



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garfield Elementary Unveils New 2-Story Building

A chilly day with the first showers of winter rain provided an exciting backdrop for Garfield Elementary school to cut the ribbon and officially show its new, 2-story building to parents, students, school officials and the dignitaries from the city. Huddled warmly together under the overhang outside the first story classrooms, students poked their heads over each other to get a view of the ribbon being snipped in half to celebrate their campus' largest new addition.

"You all have really been working hard and continuing to persevere. This is for you, so give your selves all a big round of applause," Principal Rachael Simidian Nicoll told the students gathered, thanking them, their parents, and everyone in the district and the city for seeing the project through to its completion and success. She also gave a special thanks to former Garfield principal Charlie Peterson, who oversaw the plans for the building progress steadily last year.

All 6th-8th grade students meet in the building for their classes, including RSP and a continuation class. They are certainly adjusting quickly to their new learning environment after a 2-week period of collaboratively moving from the former portable classrooms while still maintaining a regular school schedule and keeping up with their lesson plans.

"Teachers kept instruction going without missing a beat," Principal Simidian Nicoll said.

The brand new classrooms are spacious and modernized. Each room has an LCD projector, AVC hookups, PC plug-ins, and a full sound system. The next step will be to remove the portables completely and open up the school's blacktop and play area. The new building was made possible by Measure M, passed with voters' approval last November 2008.

Superintendent Donna Perez, Board of Education President and Garfield alum Jane Anderson, and Alhambra Mayor and also Garfield alum Steven Placido cut the ribbon. The Garfield Band, as led by music director Dave Batti, provided the musical background, chorusing with percussive rain drops falling on open umbrellas and nearby rooftops.

"This is a beautiful building and it's a pleasure to see that all of you worked hard together to move in so seamlessly," Superintendent Perez addressed the students.

Principal Simidian Nicoll added, "For the students that are in there already you've been so great and patient, and for some of the younger students who are not there yet, you'll be there too. This building is yours."

Rain or shine, the new classrooms at Garfield will be watching students walk through their doors for decades to come.

