

## **AAPA Announces 2016 Essay Contest for Cupertino 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – So You Want to Be the Mayor?**

The Asian American Parent Association, in partnership with Cupertino Library and the Cupertino Library Foundation, announces their 2016 essay contest for Cupertino 8<sup>th</sup> graders, *So You Want to Be the Mayor?*

Students currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in this year's contest, focused on civic engagement in the city of Cupertino. Participants are asked to consider the opportunities and challenges facing the city of Cupertino, and produce an essay describing what they would like to accomplish if they were mayor of Cupertino for one year. Six winners who currently attend middle school in the Cupertino Union School District will be selected, and will receive a \$100 cash scholarship from AAPA, attend a City Hall tour with the current Cupertino mayor, and be introduced at an upcoming City Council meeting. Contest details, along with the entry form, can be found at <http://aapa.net/>.

To help students further prepare, Cupertino Library, in partnership with the Cupertino Library Foundation and AAPA, will present a panel program for those interested in participating in the contest, *So You Want to Be the Mayor?*, on Saturday, February 20 at 2:00 p.m. in Cupertino Community Hall. Four former Cupertino mayors will be in discussion, offering their experiences and advice to aspiring contest entrants. Attendees will learn what being mayor of Cupertino involves, the challenges in running a city, and how to participate in civics. Featured panelists include past mayors Michael Chang, Orrin Mahoney, Rod Sinks, and Kris Wang.

AAPA essay contest organizer, and president of the Fremont Union High School District Board of Trustees, Hung Wei Chien notes the positive effect contest participation can have on both students and the community. "The Asian American Parent Association would like to encourage teen awareness and participation in social responsibility and civic involvement. We are hoping that this Essay Contest can be a catalyst in attracting 8th grade students to research how civic engagement can make a difference in the city they live in."

"Cupertino Library is pleased to partner with AAPA and the Cupertino Library Foundation on this contest", says Cupertino Community Librarian Gayathri Kanth. "The mission of this contest is very much in line with our own mission as a library, which is to transform lives by enabling life-long learning and community engagement. I encourage students to participate in the contest and attend the panel program, and I look forward to seeing the results."

For middle school students looking for further contest opportunities, Cupertino Library Foundation will offer its annual S<sup>4</sup> Super Summer Science Search contest this summer with a theme of addressing challenges facing cities of the future. "The Cupertino Library Foundation is pleased to connect students in our community to our civic leaders through this panel conversation, and we anticipate seeing their creative problem solving skills on full display in our annual S<sup>4</sup> Super Summer Science Search later this year," says Cupertino Library Foundation Vice President Jerry Liu.

For more information on the AAPA essay contest, please contact Hung Wei Chien at [hungweichien@gmail.com](mailto:hungweichien@gmail.com).

For more information on Cupertino Library's panel program on February 20, please contact [cumngr@sccl.org](mailto:cumngr@sccl.org).

#### About AAPA:

AAPA addresses concerns facing our children's K-12 education, provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas on issues related to education, and organizes activities that support student development. AAPA fosters member involvement in all aspects of the educational processes, especially but not exclusively, as it pertains to the needs of students of the Asian American community. AAPA encourages voluntarism in support of school's educational programs. AAPA promotes dialogue with school administration personnel and advances greater understanding between the general public and the Asian community.

#### About Cupertino Library:

Cupertino Library has more than 330,000 volumes in its collection, circulates more than 2.5 million items annually and welcomes over 850,000 visitors annually. The Cupertino Library operates Monday through Thursday 10AM-9PM; Friday and Saturday, 10AM-6PM; and Sunday, noon-6PM.

Cupertino Library is one of the Santa Clara County Library District Libraries. Known as one of America's best 100 public libraries, the Santa Clara County Library District promotes knowledge, ideas, and cultural enrichment. Its collection includes more than 1.9 million books, videos, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, eBooks and extensive online resources accessible from home or work.

For eleven years, the Library has ranked as one of the best in the nation for its size by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. Also recognized as one of America's 2013 Star Libraries by Library Journal, the Santa Clara County Library District is one of the most-used public resources in the region.

#### About Cupertino Library Foundation:

The Cupertino Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose to raise money to continue programs encouraging life-long learning and self-improvement through the Cupertino Library. The Foundation has the Non-Profit Seal of Approval by Guidestar demonstrating satisfaction of transparency requirements and is a member of the Google for Nonprofits program receiving tools to work efficiently. It seeks major donations from corporations and the business community and from other foundations as well as individual donations and planned gifts and bequests. For further information visit: [www.cupertinolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.cupertinolibraryfoundation.org)