



San Diego City Schools Staff Bulletin – March 30, 2005

Fun Fact of the Month: M&M stands for the last names of Forrest Mars, Sr., then candymaker, and his associate Bruce Murrie.

Student Art on Display at the Ed Center

For the fifth year in a row, artwork from San Diego City Schools (SDCS) students in all grade levels (K-12) is currently on display in the hallways of the Eugene Brucker Education Center (Ed Center) during the month of March and the first week of April. The exhibit includes a myriad of different art pieces, including drawings, paintings, photographs, collages, mixed media, sculptures and ceramics. Four hundred and eighty seven (487) art pieces from 47 classrooms at 30 district schools are on display. View selection of art on display in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*.

The exhibition brings the lively spirit of art classrooms to the lives of many district employees who may not have direct access to students on a daily basis. During the Open House on **March 30, 2005** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., students will have the chance to share their creative projects with an even larger audience. The featured student exhibit brings students, parents, teachers, district staff and the community together to enjoy the talents of many of the district's exceptional student artists.

The Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department intends to expand this program in the next few years to include more artwork and to display it in a more convenient location where the community can more easily and frequently access it. This year, there is a 120% increase in art pieces. Next year, who knows how many there will be! Art teachers who are interested in getting involved with this program are encouraged to contact Marty Stegeman, Visual Art Resource Teacher, VAPA Department, at (858) 539-5353. For more information, please view the fact sheet, available online at http://www.sandi.net/comm/factsheets/supts_art.pdf.

###

A Students View: The Balboa Park Program

Over 30,000 students participate in the district's Off-Campus Integrated Learning Experience (OCILE) programs each year. These educational, personal awareness and interactive opportunities for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders allow students to learn outside of a traditional classroom for a week, either at Old Town, Palomar Mountain or Balboa Park.

Ever wonder what life was like for fifth grade students during their week at Balboa Park? With its variety of museums, the San Diego Zoo, and countless opportunities to interact (and behave) among the public and outdoors, Balboa Park is, in many ways, the perfect setting for an emphasis on diversity and integration: the over-arching goal of the OCILE programs. During small group activities, students acquire a deeper respect, understanding and appreciation for individual and cultural diversity.

Breaking Out of Their Comfort Zone

By examining stereotypes and gut reactions to animals, behaviors and other people, students at Balboa Park learn an important lesson in appreciation for those different than themselves. Students are given the chance to hold snakes and tarantulas, many for the first time, and nervousness gives way to understanding as they realize that not everything is as slimy, creepy or dangerous as they thought.

Into the Park

Balboa Park offers a unique and picturesque landscape for learning. While walking approximately five miles a day (no need for P.E. here!), students are able to explore one of San Diego's major landmarks, world-famous zoo, performing arts and museums of all kinds. There are more than 30 different activities planned for students each week; each group visits ten spots in the park. This is often the first experience students have had in this type of environment.

The Balboa Park Program gives kids the freedom to be responsible and initiate learning in their own individual ways. Group outings include trips to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, the Museum of Man, the San Diego Zoo, dance classes and performances, the San Diego Museum of Art and many more.

Boys and Ballet?

Dashing preconceived notions to pieces is one of the ways that the Balboa Park Program teaches students the important lesson of acceptance for ideas previously unfamiliar to them. What better way to do this than to introduce a room full of students, boys and girls, to ballet, and have them all love it?

Felicia Alvarez, a docent with the Balboa Park Program and professional dancer with San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, does just that. While hanging on her every word, students learn about different cultural dances of the world, the ups and downs of pointe shoes, and the interesting fact that football players actually take ballet class.

“What? No way!” is the general reaction around the room when Felicia shares this news. She demonstrates the splits while explaining that football players need to be flexible, just in case another player lands on top of them and they are in the wrong position. Rather than getting hurt, football players stay flexible with ballet. The room is filled with awe following this realization.

Felicia also leads the class in warm-ups, explains the difference between girls’ and guys’ dance parts, and teaches students a few French words and ballet moves, with the final result being a choreographed dance to classical music.

Following class, students are asked how their viewpoint of ballet changed because of the class—What did they used to think about ballet and how did that change? The ballet class is an especially effective way to teach students the lesson that knowledge can lead to greater understanding and appreciation for others’ talents, skills and ways of life.

Bringing It Home

During their week in Balboa Park, students break out of their comfort zone, not only by handling snakes and tarantulas, but also by exploring their own perceptions and applying it to their social interactions, inside and out of the classroom. Groups are coordinated to include students from diverse backgrounds and areas. Every week, new friends are made through these groups, even though students may live across the district from each other and lead very different lives.

Daily activities prompt students to trust each other with personal and often embarrassing information about themselves. Through mutual respect and trust, a deeper understanding of each other and themselves is achieved.

Students bring home the knowledge they have learned, memories of the experiences they have enjoyed, and critical thinking skills that will benefit them for years to come.

Leading the Way

The staff at the Balboa Park Program never have a dull moment, whether planning new lessons and curriculum, coordinating complicated schedules, or getting to know new groups of students week after week. Through it all, they are dedicated to educating young people about the arts, sciences, cultural practices and human relations that make our society unique and interesting.

School site teachers also have their part in teaching their students while taking advantage of what Balboa Park has to offer. While accompanying their groups, teachers get to share in their students’ growth during the week. They also have the opportunity to visit the zoo and museums, with ample time for personal reflection and professional development each day.

Contact Us

For more information on the Balboa Park Program, please visit the website at <http://www2.sandi.net/balboapark> or view the fact sheet at http://www.sandi.net/comm/factsheets/balboa_park.pdf. Their office can be reached at (619) 293-4459.

###

State Releases API Base Report

Index Measures Academic Performance and Growth of Schools

On Tuesday, March 15, 2005, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the 2004 Academic Performance Index (API) Base report for district and schools.

District API

The San Diego City Schools 2004 API Base is 710.

Overview

The 2004 API Base District List of Schools Report includes information for 184 schools, however, the summary data below include information for 171 schools (115 elementary schools, 21 middle schools, 12 high schools, and 23 other¹ schools). Schools without an API and schools that closed at the end of the 2003-04 school year are not included.

The 2004 API Base Report indicates that:

- 45 schools have a schoolwide API Base at or above 800, including 33 elementary schools, 5 middle level schools, 0 high schools, and 7 other¹ schools.
- 94 schools have an API Base decile rank above the state median (i.e., a statewide decile rank of 6-10), including 67 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, 6 high schools, and 9 other¹ schools.
- 43 schools have a statewide decile rank of 9 or 10, including 28 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 2 high schools, and 7 other¹ schools.
- 21 schools have a statewide decile rank of 1 or 2, including 13 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 1 high school, and 4 other¹ schools.
- 53 schools improved their Statewide decile rank compared to 2003, including 39 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 1 high school, and 8 other¹ schools.
- 31 schools had a decrease in their Statewide Decile Rank as compared to 2003, including 21 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 4 high schools, and 2 other¹ schools.

Subgroup Results

The 2004 API Base Report includes information for each numerically significant racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disadvantaged subgroups in the district. The chart below illustrates subgroup performance on the 2004 API Base Report.

Districtwide Results	Students Included in the 2004 Base	2004 API Base
District	90,272	710
African American	12,316	642
American Indian	469	751
Asian	8,303	789
Filipino	7,011	790
Hispanic or Latino	37,145	636
Pacific Islander	889	712
White	24,112	807
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	49,813	651

Large Urban School District Results

2004 Districtwide API Base Data for Selected California Urban School Districts

	2003 API Base	2003-04 API Growth	2003 Base to 03-04 Growth	2004 API Base
San Diego	697	710	13	710
Fresno	610	622	12	632
Long Beach	682	696	14	694
Los Angeles	622	634	12	633
Oakland	592	605	13	601
Sacramento	666	682	16	679
San Bernardino	610	617	7	618
San Francisco	706	724	18	724

Background

The 2004 API Base Report and 2004-2005 API Growth Report (which will be released in Fall 2005) reflect performance on the California Standards Tests (CSTs) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics at Grades 2 through 11, science in Grades 5, and 9 through 11, and history/social science in Grades 8, 10, and 11; the norm-referenced California Achievement Test (CAT/6) at Grades 3 and 7; and the Grade 10 student performance in ELA and Mathematics on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). The California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities who cannot participate in the general STAR Program assessments even with accommodations or modifications, is also included in the 2004 API Base as part of the CST data.

The Academic Performance Index (API) is a numeric score between 200 and 1000, representing a measurement of overall academic performance and progress. The state has set 800 as the API statewide performance target that schools should strive to meet. The API Base establishes an annual baseline for the district and for each school in the district, and sets annual targets for growth. With the exception of Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) schools and small schools, all schools receiving schoolwide API scores also receive API scores for each of their numerically significant racial/ethnic and socioeconomically disadvantaged sub-groups. Schools receiving an API score are ranked in ten categories of equal size (deciles) from one (lowest) to ten (highest).

¹*Other schools include Charter Schools, City Heights Collaborative Schools, and La Jolla High School.*

###

Ahmed Haybe: Improving Education in Ethiopia

San Diego City Schools (SDCS) employees continuously work to improve the lives of our students through our efforts in the field of education. However, there are always individuals who strive to go above and beyond, volunteering their time outside of work to have a more positive impact on our community and the world.

Ahmed Haybe of the (SDCS) Translation Services Unit is one such person. A native to Kabridahare, Ethiopia, Ahmed has lived in San Diego for seven years, and recently started a program to improve the quality of education in his hometown, half a world away.

A Day in the Life of an Ethiopian Student

Each day in the town of Kabridahare, Ethiopia, over 5,200 students (Grades 1-10) sit with their legs crossed and hands on their books, ready to learn. This is a familiar scene, expected in classrooms across the world, but some items are absent here: student desks, chairs and a sufficient number of books.

In addition to sitting on the floor, some without reading materials, these children typically do not have access to drinking water, and classrooms hold 120-150 students each. In comparison, a second-grade class in San Diego City Schools holds no more than 20 students.

According to a study in Ethiopia done in April 2004 by San Diego Police Department Community Service Officer (CSO) Asad Mohamed, other issues include a no formal teacher count, low pay, lack of teaching materials, and a teacher population with little or no training in high-quality teaching skills.

How does a situation like this arise? Asad's research points to a population boom in recent years, lack of funding and limited training resources for administrators.

Kabridahare, an urban town in eastern Ethiopia in the Somali region of Ogaden, has a total of five schools: three elementary, one middle and one high school. The nearest college preparatory school (Grades 11-12) is located in the town of Jijiga. Both the distance to Jijiga and the lack of quality instruction in Kabridahare ensure that students rarely attend past Grade 10.

The Kabridahare District Education Project is Born

Ahmed and his friends, Mohamed Haybe and Abdulahi Aidid, have been working with CSO Asad Mohamed for more than a year to solve Kabridahare's educational challenges. All four men grew up in Kabridahare and have mobilized a movement to implement positive change in their hometown.

The research they conducted led to two priorities: providing educational materials and raising teaching standards.

To gain support for their efforts, Ahmed, Mohamed and Asad organized meetings in San Diego, Denver, Minneapolis and Johannesburg, South Africa, inviting other immigrants from Kabridahare to join their cause. More than 700 people (total) attended these meetings.

Overwhelming community support and the desire to provide more to these under-served students has led the "Kabridahare District Education Project" (led by Ahmed, Mohamed, Abdulahi and Asad) to pursue non-profit status. Their next goal is to set up a regular donation service of \$20/month to support teachers in Kabridahare. Their hope is that this supplemental pay increase will encourage more high-quality teachers to work in Kabridahare.

If you have any questions or would like to know how you can get involved, please contact Ahmed Haybe at haybe2000@yahoo.com or (619) 516-1245. In his "day-job" in Translation Services, Ahmed is responsible for translating communications materials such as documents, fact sheets and videos and interprets school site meetings for families in our district whose home language is Somali.

Is someone in your school or department making a positive impact? Tell us by emailing communications@sandi.net. Stories will be published in the Staff Bulletin on a space-available basis.

###

SDCS Chooses 2005 Peace Officer of the Year: John Ross

San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Police Services Officer John Ross will be among the 16 outstanding law enforcement officers honored at the 14th Annual Peace Officer of the Year Awards on Friday, April 15, 2005, at the Bahia Resort Hotel.

Officer John Ross joined the San Diego City Schools Police Department in April of 2000. Following a tour of duty in patrol, Officer Ross was promoted to Campus Police Officer and assigned to Gompers Junior/Senior High, a school with more than 1,800 students. Officer Ross began by targeting to end graffiti and vandalism at the school. He identified 39 students who were members of a well-known tagging crew responsible for thousands of dollars in damage. His efforts ultimately led to 19 felony arrests for graffiti.

In addition to his criminal investigative work, Officer Ross publicized and utilized the "Campus Crime Stoppers" and "Students Against Violence Everywhere" programs. These programs urge students to take pride in their school and anonymously report students who commit damaging acts.

Officer Ross further exemplified the district's mission to protect children when he recently apprehended a local documented street gang member, who had threatened school students with a handgun on the way to school. Following a lengthy foot chase, Officer Ross apprehended the suspect and the handgun. It was later determined the gun recovered was the same gun used in another gang-related shooting the day before this incident.

Officer Ross is a young, enthusiastic officer who is dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of our children. He routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty in order to meet his objective of maintaining a safe and peaceful school environment. Recently, Officer Ross started an after-school program to deter at risk youth from gangs, drugs and violence. The success of Officer Ross' efforts was made evident at this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, when he and numerous students made a strong statement by marching together in support of non-violence. Officer Ross exemplifies our mission to protect our children; therefore, he is the San Diego City Schools Police Department's "Officer of the Year."

###

Students Break Ground on Walter J. Porter Elementary

Prop. MM school will serve students in southeast San Diego

On January 27, students from Kennedy Elementary helped kick off construction on the new Walter J. Porter Elementary, which is being built next door to the Kennedy Elementary campus. The new school will help ease classroom overcrowding at Kennedy as well as Knox Elementary, and it is scheduled to open in September 2005, serving 450 students.

Walter J. Porter Elementary will include 26 classrooms, 44,345 square feet of facilities, a library, counseling center, lunch court, auditorium, kitchen, cafeteria, state-of-the-art technology, 67 new trees, hundreds of shrubs, and a joint-use field.

Kennedy students joined in the groundbreaking ceremony with a drum performance, essay readings and singing. The crowd included more than 100 parents, staff and community members, including the family of the late Walter J. Porter, a much-admired leader who served as president of the local NAACP, helped start the annual Martin Luther King parade, and was founding Dean of Student Services for the Educational Cultural Complex in southeast San Diego.

The school will be all modular, or factory-built, which will shave time off of the construction schedule and save money. The modular supplier is Modtech. The architect is R.J. Maus, and the general contractor is Soltek Pacific.

No homes were demolished or residents relocated for this project. The school is being built on district-owned property.

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. For more information about Proposition MM new schools, go to www.sandi.net/propmm/new.htm.

###

E-Pro Tips from the Procurement and Contracts Unit

Want to be an e-Pro "Pro"? Here are some ideas that will help us help you!

The fiscal yearend is coming! But be not afraid...

The last day this year to submit e-Pro requisitions against this year's budget is **May 2**— that is: final requisitions must be successfully budget-checked and approved by your site's approver by this date. So the sooner you get your requisitions submitted (and right!) the more smoothly fiscal yearend will go for all of us. We appreciate your cooperation with the following:

Important Details and Tips

Please check to be sure that the budget string you are using on the e-Pro requisition valid and has enough money in it. We receive many e-Pros that are not created with valid budgets. We will eventually change business processes to keep this from happening, but for now please ensure that you are using a good budget string. Be sure to check your available budget to ensure a valid chart field string and sufficient funds prior to entering any requisition.

Always check the item catalog first—if the item you want is in there, use that option rather than creating a special order e-Pro requisition.

Please put accurate information in critical fields when creating an e-Pro:

1) **Description field:** Please use a noun describing each item (e.g., book, computer, facility rental) in the description field, with additional information, such as part number, all up to 60 characters. This helps us identify more easily which buyer needs to handle the e-Pro when it comes into our unit, and we don't have to change the line description before dispatching the purchase order. We don't know what to buy for you when you say only "Item 1" as a description, or put in only a catalog number, for example.

2) **Vendor information:** Include this in the vendor field; this is another way we can sort the e-Pro's according to buyer. If you are suggesting a vendor and cannot find it in the "vendor lookup," please put it in the suggested vendor field. For suggested vendors that are not available in the lookup, please include vendor address, phone and fax number if you have it. If you receive a verbal quote from a vendor, note the name of the person you spoke to, a phone number and the date you received the quote, if possible.

3) Please check to be sure that your **requestor contact information**, including phone number, is included on the e-Pro "text comment" area, in case we need to contact you if we have questions.

Remember that if we send an email to an e-Pro requestor with questions or problems that stop us from issuing a purchase order and do not receive an answer within three working days, we may cancel the e-Pro.

4) On **Lot orders**, individual lines must be entered, unless there are over 40 lines. Lot orders for less than 41 lines will be cancelled. (Sometimes, we get "lot orders" for four items!) If a lot order is entered, please ensure that the total dollar amount includes sales tax, freight and all other charges. A copy of the lot list including the e-Pro number must be mailed to Procurement or faxed to 858 571-3920. Please include a cover sheet when faxing.

Please minimize low dollar purchase requests (especially those less than \$50). Use your procurement card when possible, and of course use the OfficeMax/Boise or Waxie online ordering as your first option.

Confirming orders is time-consuming and against district policy. For exceptional cases, please fax justification signed by a principal or department manager for **EACH** confirming order, along with a copy of the invoice(s) to be paid. Please indicate "confirming orders" in the description.

Customer Service

We receive many calls for information that can be obtained online, such as the status of e-Pro's and purchase orders. We are glad to help, but whenever possible please look up e-Pro status online through e-Procurement > Manage Requisition.

If you do not know how to enter an e-Pro or need help doing so, please enroll in an e-Pro training session online. Principals and managers: please allow staff the time to do so; it reduces frustration for all involved.

We will soon have a new website that will provide answers to a lot of your questions, and hopefully alleviate some of the frustration we are all feeling. As we work to improve our current turnaround time and do our best for a smooth transition to the next fiscal year, we appreciate your patience and understanding.

For more information, please contact Donna Strobl at (858) 496-8219 or Candi Elson at (858) 496-8007 in customer service. You may also call Alice Rouzer at (858) 496-8039 in order to relay messages to buyers.

Thank you! Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

###

DWA Spotlight: Inputting Mileage

As you may already know, to be reimbursed for mileage incurred while on district business, a request must be filled out online through DWA. In an attempt to better explain the process, the DWA team has put together job aids on this and other topics of interest to employees who need to use DWA. View the Mileage Job Aid online at http://prod031.sandi.net/dwa/assets/Expenses_Expensing_Mileage.pdf. View other Financials Job Aids online at http://prod031.sandi.net/dwa/dwa_training_peoplesoft_fi_materials.htm.

There are also classes available to explain using DWA in more depth. Details and times are available online at http://prod031.sandi.net/dwa/dwa_training_peoplesoft.htm. For more information, please email dwa@sandi.net.

###

How is Recyclable Paper Collected at Your School?

Every school is different, how they celebrate holidays, reward students, administer programs and even... collect recyclable paper! As the district has embarked on a districtwide recycling program, many schools are achieving success in different ways. What follows are examples of specific schools and how they coordinate recycling on their campus.

Serra High School has an environmental awareness club that meets regularly. They collect paper from classrooms twice a week and put them in central containers. When the central containers are full (there is one located at each building), the custodial staff helps by emptying them. The club also put "mixed paper only" stickers on all blue classroom bins to help prevent contamination.

At **Challenger Middle School**, teachers and students empty classroom paper bins into 50-gallon carts. There are 10 carts located in central areas around the campus. The Associated Student Body (ASB) then empties these carts into the recycling dumpster. ASB designed and distributed flyers at the beginning of the year to promote the program and educate the campus about recycling.

At **Logan Elementary**, teachers have their students take full classroom paper bins to larger containers located throughout the school. The custodians then collect the paper from these bigger bins and empty them into the recycling dumpster.

For more examples of schools who are successfully recycling, contact Andrea Eaton of the Recycling Office at (858) 627-7376 or acalbow@sandi.net. Many schools have found effective ways to participate. Learning about them may help your school get started or make your current program even better!

###

Trusts: What You Need To Know

An Overview of the Various Types of Trusts and How They Differ

Article taken from the PacifiCare Behavioral Health, Inc. website, <http://www.pbhi.com/>

Some of the most discussed legal documents in recent years are trusts. One of the most common types of trust is a "living trust," but there are trusts that serve a variety of purposes. Some trusts may aid in estate or tax planning, others may be for the benefit and care of children, and still others can simply be created to avoid probate.

What Is A Trust?

Legally, a trust is defined as a legal document that creates an entity whose identity is legally separate from that of the creator. There are three parties involved in a trust:

- **Trustor:** owner of property/money
- **Trustee:** holder of the property/money
- **Beneficiary:** recipient of the property/money

Generally stated, a trust is an agreement between the Trustor and Trustee, whereby the Trustee agrees to administer and distribute the property, along with the income from the property, as specified in the agreement. Commonly, beneficiaries are specified in a trust agreement and the agreement usually specifies who should receive what assets or proceeds from the trust when the Trustor dies, or sometime thereafter.

Sometimes the trust will enable the beneficiaries to receive trust income during the life of the Trustor, and sometimes no property is transferred to the beneficiaries until the Trustor dies. Often the Trustee is instructed in the Trust Agreement to withhold any distribution of trust income or property until each of the beneficiaries reaches a certain age. There are as many differences in trusts as there are trusts, but this overview will help you to visualize the process.

Revocable Trusts vs. Irrevocable Trusts

Trusts can either be revocable or irrevocable. Each trust generally sets forth a provision that enables the Trustor to revoke the trust if something happens. In a **Revocable Trust**, this revocation can occur at the will of the Trustor. This means anytime the Trustor decides to revoke the Trust, he/she can.

Irrevocable Trusts are those which cannot be revoked after they are set up. It is only with great care that irrevocable trusts are established, since once it is created the Trustor deliberately gives up control over revocation of the Trust.

Why would anyone agree to give up direct control over certain assets and agree that once placed in a Trust the trust cannot be revoked? There are many reason for this, not the least of which are often tax code provisions that dictate certain requirements for trusts in order to be recognized for special income tax treatment.

Realistically, there are many reasons for setting up trusts, and it is advisable before you establish a trust to examine the options and the requirements with a lawyer knowledgeable in this area.

###

News You Can Use

Reducing SPAM Emails

The Information Technology Department (IT) constantly monitors and makes necessary adjustments to our system for incoming SPAM email by filtering it out without stopping legitimate email from coming through. In an effort to drastically reduce SPAM, IT will be discontinuing QuickMail forwarding as of June 30, 2005. Currently, email addressed to your old QuickMail address is being forwarded to your new Outlook Web Access (OWA) account, including all of the SPAM. By removing the "forwarding rule" that is associated with your old email account, the SPAM you receive will be greatly reduced. As of June 30, 2005, people who send email to your old account will have their messages "bounced." If you have not already done so, it is recommended that you email your contacts to let them know that your email has changed to avoid having messages bounced once forwarding is discontinued on June 30, 2005.

New Online Districtwide Master Calendar

A new districtwide master calendar is now accessible through Outlook and OWA. Included on this calendar are Board meetings, districtwide parent group meetings, district holidays, etc. Please use this calendar for planning purposes (e.g., to avoid overlapping events) and as a one-stop-shop for information on upcoming districtwide meetings. To access the

calendar, open Public Folders > All Public Folders > Shared Public Resource Calendars > SDCS Master Calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Jaycox at (619) 725-5598 or ejaycox@sandi.net.

Ride to the Arts on ArtsBusXpress!

Students from Encanto Elementary, pictured in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*, are on their way to the Kroc Performing Arts Center for a performance of "Conga Caliente," presented by Classics for Kids. But, the bus they're boarding isn't your ordinary school bus—it's ArtsBusXpress! This program connects students to cultural destinations such as museums, art galleries, concerts, theatre and dance performances. Since the program began in October 2002, over 14,000 students have received a ride to the arts. View two of their letters of appreciation in the online *Staff Bulletin*. To contribute or learn how your school or classroom can benefit, please call (619) 687-3562 or visit www.artsbusxpress.org. Encanto's trip was captured on film by ITV. View the segment online at <http://www.sdcoe.tv/pp0405.asp> (requires Real Player) by clicking on Education Spotlight: ArtsBusXpress.

Food Services Essay, Poetry Rap Contest for Students

Bright blue student flyers announcing the Food Services Essay, Poetry Rap Contest are now available at all school sites. Last year over 1,200 students from every grade level entered this contest, which runs each year during the month of March. Sponsored by Sea World, this contest includes prizes, bookmarks and coupons to Sea World for student participants. For more information, please contact Joanne Tucker at (858) 627-7316 or jtucker@sandi.net.

Keep California Beautiful Clean-Ups!

San Diego City Schools' Recycling Office, in partnership with Keep California Beautiful, is participating in Keep California Beautiful Clean-Ups! Anyone can participate! Environmental clubs, girl and boy scouts, adults, student governments all can help collect trash and recyclables from parks, vacant lots, streets, trails, roadways, recreational areas, beaches, lagoons, or your school! Trash bags, gloves, flower seeds and volunteer rewards will be provided. Sign up today by contacting Andrea Eaton of the Recycling Office at acalbow@sandi.net or 858-627-7376.

ICOC Annual Report on Prop MM

Last week, schools received the 2004 Annual Report on Proposition MM, published by the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), an 11-member volunteer task force that monitors the Proposition MM program. Please check with your school's front office if you would like a copy or visit the Prop MM website at www.sandi.net/propmm/news.htm#reports. For more information, please contact Leslie Caporale at (858) 637-3609 or lcaporale@sandi.net.

Proposition MM Ribbon-Cutting Events

Is your new Proposition MM building or library nearly complete? If so, consider hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate with your staff, students and parents! Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are a fun and simple way to showcase your new facility and thank your community for supporting Proposition MM. For assistance with your event and to reserve the "giant scissors," please contact Proposition MM Communications at (619) 725-5602. For information on how to plan your ribbon-cutting event, please review the checklist and invitation samples at www.sandi.net/propmm/principals.htm#plan.

WANTED: Your Kodak Moments for the SDCS Website!

The Web Services Team would like to invite you to submit your best color photos of school events or student artwork to be included on the front page of the district website. Events could include:

- Science and Invention Fairs
- Family Science, Math or Literacy Nights
- Cultural Fairs
- Olympic-type Events
- Performing and Visual Arts Activities

Digital photos are preferred, with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi at 3"x5". Still photographs are also acceptable if they can be easily scanned. Photographs that are close up should not depict more than three children. If the photograph does show a child close up and clearly identifiable, a Website Photo Release Form or Website Artwork Release Form must be used to obtain parental consent before posting the photo online. For more information, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (619) 725-5579 or ukroemer@sandi.net or Joy Muehlenbein at (619) 724-7464 or jmuehlenbein@sandi.net.

\$12,000 in Scholarship Awards Available from California Coast Credit Union

If you know a high school senior who needs cash for college, California Coast Credit Union can help. Their 2005 Scholarship Program recognizes the academic excellence, school activities and community involvement of graduating high school seniors. This year's program offers five scholarships: one for \$5,000, two for \$2,500 and two for \$1,000. The applicant must have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and be a California Coast member, or the son or daughter of a member, by the application deadline of **March 31, 2005**. For complete details and an application, visit the California Coast Credit Union website at <http://www.calcoastcu.org/> and click on the scholarship link under "What's New." Applications are also available at all California Coast branches, or by calling 1-877-495-1600.

New American History Essay Contest for Students

The New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center is now accepting essays for its fourth annual essay competition, "Family Histories: Migrants to the United States Since 1945." Students in Grades 6-12 are encouraged to apply before the **deadline on April 1, 2005**. This competition is open to students with a wide range of writing abilities and experience, and it is designed to work within the *California Standards* in Language Arts and History-Social Science. Applications, user guides, teacher aids and posters are available online at www.naimlc.org or by contacting Caroline McKoen at (858) 452-7873 or carolinemckoen@earthlink.net.

High School Oratorical Contest for Students

Students (Grades 9-12) are invited to brush up on their public speaking skills with Pazzaz Inc. The High School Oratorical Contest provides San Diego students with a forum to express their feelings and beliefs on important issues and enhances students' research, organization, writing, critical thinking, and oratorical delivery skills. Students are invited to attend workshops in preparation for the competition, which will take place at the Achievement Awards Dinner, on May 22, 2005. This year's topic is "Where, if anywhere, should Congress draw the line on freedom of expression?" For more information, email zz@pazzaz.org or call (619) 264-6870.

City of San Diego Water Conservation Poster Contest for Students

The City of San Diego is now accepting poster designs for the 5th Annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. To enter, students (Grades 1-6) must draw a poster that illustrates one important point based on this year's theme, "Water... Reduce Your Use!" Posters should display large lettering, only a few words, and must be drawn horizontally on 11" x 14" white paper. The deadline for poster submissions is **today, Wednesday, March 30, 2005**. Additional information about the contest, including the entry form and a free activity book are available online at <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/kids/poster/index.shtml> or by calling (619) 235-1984.

2005 Farm Water Poster Contest for Fourth Graders

Each year, the California Farm Water Coalition sponsors a poster contest for fourth-grade students. Winners will receive savings bonds certificates, and their entries will be featured on the Coalition website at http://www.farmwater.org/kids_corner. The deadline for submitting entries is **April 18, 2005**. For more information, please view the guidelines, online at http://www.farmwater.org/kids_corner/poster_contest/2005/Poster%20guidelines%2005.pdf, call (916) 441-7723 or email mhenry@farmwater.org.

Summer Internship at Scripps Institute of Oceanography for Staff and Students

This summer, enjoy the fun of ocean summer camp as an aide with the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. From June 20 to August 26, learn more about educating students (Pre-K to Grade 9) while in an informal science setting. Guide them through hands-on experiments and crafts. Explore local marine habitats. Accompany children on their first tide-pool, snorkel or surf experience. A Certificate of Completion and/or high school credit will be awarded to participants. Applications are available by calling (858) 822-4934 or by emailing volunteers@siomail.ucsd.edu.

Free Computers for Low Income Families

Computer Friends is dedicated to helping low income children enhance their academic success. By providing refurbished, used computers to low income families, Computer Friends serves as a match-maker for donated technological tools. In so doing, they hope to help close the digital divide that plagues San Diego County and give both children and computers a second chance for greater success. If you or someone you know is interested in donating, volunteering or applying for donated technology please visit the website at www.compfriends.org or contact Cassidy Brady at (858) 523-0426 or cbrady@compfriends.org.

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Hall of Fame

Active Parents Help Out at Edison

On Saturday, February 26, the Dad's Club and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) at Edison held a clean-up and rummage sale. They planted new greenery in the front of the school and cleaned up trash along the perimeter. Through the rummage sale, the school was able to raise \$800 to replace some of the funding lost from allotted state Targeted Instructional Improvement Grant monies (TIIG). Edison is grateful for their dedicated parents, who will do whatever they can to promote existing programs at Edison. Special thanks to Gina Montijo, Edison's Parent Academic Liaison, who worked tirelessly to organize and lead the event!

More Than a Game

On February 26, the 15th annual "National Girls and Women in Sports Day" was held at San Diego City College from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's theme, "More Than A Game," recognized the significance of women's participation in sports and the benefits of sports and physical activity. More than 300 girls (Grades 4-8) attended four of the following clinics:

- Basketball (Senior Women's Basketball Association)

- Dance (Jean Marmet, Physical Education Specialist at Dana Middle)
- Field Events (Ellen Turkel)
- Field Hockey (Tara Jelley, USA Field Hockey)
- Softball (Andi Milbert, SDCC Women's Soccer)
- Tennis (Simone Vazquez, SDCC Women's Tennis)
- Track (Patti Tufley)
- Volleyball (Dede Bodner, SDCC Volleyball)

The day started with an energy breakfast, followed by two clinics. During lunch there was a volleyball exhibition, then two more clinics and a closing ceremony where each participant received a free T-shirt.

Resources for Students with Autism Program Wins Award

The Autism Society of America, San Diego Chapter, has selected the Resources for Students with Autism (RSA), a San Diego City Schools Special Education Program, as the recipient of the 2005 Health Hero Award. RSA is recognized for supporting and promoting better health and education in the community. The Health Hero Award will be presented during a special awards ceremony on March 22 at the Wyndham Hotel. For more information, please call (858) 636-4150.

The Autism Society of America, San Diego Chapter, is one of the largest member agencies of the Combined Health Agencies, an association of 27 national and local health agency chapters here in San Diego. As the workplace fundraising partner of the United Way of San Diego, Combined Health Agencies Drive (CHAD) is well known to donors as United Way/CHAD. Each year the member agencies honor local businesses, medical professionals and media for their contributions, dedication to its mission and commitment to better health for all San Diegans.

De Portola Teacher Wins Wal-Mart's San Diego Teacher of the Year

Carmen Munnely, an 8th grade history teacher at Gaspar de Portola Middle School, was recently selected from more than 250 nominees to represent San Diego as the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. Carmen will go on to compete for the state title later this month. In conjunction with this award, Carmen and De Portola will receive \$1,000 and other prizes in recognition of her outstanding work.

PE Director Certified by NIAAA

Bruce Ward, Director of Physical Education and Interscholastic Athletics for San Diego City Schools (SDCS), recently received the title of "Certified Master Athletic Administrator" from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). This program identifies administrators nationally for their exemplary knowledge, contributions and on-going professional development in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. Bruce is one of a very elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

Recycling Contest Winners

The February winners for the district's recycling contest were:

- **Althea Bagsby**, Communications, who won two free entrees for El Torito; and
- **Marie Rodriguez**, Office of Resource Development, who won 4 tickets to a San Diego Gulls Hockey game.

Congratulations to these winners, and thank you to all of our prize sponsors! Each month on the 15th, two winners are chosen from entries received. To enter, you must pledge to recycle and send your pledge card to the Recycling Office via school mail or email to acalbow@sandi.net. Pledge cards are available online at www.sandi.net/energy/recycling. Click on "Contests." Good luck!

Tsunami Funds Raised at Paradise Hills

The Paradise Hills Elementary School Student Council organized a recycling drive for the school's 4th, 5th and 6th graders to raise money for the children that were devastated by the Tsunami. The students recycled soda cans and plastic bottles and raised \$111.

Madison Theatre Program Honored

The drama program at Madison High School was recently selected by the American High School Theatre Festival to represent California, one of only ten schools in the state, as one of the United States' exemplary drama programs. A nomination by Diane Sinor of the Old Globe Theatre, led to this recognition.

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Scenes from Schools

Students Relive Colonial Williamsburg

Fifth graders at Dingeman Elementary in Scripps Ranch treated the community to a Colonial Williamsburg Living Museum recently. Dressed in colonial attire, the colonists explained to visitors about their government, various trades, fashions and

lifestyles. Students spent many weeks researching the start of our new nation and wrote a research report on a specific colony and trade. They also recreated artifacts used by the colonists and built sets for the museum. Hard-working tradesmen included “coopers” who made barrels, candle-makers, saddle-makers, wig-makers, blacksmiths, silversmiths, a magazine where artillery was stored and cabinet-makers. The latest fashions were displayed at the Milliner’s Shop, and a weary visitor could stop at the tavern to relax and have a drink. For colonists who weren’t feeling well, a trip to the apothecary might be in order, where herbs and other medicines were available to comfort the ill. A visit to the Governor’s Palace featured a ball for elite society members. Education was also prominent in Colonial Williamsburg as students, teachers and professors told of a typical day at the Dame School and the College of William and Mary. A court trial was also held, and representatives at the House of Burgesses explained how laws were made so that order could be maintained in the colony.

Artistic Gate Dedicated at Birney Elementary

The new gate at Birney Elementary isn’t just any old gate. It is a piece of art that captures the history of the University Heights neighborhood. The gate, titled, “Trolley Comes to Town,” was designed by local metal artists Alber de Matteis and Linda Joanou. The steel gate features an old-time trolley, which has been a symbol of University Heights ever since the trolley ran on what is now Park Boulevard. The gate is positioned at the corner of Meade and Park, which is known as the entrance to the University Heights neighborhood. On February 17, students, parents and neighbors gathered at Birney Elementary to dedicate the gate. Councilmember Toni Atkins, Board President Luis Acle and several other community leaders spoke of the importance of public art in the community. The project was commissioned by the University Heights Community Development Corporation and funded in part by the City’s Commission for Arts and Culture.

Birney Family Fridays

At Alice Birney Elementary, the first Friday of every month is Family Friday. The school welcomes families and community members during the last hour of the day, 2:30-3:35 p.m., and invites them to stop in classrooms and visit with students. Many parents relish this monthly opportunity to take off work a little early and come to the school. The school’s Parent Academic Liaison, Nevada Chisholm, hosts the afternoon, with a mini-lesson for literacy or math for any interested parents. This is a wonderful time for teachers and parents to establish those crucial links between the classroom and the home, in a very natural environment—the classroom. Family spirit is further nurtured by encouraging parents to gather a group of kids around them.

Schools Celebrate Ribbon-cutting Ceremonies

Grand opening celebrations took place at three schools in January and February, and students are now enjoying their new Proposition MM libraries at Cadman, Lee and Holmes elementary schools. If you are interested in planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony at your school, check out the Proposition MM website for a helpful checklist.

New Prop MM Library Buildings Dedicated

Adams and Wegeforth elementary schools used the occasion of Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 2 to dedicate new library buildings. Students wore Dr. Seuss hats, sang songs and read essays about the importance of libraries and reading.

A few days later on March 4, Marshall Elementary dedicated its new library and classroom building. Because of rain, the ceremony moved inside the library where a small group of student readers presented their essays to Board Member Shelia Jackson and others. The students also made posters and cards to thank their Partner in Education, the U.S. Navy’s HSL 47. These new buildings were funded by Proposition MM, the voter-approved bond measure passed in 1998 that is paying for facilities modernization and construction throughout the school district.

New Counseling and Guidance Resource Library

A reception was held February 4, 2005, to dedicate the new Counseling and Guidance Resource Library at the Wiggins Center, 4350 Mt. Everest in Clairemont, 92117. The books and kits were purchased with funds donated by the Downtown Kiwanis Club of San Diego, with whom Counseling and Guidance has had a partnership for over 25 years.

Flight Simulator at Madison High

After several months of planning and construction, a new JROTC Flight Simulator is up and running at Madison High School. Constructed of actual surplus aircraft components, commercial kit parts and scratch-built pieces, the simulator is a fairly similar reproduction of an Air Force F-16C fighter-bomber. Driven by computer software developed by former Air Force instructor pilots, the trainer is capable of accurately simulating most of the flight regime of a real F-16C. A team of cadets, led by JRTC alumni Khoi Pham, are currently programming the myriad of controls to increase the realism of the simulation. What use does a F-16C Flight Simulator serve in an Army JROTC unit? Aside from exercising the numerous computer and technical skills necessary to program and fly the simulator, it is hoped that the simulator will spark an interest in cadets for possible aviation careers.

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Student Salutes

La Jolla Students Shine

Students at La Jolla High have recently received several awards from the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE), National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSE) and National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NoBCChE). In the SDCOE's 2005 Winter Red Eye 24-Hour Film Competition, "Video Crew One" took the gold with a short finished video. Crew members include Carlos Mason, Max Halberg, Chris Colachis, Giorgio Gentile, Kristin Link and Seth Biberstei. Kathy Renda was the Staff Crew Leader. At NOSE's La Jolla Surf Bowl at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography on February 26, Coach Lee Decker and his team: Jennifer Bell, Venzel Hammershaimb, Doug Hooton, Zach Rudolph, and Christian Schwarz, took first place in the Southern California/Arizona region for the fifth consecutive year. The NoBCChE Senior Teams 1 and 2 placed first and second, respectively, in the regional competition and will go on to the Nationals in Orlando during Spring Break. The Junior Team also took second place at the regional competition. Senior Team 1 members are Praveen Subramani, Patricia Odero, Dora E. Arnold and Michael Savvas. Senior Team 2 members are Julian Sonderegger, Shanly Hopkins, Mata Kareemah, Darren Green and Kenneth Martin. Junior Team members are Nicholas Hanoian, Nicolas Sonderegger and Ashley Serna. Their advisor is Walter Fairley, Vice-Principal.

Henry High Student Receives Kyoto Scholarship

David P. Daniels of Henry High School recently received a \$10,000 scholarship at the Fourth Annual Kyoto Laureate Symposium, a gala celebrating outstanding human achievement. David will be attending Stanford University in the fall. College-bound students were selected for this award based on academic excellence in the fields of advanced technology, basic sciences, or arts and philosophy.

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Save the Date

Ballard Parent Center Training for SDCS Staff

The Harold J. Ballard Parent Center is offering training workshops for district staff such as parent volunteer coordinators, community assistants, School Site Council, ELAC and DAC representatives, PTA chairpersons and parent leaders. For more information, view the flyer and registration form online at

http://www.sandi.net/staff/prof_dev/parent_trainer_training.pdf or contact Maria Moore-Flagg at (619) 293-4431 or mmoore2@sandi.net or Bea Fernandez at (619) 293-4410 or bfernandez@sandi.net.

Jr. Golf Day and SDCS New Golfer Day

On **Saturday, April 2**, and **Sunday, April 3**, new golfers will get a chance to learn to swing at Jr. Golf Day (April 2) and San Diego City School Employees New Golfer Day (April 3) at the Tecolote Canyon Golf Course. Instruction, beverages and raffle items will be available. Please call Gary at (858) 336-7666 to reserve your spot today.

Workshops at CSUSM

The following professional development opportunities are now being offered through the Extended Studies Program at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM). For more information or to register, please contact the Extended Studies Office at (760) 750-4020 or visit the website at <http://www.csusm-es.org>. **Please note:** Credit toward the 150 hours of professional development for credential renewal must be in conformance with guidelines delineated in the California Professional Growth Manual and with Article 12 of the SDEA Collective Negotiations Contract.

- **Preparing for the CSET-MS: Test-Taking Strategies**, Monday, April 4, 7-10 p.m. Fee: \$69.
- **Identity Theft Seminar**, Wednesday, April 6, 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$65 + \$15 for materials.
- **Preparing for the CSET-MS Sub-test II: Science & Mathematics**, Wednesdays, April 6-20, 7-10 p.m. Fee: \$139.
- **Test Preparation: CSET-SS – English, Social Science, Science and Music & Art Workshop**, Wednesdays and Mondays, April 6 - May 7, 5-7 p.m. Fee: \$149.
- **Preparing for the CSET-MS Sub-test I: Reading, Language & Literature, and History & Social Science**, Mondays, April 11-25, 7-10 p.m. Fee: \$139.
- **Essential Physical Assessment Skills**, Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fee: \$79. BRN: 8 hours.
- **Basic ECG Interpretation**, Saturdays, April 16-23, 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fee: \$100. BRN: 16 hours.
- **Peri-Anesthesia Nursing**, Thursdays, April 21-28, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$150. BRN: 14 hours.
- **Preparing for the CSET-MS Sub-test III: Physical Education, Human Development, and Visual & Performing Arts**, Wednesday, April 27 and Monday, May 2, 7-10 p.m. Fee: \$69.

Earth Day Recycling Project

The twelfth annual Earth Day Groceries Project encourages students to decorate paper grocery bags with environmental messages. On **Earth Day, April 22**, these bags will be distributed (full of groceries) to shoppers from local grocery stores. Besides carrying an environmental message, each bag will also have school names and wonderful student artwork,

sending shoppers a very clear and positive message that our students care about the environment. For more information or to get involved, please contact Andrea Eaton at (858) 627-7376 or at acalbow@sandi.net.

Interested in National Board Certification?

The Teacher Preparation and Student Support Division has scheduled orientation meetings to provide information on becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. If you are interested, please select one of the following orientation sessions: **Saturday, April 23, 2005 (8 a.m.-noon)**, SDEA Headquarters Board Room, 10393 San Diego Mission Rd., 92108; or **Saturday, May 21, 2005 (8 a.m.-noon)**, Instructional Media Center Building "G", 2441 Cardinal Lane, 92123. To register, please contact Velvet Wright at (858) 496-1882 or vwright@sandi.net.

STAR/PAL Superheroes for Youth Luncheon

On **Friday, April 29**, STAR/PAL, San Diego's Police Athletic League Chapter, will present their 5th Annual Celebrity Waiter Luncheon, "Superheroes for Youth" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Chargers and Padres players, including Co-honorary Chairs Trevor and Tracy Hoffman and Donnie and Kathryn Edwards, as well as other prominent business and community leaders, will be in attendance, many of them waiting tables and entertaining the group to earn tips and donations for the STAR/PAL program. STAR/PAL directly benefits students through mentoring, tutoring and after-school programs involving local firefighters and police officers. For more information, call (619) 531-2559.

Fiesta Educativa: Parents and Professionals Uniting Forces

The San Diego County Office of Education's Ninth Annual Fiesta Educativa Conference, "Parents and Professionals Uniting Forces," will be taking place on **Saturday, April 30**, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at their main offices at 6401 Linda Vista Road, 92111. The conference is designed for Spanish-speaking parents of children with special needs and for the professionals who work with them. Some workshops will also be conducted in English. The keynote speaker will be Moisés Barón of the University of San Diego. For more information, please call Manuela Valdez at (858) 490-8523.

Grab your Calendar and Circle the Day, *The Union-Tribune* Race for Literacy is Coming in May

The San Diego Union-Tribune will be sponsoring The Kids Magic Mile on **May 7** and the Race for Literacy 8K on **May 8**. These events headline the annual *Union-Tribune* Race for Literacy Weekend. Included in the festivities will be visits from students' favorite fictional characters and post-race activities. More information, including the registration form, is available online. For more information, contact email eflanagan@inmotionevents.com or call (760) 692-2900.