More Art, Less Bullying

Well over half of SFUSD students live in households at or near the poverty level and, for many, access to college can seem out of reach because of the cost. Students who fill out the federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form can find out what kind of loans and grants they qualify for but, in the past, school personnel helping students apply for college didn’t have a way to monitor whether or not a student had completed the application. SFUSD was recently chosen to be part of a new program that will enable high school counselors to track whether seniors have completed the FAFSA so they can focus efforts and resources on students who have not yet. Superintendent Richard Carranza will welcome Greg Darnieder, U.S. Secretary of Education’s senior advisor on the College Access Initiative, who will talk with SFUSD college guidance counselors about the new program.

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 11 / 8:15 – 9:00 a.m.
WHERE: Scottish Rite Masonic Center / 2850 19th Ave. (at Sloat)

In response to ongoing state budget cuts, leaders in the Bay Area arts community have formed a coalition to champion the role that the arts play in young people’s lives. The group, called Creative Impact, is kicking off a year-long celebration of art in education during National Arts in Education week. Superintendent Carranza will be speaking about the vital role the arts plays in SFUSD schools, along with SF Supervisor David Chiu and SF Board of Education Commissioner Hydra Mendoza. The crowd will be treated to a flash-mob style dance performance by Argonne Elementary students led by dance instructor Jakey Toor.

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 13 / 4:00- 8:00 p.m. (call for detailed schedule)
WHERE: Asian Art Museum / 200 Larkin St.

Thirty-four percent of SFUSD middle school students surveyed last year said they had been bullied at school. This week, over three thousand SFUSD middle and high school students will get the chance to see and talk about the movie “Bully,” which follows real incidents of bullying in schools and the devastating effects for the victims. Afterward, Cheryl Jennings from ABC/Channel 7 will moderate a discussion between 800 of the students and director and producer Lee Hirsch, U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag, Superintendent Richard Carranza, and SF Police Chief Greg Suhr.

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 13 / 10:15 a.m.
WHERE: Herbst Theater / 401 Van Ness Avenue