



MEDIA CONTACT:

Angela Parris – aparris44@pusd.us
626-396-3600 ext. 88354

BUSINESS AND CIVIC LEADERS WENT TO PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE FOR NOV. 10 'PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY' EVENT

More than 30 leaders in a range of professions shadowed PUSD principals to discuss challenges of running schools, and how business and community can best support them.

PASADENA (Nov. 12, 2010) – A diverse group of business and community leaders became “Principals for a Day” in the Pasadena Unified School District on Wednesday, Nov. 10, visiting the public schools of Pasadena, Altadena, and Sierra Madre to see and experience the endeavors, challenges, and accomplishments of its students and teachers. The sixth-annual program was coordinated by the Pasadena Educational Foundation and sponsored by Merrill Lynch. Stephen Ralph, CEO and President of Huntington Hospital, was the keynote speaker at the event luncheon.

By visiting classrooms, meeting students and teachers, and working alongside principals, Principal for a Day participants help to foster a greater understanding of the learning and leadership that takes place in Pasadena's public schools.

After spending the morning at their designated schools, PFAD participants and principals gathered at a luncheon at the Westin Pasadena to hear from PUSD Superintendent Edwin Diaz, Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, and keynote speaker Ralph.

“Academic growth in our schools continues to increase,” said Diaz who contributes the ongoing success of the PUSD in part to ever-growing community engagement, as well as outstanding principals and teachers. Citing the PFAD program among his favorites, Diaz said it's key in helping to change lingering misinformed perceptions of PUSD schools.

Mayor Bogaard made one simple plea in his remarks: “Don't let this one experience be anything other than a beginning point,” he said, imploring PFAD participants to continue engaging and working with their schools.

Keynote speaker Stephen Ralph of Huntington Memorial said the hospital counts on the area public schools to supply future employees of the medical profession and that Huntington Memorial has benefited greatly by having a ready workforce graduating from local schools. “It's an obligation of businesses to support young people and public education,” he said. “All the various relationships and partnerships we've had with the PUSD have really paid off for Huntington Memorial Hospital.”

The 2010 Principals for a Day:

Greg Akian, Horace Mann Insurance - Burbank Elementary
Mike Babcock, Community Volunteer - Franklin Elementary
Rosey Bell, Coldwell Banker - Center for Independent Studies
Ken Booth, A Noise Within – Muir High School
Pseudonymous Bosch, Author - San Rafael Elementary

George Brumder, Retired Attorney, PEF Board President - Jefferson Elementary
Marie Campbell, Sapphos Environmental- Field Elementary
Angelica Clark, Parsons Foundation - Wilson Middle School
Craig Colbath, Merrill Lynch - Hamilton Elementary
Craig Cox, Merrill Lynch - Roosevelt School
Phyllis Currie, Pasadena Water and Power - Washington Middle School
Andy Etters, JPL- Sierra Madre Middle
George Falardeau, Art Center College of Design - Rose City
Sue Femino, Community Volunteer - Willard Elementary
John Fosselman, Fosselmans Ice Cream Co. - Altadena Elementary
Mike Garrett, - John Muir High School
Frank Girardot, Pasadena Star News - Pasadena High School
Sarah Horner-Fish, Tom Sawyer Camps - Longfellow Elementary
Cynthia Kurtz, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership - Eliot Middle School
Andrew Lamborn, JPL – Jackson Elementary
Exie-Marie Leagons, Caltech - Cleveland Elementary
Jonathan Litvack, Westin - Blair IB
Bobby Lomeli, Pasadena Police Dept. - McKinley Elementary
Marah Lyvers, Junior League of Pasadena - Loma Alta Elementary
Steve Madison, Pasadena City Councilman - San Rafael Elementary
Katherine Murray-Morse, Pacific Asia Museum - McKinley Elementary
Bill Opel, Huntington Medical Research Institute - Blair IB
Sharon Patterson, Caltech - Marshall Fundamental
Anthony Portantino, 44th Assembly District - Pasadena High School
George Regas, Regas Institute - Marshall Fundamental
Mark Rocha, President, PCC - Blair IB
Elizabeth Sadlon, Girls on the Run - Burbank Elementary
Robin Salzer, Robins Restaurant - Don Benito Elementary
Norman Sarafian, RBC Wealth Management - Webster Elementary
Melanie Schow, Schow Foundation - Norma Coombs Elementary
Juliana Serrano, All Saints Church - Madison Elementary
Allen Shay, Shay & Associates - Cleveland Elementary
Tyrone Skinner, Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church - Focus Point Academy
Nicole Warner, Operation Hope - Washington Accelerated
Stephen Watkins, AON, Inc. - Sierra Madre Elementary
Hal Yorke, JPL - Muir Science Engineering Academy

Principal for a Day is a nationwide program successfully used in many school districts to cultivate stronger relationships between schools, businesses, and the wider community.

The Pasadena Educational Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization created in 1971 to enhance educational programs in the Pasadena Unified School District.