Highlights for February 19-25, 2013
Honor Rolls & Kickball Tourneys

Approximately 1,200 SFUSD students of African American descent are currently earning a 3.0 grade point average or higher, and they will be celebrated at the annual African American honor roll event. Superintendent Richard Carranza will be congratulating students on their academic success. Board of Education commissioner Kim-Shree Maufas and San Francisco Supervisors London Breed and Malia Cohen will also commend the students for their hard work and accomplishments. Former Bay Area news anchor Barbara Rodgers will emcee the celebration, which is sponsored by the San Francisco Alliance of Black School Educators, a volunteer organization of SFUSD educators.

When: Wednesday, Feb. 20 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Where: St. Mary's Cathedral / 1111 Gough St.

Kickball season is in full swing here in SFUSD, and the bunts and kicks send balls rolling as students in eight elementary schools compete for fun. Like any league, teams travel to away games, oftentimes with classmates to cheer them on. Started many years ago, the series is played by fourth and fifth grade students – this year from West Portal, Ortega, Lakeshore, Lafayette, Argonne, Alvarado, Jefferson, and Sunset Elementary Schools – all during lunch on Fridays. Everyone takes a lot of pride in the competition; one student last year said he “felt like a professional baseball player” as he got on the bus for an away game, and principals have been known to trade a little sideline banter. At Argonne, where the student athletes learn that they have a forum to create change in society off the ball field, an anonymous donor is giving $1 for every run scored to A Home Within, an organization that places foster children in San Francisco homes.

When: Friday, February 22 / 12:00-12:45 p.m.

The annual Oratorical Contest in San Francisco is in its 33rd year, and has been expanded to include new categories. Now known as the Oratorical/Musical/ Stomp Contest, approximately 150 students of different ethnicities from schools all over San Francisco will be taking part. With the theme “African American Students Moving Forward, Prepared to Meet All Challenges,” students will be judged on enunciation, projection, style of presentation, poise, use of language, vocabulary, delivery, and knowledge of subject. Some categories require students to memorize a famous speech or poem, and others ask students to perform creative works of their own. This event encourages students to recognize their unique talents, to develop skills and self-confidence in the area of vocal, piano and instrumental music, and build expertise in their chosen subject.

When: Saturday, February 23 / 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Marshall HS / 45 Conkling St.