

Mentoring For Success



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Vol 3. Issue 1, Sept. 2009

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Welcome Back Mentors Thanks for being there !

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Five Caring Adults in the Life of Every Student... Be One

We are happy to announce that SFUSD and The San Francisco Education-Fund (formerly known as San Francisco School Volunteers) are partnering this year to build the capacity of **Mentoring For Success**. The SF Ed Fund is the largest provider of volunteers to our city's schools, with an emphasis on assisting schools with the most urgent needs. They use a variety of approaches to meet student and teacher needs at individual school sites while also acting as a community catalyst for district wide change and school reform. Mentoring is one approach that really makes a difference. In looking at preliminary outcomes from Mentoring For Success we have found our school-based mentoring program to be a fantastic support to participating students. Almost 80% of our matches were sustained for the minimum one year. And of those students 40% had an improved GPA while 48% decreased their unexcused absences. If you want to join us in making a difference contact Erin Farrell to get involved. Even if you work in an SFUSD administrative office or outside SFUSD we can match you with a student in a school near you. *(Continued on p.3)*

Mentoring For Success is supported by the Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools



Tony and Ben at
Aptos Middle School

Match Spotlight

Last Spring we interviewed Benjamin Rombro, School Counselor, and Tony Dillard, an 8th grader at Aptos Middle School. Mr. Rombro and Tony were fortunate to have spent almost two full years matched together before Tony went off to Balboa High School this Fall.

What led you to join the mentoring program? How did you meet each other?

Tony: When I was in 7th grade I was in upward bound and had gotten in trouble. Ms. Rubinstein asked me if I wanted to be a mentee and who I would want my mentor to be? I picked my 8th grade counselor because we have a good connection.

Ben: Yes all the mentees were allowed to choose their mentors. It was the first year that the mentor program was taking place at Aptos and I thought it was great. I jumped at the opportunity to be a mentor. As a counselor I was already informally mentoring, but this program allows me to formalize it. So the LSP (Erika Rubinstein) and I came up with a group we thought would benefit from the mentoring program. *(Continued p. 2)*

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Spotlight (continued from page 1)

How did you feel before mentoring started?

Ben: I was looking forward to it. I was also a little wary because I was afraid of time constraints and if my dual position (being a counselor and mentor) would be a problem.

Tony: Excited, thinking I would go cart racing – had a fun time!

What activities have the two of you done together?

Tony: We went to Taco Bell for my birthday and a Warriors game (Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Golden State Warriors). The Warriors game was the best!

Ben: You aren't embarrassed to tell the interviewer how I smoked you at go-cart racing are you?

Tony: He beat me twice and I beat him once.

Tony: We also talk, went and got smoothies, went to Barney's, play connect four (I always win at connect four), video games (I destroyed Ben in them).

How do you feel about mentoring now?

Tony: He told on me when I thought he wouldn't.

Ben: That's true. As a counselor, there are times

when unfortunately I have to do a lot of disciplining, so there are times I have to call his mom, but despite that we have developed a strong trust and there is a good connection.

Tony: I still like you as a mentor even though you told on me.

Ben: I've actually also gotten close to the family in the last few years.

Tony: Oh I forgot to bring you some of the cake from my birthday.

Ben, did you have a mentor as a youngster?

Ben: I did actually. In 5th grade, there was a teacher who really took me under his wing and helped me. His mentor style was group oriented and I think now in my role as a mentor, I try to make my relationship with Tony fun and I try to let Tony know that I care for him and there are no strings attached to it. The one difference between my experience and the mentoring program now in my mentoring experience there wasn't much one on one time. It was more of a

group thing. I think the students in this program are fortunate to have one-on-one time with their mentors.

What are you looking forward to doing together in the future?

Tony: Well if I got a 3.0 GPA, then Mr. Rombro said we can go to Red Robbins and I did!

Ben: Yeah, Tony more than doubled his GPA! I'm also looking forward to seeing Tony graduate on stage and we are going to do a celebratory trip or activity for it. We will also do some activity in the summer again like we did go-cart racing last summer. Additionally when he transitions to high school, whether he likes it not (he smiles) I'm going to check in on him.

Tony: When I graduate I also get to call him Benjamin.

Ben: Yeah he is really looking forward to that.

Any advice you would like to give to mentors or mentees who have just begun their relationships?

Tony: Make sure the mentor is a good listener and always helps you with problems. Make sure that if you and your mentor are having problems or if you are having problems, talk it out. Also make sure they have a good sense of humor. Mine doesn't (Ben laughs).

Ben: I agree with everything Tony says and just want to say make sure your mentee has a good sense of humor, cuz mine doesn't! (laughs)

Tony: Oh and make sure the mentee always has a good sense of humor and that the mentee has a good heart and always expresses himself (what he feels and if he has problems). Your mentor will understand you and get your problem in a thoughtful way.

Ben: I want to also add that we (mentors) are all busy, but you should really try to etch out a time to do mentoring, because it is worthwhile and gratifying. Also meet the family and try to develop a close relationship with them because it is hard to have an effective relationship without out.

Do you want to add anything?

Tony: I appreciate my mentor Rombro as a friend, as a special person to talk to, and as a helper.

Benjamin: I just want to note that I've learned just as much from Tony as he has learned from me.



Upcoming Trainings

Mark Your Calendar

September 19: Volunteer Orientation and Mentoring Best Practices is for new volunteers who are not school site employees. Contact Erin Farrell for details. 415-242-2615, farrelle@sfusd.edu

October 28 or 29: Mentoring 201 is a day-long training that gives veteran mentors practical tools and information to deepen their student connection and to guide them in addressing roadblocks to future academic and social success. Location TBA

November 17 or 19: Mentoring 101 a day-long training that gives new mentors a foundation in mentoring best practices. Held at Edge-wood, 1801 Vicente.

Substitutes will be provided for all eligible mentors.



Looking For Something to Do with your Mentee?

Stanford Fan Fest & Bill Walsh Legacy Game

Saturday, September 19, 2009

3:00pm Family Fun & Entertainment

6:00pm Stanford vs. San Jose State Football Game
Stanford, CA

Kids get in free to this Stanford University vs. San Jose State University Football Game. Adult general admission tickets are \$12. Go early for live entertainment, interactive games, and food. Fan Fest is located at the Hammer Throw area of Cobb Track & Field. Festivities feature inflatable activities, rock climbing, play stations, interactive games, face painting, food, drink, and much more. To get your student a free ticket register at <http://www.gostanford.com/bwlegacy/> and print out a voucher.

Off Broadway "Broadway Show" Call Me Madam

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Director-led discussion at 6:00 p.m., Show at 7:00pm

Eureka Theatre

215 Jackson St (between Battery & Front), San Francisco



Mentors and students may check out this Broadway classic produced by 42nd St. Moon. International cabaret and concert star Klea Blackhurst stars as Ambassador Sally Adams, the "Hostess With the Mostes' on the Ball." Washington's most vivacious — and unconventional — party-giver is sent to represent the U.S. in the tiny duchy of Lichtenburg. It's not long before her down-to-earth and decidedly unorthodox manner surprises and charms the local citizenry — especially the handsome Prime Minister. A trio of U.S. congressmen, an errant princess, a devious protocol director, and a young press attaché complicate the new Ambassador's incumbency.

The dynamite Irving Berlin score features You're Just in Love, It's a Lovely Day Today, Something to Dance About, The Ocarina, and The Best Thing for You.

Call Annette Lai at least one week before the show at 415-255-8207, or email Alai@42ndstmoon.org to reserve your seats.



Special thanks to the following donors for supporting Mentoring For Success:

Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools

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Participating Schools

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- Aptos Middle School
- Bessie Carmichael
- Claire Lilienthal
- Everett Middle School
- Francisco Middle School
- Herbert Hoover Middle School
- Horace Mann Middle School
- International Studies Academy Middle School
- James Denman Middle School
- James Lick Middle School
- Marina Middle School
- MLK Middle School
- Paul Revere
- Presidio Middle School
- Rooftop Alternative School
- Roosevelt Middle School
- Visitacion Valley Middle School
- Willie Brown College Preparatory Academy

(Continued from page 1) New volunteers simply need to attend an orientation and a training on mentoring best practices, complete a background clearance, and get started with their new friend! Contact Erin Farrell, farrelle@sfusd.edu, 415-242-2615.