

Celebrating Innovation...



San Mateo County School
Boards Association

J. Russell Kent Awards

May 21, 2012

J. Russell Kent Awards

The San Mateo County School Boards Association initiated the J. Russell Kent Award Program in the 1980-81 school year. These awards are given to programs that are being implemented in a school district, county office of education, or in the community college district in San Mateo County.

These awards are named after the past County Superintendent of Schools for San Mateo County, J. Russell Kent. The Kent Awards process begins in the fall when districts submit applications to the San Mateo County School Boards Association. The applications are screened and evaluated by the Screening Committee using rubrics adopted by the Rubric Review Committee. The programs that successfully pass the screening are then visited by the Visitation Committee to verify the findings of the Screening Committee.

The San Mateo County School Boards Association is pleased to be able to acknowledge and publicize the outstanding teachers and programs in San Mateo County. We encourage school board members and district staff to visit these programs in other districts. We believe they will come away, not only convinced of the high quality of the programs, but as enthusiastic about our school districts and staff throughout the county as we have been.

Thank you to the
2012 Kent Awards Sponsor

Kent Awards Banquet

Monday, May 21, 2012
Crowne Plaza Foster City

- 6:00 p.m. No Host Social Hour
Entertainment by Sequoia High School Jazz Band
- 6:50 p.m. Seating
- 7:00 p.m. Introductions
Seth Rosenblatt, SMCSBA President
- Welcome
Don Horsley, Vice President
San Mateo Board of Supervisors
- Installation of SMCSBA Officers
Seth Rosenblatt, SMCSBA President
- 7:15 p.m. Dinner
- 7:45 p.m. Presentation of 2012 Kent Awards
Alisa MacAvoy,
SMCSBA Vice President
- Presentation of Emily Garfield Award
Carrie Du Bois



Chevron Energy Solutions

2011-12 Kent Award Recipients

Institution Constitution

Erin Hanau

Central Elementary School, Belmont Redwood Shores School District

Institution Constitution is an engaging, hands-on program that helps students foster an understanding and interest in American government. This civics platform was designed to introduce fifth grade students to the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government by having them participate in a simulated election. Every year, students run for an actual government position, which has been researched and modified to fit the needs of our classroom community. The election process includes casting nominations, participating in a debate, speech making, and voting. Once elected to office, students enthusiastically carry out their assigned duties, promoting independence, responsibility, and patriotic spirit.



The Dolphin Club

*Lori Malhiot, Program Coordinator and Carrie Betti, Principal
El Granada Elementary School, Cabrillo Unified School District*

The Dolphin Club at El Granada Elementary School teaches students the importance of learning and extending their core curricular goals through an innovative afterschool program that nurtures the student's unique talents. The Dolphin Club creates a safe, welcoming program that fosters strong positive relationships with peers and staff. Students participate in activities that help develop and reinforce positive self-esteem and lifetime skills that will support their development for



many years to come. Each day, students rotate through a schedule that includes healthy snack, physical recreational activity, academic support and tutoring, and an integrated arts approach to enrichment activities.

Operation Risk

West Teachers and Principal Jamie Adams

West Elementary School, Hillsborough City School District

Operation Risk inspires teachers to take risks within their practices and to instill the value of risk-taking to their students. Teachers are institutionalizing risk-taking as best practice by trying new methodologies and/or strategies for student engagement. Operation Risk offers permission for a non-linear, non-conforming and fearless movement for instruction. Teachers move out of their comfort zones and explore ways to improve student engagement through their instruction. Conceptualizing Operation Risk is to make clear there must



be an evolution of students' thoughts and ideas endemic to the teachers' instruction.

Family Literacy and Health Day

Jefferson Elementary School District, Daly City

Partnership and Jefferson District PTA

Jefferson Elementary School District

The Jefferson Elementary School District, Daly City Partnership, and PTA joined forces in 2002 to gather families together for a city-wide literacy event. Since then, we have included a health component, addressing the need of combating childhood obesity and also as a one-stop referral to health services in our community. The event, "Family Literacy and Health Day," serves to expand family knowledge of literacy activities, linking parents to school curricula. Thus, true partnership and collaboration with all participants is formed, creating a sense of one community working together to enhance the quality of life and ensuring school success.



3rd Grade Wilderness School

Susan B. Anthony Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School District

The Third Grade Camping Trip with the Wilderness School is collaboration between the JUHSD Wilderness School students and Susan B. Anthony 3rd Grade students. Through the camping trip, high school students build their leadership skill and 3rd grade students have an authentic opportunity to build community, learn life skills and deepen their understanding of the community they live in by exploring San Bruno Mountain. Students hike up the mountain, explore flora and fauna, cook, do chores and stay overnight. The camping trip is part of the Community Environmental Education Program offered at the Wilderness School.



Life Skills Prom

Linda Gulas, Danielle Messer, Anne Marie Townsend, Stephanie Colombo, Mary Lasley, Maureen Salazar, Michelle Crisan, Vana Blair, Cathy Bonner and Angela Boreni
Terra Nova High School, Jefferson Union High School District

The JUHSD Life Skills Prom was designed by staff and the Associated Student Body (ASB) classes for students with moderate to severe disabilities. These students experience a prom-like atmosphere with general education and special education peers with whom they socialize on a daily basis. While these students may attend the school prom, this prom is open to all special education high school students, adult transition students and graduates of JUHSD. The prom offers an opportunity

for special education students to be active in their community as well as the community to be involved with the special education students.



Social Communication

Shana Yoshimoto, Mary Lasley and Stephanie Colombo
Terra Nova High School, Jefferson Union High School District



The Terra Nova Special Education Department identified numerous students with a need for a specialized social-emotional communication class. These students were found to have problems from not understanding social communication hierarchy that most learn through observation. Speech therapy often missed the peer-to-peer cooperative learning model to better teach society's social norms and how to properly act when face to face with these situations. Students who cannot understand perspective taking and expected/unexpected behavior often feel confused, angry, depressed and lack healthy relationships. Social-Emotional instruction has proven to help student's better deal with the rigorous social demands of society.

Bayside Explorers

Pat Watson, Matthew Davis, Claire Dikas, Erica Frederickson, Diane Mathews and Olivia Mandilk
Encinal Elementary School, Menlo Park City School District

The Bayside Explorers Program is an Extended School Year (ESY) program that supports the development of academic, communication, and social-emotional learning through fun, high-interest project based learning experiences. Thematic activities, events, and academic assignments focus on concepts related to exploring the San Francisco Bay area. A project-based learning approach provides teachers the ability to build concepts through concrete, experiential learning activities and provides opportunities for students with disabilities to increase their social skills by participating in carefully designed, multi-ability and multi-age project groups.



Living the Diversity in Spanish Culture

Benjamin Velasco, Aleyda Barrera-Cruz, Maria Mathia, Maria Teresa Magana, Lucia Nestler, Marlene Lehman Laurel and Encinal Schools, Menlo Park City School District

The Menlo Park City School District's Living the Diversity in Spanish Culture program is designed to help build collaboration and community between the English Only programs and the Spanish Immersion programs. The program teaches all students that the Spanish culture spans Europe, North, Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. The K-2 students, involved in the program, are given the opportunity to interact with each other as they participate in activities that provide real world experiences.



Valleamar Mouse Squad

*Annette Holthous
Valleamar School, Pacifica School District*

Valleamar's Mouse Squad is an after school program that provides a group of 4th - 8th grade students an opportunity to learn IT support skills, customer service, communication and leadership skills. Mouse Squad is aligned with the Pacifica School District's focus and vision for students which promotes 21st Century Education. At the same time, students are providing a service to our school. After a hands-on training in the computer lab, the students can be seen around school repairing computers and printers and helping with maintenance of their technical equipment. These students are gaining valuable life-long skills.



FOSS Science Leadership Team

Clifford Elementary School, Redwood City Elementary School District

Clifford was selected by the Lawrence Hall of Science to participate in a three-year grant that allows four lead teachers, the school principal, and a district representative to attend intensive trainings on how to maximize student learning using the Full Option Science System (FOSS) kits, a hands-on science curriculum. Team members are trained to encourage students to question naturally occurring phenomena around them. The team developed leadership knowledge and skills that provided a toolbox for them to support all teachers at Clifford with the in-depth implementation and integration of FOSS science and literacy.

Festival of Words

North Star Academy Elementary School, Redwood City Elementary School District

Festival of Words is a celebration of the power of language and creative expression. Students were invited to participate in three workshops that explore how spoken, written, visual and musical languages are used to express ideas and document experiences and knowledge, as well as how they are used playfully in everyday life. Over 66 workshops were available, many led by community members. Festival of Words shows students that strong language skills lead to meaningful work, creative achievement and enriching contributions to our shared cultural life.



Project Based Learning

Roosevelt Elementary School, Redwood City Elementary School District

Project Based Learning (PBL) is an educational approach that organizes lessons and assessments around carefully crafted questions or projects. The students become active solution seekers to problems, develop both oral and written presentation skills, and learn to collaborate with their peers to solve problems. During carefully crafted units of study, the students are motivated and highly engaged and at the end of the unit show stronger retention of the content. At Roosevelt students in Kindergarten through sixth grade participate in Project Based Learning science and social studies units throughout the school year.

Fractions: Making Meaning with Music

*Endre Balogh, Dr. Susan Courey, Principal Kit Cosgriff, Superintendent Dr. David Hutt
Allen Elementary School,
San Bruno Park School District*



The Academic Music program at Allen School is an innovative math intervention that uses weekly music instruction to teach fraction concepts and problem solving K-4. Students begin to understand note value as early as kindergarten. The lessons provide students with authentic music instruction, creating natural musical rhythms of four beats per measure. Students step, clap and/or drum the notes' values and play the music on recorders. Using fraction bars, the number line, and notes students "break up" the larger notes into the smallest quantity, thus adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators.

ROPES: Rite of Passage Experiences

*Craig Baker & Lynette Hovland
San Carlos Elementary School District*

The Rite of Passage Experiences (ROPES) program, supported by many groups and organizations in San Carlos, is designed as an optional enrichment activity as students complete a cycle of their education. The ROPES projects give students in fourth, sixth and eighth grade opportunities to explore and demonstrate project based learning and to participate in an academic ritual by way of real-life learning experiences. These challenges encourage students to use their school learning to suggest solutions, research information, and create products that reflect real life situations.



Audubon Technology Program

*Debbie Trezzo, Maria Brady, Audubon School Staff,
Audubon Site Technology Team and Audubon PTA
Audubon Elementary School, San Mateo-Foster City
School District*

Audubon's technology program is based on a teacher driven philosophy of teacher participation, training and accountability at each grade level. The program targets technology curriculum integration, reinforcing classroom curriculum and student acquisition of 21st Century technology skills. The program provides every student with the same level of tech experience at each grade level, building on a student's knowledge from year to year. Skill expectations include: technology use, word processing, and mastery of communication tools



such as PowerPoint, Podcasting, and multi-media. The program supports two computer labs, a robotics lab, classroom computers, laptop mobile lab and interactive white board technology.

Brewer Island School Lifeskills

*Brewer Island School Students & Staff
Brewer Island School, San Mateo-Foster City School
District*

Brewer Island School's Lifeskills Program was developed to promote a positive school learning environment and help students develop life skills to support their achievement and success as positive community members, in school and throughout their lives. Components include: BILL, the Brewer Island Lifeskills Leader mascot, literature aligned with the monthly focus Lifeskills, student leadership opportunities including Team BILL Student Helpers during recesses, Student Council, an annual school-wide Community Service Project, assemblies, and Lifeskills Spirit Days. The program is kept visible through the use of 'BILLboards', Lifeskills



labeled school areas, and Newsletters that promote and support the use of the Lifeskills.

SAFE: Sequoia Afterschool Focused Enrichment

*Evelyn Valencia, Margaret Marshall and Sequoia High
SAFE Staff Members*

*Sequoia High School, Sequoia Unified High School
District*

Starting out slowly, the SAFE program has grown from a sparsely attended program in 2008/2009 to one that some days has over 160 students participating in a variety of activities. It provides a safe and welcoming atmosphere that encourages students to do their homework, get assistance when needed, and also pursue the numerous enrichment activities provided. Students are becoming a part of the vital after school community and as a result are more positively connected to other students and staff.

SOS - Students Offering Support

*Shelley Bustamante
Carlmont High School,
Sequoia Union High
School District*



The goal of S.O.S. is to designate and train student leaders to bring awareness to their peers about pertinent adolescent issues and life challenges. This is done through presentations that include personal stories, current psycho/educational material, role-play and interactive activities.

School-wide Reform of Systematic Signature Practices

*The Los Cerritos Staff, Academic Coaches & Students
Los Cerritos Elementary School,
South San Francisco Unified School District*

As a commitment to the educational success of all Los Cerritos Students and in an effort to close the achievement gap, Los Cerritos implemented school wide reform on systematic signature practices through a coherent vision of explicitly shared instructional practices, teacher collaboration, and a shared belief that all students can learn.

Special Thanks

We thank our legislators for joining us in honoring our Kent Award winners.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
State Senator Joe Simitian
State Senator Leland Yee
Assemblyman Jerry Hill
Assemblyman Rich Gordon

Thanks to the students of
Sequoia High School Jazz Band
under the direction of Jane Woodman

San Mateo County School Boards Association Board of Directors 2011-12

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We thank our Board of Directors for all their hard work throughout the year and for promoting public education in San Mateo County. We look forward to working with the officers for the coming year 2012-13.

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere appreciation to those School Board members and administrators who made site visits to evaluate the programs that were selected for Kent Awards.

A special thank you to members of the Kent Award Committee who worked so hard to make this program a success. Thank you to all the participants who submitted Kent Award applications. Without your outstanding programs and dedication to enhancing education there would be no Kent awards.

Chair	Hilary Paulson
Kent Screening Committee	Carrie Du Bois Mark Friedman Alisa MacAvoy Eileen Manning-Villar Kevin Martinez Shelly Masur Jeanne Matysiak Dennis McBride Hilary Paulson Laura Rich Seth Rosenblatt Alan Sarver Chris Thomsen

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PR & website Facilities & Entertainment	Hilary Paulson



The Emily Garfield Preventive Counseling Award

Emily Garfield, Ph.D. was a pioneer in the field of Alcohol and other Drug Related Prevention. As founder and Executive Director of Project Pegasus, serving San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, she supported implementation of school- and community-based alcohol and drug prevention strategies and provided training and consultation until it closed in 1985. Emily continued to work as an advocate, author, trainer and consultant with National Training Associates and Youth Empowering Systems, Inc. She was a mentor and friend in support of positive youth development and community wellness.

The SMCSBA received a \$15,000 grant to fund this special award in Dr. Garfield's honor. Each award recipient will receive a \$1000 honorarium.

2011-12 Emily Garfield Recipient

Counseling and Advocacy for Teens

*Diahanna Flores
School Counselor, Brentwood Academy
Ravenswood School District*

Ms. Flores has served in a counseling and parent support role at Brentwood Academy for the last nine years. Her dedication to the students and families of Brentwood has positively impacted the community, and her focus on both academic and social well-being for every child is a model for the staff. She runs positive behavior intervention and support teams, and has an unwavering commitment to kids who are at risk.

To learn more about the
San Mateo County School Boards Association,
please visit our web site at

www.smcsba.org