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Contact:

David Vossbrink, (408) 277-3515
Communications Director

**Mayor Gonzales Celebrates Five Most
Improved San Jose Schools**
Second annual "Progress to Excellence" Awards



Mayor Gonzales at Hester Elementary School

San Jose ---- Five San Jose elementary schools that have made the greatest academic improvements over the past two years received the "Mayor's Progress to Excellence" award today from Mayor Ron Gonzales and a caravan of community leaders and representatives of San Jose sports teams and police and fire departments.

The mayor established the annual "Progress to Excellence" award last year to recognize the five San Jose public schools that have achieved the biggest combined increase in their Academic Performance Index scores over the previous two years.



The sign on the podium reads “We are the best in the West!”

“We are celebrating outstanding progress by schools that have worked hard to help our children achieve greater success,” said Gonzales. “Students, teachers, administrators, and parents in these schools have earned praise and thanks for all they have done to make our community’s schools better for our kids.”



One of the fire trucks in the caravan

The five elementary schools include Hester and Almaden in the San Jose Unified School District, and Linda Vista, San Antonio, and Painter in the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District.



A picture of the caravan



Students proudly hold their sign welcoming the Mayor

The mayor visited each of the schools this morning to personally present the award to students and teachers. He was joined by city councilmembers Nora Campos, Ken Yeager, and Judy Chirco, along with a colorful caravan that included police mounted units, the San Jose Fire Department “Shark

Engine,” Di Alagich from the San José CyberRays, San Jose Earthquakes representatives, and Sharkie, the mascot of the San Jose Sharks.



San Antonio Elementary School displays pride

The API was mandated by the 1999 California Public Schools Accountability Act to measure progress on education reform efforts. The API measures school academic performance with possible scores between 200 and 1000, currently based on the Stanford 9, a nationally-normed standardized achievement test administered annually to California students in grades two through eleven.



A photo of the caravan participants

Ultimately the API will include a variety of indicators such as standardized test scores, high school exit exam scores, dropout and graduation rates, and student attendance data.

“We created this award to call attention to the success of San Jose public schools that have show how school communities can work together to achieve excellence in education ,” said the mayor. “These schools are models for the entire city.”



The Mayor and children at Almaden Elementary School



Students and parents listen to the Mayor speak to the crowd

2003 San Jose “Progress to Excellence” Award Winners

School	District	Academic Performance Index			Gain
		2002	2001	2000	
Hester Elementary	San Jose Unified	681	590	558	123
Linda Vista Elementary	Alum Rock	723	692	601	122
San Antonio Elementary	Alum Rock	640	570	518	122
Almaden Elementary	San Jose Unified	694	634	575	119
Painter Elementary	Alum Rock	679	599	562	117

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