

## New Library for Edison McNair Academy



Music teacher Alisha Fitzhugh leading some of her Students through their performances

It was a fun filled time of good cheer as students, administrators and donors celebrated the reopening of the Edison McNair library. Fifth and sixth graders gathered in the school courtyard on a sunny, spring like day to sing songs, recite poetry, and do a few dance steps to the rap song that they presented. While they were very excited about the reopening of their library, they were also very well behaved.

“This went over well,” Alisha Fitzhugh said. Fitzhugh is the school’s music teacher who led the students through all of their upbeat and inspiring presentations. “I’m so proud of the students,” she said.

Moneel Chand, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student body president, who was introduced to the audience as one of Edison McNair’s top students, said, “We’ve never had a library and it’s good that children can learn. Now anybody can become smart and gain knowledge.”

During their presentations, the students read the poem “Dreams” by Langston Hughes and sang “I am beautiful and smart.” They, then, danced in place as they sang a rap song with the words, “I like big books...Please read them books... those big old books.”

Mary Noonan, the vice president and grants manager of the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation (EPAK) said that she was impressed with the presentations. “People care,” she said. “It was wonderful. The tears welled up in my eyes. It was a very special day.”



Eight grader Moneel Chand