

and Mayor Gavin Newsom during a schoolwide assembly on Nov. 24. San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Carlos Garcia also joined in the special celebration along with community leaders and friends from the neighborhood.

Hailed as "the Oscars of teaching" by Teacher Magazine, the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards were conceived to recognize the importance

Candidates for the Milken Educator Awards are selected of the following criteria:

*Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by effective instructional practices and student learning results in the classroom and school;

*Exemplary educational accomplishments beyond the classroom that provide models of excellence for the profession;

*Strong long-range potential for

motivate her students, as when she asked them to write and design homework assignments for her to complete.

Her standards-based lessons and student-centered activities promote positive learning outcomes, and she frequently uses assessment data effectively to drive instruction. Yip's instruction has made a significant impact on her students' achievement gains and has helped the school increase its API score. *See Page 2*

and going door to door to residents of the coming city and the meetings where everyone can get information and speak for what they would like to see in the "new" Sunnydale.

The first community meeting residents was held on Saturday, November 1, at the Sunnydale Community Center.

The developers posted the proposed timeline for the development: *November 2008 - Master Plan Phase: Community participation design.

*November 2009 - Approval City departments review the plan; community continues to work on design and also develop relocation plan.

Girls After School 15 Years with I

In honor of 15 years of service Girls After School Academics (GASA) will hold a Kwanzaa anniversary dinner on Wednesday, 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Woburn Building, 3543 18th St. Dress is comfortable.

Celebrating investments in young women, the event will pay tribute to present GASA members and alumni. GASA members present their stories and discuss what the organization and its activities mean to them.

Highlighted activities include

Renovated Kelloch-Velasco Park Reopens to the Public

by Betty Paeshall

Saturday, November 22 was a beautiful sunny day, most fitting for the celebration that was held for the completion of the renovation of Kelloch-Velasco Park.

The park was established in the 1970s and was long overdue for a complete makeover. The old wooden play structures have been replaced with colorful new equipment, with plenty of running room. The new beds of plants are thriving. A gazebo next to the play area provides a focus point that will be well used for picnics and entertainments. At the far end of site the basketball area was in good use too.

As children played, adults enjoyed the grilled links and music provided by the Richmond Recreation Jazz Band. The band is composed of a group of Rec & Park employees who volunteered to entertain at the celebration.

The site is bordered by lawn with entrances at the four corners and midpoints. Rhoda Parhams, the Rec & Park Capital Division Manager, Meghan Tieman, the manager of this project, and James Threat, our district manager, were on hand to oversee the celebration and point out the features of the park. The plants are all native species that will provide blooms throughout the year. A picture display of the park as it ap-

peared in recent years was on hand, illustrating not only the scruffy appearance but also the fencing that seemed to discourage entry.

Now there is a welcoming ambience about the entire park. Once almost entirely enclosed by metal pickets, new modified fencing around the basketball court at one end and the children's playground at the other give necessary protection but maintain the open feeling. The middle area, where the gazebo and benches and tables invite people to sit, is set off by the attractive posts that once supported the old fence and now stand free as an unobtrusive but effective way to delineate the central portion of the site, a nice use of recycled materials. The new arrangement with minimal fencing makes this park a

very inviting place for young children, older youth and adults and provides a sense of both safety and serenity.

Neighbors who participated in the entire process of advocating for the park renewal and the planning have designated their group as the Kelloch-Velasco Park Community. Although it is not possible to staff the park both for budgetary reasons and because there is no clubhouse, a park employee will put in two to three hours daily for maintenance. He is sure to be assisted by many community members who are delighted with the park and aim to keep it in good condition.

The neighbors and the Rec & Park Department deserve congratulations for the good work that resulted in this neighborhood gem.

Congestion Pricing Options Being Reviewed for San Francisco

San Francisco's County Transportation Authority on Nov. 25 presented preliminary findings of its Mobility, Access and Pricing Study (MAPS) to the Authority Board. The Authority Board will review a range of possible area-wide congestion pricing scenarios for San Francisco, as well as the likely benefits and impacts of each option.

The findings come after months of rigorous data analysis, modeling

and public input provided through two rounds of workshops and various community forums.

As the Congestion Management Agency (CMA) for San Francisco, the Authority applied for and received a \$1 million study grant from the Federal Highway Administration to examine congestion pricing as a means to deal with increased traffic on city streets.

Congestion pricing involves charging

motorists a fee to drive in specific, congested areas or corridors during peak travel times.

Congestion pricing includes a program for reinvesting generated revenues in transportation infrastructure and service, benefiting drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike.

Congestion pricing has been successfully implemented in such cities as London and Stockholm. *See Page 2*