

Multicultural Events Feature Adult and Student Voices

Three events across the district last week showcased the songs, stories, and spoken work performances of people from around the world.



First, on February 26 Ruby Bridges Elementary School held a Cultural Voices Oratorical. The assembly featured a spoken word performances, poems, and songs from America, Mexico, and India, plus a combined kindergarten and special day class performance of "Keep Our Live Alive." It was a beautiful assembly, and the room was packed with families!



That night, AUSD, in partnership with the City of Alameda and the Black Achievers Alliance, hosted a Black History Month Celebration, also at Ruby Bridges Elementary School. This event featured performances by students at Ruby Bridges Elementary School, Nea, and ACLC, as well as speeches by School Board President Mia Bonta, educator and minister Ammar Saheli, and writer/editor Kiki Monifa. During the celebration, Danielle Pharr-Matthews (the principal of Ruby Bridges) received The Maya Angelou Award and Rosalind Tellum received the Elector Littlejohn Award for their commitment to and advocacy for



African American students and families.

Rounding out the week, Paden Elementary School hosted a multi-language story time Friday night. Parents (and several children) were available to read stories in about a dozen languages - including Farsi, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. The children had small passports to stamp at each station, and every ten minutes children (and adults) would choose a new reader and language. Lesson learned? Children love stories in all languages - and adults love to read them!



"I'd like to thank everyone who put on these events that so warmly welcomed and highlighted our diverse families and students," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "Honoring the voices and experiences of all of our students and families enriches our community and strengthens our connections."