



PERES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DR. DANIEL DENTAL CLINIC
West Contra Costa Unified School District



- The Dr. Daniel Tanita Dental Clinic was developed to respond to the fact that many students had limited access to dental health care.
- The goal of the Clinic is to provide on-site dental health care to the students of Peres Elementary School in San Pablo.





- The Program provides free dental services to all the children of Peres Elementary – **a school of 568 students** – 90% of whom are economically disadvantaged.
- Students are offered preventive care which would otherwise not be available.
- All services are offered except braces and root canals
- Academic result: improved attendance
 - (because they have fewer dental emergencies and no need to leave school for dental visits).



INNOVATIVE & AWARD WINNING

- The program is innovative and exemplary in that it responds to a stated community need (dental services) by leveraging:
 - school resources (bond funds and school space) with
 - community volunteers (dentists led by Dr. Dan Tanita).
- Dr. Tanita has been awarded the Jefferson Award
- The program has been awarded the California School Board Association's Golden Bell



TIMELINE



- 1997: Federal Head Start Grant
 - Survey of the community, a dental clinic was determined to be a top priority
- 2000: the volunteer-run clinic opened for the children of Peres Elementary.
- 2007: It closed following a hiring freeze that left the clinic without a clerk to perform the necessary administration work
- 2009: reopened when the position could be filled
- 2012: upgraded from bond funds to full clinic



CLINIC

- The new clinic is bright and open, containing
 - two fully equipped dental chairs,
 - an X-ray machine,
 - new computers,
 - dental record keeping software,
 - a reception desk,
 - oxygen and nitrous systems and I
 - mproved fire and security systems.



DENTAL CLERK

- Deja Bryson, the new dental clerk, performs all the scheduling duties of patients and dentists, and oversees the new computerized patient files – collecting reimbursements using Dentrix
- Deja is a district employee



PAYMENT

- Students are covered by
 - Healthy Families
 - Delta Dental and/or
 - DentCal
- Reimbursements cover costs – dentists are volunteers
- The District is applying for its own local billing number (so it no longer has to use Dr. Tanita's)



EXPANSION

- The District has incorporated dental clinics into its bond program standards for community schools
- The building of the clinic is covered by locally passed bond funds
- Coronado Elementary in Richmond is the next school to have a dental clinic

