Highlights for Dec. 11-17, 2012

Student Caterers and Solar Panels

Students in the Culinary Arts and Management class at O’Connell High will be demonstrating their skills to the Board of Education Tuesday night. These students, who just finished feeding a turkey dinner to their teachers a few weeks ago, will be serving spiced lamb sirloin with mint, cilantro and garlic béarnaise, plus white beans and braised greens from the school’s garden, to board commissioners and district officials who put in long evenings taking care of school district business. The culinary arts program at O’Connell is headed up by chef Dan Scherotter, who recently sold his San Francisco restaurant Palio D’Asti to teach a culinary arts and management program called ProStart. The curriculum developed by the National Restaurant Association is a project-based, comprehensive two-year course of study covering everything from safety and sanitation to cooking techniques and knife skills -- and even management and marketing.

When: Tuesday, Dec. 11 / 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Where: Board of Education offices / 555 Franklin St.

San Francisco’s public schools have reached a milestone by surpassing the 800 target on the State’s Academic Performance Index (API) this year. With an API of 807, the school district one of only two large urban school districts in the state to break 800. Superintendent Carranza will be joining with Mayor Ed Lee, SF Board of Education commissioners, school principals and teachers to celebrate this shared achievement.

When: Thursday, Dec. 13 / 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Where: City Hall / 1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place / South Light Court

School sites around the district have been stepping up efforts to conserve energy, saving the district approximately a million dollars, by carefully reducing its use of gas, electricity and water. Now, with the help of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the Department of Public Works (DPW), the first set of panels has been installed on a public school roof, Alvarado Elementary, and, over the next two years, these departments will be installing solar panels on three more schools. SFUSD’s Directory of Sustainability Nik Kaestner and officials from DPW and the SFPUC will be showing how the new panels will work.

When: Monday, Dec. 17 / 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Where: Alvarado ES / 625 Douglass St.

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