

EMERY X-PRESS



Emery Unified School District News

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www.emeryusd.org



School Board President Miguel Dwin & Council Member Ruth Atkin, with Superintendent Sugiyama & City Manager O'Keefe at "Emeryville, Yes We Will!"- the community celebration of Measure J in January.

Enrollment Season is here!

We are accepting applications from Emeryville resident students now (and always!)

Incoming Kindergarteners must turn 5 before 12/02/11.

Now is the time to renew Inter District Transfers and Caregiver Affidavits!

This year's papers must be renewed by April 15th.

Coming this spring to support new, incoming families...

*School Tours
Open Houses
New student visit days
Family community events*

For more information please contact ... Wanda Stewart at 510-601-4907, or email wanda.stewart@emeryusd.org

Measure J Passes with 74%

It was great news to know that 74% of Emeryville residents voted in favor of building safe quality schools, which will provide many wonderful educational programs for children and families in our community. Thank you, to each and every one of you! Now the real work begins.

Community engagement is an integral component of the bond measure and the Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) will be charged with responsibility for overseeing the community engagement process, serving as liaison between the community and the district, and overseeing capital expenditures associated with the Measure J projects. COC members will include parents of students who attend our schools, the parent-teacher organizations, business community, senior citizens, community members, student alumni, arts organizations, and other individuals with experience in facility management and development, and education/community services.

Doing More with Less

The State has continued to cut funding for public education. Our district like most in Alameda County and state-wide, have felt the fiscal impacts. We are working hard to do more with less. Through smart thinking and the hard work of the administrators and teachers, our District has created a new 7th period at Emery Secondary School (ESS), allowing students to select college-level classes offered by Berkeley City College and assisting those students needing extra intervention with their general course studies to improve their learning.

With more reductions to public school funding expected, we will have to make more cuts over the coming year. However, our goal is to keep budget cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. Our students come first!

Holding Expectations High...

Goals for All Emery Unified Students

In January 2009, the Board of Trustees for the Emery Unified School District adopted goals for all students prior to their graduation from the school district. The seven goals are:

- All students will improve their academic performance each year
- All students will be prepared for college and university studies
- All students will experience a successful internship before they graduate
- All students will exhibit strong critical thinking, problem solving, and creative skills
- All students will demonstrate leadership skills and participate in community and public service
- All students will exhibit advocacy for justice and principles that respect the dignity of all persons
- All students will be fluent in a second language

We have implemented a number of strategies and programs designed to assist students in achieving these goals, and continue to work toward increasing rigor in our curricular program. This year we have increased the number of Advanced Placement classes from two classes last year to six. Through a creative partnership with Berkeley City College, we are offering at Emery Secondary School, three college level courses (see article in this newsletter). Starting with the Class of 2014, all students will be required to successfully complete an internship experience. We are working with the Emeryville business community so students can meet this requirement. This year, all 10th graders are taking a required leadership development course. We want all of our students to learn key leadership skills that will assist them to be successful once they graduate from our school district.

Our district has the most rigorous graduation requirements of any school district in Alameda County. The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that all of our students are adequately prepared for life after high school.

The Search for a New School Superintendent

The School Board has initiated a search for a new superintendent of schools. Dr. John Sugiyama, current District Superintendent, will be retiring at the end of June 2011 after serving since October of 2008. In order to select a new superintendent to begin duties on July 1, 2011, the Board of Trustees has retained the services of Leadership Associates to serve as the executive search consultants and to conduct the search.

The timeline calls for applications to be submitted by February 14, 2011. The review and selection process will continue through February and March. It is expected that a new superintendent will be selected in early April and begin duties on July 1, 2011. Check the District's website at www.emeryusd.org for updates on the search process.

Spotlight on Schools



Tracy Lewis Teacher of the Year!

Tracy Lewis from Anna Yates Elementary was selected as the Emery Unified School District 2011 Teacher of The Year. On October 7, 2010 she was honored along with other Alameda County School District Teacher of the Year Award recipients at the Alameda County Office of Education Awards Banquet.

Tracy started teaching at Anna Yates in 2005. She attended public schools and received her BA in Human Development from CSU East Bay, and a MA in Early Childhood Education from Mills College.

One of the many mottos Tracy lives by is:

"Expect excellence and speak life into your child and watch them rise to meet every expectation you have."

We are proud of our student athletes'

performance during the fall sports season. **Football** posted a 2-4 record in its first season. In-league, they were 2-2 and had many memorable moments, including a last minute heartbreak loss (20-22) at Castro Valley -- a consistent Division-1 football program. For the season, Edward Bailey led the team on both sides of the ball with 615 yards on 58 carries with 3 TD's. On defense, he led the team with 66 tackles, 1 interception, and 1 fumble recovery.

Girls' Volleyball fielded both a full varsity and junior varsity team. They worked hard and improved to post a 4-6 record which tied them for 3rd place in the Bay Conference League. Led by All-League 1st Team co-captains Tracey Acosta and Sarah Brown, they got a strong boost from All-League 2nd Team selection Ariel Pringle. Giving a strong effort both on and off the court, All-League Honorable Mention selection Rashima McKelvey displayed excellent leadership.

Target Success Academy (TSA) is a comprehensive after-school program providing structured academic support and a variety of enrichment opportunities for ESS students. It is offered every school day until 6:15 PM. TSA is focused on helping students maintain high academic standards, express themselves through arts and sports, find ways to serve their communities, and develop self awareness.

The Academy offers time for students to complete homework assignments, receive academic tutoring, and participate in study groups. There are courses focused on the high school exit exam (CAHSEE) and college entrance exams including test preparation. In addition, students are involved in visual and performing arts, physical fitness, mentoring and student leadership activities.

For more information on the TSA, contact Gabrielle Thurmond at 510-224-0811 or Brynnda Collins at 510-601-4979.

Spotlight on Schools

Dance = Math?

Each year Anna Yates second grade students and teachers enjoy eight weeks of modern dance classes taught by the Nancy Karp Dancers. During the dance classes students have fun with creative movements, modern dance techniques, and musical rhythms.



This year's second grade class was no different. Students contributed to the creation of a dance routine by using dance movements to describe math terms such as angles, zigzag, circular, and parallel lines. It was a collaborative process based on fun and expression.

Gracefully showing off their dance skills, the students gave a performance for their families and friends.

The culminating dance performance - December 2010

We look forward to next year's second grade students participating in this extraordinary dance experience!

6th Graders Attend Youth Forum

Recently thirty 6th graders and their parents participated in a youth leadership forum, "Knowledge is Power" sponsored by Civic Pride. Held at the Waterfront Hotel in Oakland, the students were treated to breakfast and had a chance to meet other students from all around the Bay Area.

The day's activities included a forum with the Oakland mayoral candidates, breakout sessions to meet with business organizations, and presentations by speakers encouraging students to attend college and be involved in civic activities and volunteer work. Students also had a chance to get information on careers and apprenticeship programs as well. Participation in the event was funded by donations.

After attending youth forum, students who attended gave a presentation to the School Board about their experience.

Emery Unified By the Numbers

Students in Grades K-12 (2010-11) 785
Average Daily Attendance 95%

Academic Performance Index Scores 2009-10

Anna Yates 774 API
Emery Secondary 645 API

Graduation & College

Class of 2010

Successfully graduated 92%
Accepted into 4 yr college 90%+
Continuing post grad study 45%

Class of 2009

Accepted into 4-yr colleges 90%
Continuing post grad study 25%

School District founded in 1887

City of Emeryville incorporated in 1896

State funding per student (2010-2011)

Before state cuts \$7,198
After state cuts \$5,624

Student Ethnicity

American Indian 0.5%
Asian 12.8%
Pacific Islander 0.5%
Filipino 1.4%
Hispanic 21.6%
African American 58.6%
White 4.6%

Creating a sense of family...

Are you raising your grandchild, younger brother or sister? Have you "taken-in" one of our students into your own family?

Visit our KinCare Group!
2nd and 4th Thursdays
beginning March 10th
4:30 – 6:30 pm.

Join us to talk, eat, laugh,
learn and network.

We promise food, childcare,
hugs & tissues when needed!

Get in touch!
Let us help you!



We are linking our families to services, support, and each other! Call Wanda Stewart at 510-601-4907, stop by the office in ESS, or contact Wanda Hundley at 510-658-5349.

Berkeley City College on ESS Campus

During this school year, Berkeley City College (BCC) is offering three college-level classes including English IA and IB, Physics, and Digital Media at the ESS campus. Not only do these classes provide new learning experiences for our students, students who successfully complete these classes earn college credit as well. Over 40 high school students are currently taking one or more of these courses, and we are starting discussions with BCC regarding adding additional courses next year.

Berkeley City College has a stated goal to expand the programs and services they offer to the Emeryville community and the students in our school district. We thank them for their commitment and role in contributing to the success of our students.

Inspiring Innovation...

Did you know that the Emery Unified School District has a comprehensive Wellness Program in place that serves the needs of students and their families?

The District has established partnerships with Samuel Merritt College of Nursing, Holy Names Graduate School of Nursing, UCSF, Cal State East Bay School of Social Work, and other agencies to provide a variety of direct services to students. Nursing interns, graduate students in clinical psychology, and Licensed Clinical Social Work interns work together as a team to provide a wide range of health and mental health services to students in the District.

A new strategic plan for Wellness has been recently completed and a Wellness Advisory Council was recently appointed by the Board of Trustees. Supported by the Parcel Tax approved by Emeryville voters in 2007 along with federal appropriations awarded to the school district in 2009 and 2010, the District has augmented its Wellness Program with the addition of a school nurse. The District is planning to open this spring a Family Resource and Parent Training Center at Anna Yates Elementary School. The Center will provide a range of information and referrals for families on all aspects of wellness including health and nutrition education, mental health, and parenting classes.

If you are interested in volunteering or can provide wellness-related services, please contact Ms. Juliette Dunn, District Director of Wellness at 510- 601-4910. To review the District's strategic plan for Wellness, go to the District's website at www.emeryusd.org and click on the link, "A Framework for Coordinated School Health."

Did you know the Emery Ed Fund supports a myriad of school programs?

Founded in 1996 as a volunteer-led local education foundation for the Emery Unified School District (EUSD) and the youth and families of Emeryville, the Emery Ed Fund's mission is to mobilize local and regional resources to bring increased funding, innovative programs, and strong partnerships to Emeryville's public schools. In the last four years nearly \$4 million dollars have been raised to fund arts integration, school redesign, advanced technology support, wellness programs, teacher coaching, leadership programs, teacher grants, incentive programs, music, annual renewable scholarships, internship program support, and more.

The Emery Ed Fund engages the Emeryville community, local civic leaders, and school officials in promoting the campaign to raise funds for the school district. Companies like Pixar, Ex'pression College and other local businesses sponsor and host major events that have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. Successful grant requests to foundations and corporate sponsorships have also resulted in several million dollars for district programs. All Ed Fund's efforts help to support our community and create better opportunities for the youth and families of Emeryville. If you wish to make a donation, participate in Emery Ed Fund programs, need more information, or simply have a good idea for helping Emery Ed Fund help Emeryville's schools, contact Eugenia Bowman, Executive Director at 510-601-4997.