

# East Side Union High School District

830 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133



# Kudos

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ACADEMIC, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SUCCESS FOR EACH AND EVERY STUDENT

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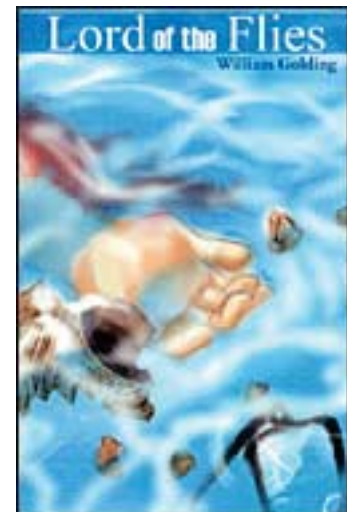
Happy Holidays!  
Enjoy a safe and  
peaceful holiday  
season with  
family and  
friends.

Kudos was initiated to promote the many achievements of the East Side family members, schools, staff, students, parents and alumni. If you are aware of special recognitions given to members of our family, please send the information to: Lorraine Guerin (guerinl@esuhsd.org), Public Information Office, 830 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133.

## Mt. Pleasant Student Wins Art Contest

Mt. Pleasant junior, **Nancy Thai** won 1st place in the High School Division in the San Jose Public Library's Teen Read Week Art Contest. Nancy was selected by a panel of community arts professionals. Students had been asked to illustrate a book cover for their favorite book. Nancy chose *Lord of the Flies*. Enlarged copies of the winning artwork were displayed at San Jose City Hall in November and they are posted on the library's website: [www.sjpl.lib.ca.us](http://www.sjpl.lib.ca.us). The winners will receive their awards at an upcoming city council meeting.

Congratulations to **Nancy Thai** on her award winning art work and kudos to the San Jose Public Library for their efforts to engage students in reading and art and for promoting their work.



## East Side Union Students Honored by National Merit Scholarship Program

A number of East Side Union High School seniors have been selected as National Merit Semifinalist Scholars and Commended Scholars for their achievement on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. **Uy Tran** (Overfelt), **Joyce Choi** and **Bobby Tomkiewicz** (Santa Teresa), and **Brian Plimley** (Independence) were selected as National Merit Semifinalists and will continue in the 2003 competition for Merit Scholarship Awards. Only 16,000 students out of the 1.3 million taking the test in the nation reach this level in the competition.

Although the following students are not considered for the Merit Scholarships, these commended students placed among the top 5% in the nation who entered the competition. The East Side commended students are: **Laura Knight** and **Jimmy Vu** (Piedmont Hills); **Shauna Jackson**, **Jonathan Kinsey**, **Daniel Landry** and **Luke Remy** (Santa Teresa); **Lara Estrada**, **Eric Farraro**, **Vien Q. Nguyen** and **Damon Rivard** (Independence) and **Michael Nguyen** (Oak Grove).

In the National Hispanic Recognition

Program, which uses the same qualifying test, **Christopher Ortega** (Piedmont Hills) and **Michael Wright** (Independence) were recognized as Scholars. They were among the top scoring students on the PSAT, and based on further evidence of academic achievement they were selected as top scholars. In a similar competition, the National Achievement Scholarship Program, which recognizes top African-American students for their performance on the PSAT, honored **Deseree Bohanan** (Santa Teresa) and **Sarah B. Masare** (Oak Grove) for outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to our outstanding scholars **Uy Tran** (Overfelt), **Joyce Choi** and **Bobby Tomkiewicz** (Santa Teresa); **Brian Plimley** (Independence); **Laura Knight** and **Jimmy Vu** (Piedmont Hills); **Shauna Jackson**, **Jonathan Kinsey**, **Daniel Landry** and **Luke Remy** (Santa Teresa); **Lara Estrada**, **Eric Farraro**, **Vien Q. Nguyen** and **Damon Rivard** (Independence); **Michael Nguyen** (Oak Grove); **Christopher Ortega** (Piedmont Hills); **Michael Wright** (Independence); **Deseree Bohanan** (Santa Teresa) and **Sarah B. Masare** (Oak Grove).

## Independence Hosts DUI Trial

On Thursday, December 19th, 2002, 350 Independence students will witness first hand a DUI trial. Superior Court Judge **Edward J. Davila** will hold session in the Independence theater. This is an actual criminal trial of a man arrested earlier this year.

Holding court at a high school is a innovative strategy to help reduce teenage DUIs. Students have an opportunity to learn about the court process and the legal consequences of drinking and driving. Drinking and driving is the leading cause of collisions resulting in injury and death, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers.

Independence is the seventh high school to hold a DUI trail.

Kudos to **Linda Kinnard** (Healthy Start Coordinator), **Jack Elwell** (science), **Greg Sprague** (social studies ITL), **Pam Melvin** (drama teacher), **Aaron Palm** (social studies), **Bill Kirk** (social studies), **Cari Vaeth**, (Principal), and **Bill Rice** (Villa Principal) for arranging for this opportunity for our students. It will hopefully enable students to make better decisions when it comes to resisting pressure to drink alcohol.

## City Forest Donates 30 Trees to Piedmont Hills

Thanks to the efforts of **Ken Jackson** (SAP Coordinator) and **Mitch Method** (Business teacher), City Forest agreed to donate 30 trees to Piedmont Hills to beautify the campus.

On Saturday December 7th, students and staff were present to plant the trees. Various clubs have adopted certain trees and they will care for them and ensure proper watering.

Kudos to **Ken Jackson** and **Mitch Method** for taking steps to enhance this campus. Special thanks to City Forest for the donation of the trees.



## More Opportunities for Students Interested in Health Professions

Andrew Hill Health Profession program expanded its offering and has established a program to prepare students for jobs in the pharmacy field. Seventy students have entered the program. Students receive thirty-two hours of classroom learning with a pharmacy technician. Students are also required to complete 60 hours of work experience in a local pharmacy at



Longs, Walgreens or Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Upon completion of the required class work and work experience, the students receive a certificate that can help them secure employment in the field.

Walgreens and Longs are both offering scholarships of \$9,000 and above for students who plan to major in the pharmacy field.

Kudos to **Marilyn Bliss**, Health Professions Coordinator, for developing additional career opportunities for our students.

Special thanks to our partners-Walgreens, Longs and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center-for investing in our students. We also want to recognize **Sabrina Daise**, Pharmacy Tech at Walgreens, who is working with Marilyn on the classroom instruction.

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## Andrew Hill and West Valley/Mission College Share Award

The Andrew Hill Health Professions Program and West Valley Mission College Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program were recognized for their efforts to address the nursing shortage at the 2002 annual convention of the Community College League of California.

This annual convention recognizes programs that create outstanding learning environments and enhance the learning of both students and employees.

Thanks to the work of **Marilyn Bliss**, Andrew Hill Health Professions Coordinator, and **DeeDee Bicocca**, Mission College Director, Regional Health Professions Program, Andrew Hill and Mission have developed a Certified Nursing Assistant Training Program. The Health Profession Program at Andrew Hill has a Nursing Assistant Program as a part of their Nursing Academy. Seniors are recruited by Mission College and attend an after school and summer program at the college to prepare them for national certification.

Grants obtained by the Regional Health Occupations Resource Center and Andrew Hill High School pay for the students' equipment and Mission College instructors place the students in paid internships at convalescent homes or hospitals to give them valuable work experience. The students benefit by experiencing campus life, earning college credits and valuable work experience while still in high school.

Congratulations to **Marilyn Bliss** and **DeeDee Bicocca** and special thanks to **Ruth Carlson**, Director of Public Relations at Mission College, for submitting the program for consideration to the Community College League.

We also want to recognize the West Valley/Mission staff who have supported this partnership: Chancellor **Stan R. Arterberry**, Division Chair of Applied Sciences **Ann Cowels**, Chair of Advancement Board **Mike Fox**, Director of Marketing **Peter Anning** and Dean of Workforce Training **Lin Marelick**.

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## Mt. Pleasant Student Completes Prestigious Arts Program

**Deidre Morton**, senior at Mt. Pleasant, completed the California Arts Scholarship Program at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia this past summer. Deidre was chosen from among 1,500 talented and motivated high school artist applicants. She participated in a month long intensive instructional program aimed at enhancing her skills.

Animation Instructor **Clark Semple** describes Deidre as an impressive animator destined for success. Congratulations to **Deidre Morton** for being selected for this outstanding program and capitalizing on the opportunity. We'll be watching the credits on future animated films for Deidre's name!

## BASRC Showcases Santa Teresa and Overfelt

Part of this year's annual National Annenberg Institute on School Reform held in San Francisco included site visits to schools engaged in reform. Two of the sites chosen for visitations were Santa Teresa and W.C. Overfelt. Teams of 12 school officials - teachers, principals, district personnel, and superintendents from around the country visited the schools on the morning of December 9. The purpose of their visits was to actually see how the reform effort is being implemented in schools. The teams met with school representatives at the beginning of the day to discuss the school's focus; then they visited classrooms looking for evidence that the focus was being addressed. After they did their observations, the teams met and compiled their findings and reported them back to the staff.

At Santa Teresa, **Laurene Payne**, District BASRC Coordinator, reported that "The team's interaction with the staff was positive, thoughtful, respectful and informative. After the end of the day wrap-up, I heard staff members say that it was a pleasure to have visitors who were knowledgeable about the work of school improvement and able to give helpful feedback.

Santa Teresa's focus is one of ensuring that literacy is incorporated across the curriculum and all students have access to standards across the curriculum. We heard that they did indeed see literacy skills being supported in their classrooms. They also helped us to think about the relationship between the teaching of content standards and various methods of instructional delivery. They were complimentary of the quality of instruction and the systemic and foundational work that the staff had done to decrease the achievement gap. We are confident that their findings will help the

staff to take the next steps in the cycle of inquiry." The team suggested that Santa Teresa address the following questions using the cycle of inquiry: How can we reverse the return from to mostly teacher-directed instruction to more student centered and still focus on the standards? How can we provide staff with strategies to revert to emphasize student inquiry?

At Overfelt, the team visited 25 classrooms looking for evidence of literacy strategies that support student acquisition of standards. **Vito Chiala**, WCO Reform Coordinator, reported that the visits were well received by staff and useful. He stated "They highlighted areas where there was evidence that we are focusing our efforts. Each of us assumed they would see 'some evidence', but the results repeatedly listed 5 out of 6 classrooms included these literacy or content standards or active student learning strategies! They also left us with some great questions to discuss as a staff to move us further with the reform. For example, How do the multiple literacy strategies fit together? How can you connect the literacy strategies with the level of expectation and rigor of content standards (keeping in mind student population and teachers)? How conversant are students on the standards? It was refreshing to have educators involved in reform re-enforce that you are moving in the right direction."

Congratulations to the staff members at Santa Teresa and Overfelt for showcasing real school reform. Kudos to **Nancy Schwalen** (Santa Teresa Literacy Coach), **Vito Chiala** (W.C. Overfelt Reform Coordinator), and **Laurene Payne** (District BASRC Coordinator) for organizing the day's events and to **Freddie Stewart** (Santa Teresa Principal), and **Tim McDonough** (W.C. Overfelt Principal) for leading the reform efforts at their sites.

## Andrew Hill Continues On-Line Admissions Effort with San Jose State University

Thanks to outstanding support from San Jose State University, 90 Andrew Hill seniors completed their admissions forms on-line last month. Since Andrew Hill has a wireless infrastructure, the students were able to use laptops to input their information. "This year was an experimental one; some of our students had difficulties but we're off to a great start!" said Andrew Hill Counselor **Joe Ortega**.

Kudos to **Mrs. Linda Ortega**, San Jose State University Assistant Director of Student Outreach and Recruitment, the San Jose State University outreach staff, **Chris Jones** - AH Career Tech, and Andrew Hill Counselors **Terry Griffin**, **Joe Ortega**, **Larrie Peters**, **Tien Pham** and **Bea Thomas** for facilitating the enrollment of students into San Jose State University.



## Five East Side Teachers Receive National Board Certification

Four Independence teachers - **Jane Narveson** (Social Studies), **Peggy Stover** (English), **Jamin Lynch** (Foreign Language), and **Liz Daniell** (English) and one W.C. Overfelt teacher - **Martha Hanisch** (Math) - received notification that they have completed all the requirements for the National Board Teaching Certification. Only 396 of the 17,000 applicants nationwide passed this year.

The National Board certificate is the highest honor the teaching profession has to bestow. The assessment process is rigorous but provides a valuable

opportunity for intense self-evaluation. Teachers demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the content they teach as well as a broad understanding and appreciation of the larger discipline area.

Teachers have to show evidence of good teaching practice by preparing a portfolio. The portfolio contains videotapes of classroom teaching, lesson plans, samples of student work and written commentaries in which teachers reflect on what they are doing and why. The second component of the assessment takes place at an assessment center. Candidates spend a day at the assessment center completing

exercises designed to challenge them. To apply for National Board certification teachers have to pay a fee of \$2,300. Teachers have about five months to complete their portfolios which require on the average about 120 hours.

The certificates are valid for 10 years. In California, the Assembly passed a bill to provide grants to school districts to award \$10,000 (one time) to public school teachers who attain their national Board Certification. East Side salutes **Jane Narveson**, **Peggy Stover**, **Jamin Lynch**, **Liz Daniell** and **Martha Hanisch** on this significant achievement.

## Santa Teresa Teacher Highlighted on County Video

Santa Teresa teacher **Nancy Schwalen** is in a video on a CD produced by the San Mateo County Office of Education and developed at WestED on Project-Based Learning and Multimedia. She is one of three Bay Area teachers featured. Her classroom practices are showcased as "best" examples of project-based learning, differentiation, use of technology, real world connections and assessment, student decision-making and a focus on standards. The video was produced nearly three years ago but has only been recently made available to the public.

Nancy guided her students from the planning stages to the production and Hyper Studio presentation of a group self-selected project on culture. Students chose folk tales, food and dress, or religion as their topics for defining their own culture, researched the topics of their choice, and collaborated to integrate their learning into presentations that were presented at a vertical slice – Oak Grove School District and Santa Teresa – multimedia fair. The video will be viewed nationwide and Nancy will be impacting the instructional practices of teachers across the country. "We are very proud of Nancy and see her quiet influence at Santa Teresa in many areas and in many ways", said Santa Teresa Principal **Fredella Stewart**.

Kudos to **Nancy Schwalen** for being selected as a model for best practices.

## East Side Cadet Academy Featured in the *Cathedral News*

The accomplishments of the East Side Cadet Academy were featured in the recent winter issue of the *Cathedral News*, a publication issued by the Cathedral of Faith. The article focused on their 1st grading period highlights.



The East Side Cadet Academy is a unique alternative education program that blends traditional educational goals with a military-type disciplinary structure. The school is funded by the District in partnership with the National Guard and California Youth Outreach. The school is

located at the Cathedral of Faith. The 90 students in the academy are under the direct supervision of credentialed teachers, youth outreach specialists and military education instructors. The primary mission and emphasis of the academy is to develop and produce students with a strong sense of personal worth, respect for self and others and who have the ability to accept personal responsibility.

The 1st grading period results highlighted included:

- \* 37% of the students had perfect attendance
- \* 47% made the honor roll with a GPA of 3.0 or better
- \* 79% earned the required credits for the grading period.

Congratulations to the staff members at the Cadet Academy, teachers **Marx Advincula, Melinda Gamargo, Vera Gesite, Robert Suhr**, National Guard Corporal **Chris Mouser** and Officer Candidate **Geniveve Garcia**, secretary **Sheryl LeBeau**, Outreach **Jenny Lopez**, Coordinator **Rick Esparza**, Supervisor **Dot Westerhoff** and Director of Alternative Education **Jackie Guevara**. They are obviously creating an environment that enables these youngsters to find success.

## East Side Safety Program Featured at Annual CSBA Conference

Last week at the annual California School Board Association Conference, **Michael Gibeau**, Director of Safety, **Carla Holtzclaw**, Teacher on Special Assignment to the Safety Initiative and a member of the Board presented a work session on the East Side Union Safe School High School District Campus Initiative. Board members and educators from throughout the state were in awe over the numerous community partnerships that East Side has developed and the multi-system protocols that have been put in place.

Kudos to **Michael Gibeau** and **Carla Holtzclaw** on the outstanding job they have done designing and implementing this national model for school safety.

## Piedmont Hills and Silver Creek Football Teams Make Mercury's Top 15 List

Piedmont Hills finished their season 11-1 and ranked 11th in the South Bay. The Pirates won the Blossom Valley Athletic League (BVAL) Mount Hamilton Division title and the Division I opener, but lost a heartbreaker in the second round. The opposing team scored in the last 47

seconds of the game to win. Silver Creek finished the season 10-2 and ranked 14th by the Mercury. The Raiders won the BVAL Santa Teresa Division and won their first playoff game since 1981.

East Side is proud of both teams; they had incredible seasons. Congratulations to the players and special thanks to the following coaches-Piedmont Hills: **Matt Kiesle**, Head Coach; **Jake Redmond, Ryan Finney, Tim Leal, Jerry Hallert**, and **Paul Becker**, Assistant Coaches; Silver Creek **Eric Luescher**, Head Coach; **Vince Sunseri, Vern Brooks**, and **Dave Snyder**, Assistant Coaches.

## Mt. Pleasant Students Provide Art Work for Adobe

Adobe Corporation, a major business partner and supporter of Mt. Pleasant, asked the Animation Program and the rest of the Mt. Pleasant art department to create artwork that could be used in their 2002 holiday card. Close to 300 students jumped at the opportunity and 48 works of art were submitted for judging to Adobe and their design agency. The students only had 4 days to complete the assignment and they were under some pretty stringent guidelines. But as expected, the students met the challenge.

Five students had their works of art chosen to be printed on the Adobe holiday card. These cards will be sent to over 30,000 people world-wide. In addition, sixteen students had their works of art chosen to appear on the Adobe Holiday website. Adobe is also proudly displaying the student art work in their lobby. The students whose artwork was chosen for print or the web site are going to be awarded Adobe software. All the students who participated will be guests at a special luncheon hosted by Adobe.

Congratulations to **Bill Cavada's** graphics class, **Sharon Ferguson's** drawing and painting class and **Clark Semple's** animation class for making the final cut.

Kudos to the student's whose art work appeared on the 2002 Adobe holiday card: **Melvin Cunanan** (Animation), **Victor Ha** (Graphics), **Mimi Le** (Animation), and **Joseph Leon** (Animation).

