



Familias Latinas

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023



We came together to enjoy delicious food and great company in December, and to celebrate Dia de los Reyes in January.



Familias Updates

One of our priorities is to continue to build our community. In December, Familias Latinas hosted a community potluck. We enjoyed delicious food including arepas, carne en su jugo, tres leches, and flan. In addition, children made art projects, had "snowball" fights, and played basketball. We welcomed the new year by celebrating Dia de los Reyes with hot chocolate and rosca de reyes. It was so great to see everyone!

Upcoming Events

We are planning a **Game Night in February**. This will be a fun event for all - board games, video games, sports, and, of course, loteria! Loteria will help fund our scholarships.



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Familias Updates



Upcoming Events continued

Familias Latinas is choreographing a dance routine for Cornell's Got Talent to help our students embrace and feel proud of their cultural heritage. Familias Latinas will be dancing to La Gozadera by Gente de Zona and Marc Anthony. I know some children might not like to dance or feel shy, that's okay! There will be a part in the dance when kids will wave flags to represent the many Latino countries. If you're interested in joining the Familias Latinas performance please email me! Deadline to submit our applications to Cornell's Got Talent committee is this Wednesday, Jan. 18th.

Scholarships

One way that Familias Latinas wants to support our community is to provide scholarships so our students have what they need to focus on their studies and can access learning opportunities. We also want to recognize the accomplishments of our students. We will be sharing scholarship applications soon!

To make these scholarships possible, we rely on community members participating in our fundraising events (e.g., raffles, Loteria, bake sale) as well as making direct donations. If you would like to make a donation, please [click here](#).

¡Gracias! Thank you!
TO OUR DONORS

We want to give a big thank you to all the local businesses who have supported us this year! Thank you for sending the message to our students that they are important and valued by our community. We cannot thank you enough. Muchas gracias! If you have a business and would like to donate to our scholarship fund, [click here](#).

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Community Member Highlights



Evangelina Huerta and Rosa Corona

It is my pleasure to introduce Rosa Corona and Evangelina (Eva) Huerta to our community. Eva is a 7th grader at Albany Middle School. She enjoys graphic novels, listening to music, drawing, and traveling with her mother. Eva was nominated to be featured in our newsletter by one of her teachers, Tara Hawk. Ms. Hawk described Eva as a friendly student with a great sense of humor. Furthermore, Ms. Hawk stated that Eva is determined to meet her goals, which include achieving As and Bs in all her classes this quarter. Having interviewed Eva, she stands out as a self-aware and mature teenager.

Eva acknowledged that school can be hard, but she has worked hard this year to improve her grades and work towards her academic goals. Her advice to her peers is to "push through even when you don't feel motivated" and "think about your future." Eva hopes to become a veterinarian in the future. In addition to focus and hard work, Eva attributes her growth this year to the support of her teachers (Ms. Hawk, Mr. Zablackis, and Ms. Janey), who have cheered her on and made learning interesting.

Eva's mother, Rosa Corona, was born in Mexico and came to the US when she was 2 years old. Ms. Corona obtained her Bachelor's degree in sociology and is pursuing her Master's in Social Work at UC Berkeley. She is passionate about social work due to her own experience as a foster parent to her nieces and her understanding of the significant need to support foster youth. Ms. Corona has seen how hard Eva has worked this year and is really proud of her daughter. Ms. Corona also shared that Eva is a great artist. Ms. Corona enjoys watching Netflix and traveling with Eva.

To continue to get to know each other and highlight the accomplishments within our community, we will feature members of our community each month. If you want to show your child how proud you are of all their effort and accomplishments, introduce yourself so you can connect with our community, share a business, service, or skill that you can offer our community, or nominate someone else to be featured in our monthly newsletter, please email Familias Latinas de Albany.



Achievement Gap impacting AUSD

by: Catherine Anicama

The "achievement gap" refers to any significant and persistent difference in academic performance or educational attainment between different groups of students, such as white students and minorities or students from higher-income and lower-income households. (The Glossary of Education Reform, 2019)

Research has found that on average Latino/x students perform lower than their White peers. Unfortunately, our school district shows the same pattern; our Latino/x students are performing lower than their White peers on standardized reading and math tests.

First, let's be very clear— There is no relationship between race or ethnicity and our abilities. Our Latino students are just as capable as their peers. Then why, on average, is there an achievement gap?

Implicit Bias

One major factor is implicit bias. Implicit biases are the associations and assumptions made about and by our students that are outside our awareness.

For example, a teacher may provide one student with more attention or praise their efforts more frequently than another student due to an unconscious assumption about that student's ability or motivation without even realizing that they are treating the two students differently.

Racism & Discrimination

After being exposed to racism and discrimination, a student may begin to believe negative stereotypes about themselves. As a result, they begin to act in ways consistent with those stereotypes. For example, if they believe that they won't graduate, then why study? Or a student who is scared of asking for help because they don't want to confirm a stereotype of being "stupid," does not get the support they need.

Other Factors

In addition, academic performance is impacted by other factors. Students who cannot afford tutors, workshops, and other resources are not on an equal playing field with peers who have those resources. Students who are English Language Learners are working twice as hard as their peers because they learning another language in addition to the academic content. Students who are juggling multiple responsibilities such as helping their siblings, other relatives, or holding a job, have less time, not less motivation or intelligence.

What Is Being Done

We need to understand what factors are impacting our Latino/x students in our District. Our district created the **Student Achievement Committee (SAC)** to think of ways to address the achievement gap. The committee includes staff as well as parents. While the school staff understands the curriculum and resources available in our district, it is the *families who are the experts on their children's needs*.

How You Can Help

The SAC is launching a **Listening Campaign** for families to talk about how their children are doing, what has been helpful, what has been challenging, and what their children need to succeed. The committee will use the information from these focus groups to present recommendations to the School Board about how our district can better support our students and work towards eliminating the achievement gap. Please keep a look out for sign-up sheets for the Listening Campaign in February. Our children need our voices.

We want to make sure we provide our community with information and resources they want and need. Please complete this survey to let us know what topics you would like us to focus on at our meetings and in our newsletter.



Community Events

CONEXION LATINA BAKE SALE @ AHS

Support our Latino high school students by coming to their bake sale!

Thursday, Jan. 19th 4:05pm
Albany High School near the Art Room

WINTER MAGIC SHOW WITH MIKE THE MAGICIAN

All ages are welcome to come laugh, smile, and participate in this very special seasonal magic show. He is known for captivating the 3-to-9-year-old crowd with his laughter-filled, participatory magic shows.

Saturday, Jan. 14th 11am - 12pm
Dimond Branch/Oakland Public Library
3565 Fruitvale Ave Oakland

FREE TELESCOPE VIEWINGS

Join Chabot astronomers on the Observatory Deck for free telescope viewing! Weather permitting, this is a chance to explore stars, planets and more through Chabot's historic telescopes. Chabot's three large historic telescopes offer a unique way to experience the awe and wonder of the Universe.

Every Friday and Saturday Night,
weather permitting
7:30-10:30 p.m.
Chabot Observatory Deck
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, California 94619

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit!
Join the Lunar New Year Celebration with a martial arts demonstration, a Lion Dance Show, and a craft and calligraphy corner led by local calligraphy artist Jojo Liu.

Sunday, Jan. 15th 10am - 11:30am
The Veranda 2001 Diamond Blvd.
Concord

MAY YOUR LIFE BE DELICIOSA BOOK EVENT

May Your Life Be Deliciosa is a story of love, family, tradition, and "cooking by heart." We are happy to have the author, Michael Genhart, and 2022 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Winner, Loris Lora, here to talk about this lovely picture book.

Saturday, Jan. 28th 10:30am
Berkeley Central Library
2090 Kittredge St.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT OMCA

Welcome in the Year of the Rabbit and explore the shared connections between the diverse Asian cultures of the Bay Area at OMCA through storytelling, performances, activities, cooking demonstrations, and more.

Sunday, Jan. 29th 12pm - 4pm
Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)
1000 Oak Street Oakland



Community Resources

SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCES

Conexión Latina

High students can find community and support through this Latino student club.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Albany Disability Squad: Parent organization that advocates for the needs of students with disabilities. If your child is struggling in school, this group can help you understand what is available in AUSD and link you to community resources.

Albany's Pride: LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Group for AUSD

AUSD Student Services: responsible for student attendance, discipline, mental health, and interventions to support students' social-emotional needs. For support please email the Director of Students Services: Deb Brill at dbrill@ausdk12.org

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Family Paths: parenting stress and mental health support

ACCESS is a multilingual call center that provides information for mental health and substance use treatment for Alameda County.
24 hours a day/7 days a week
1-800-491-9099

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) East Bay: Provides resources for Alameda & Contra Costa County

FOOD PANTRIES AND SERVICES

Alameda County Social Services

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Berkeley Food Pantry

Berkeley Food Network

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Food Pantries

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Berkley Public Library offers ESL Conversation Club (on Zoom!). Come join us every Tuesday from 10:30-12:00 PST for conversation in a friendly and relaxed setting. All levels of ESL learnings are welcome to join from the comfort of your own home (family and pets are welcome too!).

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

How do you start a food truck business?

Do you have recommendations for immigration lawyers?

Is there a community resource you would like to share with others? Are there latino/x businesses you want to recommend? Do you own a business that you want our community to know about?
If so, please email us.