Thank you for mentoring!

Cathy Kasper  Laura Kauth  Davonna Kearney  Tiffany Kendall
Kyoko Kimura  Bryn Knapper*
Marilyn Koral  Valerie Kuki  Terry Lai
Angela Rodriguez  Bonnie Lake  Jeanne Rodriguez
Kris Langley  Erika Rubinstein*  Lindsay Sanchez*
Maureen Santori  Sabrina Saunders
Rafael Directo*  Mentoring Patty Schick
Jennifer Donahue*  Patricia Adcock
Belinda Serrano  Louisa Dorsch-Kerwin
Jack Sheehy  Barbara Sherfey
For Success

Summer Matters

In interviews with our students we heard over and over that they need time to get to know their adult mentor to feel more comfortable and trusting with the match relationship. It’s not surprising—research shows that the impact of mentoring increases throughout the duration of the relationship. That’s why Mentoring For Success requires mentor-mentee contact over the summer! As educators we know that students experience a “summer gap” academically, but we may not have considered the possibility of a “summer gap” in social relationships. According to Grossman and Rhodes (2002) youth mentored for at least a year report improvements in academic, social, and behavioral outcomes. Whereas the benefits of a 9 month, school-based mentoring program did not last beyond the school year when matches did not keep in touch over the summer (Aseltine, Durprée, and Lamellen, 2000). Even regular phone or email contact helps children (Grossman and Johnson, 1999).

For Questions about Mentoring for Success please contact: Curtis Sarkey or Erin Farrell 415-242-2615 sarkeyc@sfusd.edu farrelle@sfusd.edu

What led you to join the mentoring program? How did you meet each other?
Alex: I wanted to help students who needed support. In Sik’s case I wanted to expose him to American culture. He is also somewhat timid and I didn’t want him to be exposed to negative things on the streets.
Sik: Needed help.
Alex: Excited. Some anxiety also because I had to put my time into it, but I knew I was helping students who want to improve, so I was happy about it.

Movie Night

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts

Match Spotlight

This month we interviewed Alex Algones—Language Arts/Social Studies/ELD teacher, and Sikharin Jarungjit, an 8th grader who came to the US from Thailand when he was in 6th grade. Alex wanted to help him adjust to life in the United States. Over time the two of them have found, after Alex taught “Sik” how to play, that they share a love for basketball.

Sik and Alex at Golden State Warriors NBA game

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

Mentor Recognition

Program Contacts
What activities have the two of you done together?
Sik: He took me to a basketball game and I rode BART for the first time. We talk a lot and have lunch every day.
Alex: I took Sik and a group of students out to lunch on a weekend. Also whenever my wife and I are in Sik’s neighborhood we call him up and ask if he can meet us.
His mom also works at “Be My Guest”, it is a Thai restaurant and my friends and I go there a lot. His mom is a great cook!

How do you feel about mentoring now?
Sik: I’m glad I did it. I like it.
Alex: I like the program. I primarily did it to guide some students that I felt needed it. It was in a program like this before when I was in San Jose. Most of the students were immature and this program helps them. Sik isn’t like that, he may be even more mature than I am.

Is that true Sik?
Sik: I don’t know (he says nervously with a smile on his face).

What are you looking forward to doing together in the future?
Alex: Sik goes to Thailand every summer so he is going to bring me back some clothes. Before he goes though, I want to take him to a baseball game. He has never gone before. Later on we want to go to a hockey game, but we’re just taking it one thing at a time.

Any advice you would like to give to mentors or mentees who have just begun their relationships?
Alex: Be genuine. You got to really want to help others. Your mentees will know if you don’t care or aren’t putting an effort in and that might negatively affect the relationship.
Sik: It is good, get to know the person better.

Dialogue with your student this summer
Tips for summer communication via email or mail

Some starter questions:
• What is the best/worst thing about summer?
• What did you do on the 4th of July?
• Where have you been on vacation this summer?
• What is your ideal summer day?
• Have you seen any good movies/read any good books this summer?
• What are you most excited/worried about for school next year?
• What do you miss about school over the break?
• Is there one activity you want to try this summer?
• What activities would you like to focus on over the next 3,6,9 months?

Spice up your communication by sharing fun activities:
• Pictures or stories they have written
• Drawings or other art projects
• Mix CDs or other music that has “sound-tracked” their summer

You can also engage in a joint activity that enhances and stimulates your correspondence and summer connection. For some matches, this may be as simple as setting a summer goal, such as learning a new skill or exercising more. If you have similar goals, you can compare progress and provide encouragement over the summer.

Other examples of fun activities include:
• Create a summer “time capsule” that collects meaningful objects from your summer experiences (such as a pine cone from a hike in the woods) that can be discussed over the summer and shared with each other when you meet in person at the beginning of the next school year.
• Grow plants together: compare the progress of your plants as they grow.
• Try cooking the same recipe (a cake, for example) and talk about how the dish turned out.
• See the same movies (or read the same books) and discuss them together.
• Write a short story together, take turns contributing paragraph at a time.
• Come up with your own creative activities that build on your common interests and summer plans.

Summer Events

Friday, June 12, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Stow Lake Boathouse, Stow Lake Dr., Golden Gate Park

Celebratory Picnic in the Park. Come join the fun! We’ll be barbecuing, playing games, and decompressing from a long school year. The Boathouse also has boat and bike rentals available. We encourage you to invite your student’s family to this event.

July

Sunday, July 19, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. & Sloat, San Francisco

Volunteer with us to produce a concert at Stern Grove. Then enjoy first-class seats for the concert in a breath-taking setting.
Performers include:
Salsamuffin: Bruno “Sergent” Garcia’s innovative blending of hip-hop, reggae, and salsa, has spawned a “big town” sound that incorporates elements from urban music scenes worldwide. The former punk rock guitarist pushes the boundaries of cultural divides with body moving beats and a fresh perspective.
Curunmin: Takes the best of bossa-nova, samba, and hip-hop to the next level with ingenuity.

August

Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
India Basin Shoreline Park, Evans Ave., San Francisco

Come get out on the bay with America True this August!

Join us at this little-known gem of a park in San Francisco where boating, bird watching, and leisurely walks by the bay are favorite past-times. Activities for the day include a picnic, kayaking, sailing, and motor boat rides.

This is a land-based event with opportunities (thanks to the folks at America True) to try out different boats with expert sailors, kayakers, and boat enthusiasts as guides.

Summer Matters (from Page 1)
The “summer gap” affects lower-achieving students the most (Allinder and Fuchs, 1991) possibly due to a decreased exposure to learning opportunities. Take a moment to consider the many ways you can stay connected over the summer. Exposure to even one new activity can make a difference. “Dialogue with your Student…” on page 2 and the summer activities listed above are just a start. Check in with your student and your school site’s Mentor Program Coordinator to brainstorm some other possibilities. And if you are not getting emails from us about activities or free tickets, contact Erin Farrell (farrelle@sfusd.edu) with your email or phone number so you don’t miss out on any of the fun!