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EUREKA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION PROVIDES AREA SCHOOLS WITH FUNDS TO SUSTAIN CURRENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ESF preserves district-wide teachers, staff, and programs and sponsors the Challenge 21 Summer Teaching Institute for teachers

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 — GRANITE BAY, CALIF. — The Eureka Schools Foundation (ESF) announced today that it has awarded the Eureka Union School District (EUSD) a total of \$401,000 to sustain education programs for every student at every school within the EUSD. These funds were raised through ESF's 08-09 fundraising events including ESF's Auction events, Foundation Cup Golf Tournament, Country Faire and 5k Fund Run and through its Annual Giving Campaign where parents donate money for their child's education.

SUSTAINING PROGRAMS

Donations to the Eureka Schools Foundation sustain, in whole or in part, valuable programs and teaching resources, including:

- Weekly **music** program in grades 4-6
- **Band** instruction in grades 5-8
- Ongoing **library** resources and clerks in grades K-8
- After-school **athletics** and **coaches** in grades 7-8
- Before and after school **Spanish** language instruction in grades 1-6
- 21st century teaching technology including **cutting-edge Promethean Boards, classroom audio systems, and document cameras** at all district schools
- Individual **school-based grants** for site-specific needs
- **Summer teaching institute for Challenge 21**, the district-wide initiative to bring innovative 21st century teaching practices such as critical thinking and project-based learning into all curriculums (see Teacher Excellence section below for more details).

For specific funding amounts, please visit:

<http://www.eurekaschoolsfoundation.org/2009-2010-grants>

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ESF raises and equitably distributes to each school site, donation resources from its community partners including parents, teachers, local businesses, and neighbors. Through ESF's fundraising efforts, every student at every school every day has access to programs and teachers they would otherwise go without.

"It is vitally important that our school district continue to offer the range of distinguishable advantage-based programs to our students," said Dr. Tim McCarty, Superintendent, Eureka Union School District. "Without the funds given by ESF, the district would be faced with a scenario similar to other districts in our region that have had to cut program after program."

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS TIED TO ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

ESF-funded programs help to distinguish the EUSD from other area school districts and contribute to student academic success in core programs such as reading comprehension and mathematics through the enrichment programs students are exposed to at their school.

A recent Harvard-based study published in Science Daily (Nov 2008) found that children (ages 8-11) who studied a musical instrument for at least three years outperformed children with no instrumental training in two skills that appear unrelated to music – verbal ability (as measured by a vocabulary IQ test) and visual pattern completion (as measured by Raven's Progressive Matrices in Mathematics). Furthermore, the longer and more intensely the child had studied his or her instrument, the better the child scored on these tests.

REMARKABLE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX NUMBERS RELEASED

This week the California Department of Education announced its annual Academic Performance Index (API) numbers where students are tested on reading comprehension, mathematics and other specific grade-level tests. The Eureka Union School District once again outperformed EVERY school district in Placer County, Sacramento County, El Dorado County and Yolo County.

According to the California Department of Education, both Greenhills Elementary and Oakhills Elementary led the scores with a growth of +36 for Greenhills with a score of 894 and +21 for Oakhills with a score of 923. The Eureka Union School District scored a remarkable 891 average. The Eureka Union School District has had the highest API scores for numerous years in comparison to surrounding school districts, due in large part to the wide array of curriculum offered to its students with the funding received from the Eureka Schools Foundation.

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Local real estate agents also understand the defining differences of the Eureka Union School District (EUSD) and how it maps back to property values, too.

“One of the top questions I generally get asked by interested homebuyers who are evaluating the local area is about the Eureka Union School District, which has had more notable academic indicator numbers,” said Martin Horning, a local real estate agent who has been successfully selling properties in South Placer County for nearly 15 years. “Excellent schools keep the local Granite Bay and East Roseville areas significantly distinguished, which reflects in better than average property values and is what makes this community so extraordinary.”

To learn more about ESF’s upcoming fundraising events, ESF-funded programs, or to donate your contribution, please visit ESF at: www.eurekaschoolsfoundation.org

ESF’s Teacher Excellence Grant for CHALLENGE 21

The Eureka Schools Foundation (ESF) understands a key ingredient in an excellent education is comprehensive instruction and leading curriculum. Besides direct financial support for teacher salaries in enrichment education and cutting-edge classroom technology, a donation to ESF also supports the continuing education of the Eureka Union School District teachers in 21st century teaching practices.

ESF's 2009 Teacher Excellence Grant of \$23,000 helped to support a comprehensive teaching institute for the EUSD teachers this past summer. This year’s instruction offering to teachers, “The Challenge 21 Summer Institute,” took place in June and August and covered a wide range of topics. The training was in service of *Challenge 21*, the district-wide initiative to bring innovative 21st century practices in teaching critical thinking, and project-based learning, into all curriculums. ESF will now direct its yearly dividend funds from the ESF Endowment Fund as a direct grant for EUSD teacher education and instruction.

“ESF is proud to help our district teachers stay ‘ahead of the curve’ by learning new teaching techniques they can apply in the classroom,” said Greg Sazima, 2009 ESF President. “We are grateful to the community and businesses which so generously donate to ESF by supporting education within Granite Bay and Roseville – especially during these difficult economic times.”

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During the summer institute, teachers learned new instructional practices to help students be more successful in the classroom, and also about classroom technology tools that enhance inquiry-based learning. They also began working in teams to develop new challenge units in project-based learning that will be implemented during the 2009-2010 school year.

About the Eureka Schools Foundation

The Eureka Schools Foundation (ESF) is a non-profit foundation that supports the students in the Eureka Union School District. Founded more than 16 years ago by parents, community members, and local businesses, ESF has served to bridge the gap in unpredictable and insufficient education funding from our state government. ESF preserves programs and resources that are essential building-blocks to our kids' education and their future.

For more information, please visit www.eurekaschoolsfoundation.org.

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