

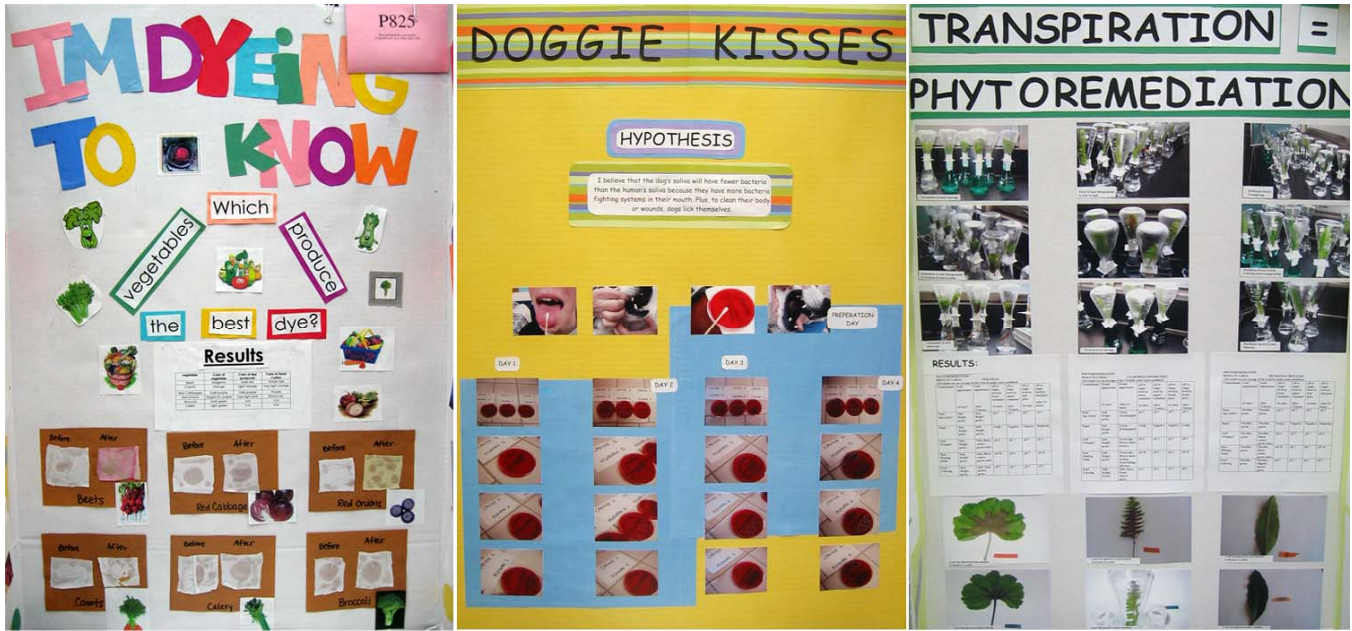


The WCCUSD e-Weekly

March 30, 2006

www.wccusd.k12.ca.us

WCCUSD Students Show Off Scientific Expertise at Bay Area Science Fair



Mike Jung/WCCUSD

Above, left to right: Bay Area Science Fair projects from Ilene Lee (Portola), Anna Rivard (Pinole Middle), and Mark Schmitt (Adams).

Science know-how is on display at the San Francisco County Fair Building, where over 30 WCCUSD students are participating in the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair. Students from all over the Bay Area compete in six categories: Behavioral Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Engineering and Computer Applications, Physical Sciences, and Mathematics/Computers.

The week-long competition culminates with an award ceremony on Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. in the County Fair Building auditorium, 9th Avenue at Lincoln in Golden Gate Park. The top 8 entries will go on to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 7-13 in Indianapolis, and the California State Science Fair, May 22-23 in Los Angeles.

The list of WCCUSD students competing in the Bay Area Science Fair is as follows:

Adams: Jessica Bowman, Jiagi Fan, Taylor Griggs, Benjamin Logan, Thomas Meredith, Brian Orr, Mark Schmitt; **Crespi:** Ah-Než Brown, Allan Lee; **Manzanita:** Evan Sirchuk; **Pinole Middle:** Devin Campbell, Perlyn Du, Megan Elischer, Cody Ericksen, Jaydienne Paulisa Fontejon, Kristin Jones, Amanda Kopp, Kirsten Nygaard, Anna Rivard, Kevin Surban, Andrew Woo, Brian Woo; **Portola:** Rebecca Aptaker, Andrew Brewer, Mariana Castro, Zachary Houser, Ilene Lee, Pasha Reshetikhin, Ann Saturay, Keith Soneda, Paul Stanis; and **El Cerrito High:** David Aptaker, Lukas Roots, Mark Severy.

For more information please contact Bay Area Science Fair Assistant Director (and El Cerrito High School teacher) **Robert Fabini** at (510) 215-1152 or sfbasf@pacbell.net, or go to the Bay Area Science Fair website at <http://home.pacbell.net/sfbasf>.

Middle/High School Girls Talk With the Experts at 17th Annual Math/Science Conference



Mike Jung/WCCUSD

Above: Dr. Letitia Bradford, attending orthopedic surgeon at Sutter North Hospital, fields questions about knee bones, hip bones, 17 years of schooling, and six-figure salaries.

WCCUSD 7th-11th grade girls took a good look at their career options when they attended the 17th Annual Math/Science Conference, sponsored by Chevron Research, the West Contra Costa branch of the AAUW, UC Berkeley, WCCUSD, and El Cerrito and Richmond Soroptimist International. The conference was held on Wednesday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.—2:15 p.m., on the UC Berkeley campus. Introductions were given by Senior Curriculum Director Doris Avalos and Interim Superintendent Cynthia LeBlanc, and the keynote address was given by Kimberly Ennix-Sandhu, an aerospace engineer at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center. The girls then attended a series of workshops on subjects like tidal ecology, chromatography, landscape architecture, environmental field sampling, criminal justice, and psychology. The event was capped by an address from closing speaker Christina Seelye, President and CEO of Avanquest Publishing USA.

Harding After School Enrichment Offers Classes for All District Students

The Harding After School Enrichment Program (HASEP) and the city of El Cerrito are offering classes in the following subjects: **Art**, grades K-3; **Basic Animation**, grades 3-6; **Creative Book Art**, grades 1-3; **Creative Writing**, grades 1-3; **Drawing**, grades 1-6; **Kindergarten Book Making**; **Mad Science**, grades K-3 and 4-6; **Origami**, grades 1-6; **Spanish**, grades 1-3 and 4-6; and **Yoga**, grades K-2 and 3-6.

All classes take place on the Harding Elementary campus and run from May 1—June 8. Please register at the El Cerrito Community Center before April 14, 2006. Fees vary and scholarships are available through a scholarship program established by the Harding PTA. Classes are open to non-Harding students. For more information please contact Patty Enrado at (510) 526-6774 or Denise Evans at (510) 525-1495, or go the Harding PTA website at <http://hardingpta.org/school/hasep>.

Helms Career Fair



Mike Jung/WCCUSD

Above: Michael Anthony, photographer for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, drew a steady flow of interested students at the Helms Middle School Career Fair.

Helms Middle School played host to professionals in a wide variety of fields at its 8th annual Middle School Career Fair on Tuesday, March 21. Among those present at the fair were the Contra Costa Fire Department, Contra Costa College Center for Science Excellence, Golden State Warriors, Nubian Images Publishing, the Richmond Art Center, the Willie McGee Foundation, professional bowler Kim Terrell, and scuba diver Clarence Watson. For more information please contact Helms Middle School at (510) 233-3988.

Stege Students Perform for Black History Month



Paul Ehara/WCCUSD

Above: Stege kindergarteners perfect their moves for the school's Black History assembly.

Stege kindergarten students, led by teacher Dolores Rollins, spent some time on February 15 practicing for the next day's Black History assembly, which included songs and poem recitals. "They like things that are short and sassy," said Mrs. Rollins. "Their minds are like sponges. It's unbelievable what

kindergartners can do." A Stege alumnus, Mrs. Rollins began her 33-year district career as a fourth-grade teacher at Coronado School. She then served at Shannon School before coming to Stege, where she has taught for the past 26 years. She coordinates the Black History event in February, the schoolwide Multicultural Assembly in May, and the kindergarten promotion ceremony in June. Mrs. Rollins' goal for the assemblies is to coax performances from all the students. "Inclusion is the name of the game," she said.

Fairmont Website is Now Live

Fairmont Elementary School is the latest West County school to have its website placed into the new template created by the WCCUSD Communications Department. The new Fairmont website can be seen at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/fairmont/index.shtml. For more information on use of the new design scheme please contact Communications Coordinator Mike Jung at (510) 620-2248 or michael.jung@gw.wccusd.k12.ca.us.

Adult Education Presents Spring Super Saturday

On April 1 WCCUSD Adult Education will present Spring Super Saturday, a free health-related event that will take place on the Serra campus from 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Free health services will be provided, including blood pressure readings, weight and height measurement, BMI charts, and dental care. The event will also include workshops on various topics, including diabetes, obesity, insurance coverage, domestic violence prevention, and more. Spring Super Saturday is sponsored by the American Red Cross, Doctors Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Richmond Health Center, and WCCUSD Adult Education. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. For more information please go to the WCCUSD Adult Education website at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Ed. Fund to Honor Teaching Excellence at Awards Banquet

The 18th Annual Ed. Fund Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the Richmond Convention Center, Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. The evening will include an auction and hors d'oeuvres reception, dinner, entertainment, and award presentations to 6 of WCCUSD's most outstanding teachers. The 2006 Distinguished Citizen Award and the inaugural Ed. Fund Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award will also be presented. Proceeds from the banquet will benefit The Ed. Fund. Sponsorship opportunities are as follows:

Banquet Benefactor (\$5,000 and above)
Award Sponsor (\$2,500)
Banquet Supporter (\$1,000 and above)
Table Sponsor (\$500 for a table for 8)
Individual Tickets (\$50)

To make reservations please send a check payable to Ed. Fund Banquet to The Ed. Fund, 5 Alvarado Square, San Pablo CA 94806. All reservations will be held at the door. For more information please contact The Ed. Fund at (510) 233-1464 or edfundwest@sbcglobal.net, or go to www.edfundwest.org.

Help for Teachers Taking CSET in Geometry

The West Contra Costa Unified School District and the Contra Costa County Office of Education are offering a series of classes on passing the Geometry portion of the California Subject Examination for

Teachers. The classes are free to all WCCUSD employees, and cost \$100/series for non-WCCUSD employees. The class schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 31, 4:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7, 4:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Friday, April 14, 4:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 15, 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Friday, May 5, 4:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Friday, May 12, 4:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Classes will be held at the Seaview campus, 2000 Southwood Drive, San Pablo, CA 94806. For more information please call Elementary Math Coach Linda Stafford at (510) 222-2593.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

The following district committees have upcoming meetings:

Academic Sub-Committee, April 10, 2006

Agenda—http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/committees/academic/agendas/2006/04_10.pdf

Safety Committee, April 11, 2006

Committee website—<http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/committees/safety/index.shtml>

Special Education Community Advisory Committee, April 13, 2006

Committee website—<http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/specialeducation/committee/index.shtml>

GATE District Advisory Committee, April 24, 2006

Committee website—<http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/GATE/committee/index.shtml>

Multilingual District Advisory Committee, April 27, 2006

Committee website—<http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/committees/multilingual/index.shtml>

New on the District Website

The following documents are now available for viewing and downloading on the district website:

Updated School Directory—www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/directory/1_page_directories/schools.pdf

Locally Produced TV Shows Explore Health and Emergency Preparedness

Contra Costa Health Services has announced a new April schedule for two locally produced television shows that inform the Contra Costa Community about health issues and emergency preparedness. *Get Ready, Get Healthy* (for English speaking viewers) and *Vida Sana en Vivo* (for Spanish speaking viewers) are aired on Contra Costa Television, channel 27 for Comcast viewers and Channel 32 for Astound viewers.

Get Ready, Get Healthy will air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. on the following dates:

April 3 & 6: **Helping Children Cope with Disasters**

April 10 & 13: **Community Health Indicators**

April 17 & 20: **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

April 24 & 27: **Teen Driving and Driving**

Vida Sana en Vivo will air on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

April 6 & 7: **Violence**

April 13 & 14: **Helping Children Cope wit Disasters**
April 20 & 21: **Childhood Obesity and Physical Activity**
April 27 & 28: **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder**

Both shows are produced by Contra Costa Health Services in collaboration with CC Television. For more information please contact Contra Costa Television at (925) 313-1180 or go to the Contra Costa Television website at <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/ccctv/>.

Opportunity for Low-Income Homebuyers in North Richmond

The Community Housing Development Corporation of North Richmond (CHDC) is currently accepting applications for low-income homebuyers interested in purchasing 5-bedroom homes in the new North Richmond housing development Bella Flora. There are 15 units available. Homebuyer applicants must not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income for their household size (\$66,250 for 4 person households, \$71,550 for 5 person households, \$76,850 for 6 person households) and must qualify for the \$318,352 purchase price without exceeding 35% of their annual household income spent on housing. For more information please contact CHDC at (510) 412-9290 or go to www.chdcnr.com.

ABOUT THE e-WEEKLY

The WCCUSD e-Weekly is produced by the West Contra Costa Unified School District Communications and Community Engagement Office (510) 620-2245. Share your news with us by e-mailing Communications Coordinator Mike Jung at michael.jung@gw.wccusd.k12.ca.us. To subscribe or unsubscribe, e-mail paul.ehara@gw.wccusd.k12.ca.us. Pass on this invitation to join our mailing list to other employees, students, family members and community members. You are welcome to share information from this publication and the district website (<http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us>) through print publications such as school newsletters, as well as electronically.