Highlights for Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2011

A Blue Ribbon & a Native American Garden

Ulloa Elementary is celebrating its recent designation as a National Blue Ribbon School, one of only 305 schools in the nation to be selected this year by the U.S. Department of Education. The distinction is based on a school’s overall academic excellence and/or for its success in closing achievement gaps. Nearly 57 percent of Ulloa’s students are socioeconomically disadvantaged, and Principal Carol Fong attributes the school’s success to the hard work of teachers, parents and, most importantly the students. In 2008, Ulloa Elementary was named a California Distinguished School, and has also earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award for six consecutive years.

When: Tuesday, Nov. 29 / 1:40-2:40 p.m.
Where: Ulloa ES / 2650 42nd Ave.

Yick Wo Elementary students now have a portable tennis net and tennis equipment so students in grades 3-5 have been trying out the game during lunch recess. The University of San Francisco tennis team will be visiting the school to show how the game is played and to inspire students to work on their backhands and drop shots.

When: Wednesday, Nov. 30 / 1:00-1:30 p.m.
Where: Yick Wo ES / 2245 Jones St.

Hillcrest Elementary will celebrate its After School program and community partnerships in a “Lights on After School” showcase performance and a Teacher-led Family Reading Workshop. The school’s Community School Council, comprised of the Hillcrest PTA, School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Committee, school staff, and representatives from community organizations meet regularly to strengthen Hillcrest as a community school.

When: Wednesday, Nov. 30 / 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Where: Hillcrest ES / 810 Silver Ave.

Jose Ortega Elementary custodian John Chen, who was a farmer in Canton before moving to the U.S., helped create a “three sisters” garden in the Native American tradition, which grows a combination of corn, pumpkins and beans. In addition, over the years Mr. Chen has planted other vegetables around the school yard. Chen, who has worked at Jose Ortega for approximately 14 years, tends to his crops in his spare time and regularly sends harvested vegetables home with families.

Call for details.

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