up-to-date via shorter "eNews" bulletins. To make sure you do not miss an issue, please fill out and return the enclosed form with your latest contact information, and keep us informed of any changes. YSI will never sell or trade your email address, or any of your contact information. And we

are committed to timely, but not overly frequent, email communications. You always have the option to unsubscribe. You can confirm or update us on your current email address by sending an email to info@ysi-ca.org or by calling 408-356-4945 x10.

For those who do not have access to email, please let us know on the enclosed form so we can be sure to keep you informed in other ways.

The latest issue (and past issues) of the newsletter can always be found on the YSI website at www.youthscience.org.

Thanks to Our Donors January-October, 2006

\$125,000

Robert Brownlee Foundation

\$20,000 - \$40,000

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