



# SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Dr. Richard Cansdale appointed principal of Cherokee Point Elementary**

*New Proposition MM school to open in September 2005*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Schools Board of Education approved Dr. Rich Cansdale as principal of Cherokee Point Elementary in City Heights, scheduled to open in September 2005. The school is one of 12 new schools funded by Proposition MM. In coming months, Cansdale will work with parents and community to prepare for the opening of the new school.

With 36 years experience in the field of education as a teacher, administrator and educational leader, Cansdale most recently served as a mentor principal. He has led and managed four elementary schools in San Diego: Valencia Park, John Marshall, Mary Chase Walker and Ellen Browning Scripps, which he opened in 2001. Under his leadership as principal, his schools have gained national, state and local recognition by implementing philosophies of two national restructuring movements, the National Alliance for Restructuring Education and the Comer School Development Program. In 1998, Walker Elementary received recognition as a California Distinguished School and in 2002, Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary was recognized as a Best Practices School by the San Diego Business Roundtable for Education.

Cansdale and his Marshall staff have been featured on three national teleconferences illustrating exemplary school practice. In 1996, he was selected as one of the five outstanding American principals to receive Yale University's Patrick Francis Daly Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership. He is also a past writer, consultant and lecturer for the Panasonic Foundation.

A native of Rochester, New York, Cansdale earned his M.A. from San Francisco State University, Ed. S. from Point Loma Nazarene University and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from United States International University. Cansdale has participated in

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*"The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom."*

Principals' Academies at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Columbia University Teachers College and Yale University. At Yale, he was appointed Principal in Residence for the 1995 summer academy. In May 2001, he was inducted into Pi Lambda Theta, an international honor society in education, in recognition of his academic achievement in his doctoral program.

Serving nearly 138,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with approximately 200 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in preschool (Pre-K) through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

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