Highlights for Aug. 27-Sept. 3, 2012

This school year SFUSD teachers are bringing new insights and skills to share with their students. Several teachers were chosen by the national non-profit Fund for Teachers to pursue learning opportunities during the summer break.

Vanessa Carter (Lincoln High) traveled to an educational farm in Northern California, then to a cloud forest outside Veracruz, Mexico, to inspire new interdisciplinary lessons for Lincoln’s school-wide eco-literacy program and to plan an environmental service learning field trip for students completing the program.

Jonathan Harris (Leonard R. Flynn Elementary and Child Development Center) lived with a family in El Salvador while studying Spanish and visiting cultural and historical sites throughout the country to improve his home-school communication skills and create more culturally-relevant curriculum.

Alexander Schwarz and Steven Shimmon (Lowell High) explored cultural and religious syncretism in Vietnam and observed the historical effects of imperialism.

Kyle Beckham, (Downtown High) and Aimee Riechel (Mission High) interviewed South African educators, students and activists who are working for a greater role in society. This fall, Beckham and Riechel will work to implement an inclusive Ethnic Studies curriculum.

Lisa Castellanos, Aysha Khan and Catalina Martinez (Hillcrest Elementary) attended the Teachers College Summer Writing Institute at Columbia University and created a cohesive writing program. This fall they will launch a writing workshop in the primary grade levels and establish a foundation for writing in kindergarten that creates life-long writers. Fowzigiah Abdolcader, Edwin Casallas, Gabrielle Milleza, Maria Lourdes Nocedal, and Grace Yoshitsugu, (Sheridan Elementary) also attended the workshop and will lead the school in implementing reading instruction that meets the needs of individual students.

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