



ESUHSD 5th Annual Parent Empowerment Conference

BY AURORA QUEVEDO, DIRECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, approximately 600 parents attended the 5th Annual Parent Empowerment Conference held at Oak Grove High School, co-sponsored by the DAC/DELAC (District Advisory Committee), CalSoap (Pre-college outreach program), the Parent Safety Council, SJSU/MESA, and other groups. After well-received welcoming remarks from Superintendent Nuñez, the general session was given by Leon Beauchman, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Trustees. Mr. Beauchman's keynote presentation entitled "Checklist for Success," was extremely well received and started the day on a very positive, optimistic note.

A "checklist" was provided to parents in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, both orally and in writing. During the course of the morning, twenty-six workshop sessions were offered in topics identified by PEC planners who, over the years, have obtained input from parents. These topics included: 1) Scholarships, 2) Financial Aid, 3) High School vs. College Requirements: Understanding Graduation Requirements, 4) Required High School and College Exams, 5) How To Write Your Personal Statement (Students), 6) How to Succeed in Math,

continued on page 2—

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT—

Through the Herculean efforts of our hard working, dedicated staff, all of our schools were ready for students to begin school on Tuesday, August 23rd. Since that first day of school, it has been six weeks, as indicated by the end of the first grading period, Friday, October 7. Following is some information I would like to share with you regarding our district:

- Enrollment to date = 24,740
- Average daily attendance rate = 96.3%
- Average Academic Performance Index number = 19

As you are aware, quality organizations call for quality systems, and quality systems call for continuous improvement. Our district is a quality organization in need of quality systems. As a means to begin the dialogue for continuous improvement, we will be establishing programservice quality review committees. The committees will be organized so that stakeholders will be active participants in improving our delivery of services. Each of our divisions: Business Services, Human Resources, Instructional Services, and Safety, Security & Student Services will participate in the quality systems process.

In preparation for the Quality Systems process, our administrative staff is pivotal. Our Human Resources division has worked diligently in filling administrative positions quickly. Working in conjunction with them, key administrative positions have been filled. Following are a few of those positions:

- **Geraldine Forté**, Director, Career Services
- **Catherine Giammona**, Director Human Resources
- **Carol Blackerby**, Acting Principal, Independence High School
- **Ana Lomas**, Director of Professional Development
- **Rich Frias**, Interim Principal, Oak Grove High School
- **Marlow Viehwieg**, Associate Principal, Mt. Pleasant High School
- **Marla Valladárez Bressani**, Associate Principal, Andrew P. Hill High School

I am committed to forming a foundation of collaboration and quality, towards the end of providing all of our students with a successful education.

Bob Nuñez, Interim Superintendent

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News updates from Information Technology

BY DENNIS BARBATA, INTERIM DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Getting the technology word out to schools will be an important objective of *IT Services*. To that end, a network of volunteer site tech leaders has been established called the *Tech Advisory Group*. The local site tech teams recently participated in a unique *web-meeting* format which allowed the tech teams to remain at their respective school sites but still participate in a district wide meeting with their colleagues from other schools. A combination of telephone conference calling technology enhanced by a *PowerPoint* presentation delivered over the *Internet* enabled the presenters (**Dennis Barbata and Judy Neal**) to conduct a 25 minute meetings without the need for participants to travel by car to a central district location.

School websites are important tools to help increase the flow of information to students, parents and the community. With the help of students and parents, *IT Services* is developing a list of the information links that parents want most from

Planning Your Future Conferences for Students

BY AURORA QUEVEDO, DIRECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

This year, we will be implementing our third annual “*Planning Your Future*” conferences to better prepare underrepresented students for college thanks to our counselors, career technicians, and school administrators. Schools have been asked to give special emphasis on the recruitment of students not already on-track to attend post high school education; in particular, special attention is given to recruitment of ELL students who, as a group, have historically been the least represented in our college going rates.

This year, the conferences are co-sponsored by *CalSoap*, other *Pre-college programs*, and the *National Hispanic University*. Approximately 250 students from each grade level will convene at the *National Hispanic University* on each of the following dates: 12th Grade—November 4th, 2005; 11th Grade—December 2nd, 2005; 10th Grade—January 20th, 2006; 9th Grade—February 10th, 2006

The goals of the workshops are to:

- Review the a-g requirements for UC/CSU (9th, 10th, and 11th)
- Prepare students to transition to College for 12th grade students
- Teach students how to complete a college application
- Develop a college/career portfolio
- Teach students how to apply for financial aid/scholarships
- Enhance students’ time management and organizational skills
- Inform students about available resources and support.

their school’s web site. *IT Services* will be working closely with the site based *Tech Advisory teams* to help support the updating of website information.

IT Services is also keeping an eye on the new student information systems that have become available and improved over the last few years. *SASI* and the several 3rd party student information vendors that handle our supplementary informational services are serving us adequately at this time. However, *IT* is keeping informed about the new *web-based systems* that feature “*all-in-one*” integrated functions. In the weeks ahead, a student information system task force will be reforming to review the work of last spring’s efforts in which five *SIS* vendors provided demonstrations to key district and site staff.

The *IT Services Help Desk* reports that nearly 100 new teachers participated in the basic application training of *ClassXP*. The class is available each week and a call to **347.5500** or an e-mail to the *Help Desk* will get new teachers registered for the next class.

ESUHSD 5th Annual Parent Empowerment Conference

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7) *Testing, Accountability, and African-American Students: How To Make The Data Work For You*, 8) *College: The Pathway For All African-American Students – How To Get There!*, 9) *College Education Systems*, 10) *What Every Parent Should Know About School Safety*, 11) *Becoming A College Advocate*, 12) *Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA)*, and 13) *How To Communicate With Your Adolescent*.

In addition to the keynote and workshop sessions, participants had an opportunity to visit resource tables set up by thirty three non-profit organizations, and the district schools; the Fair provided parents and others with important information about community colleges, vocational schools, adult education opportunities, voter registration, etc. This year’s *Resource Fair* was another resounding success. Please look for next year’s *PEC* planning efforts which will begin in the spring of 2006. *PEC* planners want to thank all conference planners, made up primarily of parent and community volunteers, *District* staff, and the *Oak Grove* staff for their wonderful efforts. (For more information, please contact Aurora Quevedo at 408.347.5211)

East Side Focus—

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It is the policy of the East Side Union High School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, religion, race or national origin or handicapping conditions in its educational programs and activities or in the recruitment and employment of personnel.

Oak Grove Students Earn Distinction of AP Scholar

By LINDA BROWN, OAK GROVE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 15,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

The following students at Oak Grove High School have earned the distinction of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams.

These students earned an average grade of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale on **three** or more AP Exams. A score of 3 or higher earns college credit.

AP Scholar

Dean Amath	Gregorio Magana
Robin Rogers	Harpreet Bola
Lisa Nguyen	Chad Steck
Christopher Dinh	Minh-Thanh Nguyen
Patti Suen	Kieuhanh Duong
Nhu Trang Nguyen	Allen Tram
Denise Harano	Quoc-Si Nguyen
Diane Tran	Victoria Luong
Arianna Pham	Kira Tubo
Thao Ly	Tien Pham
Andy Vo	Samantha Lyter
Kathy Quach	Jade Vu

AP Scholar with Honor Award

These students earned an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, *and* grades of 3 or higher on **four** or more of these exams.

Victor Choi	Quan Nguyen
Stephen Yodz	Kevin Emani
Minh Tran	Christie Le
Tammy Tran	

AP Scholar with Distinction Award

This student earned an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken *and* grades of 3 or higher on **five** or more of these exams.

Annalee Hamilton	Yen Nguyen
Janki Patel	

**Congratulations to Oak Grove's
2005 AP Scholars!**

Greetings from James Lick High School

By BILL RICE, JAMES LICK HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



The 2005-2006 school year is off to a fantastic start on our small and charming campus. The freshman class is wonderful and has brought a focused academic attitude to high school. The senior class has many strong leaders who are ready to make their senior year outstanding. A significant change at *James Lick*, this year is the initiation of *Advisory period*. Each Wednesday students finish their class work at 2:30 p.m. so they can attend *Advisory* from 2:35-3:10 p.m. Ninth and tenth graders meet with the same 15-20 students and teacher for every advisory period.

Each Wednesday there is a thirty-five minute lesson plan that all twenty advisory teachers use. Last Wednesday, the topic of the lesson was *courage*. Students were asked to look at things teenagers normally fear—being alone, being rejected, being embarrassed, failing—and to discuss where we can get the *courage* to overcome those natural fears. The idea behind *Advisory* is for each ninth and tenth grader to have a teacher on campus who is looking out for them and working with them so they can be academically and personally successful.

The expectation is, fewer failing grades and more personal confidence as a result of *Advisory*. Eleventh and twelfth graders remain on campus for *Advisory*, but they are not assigned to a specific teacher. They have a choice to seek help or guidance wherever they need it. *Advisory* is required for all students, and the first six weeks suggest that students enjoy it.

W.C. Overfelt High School AP Students

By DIEGO CERTA, W.C. OVERFELT HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Principal, Diego Certa is proud to announce that **Wanshan Li** and **Vina Nguyen**, students at *William C. Overfelt High School* have earned the designation of *AP Scholar* by the *College Board* in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level *Advanced Placement Program AP Exams*. Congratulations to these fine *Overfelt* students.

Andrew Hill High School's Medical Magnet and Nursing Academy

By **MARILYN BLISS**, MEDICAL MAGNET COORDINATOR



The *Medical Magnet program* at Andrew Hill began in 1989 as a way to improve both graduation rates at the high school and college entrance levels. **Marilyn Bliss**, *Medical Magnet Coordinator* has used grants from the *California Endowment* and *Johnson and Johnson Corporation* to start a *Nursing Academy* within the Magnet program in 2002. "Students enrolled in the program are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA," said Ms Bliss. "I had a vision for six career paths in the Medical Magnet Program, and Nursing complements them all," remarked Bliss. There are currently over 550 students enrolled in the program.

Students are identified for the program in their freshman year and followed closely by school counselors to make sure their choice is a good fit. The *Nursing Academy* developed as a response to both community and student need. "We saw a real shortage of RNs in our community," said Bliss. "At the same time, we had a summer program training students to be CNAs. The next step was to prepare them to enter a college nursing program." In June 2005, 100% of the nursing students (31) graduated, of these students, twenty-two (22) are entering the nursing field and nineteen (19) have been accepted to 4-year colleges.

On September 27, 2005 Andrew P. Hill High School held its 3rd Annual Nursing/Health Academy Kick-Off Celebration. In attendance at the celebration were Superintendent **Bob Nuñez**, Principal **Dave Riley**, Medical Magnet Coordinator **Marilyn Bliss**, Nursing Academy Coordinator, **Chantal Chatman**, supporters and partners from Johnson and Johnson - **Amanda McMahan** and **Dr. Michael Bzdak**; ALZA Corporation - **Mark Yaukey** and **Linda Lee Smith**, Community Relations; The Coalition for Nursing Careers in California - **Jacqueline Noble**, and the Regional Health Occupations Resource Center; **Matt Grayson** and Andrew Hill support staff.

Closing remarks were given by **Mr. Mark Yaukey** of ALZA. He remarked about diversity in the workforce: cultural, religion, languages, gender, and ALZA's commitment to the *Nursing Program at Andrew Hill High School*. He announced an additional **\$20,000 donation** from ALZA and willingness to work with local partners so that Andrew Hill can continue their work.

(For more information on Andrew Hill's Medical Magnet and Nursing Program visit the district's website at www.esuhd.org or www.andrewhill.org.)



Silver Creek's Freshmen use Summer Vacation to Prepare for High School

By **DEBRA NAVARTIL**, SILVER CREEK ENGLISH TEACHER



The summer before freshman year of high school is normally full of shopping, traveling, and big parties. Kids in our area would visit Great America and the mall daily. This past summer, nearly 15% of *Silver Creek's* incoming freshmen voluntarily attended a special two-week *Summer Bridge Program*. Students arrived promptly at 8:00 a.m. everyday for two weeks, engaging in various activities (including a science lab, two article summaries, a single-paragraph essay, application of several literacy strategies, math lessons, a campus scavenger hunt, their four-year plan, and daily group-building activities). Though these students earned no credits, they knew this program would better prepare them for high school. It was a big success and promises to thrive as a component of our small learning communities.

Since *Silver Creek High School* started accepting grant money for small learning communities, the coordination and direction have flourished into the program we have today. Overcoming obstacles, the administration has been and continues to be actively supportive of this program, mirroring a likeminded committee of especially devoted staff-members from a wide range of disciplines making the *Freshman Focus* part of the grant a reality for the 2005-2006 school year. Thanks to our master schedule committee volunteering to help our goals materialize, every freshman belongs to a "House." Houses are groups of teachers who collaborate to create uniformity in students' classes. The majority of freshmen have classes with two or more teachers from their house.

In these first few weeks of school, our *Houses: Apollo, Challenger, and Enterprise*, have hit the ground running. This naming mimics *ACE*, our school wide goals, standing for *Academic* achievers, *Critical* thinkers, and *Effective* communicators. The heads of each *House* and the teachers within the houses continue to coordinate their efforts, brainstorm ideas to help their students further succeed and, build house, class, and school spirit among the freshmen. These *Houses* shall continue looking at data, streamlining the program to help students achieve academic, personal and social success.

Safety First!

By CARLA HOLZCLAW, SAFETY COORDINATOR

The *East Side Union High School District* watched the destruction caused by the gulf coast hurricanes with shock and disbelief. The events served to re-enforce the importance of our District's commitment to on-going emergency preparedness planning, response training and partnerships with our community's first responders.

Each of our schools uses an all-hazards approach for our safety program. In addition to semester earthquake and fire drills, schools conduct one **Code Red/Lockdown** drill each year with the San Jose Police Department. Schools also have Safety Committees to review safety plans, set annual site safety goals based on data review and then monitor the progress towards those goals. Committees meet a minimum of four times a year. If you would like to serve on this important committee, please contact the *Associate Principal* at your student's school.

This year, the *National Incident Management System, NIMS*, will be implemented as part of *Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5* and funded under a *Federal Emergency Response and Crisis Management* grant for K-12 schools in San Jose. *NIMS* requires each of our schools to have the *Incident Command System (ICS)* in place and be able to participate in Unified Command with fire and/or police during any emergency response. The *Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force* is co-sponsoring a "kick-off" training for schools with fire, police, city and community agencies, and *Santa Clara County Mental Health and Public Health* this **November** in the new *City Hall Rotunda*. Our schools and the District Office will each send three attendees. *ESUHSD* will provide additional training for all of our *ICS* teams.

Parents are East Side's most important partners in keeping our children safe. Our parents have a unique opportunity to participate in safety through the *Parent Safety Council (PSC)*, a district wide group of parents, school and district staff, and community members who share a common concern about safety within the *ESUHSD* and surrounding communities. The *PSC* meets four times a year to talk about safety issues, hear presentations about district safety programs, and support sites in their safety planning process. This is an excellent opportunity to share information about safety issues. Our first meeting is **October 26** at **6:30 P.M.** at *Independence High School* in the "C" Commons. **Contact Susan Cassens, President, at 408.729.6957 for additional information.**



Overfelt Graduate completes Basic Training at West Point



By DIEGO CERTA, W.C. OVERFELT HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Jennifer Acojedo, 2005 graduate and ASB president of *William C. Overfelt High School* was accepted and received a full four year scholarship to the prestigious *West Point Military Academy*. Jennifer recently completed basic training at *West Point* where only 16 percent of the students are female. Not only do the U.S. service academies rank competitively with the top academic institutions in the country, they also provide an opportunity for a solid career in the military.

Her academic and athletic excellence at *Overfelt High School* prepared her for the rigorous competition that she encountered during her first ten weeks. While at *Overfelt High School*, Jennifer was an outstanding scholar-athlete and student leader.

Tobacco Use and Prevention Education (TUPE) Program

By PENNY KELLEY, TUPE RESOURCE TEACHER

Each high school takes part in the ***Tobacco Use & Prevention Education (TUPE) Program***. *TUPE* is funded by a state tax on tobacco products. Tobacco is a dangerous drug that shortens life and causes other problems due to the high costs of medical care and missed work. It is against the law for minors to hold or use tobacco. All *East Side Union High School District* schools have a no tobacco policy on their grounds. Please tell your child not to bring tobacco to school. They may be cited by police and/or suspended.

The *ESUHSD* cares about the health and safety of all students and our *TUPE* program tells the truth about the risks of tobacco use and secondhand smoke. Research shows that children who breathe secondhand smoke have lower test scores in school.

There are classes at each school for those students who need help to quit using tobacco. Over half of student users have tried to cut down or quit using tobacco and want to stop.

Each school teaches lessons from *Too Good For Drugs & Violence* to help students stay away from risky behaviors.

We train student leaders to help spread the message about the dangers of tobacco use. We have events such as *health fairs, Red Ribbon Week, Great American Smokeout, and poster contests at each school.*

Parents are also welcome to get involved with our activities. Please contact the *TUPE Site Coordinator* at your school for more information.

If you would like more information for adults who need help to stop using tobacco, please call **1-800-NOBUTTS**.

Special Services Department— What's new with "IDEA '04?"

By "JAY" JOSEPH TOTTER, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

On December 3, 2004, the President signed into law the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004*, commonly known as *IDEA '04*. The bill makes sweeping changes to the original federal law and ensures that all children with disabilities have a free appropriate public education (*FAPE*) available to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living. Most of the changes mandated by "*IDEA '04*" became effective July 1, 2005 and the staff of the Special Services Department is working throughout the district to ensure that all provisions of the new law are fully implemented.

Educational benefit is one of the continuing focus areas in Special Education and refers to an *individualized educational program (IEP)* that should be reasonably calculated to result in educational benefit for the student as measured by the following:

- **Achieving passing marks**
- **Advancing from grade to grade**
- **Making progress in goals and objectives**
- **Improving scores on statewide tests**
- **Passing the CAHSEE**
- **Graduating from high school**

Reasonable calculation refers to the following actions taken by the *IEP* team:

- **Completing a comprehensive assessment**
- **Identifying the student's needs**
- **Establishing goals in each area of need**
- **Planning services to support progress**
- **Monitoring services and student progress**
- **Adjusting the *IEP* as needed**

The district is currently working on changes to the Special Education *IEP* forms in order to bring them into compliance with the new requirements of "*IDEA '04*." The new forms will be available for use beginning in **January 2006** and all Special Education staff are presently being trained on the procedures for writing and implementing compliant *IEPs*. The long-term plan for our district is to have all *IEPs* completed using computer software.

Yerba Buena's Construction Technology Academy

By JUAN CRUZ, YERBA BUENA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Yerba Buena High School is in its 2nd year of its *Construction Technology Academy*. The *Construction Technology Academy* provides students with a solid foundation for the many careers in the field of construction and job placement to qualified graduates and participants. The students in this program have had the opportunity to visit various construction projects and training centers. Graduates from this program will be competitive applicants to apprenticeship programs, trade schools, and colleges. The curriculum offers career ladders to college and to apprenticeships. Through this program students will become proficient in the use of technology, tools and processes appropriate to the building trades.

The *Building Trades Council* has been instrumental in getting this exciting program off the ground. The *Construction Technology Academy* was recently selected to receive funds raised from one of the *Building Trades'* successful fundraising events. At the fundraising event one of the academy's students spoke to the group about her experience with the program and about the opportunities that it has offered her in her pursuit of a career in the construction field. She was one of many students who were selected to take part in paid summer internships working with the many industry partners.



Pictured above are Yerba Buena Academy students on site with a construction crew.



Pictured to the left are Yerba Buena Construction Academy students working on a project.

Andrew Hill's Biotech Academy featured on National Television

BY MARY METZ, BIOTECH COORDINATOR

The *Biotech Academy* is a "school within a school" focusing on biotechnology at *Andrew P. Hill High School* with a diverse student population. Teachers from different content areas work together to build a small, supportive learning community and develop cross-curricular thematic projects that meet and exceed content standards in biology, chemistry, math, world history, and English. These teaching approaches can help at-risk students succeed in rigorous academic courses and graduate ready for college.

Students recently participated in a *World Race/Ancestry Project* which connected English, world history, and biology. In English, students read "*Kindred*," a science fiction slave narrative by Octavia Butler, to learn more about the horrors of slavery in the United States. In world history, students are assigned a country to explore in depth. Students look for evidence of child labor, gender issues, sexual orientation and identity, religious freedom issues, type of government, nationalism, racial/ethnic issues, and imperialism. In biology, students do the *PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction)* to analyze an *Alu* segment of *DNA* from their own cheek cells and look for variation to see differences and similarities between classmates. In principle, *PCR* can reproduce the genetic material of any organism in essentially unlimited quantities, so it can be used to analyze any cells containing that material. **The bottom line: students discover**



that all humans are 99.9% genetically equal.

The *Biotech Academy* was recently spotlighted in an episode of *Silicon Valley High (SVH)*, the television series! In fact, *SVH's* first season just went national! Twenty-four *PBS* stations around the nation will be playing "*Inside the Biotech Academy: Using the Small Learning Community Approach to Implement a Rigorous High School Curriculum*" starting this fall season! The *Biotech Academy* was also honored at the *Hispanic Foundation's Charity Ball* on October 1, 2005, with a grant and recognition for helping Hispanic students succeed in science. The *Biotech Academy* has also received over the past five years: **\$48,000** from the *Genentech Foundation for Biomedical Science* and **\$70,000** from *Agilent Technologies*.

News from Evergreen Valley High School

BY TIM McDONOUGH, EVERGREEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Evergreen Valley High School's staff and students continue to demonstrate a commitment to our Vision "to sustain continuous academic growth through an environment of mutual trust and commitment to excellence". This commitment can be seen in the following areas for *EVHS*.

State and National Assessments

- Continued growth in the *Academic Performance Index* from a score of 712 in 2003 to 815 in 2005, exceeding the state's 2005 "target" score by 35 points and becoming the first school in the *East Side Union High School District* to reach and exceed the 800 mark. *EVHS* also had the highest daily average student attendance, "ADA", in the district in 2005

- Overall pass rates for the *California High School Exit Exam* for 10th graders in 2005, 91% in Math and 93% in English/Language Arts, with 74% scoring at "Proficient or Advanced" in each area.

- 871 total *Advanced Placement Exams* taken by 562 *EVHS* students in 2005, second only to Silver Creek's 927 exams taken by 496 students. 67 *EVHS* students received recognition by the College Board as *AP Scholars*, with 37 *Scholars*, 13 *Scholars with Honor*, 15 *Scholars with Distinction* and 2 *National AP Scholars!*

Commitment to Positive Community Values

- More than 40 school clubs presented students with the opportunity to join during the September Club Faire. *EVHS* again hosted the *Blossom Valley Athletic League's "Honor the*



- Game*" conference and agreed to host the conference for the third year in a row in 2007, as well as hosting "Set the Record Straight", a powerful presentation on the realities and strategies of learning to market oneself for college athletic scholarships, for parents, students and coaches in the *BVAL*. *EVHS* will also host the annual *Santa Clara County "College Night" on November 1, 2005*.

Support for Learning and Post-Secondary Education Goals

- EVHS "Cougar Success Center"* will host a series of workshops this fall to ensure students and parents get grade-level appropriate information about high school and college requirements. Seniors are taken step-by-step through the college application and Financial Aid process. Staff members meet regularly with our African-American and Latino parents and students, addressing individual and social issues of achievement. We are joined by a committed group of parents determined to support our Latino and African-American community.

- Homework Centers have been established for students beginning 7th period and extending after school. Teachers and tutors work with students on the completion of assignments and review of learning in the four core subject areas and many of our elective areas.

We continue to promote academic, social and personal growth for all of our students, seeking to identify gaps in achievement and involvement and provide support for reducing those gaps too often seen in high schools across our country.

Kudo's Corner

ESUHS D STAFF MEMBERS: RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS/SERVICE

Bill Collins—

A special thank you to Bill for providing years of outstanding guidance to the *Jose Valdes Math Institute*! Bill is now guiding the *Math Recovery Program* at *Independence High School*, where I know he will do a great job!

Gene Dorsa—

Congratulations to Gene on being selected as our district's "Teacher of the Year" representative in the *Santa Clara County Office of Education 36th Annual Teacher Recognition Day*. Gene was featured with other teacher representatives in last Sunday's *Mercury News*. Gene is a thirty-two year veteran teacher at *Overfelt High School*. Thank you for representing us as "Teacher of the Year" Recognition - 36th Annual Teacher Recognition Day!

Christine Cali—

Congratulations to Christine on being named "Educator of the Year." Christine was recognized as an exemplary teacher in the local neighborhood section of the *San Jose Mercury News*. The *Mercury News* is featuring a neighborhood magazine where educators, athletes, businesses are featured. Christine from *Overfelt High School* was featured recently. Congratulations!

Jeff Rehrig—

A teacher at *Overfelt High School* was instrumental in launching a small learning academy at *Overfelt High School*. He is to be congratulated for his contributions to the success of the academy and the recognition it has brought to the district. Jeff's classroom was visited by *California's First Lady Maria Shriver* on May 16 of this year. "The awareness that was generated as a result of her visit has been enormous," stated Rehrig.

Rehrig has officially dedicated the academy in honor of the *First Lady's mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver*. Jeff was recognized as "Teacher of the Week," by the *San Jose Mercury News* for his accomplishment. Once again, congratulations Jeff for your outstanding work and dedication to the students and community of the *East Side Union High School District*.

Marilyn Bliss—

The Coordinator of the *Medical and Health Professions Program* at *Andrew Hill High School*, was one of four individuals honored at an Awards Ceremony in Washington DC in September 2005. The honorees received the prestigious *Arthur White Award "Making a Difference"*, sponsored by *Johnson and Johnson* and *Johnson Arthur White*. Mr. White is the cofounder of the esteemed "Jobs for the Future" organization. He believes that it takes commitment and vision to lead society toward a social change and he calls such individuals—"Social Entrepreneurs." Marilyn Bliss is one such "Social Entrepreneur." Congratulations Marilyn and keep up the great work you are doing for the students and community of *East Side Union High School District*.

Suzanne Guven—

Special Education teacher at *Andrew Hill High School*, received her *Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership* from *Argosy University* on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Suzanne has taught at *Andrew Hill* for the last five years after graduating from *San Jose*

State University in May 2000 with a degree in Child Development. Suzanne had originally planned on a career as an elementary school teacher, but her husband, who is also a teacher at *Andrew Hill* kept insisting she consider a career in high school. So, after visiting a few classes at the high school level, decided to teach special education because she saw that high school kids can be so needy and giving at the same time. She decided to teach special education because she felt she had a tremendous opportunity to impact students on an academic and personal level, more so than in the mainstream. "I think it is important to explain the reason I am passionate about helping students with special needs, because I am one," stated Suzanne. "I suffer from dyslexia, and found it extremely difficult to learn in my early years. I did not learn to read until the fourth grade. While by high school I was completely mainstreamed and eventually undesignated, it was mostly to avoid the stigma of being a special education student." In order to continue as a special education teacher she enrolled at *National University* to study *Special Education*. Two years later she earned her MS in *Special Education*.

Shortly after she completed her thesis, she gave birth to her first child. By the time her daughter was four months old, she was accepted into the *Argosy University Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership* program. After three years of research and examining teacher's attitudes toward the integration/mainstreaming of special education students she has been awarded her *Doctorate of Education*. Suzanne and her husband are expecting their second child in January.

Again, congratulations Suzanne on your outstanding accomplishment and dedication to the students of the *East Side Union High School District*.

Steve Walch—

Microcomputer Technician (Independence) as an on call member of a *Search and Rescue Unit for FEMA and Homeland Security* was immediately deployed when Hurricane Katrina struck the gulf coast. Steve was stationed for over three weeks as a *Communication Specialist* while his district IT tech colleagues stepped in to process work orders for *Independence*. Reports from his unit commander indicated that Steve provided quality and poised leadership for his team during the overwhelming calamity of Hurricane Katrina.

Thank you for your outstanding service to the victims of this disaster, Steve; welcome home.

East Side Union High School District
Interim Superintendent Bob Nuñez
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