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San Jose Schools Has A Rewarding Summer

By Stacy Andell

San Jose Schools Win Awards and Honors This Summer

This summer several San Jose Schools won some kind of award or honor for their continued achievements in education. Three schools in the San Jose Schools system have won awards for successfully competing in the California Student Media and Multimedia Festival. River Glenn Middle School and Almaden Elementary entered a multimedia technology and science project into the competition. This project entitled "Environmental Concerns in the Community" won the Multi-Grades & Schools Collaboration for Grades 4-8 category. In this project three San Jose Schools interacted with each other electronically to collaborate on a scientific investigation of the impact of precautionary measures designed to protect area wetlands. The students participating in the project came from a fourth grade class at Almaden Elementary, a fifth grade class at Zanker Elementary and a class from River Glenn. The two main coordinating teachers Mary Howland, Special Education Teacher of River Glen Middle School, and Beth Fensterwald, TSG of Almaden Elementary were also honored.

Two San Jose Elementary Schools received 2006 California Distinguished Schools honors this year. Willow Glen Elementary and Terrell Elementary were called by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell to announce their selection as 2006 California Distinguished Schools. This honor is given to schools that have shown themselves to improve over the school year. The California School Recognition Program is designed to aid and publize the success of the California Board of Education and the school district , like San Jose Schools. The California School Recognition Program honors California's best and inspiring schools with the California Distinguished School Award. Participation in the program is completely voluntary and decided by the school district. However, the award is very respect and many schools in the state strive to attain it. About 5% of the schools in California receive the California Distinguished School Award. Usually participation in the program includes about 40 school districts from across the state. San Jose Schools has participated for many years and plans to continue in the future.

California's Model Schools Project

Recently, two San Jose Schools have been selected to participate in the California Model Schools Project. The exhaustive application process narrowed the selection down to eight schools in Santa

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Clara County of which two are members of the San Jose Schools system. The two schools selected to participate in the California Model Schools Project were Gardner Academy and Willow Glen Middle School. These two schools will work closely with and be supported by other schools across Santa Clara County. They will also collaborate with the Successful Practices Network at the International Center for Leadership in Education. The main goals of the California Model Schools Project is to increase state testing scores, improve the quality of the schools instructional and leadership practices, and raise community involvement in the schools.

San Jose Schools' Schallenberger School Wins Excellence Awards

Schallenberger School has received the State of California's Excellence Award for their performance in last school year. This award recognizes those schools that have raised its overall academic achievement scores and have closed the achievement gap among its students. The State of

California's Excellence Award was presented in Costa Mesa. Schallenberger School has also been given an award from the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation at a ceremony.

Stacy Andell is a staff writer for Schools K–12, providing free, in–depth reports on all U.S. public and private K–12 schools. For more information on San Jose schools visit

<http://www.schoolsk–12.com/California/San–Jose/index.html>

San Jose Schools Celebrate Beethoven With Essay Contest

By Stacy Andell

San Jose Schools Join San Jose State University's Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies in Birthday Celebration

San Jose State University's Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies and the San Jose Jewish Film Festival have teamed up with the San Jose Schools in an event to celebrate the San Jose State University's Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies twenty first year. The celebration event also includes the premiere of the film "Beethoven's Hair" at the San Jose Jewish Film Festival. This will be an event for the whole community held in downtown San Jose in October.

The 2006 San Jose Jewish Film Festival will be the central event and is where the film "Beethoven's Hair" will be shown. This film follows the perilous journey across 179 and two continents of a lock of Beethoven's hair. In 1827, a lock of hair was clipped from Beethoven on his deathbed. This lock of hair can now be found in the San Jose State University's Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies. The film "Beethoven's Hair" examines how the lock of hair was passed from generation to generation and how it survived the Holocaust and World War II.

The San Jose Jewish Film Festival will host a fundraiser and celebration event near the end of October. At this event, which will be held at the Martin Luther King Jr. library, all participants will screen

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a private viewing of the film "Beethoven's Hair" and meet the director Larry Weinstein for a question and answer discussion about the film. The author of the original book "Beethoven's Hair", the source for the film, will also be in attendance. Russell Martin will sign complimentary copies of his book and speak at the event. Everyone at this event will receive a private tour of the San Jose State University's Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, which has in its collection numerous personal letters and musical compositions written by Beethoven along with the previously mentioned lock of hair clipped right from his head.

San Jose Schools Beethoven Essay Contest

For its part in the birthday celebration event, the San Jose Schools have created a special essay competition. The person behind the essay contest is the Assistant Superintendent of San Jose Schools, Dr. Bill Erlendson. Dr. Erlendson believes that music appreciation is an important facet in the education of all San Jose Schools' students. The essay contest will be open to almost 30,000 students in grades fourth through twelfth. The main idea behind the essay is that Beethoven had a huge impact on the musical world and hopefully this essay contest will help to raise the students' awareness about the importance of music in their lives.

For the San Jose Schools' Beethoven Essay Contest participating students must write at least 250 words about one of four topics. The four choices are: 1. What important lessons did Beethoven's life teach us?

2. How did Beethoven change music history? 3. How was Beethoven's life different from/the same as Mozart's? 4. Beethoven was inspired by nature and social events. What things inspire you to do a better job?

The Beethoven essays are due September 29, 2006. One grand prize winner, from each level of elementary, middle and high school, will attend the private screening of "Beethoven's Hair". While the five first place winners will receive tickets to the public screenings at the 2006 San Jose Jewish Film Festival.

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