



San Diego Unified School District

Newsline

March 26, 2007

Spring Break

The week of April 2 - April 6 is Spring Break for traditional school sites. Traditional schools will reopen on Monday, April 9. Spring Break for year round school sites begins Friday, March 30, and ends Tuesday, April 24. Classes will resume Wednesday, April 25. The central office will remain open during the break.

Area 4 Moves to Chollas-Mead Elementary

Area 4 Superintendent Vince Matthews and his team have moved to Chollas-Mead Elementary School. The new contact information is:

Area 4 Superintendent Office
4525 Market Street
San Diego, CA 92102
Phone: (619) 264-4175
Fax: (619) 264-6191

New Schedule for Processing New Classified Employees

Starting Monday, April 2, processing for new **classified** employees will be administered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8:30 to 10 a. m., and on Thursdays, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the Education Center auditorium. There is no processing on Tuesdays. No appointments necessary. For information, contact Theresa Chowdhury at tchowdhury@sandi.net or (619) 725-8034.

Order Your STAR Test Breakfast Today

Do you want your students to be in top form and ready to take the STAR tests? The Food Services Department is once again providing free breakfasts to all students to make sure their brains are fueled and ready. To order, fill out and submit the order form. The deadline for traditional schools is this Friday, March 30; the deadline for year round schools is Wednesday, May 2. For information, contact Sally Spero at sspero@sandi.net or (858) 627-7306.

Special Distribution of March Pay Warrants for Year Round Sites

The March 30 pay day falls on the same day as the beginning of spring break for year round schools. March pay warrants and advices for all year round school monthly and hourly employees will be in the U.S. mail on Thursday, March 29, and payable on Friday, March 30. Special handling will not be available. For information, contact your payroll technician.

Contact Info for Booking Ed Center Auditorium

Need to book a meeting or event in the Education Center auditorium? Contact Ana Maria Ayub at aayub@sandi.net or (619) 725-8072.

District Trainings

- **CSET Prep Courses Scheduled**

The district's Teacher Preparation and Student Support Division is offering California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) Prep Courses for the May 19, 2007 exam. Classes begin Thursday, April 26. Courses include Single Subject English, Single Subject Science, Single Subject Mathematics and Multiple Subjects. Courses are free for district employees; \$60 for others. The registration form is due Thursday, April 19, by 4:30 p.m. For information, contact Gail Butler at gbutler@sandi.net or (858) 539-5330.

Professional Development

- **Substitute Teacher Training**

The San Diego County Office of Education and the Southern California Teacher Recruitment & Support Center will be conducting a Substitute Teacher Training Program on Saturdays, April 14 and 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The two-day workshop is designed to enhance instruction and help prepare participants to deal with situations that arise in the classroom. For information and to register, visit www.teachsocal.org.

Funding Alert

- **ING Direct Planet Orange Financial Literacy Awards**

The Planet Orange Financial Literacy Awards Program challenges K-8 teachers to advance children's knowledge of personal finance and money management. Grants range from \$200 to \$1,000. The application deadline is Friday, April 20. For information, go to <http://www.sweepsplanners.com/orangekids/index.asp>.

- **Whole Foods Market Scrip Program**

The Southern Pacific Region of Whole Foods Market has announced the return of its scrip program. Schools and non-profit groups can purchase Whole Foods Market gift cards at 95% of face value and sell the gift cards for 100% of face value, keeping the difference. The gift cards can be used like cash at any Whole Foods Market. For information, contact SP.Scrip@wholefoods.com or (818) 01-8484, ext. 224.

Student Opportunities

- **Lyric Opera San Diego Summer Academy**

Applications are now being accepted for the Lyric Opera San Diego Summer Academy 2007 being held July 9 through August 10. This five-week intensive training program in the performing arts is for ages 11-18. The program is co-sponsored by the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department. The application deadline is Friday, June 1. Partial scholarships are available. For information, contact office@lyricoperasandiego.org or (619) 231-5714, or visit the website at www.lyricoperasandiego.org.

- **Urban League Seeks Student Nominations**

The Urban League of San Diego County is seeking nominations for the Golden Pyramid Academic Scholars program. Students of African/African-American descent in grades 1- 12 with a 3.0 + GPA (excluding PE) or whose 2006 CAT6 scores in reading, language and math were above the national norm (50th percentile) are eligible. The deadline to submit a nomination form is Monday, May 28. For information, contact Valarie Littlejohn at (619) 266-6251 or Dawnetta Hickerson at (619) 266-6247.

Upcoming Events

- **Parent Forum**

Parents are invited to join Superintendent Cohn, Area 3 Superintendent Rich Cansdale and Assistant Superintendent for High Schools Nellie Meyer at the next district Parent Forum being held tonight, March 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in the Kearny High School Library. Although the meeting is being held in Area 3, parents from throughout the district are welcome to attend.

- **Students Share Poems, Stories**

Parents and the community are invited to attend the Rainbow Writers Café on Tuesday, March 27, starting at 5 p.m., at Johnson Elementary School. Members of the school's Rainbow Writers Club, a group of 95 second through sixth grade students, will be reading their 2007 poems and stories. For information, contact Diana G. Shipley at dgshipley357@hotmail.com or (619) 990-8183.

- **Normal Heights Elementary School Dedication**

Join students, staff, parents, district leaders and community members at Normal Heights Elementary School's official dedication ceremony on Wednesday, March 28, at 10 a.m. The school is located at 3750 Ward Road, San Diego, 92116. For information, contact Maria Gomez, vice principal, at mgomez1@sandi.net or (619) 584-6000.

- **Parent Certificate Ceremony Scheduled**

The Harold J. Ballard Parent Center and San Diego Parent University will hold a parent celebration and

certificate ceremony on March 27 and 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Ballard Center Auditorium. More than 100 parents will receive certificates for completing six weeks of academic and parenting classes. For information, contact Elneda Shannon or Bea Fernandez at (619) 293-4431.

- **Global Warming Awareness Day**

The students at Kearny High School of Digital Media and Design (DMD), along with the San Diego Office of the City Attorney, have established Wednesday, April 11, as Global Warming Awareness Day. An assembly featuring Dr. Nigela Hillgarth from Birch Aquarium, City Attorney Mike Aguirre and three City of San Diego environmental attorneys will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m., in the Kearny High auditorium.

- **Exploring Race and Privilege from a White Perspective**

The City of San Diego, Sempra Energies and Thomas Jefferson School of Law are hosting a special event with author Robert Jensen on Wednesday, April 11, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice at the University of San Diego. Jensen teaches courses in media law, ethics and politics at the University of Texas. The event is open to the public, free of charge. Seating is limited. For information and to RSVP, contact chernandez@sandiego.gov or (619) 236-6420.

- **Spanish Village Art Center Hosts Student Art Exhibit**

The First Annual San Diego High Educational Complex Student Art Exhibit will be held at Gallery 21 in the Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park, from Wednesday, April 18, to Monday, April 30. The exhibit will include works from more than 50 student artists, their art teachers and special guest artist, SDHS alumnus Floyd Chandler. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission is free. For information, contact Mary Bostwick at mbostwick@sandi.net or (619) 525-7455, ext. 2351.

- **African American Parent Conference**

Educators are invited to join parents at the Second Annual African American Parent Conference will take place on Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the San Diego County Office of Education. Registration deadline is Friday, April 13. For information, call (858) 292-3829.

In the News

- An article about San Diego's first regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition was featured in Sunday's *San Diego Union-Tribune*. The Funky Monkeys from San Diego High was a rookie team that did surprisingly well among a mostly experienced field of 46 entrants. To read a copy of the article, go to <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/education/20070325-9999-7m25robots.html>.

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