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A New Beginning for El Cerrito High School: The Grand Opening Gala

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El Cerrito High School, existing nearly 70 years, will celebrate the grand opening of its newly remodeled campus Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28.

Festivities to take place are: the theater show "Review of the Decades" Friday, February 27, 8 p.m.; new school tours Saturday, February 28, 10 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.; flag and ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and a marching band performance at the front of the school Saturday, February 28, noon; Mountain Bike Club Lunch Fundraiser Saturday, February 28; student clubs, Archiving Project and Parent, Teacher and Student Association tabling throughout Saturday, February 28; Archiving Project film "Green & White" in the cafeteria Saturday, February 28, 3-5 p.m; dinner in the gym Saturday, February 28, 6-7:30 p.m.; and the second showing of "Review of the Decades" Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m.

The gala is hosted by the Archiving Project, which is a volunteer group that mostly consists of ECHS alumni. Its mission is to restore archived objects from the old school that will appear in the new school.

"Since ECHS was torn down three years ago, we realized the need to collect materials from the school's previous buildings," said Donna Houser who is in charge of marketing and fundraising for the Archiving Project. "The items have been kept in storage until recently and will display in the school's museum that is currently under development."

The event is for prospective students, current students, alumni, contributors to the development of the school and the community at large.

Attendees of the dinner will participate in the recognition of everyone who dedicated their efforts to the re-creation of ECHS.

In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to see ECHS's history unfold through the "Review of the Decades" show production and the "Green & White" film.

"For the showcase, we're organizing as many student groups involved in the arts for the performance," said Houser. The special production will be presented by dance, music, drama and forensics groups.

The film is a documentary of ECHS and will focus on the changes it has experienced over the years. Houser said, "It's a neat thing to watch the school's transformation from what it was then, to what it is today. Essentially, I think the students are so proud of being in the new school."

For admission inquiries, please contact Donna Houser at (510) 508-6830 or houserini@sbcglobal.net.

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