

Heritage Festival



ESHS Chamber choir in hotel in front of the beautiful waterfall show.

Aloha! That was the spirit of the long weekend shared by 35 eager choir members and chaperones, under the direction of Gianna Summers, as they traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to participate in the Heritage Festival. The choir earned a Silver Award along with the Adjudicator's Award. The student's participation included singing three songs after

hours of rehearsals and performances. On Friday, April 3, the day before the Festival, the choir was honored to sing the National Anthem, "Stand Together" and "Give us Hope" aboard the USS Missouri, where the signing of the surrender for WWII occurred. This is an honor only 12 choirs a year are privileged to perform. The choir received a



ESHS Chamber choir at the Polynesian Culture Center Awards show with our trophies 2nd place All Around and Judges Favorite awards.

folded American Flag that was flown on the ship, an award and commemorative pin as a "thank you" from the USS Missouri. They followed the performance with a trip to the USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor and were very moved by the experience.

Other activities enjoyed by the choir members after their performance, were a trip to

the Polynesian Cultural Center, snorkeling at Hanama Bay, shopping at the International Marketplace, and brief moments relaxing on Waikiki Beach. The youngsters enjoyed the Festival activities after months of fundraising including a silent auction, winter concert, and recitals, all showcasing the talent El Segundo has come to expect and enjoy. •

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PTA Reflections Winners



Reflections District Winner Hannah Ramirez.

KINDERGARTEN AGE STUDENT SNAGS FIRST PLACE

This year's annual PTA "Reflections" theme of WOW had many stellar entries from the students of El Segundo Unified's creative study body. All entrants in the competition were judged at their specific school sites, with the winning entries moving on to the PTA's 33rd District level for judging. The 33rd District encompasses an area as far south as San Pedro and as far north as Malibu, so El Segundo students had plenty of competition.

The students who were honored at the 33rd District level were awarded their certificates at the ESUSD School Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 28. Winning 3rd place in the Music competition was Aidan Stenson from Center Street, while scoring a a 3rd place prize in Photography was Madison Dunaetz from El Segundo Middle School. A Film/Video honorable mention went to

Diego Kaiser from Center Street and to Shannon Brooker from the Middle School.

Taking first prize in the Film/Video category was Center Street's pint-sized Hannah Ramirez, who created a DVD reflecting the theme of friendship -- and what it means to her regardless of race or color. Her adorable winning entry featured her great friends Brooke Graham, Katherine Leutgens and Savannah Schartz, all helping Hannah create an original DVD depicting their depth of friendship.

The film shows the girls playing together and discussing their take on what friendship really means to them. Titled, "Friends are WOW," (Wonderful, Nice, Happy) each girl talks about what makes their friends so special to them. "When I see

my friends, I don't see skin color." "When I see my friend I see pretty hair." "When I see my friend I don't see fat and skinny" "When I see my friend I see beautiful eyes." WOW indeed.

Next year's 2009-2010 PTA "Reflections" theme will be "Beauty is..." Students are invited to enter the competition in the categories of literature, musical composition, visual arts, photography, film/video production and dance choreography. PTA Council President Jenny Davies urges parents to get involved with this worthy project. "We need all the help we can get organizing this event," Davies stated. "We also need parents who are willing to serve as chairperson at each of our school sites. In order to keep this program thriving, we really are asking parents to help us out."

After all, when El Segundo students achieve this kind of WOW reaction from the judges, who wouldn't want to lend a hand?*

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