

**For Immediate Release**  
**December 29, 2011**



San José Unified School District  
*"Inspiring and Preparing for Success"*

Contact:  
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**San Jose Unified to offer Transitional Kindergarten program this fall for young kinder students**

***Parent information meetings scheduled for January***

*San Jose, CA.* San Jose Unified School District is proud to announce the implementation of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in fall 2012. Transitional Kindergarten is for students with birthdates in September, October and November. TK is an early childhood education program that builds a bridge between preschool years and traditional kindergarten.

“San Jose Unified’s Board of Education recently approved the District’s new mission statement: *San Jose Unified School District’s mission is to eliminate the opportunity gap and provide every student with the finest 21st century education.* By implementing a Transitional Kindergarten program, we feel this will provide a bridge for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed for a successful entry into school and help to close the opportunity gap,” expressed Dr. Vincent Matthews, Superintendent of SJUSD.

California Senate Bill 1831 was recently passed to create Transitional Kindergarten, but SB 1831 only requires November birthdates be part of the TK program in 2012. SJUSD believes the inclusion of the October and September birthdates into our Transitional Kindergarten program this fall is in the best interest of all children.

Transitional Kindergarten students will participate in a full 5-hour daily program. The program will include whole group and small group instruction, independent, and “hands-on” learning. Credentialed teachers will expose children to reading and math in an exciting, interactive way by using educational games to teach children about words and sentences and help them understand mathematical concepts like counting, quantity, and patterns. Students will learn important foundational content skills for kindergarten, but the emphasis will be on strengthening oral language and explicitly teaching social skills.

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Transitional Kindergarten will be offered at most San Jose Unified elementary schools. All SJUSD November birthdate students will be offered placement at one of our sites that offer a TK program and we will attempt to place eligible students with October and September birthdates in a TK program. Due to the eligible number of students and available classroom space, not all SJUSD elementary sites will offer a TK program.

San Jose Unified is hosting two parent information meetings with a brief presentation and an opportunity to answer questions about the program. Translation will be available at both meetings.

**January 10, 2012**

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Graystone Elementary School

6982 Shearwater Dr., 95120

**January 19, 2012**

6:00 - 7:00 pm

SJUSD Central Office

855 Lenzen Ave., 95126

The opportunity to make an appointment for school registration is now available. School registration begins February 6, 2012.

Please contact:

**Burnett Information & Enrollment Center** *Appointments: (408) 535-6412*

*110 East Hedding Street, 95112*

**SJUSD Information & Enrollment Center** *Appointments: (408) 535-6436 820*

*Steinbeck Drive, 95136*

For more information regarding Transitional Kindergarten, please visit our website: [www.sjUSD.org](http://www.sjUSD.org)

Contact: Jodi Lax, *Manager of Curriculum, Instruction, and EL Services PreK-5*

**(408) 535-6204, [Transitional\\_Kindergarten@sjUSD.org](mailto:Transitional_Kindergarten@sjUSD.org)**

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