Academies and Apple Pie: Highlights for May 1-7, 2011

This year, thousands of high school seniors in San Francisco’s Academies and Pathways programs will be graduating with three very useful things in today’s economy: a head start in their college studies, relationships with business leaders, and the experience to step into a skilled job right away. To celebrate the completion of their studies, the students enrolled in the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism (AoHT) will be hosted by the Fairmont Hotel, an integral supporter of the AoHT, at a graduation party in a penthouse suite. National Academy Foundation President JD Hoye will congratulate them on their work. SFUSD has over 30 academies and pathways in 17 high schools representing nine different industry sectors: Hospitality and Tourism/Culinary, Finance, Green & Environmental Science, Engineering/Construction Trades, Law, Health Sciences/Biotechnology, Teaching, Arts, Media & Entertainment and Information Technology.

When: Monday, May 2 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Where: Fairmount Hotel / 950 Mason St. (Open to media only, RSVP to newsline@sfusd.edu)

Mission High’s Academic Performance Index (API) improved by 70 points last year, the highest gain of any of the comprehensive high schools in SFUSD. Mission High staff challenges its students to take the standardized tests seriously and show what they know, and enlists students in choosing a school-wide celebration and this year students requested a gourmet meal. To celebrate their achievements all 900 students will be treated to a gala luncheon catered by some of San Francisco's finest restaurants and gourmet food retailers. Bi-Rite Market, Slanted Door, Delfina, Frances, Pica-Pica, and Mission Pie will create one large meal cooked and served on Mission's soccer field. Bi-Rite Market owner Sam Mogannam helped gather the chefs for the event, and Charles Schwab will provide 30 volunteers to help serve the meal.

When: Thursday, May 5 / 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
Where: Mission HS / 3750 18th St. (Open to media only, RSVP to newsline@sfusd.edu)

SFUSD pays most of its bills with money from the state and, as California’s economic crisis continues, the district receives less money yet expenses, such as employee health care, keep increasing. Given current projections and no tax extension agreement in Sacramento, the district faces a shortfall of approximately $25 million for next year above and beyond the $113 million in cuts identified last year. Budget cuts may be even more severe in the 2012-2013 school year. District officials will be sharing current budget projections and possible future service reductions as well as answering questions and hearing suggestions. This is the first of three public meetings in different areas of the city throughout the month of May.

When: Thursday, May 5 / 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
Where: Thurgood Marshall HS / 45 Conkling St. (near Silver)

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