

# Public Schools Essay Awards



ESHPublicschoolsessaywinnersfrontrowlefttorightManuelRodriguezMattLimAllisonDoeringLaurenVillanueva;backrow Dr. Ray Gen, Joe Monto, Sam Brown, John Morrison, Dr. Bill Watson (photo by Charles Hollingsworth).

By Dar Weston

On Friday, April 24th, El Segundo High School (ESHS) students received awards at the El Segundo Masonic Lodge for having written the best essays on the subject, “Education is Building for a Better Tomorrow”.

Manuel Rodriguez, senior, was awarded first prize - winning a \$500 scholarship. The Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman class first place winners were Matt Lim, Allison Doering, and Lauren Villanueva.

First prize essay excerpts follow:  
“As one enters El Segundo High School, he can see the school motto ‘Enter to Learn. Go forth for service’. If students are educated correctly, they not only learn the basic subjects such as Math, Science, or English; but [also] core values that the individual takes with him to the working world. Core values like perseverance to solve problems, responsibility, respect, integrity, and community service.” (Manuel Rodriguez)  
“With each passing day, mankind forges ahead on its uncharted journey through time

- - -. To build a bridge, engineering must be known, math must be calculated, topography mapped, and designs drawn. Like building a bridge, building a better future depends on education passing along information that can be transformed into knowledge – knowledge that is used to fuel society’s engine of advancement.” (Matt Lim)  
“Education is a gift of endless knowledge, a precious one, which unlocks the door to numerous possibilities in life. It supplies an outlet of hope to children of all ages that with enough hard work, any goal can be accomplished.” (Allison Doering)  
“Education and knowledge is something that a person will have forever, and it is something that no one can ever take away from you.” (Lauren Villanueva)  
ESHS seniors Corey Griffith and Andrew Gen were awarded second and third place in their class. Other ESHS awardees were Ashley Pang and Stephanie Aceves (Juniors), and Justin Ramirez and Ray Colquhoun (Freshmen).

California Masons have celebrated Public Schools Month for 88 years. Event speakers were El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) board member and former superintendent Bill Watkins; El Camino Community College board member and ESUSD teacher Dr. Ray Gen; and ESHS Co-Principal Linal Harada. The chairman of the event was John Morrison, former Master of the El Segundo lodge and Inspector, 709th Masonic District. Morrison and Joe Monto, lodge Master presented certificates of accomplishment and monetary rewards. Family members and friends of the winning students attended the awards ceremony and joined in refreshments following the awards ceremony. Mrs. Joanne Gen, ESUSD and ESHS librarian represented the school and city librarians who have graded the student essays for the last two years. Also in attendance was Ms. Nancy Nuesseler, retired teacher and former director of the National Education Association.

# Eagles Softball Wins Pioneer League Title



The 2009 Pioneer League Champion El Segundo Eagles after they clinched the league title.

By Andrew Thomas

The El Segundo Varsity softball team continued their incredible season in dramatic fashion last Tuesday night, as they came from behind to defeat arch rival North 4-3 to clinch the Pioneer League title.

North jumped on the Eagles early. A two out double scored two runs in the top of the first to give North a 2-0 lead. However, the Eagles responded in the bottom of the inning with a run of their own. With one out, Sam Heyman singled. She then stole second and alertly took third when the ball got away. Anissa Noland continued her clutch hitting with a single to score Heyman and cut the North lead in half.

The score remained the same until the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup>, when the Eagles struck again. Gabby Valerio doubled to lead off the inning. Missy Schaefer then bunted her over to third, and then Erin Burner singled in the tying run.

The score remained tied 2-2 in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Jenna Rich singled with one out and promptly stole second base. Sam Heyman then singled and took second on the throw, putting Eagles in scoring position at second and third.

Anissa Noland grounded out to shortstop for out number two, but Rich scored the go ahead run in the process, to give the Eagles their first lead of the night at 3-2. Schaefer then singled home Heyman and the Eagles were on top 4-2. But the game was far from over.

North catcher Olivia Alvarez hit a one out home run in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> to cut the lead to 4-3. Two straight singles followed, and North was threatening to tie the game or take the lead. But Eagles pitcher Jenna Rich induced two straight ground balls to end the threat in the 6<sup>th</sup>. North put one more runner on with a two out single in the 7<sup>th</sup>, but Rich got the final out on a ground ball to first to end the game and clinch the Pioneer League title for the Eagles.

“This is awesome,” exclaimed Head Coach Keith Cameron. “This means a lot to our

program. This is such an incredible league, and I am really happy with our performance. This was another great comeback win that once again shows the character this team has in them. What a great way for the seniors to end their league careers. But we still have one more goal in mind.”

With the victory, the Eagles swept the season series with North, and helped heal some of the wounds from a difficult CIF semi final loss to them last season. “I will never get over that loss,” explained Cameron. “But winning the league by beating them does feel good. They are a very good team and we have an outstanding rivalry going with them. Both teams gave a great effort, and both programs can hold their heads up high after this game.”

The Eagles still had one more Pioneer League game to play two days later, as they travelled to South to finish out the league schedule. The Eagles and their offense exploded early and often, scoring 17 runs in the first four innings en route to a 17-1 victory over South. The Eagles finished the five inning mercy game with 16 hits. Anissa Noland and Erin Burner each had three hits, while Jenna Rich, Gabby Valerio and Dani Hannan each had two hits for the Eagles.

Eagles pitcher Jenna Rich was injured in the third inning when she sprained her ankle. The severity of the injury is unknown, but she is expected to play in round one of the playoffs.

After losing a non league game on Friday, the Eagles finished the regular season with a record of 24-3. They were 9-1 in Pioneer League play. The Eagles began the week ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division IV of CIF, and go into the playoffs as the number two seeded team in the Division IV playoff bracket.

The first playoff game is Thursday, May 21. The Eagles will play round one of the playoffs at home. The Eagles will play the winner of the Westminster La Quinta and Saddleback wild card game. Game time is 3:15 at Rec. Park. Round two of the playoffs is on Tuesday, May 26.

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