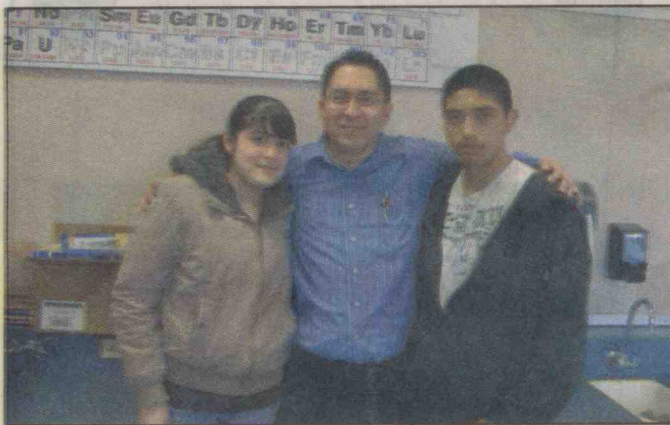


Gonzales students get noticed in Santa Cruz



Laureen Diephof/South County Newspapers

Fairview students dropped eggs from a distance and they received high scores based on how many of the eggs survived intact. Front row from left are Francisco Rosas, Valeria Valdez, Raechel Jackson and Eliazar Gandara. Back row from left are Mercedes Andrade, Shania Spears and teacher Tina Raeder. Eliazar also took first place in the pre-algebra competition. Francisco Carrillo was not available for the photo.



Laureen Diephof/South County Newspapers

Gonzales High School students placed second in the Math Engineering Science Achievement competition at the University of California, Santa Cruz, on March 7. From left are Itzel Sanchez, Gonzales High School science teacher Nick Perez and Eric Aguilar.

By LAUREEN DIEPHOF

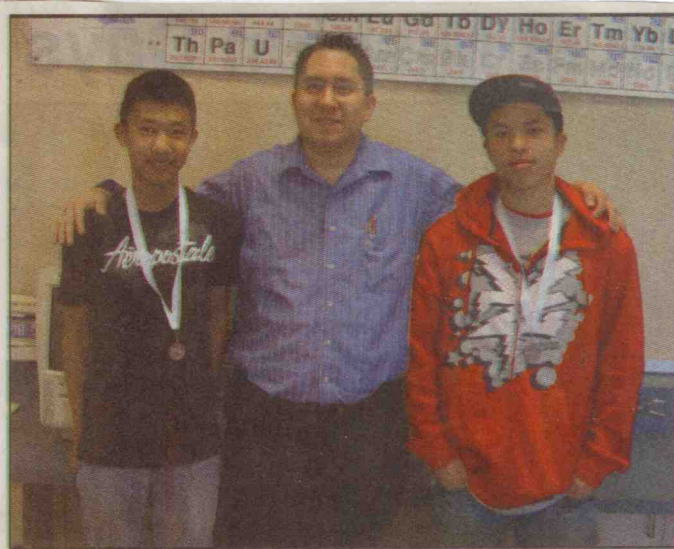
Eliazar Gandara, a student at Gonzales Fairview Middle School, took first place in the pre-algebra test given at the Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) competition held at the University of California, Santa Cruz

(UCSC), on March 7.

The Fairview student team of Francisco Rosas and Francisco Carrillo took first place in the egg drop competition.

The task was to protect as many eggs as possible and

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From left, Brandon Marquez, Gonzales High School science teacher Nick Perez, and Jordan Jiang, after winning in the Math Engineering Science Achievement competition. Brandon and Jordan placed third in the "Speak Out" presentation on the subject of cloning for the MESA program on March 7 at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Cynthia Mendez was not available for the photo.

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drop them from 60 feet without the eggs cracking.

Other contenders from Fairview Middle School, in the same competition, were teammates Mercedes Andrade and Shania Spears, who took second place, with 17 out of 20 eggs surviving the drop; Valeria Valdez and Raechel Jackson took fourth place in the same competition, with 11 eggs surviving out of 15.

Gonzales High School MESA competitors, ninth grader Brandon Marquez and tenth grader Jordan Jiang teamed up to present the benefits and drawbacks of cloning in the "Speak Out" speech competition. It was the first time that GHS participated in this competition, and against 15 middle school and high schools, the team won third place.

"The judges timed us," said Brandon, who presented the

benefits of cloning.

"They looked interested in what we said, Jordan observed. He presented the drawbacks of cloning.

Cynthia Mendez was a competitor in the "Speak Out" competition as well.

Itzel Sanchez and Eric Aguilar were in the team math competition. Aside from noting that the UCSC campus was beautiful, the math team took a test by working on the problems together and coming up with enough right answers to take second place.

The GHS and Fairview students will go on to the State competition at Fresno State on April 25.

The Gonzales teachers who encouraged the students in the competition and accompanied them to UCSC are GHS teachers Nick Perez and Jose Moreno and Fairview teacher Tina Raeder.

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