October 11, 2010

Dear High School Student:

This is to notify you about an exciting new recognition program for graduating seniors that is beginning this year. We are sending this mailing to all high school students so that you can be aware of this program and begin planning for it in your coursework and studies.

Beginning this coming June, the Pasadena Unified School District will be honoring qualifying seniors with the Seal of Biliteracy. This seal is to recognize students who are fluent in two or more languages. Basically, seniors who were proficient on the CST in English during their junior year, who have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and who demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language are eligible to apply for the Seal of Biliteracy. If students’ records show that they qualify, they will then receive a Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma, on their transcript and will receive a medal or cord to where during the graduation ceremony.

Enclosed in this mailing is a brochure which explains the program more thoroughly. Please find your school’s contact person inside the brochure. Applications will be available in the counselor’s office at your school. Upcoming deadlines to apply for this award are as follows:
  
  **Friday, November 5, 2010:** Registration for SAT (World Language Exam)
  **Monday, December 13, 2010:** Due date to apply for the Saturday PUSD World Language Examinations (To be given in Spanish and Armenian).
  **Saturday, March 5, 2011:** Date of PUSD World Language Examinations
  **Friday, April 8, 2011:** Deadline to turn in application for Seal of Biliteracy

Applications will be available in the counselors’ office at your school.

If you have any questions, please call me at the phone number above.

Please consider applying for this special recognition!

Best regards,

  *Joan Morris*
  Coordinator, English Learner Programs

*“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”*  
  
  - Nelson Mandela