

Palo Alto Weekly

www.PaloAltoOnline.com

EAST PALO ALTO

Hope floats

East Palo Alto 49er Academy kids dream big while painting panel of one of the nation's largest blimps

by Alexandria Rocha

Eighth-grader Jasmine Perry posed her pencil above a sheet of paper last week and thought for a moment about her biggest goal.

After another short pause, she wrote it down. "I want to be a pediatrician." And to get there, she would "do good in high school, study hard and go to college."

Perry, 14, was one of more than

two dozen students from the San Francisco 49er Academy in East Palo Alto who participated last week in an exclusive after-school art session hosted by the nonprofit organization, Portraits of Hope.

The students' goals were used as a launching off point for the larger project — to help hand paint one of the nation's largest blimps, the

(continued on page 5)



Nicholas Wright

Middle schoolers at the 49er Academy paint a decorative panel to be displayed on the exterior of a large blimp.