

# San Francisco THE INDEPENDENT

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## San Francisco's public schools score high

Some detractors say progress is still not enough

BY BONNIE ESLINGER  
Staff Writer

The San Francisco Unified School District and many of its schools improved their state ranking, based on standardized test results, according to data released Tuesday by the California Department of Education.

This year, significantly more district schools, 31, improved their state rankings, although 19 schools, a little less than 20 percent, did drop in ranking. Nonetheless, these were both improvements, since last year 32 schools dropped in ranking and only 23 schools had improved their statewide rank.

Each spring, the state releases the Academic Performance Index (API) results for standardized tests taken the previous year, which provide the "base" for "growth targets" for the current year's testing.

According to state figures, the district as a whole improved its



FILE PHOTO

Thirty-one San Francisco public schools improved their ranking.

test scores, earning an API "base" score of 724 — higher than comparable urban school districts and just slightly over the state average of 718.

Some schools were standouts in their improvements: Cobb Elementary, for example, made a leap

See **SCHOOLS**, page 29



**A MERRY WAY TO CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY:** Catherine Cook revels to the music on the back of Stefan Kaday during the 10th annual O'Reilly's St. Patrick's Day Beach Thursday.

## Loud music ruffles quiet neighborhood

Residents claim man ruining communities quality of life

BY J.K. DINEEN  
Staff Writer

No matter how loud they complained, the neighbors just couldn't seem to convince Don Bertone to turn down his stereo.

Neither could the police, who showed up at Bertone's house more than 60 times in the past year



## Jury finds S.F. archdiocese liable for priest's abuse

Independent News Service

A San Francisco Superior Court jury found Friday that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco is liable for a priest's molestation of a boy in a San Jose parish more than 30 years ago.

The civil jury concluded by a 10-2 vote that the archdiocese should have known by the end of 1973 that the late Rev. Joseph Ditzel had

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