



Becoming America's Best

HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

"... and the best is History."

Issue IV

December 2007

This Month in History

Pope Paul III excommunicated King Henry VIII (1538)
The Virginia Company began its voyage to America (1606)
Napoleon Bonaparte crowned emperor of France (1804)
James Monroe introduced the Monroe Doctrine (1824)
Rosa Parks arrested in Montgomery Alabama (1955)
Vaclav Havel sworn in as president of Czechoslovakia (1989)

SDUSD Teachers Attend NCSS

Over 30 San Diego Unified School District teachers were among the 4,000 history-social science teachers and enthusiasts who attended all or part of the three day National Council for the Social Studies annual conference at the San Diego Convention Center. The convention was held from November 30 - December 2. Teachers attended workshops and discussions on topics ranging from teaching about microcredit to standards mapping. Teachers also had the opportunity to wander the exhibition hall and meet with representatives of foundations and institutes that support the teaching of history-social science. Among the highlights of the conference was a workshop conducted by Point Loma High's Patrick McElhaney, who had several of his students demonstrate how they use Podcasts to support their learning. The conference came to a dramatic end when keynote speaker Justice Sandra Day O'Connor reiterated the importance of teaching civic values in a democracy.



Trip to Williamsburg Virginia By Lucy Laudate

As the elementary school resource teacher, I spent the week of Oct. 15th to Oct. 19 in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. For two days, I became a participant in a live simulation occurring in Revolutionary City. I also met with Tab Broyles, the Director of Teacher Professional Development for Colonial Williamsburg, in order to pave the way for selected San Diego Unified teachers to experience seven days of hands-on professional growth in Williamsburg in July of 2008. Fifth grade teachers are able to apply to this experience of being immersed into the lives of a colonist in the 1700's to their teaching of colonial history. Teachers will be sent through a grant provided by the Williamsburg Foundation. Contact me at llaudate@sandi.net for the application. They are due April 8.

The Modern American Presidency

Eighteen interested teachers, eleven lucky high school students, and one area superintendent enjoyed a special presentation by famed historian Dr. Robert Dallek at Marston Middle School on 5 December. Dallek, who has researched, written, and spoken extensively about FDR, LBJ, JFK, and Ronald Reagan, shared insights about the Modern American Presidency and concluded by predicting who the Democratic and Republican candidates for President will be in 2008.



C-SPAN Visits San Diego Unified School District

San Diego teachers had an outstanding opportunity to attend a workshop hosted by CSPAN-Classroom specifically for district employees. Teachers learned about the video and lesson plan resources available for FREE on www.C-SPANClassroom.com. In addition, the teachers were able to tour the C-SPAN campaign bus, which contains a million dollars worth of video and computer technology. This event was just one in a series of content specific professional development activities planned for SDUSD history-social science teachers this year.

MyVote Program: Lessons & Mock Election

Students in American Government and U.S. History classes will have the opportunity to participate in a mock Presidential Primary election on January 28-29, 2008. Comprehensive high schools in the District have already been registered for the program, and dept chairs will receive lesson plans from the CA Secretary of State's office. Contact kankeney@sandi.net

Up Coming Events

- **Jewish Film Festival:** The teacher workshop will be held on January 26 from 9:00-12:00 at the Mission Bay Training Center. The student field trip to the film festival will be on February 13. Contact mhayes@sandi.net
- **Grade 5 Teacher Workshop:** Fifth grade teachers will meet to discuss ideas about teaching US history at the Old Town Program School on January 30 from 4:00-6:00. Teachers will be paid. Contact llaudate@sandi.net
- **Colonial Williamsburg Convocation:** Tuesday, March 4, for 5th grade teachers. Mission Bay Staff Development Center, 4:00-7:00. Teachers will be paid 3 hours staff development stipend. Applications for Williamsburg are due by April 4. Contact llaudate@sandi.net

Mission Statement

To provide the curriculum, tools, resources, and professional development for history-social science teachers and students to succeed in the classroom.