Highlights for May 8-15, 2012

Spellers and Runners

What if students approached a science lesson the same way they might approach making art? That's exactly what SFUSD teachers have been investigating in the classroom. Known as the SLANT initiative (Science, Literacy and Art iNtegration in the 21st Century), the program curated by teachers, the de Young Museum, and the California Academy of Sciences, will showcase student work and present current teacher research on the cognitive processes for artists and scientists, which are observation, investigation, interpretation, critical thinking and communication.

When: Wednesday, May 9 / 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Where: de Young Museum / Koret Auditorium / 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park

Washington High School youth will be commemorating Asian Pacific American Mental Health Day and learning about the Friends DO Make a Difference campaign. The Wellness Center at Washington High, which has one of the largest Asian Pacific Islander (API) populations in the district, works with API students and others at school to improve their health, well-being, and educational outcomes with school-based health programming focused on prevention and early intervention in areas critical to student wellness. The Center will help launch the new mental health awareness campaign.

When: Thursday, May 10 / 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Where: Washington HS / 600 32nd Ave.

The fourth annual Bayview Spelling Bee will once again gather together young scholars from several Bayview elementary schools for a traditional contest to help increase their vocabulary and enhance comprehension in all academic subjects. Kindergarten through fifth grade students will be asked to spell words while learning how to compete effectively and understand word etymology. Representatives from the Tzu Chi Foundation will judge the contest and also provide refreshments and prizes. On hand to help pronounce the contest words will be volunteers from Union Bank, S.F. Police Department, the public library, BMagic, S.F. Education Fund and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Inc.-Beta Nu.

When: Thursday, May 10 / 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Where: Bret Harte ES / 1035 Gilman Ave.

Approximately 700 SFUSD students will be participating in the annual SFUSD Schools Partnership Program Special Olympics Track and Field Meet. The students have trained for running, throwing, and jumping competitions as part of their school day to prepare for this final sports event of the school year. This is the fifth year for the Schools Partnership Program with the Special Olympics Northern California (SONC). SONC provides equipment, curriculum, and funding for a SFUSD teacher to work with a growing number of classes and schools. There are now ten Inclusion programs involved with the program. The training and events help students with special needs to become physically fit, develop specific skills for individual and team sports, enhance their social skills and self-esteem, and help them to reach their physical, intellectual, and emotional potential.

When: Friday, May 11 / 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Where: Kezar Stadium / 755 Stanyan St.
More than 700 Roosevelt Middle School students will be running a 5K fun run through Golden Gate Park and then finishing up the day by rolling up their sleeves for some park and beach restoration. The principal says that the school has many students who have never been to Ocean Beach or to Golden Gate Park. The school is hoping this will become an annual event to expand students’ horizons while providing them the chance to give back to their community.

When:   Friday, May 11 / 10:00 a.m.
Where:   Conservatory of Flowers / 100 JFK Dr. in Golden Gate Park

Spring Valley Elementary in San Francisco is the oldest public school in California still open today. To celebrate its 160th anniversary, students, staff, and community members along with alumnae and long-retired teachers will gather at the school for an afternoon of tea to share memories of years gone by. The school has been gathering memorabilia – with much more expected to be brought in at the celebration – all of which will be preserved in a book to be stored in the SF Public Main Library.

When:   Friday, May 11 / 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Where:  Spring Valley ES / 1451 Jackson St.

##