



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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New elementary school named in honor of Jonas Salk

Proposition MM school will serve Mira Mesa students

SAN DIEGO – A new school to be built in Mira Mesa will bear the name “Jonas Salk Elementary School” in honor of one of the most influential medical scientists of the century best known as the developer of the polio vaccine.

The new school, funded by Proposition MM, will be located at the southwest corner of Parkdale Avenue and Flanders Drive in Mira Mesa, adjacent to Maddox Park. It will serve about 600 students and will relieve overcrowding at schools throughout Mira Mesa.

The name of Jonas Salk was suggested by Brian Finley, a science teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School in Scripps Ranch. The School Names Committee reviewed more than 20 suggestions made by the community.

Peter Salk accepted the honor on his family's behalf at a Board of Education meeting in September 2004.

"My father was really concerned with the quality of life on this planet," said Peter Salk, one of Jonas Salk's three sons, all of whom were trained in medicine. He told the school board his father cared deeply about education and felt the future of humanity "rested with children."

After developing the polio vaccine, Jonas Salk founded the Salk Institute in La Jolla, which has trained more than 2,000 scientists. When Jonas Salk was not pursuing science, he was preoccupied with philosophy on the nature of life, humanity and society.

Construction on Jonas Salk Elementary School is scheduled to begin in Spring 2005, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the development of the polio vaccine. The school will open in Fall 2006. It is one of 12 new and three rebuilt schools funded by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998.

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