

# East Side

# Focus



ACADEMIC, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SUCCESS FOR EACH AND EVERY STUDENT

A PUBLICATION OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2005, ISSUE 2



Merry Christmas



Happy Hanukkah



Happy Kwanza



## Season's Greetings

### A Christmas Message from the Superintendent



It's hard to believe that the first semester is ending. The time has flown by this year! My wish for you is to return in January reenergized and prepared to face the challenges that remain before us. For many of us, this is the season to reflect because reflection replenishes energies, opens minds, and builds optimism. As you prepare for your holiday celebrations, I hope you will take the time to cherish the moments of this special season with your children, family, and friends. Although this season may be hectic in that we plan many activities in a single day, or we travel and are tired by the time we reach our destination, taking the time to reflect on the experiences of the past year, allows you to look forward with hope and confidence towards the future.

As your family prepares for the wonder and excitement of a new year, please keep in mind the following quote by **Amelia Earhart**, "The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one's appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love, and understanding companionship." In the East Side Union High School District family, the process of continuous improvement has been initiated in the Human Resources and the Business departments, and will be expanded to include other departments as resources and time allows. The review committees will continue to work and collaborate with all the stakeholders in improving the delivery of all services. One key position to the delivery of instructional services is that of the *Interim Superintendent of Instructional Services*, **Linda Gubman**. Please join me in welcoming **Ms. Linda Gubman** to East Side. She joins us on **January 3, 2006**.

May this season bring love, happiness, and health to you and your family. **Manuel, Lan, George, Patricia, Craig and I** look forward to the New Year, and hope one of your New Year's resolutions will be to attend a school activity. See you at the games!

Happy Holidays,

**Bob Nuñez**  
Interim Superintendent

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## Special Services Department— CASEMIS and Student Data

By "Jay" JOSEPH TOTTER, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES



The California Special Education Management Information System (CASEMIS) is the state-wide database for all students enrolled in special education. The database includes demographic information about the student, as well as information contained within the student's IEP. At anytime and anywhere in the state, the CASEMIS can locate and identify any special education student currently enrolled in a public school. When a student transfers from one school district to another within the state, the CASEMIS data is automatically and electronically transmitted to the new school district. The CASEMIS also maintains an educational history of the student from the first date of enrollment within special education until the present day.

The information contained in the database is compared to other similar school districts throughout the state as well as the state in general. By comparing the information, our district can determine how we rate in relation to the other districts. As in general education, the state has set targets for special education programs called Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the CASEMIS database is used to determine if our district has met these annual targets.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which are presently reported through the CASEMIS data are as follows:

- Percent of students who scored proficient or above on STAR or CAPA tests in Mathematics and English/Language Arts.
- Percent of students included in mainstreamed classes and other school activities.
- Percent of students returned to full-time general education classes and placements.
- Percent of students who have graduated from high school.
- Percent of students who have dropped out of school.
- Percent of students who are receiving special education services.
- Percent of students receiving special education services related to overall enrollment patterns based upon ethnic background within the district.



## “Sciencepalooza” — Parents, come judge at our science fair!

By HEIDI STRAHM BLACK, SCIENCE FAIR COORDINATOR, ESUHS SERVICES

Friday, May 13, 2005, turned out to be a very good day. Dreams and goals were realized through the work of a sophomore from Oak Grove High School. **Terik Daly** placed at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. He went on to win “Best Project” at the California State Science Fair. Terik received nearly \$20,000 in scholarships for his entries. **Steven Hoa** from Silver Creek received a paid summer internship at Agilent.

In 1999, the role of science fair coordinator for East Side Union High School District was created. The task: increase district participation in Science Fair. At that time, about 55 East Side students participated in the Santa Clara County Science and Engineering Fair. Last year, over 1800 district students participated in “Sciencepalooza”, and nearly 200 competed in the County Science Fair, now the “Synopsis Championship”; East Side students account for over half of the high school participants. It is not my doing, but the over and above efforts of 45 science teachers and the support of the Synopsis Outreach Foundation that have made this astonishing difference.

The seventh annual “Sciencepalooza” will be held on **Saturday, February 11, 2006** at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, but the Science Fair can’t happen without judges and volunteers. And, of course, we need your child there to participate. The “Synopsis Championship” will follow on **March 8-9, 2006** at the McEnery Convention Center. You can find information that will help prepare students for both events, and links to sign up for judging at [www.science-fair.org](http://www.science-fair.org) or [www.outreach-foundation.org](http://www.outreach-foundation.org)

We hope to see you there! Let’s make more dreams come true. For additional information please contact **Heidi Strahm Black**, Science Fair Coordinator at **408.347.6563**.



### East Side Focus

is an official publication of the East Side Union High School District.

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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 employment of personnel.



# Student Services Division Overview—



By CARLA HOLZCLAW, ESUHSD SAFETY COORDINATOR

The *Student Services Division* is managed by Assistant Superintendent **Ric Abeyta** who can be contacted at **408.347.5330**. He provides support to all students and their families which provides each and every student the opportunity to learn and study in a safe and secure environment. The departments under his management include *attendance, safety, support services, telecommunications and transportation* and are assisted by the *Division Secretary Vangie Avila, (408.347.5331)*.

*Student Attendance* is monitored under the guidance of **Kim Vasquez, (408.347.5232)**. We also have a *Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)* process designed to support students and families in maintaining positive school attendance patterns which allow students the maximum opportunity to learn. The *SARB Secretary is Deborah Sanchez (408.347.5201)*. The *Board* is composed of district personnel, law enforcement, social service agencies, parents and community members, who meet regularly to diagnose and resolve persistent student attendance problems.

Additionally, our *Student Support Services Office*, under **George Sanchez, (408.347.5202)**, administers the district's inter-district transfer agreements and conducts expulsion hearings. The office is also the respondent for student referrals to alternative educational programs. Each of our sites has a variety of *Safety Programs*, including monitoring and updating annual safety plans that provide information and procedures for all kinds of emergencies, instituting new safety mandates, such as the *Incident Command System*, successfully conducting *fire, earthquake and Code Red Drills* and working in partnership with the *San Jose Safe School Campus Initiative* and *Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force* (the *San Jose Police Department, San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Santa Clara Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office*) to maintain safe environments on our campuses and in our communities. The district's *Safety Coordinator, Carla Holtzclaw*, assists the Associate Principals in these areas.

Every school has a *Healthy Start* type of *Support Services program* that receives guidance from our *Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Education Coordinator, Penny Kelley, (408.347.5182)*. The following types of services are offered: social services, mental health services, drug and alcohol counseling, gang diversion, psychological services, smoking cessation, parenting classes and conflict mediation or resolution. Many agencies have staff located on our campuses to assist students with problems. *Social Worker Interns* are supervised through our office as well by **Frances Palacios, (408.347.5336)**, who also has conducted two major *Diversity Trainings*

this year and provides coaching for the new Associate Principals in the District.

Currently, *East Side* has been accounting for outreach activities in assisting families. Under the *Medical Administrative Activities*, schools are reimbursed for these activities. *Special Kudos* to **Penny Kelly, Diana Santos**, and all of the *Multi-Service Team Coordinators* as the driving forces behind this effort – *Mt. Pleasant, Evergreen, Silver Creek, Santa Teresa and Oak Grove High Schools* have made incredible strides in documenting *MAA* activities that will exceed one million dollars in 2006-2007 revenues for sustaining the *Student Support Services Programs* on our campuses.

The *East Side Telecommunications Group* was created in 1998 to operate, administer and maintain the district's telecommunications system, including broadband facilities. We have over 9200 telephone and voice mailboxes and 45,000 calls per day. We maintain over 500,000 miles of cable facilities (installation, repair and administration of the telecommunications wire plant). **Bill Masching, (408.347.5123)**, heads up this group of dedicated experts.

Our *Transportation Group* operates more than sixty-five (65) school buses each day to carry more than 1000 students safely to and from school and log more than 1.04 million miles annually. The majority of our routes service special education students. The remainder of the routes serve students in various programs including *Magnet Programs, Family Learning Centers, No Child Left Behind transfers* and contracted schools. **David Jimenez, (408.347.5057)**, supervises this department. We also want to welcome our new *Operations Supervisor Tony Taormino, (408.347.5058)*.

After serving the *East Side Union High School District* as dispatcher for 21½ years, we want to wish **Judith Long** the very best in her retirement.



# New Partnerships for East Side Adult Education—



By **Cari Vaeth**, Interim Director of Adult Education

An exciting new partnership began this fall with the opening of the **Dr. Roberto Cruz, Alum Rock Library** across the street from *James Lick High School*. The *San Jose Public Library's* beautiful new facility is hosting an adult education class. In collaboration with the *East Side Adult Education ESL Program*, a multilevel class is meeting in the Community Room of the new library, Monday through Thursday mornings at 8:45 am. Adult students have weekly access to the library's Technology Center.

Everyone is pleased with the success of this class, especially the students who attend it! The news of this

successful pilot has spread and now a second partnership has been established with the **Tully Community Library**.



A new ESL class will begin there in mid-**January 2006**. These partnerships are key to *East Side Adult Education's* efforts to bring ESL classes

directly to the neighborhoods of the adults who want to learn English. Another new and exciting partnership has started with the *Even Start Program* supported by



the *Alum Rock Foundation*. Currently, **East Side Adult Education Multi-level ESL** classes are being offered at both *Mildred Goss Elementary* and *San Antonio Elementary* schools. These ESL students are parents of elementary school students.

While the schools are preparing their children for future success in the *East Side Union High School District*, these parents are preparing to become active participants in their child's future by learning English and parenting skills. For more information, please contact **Cari Vaeth**, Interim Director East Side Adult Education at **408.928.9310**.



## Do you know the way to San Jose?

By **Joyce Coburn**, Oak Grove High School-Director of Academics

Actually, many high school students do not know the "downtown" area of San Jose very well. They certainly know their shopping malls, but for this trip, they acquired information about two major tourist attractions in our city: *Tech Museum of Innovation* and *Winchester Mystery House*.

On October 12, 13, and 14, 2005 ninety (90), 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school freshmen from the *Academy of Travel & Tourism* and the *Academy of Business & Finance* spent the day in downtown San Jose where they met with marketing and human resources managers and matched their "employability skills" to attraction-related careers.

Academy student **Yasmin Garcia** thought that being a tour guide for the *Winchester Mystery House* would be interesting because: "I am very outgoing, patient, and can memorize a script as well as not get lost!" **Mr. Kagoshima**, General Manager, taught the students marketing strategies for this unique destination and discussed future job internships that they could complete as they progress in the academy program.

"At the Tech Museum, I would enjoy being an

engineer because I love to fix and create things and could use my thinking and imagination skills," states



freshman **Chad Cunningham**. The students learned that by working at "The Tech" they would be interacting with people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds who want to experience technology that affects their everyday lives. **Bill Bailor** and **Judy Sanders**, Human Resources Managers, gave them insights into a variety of career areas available. In addition, they encouraged the students to sign up for volunteer experiences with "The Tech" that would allow them to earn community service awards in the academy.

These familiarization trips give students opportunities to match their personalities, skills, values, and academics to career areas that attract them so that they can better plan their future.

If interested in joining the Academies of Oak Grove High School, contact the Director, **Mrs. Joyce Coburn** at **408.347.6572**.



## Yerba Buena's JROTC Program

By MAJOR CHIN, YERBA BUENA HIGH SCHOOL JROTC COMMANDER

The Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program has been on the Yerba Buena High School campus for the past 11 years. The mission of the program is to motivate young people to be better citizens. Some of its goals are to promote citizenship, develop leadership skills, improve physical fitness, provide incentives to live drug-free, strengthen positive self-motivation, promote team work, and to graduate from high school. Under the leadership of its two instructors **Major Chin** and **Sergeant Major Montalvo** the program has motivated young women and men to participate in many school and community activities.

During this past summer the JROTC cadets were given the honor to march in the City of Milpitas' 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade for the first time. In addition, at this summer's Small Learning Community Program several cadets served as volunteer mentors for the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students that attended the program.

With the start of school year the JROTC cadets have once again shown their commitment to serve the school and its community. The Color Guard unit, under the leadership of **Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Marwin Blanaz** received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award at the San José Fiestas Patrias Parade. The cadets have volunteered to facilitate the issuing of translating devices and handouts at our monthly general parent meetings. For the holiday season the cadets will be volunteering at the Lola Williams Senior Center and the Seven Trees Community Center serving meals and helping to decorate their facilities. Furthermore, the JROTC cadets organize a holiday food drive to help the local food bank.

The JROTC program is committed to helping improve the students' academic standing. On October 29<sup>th</sup> Yerba Buena High JROTC hosted the Annual Academic Challenge for district-wide JROTC programs at Mount Pleasant High School. Furthermore, the JROTC department has started the "Improve your GPA Program." Cadets with a GPA of 3.0 or better for each grading period are invited to a pizza party. Cadets with a GPA of 2.0 or better will have an opportunity to participate in the Annual JROTC Leadership Camp. The Yerba Buena High School community is proud to have the Army JROTC program on its campus.



## Commitment to the Community

By TIM McDONOUGH, EVERGREEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Evergreen Valley High School's staff and students continue to demonstrate a commitment to EVHS's **Vision**— "to sustain continuous academic growth through an environment of mutual trust and commitment to excellence." A major portion of this commitment is the maintenance of positive school and parent communication and community involvement.

EVHS' emphasis on parent communication includes our weekly *Principal's autodial messages* to all EVHS families and our ever-improving use of *School Loop* to keep students, parents and teachers connected and well informed and linked in a partnership for educational success.

In addition, EVHS' "Cougar Success Center" has hosted a series of workshops this fall to ensure students and parents get grade-level appropriate information about high school and college requirements. Most recent workshops have included UC and CSU "Personal Statement," "On-Line On-Time" registration preparation and registration workshops. Also EVHS hosted the annual "College Fair" for Santa Clara County high school students and families on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The community shows its support for our school in multiple ways. EVHS' outstanding *Athletic Booster Club* provides support to our teams and our facilities through their tireless fundraising efforts, selling concession refreshments at our home games and with their "Annual Crafts Faire" which took place the weekend of November 12. With the guidance of our excellent *School Site Council* and *School Plan*, 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. It is our intention to "Live Our Vision!"



### Announcements—

Listed below is an update on some key administrative, certificated, and classified positions that have recently been filled.

- **Linda Gubman**, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
- **Jerry Kurr**, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
- **Ron Smith**, Associate Principal, Oak Grove HS
- **Jeanne Mestaz**, Associate Principal, Evergreen Valley HS
- **Alecia Myers**, Subject Area Coordinator, Health and Physical Education
- **Suzanne Torres**, Subject Area Coordinator, English
- **Becky Laguna**, Administrative Assistant, Instructional Services
- **Tony Taormino**, Operations Supervisor, Transportation Department
- **Anna Rizzo**, Account Clerk II, Career Services
- **Noemi Ramirez**, Advisor, Andrew Hill HS
- **Elaine Pineres**, Principal Secretary, Andrew Hill HS

# Our Operations/Facilities Department has been busy—



By KATHY KEVATOS, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, OPERATIONS DIVISION

## Classroom Renovations Completed

Complete renovation of multiple classrooms at three high schools included inside and out, top to bottom upgrades. New roofing, floor, wall, & ceiling finishes, new lighting, and new electrical, mechanical, and technology systems were provided.

### •C, D, E Wings at Piedmont Hills



Science classrooms at Piedmont Hills

### •Villa B at Independence



Typical exteriors at Independence

### •Building 200 at Yerba Buena



Classrooms at Yerba Buena

## Outdoor Athletic Fields

### Track & Field sitework well underway at James Lick, Oak Grove, & Yerba Buena.

Construction is well underway on track and field upgrades at James Lick, Oak Grove, and Yerba Buena. When completed, all three sites will have new all weather, state of the art athletic fields including new bleachers.

At Mount Pleasant High School, where track and field upgrades were completed earlier this year, work to install new bleachers is underway.

### Baseball Field Site Improvements underway at Andrew Hill



### Track & Field Upgrades at Andrew Hill were completed earlier this year. Stadium Lighting & Scoreboard project underway at Andrew Hill

A construction contract for the installation of new stadium lighting and a scoreboard at the Track & Field Stadium to allow hosting of football and soccer night games has been awarded. Contractor preparations and mobilization is in progress.



## Safety & Security

### Video surveillance upgrades at all campuses out to bid.

Plans and specifications for installation of safety and security cameras at East Side High Schools have been completed. Work will include mounting power and data connections for over one hundred security cameras.

This project provides the campus with digital imaging and recording. The system uses video cameras installed throughout the campus, including the hallways of selected classroom buildings. The images collected by these cameras are stored in digital video recorders (DVR's). School or District office personnel can view the stored images using their computer workstations. An Alarm Monitoring Center can view stored images in real time, an enhancement to our current alarm systems.

Solicitation of competitive bids from installation contractors is in progress.

## Upcoming Projects

- *New Classroom Building at Evergreen Valley*
- *Villa D Renovation at Independence*
- *New Classroom Building at Andrew Hill*
- *New Child Care Building at Andrew Hill*
- *New Science & Classroom Building at Silver Creek*
- *New Science & Classroom Buildings at W.C. Overfelt*
- *New Performing Arts Buildings at Mount Pleasant*



## Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez Contests

By KATHY GONZALEZ, SANTA TERESA HIGH SCHOOL

Every year our students have the opportunity to highlight their artistic and literary skills by participating in two contests. The *Martin Luther King Contest* includes both an artistic and writing competition. The *Cesar Chavez Contest* focuses solely on writing.

The *National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)*, who sponsors the *Martin Luther King (MLK)* contest, has incorporated to become the *Silicon Valley Conference for Community and Justice (SVCCJ)*. The *SVCCJ* and *Lockheed* are continuing with the *MLK* multimedia category. There is a district level prize with each site choosing a first place winner and sending it on to the district level judging.

Students may work alone or in teams of two—no large groups. Rubrics are available for judging and promoting both contests, in the writing and art categories. Teachers are encouraged to share these with students. The art category has been expanded to include more than just pointillism.

## Gymnasium Renovation at Independence

A complete exterior and interior renovation of the gymnasium at Independence is coming to completion. Upgrades include a complete new hardwood floor, new bleachers, new lighting and painting, restroom upgrades and a new entry.



## HVAC + Roof Replacement Completed



Completed the roof replacement and installation of new HVAC package units at Oak Grove, Building U.

Students and teachers are reminded to that Social Security numbers are required to allow the release of prize checks.

All schools have received copies of flyers for both contests that included topics and deadlines for both. The topic for the *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* contest is: “*All the peoples of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace.*” The deadline was **Monday, December 5, 2005**. The *MLK Awards Reception* is scheduled for **Friday, January 13, 2006**.

The topic for the *Cesar Chavez* contest is: “*In giving of yourself you will discover a whole new life full of meaning and love.*” The deadline is **Monday, February 27, 2006**. The *Cesar Chavez Awards Luncheon* is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2006**.

Please call **Kathy Gonzalez** at *Santa Teresa High School*, **408.347.6319** or **408.347.6320** or email at [gonzalezk@esuhsd.org](mailto:gonzalezk@esuhsd.org) for more information.

# Kudo's Corner

*ESUHSD STAFF MEMBERS/STUDENTS: RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS/SERVICE*

## California League of High Schools honors East Side Union High School District teachers

On **December 14, 2005**, ten teachers were honored by the *California League of High Schools* as the *Region V "Educators of the Year."* Six of those teachers recognized were *East Side Union High School District* teachers. The following *East Side* staff members were honored:

- *Pamela Stafford*, Santa Teresa High School
- *Kathy Davis*, W.C. Overfelt High School
- *Paula Ridley*, Mt. Pleasant High School
- *Jan Sanchez*, Independence High School
- *Vince Proby*, Oak Grove High School
- *Sharon Metoyer-Jones*, Silver Creek High School

This is a recognition of excellence of high school teachers. Congratulations for an outstanding job!



## East Side Union High School District teachers are recognized for educational excellence

Every year members of the academic community are recognized for educational excellence. This year nine members of the *Silver Creek* staff were honored in the 2004-2005 edition of **Who's Who Among America's Teachers**. The following individuals members received this honor:

- *Gary Zellner*
- *T.N. Quang*
- *Tricia Amstrup*
- *Jane Voss*
- *Traci Williams*
- *Nguyet Nguyen*
- *Leena Guttal*
- *Graciela P. Vokt*
- *Steven Taylor*

The *Board of Trustees* and *Superintendent Nuñez* wish to congratulate and acknowledge these individuals by announcing the news of this outstanding achievement. This accomplishment is a great honor for the district, school and community.

Again, congratulations to these individuals for being recognized for their educational excellence.



## East Side Union High School District Artists Showcase Winners!

Four *Silver Creek High School* students were recently selected as winners at the *Young Artists Showcase for 2005* at the *Santa Clara County Office of Education*. These talented artists are:

- *Quynh Le*
- *An Pham*
- *Raymond Romero*
- *Shawn Thomas*

Please take the time to visit and view these students' artwork that is on permanent display at the *Santa Clara County Office of Education* located at 1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131. For directions or a map go to <http://www.sccoe.org/schooldirectory/schoolsinfo/ridderparkmap>.

Congratulations to these very talented young artists and their families.

*East Side Union High School District*  
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