

East Side Union High School District

830 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133



Kudos

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Andrew Hill Biotechnology Academy Launches Successful Mentoring Program

This week the Andrew Hill Biotechnology Academy successfully matched 42 juniors with professionals from the Biotechnology Industry Stanford Medical School and Kaiser Permanente. These professionals come from an array of backgrounds: biomedical engineering, forensic science and bioanalytic technologies. They work for Guidant, Agilent, Applied Biosystems, Genentech, Gene Machines, Genencor, Alza Corporation, ePocrates, Incyte Genomics and Kaiser Cytogenics. They have committed to working with the students for the full year. Last night a full complement of mentors and mentees and the biotech teachers enjoyed dinner at

Andrew Hill and reviewed the schedule of events and projects planned for the year.

“These students have an incredible opportunity to capitalize on the expertise and experiences of their mentors and learn about the variety of occupations in this field,” said **Mary Metz**, coordinator of the mentor project.

Congratulations to **Mary Metz** and all biotech teachers, **Jeanette Renteria, Doug Schaeffer, Jason Guven, Christine Griffin, Matt Sandora, Margaret Sutherland,** and Health Magnet Coordinator **Marilyn Bliss** on the success of this component of the Biotechnology Academy.

Independence, Mt. Pleasant and Santa Teresa Eligible for Awards Based on Academic Performance Index

Congratulations to Independence, Mt. Pleasant and Santa Teresa for exceeding the 2000-01 Academic Performance Index growth targets for their school at-large and for each student sub-group. These schools grew at least five points schoolwide and 4 points for each sub-group. They are eligible to receive the Governor’s Performance Award. It is anticipated that the award funds will be distributed after January 2002.

Kudos to the staff at **Independence, Mt. Pleasant and Santa Teresa High Schools.**



W.C. Overfelt’s Teacher Selected as Educator of the Year

Malaika Young, special education teacher at W.C. Overfelt, was selected as the Educator of the Year by the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley, Inc. She was honored at their Scholarship and Awards Gala last month.

In addition to teaching, **Malaika** is the moderator of the Overfelt African-American Student Union. She was honored by her colleagues last year as the “Associated Student Body Advisor of the Year” for commitment to the students.

A quote from the person who nominated her for the Educator of

the Year Award describes her best, “When I think of a strong black woman, I think of Malaika Young. She is my hero, role model and an angel to so many. I am privileged to be one of her personal cheerleaders. I am inspired by her awesome spirit, humility, and grace.”

Kudos to **Malaika** for receiving this award and inspiring our students.



Independence Sets New Record

Independence had 1,173 students take the PSAT last week, setting a new record for the school. For the past two years the school has made a concerted effort to substantially increase the number of students taking the PSAT. Their efforts to encourage students to take the PSAT over the past few years is beginning to impact the number of students taking the SAT. Increases were also realized in that area last year.

Kudos to the Independence counselors, staff and administration for their efforts in encouraging more students to attend college.

Teach for America Brings Prominent Leaders into East Side Classrooms

In honor of “Teach for America Week”, three of the district’s *Teach for America* teachers had prominent leaders teach their classes.



Mr. Erick Johnson

At Andrew Hill **Mr. Eric Johnson**, a San Francisco 49er, taught **Kenique Coney’s** special education class. **Mr. Johnson** focused his lesson on the importance of planning and organizing for success in the future.



Mr. Tom Stepien

Mr. Tom Stepien, a Senior Executive at Applied Materials, taught **Kayla Hayford’s** AVID students at Mt. Pleasant how to use software and technology to enhance digital photography.

In **Mala Radhakrishnan’s** Chemistry class, **Mr. Paul Coughlin**, Chief Financial Officer for Linear Technology, discussed career opportunities in the technology field.

“*Teach for America*” is a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in selected communities around the country.

East Side is fortunate to have 30 *Teach for America* teachers on staff.

Kudos to our *Teach for America* teachers and to our special visitors who volunteered their time to motivate our students.

Yerba Buena Student Nominated as Semi Finalist in National Achievement Scholarship Program

Congratulations to **Didi Mwengla**, senior at Yerba Buena, who is one of eight African-American students from the county nominated as a semi-finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. **Didi** earned this honor because of her stellar performance on the PSAT. She now has the opportunity to continue in the competition for one of over 700 Achievement Scholarship Awards.

Kudos and best wishes to **Didi**.

“Best of Santa Teresa”

Congratulations to Santa Teresa for being selected as the “Best High School” by the Santa Teresa Times. Times Media Inc. surveyed their readers last spring and published their “BEST of 2001” in the October issue of the “Santa Teresa Times”. Readers selected the best school, restaurant, real estate office, pharmacy, pizza place, fitness club, ice cream parlor, pre-school, etc. Santa Teresa has received national and state recognitions over the past year for their reform efforts. The Bay Area School Reform Collaborative often uses them as an example when describing successful reform efforts.

Kudos to the **Santa Teresa administration and staff** on this recognition.

W.C. Overfelt's Yearbook Advisor Receives Recognition

Ron Cueba, W.C. Overfelt's Yearbook Advisor and Activities Director, was recognized by the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association for his outstanding workshop on yearbook development. This award was just one of many **Ron** has received for his work with W.C. Overfelt's yearbook, *The Citadel*. He has been recognized by the Columbia School of Journalism and Herff-Jones on numerous occasions and the 2001 yearbook has recently won national awards.

Congratulations to **Ron**, for his awards reflect the excellence he demands of himself and his students.



The Cardinal Quill

Mt. Pleasant Student Publication Takes Top Honors

Congratulations to the student artists and authors at Mt. Pleasant! Last week, faculty adviser **Joe Lovato** receive word from New York that the school literary magazine, *The Cardinal Quill* was awarded the Gold Medal, the highest national honor, by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (SCPA) for its 2001 edition. This distinguished honor is shared with only a few other schools throughout the nation. Unlike the other elite schools that earned the award, though, the *Quill* is created, designed, and funded entirely through student efforts.

"We've proven ourselves to be more than competitive with exclusive private institutions that have unlimited resources. Next year when we travel to the SCPA conference in New York, our magazine and our students will be the center of much deserved attention," Lovato exclaimed like a proud father. In addition to earning a 989 out of a possible 1000 points on their evaluation, the students were also awarded the maximum 4 All-Columbian awards for concept, content, design, and creativity. Club members will travel to New York in March to collect their awards and to give a workshop at the national convention.

Kudos to **Joe Lovato** and **Linda Rallis**, advisors, and to the following *Cardinal Quill* staff: **Elizabeth Barcelos, Amy Carlos, Ellen Chang, Victoria Chang, Amy Cho, Christine Dao, Khanh Dao, Sarrah Elizondo, Susana Faria, Yen Hoang, Mariko Kojiro, Sachiko Kojiro, Jenny Luu, Joy Nguyen, Rita Nguyen, Nghia Nguyen-Phan, Robert Phan, Rosanna Ruelos, Kavita Singal, Ben Sodos, Ami Thakor, Jesus Villicana, Donna Cana, Joveth Gonzalez, Tarandeep Kaler, Hina Imtiaz, Priscilla Martinez, Andrea Medina, Steve Nguyen, Trung Nguyen, Thy Pham, Vivian Tran, Rudy Urroz,** and **Raudel Yanez**.

Santa Teresa Girls' Water Polo Coach Honored

Ben Murray, Santa Teresa Girls' Water Polo Coach, was selected as a 2001 CCS Fall Sports Honor coach by his colleagues. He has been coaching at Santa Teresa since 1995. Ben is also the Social Studies Department Chairperson. The CCS Honor Coach awards are presented to coaches who have

made outstanding contributions to their sport, the league and the community. **Ben** is highly respected by his students. In the CCS bulletin, former Head Water Polo coach Rich Curry was quoted as saying the following about **Ben** "His athletes respect his dedication to the sport and his undying devotion to them. They feel that he is patient and understanding not only in the way he coaches the sport but also in the way he deals with life outside the pool." Congratulations to **Ben** on this award.

James Lick Counselors Explore New Approaches to Reaching Students

The James Lick counseling staff has begun a program called "Counselor in the Quad". Each week on Wednesday a counselor can be found in the Quad at lunch with all kinds of important information for students—SAT and ACT applications; counselor request forms; ESUHS College Fair cards; scholarship information—anything and everything of importance that students may need to have available. This new approach is working well. The students appreciate having easy access to counselors and are asking lots of questions and the counselors enjoy being with students.

Another effort aimed at getting information to students and parents is a Junior/Senior Student/Parent College Night that starts with a dinner. More than 150 students and parents joined the James Lick administration and faculty to participate in this event earlier this month. The counseling staff shared important college application, financial aid and scholarship data with students and their parents.

Presentations were made in English and in Spanish. Paul Wrubel, a financial aid planning expert, was the keynote speaker. He emphasized the message that cost should not be the determining factor in deciding whether or not to apply for college. Over the past few years the counselors have been actively promoting college opportunities and the school is realizing an increase in the number of students applying to college.

Kudos to Head Counselor **Pam Darin**, and counselors **Mildred Llanos-Richards, John Alcaraz, Veronica Flores** and **Dan Korbel** for their efforts to encourage more students to go to college.



Andrew Hill Strives to Address the Needs of the Adult Community too!

Andrew Hill officially opened the Planetree Health Resource Center to Adult Education this month. Located in the Andrew Hill Library, this center provides a comprehensive consumer health and medical library with free access to information. Bilingual assistance is available and some materials are available in Spanish and Vietnamese. The materials address medical conditions and treatment options, self care, parenting, health care decision-making, mental health and alternatives. The Planetree Health Resource Center was opened last year for Andrew Hill students, especially Health Magnet students. Kudos to **Marilyn Bliss**, Health Magnet Coordinator, who helped to establish this incredible resource for the community.

East Side Teachers Represented Well in UCSD's Outstanding Teacher Recognition Program

A large number of East Side teachers were honored by the University of California, San Diego's Outstanding High School Teacher Recognition Program. Each spring, students enrolling in UCSD are given the opportunity to nominate a teacher who had a tremendous influence on their lives. In the fall, UCSD sends the nominated teachers a letter informing them that they have been named by former students for inspiring the student to accomplish academic and personal success. Kudos to the following 2001-02 UCSD Teachers Recognition Award winners:

Independence: **Jennifer Bishop-Stickeler, Victor Castillo, Lara Dunning, Jack Elwell, Richard Farnham, Greg Ferrero, Pedro Gonzalez, Jonathan Kerrick, Jane Narveson, Jan Sanchez, Tracy Sanders, Richard Shinn, Alan Taylor**, James Lick: **Dan Korbel**, Oak Grove: **Rich Alsbury, Barbara Drew, Jim Garrissere, Frank Owczarzak**, Piedmont Hills: **Reitha Benning, Dennis Branco, Robert Bronson, Ken Crowther, Juan Sierra, Doug Wong**, Santa Teresa: **David Kennigsberg, Gary Lum, Ron Mead, Catherine Worden**, Silver Creek: **Mark Okuda, Laurie Weckesser, Ed Sparks** and Yerba Buena: **Nancy Galindo, Nick Soffiotto**.

The award winners are listed on UCSD's website under the 2001-02 Teacher Recognition Awards <http://admissions.ucsd.edu>.



College Night Deemed a Success

Thousands of students and their parents attended the East Side Union High School District College Fair at Independence High School. Over 100 college and university representatives were available to answer questions and promote their institutions. The University of California and California State University systems were well represented as were other private colleges and universities, local community colleges and military academies. Kudos to **Lynda Remley, Marie Alves** and the many counselors who helped to organize and staff this effort.



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