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School Bell: Summer meant school for one Antioch math teacher

By Trine Gallegos
Contra Costa Times

Posted: 08/03/2011 02:25:41 PM PDT

Updated: 08/03/2011 02:25:42 PM PDT

Although warm temps abound, "School Bell" is done with its summer break.

Welcome back to friends in far East County, who have already filed into their classrooms from Oakley to Discovery Bay.

QUITE THE FELLOW: Anthony Anderson did what most kids try to avoid: He attended summer school. Well, kind of.

The Antioch High teacher earned a fellowship spot through the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Educators (IISME). The program places teachers at Lockheed Martin and other companies. "Back in the classroom, they apply industry experiences to stimulate students' interest in math and science ...," according to Lockheed.

Anderson said his connections between the math he teaches and the fellowship's opportunities were a great match.

In the last 27 years, Lockheed Martin has sponsored 334. The program places fellowship recipients with engineers in space-based and missile programs at the company's Sunnyvale and Palo Alto campuses.

During the eight-week program, Anderson worked at Sunnyvale's Lockheed Martin Space Systems, completing an array of projects and tasks. Anderson served as an aerodynamics engineer in the flight sciences department.

"I (was able to use) my science and math skills to solve real-world problems," he said.

He was especially happy with the "hands-on work and collaborations on some innovative

technologies."

Anderson said he

"gained a wealth of knowledge on techniques that will be beneficial in my classroom ... raising students' interest and performance."

One of the things Anderson plans to share with students: The answer to the age-old question of "Why do I need to know this? "

He also will let them know about the "opportunities that exist with companies right here in the Bay Area."

Anderson just finished his first year at AHS, teaching algebra, advanced algebra and pre-calculus.

He said he's excited to get back to class and share his newfound knowledge with his students.

"I'd easily give the program an A+."

CELEBRATION, GOOD TIMES: Adams Middle School isn't taking long to offer up some fun.

Come Aug. 19, the Brentwood school and its Parents Club host a community celebration event.

Set from 5-8 p.m., the event features an array of activities for kids, information booths and a picnic.

Folks are encouraged to bring dinner or have the option of ordering from Diggers Diner, which will be on the campus selling hamburgers, corn dogs,



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fries and drinks.

Kelly Manke, vice principal, says visitors will be entertained by the Big Hit Collective band.

"This community celebration is to bring together our students, families and local community organizations. It's an opportunity to share the good things that are happenings at Adams and the resources that are available (here.)"

Also on board to chat and offer info are the Brentwood Police Department, Brentwood Parks and Recreation, Friends of Marsh Creek, John Muir and Kaiser medical reps, Kids Helping Kids,

Streets of Brentwood, Summerset I, the Tumble Time Bus, Willy's Bagels & Blends and more.

"We are very excited about this event and look forward to the opportunity to connect with our local community and build relationships to help support each other," Manke said.

The school is at 401 American Ave. For more info, call 925-513-6450.

SPIFFED UP: Many students throughout the area are being greeted (or will soon be greeted) with some school beautification.

Crews worked over the break to improve several schools, including Byron's Excelsior Middle School, which is nearly done with a combo cafeteria, library, office and multiuse theater building.

Much of the work was done thanks to Measure C funding and state matching funds.

In Antioch, many of the modernization projects were at some older campuses, including Antioch High and Park Middle.

Antioch High's 800 wing was completely remodeled, while modernization of the auto and wood shop wings was done. Some art classes received work as well.

At Park, the 400 and 600 wings were redone, and some updates were made at Belshaw, Kimball and Marsh elementary schools. New marquees were installed at Turner, Sutter and Belshaw elementaries.

In Brentwood, Ron Nunn Elementary received roof

work; Krey received a new coat of paint; and the blacktop area received attention at Bristow Middle and Loma Vista and Brentwood elementaries.

IMPORTANT EXTENSION: The deadline for school districts to require secondary students to show proof of whooping cough immunization has been extended up to 30 days beyond the first day of school.

Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed Senate Bill 614, which gives school districts nearly a month after school starts to verify that students in grades 7 through 12 have received the pertussis vaccination, known as Tdap, which protects against whooping cough.

Previously, districts were scrambling to comply with a recent law that required the immunizations by the first day of school. Many districts worried that they would have to turn away students who had not yet complied.

More information about the requirement is available by visiting www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn.

School Bell is written by Trine Gallegos. If you have news you'd like to share in the column, contact her at trineg@att.net. You can also reach Judith Prieve at jprieve@bayareanewsgroup.com.



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