

# Cake Fundraiser Helps Send Kids to Camp



photo courtesy of Jewish Big Brothers and Sisters of Los Angeles

Mäni's Bakery Café, located at 519 S. Fairfax Ave., premiered a new flourless chocolate cake at an event on June 21, and donated approximately \$2,000 from the proceeds of sales of the cake to Camp Max Straus. Pictured from left are Dan, Mäni's staff member; Kristina, Mäni's new gourmet pastry chef; Larry Maiman, Mäni's owner; Tracey Kardash, vice president of development for Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters (JBBBS); and Rick Cigel, a JBBBS big brother and Mäni's patron.

Mäni's new flourless chocolate cake uses fruit juice reduction and Scharffenberger dark chocolate. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that dark chocolate can lower high blood pressure and is rich in antioxidants.

Camp Max Straus provides year-round residential and weekend mentoring programs for underserved children between the ages of 7-12 who primarily come from single parent homes. The camp serves approximately 2,000 children each year, regardless of their ability to pay. Camp Max Straus is non-denominational and is operated by Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles.

For more information on Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles or volunteering opportunities, visit the website at [www.jbbbs-la.org](http://www.jbbbs-la.org).

# Program Shows Results in Helping Students to Learn English

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has released the annual assessment results of the revised 2006-07 California English Language Development Test (CELDT), which was taken by more than 1.3 million English learners in kindergarten through grade twelve.

Preliminary results show that 32 percent of English learners in California's public schools scored at the early advanced (25 percent) or advanced (seven percent) performance level overall on the CELDT. The number of English learners participating in the CELDT annual assessment has decreased by one percent each year for the past three years.

"Since the CELDT was implemented six years ago, we have continued to improve this test for English learners with questions that are more closely aligned to our English Language Development standards and reflect the rigor of those standards," O'Connell said. "Our goal is to better prepare all students with strong communication skills in English so they can effectively participate in school and successfully compete in the work force."

Because the 2006-07 CELDT

results are based on a different scale, direct comparisons to the 2005-06 CELDT results cannot be made. In March 2006, the State Board of Education approved new performance-level cut scores based on the superintendent's recommendation that resulted from a standard-setting committee comprised of 97 participants, including teachers, administrators, and other educational professionals.

**"Our goal is to better prepare all students with strong communication skills in English."**

—State School Superintendent Jack O'Connell

These new cut scores are more in line with what students should be able to do to be considered proficient and to be successful in instruction without receiving English Language Development (ELD) services, O'Connell reported. The original scores for performance levels were set by the State Board in 2001. Since that time, there have been significant changes in the test, including the development of all new test questions aligned to California's ELD Standards, and a redesign of reading, writing, and other areas of the test, which necessitated the revision in the cut scores for performance levels and the creation of a new common scale.

Full results of the 2006-07 CELDT Annual Assessment are available on the CDE DataQuest website at [www.celdt.cde.ca.gov](http://www.celdt.cde.ca.gov).

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