



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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First Lady Laura Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
WASH DC 20506

Dear Mrs. Bush,

First, I would like to personally thank you for raising our nation's awareness of the importance of school libraries.

Secondly, I am enclosing an invitation for the Grand Opening of Bell Junior High's new Library Media Center in San Diego on **February 5, at 10 a.m.** While I realize your commitments may not make it possible for you to be in California, I want to include you in our celebration in the remote possibility that by some serendipitous chance you can honor our school with a visit.

With 2,100 students and 105 teachers, we have been told we are the largest junior high school west of the Mississippi, and we are the first Library Media Center to be completely renovated in San Diego at a cost of \$1.7 million through a local bond measure. We are located in a lower socioeconomic area of South San Diego with a diverse population. Our student population is 40% Asian American, 20% African American, 20% Hispanic American and 20% Anglo American. We stand as a beacon of hope in an area that grapples daily with gang activity. Libraries are the great equalizer and source of information power, particularly to our young people.

Our school is committed to the Blueprint for Student Success that Superintendent Alan Bersin has brought to our school district. Reading levels are beginning to reflect our hard work. We have a new, energetic principal, Stacy Spector, and I have just been recognized as one of the first library media teachers in the nation to be awarded National Board Certification. The future is exciting, and the present a time to celebrate.

We would be honored to have your presence to highlight what we are trying to accomplish. We would also be honored to hang a photo and a letter or certificate of recognition from you in our library media center. Your words that "once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open" from the White House Conference on School Libraries last June are echoing throughout libraries in California, as well as the nation. I thank you again for your genuine dedication and enthusiasm for school libraries.

Sincerely,

Linda Whinnery
National Board Certified
Library Media Teacher

"I have always imagined paradise will be a kind of library. ~ Jorge Luis Borges