Friday, April 8th was no ordinary Wildcat Friday at Winton Middle School. It marked a series of celebrations rolled into one. An assembly was held to celebrate those students who achieved honor roll status for the third quarter, to announce the new school colors and to introduce Winton’s “Wildcats Go Green” recycling effort.

“Many students earned top marks last quarter,” commented school counselor, Diana Medina. “Our students have really been putting forth the effort this year to study hard and prepare themselves for high school and beyond. Their efforts are really starting to show.” In all, the Wildcats “raised the roof” by handing out nearly 200 certificates.

In addition to the assembly celebrating academic successes; teachers, students and community members alike, overwhelmingly voted to initiate new school colors to coincide with all of the positive changes taking place around the campus. With surveys tabulated, Purple and Gold were overwhelmingly chosen as the new school colors. The color change will officially occur next year. Donald West, school principal stated, “I’ve heard a lot of excitement and positive energy coming from the students about the color change. I think that it will help to brighten up our site and really take our level of school spirit to a higher plane.”
The assembly culminated with the launch of the “Wildcats Go Green” effort. Facilitated by history teacher, Aaron Grant, the recycling initiative marks the start of collaboration between the school district, the City of Hayward, Waste Management and SLWRP (Service Learning Waste Reduction Program) centered on recycling. Mr. Grant led students in a recycling chant and informed them of what the process would look like in their classrooms.

(Mr. Grant explains our recycling program.)

Braxton Banks poses with school officials.

Every Winton classroom, the main office and cafeteria have been outfitted with recycling containers. “Our goal is to reduce the amount of trash that we collect by 80%. We want everything that can be recycled to go into our bins. Not only will we be helping the environment, but we’ll save money for the school as well”, said Mr. Grant.