For Immediate Release

Highlights for September 19-25, 2010

Last year, via the San Francisco Education Fund, a thousand volunteers invested over 90,000 hours of service in San Francisco’s public schools. At the Ed Fund’s annual Back to School Lunch, volunteer Helen Abrams will be honored. In addition, teachers and principals from Mission and Ida B. Wells High Schools, SF Community, and El Dorado Elementary will speak to over 500 business and city leaders about innovative programs such as the San Francisco Teacher Residency, which uses a medical school model to recruit and retain the best teachers, and the Postsecondary Success Program, which improves how schools use student data to increase the number of college-eligible students upon graduation.

When: Wednesday, Sept. 22 / 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Where: Ritz Carlton / 600 Stockton St.

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Malcolm X Academy will be getting a little sprucing up courtesy of the home improvement store Lowe’s and some of its employees in the Malcolm X community. Volunteers will be painting, installing new plants and prepping a wall for a new mural. Starting this year the students will be learning in the school’s new outdoor classroom where students will create and maintain classroom gardens and participate in educational outdoor activities, all courtesy of the Green Schoolyard Alliance.

When: Friday, Sept. 24 / 8:30 a.m.
Where: Malcolm X Academy / 350 Harbor Rd.

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The San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance will be showing teachers, parents and community members how to become stewards of their schools grounds and giving them the skills necessary to improve school gardens and play environments. Participants can learn about Rainwater harvesting, teaching math in a garden, and even raising chickens in a schoolyard. Many workshops will cover how to connect an outdoor classroom to education content standards at all grade levels. This is the fourth annual Growing Greener School Grounds conference organized by the Green Schoolyard Alliance with support from the David B. Gold Foundation and San Francisco Beautiful. More information can be found at www.sfgreenschools/conference.

When: Saturday, Sept. 25 / 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Where: Rainwater harvesting / Tule Elk Park CDC / 2110 Greenwich (9:00 a.m.)
  Teaching math / Miraloma ES / 175 Omar Way (1:00 p.m.)
  Raising schoolyard chickens / School of the Arts / 555 Portola Dr. (1:00 p.m.)