



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 15, 2005

Students will break ground on Normal Heights Elementary

Brand-new Prop. MM school will have unique design, bright colors

- What:** Groundbreaking Ceremony for Normal Heights Elementary School
- When:** **Thursday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**
- Where:** 3750 Ward Road, San Diego, CA
From Adams, go south on Cherokee, east on Ward. Enter the construction site at Ward; parking will be available in the construction site.
- Program:**
- Students from Franklin Elementary (performing a reading/skit)
 - Special Guests:
 - Leslie Fausset, Interim Superintendent, San Diego City Schools
 - Dorothy Leonard, Chair, Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee
 - Ron Ottinger, Former President, Board of Education
 - Katherine Nakamura, Member, Board of Education
 - Shelia Jackson, Member, Board of Education
 - Breaking of the Ground and Photos
- Background:** Normal Heights Elementary is scheduled to open in Fall 2006 and is being built to serve 600 students (K-5). It will help ease classroom overcrowding at nearby Adams and Franklin elementary schools.
- The project is funded by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998. Proposition MM is funding the modernization of 161 existing schools and construction of 12 new and three rebuilt schools.
- Design Details:** The new school, situated on 5.9 acres in the historic Normal Heights neighborhood, will include 28 classrooms, a library, multipurpose room, state of the art technology, energy efficient design features and a grass playfield.
- With community input, ten trees on the construction site are being preserved during construction, including California and Brazilian Pepper trees, Canary Island palms and Ficus. The school's colorful design will reflect the artistic nature of the community. A "grand corridor" through the center of campus will provide public access after-hours via a curvilinear sidewalk with architectural lamppost lighting.
- The architect is Zagrodnik + Thomas; the general contractor is Soltek Pacific.
- Visuals/Media Availability**
- Students from nearby Franklin Elementary participating in first "dig"
 - Board members, district leaders, community members and students