February 17, 2012

Teaching and Learning

O24u Program Launched at Harkness

Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management and H.W. Harkness Elementary School’s THINK Together Afterschool Program are partnering on a new air pollution awareness program, which was launched on Tuesday.

Called O24u, the program is an environmental education program to engage students in such topics as the health effects of air pollution and practical solutions to reduce harmful emissions. Each topic includes fun, hands-on, interactive activities that educate and empower children to make changes for clean air and become advocates for clean air within their homes, schools and communities. The O24u curriculum was developed to align with California Environmental Education Initiative principles. The O24u Facilitators Guide includes 96 pages of lessons and hands-on activities, along six topic areas. The Facilitators Guide corresponds directly to the student Activity Book, which every participating child will receive.

Operations

Associated Study Body Accounting Workshop

On Thursday, Accounting Services conducted the District’s annual Associated Student Body (ASB) Accounting Workshop. Partner Matt Nethaway and Vice President Kate Jackson of the District’s independent audit firm Crowe Horwath presented along with District staff. Presentation topics included the importance, management and internal controls of accounting for ASB funds. The theme of discussion surrounded how the District can work toward eliminating future audit findings. Accounting Services plans to offer training semi-annually in 2012-13.

Community Engagement

Supt. Raymond Testifies Before Senate Budget Committee

Superintendent Raymond testified about the local impacts of state education cuts before the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee on Thursday morning. His testimony followed a discussion of Governor Brown’s weighted student funding formula proposal with representatives of the state Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst’s Office. Others who testified were
Supporting LGBTQ Youth Subject of Panel Discussion

SCUSD Connect Center staff Nichole Wofford and Emily Herr participated in a panel discussion at the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center on February 8th that addressed the suicide rate for LGBTQ youth.

The panel consisted of several community partners and was designed to address some of the underlying reasons young people take their lives. This event was also an effort to mobilize the community and spread awareness of local resources available to support the LGBTQ youth population.

As a part of the event, two very important SCUSD support services were highlighted: LGBTQ Support Services, which provides mentoring and emotional support to LGBTQ students, and SCUSD’s centralized health insurance enrollment program, which allows uninsured Sacramento County youth (including undocumented students) to enroll in a variety of comprehensive health insurance programs.

Bike Safety and Helmet Giveaways

Integrated Support Services and Health Services, along with California State University, Sacramento, nursing interns and UC Davis Health Systems, have provided 1,139 free bicycle helmets to SCUSD students since September 2011. Once children who have been identified by teachers or volunteers as needing a helmet have listened to a one-hour interactive head injury prevention presentation, they are fitted with a free helmet and given educational materials on bicycle safety. A few minutes time invested in fitting our children with a bicycle helmet pays big safety and comfort dividends.

Resource Event for Principals

On Wednesday, principals attended an informational event in the Serna Center Community Rooms sponsored by Board President Diana Rodriguez. Representatives of the Sacramento Council of PTAs, the American Red Cross, Assembly Member Roger Dickinson, City of Sacramento Neighborhood Services and Una Familia Sin Fronteras provided information on services available for sites.