

East Side Union High School District

830 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133



Kudos

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Colin Powell with Valdes students.



James Morgan, CEO of Applied Materials with Valdes students.

Jose Valdes Students Meet Colin Powell

Six students from the Jose Valdes Program represented the district at Silicon Valley's Semiconductor 30th Anniversary Gala earlier this month and were personally greeted by **General Colin Powell**.

The students were there to accept a \$200,000 donation by SEMI to the Valdes Program. The program, which serves over 1,200 students every summer, was one of

five bay area educational initiatives that SEMI honored at this prestigious event. Over 2000 people attended the gala ball at Hanger One at Moffett Field, where General Colin Powell was the guest of honor.

Staff members attending were **Ken Brashear, Helen Smith and Angelina Estrella**.

East Side Takes Lead in Literacy Effort

Thanks to the leadership of **Dan Ordaz**, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, over 300 6th, 7th and 8th graders from Franklin McKinley are involved in a 6 week, four hour a day literacy institute this summer. This special project which will be expanded next year to include Alum Rock and Oak Grove School Districts, is an intervention and mediation effort to improve the reading skills of students who are not reading at grade level. East Side provided the professional development and materials for the teachers and assisted in organizing the effort.

In addition, close to 800 incoming 9th graders are participating in a six week five hour a day literacy and math institute at Independence and Yerba Buena. **Nancy Kennett** and **Al Jaffa** are coordinating the effort at Independence and **Kristin John** is managing Yerba Buena's program. Teachers from the middle schools team teach with East Side teachers and collaborate for 2 hours every day after the students leave. The success rate for students who attended this institute last year was 13% higher in math and 8% higher in English over students who didn't attend the institute.

An Idea To Consider to Increase Communications to Parents

Santa Teresa staff is asking parents if they have an e-mail address and offers to put them on a mail list. These parents receive the daily bulletin, meeting notices and other information on a regular basis. Over 600 parents have signed up for this service. A parent volunteer helps monitor and maintain the list.

Math and Science Teachers Work on Raising the Bar

Math teachers from Andrew Hill, Independence, James Lick, Mt. Pleasant, W.C. Overfelt and Yerba Buena have been working over the past month to review and expand the James Lick Standards-Based Math Curriculum Project. Their goal is to have four of the six units finished by mid August. If all goes as planned the units would be posted to the web for use by teachers before school starts. Special recognition is given to **Barbara Schallau** for chairing this effort and to her team of teachers.

A similar project is being initiated in science. **Gene Gallock**, Subject Area Coordinator, along with science teachers **Merle Boxill** and **Bob Wilson**, have been busy preparing for a two week session in August with 30 science teachers throughout the district. This group will be developing Standards Based Assessment instruments and associated curriculum for Integrated Science I and II.

“It’s a new and different way of teaching which will enable more students to experience success at a higher level,” said Gallock.

Check out Other East Side Events

Keep up with East Side by visiting <http://events.esuhsd.org>.

Comments and suggestions are encouraged. Please call the Office of Public Information at **347-5040** or e-mail comments@esuhsd.org.

Mt. Pleasant’s Underwater Classroom

Nine students from Mt. Pleasant’s Marine JROTC just completed over 100 hours of instruction to complete the requirements for open water scuba certification. The basic scuba instruction required students to apply mathematical skills and to learn physiology and earth sciences with an emphasis on marine biology and environmental issues. Students also had to participate in strenuous physical activity to get in top condition to meet the rigors of the course. In addition, they honed their organizational skills and developed a good work ethic. Their classes sometimes lasted until 11:30p.m. and they had to leave San Jose at 5:15a.m. on the two days they did their open dives in the ocean. The course demanded that their levels of maturity and

Renowned Educational Consultant Works with 90 East Side Teachers

Dr. Roger Taylor, expert in the areas of interdisciplinary instruction and integrated curriculum, provided a 4 day workshop for ninety East Side teachers. Dr. Taylor’s work has been adopted and implemented in thousands of schools. He is extremely knowledgeable in the areas of most effective ways to work with at-risk and gifted students, developing and implementing interdisciplinary instruction and integrated curriculum, teaching critical thinking skills, and using school-to-career educational models. Staff members from Santa Teresa, Silver Creek, Overfelt and Yerba Buena are attending the workshop. They are designing their own integrated curriculum using an interdisciplinary model which emphasizes literature based



strategies, higher order thinking skills, multiple intelligence, cooperative learning, essential elements of effective instruction, portfolio assessment, brain-based teaching/learning styles, and character education/affective based teaching. The model is applicable to all subject areas.

Reactions from those attending has been very positive. Kudos to **Laura Gschwend, Laurene Payne, Ralph Giannini, and Warren Strouse** for playing major roles in facilitating this event.



responsibility rise well above that which is expected of other high school students and they all rose to the occasion. Special kudos to **Lt. Col. Mike Clough**, JROTC instructor who arranged this outstanding opportunity for the students.



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