



Newsletter

San Diego Unified School District
PCSE
Office of the Associate Superintendent

A Quarterly Newsletter

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January 2008

Issue

VISION

Comprehensive parent involvement includes the participation of parents in all aspects of their children's education resulting in improved and supportive relationships among students, parents and teachers; and provides significant academic and social growth for their children.

PARENT, COMMUNITY & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Revised 8th Grade Promotion/Retention Policy

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On December 11, 2007, the Board of Education acted to revise the district's eighth grade retention policy as follows:

Grade 8 students with two or more F grades in core subjects (English, mathematics, history, science) shall be recommended for retention. Students who attend summer school and exit with fewer than two Fs shall be recommended for the Grade 9 Intervention Program. Those students exiting summer school with two or more Fs shall be retained in Grade 8.

The teachers, counselors, and school administrators at each of our schools are committed to the success of all students. We are working hard to ensure that every student has access to a high quality curriculum and the support necessary to achieve academic success.

We ask that you discuss the district's retention policy with your child and emphasize the importance of working hard in school each day. Encourage your child to attend school every day, develop good study habits, and complete homework assignments on time. Students who make these efforts achieve better results and earn higher grades.

We believe that by working closely and collaboratively with our families, we can meet the district's main goal of accelerating gains in student achievement. If you have any concerns about your child's performance, please contact his or her teachers and counselor.

Sincerely,

Dorothy T. Harper

Associate Superintendent

Parent, Community & Student Engagement

District Advisory Council (DAC)

In the San Diego Unified School District, our DAC for Compensatory Education has more power than most other DACs in the state. Over time we have built relationships with the highest levels of district staff and school board members to create a forum where we all can exchange ideas, concerns, and dreams for the future. We have well-developed district procedures and policies that define our roles, responsibilities and possibilities. District staff and the school board have supported the school sites with training, current information, child care, translation, a central place to meet, and a budget to support it all. Executive level staff attend our meetings to hear the comments of our membership and meet with me on a regular basis to follow up on the current issues we discuss in our meetings. Our district has done its part to give us a chance to be heard but there is more to do. The communication must be two way, and include all eligible schools. We could be so much more powerful if we could improve attendance and find a way to take the communication back to the community. Currently, the DAC is only able to inform one person from a school site who then meets with a 10 or 12 member SSC. If we wanted to be real powerful we would develop a way to carry the message from the SSC to the community of hundreds or thousands that attend the school. Now that would be powerful. Now imagine if we could improve attendance from the usual 30 or 40 schools that attend regularly to the 130 or more that exist, now that would be real power. Real power in the DAC would be that when I stand before the school board, or when executive leadership attends our meetings they are met with the representation of all 130 Title 1 schools in our district and the community that stands behind them. AND THAT IS THE POTENTIAL POWER OF THE DAC! – David Page, DAC Chairperson

The Parent, Community and Student Engagement Office is committed to establishing an active parent community across the district that will support and be a partner in the educational program.



News You Can Use

Community Advisory Committee Special Education (CAC)

California Education Code (Part 30, Chapter 2, Article 7, 56190) requires each Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) to establish a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education. CAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Education (BOE) and Special Education administration on the implementation of the Local Plan. This plan is a legal document that describes how SDUSD provides services to students with exceptional needs. CAC membership is comprised of parents with students who receive Special Education services, parents with students in general education, district staff from both special and general education, community agency representatives and any community member who is interested in Special Education. The Committee meets 10 months per year. Although CAC nominates potential members, the BOE appoints them. Any parent of a student in the district, staff or community member may attend and participate in CAC meetings. General Meetings are held on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. Please refer to Upcoming Events page for CAC dates and location.

Placement & Appeal Office

As we approach the new year and a new semester, Placement and Appeal is busy reinstating formerly expelled students back into our schools. There are 179 students who have met the requirements of passing grades and completion of rehabilitation plans at ALBA or Summit. We are pleased that for the past two years our expulsion numbers have decreased, and congratulate the dedicated staff at our sites who have initiated interventions that improve student discipline.

Upcoming training for administrators on suspension and expulsion procedures, SIP Council placements and SDCOE Summit placements will take place at Marina Village on February 27 and 28. Training for expulsion panel members will be on January 24.

The Placement and Appeal staff is always available to help students, parents and site personnel with placement and discipline concerns.

Family Friendly Schools Initiative

The goal of the initiative is to recognize outstanding family/community outreach and to facilitate increased family engagement that promotes increased student achievement.

This month schools will finish the *Welcoming* phase of training by attending such courses as *Creating a Family Friendly Office*, *Producing Family Friendly Communications* and *Designing a Family Friendly Parent Center*. In February schools will begin the *Honoring* phase by attending such courses as *Planning for Family Involvement*, *Conducting Family Friendly Workshops* and *Developing Leaders*. Please refer to the Upcoming Events page for training dates, times and location.

For more information please contact Edward Caballero at ecaballero@sandi.net or (619) 725-5519.





News You Can Use

Nursing & Wellness: Coordinated School Health & Wellness Procedure

The district Coordinated School Health Council was formed in May 2005 to begin developing a district wellness policy, as required by a federal law, the 2004 Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act. The board policy became effective on September 2006, in the form of Board Policy H-7700, Coordinated School Health and Wellness. Recently, new District Administrative Procedure, 6342, was approved, with guidelines for school sites on implementation of the wellness policy components at every school site. The procedure is based on gradual implementation of all eight components of coordinated school health, including nutrition, physical Activity and education, health education, health services, counseling and mental health services, parent and community, staff wellness, and healthy school environment. Various new state laws also require implementation of specific nutritional components of foods sold both within and outside of the national school meal program and times when outside foods can be sold when these requirements are not met. Implementation of this federal law and certain state requirements administered through the CDE Nutritional Services Division and attached to funding for the National School Lunch Program require many changes in how the district and school sites provide for a healthy environment and options for students and staff.

In addition to the members of the Coordinated School Health Council, various local community organizations are available to assist school sites in implementation of these new requirements. These include the San Diego Coalition on Children and Weight, the American Cancer Society Youth Services Programs, and the San Diego County Obesity Action Plan. School sites are encouraged to develop site Coordinated School Health Councils or Wellness Councils, which should include administrators, school staff, parents, students, and community members and partners. Several school sites have already implemented some aspects of the procedure and requirements, including walking and running clubs, structured physical activity for recess, site policies eliminating unhealthy foods used for rewards, celebrations, staff meetings, fund raising, etc., and establishing community partnerships to assist. Some sites have applied for small grants to help support additional part-time staff or to pay for rewards connected to walking programs. Site administrators and other school staff can obtain more information about this process by attending the upcoming Coordinated School Health and Wellness Procedure Implementation workshop at the February 27-29, 2008, Professional Development Conference or by contacting Jennifer Gorman, Nursing and Wellness Program Manager and District Wellness Policy Lead, at jgorman@sandi.net.

ATTENTION: Parents and Students of the Class of 2006 & 2007

Assembly Bill 347 requires districts to offer students who have failed one or both parts of the CAHSEE at the end of 12th grade the opportunity to receive intensive support and assistance for two years following the completion of 12th grade. San Diego Unified School District has implemented and is implementing the following to meet the objectives of AB 347:

1. Principals and school counselors have received written notification of the district and site responsibilities in meeting objectives of AB347.
2. Posters have been designed and delivered to each school site to be posted in grades 10, 11 and 12 classrooms.
3. Class of 2006 and 2007 students who have not passed the CAHSEE and their parents are receiving written notification of the new legislation and information on the supports the district is offering. Supports may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:
 - Materials from Adelante and Kaplan Independent Study
 - Adult education
 - Extended day CAHSEE classes
 - Web-based options
 - Tutoring by peers and teachers

We encourage all students that have not passed the CAHSEE by the end of Grade 12 to continue their education and avail themselves to all remediation opportunities, including those the district makes available for intensive instruction and services after Grade 12.

If students have questions and/or concerns regarding the availability of the additional instruction, please contact Vercie Carmonjohnson in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of High Schools at (619) 725-7238 or via e-mail at vcarmonjohnson@sandi.net.

PCSE Upcoming Events

Parents Complete Winter Classes at San Diego Parent University

A total of 125 parents from 14 Title I schools completed 12 hours of classes and received certificates of completion during the annual holiday celebration at the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center in Old Town. The classes offered in Quarter I included: Science in the Home, Writing Family Stories, and MegaSkills: The 10 Skills to be Successful in School and Life. Valentina Hernandez, a parent from Hamilton Elementary, shared her beautiful family album that she created in the writing class. "I encourage you to take this class to learn ways to improve your children's writing skills," said Mrs. Hernandez. Parents were treated to a healthy breakfast, bingo, raffle prizes and gift certificates for perfect attendance. In addition, 250 young children (birth to age 5) participated in the School Readiness and Childcare Program during the seven weeks parents attended classes.



Quarter 2 classes are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 29 and Wednesday,

January 30, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Classes and childcare are free to parents whose children attend Title 1 Schools. The purpose of San Diego Parent University is to help parents become academic coaches and boost student overall performance and improve family relationships. For a schedule of classes or more information, contact Bea Fernández, coordinator of Parent University at bfernandez@sandi.net, or 619 293-4431.



The Ballard Parent Center Hosts Free Evening Parent Classes

The Ballard Parent Center in partnership with The Center for Parent Involvement in Education will host the second series of evening parent classes at the Tubman–Chavez Multicultural Family Center. The evening classes are offered so that working parents may have the opportunity to attend. The theme for the evening classes is *Journey to Academic Success*. The topic for the January classes is *Redirecting Children's Behavior*. The classes are designed to help parents boost their student's academic achievement and behavioral development. A complimentary dinner, childcare, homework station, and Spanish translation are offered at each class.

The first series of classes were held in the fall and attended by more than 80 parents. Parents commented that they were very appreciative of the classes being offered in their community. The parents' participation in the classes displays their eagerness, desire and willingness to be engaged in their child's education. We are pleased that we are able to offer such an invaluable service to our parents.

Classes held on Thursdays
 5:30 – 6 p.m. Complimentary Dinner
 6 – 7:30 p.m. Workshop
 Tubman–Chavez Multicultural Family Center
 415 N. Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92114

Topic: Redirecting Children's Behavior	
January 10	Resolving Conflict
January 17	Setting and Respecting Limits
January 24	How to Avoid Tantrums
January 31	Topic: GEAR UP – K-12 College Preparation
February 14	Topic: The Internet and Your Child: What Parents Need To Know
February 28	Topic: African American History Month The African and Spanish Connection
March 13	Topic: TBD
March 27	Topic: TBD

PCSE Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Location	Event	Parents	Community	Students	Staff
1/14/08	5: p.m.	SES Facilities, Library/Community Centers, Online and Student Homes	Anticipated start date for free SES tutoring of students enrolled during the new and transfer student enrollment	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/15/08	9–10:30 a.m.	Oak Park 2606 54 th St., SD, CA 92105	Somali Parent Meeting	✓	✓	✓	
1/15/08	6–8 p.m.	Clairemont High School 4150 Ute Drive San Diego, CA 92117	High school parent & community involvement meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/16/08	6–8:30 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	DAC Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/17/08	6–7:30 p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr. 415 N. Euclid Ave., SD, CA 92114	Redirecting Children’s Behavior Setting and Respecting Limits	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/18/08	9 a.m.–12 noon	San Diego County Office of Education	Wellness Policy Leads Workshop				✓
1/21/08	Dr. Martin Luther King Day – all schools and offices closed						
1/22/08	9–10:30 a.m.	Oak Park 2606 54 th St., SD, CA 92105	Somali parent meeting	✓	✓	✓	
1/22/08	4–5:30 p.m.	Carver Elementary 3251 Juanita St. SD CA 92105	Somali parent meeting	✓	✓	✓	
1/22/08	8:30–10:30 a.m.	Instructional Media Center Annex G	Medi-Cal Collaborative Meetings		✓		✓
1/23/08	10:40 a.m.	Patrick Henry High 6702 Wandermere Dr. San Diego, CA 92120	Dedication of Quad Renovation and Landscaping Project	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/23/08	6:30 p.m.	De Portola Middle 11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., SD, CA 92124	New Parent Orientation First two orientations for prospective middle school parents in the Tierrasanta neighborhood.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/23/08	8:30–11 a.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Producing Family Friendly Communication</i>	✓	✓		✓
1/23/08	6–8:30 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	DAC Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/23/08	6:30 p.m.	Mason Elementary Multi-Purpose Room 10340 San Ramon Drive San Diego, CA 92126	Special Ed. Community Forum Where parents, students, teachers and community members are invited to learn more about the committee	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/23/08	6:30 p.m.	Farb Middle School 4880 La Cuenta Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	New Parent Orientation Second of two orientations for prospective middle school parents in the tierrasanta neighborhood.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/23-1/26 2008	8–5 p.m.	Town and Country Resort and Conference Center in San Diego	California School Nurses Organization Annual Conference		✓		✓

Date	Time	Location	Event	Parents	Community	Students	Staff
1/24/08	3:00 p.m.	Mission Bay High Media Center 2475 Grand Ave San Diego, CA 92109	Mission Bay High School Annual Science Fair Projects will be on display from 3 p.m. Tuesday, January 22, through 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/24,1/26 2008	9 a.m. – noon	IMC 2441 Cardinal Lane San Diego, CA 92123	Public Review of New Instructional Materials and Instructional Media Center Open House	✓	✓		✓
1/24/08	6–7:30 p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr.	Redirecting Children’s Behavior How to Avoid Tantrums	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/25/08	9:30	Knox Elementary 1098 So. 49 th St., San Diego, CA 92113	31 st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration Join an expected 2,000 students from 36 schools on a march celebrating the life of the civil rights	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/26/08	8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.	UCSD Greg Volger (858) 454-3081 x4901	La Jolla High School Students Take the Cyber Defense Challenge			✓	
1/28/08	1:30–3:30 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Creating a Family Friendly Office</i>	✓	✓		✓
1/28/08	2:30–4 p.m.	Various School Sites To be announced	Coordinated School Health Council Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/28/08	2:30–4 p.m.	Mental Health Resource Ctr. Room 2 Annex B 2351 Cardinal Lane San Diego, CA 92123	School Health Council Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/29/08	12:30–3 p.m.	OASIS Center – Macy’s Mission Valley	OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Training	✓	✓		
1/29/08	9–10:30 a.m.	Oak Park 2606 54 th St., SD CA 92105	Somali Parent Meeting	✓	✓	✓	
1/29/08	4–5:30 p.m.	Carver Elementary 3251 Juanita St. SD CA 92105	Somali Parent Meeting	✓	✓	✓	
1/29/08	2–4 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	SPSA Training	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/29/08	9:30–11:30 a.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	San Diego Parent University Quarter 2 classes begin	✓	✓		
1/30/08	9:30–11:30 a.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	San Diego Parent University Quarter 2 classes begin	✓	✓		
1/30/08	9:00 a.m.	Farb Middle School 4880 La Cuenta Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Tierrasanta Parent Campus Tour Tour the campus, meet other prospective parents and visit classrooms in action	✓	✓		✓
1/30/08	8–10 a.m.	Alcott Elementary 4680 Hidalgo Ave San Diego, CA 92117	Sneak-A-Peek at Kindergarten Parents are invited to Sneak-A-Peek at Kindergarten, with tours and visits to Alcott’s kindergarten classrooms.	✓	✓		✓
1/31/08	8:30–10 a.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Welcoming – Diversity Session</i>	✓	✓		✓
1/31/08	12:30–3 p.m.	OASIS Center – Macy’s Mission Valley	OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Training	✓	✓		

Date	Time	Location	Event	Parents	Community	Students	Staff
1/31/08	6–7:30 p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr. 415 N. Euclid Ave., SD CA 92114	Gear UP – K-12 college Preparation	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/31/08	6:00 p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr. 415 N. Euclid Ave., SD CA 92114	San Diego Community-Based Project together with SDUSD GEAR-UP providing parents information and resources to support their children’s education	✓	✓	✓	
2/1/08	8:30–10:30 a.m.	Ballard Parent Center 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Designing a Family Friendly Parent Center</i>	✓	✓		✓
2/4/08	10 a.m.–12 noon	SANDAPP Office Conference Room	SANDAPP Advisory Board meetings		✓		✓
2/4–2/8 2008	National School Counselor Week			✓	✓	✓	✓
2/5/08	2:30–4:30 p.m.	Mental Health Resource Center Annex B Conference Room	School Nurse Governance Team Meetings		✓		✓
2/5/08	12:30–3 p.m.	OASIS Center – Macy’s Mission Valley	OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Training	✓	✓		
2/5/08	9–10:30 a.m.	Oak Park 2606 54 th St., SD CA 92105	Somali parent meeting	✓	✓	✓	
2/7/08	10:30 a.m.	Barnard Elementary 2930 Barnard St. San Diego, CA 92110	Chinese New Year Celebration	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/7/08	12:30–3 p.m.	OASIS Center – Macy’s Mission Valley	OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Training	✓	✓		
2/7/08	2:45–4:45 p.m.	Serra High School Media Center	School nurse staff development programs				✓
2/7/08	7-9 p.m.	Lindbergh-Schweitzer Elementary School West Campus Auditorium 4133 Mt. Albertine Ave. San Diego, CA 92111	Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC) general meeting	✓	✓		✓
2/8/08	7:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Hoover High School 4474 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92115	Academy of Information Technology Film Festival films and visual presentations will be shown throughout the day	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/9/08	10–12:00 noon	Ballard Center, Rm. B-7 2375 Congress St. San Diego, CA 92110	Parent orientation to Special Ed	✓			
2/12/08	4–7 p.m.	United Way	Learn & Serve San Diego Service Learning Training	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/14/08	6–7:30p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr. 415 N. Euclid Ave., SD, CA 92114	The Internet and Your Child: What Parents Need to Know	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/19/08	12–1:30 p.m.	Scottish Rite Center	Laurels for Leaders Luncheon	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/19/08	6–8 p.m.	Scripps Ranch High 10410 Trenea St. San Diego, CA 92131	High school parent & community involvement meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/20/08	6–8:30 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center	DAC meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/21/08	4–5:30 p.m.	Eugene Brucker Education Center Auditorium	School-based foundation meeting	✓	✓		✓

Date	Time	Location	Event	Parents	Community	Students	Staff
2/21 & 2/22/08	8 a.m.–3:30p.m.	Marina Village	Legal & ethical issues training for school counselors				✓
2/26/08	8:30–10:30 a.m.	Instructional Media Center Annex G	Medi-Cal Collaborative meetings		✓		✓
2/27/08	12–2 p.m.	Marina Village Conference Center Room TBD	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Planning for Family Involvement</i>	✓	✓		✓
2/27/08	2–4 p.m.	Marina Village	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Honoring – Diversity Session</i>	✓	✓		✓
2/27/08	3–4:30 p.m.	Wiggin Center 4350 Mt. Everest Blvd. SD, CA 92117	Student journalism event to raise awareness of the effects for underage drinking	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/27/08	3–5 p.m.	Marina Village	SPSA Training				✓
2/27/08	1–3 p.m.	Marina Village	Suspension and Expulsion Procedures training				✓
2/27– 29/08	TBD	Marina Village	Principal presentation on implementation of Coordinated School Health and Wellness Procedure				✓
2/28/08	6–7:30 p.m.	Tubman/Chavez Multicultural Family Ctr.	The African and Spanish Connection	✓	✓	✓	✓
2/28/08	1–3 p.m.	Marina Village	Suspension and expulsion procedures training				✓
2/28/08	1–3 p.m.	Marina Village	SPSA training				✓
2/29/08	1–3:30 p.m.	Marina Village	Family Friendly Schools Training: <i>Conducting Family Friendly Workshops</i>	✓	✓		✓
2/29/08	1–3 p.m.	Marina Village	SPSA Training				✓
3/3/08	2:30–4 p.m.	Various school sites to be announced	Coordinated School Health Council meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/3/08	2:30–4 p.m.	Mental Health Resource Ctr. Room 2 Annex B	School Health Council Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/4/08	2:30–4:30 p.m.	Mental Health Resource Ctr. Annex B Conf. Rm.	School Nurse Governance Team meetings		✓		✓
3/8/08	5:30 p.m.	La Mesa Recreational Center, 4975 Memorial Dr, La Mesa CA 91941	Auction Benefiting Benchley/Weinberger	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/10/08	2:45–4:45 p.m.	Serra High School Media Center	Required school nurse meetings				✓
3/11/08	1–2:30 p.m.	OASIS Center – Macy’s Mission Valley	OASIS Intergenerational Tutor Support meeting	✓	✓		
3/12/08	9–11:30 a.m.	Kroc Community Center	Volunteer coordinator meeting	✓	✓		✓
3/12/08	6–8:30 p.m.	Ballard Parent Center	DAC Meeting	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/13/08	4–6:30 p.m.	United Way	Learn & Serve San Diego Service Learning Training	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/13/08	7-9 p.m.	Lindbergh-Schweitzer West Campus Auditorium	Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC) general meeting	✓	✓		✓
3/25/08	8:30–10:30 a.m.	Instructional Media Center, Annex G	Medi-Cal Collaborative meetings		✓		✓
3/26/08	6:30 p.m.	Mason Elementary Multi-Purpose Room Lincoln High School Room 601 4777 Imperial Ave., SD, CA 92113	Special Education Community Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓