‘Project Green’ Allocation Event

Fourteen SCUSD schools and McClaskey Adult Center were allocated bond funding for green school projects at an event at Rosemont High School Thursday night. SCUSD launched Project Green this year to add a real-world application to classroom instruction about the environment and sustainable living. Campuses across the district were encouraged to form student “green teams” to conduct “green audits” of school facilities. With the help of teachers, parents and staff, the teams then drafted recommendations for green improvements ranging from replacing outdated windows to installing water-wise plumbing fixtures.

Students presented their recommendations to a panel of local experts from the fields of architecture, engineering, energy, land-use planning and water management in April. The panel judged the exhibits, using scoring rubrics. The team from Washington Elementary School scored highest for its presentation and report, which included a rationale for providing the school with automatic hand dryers, chicken coops, rain barrels, a “restorative justice circle,” upgraded irrigation, upgraded air conditioning and upgraded heating. The judging panel voted to allocate up to $550,000 for these projects. In all, the 15 presentations were allocated $5 million in bond funding.

Other allocations to potential projects were as follows:

- O.W. Erlewine – up to $500,000 (automatic hand dryers, Energy Star refrigerators, Energy Star water heater, solar tubes, upgraded irrigation, rain barrels, low-flow plumbing fixtures, dual flush toilets and dual pane windows)
- Rosemont High School – up to $500,000 (new pool pump, permanent recycling stations, recycling signage, upgraded irrigation, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets, solar tubes, synthetic turf)
- Theodore Judah – up to $400,000 (rain barrels, solar tubes, xeriscaping, replacement of blacktop with permeable paving)
- George Washington Carver – up to $400,000 (rainwater catchment system)
- Isador Cohen – up to $400,000 (rain barrels, solar tubes, interior LED lights, faucet aerators)
- Luther Burbank – up to $300,000 (new bathroom flooring, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets, upgraded exterior lighting)
- Alice Birney – up to $300,000 (new bike racks, solar tubes)
- Will C. Wood – up to $300,000 (replacement of windows)
- John Sloat – up to $200,000 (upgraded irrigation, xeriscaping)
School of Engineering and Science – up to $200,000 (removal and relocation of trees, xeriscaping)
Maple – up to $200,000 (upgraded irrigation)
Sutterville – up to $200,000 (automatic hand dryers, replacement of bathroom flooring, solar tubes, low-flow fixtures and dual flush toilets)
Camellia – up to $200,000 (replacement of windows)

In addition, five schools were allocated an additional $50,000 each for winning the following awards: Most Student-Centered Project (Camellia); Most Creative Presentation (Alice Birney); Most Creative Audit Process (Will C. Wood); and Best Use of Professional Resources (Cohen and Judah).

Congratulations to the winning schools!

Men’s Leadership Academy Students Tour UC Berkeley

Twenty-five students enrolled in Men’s Leadership Academy classes at American Legion, C.K. McClatchy and Kennedy high schools toured UC Berkeley on Thursday, May 31, with eight mentors/teachers. The visit started with motivational talk from Nate Carroll, a UC Berkeley counselor who discussed higher-education learning opportunities. A current undergraduate student also spoke about the demands of the university and the opportunities college is giving him to move out of his neighborhood and do something valuable with his life.

The young men also embarked on a 90-minute tour around campus to discover the life of a Cal Bear. The teens were impressed and amazed to hear that more than 35,000 students attend Cal and some classes have 700 students. They learned about UC Berkeley’s famous history and saw some of the campus’ most beautiful buildings.

The day ended with a trip to the dining commons where the students were treated to an all-you-can-eat buffet with Cal students and staff. The day proved to be a good start to building excitement among Academy kids for college.

Health Professions Holds Literacy Celebration at Serna Center

Health Professions High School, in collaboration with the new non-profit literacy center 916Ink, held a book launch and “Meet the Author Night” on Wednesday at the Serna Center to celebrate the publishing of a student anthology titled “Breath and Bones.” During the school year, participating students wrote stories of health, healing, love and loss with the help of 916Ink mentors. At the reception, each student received two copies of the book. 916Ink is sponsored by the Sacramento Public Library, The Salvation Army, the Sacramento Poetry Center and the Borchard Foundation.

CKM Celebrates Law and Public Policy Academy’s First Year

Members of the legal community turned out this week for a barbecue luncheon at C.K. McClatchy High School to celebrate the end of the Law and Public Policy Academy’s first year. Academy students enjoyed mingling with Superior Court Judge Larry Brown, Michael Levy of the
Sacramento Bar Association, Sacramento County Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Karen Maxwell and attorneys Marcy Gutierrez and Jason Schaff.

Mary Shelton Named Superintendent of San Ramon Valley Schools

SCUSD’s Chief Accountability Officer Mary Shelton was named Superintendent of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) during a Board meeting on Wednesday. Mary is a gifted leader with a passion for improving public schools and her strength, humor and spot-on instincts will be greatly missed. In her new position, Ms. Shelton replaces Steven Enoch, who is retiring. San Ramon Valley Unified has 30,000 students and 35 schools and ranks sixth highest in academics in California. SRVUSD Board President Greg Marvel told the Contra Costa Times that Ms. Shelton "was the best among the 21 candidates that applied. She's a change agent. But she's not going to make change for change's sake. She's going to continue our forward momentum to make this district even better."

We couldn’t have said it better ourselves.

An interim chief will be named in coming days. Ms. Shelton’s last day is June 14 and her first day on her new job is July 1.

Bond Refunding

The District completed a successful general obligation bond refunding on May 31st. Despite a downgrade in credit ratings due to two main factors; the state budget situation and the district’s low reserves, the District achieved over $11.7 million in net present value savings for the tax payers, representing a 9.72% savings. This means that the tax payers will be paying $11.7 million less in debt service on these bonds. Since the savings benchmark for a refunding is 3%, this 9.72% is a very good indication of the value and timing of the refunding. There was a good cross section of buyers of the District’s bonds including Pimco, Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Boston Company, Franklin, Lord Abbott and Thornburg Asset Management, as well as many individual accounts.

California Voices Premiere

SCUSD middle and high school students premiered their digital stories, short films and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) at the Fourth Annual California Voices Premiere at the Crest Theater on May 24. The event was hosted by the Center for Multicultural Cooperation, SCUSD and many other partners. It featured a red carpet event for approximately 200 students, family members, community members and SCUSD staff. Students were able to showcase their artistic and technical talents through film and to tell their own stories. The films tackled such difficult issues as drug and alcohol abuse, bullying and the perils of dating. Some students chose to profile
teachers and other SCUSD employees who are making a difference for kids, including Sam Brannan Middle School Principal Greg Purcell.

**Community Quality Review at Mark Hopkins Elementary**

As the fifth milestone of the Welcoming Schools initiative, the Community Quality Review (CQR), the Department of School, Family & Community Partnerships (SFCP) completed this milestone at Mark Hopkins on Thursday, June 7th. The review team consisted of two staff members from SFCP and one parent. The CQR process is a focus group discussion with the school’s parents, leadership team, a group of teachers, community partners, a group of primary grade students, and a group of intermediate grade students. The review team explored in their discussions the following four domains with the groups:

1) School Environment, Culture and Context for Learning
2) Family Understanding and Engagement
3) Community Partnerships and Understanding
4) Leadership.

From these discussions, the review team will prepare a Community Quality Review report to provide feedback to the school informing them of their areas of strengths and areas for improvement.

This concludes the last school of the CQR process for the 2011-12 school year. Ethel I. Baker is the first of eleven schools who will receive their Welcoming Schools banner at their sixth grade promotional ceremony on June 13th.