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## Students Learn from the Pros

Submitted by Kristen Correll



Performing arts students gather on the Campolindo High School stage during the Feb. 14 event.

Photo Provided

Sixty performing arts students from the Acalanes Union High School District spent a few hours at Campolindo High School Feb. 14, even though they could have had a day off, to participate in a Q & A presentation with Krysta Rodriguez (“SMASH,” “First Date,” “Addams Family”) and Jonathan Bernstein (artistic director of the Performing Arts Project, New York director/artist, and faculty member at NYU). The event was hosted by Campolindo Music Director Mark Roberts, and was sponsored by The Performing Arts Project.

offer this program to students in the AUHSD, saying, “I am always thrilled to have professional performers speak with our students and put real flesh on the concepts we consistently strive to achieve.”

The Performing Arts Project is a not-for-profit organization formed by a group of respected educators and entertainment industry professionals to help prepare the next generation of performers. Bernstein noted that, “This place (The Performing Arts Project) dedicates itself to being a three-week laboratory whereby you have the freedom to be yourself. We truly prize process over product. If

we do our jobs well, I believe there will be better shows on Broadway and on television, and better films in our theaters. But to my mind, the ultimate goal is there will be better friendships and happier marriages.”

The AUHSD has many talented performers and there was no shortage of questions in the hour and half spent with Rodriguez and Bernstein. As the students prepare for their upcoming school performances, many questions focused on how to create the best performance possible for the audience. Rodrigues shared with the group that understanding the characters while making them authentically unique

would be a winning combination. Campolindo High School will showcase “Urinetown the Musical” in March, Miramonte High School will perform “Shrek,” and Acalanes High

School is preparing to do “Guys and Dolls.” (See related story page A1.)

You can learn more about The Performing Arts Project by visiting www.performingartsproject.com.

## Name that Gum!

By Cathy Tyson



Gum Tasters share a laugh as they guess flavors and brands during a recent contest at the Lafayette Library Teen Center.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Creative library assistant in charge of teen services, Patrick Brogan, had a unique idea for a gum guessing contest recently. While back in the day food, drink and especially gum was frowned upon in libraries, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center paved the way for respectful noshing. Brogan had a variety of gum flavors and brands separated into numbered baggies; each participating teenager got to chew and savor, however briefly, a piece of gum from each unidentified bag. Whoever guessed

the most correct number of flavors and their corresponding brands would win a 380 count giant tub of Double Bubble gum. In the case of a tie, there would be a bubble blowing contest as a tie-breaker.

The lure of complimentary bubble gum, along with bragging rights proved irresistible. Stride, Orbit, Wrigley’s, Juicy Fruit – if only the students could focus so intently on their respective homework, as analyzing gum. A record and slightly rowdy crowd showed up in the Lafayette Li-

brary’s Teen Center to try their luck. After much chewing, and discarding used gum in Dixie cups, without so much as a palette cleansing drink of water in between rounds, many of the contestants tied. So, as pressure mounted, it all came down to a bubble blowing contest to determine the winner. Young 13-year-old gum connoisseur Anya Weinstein took home the tub of Double Bubble. “She was the only one whose bubble was not only biggest, but also did not pop,” said Brogan.

## Acalanes Senior Wins Logo Design Contest

Submitted by Janet Supple



Image provided

Senior Zach Kisner won a logo design contest held in Susan Lane’s Graphic Design class at Acalanes High School to create a new logo for the Nurtury Preschool located on the campus of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Kisner was awarded with a check and a certificate for his efforts. Connie Kelleher, director of the MVPC Nurtury Preschool, said, “Our school enjoyed the opportunity to work with such talented high school students and I am very excited about the new design.” MVPC Nurtury Preschool, is located in Moraga, at 10 Moraga Valley Ln. Information about preschool can be found at www.mvpc.today.org/programs/nurtury-preschool.

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