



San Diego City Schools

Staff Bulletin – October 13, 2004

Testing Data Show San Diego City Schools Continuing to Improve Student Achievement *State Releases STAR and California High School Exit Exam Data*

The results of the Spring 2004 STAR tests, administered to all students in Grades 2-11, were released by the state on August 16 and show that San Diego City Schools (SDCS) continues to make academic gains. They are available online at <http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2004/>.

STAR Tests

The 2004 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program included four components:

- California Standards Tests (CST)
- California Achievement Test (CAT/6)
- California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)
- Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, 2nd Edition (SABE/2)

“The results released today clearly show that San Diego City Schools continues to be focused in the right direction. Our efforts that have resulted in sustained gains must be maintained,” said SDCS Board of Education President Ron Ottinger.

California Standards Tests

The CST is the heart of the state testing program as it is the measure of how students are meeting state standards. The results are the core measurement for the Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Therefore, SDCS looked closely at the results from the CST.

“Because we have aligned our curriculum to meet the state academic standards, the STAR results are important as they allow us to see how well our students are meeting those standards,” said Deputy Superintendent Leslie Fausset. “Our results show that our San Diego City Schools students have made impressive gains over the past four years, and we believe it is because of our focus on, and teaching to, the standards.”

Students in Lower Grades are Making Large Gains in Mathematics

Results from the California Standards Test in Mathematics show:

- Double-digit increases were made from 2002 to 2004 in Grades 2-4
- For Grades 2-7 combined, there was a four-point gain from 2003 (37 percent) to 2004 (41 percent), and a nine-point gain from 2002 (32 percent) to 2004 (41 percent)
- Grades 8-11 combined remained the same from 2003 (13 percent) to 2004 (13 percent), and remained the same from 2002 (13 percent) to 2004 (13 percent)
- Grade 8 (algebra) had a three-point gain from 2003 (16 percent) to 2004 (19 percent), and a five-point gain from 2002 (14 percent) to 2004 (19 percent)

“We are extremely pleased with our math results at the K-8 level, where we have increased our focus on math, as well as adopted new textbooks this year and provided additional professional development for our teachers and principals,” said Chief Academic Officer Mary Hopper. “We know that we must continue this focus, and direct our efforts at the high school level where we are implementing many exciting initiatives such as smaller learning communities in support of students.”

More Students Meeting State Standards in English Language Arts

Results from the California Standards Test in English Language Arts show that for all grades combined, there was a one-point gain from 2003 (36 percent) to 2004 (37 percent) and a five-point gain from 2001 (32 percent) to 2004 (37 percent).

Students who were second graders in 2001 show remarkable progress over the four years: as second graders in 2001 (35 percent), third graders in 2002 (38 percent), fourth graders in 2003 (40 percent) and as fifth graders in 2004 (42 percent).

Achievement Gap Continues to Narrow

Results from the California Standards Test for all students (Grades 2-11) combined show that while White students made gains in English Language Arts over a four-year period and mathematics over a three-year period, all other major ethnic groups made larger gains.

In English Language Arts, Asian/Indochinese students made a three-point gain from 2003 to 2004; Filipino students made a two-point gain from 2003 to 2004; Hispanic and White students each made a one-point gain from 2003 to 2004; and African-American students remained the same from 2003 to 2004.

In mathematics, Asian/Indochinese and Filipino students each made a three-point gain from 2003 to 2004; Hispanic and White students each made a two-point gain from 2003 to 2004; and African-American students made a one-point gain from 2003 to 2004.

San Diego Outperforms Most California Urban Districts

SDCS outperformed most large urban districts on the California Standards Test in English Language Arts for Grades 2-11 combined in 2004. (Long Beach and Fresno have not yet received their results.) Only San Francisco outperformed SDCS.

Over four years, SDCS outperformed and out-gained most large urban districts on the California Standards Test in English Language Arts for Grades 2-11 combined. (Long Beach and Fresno have not yet received their results.) Only Los Angeles and San Francisco out-gained SDCS.

SDCS outperformed most large urban districts on the California Standards Test in mathematics for grades 2-11 combined in 2004. (Long Beach and Fresno have not yet received their results.) Only San Francisco outperformed SDCS and Sacramento performed at the same level.

Over three years, SDCS out-gained San Bernardino and Sacramento on the California Standards Test in mathematics for grades 2-11 combined. (Long Beach and Fresno have not yet received their results.) Only Los Angeles and San Francisco out-gained SDCS.

San Diego City Schools Compared to State

Results from the California Standards Test in English Language Arts show that for all grades combined, 37 percent of SDCS students scored at the proficient or advanced levels, compared to 36 percent of students in the state. Both SDCS and the state had a one-point gain from 2003 to 2004 and a five-point gain from 2001 to 2004.

Results from the California Standards Test in mathematics show that for all grades combined, 41 percent of SDCS scored at the proficient or advanced levels, compared to 42 percent of students in the state. SDCS out-gained the state from 2003 to 2004 and from 2002 to 2004.

California High School Exit Exam Results

State law requires all students in California public schools, beginning with the class of 2006, to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to receive a high school diploma. In the spring of 2004, all students in the Class of 2006 (i.e., students who were in their second year of high school during the 2003-04 school year) were required to take the CAHSEE.

- 76% of SDCS students in the class of 2006 who took the English Language Arts part of the CAHSEE have passed.
- 74% of SDCS students in the class of 2006 who took the mathematics part of the CAHSEE have passed.

For more information, visit the district webpage on the California STAR program, located online at <http://www.sandi.net/assessment/star/index.htm> or contact Standards, Assessment and Accountability at (619) 725-7166.

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Focusing on the “Can Do”

Promoting disability awareness and sensitivity

Luke, a 15-year old at Clairemont High, is well-known throughout the community. “He was born to be a high school student,” states his mother, Joyce Clark. “He’s an extremely social guy, a real people magnet.” In fact, wherever he is,

someone knows him. He and his brother, Jake, can't even walk through the mall without someone waving and stopping to talk to Luke.

Luke is the older of two boys. Jake, now 12, idolizes his brother and looks up to him for support and guidance, as any younger brother would. The Clarks have raised their children with a "Can Do" attitude by providing both with choices and opportunities that allow them to reach their full potential. "We recognize both of their strengths, rather than their challenges," repeated Joyce.

As a sports player, Luke prides himself by playing first base on the Challenger Baseball League, a division of Balboa Little League. Challenger is exceptional in its focus on peer support and provides opportunity for competition and the development of individual skills. Children with or without disabilities play on the same team. Last Saturday, Luke won the Special Olympics First Place medal for the freestyle swimming competition.

But swimming takes second place to Luke's first love, baseball. At home, he instigates family outings to PETCO Padres Nights. Luke is usually able to charm his dad into the best seats. If he isn't at the game rooting for Trevor Hoffman or the other players, he's at home in front of the television. Just like any other baseball fanatic, Luke can tell you their batting order, the players' RBIs, and who should be MVP.

At the home front, Joyce laughed when asked to explain divvying up house chores between the two boys. Both complain very loudly when asked to take out the garbage, clean their rooms or the patio. Chores, like everything else, is divided between the boys without thought of who has a disability and who doesn't.

At a time when many high school students shy away from extracurricular activities, Luke is drawn to participating in them like a bee to honey. Active in yearbook since middle school, he proudly displays his *Yearbook Pass*, which entitles him to on and offsite photo assignment privileges. With his own digital camera, he aggressively snaps group photos and tape-records personal interviews. Yearbook has been an extremely positive experience, allowing him to contribute in a group setting.

His self-determination makes Luke the perfect social director. Long before the weekend rolls around, he's calling his friends, brainstorming about activities they can do, and making all of the arrangements. Activities include bowling, anything sports-related such as watching school games, and going to the movies. Everything from "Phantom of the Opera" to "Finding Nemo" has been on his list. Last Christmas, Santa brought him tickets to New York to watch "Phantom." "He's quite the traveler," laughed Joyce. "Not only did he practice calling for room and poolside service, he was so versed at it, he wanted it at home."

When Luke was first diagnosed, the Clarks sought immediate help and community support. They were guided to the Down Syndrome Association (DSA), and the Exceptional Family Resource Center (EFRC), which provided them with emotional support, factual information and encouragement. "Our family immediately recognized the true value of the services provided by these organizations, which later led to my employment with EFRC. My husband and I feel strongly about the ability for families to connect, network and offer each other support," stated Joyce.

In case you're wondering if Luke is aware he has a disability, look for him on October 16 at the Buddy Walk. He'll be there raising funds and promoting disability awareness and acceptance. Perhaps Luke's greatest strength is his sense of humor. He enjoys life to the fullest extent with an engaging smile and an infectious laugh.

"Having a child with a disability has taught our family a greater respect for diversity and how we can be more sensitive and in tune to everyone's uniqueness. After all, everyone has differences, yet we share many things in common," remarked Mrs. Clark.

What can you do?

Focusing on each student's potential is essential to creating a positive environment. Each student, regardless of whether they have a disability, has something to offer. Celebrating diversity and abilities will help encourage input and awareness in your classroom or department.

In honor of Disability Awareness Month, the Communications Department has developed a webpage, available online at http://www.sandi.net/events/disability_awareness/index.html, to facilitate a better understanding of and sensitivity toward the issues and experiences faced by individuals with disabilities.

Included on the webpage are a variety of materials for schools and departments to use, including fact sheets, posters and a newsletter article, as well as sections on "News," "Links," and "Contact Information" to connect you with more

information. A bulletin board at the Eugene Brucker Education Center displays posters, fact sheets and newsletters in celebration of our disabled population.

If you would like more information, please contact Gayle Coonce, Special Education Program Manager, at (858) 490-8500 or gcoonce@sandi.net.

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Getting to Know Randy White

Administrative Assistant II in Acquisition & Asset Management

By Cynthia Reed-Porter

She's not a teacher, but Randy White, Administrative Assistant II in Facilities Management, is passionate about her role in education.

"Education is very important," Randy emphasizes. "And everyone involved in it has a vital role to play."

Not only has education played a significant role in Randy's life, but so has San Diego City Schools (SDCS). Randy graduated from Patrick Henry High School after attending Pershing Junior High and Gage Elementary schools.

Both of her parents, Chuck and Connie Phillips, are retired SDCS teachers. Her mother spent her career teaching Physical Education at Morse High School. Her father taught science at Gompers Secondary, Pershing Junior High and Patrick Henry High School. He also coached swimming.

"My dad was my science teacher and my swim coach," Randy noted. "We spent every day together. I would joke, 'Are you going to follow me to college too?' because he was at Pershing and Patrick Henry when I was there."

After high school, Randy attended University of California, Santa Barbara and San Diego State University, pursuing her goal to become a high school teacher and coach. But life, as it often does, threw Randy a curve in her senior year of college. She was substitute teaching and discovered teaching *wasn't* for her. Subsequently, she married and had two sons, ultimately returning to SDCS as a classified employee.

In 1983, she started working for the district as an instructional aide at Morse High School. After two years, she moved to the central office and worked with instructional programs such as the Achievement Goals Program and the Integration/Categorical Programs. She also worked with employee benefits and business/facilities. Currently, she is assigned to the Acquisition & Asset Management Department within the Facilities Management Division, where she was recently named October Employee of the Month.

Randy takes pride in the fact that she is contributing to education via her past and present positions. She said that one of the most rewarding aspects is knowing that she is contributing to the growth of children.

"Hopefully, the role I play helps make education a rewarding part of the children's lives," she said. "But, it's hard to see the actual results of your efforts, or the rewards, when you work in the central offices."

When Randy says "education," she's not just focusing on academics. Sports have taught her a great deal as well.

"Sports teach you so many life lessons," she explained. "Besides the obvious—sportsmanship—you learn how to compete, meet expectations and set realistic goals. You also learn that life isn't always fair."

How did she learn these valuable lessons? At Patrick Henry, Randy was a member of several teams—gymnastics, badminton and tennis. For 13 years, she was a competitive swimmer for Patrick Henry and the Heartland Swim Team (then known as the San Carlos Swim Club). For another 13 years after, she taught others by coaching Amateur Athletic Association swim teams.

"Swimming helped me to get where I am today," she said. "And, I've transferred some of my competitiveness to other areas of my life."

Randy's love for sports gives her an extra passion for her work. A large part of her job in Facilities Management is working with the City of San Diego to develop joint-use facilities, i.e., fields and facilities that can be used for sports and other recreational activities.

"That's important to me," she noted. "It's rewarding to know facilities are used for more than school."

In this photo, Randy is discussing a joint-use site with April Penera, deputy director of the Northern Parks Division, during a meeting at the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

According to Randy, the least favorite part of her job is watching some of the sports go without facilities due to the cost involved, e.g., swimming. Some teams/groups cannot afford the costs associated with using swimming pools, she said.

When she isn't working, Randy likes to travel. She's been to six countries in Europe and 49 of the 50 states. (It helped that her parents worked 10-month jobs. They traveled every summer.) Her next trip is a cruise, her first, to the Mexican Riviera in November.

Randy said that her most memorable trip was to Paris, France. She was 16 years old and went with a group of students from Crawford and Henry High Schools.

"It was my first trip to Europe," she explained. "We ate banana splits and drank wine on the Eiffel Tower. It was the last time people could walk up the tower."

"My favorite countries are Germany and Austria," she added. "It's partly because it's my heritage, and partly because I spoke fluent German at the time, but also because the people seemed more open. Those countries were also very clean, and there was a lot of history there."

Besides traveling, Randy also plays softball on a coed team, works out at the gym, walks, reads (she loves mysteries), crochets and paints fabric (T-shirts, purses, etc.) She is also very involved in her church, Pathways Community Church, in Santee. She volunteers with the women's ministry and the tape ministry.

"God is the most important part of my life, He gives me purpose," she explained. "I know he is leading me into a ministry of encouragement, I just don't know the specific ministry yet."

Randy has lived in Santee for 16 years. She's a single mom to Trevor, 18, and Joshua, 23, and grandmother to Emma, 1.

Oh, by the way, her real name is actually Renee.

"In college, people said, 'You're too much of a Tomboy. You're not a Renee, you're a Randy.' And, I've been called Randy ever since."

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Summer Work on the Web

Summer was a busy time for the district's main website, www.sandi.net, with the addition of several significant new pages and improvements to numerous others. Several other improvements and additions are in the works. Key additions and changes to date include, in alphabetical order:

Back to School 2004-2005

<http://sandi.net/comm/schools/BackToSchool.htm>

The page was thoroughly reviewed and updated, paying special attention to the school safety section, which was expanded to better provide parents information about safety to and from school, student discipline issues and emergency procedures.

Communication Resources for Principals

<http://www.sandi.net/staff/principals/resources/index.htm>

This page provides principals and other administrators with "one-stop shopping" for finding a vast array of communication resources. Available resources are grouped by topics, such as District Accountability Framework, Student Discipline and No Child Left Behind, and are presented in a variety of formats, including fact sheets, talking points, PowerPoint presentations, sample letters to parents, and sample articles for school newsletters, handbooks or websites.

Community Relations

http://www.sandi.net/depts/comm_relations/index.html

The Community Relations Department page underwent a substantial redesign over the summer to include additional information related to its signature programs: Partnerships in Education, Service Learning, and Volunteers. New

materials and resources have also been added, such as the departmental overview, updated fact sheets and a “how to” toolkit for schools for developing quality partnership agreements.

For District Staff (SDCS Staff Resources)

<http://www.sandi.net/indices/staff.htm>

A substantial amount of information was added this summer, and it's been reorganized to reflect the heavy focus on providing better and more comprehensive and accurate information to support district staff.

For Parents

<http://www.sandi.net/indices/parents.htm>

There was a significant overhaul in terms of truly evaluating the information targeted toward parents, organizing it in a meaningful, practical way, and providing direct information and contacts for strategic parent involvement. One of the key sections is “Getting Involved,” which indicates involvement opportunities from home, at the school and district levels, and as a volunteer or Partner in Education. Additionally, there are more significant research findings on the value of parent involvement in a child's education.

High School Renewal

<http://sandi.net/hsrenewal/index.html>

This section raises awareness of our high school renewal efforts by offering sub-pages focused on each school model plus a news timeline, which documents the history of this effort (board reports, news releases, grant information, etc.) and related resources.

Mathematics

<http://www.sandi.net/comm/schools/math/index.html>

Over the summer, the math team created a comprehensive set of Instructional Routines to help with structured classroom activities. Additionally, the instructional modules now include new Pacing Guides for kindergarten through 8th grade, for both traditional and year-round calendars.

Our Schools

<http://www.sandi.net/indices/schools.htm>

This page was overhauled to better organize information about our schools, including related issues on facilities, school calendars, lunch menus, bell times and student performance issues. The school and facility directory has been updated to reflect the 2004-05 listing. This includes the changes for Crawford, Kearny and San Diego high schools as they transitioned from comprehensive campuses to educational complexes with several small high schools.

Parent Support and Board Services

http://www.sandi.net/depts/parent_board_svcs/index.html

Improvements include detailed information on the process for resolving complaints of various kinds and an update of related forms and resources.

Staff Recognition Awards

<http://www.sandi.net/awards/0405staff.htm>

On this page, we recognize and honor the many vast achievements and recognition paid our staff, programs and facilities for their contributions to the mission of San Diego City Schools. The key components include recognition for certificated staff, classified staff, school sites, departments and programs, and those directed at the district overall.

Universal Preschool Initiative

<http://www.sandi.net/initiatives/preschool/>

San Diego City Schools is committed to expanding preschool to all four-year-olds in the district to improve their chances of success in the K-12 program. This new addition to the web provides an overview of this effort, and information related to the expansion and related fundraising efforts.

Web Publishing Resources

http://www.sandi.net/depts/web_svcs/library.html

This new page includes resources to help staff interested in building a departmental or school website, including the approved district standards for web publishing, a set-up worksheet and other guidelines. You can also request web services here.

There are several pages that you can expect to see added to the website in the days ahead as they near completion, including Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) and Charter Schools.

Some of the more substantial overhauls still in the planning stage include those for Special Education, the Help Desk and Information Technology.

If you have any questions or comments about the website, contact either Ursula Kroemer at ukroemer@sandi.net or Joy Muehlenbein at jmuehlenbein@sandi.net.

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View and Update Your Info with Peoplesoft Self-service eApplications

The District Wide Application (DWA) Project, with the support of San Diego City Schools staff, is pleased to announce the roll-out of PeopleSoft's self-service applications. The eApplications were officially released and announced to all district employees on September 27, 2004.

PeopleSoft's self-service gives you the convenient use of the web to view, verify and change your information. You can:

- Add or edit your home or mailing address
- Add or edit your phone numbers
- Add, edit, delete or change your emergency contact information
- View your current and prior earning statements
- View your direct deposit information
- View, edit and add your voluntary deductions
- View and edit your federal tax withholding exemptions
- Request a W-2 reissue
- Access The Work Number (TALX) for income verification

The web address is <https://dwa.sandi.net>, and it is available from any computer with Internet access. Job aids are also available. After logging in, click on PeopleSoft > Human Resources 8.8 to change your personal information.

When using the self-service pages to change your information, it is strongly recommended that you review the changes you have made before saving.

We need your help

DWA is encouraging all employees to use the self-service pages to view their personal information and to also help DWA verify that their data is accurate. The previous system may not have held your most current information, so any inaccuracies may have been converted into the PeopleSoft self-service database.

If you find inaccurate data that you are not able to change within the self-service screens, please complete a request form online at <http://www.sandi.net/eappshelp> so our staff can resolve the issue. Issues will receive the following priority: Benefits, Payroll and then Personal Information.

Emergency contact information

We are asking that all employees complete the emergency contact information (found at: PeopleSoft HR > Personal Information > Emergency Contacts). This information will only be used for emergency purposes and will not be published or shared.

Need help with the self-service screens?

DWA is committed to helping you with the self-service applications. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by completing the self-service help form located at <http://www.sandi.net/eappshelp>.

Setting up your password

To login to PeopleSoft, you must type in your six-digit employee ID number (located on your paycheck) as your username. Before you can log in, you must change your default password. Your default password is Sdcsxxxx, where xxxx = the last four digits of your social security number. Further instructions for changing your default password are available on the DWA website.

Please do **NOT** share your password with others to protect your personal data. It is strongly recommended that you change your password if you suspect that someone else might have access to your account or password. To change your password, visit <https://dwa.sandi.net/passwd/>. If you need help changing your password, please call the Help Desk at (858) 496-2117.

Did you know?

PeopleSoft's self-service will offer the district a direct savings as we move from manual processes to employee self-service. Did you know that a paper-based home or mailing address change could cost upwards of \$12 per change? With self-service, the district can save over 70% as DWA strives to reduce that cost to \$3. And that's something we can all be happy about!

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San Diego City Schools Goes Under the Microscope

Since 1998, San Diego City Schools (SDCS) has been implementing an aggressive reform agenda in an effort to increase student achievement, close the achievement gap and streamline business operations in the district.

In order to form a comprehensive assessment of what the district has achieved, the challenges ahead, and how the district should proceed, a comprehensive research effort was commissioned, which includes the work of more than two dozen education experts and researchers from across the nation.

Examining Reforms

On Monday, September 27, 2004, more than 300 elected officials, community members, media, panelists, and district staff convened at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice to discuss the district's intensive reform efforts and review the work of these researchers.

Each of the commissioned papers was presented by its author(s), followed by comments from respondents and an opportunity for questions from the audience. The presentations, coupled with roundtable discussions between the presenters and district staff on Tuesday, September 28, helped to forge new ways to confront the myriad of education issues faced by district staff every day.

View the Findings

Current drafts of the papers presented are available online at <http://www.sandi.net/events/SDReview/index.htm#2>. Final versions will be available at a later date and will be published by Harvard Education Press in spring 2005.

The generosity of the following sponsors made the San Diego Review possible:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Broad Foundation
- Business Education Roundtable
- Donner Foundation
- Foundation for the Improvement of Math and Science Harcourt Achieve
- Houghton Mifflin
- New American Schools
- Thomas B. Fordham Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation

For more information on the San Diego Review, please visit the webpage at www.sandi.net/events/SDReview/index.htm. If you have any questions, contact Karen Heinrich at (619) 725-7076 or kheinrich@sandi.net.

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San Diego City Schools Receives AA Credit Rating

Two of the world's leading credit firms, Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's, have reaffirmed the school district's AA credit rating. These ratings represent the highest among all urban school districts across the country. Both firms also assigned a stable outlook to the school district.

The credit rating reaffirmation preceded the most successful bond sale in the school district's history. In August, the district issued and sold more than \$500 million of general obligation bonds, with proceeds going toward Proposition MM. The high credit ratings mean the district's bonds are attractive to investors because of their lower risk, and the cost of paying back the bonds is less due to lower interest rates.

In issuing the ratings, Moody's and Standard & Poor's cited the school district's good financial management, adequate reserves, moderate overall debt burden and large and diversified tax base, with the expectation that the district's long track record of satisfactory financial operations will continue. The firms also cited that recent program and staffing reductions and prudent budgeting will enable the district to maintain a comfortable degree of financial stability, despite declining enrollment and the state's budget crisis.

For more information, read the news release which is available on the district website at <http://prod031.sandi.net/propmm/news/NewsReleaseBondSale2004.pdf>.

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SDCS Expands Preschool Program

On Wednesday, September 8, 2004, San Diego City Schools (SDCS) announced its preschool initiative, which will expand preschool access to an additional 300 students this year and to more than 1,600 students in the initial effort.

The district also launched the Smart Start campaign in an effort to provide preschool to our neediest students. A collaboration between San Diego City Schools, San Diego READS, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, The Neighborhood House Association, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) and the William D. Lynch Foundation for Children, Smart Start will launch a two-year, \$4.6 million fundraising campaign for preschool expansion and family literacy in the district's 30 lowest-performing schools.

To make a contribution or sponsor a preschool student by providing them with a Wheelie-pack, call San Diego READS at (619) 296-0820. For more information on the preschool initiative or Smart Start, please visit the Universal Preschool Initiative page on the district website at <http://www.sandi.net/initiatives/preschool/> or contact Student Services at (619) 725-7297.

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Reduce Back Injuries with QBook Training and Games

The Risk Management Department is now offering QBook, a web-based training tool designed to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses. This online program features a narrative on safe lifting and back exercises as well as fun, interactive games.

All employees who are required to lift objects on a regular basis will find valuable information in this interactive resource. QBook includes a section for Special Education staff that specifically details the correct way to lift their students.

Employees who spend all day working at a computer will find QBook useful as well.

Workers' Compensation Facts

- Workers' compensation injuries and illnesses cost the district more than \$21,000,000 per year.
- In the 2003-2004 school year, 171 employees were injured as a result of lifting objects or students—the second greatest cause of injuries, after tripping and falling.

Using QBook

To get started on QBook, visit the Risk Management webpage at <http://prod031.sandi.net/risk/> and click on "Web-based Training" in the left column. Registration is free and outlined online. All you need is your six-digit employee ID number.

Please note: To use QBook, you must have access to one of the following operating systems:

- Windows 98, ME, 2000 or XP
- Mac OS 9 or OS X

If you have one of the above operating systems, but still experience problems, you may need to download the Macromedia Flash Player.

Please take a few minutes now that will result in a healthier future for your back.

QBook is the newest of many resources offered through the Risk Management webpage at <http://prod031.sandi.net/risk/>. With topics such as ergonomics, safety, unemployment and workers' compensation, the webpage explains sometimes difficult concepts in easy-to-understand language. There is also a "Links" section to connect you with outside resources to answer your safety and health questions.

If you have any questions about the Risk Management website, please contact Carole Ellis at (858) 627-7346 or cellis@sandi.net.

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Students Help Break the Ground for New Mead Elementary School

On July 9, 2004, summer school students from Chollas Elementary helped shovel the first scoop of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mead Elementary School. The new school is scheduled to open on September 6, 2005. Photos from the event are available online at <http://prod031.sandi.net/propmm/MeadElem.htm>.

The old Mead Elementary is two blocks north of Chollas Elementary and was built as a temporary school more than 40 years ago. Proposition MM called for the school to be torn down, rebuilt and expanded due to deterioration and overcrowding. However, rebuilding and expanding Mead Elementary on its existing site would have required the demolition of 18 neighboring homes and relocation of residents. Instead, the new Mead Elementary is being built next door to Chollas Elementary on seven acres of empty, district-owned property. By building on this property, Proposition MM saved \$10 million, preserved affordable housing and avoided displacement of students during construction.

Chollas and Mead Elementary will continue to operate as one school under the leadership of Principal Carolanne Buguey. The old Mead Elementary will possibly be leased or sold.

The new Mead Elementary will have 47,596 square feet of facilities with 22 classrooms, 66 parking spaces, a multipurpose room, library, media center, lunch shelter, elevator and special accessibility features, kitchen, faculty lounge, workroom and administrative center. The project will also include a new Child Development Center and a joint-use field for soccer and baseball.

This project is funded by Proposition MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998. Proposition MM is paying for critical repairs and modernization at 165 existing schools as well as the construction of 12 new schools and three rebuilt schools to alleviate overcrowding in the city's most densely populated areas.

###

Checklist for Success

Establishing a welcoming environment is as easy as ABC

The doors have opened on school year 2004-05, and as you are joined by familiar faces, new faces will be popping in as well. First impressions have lasting effects, and as many of you already know, creating a welcoming climate through friendly reactions to visitors and phone callers can yield great rewards for your school or department. You only get one chance to make a good first impression.

Creating a welcoming environment can be summed up in the ABC's of good customer service: attitude, behavior and communication. Following are a few models from schools that have successfully established a customer-friendly approach:

- Acknowledge each visitor** who enters your site, school or classroom. Visitors come in all shapes and sizes, with a variety of questions and agendas. They may be parents, community members, community leaders or a fellow district staff member, and they are likely to be on the hunt for information. Try to help point them in the right direction. Clear and well-placed signs can also do the trick.

- ☑ **Be courteous when answering the phone** and return phone calls and emails promptly. Showing consideration to those who call and email speaks volumes about your school/site's approachability.
- ☑ **Show appreciation** to community partners, volunteers, coworkers and others by saying thank you whenever possible. These two simple words assure helpers that their contributions do not go unnoticed.
- ☑ **Treat all people with respect** and be sensitive to cultural and personality differences. On busy days, it's easy to run low on patience, but respect for others is key to maintaining a positive environment.
- ☑ **Showcase your site's goings-on.** A bulletin board near the entrance or in your front office is a great place to exhibit exemplary student work, feature community partnerships, call out your site's Teachers/Classified Persons of the Year, display the mission statement, or post school or department news items.
- ☑ **Focus on effective communication** by providing clear, precise, thorough and thoughtful information. Connect with as many people as appropriate; problems occur more often due to lack of information rather than a surplus.

Your school/department's environment says a lot about your site. Bad experiences are doomed to be repeated via word of mouth and can haunt a school/site for much longer than it takes to leave a good impression. Keeping the ABC's of good customer service—attitude, behavior and communication—in mind helps promote a climate where visitors feel welcome and is guaranteed to yield positive effects.

For more information, please visit the webpage at http://www.sandi.net/depts/comm_relations/index.html or call Community Relations at (619) 725-5592.

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Uplifting ALBA Voice Charms District Staff

In this time of change as we continue to move forward with restructuring to create better educational opportunities for our students, it is important to capture celebratory moments that come our way. Recently, district leadership had two opportunities to tap into the talent of Palanai Engle, Campus Security Assistant at ALBA Community Day School. On June 17, Palanai sang to a group of 25 principals from the new high school learning complexes. Principals recount being mesmerized by her uplifting singing and shining talent. The following day, on June 18, Palanai sang for district administrators during Superintendent Bersin's end-of-the-year reception at the Education Center. Once again, Palanai exhilarated the audience with her passionate voice.

Music has always been a part of Palanai's life. She has been singing and playing instruments such as the guitar, piano and ukelele since her youth. She shares her spirituality and love for God through her music. She has also traveled to many places around the world.

Palanai has worked as a Campus Security Assistant at ALBA for five years and has been voted the "Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year" by her colleagues. Palanai's family has a long-standing history with San Diego City Schools. Her father was a math teacher for 25 years before he passed away in 2001, and Palanai's mother and four siblings currently work for the district at Taft Middle, De Portola Middle and the Whittier Learning Center.

Even though Palanai is assigned the position of Campus Security Assistant, she frequently assumes a multitude of additional responsibilities, including roles in classrooms and the counseling center. She is a positive role model for staff and students and always displays a calm and gentle manner, especially when helping ALBA students, all of whom have violated the district's Zero Tolerance Policy, turn bad decisions into opportunities for a new start.

ALBA students are expected to participate, achieve academic success, learn problem-solving skills and develop a support network. The primary goal of ALBA is to help students transition back into a traditional school setting, equipped with strategies for being successful citizens. The work done at ALBA would not be successful without the support of staff, parents, community members and the district, including Matt Malone, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, who has done a tremendous amount of work reorganizing ALBA to meet the needs of our unique student population. ALBA's strong collaboration with the Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC) is also important; MHRC supports students and families with counseling services. With the help of involved staff like those at MHRC, Dr. Malone and Ms. Engle, ALBA will continue to guide some of the district's most at-risk students toward becoming accomplished, contributing members of our San Diego community.

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News You Can Use

Districtwide Email Migration Update

At the beginning of this month, Outlook Pilot users were migrated to a new server. Over the next few months, all district email users will move from QuickMail Pro to Outlook Web Access (OWA). Starting soon (date TBD), IT will lead "Basic Training" workshops at the Education Center Auditorium (Ed. Center, 4100 Normal Street, 92103) for Macs and PCs. IT is also looking at an online training session that would be available as an alternative to these workshops. Please look in the next weeks for communication regarding the self-registration and training schedules. **All district email users must change to Outlook Web Access (OWA) by December 31, 2004.** If you have any questions, please send an email to outlookteam@sandi.net.

Happy 150th Birthday, San Diego City Schools!

School year 2004-05 marks the 150th anniversary of San Diego City Schools (SDCS). An online historical publication and photo album will be compiled to celebrate this achievement. District employees and community members are invited to submit remembrances of landmark district events for inclusion in the publication. Submitted stories must be 250 words or less. Photographs require a caption and permission for publication, online and print, from the photographer/owner. Please include contact information and email to communications@mail.sandi.net, fax to (619) 725-5576, or mail to the Education Center, Room 2145. For more information, please contact Communications at (619) 725-5578 or communications@mail.sandi.net.

Board President's Scholarship Award

Board of Education President Ron Ottinger invites classified employees to submit applications for the Board President's \$1,000 Scholarship Award, presented annually by the Board president and California Coast Credit Union to two monthly classified employees interested in becoming teachers. **The deadline is Tuesday, October 19.** More information and the application are available in Site Operations Circular 1011. If you have questions, call the Board Office at (619) 725-5550.

Partnership Displays at the Education Center

Schools and departments are invited to showcase their partnerships at the Education Center outside of the Community Relations office for one month during the 2004-05 school year. There are several bulletin boards available, measuring 44" x 72." If you are interested, the form is available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*. If you have any questions, please call the Community Relations Department at (619) 725-5591.

Education Center Begins Electrical Renovations This Week

If you work at or visit the Education Center (Ed. Center), you will notice several construction activities in coming months:

- SDG&E is under-grounding electric lines along Campus Drive and constructing a new small, brick structure north of Printing Services to house a new meter and main switch.
- The Ed. Center will also undergo a major electrical renovation during Winter Break (December 18, 2004, to January 2, 2005) to update the 50-year-old system. Preparatory construction will take place in the coming months; staff will be updated through email and posters. **The Ed. Center will have NO POWER during Winter Break.** With the exception of designated employees, staff will NOT be able to access the building during this time. There will be a few temporary Internet shutdowns at the beginning and end of Winter Break. More details will follow.

Maintenance & Operations has been working closely with impacted groups that perform critical operations, specifically IT, Payroll and School Police, who will continue to work over the break. If you have questions or concerns about these projects or the Winter Break power outage, please call Rob Ortenzo at (858) 573-5858.

New Library Media Resources

San Diego City Schools (SDCS) has partnered with Thomson Gale and ProQuest Information and Learning to provide instructional resources for school libraries across the district. These new, state-of-the-art resources include databases of online periodicals and digital media, curriculum support, standards-aligned materials and training for library media teachers and staff. The materials are intended to aid in teacher planning and preparation, classroom instruction, and student assignments and research for increased student learning and achievement. For more information about Thomson Gale, please visit www.gale.com. For more information about ProQuest, please visit www.proquestk12.com. For more information on these new resources as a whole, please contact Darlene Bates, Program Manager for Instructional Media, at (858) 496-8442 or dbates@sandi.net.

Proposition MM Annual Fact Sheet 2004

The annual Proposition MM fact sheet is now available online at www.sandi.net/propmm/news/04MMUpdateEnglish.pdf. Prop. MM is a \$1.51 billion bond measure passed in 1998 that is funding major modernization and construction at San Diego City Schools. The fact sheet provides a snapshot of Prop. MM progress: projects completed, funds expended, and other measures of success. Please forward the fact sheet to interested staff, friends and family members. All schools

recently received copies to distribute to all parents. To request additional fact sheets, please contact Cynthia Reed-Porter at 858-637-3607 or creed-porter@sandi.net.

Host a Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

Is your new Proposition MM building or library nearing completion? 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. You can easily incorporate a ribbon-cutting ceremony into your back-to-school open house. For assistance with your event and to reserve the giant scissors, please call Proposition MM Communications at (619) 725-5602. An event checklist and other ideas for your event are available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*.

Run for Office on the CSA Board

The Community Service Association (CSA), the district's employee contribution club, invites all CSA members who are interested in running as a candidate for the CSA Board to contact Michelle Fettig at (619) 725-7603 or mfettig@sandi.net or Mary Bartholomew at (619) 465-2210 or mbartholomew@sandi.net **before Friday, October 22, 2004**. The CSA membership drive will take place November 4-24. CSA site reps will receive information at meetings on November 4.

A Ride to the Arts

ArtsBusXpress provides transportation to connect district students with free and reduced-price learning opportunities at regional arts and culture venues. For many students, this will be their *only* chance to hear the magic of a symphony or an opera, to feel the captivating power of a play or ballet, or to discover inspiring new worlds in art galleries and cultural exhibitions. Teachers can apply for buses online, and schools will be reimbursed for transportation costs. To learn more, please call (619) 687-3562 or visit the website at <http://www.artsbusxpress.org>.

Wells Fargo "Team Up for Our Schools" Program

From August 30 to October 31, 2004, Wells Fargo will donate up to \$30 to San Diego City Schools for every customer who opens a new consumer Wells Fargo Package. Please spread the word to families and friends who may like to open a new account and support our schools. The flyer is available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Junior at (760) 967-3962.

Free Nutrition Curriculum

The University of California Cooperative Extension Family Nutrition Program offers free nutrition curriculum and training for teachers of all grades. Curriculum topics include *Eating Right is Basic*, *Nutrition to Grow On*, *Jump Start for Teens* and *Reading Up the Food Guide Pyramid*. Materials are also available in Spanish. For more information, contact Stella Taylor at (858) 694-2122 or stetay@ucdavis.edu.

National Student/Parent Mock Election Opportunity

In an effort to better educate youth on our democratic process and the importance of civic participation, the Secretary of State's office is proud to be a co-sponsor of the National Student/Parent Mock Election taking place on Thursday, October 28, 2004. This K-12 program encourages the discussion of election issues/concerns and demonstrates the voting process as students vote for actual candidates and measures appearing on the November 2, 2004 ballot. All promotional material/ballots are provided free of charge. More information, is available online at <http://www.nationalmockelection.com>. If you have any questions, please call Evelyn Mendez at (916) 653-9155.

Jazz Opportunity for Music Students

The Kennedy Center invites all young jazz artists to apply for Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, its annual jazz residency. Musicians and composers under the age of 30 are eligible for this opportunity to work with experienced artist-instructors and other musicians. Further information and applications can be found at <http://kennedy-center.org/jazzahead>.

Applications are due December 17.

Training and Consulting Services Available to School Foundations

Through a Washington Mutual grant, Nonprofit Management Solutions (NMS) is providing technical assistance to San Diego educational foundations, with a priority for those in under-served communities. For more information, please contact Alice Lowe at (858) 292-5702 or alicerowe@npsolutions.org or visit the NMS website at www.npsolutions.org.

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Hall of Fame

SDCS Teacher Named County Teacher of the Year

At a black tie event, well attended by family and peers, Stanley Murphy of San Diego High School was announced to be one of San Diego County's Teachers of the Year. Stan, also the district's 2004-05 Teacher of the Year at the High School

Level, was selected for his innovative methods of teaching history and cultural awareness, including collaboration and class trips between San Diego High students and students in Russia, Argentina and Austria. Cox presented "A Salute to Teachers" at the San Diego Civic Theatre on Saturday, October 9. Sheila Weiner of Gaspar de Portola Middle School also received distinction as a finalist for the award. She was noted for her effective teaching methods and dedication to her community. Stan and Sheila were selected from 38 district teachers of the year.

Barbie Arts Teacher of the Year Awarded to Standley Teacher

Standley Middle School's music teacher, Phillip Marcus, has been selected as a National Finalist for the Barbie Arts Teacher of the Year Search, one of 20 out of 6,000 entries submitted. Student Rick Fox, Jr. nominated Mr. Marcus with an inspirational essay. "He had confidence in me even though I did not play my instrument too well. He helped me have more confidence in myself." Presented by the Entertainment Industry Foundation, the award includes a cash grant of \$5,000 to the arts program and a toy package to Rick. This distinction arrived amidst a myriad of honors awarded to Standley's music program; they won more honors in 2003-04 than in any year prior, including top awards at Sea World and Magic Mountain festivals. Mr. Marcus has been included in *Who's Who Among American Teachers* for three years in a row and was the 2004 recipient of the David Paul Schuchman Award for Outstanding Secondary Instrumental Music Teacher. For more information on the Barbie Arts Teacher of the Year Search, please visit the websites at <http://www.barbie.com/arts> and <http://www.eifoundation.org/national/naei/barbie.html>.

CDE Wins National Partnership Award

In September 2004, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell accepted, on behalf of the **California Department of Education** (CDE), the prestigious 2004 Partnership State Award from the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS). CDE was honored for excellent leadership in developing family, school, and community partnership programs designed to help students succeed. California is the only state to be recognized this year. For more information on NNPS, visit <http://www.partnershipschools.org>.

Construction Tech Academy Receives \$20,000

Contractor News & Views, a local construction industry magazine, presented a \$20,000 check to the **Stanley E. Foster Construction Tech Academy at Kearny High School**. The check was presented by Mike Caples, publisher/editor of *Contractor News & Views*, to Glen Hillegas, director of Construction Tech Academy. The money was raised at a "Building Careers in Construction" event geared toward increasing awareness of careers in the construction industry.

Crawford Dance Teacher Awarded Fine Arts Grant

The National Education Association Foundation awarded 10 secondary fine arts teachers, including **Linda Cohen of Crawford High School**, with grants for \$2,000 to recognize them for developing learning programs for at-risk students. Cohen teaches dance to Grades 9-12. For more information, visit <http://nfie.org/programs/finarts04.htm>.

Donated Books Teach Importance of Recycling

In July 2004, the **Energy/Utility Management Section** (E/UM) received a donation of 1,100 books, estimated value \$19,000, from Keep California Beautiful, Inc. *The Day the Trash Came Out to Play*, by David Beadle, incorporates themes of resource conservation and recycling, which third-grade teachers can use along with E/UM's lesson plan to address garbage reduction. Books were distributed to year-round schools in July. The district's Recycling Office is committed to helping us achieve a 60% recycling rate, and this book is a component of that plan, educating students about environmental effects. For copies of the book and lesson plan, contact Andrea Eaton at (858) 627-7376 or acalbow@sandi.net.

Hispanic Heritage Month Names Local Heros

Among the Local Hero Award recipients at this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration was **Bea Fernandez, coordinator of the district's Parent University**. On September 16, Bea was recognized for her contributions to education, one of five local Hispanics named for this prestigious award, sponsored by KPBS and Union Bank of California.

Mann Teacher Attends Prestigious Workshop

This summer, **Zamaria Rocio of Mann Middle School** attended the 2004 Climate and Global Change Geoscience Education workshop held at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Colorado. Zamaria and 19 other secondary teachers were selected to participate in hands-on training with state-of-the-art technology and discussions about global change research and teaching with research leaders. The workshop is an outreach program offered by the University Corporation of Atmospheric Research (UCAR), an organization of universities whose goal is to foster the transfer of technology and knowledge for the betterment of life on Earth.

Marshall Teacher Recognized by NASA

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has named **Elaine Palmer-Gillum of Marshall Middle School** among the top-ranking applicants for the Educator Astronaut Program, an astronaut recruitment program. As one of the top contenders, Elaine is now included in the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers (NEAT) and has participated

in workshops that provide a first-hand look at NASA facilities and astronaut training as well as strategies for using NASA content in the classroom to ignite students' curiosity.

Mira Mesa's Getting Involved at My School Fact Sheet

Mira Mesa High School was the second school to take advantage of an offer too good to refuse from the Communications Department. After staff created a new Fact Sheet template, *Getting Involved at My School*, they received 50 free colored reprints. They are in the process of having it translated and posted to their website. For more information, please visit the website at <http://www2.sandi.net/miramesa/>. The printing was published through the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Nationwide Magazine Salutes Transportation Director

In the August 2004 issue of *School Transportation News*, the district's **director of transportation services, Alexandra Robinson**, is featured in a salute to "Outstanding Women in Pupil Transportation." The article recognizes Alex for her leadership achievements, including working with student behavior disorders in Florida and chairing the Special Needs Writing Committee for the 2000 National Standards Conference. The magazine serves 21,000 readers monthly.

Who's Who Honors Marvin Teacher

Donna Roland of Marvin Elementary has been selected for inclusion in this year's edition of *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. This publication selects the top 5% of educators and is the only publication in the nation dedicated exclusively to the recognition of outstanding teachers. Donna was selected for her wide array of involvement through the science lab, school garden, student movie night, VP Governance Board, technology support, grant writing, weather station and Regional Occupational Program. She has also published 13 children's books and in the past was a finalist for the Bank of America Entrepreneur Award.

Winners Announced in Employee Recycling Contest

The district's Recycling Office, in conjunction with Keep California Beautiful, is conducting a contest to help promote recycling. Congratulations to our winners for July - September!

- **Richard Kite of Maintenance and Operations**, won two tickets to the San Diego Zoo
- **Pedro Lopez of the Supply Center**, won four tickets to see the San Diego Riptide at the Sports Arena
- **Kristina Rucker of Accounts Payable**, won a gift certificate to Whole Foods Market
- **Ron Fong of the Whittier Center**, won two tickets to a movie at Landmark Theaters
- **Crus Lira of the Mailroom**, won two tickets to a movie at Landmark Theaters

For a list of previous months' winners, more information or to enter the contest, please visit the Energy/Utility Management Section's website at www.sandi.net/energy. All employees are eligible to enter!

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Scenes from Schools

CSA Provides Toothbrushes to Special Ed. Students

At the end of last school year, the district's Community Service Association (CSA) provided the "Happy Smiles" Dental Disease Prevention Program with a grant of \$1,000. "Happy Smiles" purchased 288 electric toothbrushes for Special Education students at San Diego High, Field Elementary and Memorial Academy. Students learned how to use them to brush and care for their teeth. This year, CSA has approved a grant of \$1,800 to purchase more electric toothbrushes. If you are interested in receiving electric toothbrushes for your Special Ed. students, please contact Pat Meyer at (619) 525-7400 x119 or pmeyer@mail.sandi.net. For more information about CSA or to contribute, please call Mary Bartholomew at (619) 465-2210.

Boone Celebrates Ribbon-cutting

On June 30, students at Boone Elementary dedicated their new library and classroom building. The ceremony took on a patriotic theme as students sang "This Land Is Your Land," "Grand Old Flag" and "Let's Hear It For America." The project was funded by Proposition MM. The school's new facility incorporates cutting-edge energy efficient features, such as window glazing and occupancy sensors. This will save \$11,000 in electricity costs per year. In addition, the district and architect received an incentive of \$16,000 from SDG&E for incorporating the features. SDG&E featured the Boone project in its Savings By Design newsletter.

First Crawford Graduating Class Celebrates Reunion

On September 18, 2004, the first graduating class of Crawford High School celebrated their 45th Reunion. The 1959 Colt graduates convened at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina for a reception, dinner and dancing as well as a chance to reconnect with friends, reminisce about the high school years, and have a great time. The event was coordinated by

Golden State Reunions. Crawford High School was named after Dr. Will C. Crawford, the district's superintendent from July 1, 1934 to February 1, 1954, a period of "phenomenal" growth. Five years after his reign, this graduating class stepped out the doors of Crawford, ready to embark on their own phenomenal endeavors.

Hearst Teachers Board USS Lincoln

On August 13, 2004, eleven adventurers, including two teachers from Hearst Elementary, had a chance to visit the USS Abraham Lincoln, a Navy aircraft carrier, as Distinguished Visitors (DV's). The USS Lincoln was off of the coast of Mexico, so each DV was flown in a C-2 (COD) aircraft which landed on the ship in an arrested landing (stopped by a large cable wire). The DV's toured the ship, spoke with Navy sailors, and watched the ship's flight operations and breathtaking view from the Captain's chair. At the end of the trip, the DV's strapped into a C-2 for a second time and left the aircraft in a catapult-assisted launch. Amy Sepkowitz, one of the teachers from Hearst Elementary, described her experience as "a thrill of a lifetime and the best roller coaster ride I'll ever experience."

Marvin's New Science Program in Full Bloom

To increase students' capacity for using technology and in an effort to expand the science curriculum, Marvin Elementary has implemented a Science Rotation Program, led by teacher Donna Roland, to better prepare students (Grades K-5) for today's digital age. The three-part rotation includes time in the computer lab, library and a science lab.

After a successful first year focused on physical science that included designing their own simple machines and inventions and a visit from the San Diego County Office of Education's (SDCOE) "Splash Mobile Science Lab," students this year are learning about life science. As an introduction to this year, students established an on-campus flower garden last spring and are now working on a vegetable garden and greenhouse consisting of crops selected by each classroom. Both garden projects were made possible through generous community support, including the SDCOE Outdoor Education Program, the San Diego Water Authority, Lowe's, a local Eagle Scout, and RCP. In recognition of their garden facelift, Marvin received a school beautification award from SDCOE, including ice cream sundaes for all students in June 2004.

Pershing Opens Joint-use Turf Field

On July 10, students at Pershing Middle School ran onto their new artificial turf field for the first time. The artificial turf covers five acres and can be used for soccer and other sports activities. It replaces a previously dirt field. By using artificial turf instead of sod, the field will save nearly 8.8 million gallons of water each year. A 10-foot-wide artificial running track surrounds the field. The project was a collaborative effort between the City of San Diego, Navajo Community Planners, Pershing Foundation, the district and many community members. As a joint-use field, the school district will retain ownership of the property and the City will pay for maintenance. Community members will be able to use the field during non-school hours. Speakers at the grand opening event were Mayor Dick Murphy, SDCS Chief Facilities Officer Bob Kiesling, and Park and Recreation Director Ellen Oppenheim.

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Student Salutes

Balboa Park Art Box Show

On Friday, August 13, the San Diego Art Institute in Balboa Park held an opening reception for a special art box show, featuring San Diego City Schools (SDCS) fifth grade student artwork. The reception marked the start of a two-week-long public showing, which included artwork from 24 students who participated in the SDCS Balboa Park Program. Three students also received juror's choice awards.

Davidson Scholarship Awarded to La Jolla High Student

Harish Khandrika of La Jolla High School was recently awarded a \$25,000 scholarship by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development in recognition of his project, "Analysis of X-Rays from the Core of Radio Galaxy Centaurus A." Harish proved the existence of a super-massive black hole and developed computer scripts to be used by astrophysicists to expedite future research into the laws of physics. The young physicist finds his work challenging because he must apply logic, intuition and imagination to find answers. His accomplishments include presenting at the Regional and International Science Fairs and the 2003 New Zealand National Science Fair as well as receiving numerous awards, including the 2004 La Jolla Foundation Scholarship, first place in the 2003 National Exploravision Awards and the 2003 Seuss Scholarship. As a Davidson Fellow, Harish will use his scholarship to further develop his talents at the University of California, Berkeley.

Letters About Literature Contest Awards Preuss Student

In May 2004, Katrina Wong of the Preuss School, UCSD, was selected as a finalist in the Letters About Literature Contest, sponsored by the California Center for the Book. To enter, Katrina wrote a letter to Patricia McCormick, author of *Cut*. Students (Grades 4-12) are invited to participate in this year's 2005 Letters About Literature Contest by writing a letter to the author of an inspiring book of their choosing. The deadline is December 4, 2004. For more information, visit

the website at <http://www.calbook.org/programs/current/lal/takepart.html> or contact the California Center for the Book at (310) 206-9361 or cfb@ucla.edu.

Student Film Takes Top Honors

Two Point Loma High students, Jesse Brunt and Tyler Knell, both in Larry Zeiger's film class, produced a short film, "24 Hours 'til Christmas" which has received the distinction of being screened at numerous film award festivals, including the IVIE Awards, Emmy Awards (Regional), the Imperial Beach Film Festival, the San Diego Film Festival, and the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival. In Los Angeles, they were the only two high school students selected out of the over 400 films screened. In addition, the City of San Diego has hired Jesse and Tyler to do an environmental commercial.

Students Present Findings at Scripps Research Institute

Over the summer, 24 local high school students, 6 undergraduates and 7 science teachers participated in internships with the Scripps Research Institute, conducting hands-on research over the course of eight weeks. Four (4) students from San Diego City Schools, Gloria Huong of the Preuss School, UCSD, Boris Patlis of Scripps Ranch High, Alyea Ally of Mira Mesa High, and Hena Din of University City High, presented their findings at Scripps on Friday, August 13, 2004. The aspiring scientists also shared their overall impressions of the summer internship and how it impacted their career plans and goals.

Westfield Receives Singing Ovation

Students from Benchley/Weinberger Elementary wrote and performed a song announcing the grand opening of the food court at Westfield Mall. Westfield donated \$2,500 to their school.

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Save the Date

Ed. Center Craft Fairs Coming Soon!

The Eugene Brucker Education Center (Ed. Center) Building Committee is sponsoring a Holiday Craft Fair and Flea Market on **Sunday, October 24, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** in the large parking lot north of the Ed. Center building. All district employees are welcome to participate. To reserve a spot (equivalent to 3 adjacent parking spaces), contact Julie Hendershot at (619) 725-7317 or jhendershot@mail.sandi.net. Spaces are available for \$10 each on a first-come-first-served basis.

The annual Eugene Brucker Education Center (Ed. Center) Craft Faire will be held on **Thursday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Ed. Center, Annex 9 Testing Room. Everyone is invited to shop at this annual holiday event, and booths are available to Ed. Center craftspeople and artisans. If you work in the Ed. Center and would like to fill out an application to sell your wares, or if you have any questions, please email La Donna Chase at lchase@sandi.net or Elaine Lindberg at elindberg@sandi.net. Space is limited so sign up early!

Auction! Auction! Auction!

The next San Diego City Schools (SDCS) auction will be taking place on **Thursday, October 28, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.** (preview and registration; auction begins at 10:30 a.m.) at the Supply Center, located at 2351 Cardinal Lane, 92123. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Gustafson at (858) 496-8020 or rgustafson@sandi.net or call Anstead's Auctioneers at (619) 233-3148.

Violence Impact Forum at PB Middle

On **Thursday, October 28**, the Tariq Khamisa Foundation will hold three assemblies at Pacific Beach Middle School, supporting their goal of building a culture of peacemakers who create a world free from youth violence. The program panel will feature speakers including Azim Khamisa, Ples Felix and former San Diego gang members. The one-and-a-half-hour assemblies will begin at 8:50 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and 12:25 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mark Fackler at (858) 551-1839 or mark@tkf.org. For more information on the foundation, visit <http://www.tkf.org>.

Laurels for Leaders Recognition Luncheon

High school principals and ASB Advisors should mark their calendars for **Tuesday, February 22, 2005**, the date for Laurels for Leaders, a student recognition luncheon to be held at the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley from noon to 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Delaney at (619) 725-5593 or jdelaney@sandi.net.

CalPERS Financial and Retirement Planning Seminars

From now through December 2004, CalPERS is offering free seminars and workshops at the CalPERS San Diego Regional Office to help you with your financial and retirement planning.

A **Financial Planning Seminar** for those 10 or less years away from retirement, Retirement and Estate Planning, is available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on **October 27** and **December 1**. The seminar will cover topics such as CalPERS Benefits, Financial Planning (goal-setting, budgets, spending, saving, increasing retirement income), Insurance, Investment Basics and Strategies, and Estate Planning.

Retirement Planning Workshops are free, but by appointment only. Learn how retirement benefits are calculated, what to consider when deciding the best date to retire, benefit options available at retirement, taxability of retirement benefits, the retirement application process, CalPERS health benefits, and post-retirement issues. Find a date online at <http://www.calpers.ca.gov/index.jsp?bc=/member/sem-wkshp-events/sem-wkshp/dates-locations/home.xml>, and then sign up for this small group, two-hour workshop.

Registering is easy; choose one of the following options:

- Call toll free 1(888) CalPERS (225-7377)
- Mail or fax the completed registration form, available in the online *Staff Bulletin*, to the local CalPERS Regional Office.
- Register online using your PIN at www.calpers.ca.gov

Loma Portal Turns 90!

Loma Portal Elementary is celebrating it's 90th Birthday on **October 21**, starting at 5:30 p.m. All alumni and former staff are invited to join in the celebration of this momentous event. Activities include a presentation in the auditorium and tours of the campus. Many historical mementos will be on display, tracing the school's development over the years through interesting artifacts and photos. For more information, please call April Dorman at (619) 223-1683.

Field Trip Opportunity: Fore-Edge Paintings at the San Diego Public Library

From now through January 2005, a special exhibit will run at the downtown San Diego Public Library, featuring fore-edge paintings (books) from the library's extensive collection. Self-guided tours are free. For more information, please contact Vera Miller at (619) 291-8800 or v-miller@cox.net.

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Retiring Types

In school year 2003-04, over 121 employees retired. Although from now on they will not be returning to work everyday, their numerous contributions and accomplishments will never be forgotten. The district and students of San Diego sincerely thank each and every dedicated person on this list, and wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors!

- **Sharon Ackerman**, a Community Assistant I in the Special Education Business Office, retired on February 7, 2004.
- **Farihan Akbarian**, a Teacher at Alcott Elementary, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Frances Anderson-Tillett**, a Teacher at Hamilton Elementary, retired on August 1, 2004.
- **Margaret Barrie**, a District Counselor in the Counseling Office, retired on June 16, 2004.
- **Nicholas Benevento** retired on November 1, 2003.
- **David Billingsley**, a Teacher at Memorial Academy Charter, retired on July 24, 2004.
- **Tom Burnett**, an Advanced Placement Teacher at La Jolla High, retired on November 1, 2003.
- **Edward Byrne Jr.**, a Teacher of Personnel at the Secondary Level, retired on May 12, 2004.
- **Linda Carnett**, a Student Information Systems Site Technician II at Wangenheim Middle, retired on April 2, 2004.
- **Florence Clanton-Goode**, a School Library Technician II, retired on May 15, 2004.
- **Robb Crowder**, a Teacher at Muirlands Middle School, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **N. Cunningham**, a School General Secretary II at Jones Elementary, retired on November 1, 2003.
- **Anna Dailey**, an Instructional Behavior Technician at Serra High, retired on June 12, 2004.
- **Victoria Davis**, a Special Education Assistant at Gompers High School, retired on December 20, 2003.
- **George Delys**, a Teacher of Bilingual Education at Henry High, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Mary Deterly**, a Teacher at Hage Elementary, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Jerry Dimolios**, a Teacher for ESL Sheltered Students at Clay Elementary, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Morgan Duran**, a Special Education Bus Monitor at Gompers High, retired on February 28, 2004.
- **Sara Ellis**, a Team Leader Teacher at Franklin Elementary, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Kristi Esmay**, a Central Office Resource Teacher in Planning, Assessment & Accountability, retired on July 1, 2004.
- **Mary Gaffney**, a School Clerical Assistant at Kearny High, retired on June 19, 2004.
- **Robert Greenwood**, a Teacher at Encanto Elementary, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Colita Grospe**, a Special Education Assistant at Lee Elementary, retired on June 12, 2004.
- **Patricia Harry**, a Food Services Worker I at Marston Middle, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Carole Insko**, a School Clerk II at Madison High, retired on June 19, 2004.

- **Jan Jensen**, an Itin. Teacher for the Physically Handicapped at Clairemont High, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Emerlinda Joaquin**, a Teacher at Paradise Hills Elementary, retired on July 22, 2004.
- **Harold Jones**, a Teacher at Mira Mesa High, retired on June 16, 2004.
- **C. Koehler**, a Maintenance Construction Inspector, retired on October 24, 2003.
- **Alexander Labarcon**, a School Bus Driver, retired on March 1, 2004.
- **Karen Livingston** retired on June 30, 2004.
- **Janet Magnusson**, a School General Secretary II at Ocean Beach Elementary, retired on November 14, 2003.
- **Timothy Martin**, a Steamfitter in the Maintenance Unit, retired on January 1, 2004.
- **Marian McDaniel**, an Attendance Assistant at Sandburg Elementary, retired on June 12, 2004.
- **Brent Merrill**, a Plasterer in the Maintenance Unit, retired on July 3, 2004.
- **Gregg Miller**, a Teacher-Mod. Severe for Special Day Classes for the TRACE Program, retired on August 1, 2004.
- **Gayle Montgomery**, a Library Assistant at Hickman Elementary, retired on June 12, 2004.
- **Clarice Moore**, Principal at Sandburg Elementary, retired on July 15, 2004.
- **Norman Negus**, a Teacher at Pershing Middle School, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Antoinette Oconnor**, a Food Services Worker I at Mann Middle School, retired on December 6, 2003.
- **Anne Osborne**, a School Nurse in the Nursing and Wellness Department, retired on June 30, 2004.
- **Nora Pangelinan**, a Special Education Assistant, retired on May 19, 2004.
- **Lena Patterson**, a Classroom Assistant at Baker Elementary, retired on December 21, 2003.
- **William Polk**, an Instructional Behavior Technician, retired on February 10, 2004.
- **Darrell Quessenberry**, a Network Systems Technician at San Diego SCPA, retired on June 2, 2004.
- **Mary Renfro**, a School Library Technician II at Mann Middle School, retired on July 1, 2004.
- **Rose Robles**, a Teacher of Bilingual Education, retired on June 18, 2004.
- **Jon Rowley**, a Custodian at Wangenheim Middle School, retired on May 13, 2004.
- **Patricia Schlect**, a Teacher at Pacific Beach Middle School, retired on January 31, 2004.
- **Terry Michael Scott**, a Teacher at Garfield High School, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Theresa Sharpe**, a District Counselor in the Counseling Office, retired on September 18, 2003.
- **Barbara Smith**, a Teacher at Hancock Elementary, retired on July 22, 2004.
- **Kenneth Sovay**, an Advanced Placement Teacher at Serra High, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Carol Stowe**, a Teacher at Mira Mesa High, retired on June 15, 2004.
- **Linda Sturak**, a Teacher at Kennedy Elementary, retired on July 1, 2004.
- **Kathryn Teel**, a School Clerk I at Doyle Elementary, retired on December 31, 2003.
- **Jose Valdez**, a Skilled Trades Helper on the Grounds in the Maintenance Unit, retired on July 31, 2004.
- **Jean Weaver**, a Special Education Assistant at Walker Elementary, retired on July 22, 2004.
- **Margie Whitley**, an Attendance Assistant at Bell Junior High, retired on June 12, 2004.
- **Crosby Williams**, a Teacher at Perry Elementary, retired on July 23, 2004.
- **Timothy Ziegler**, an Advanced Placement Teacher at Morse High, retired on June 15, 2004.

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In Memoriam

- **Joan Bates**, whose service with the district began in October 1968, passed away on February 28, 2004. Ms. Bates was a school clerk at Mann Middle School at the time of her retirement on October 21, 1991.
- **David Boss**, whose service with the district began in April 1980, passed away on August 16, 2004. Mr. Boss was an electric equipment technician in Maintenance and Operations. He is survived by his parents, Shirley and Dayle Boss.
- **Rose Brown**, whose service with the district began in March 1984, passed away on August 17, 2004. Mrs. Brown was a special education assistant at Morse High School at the time of her retirement on June 13, 2003. She is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline.
- **Henrietta Cherry**, whose service with the district began in March 1977, passed away on July 23, 2004. Ms. Cherry was a food service worker in the Food Services Department at the time of her retirement on December 30, 1993.
- **Ethel Cooper**, whose service with the district began in September 1951, passed away on August 4, 2004. Ms. Cooper was a teacher at Hawthorne Elementary at the time of her retirement on June 20, 1995. She is survived by her son, Phil.
- **Jack Wayne Dray**, whose service with the district began in February 1960, passed away on February 21, 2004. Mr. Dray was an AP teacher at Point Loma High School at the time of his retirement on June 15, 1996. He is survived by his son, David.
- **Phyllis Dunbar**, whose service with the district began in September 1980, passed away on July 30, 2004. Ms. Dunbar was a special education technician at Lindbergh/Schweitzer. She is survived by her son, Michael.

- **Lorraine Graves**, whose service with the district began in August 1977, passed away on May 1, 2004. Mrs. Graves was a children's center attendant at Wegeforth Childhood Development Center at the time of her retirement on June 28, 2002. She is survived by her husband, Willie.
- **Lorraine Harmon**, whose service with the district began in April 1980, passed away on March 7, 2004. Ms. Harmon was a children center assistant at Kennedy Childhood Development Center at the time of her retirement on July 12, 2002.
- **Deanna Higgins**, whose service with the district began in November 1979, passed away on June 28, 2004. Ms. Higgins was a school nurse in the Wellness-Nurses Department.
- **Kenneth Mack**, whose service with the district began in September 1958, passed away on January 29, 2004. Mr. Mack was a teacher at Clairemont High School at the time of his retirement on June 16, 1979. He is survived by his wife, Colleen.
- **Gloria Manes**, whose service with the district began in April 1965, passed away on February 9, 2004. Mrs. Manes was a teacher at Marvin Elementary at the time of her retirement on June 19, 2002. She is survived by her husband, Paul.
- **Edward Miller, Jr.**, whose service with the district began in January 1973, passed away on February 29, 2004. Mr. Miller was a school police in School Police Services at the time of his retirement on December 31, 1998. He is survived by his wife, Susan.
- **Carolyn Moody**, whose service with the district began in October 1980, passed away on July 29, 2004. Mrs. Moody was a site technician at Taft Middle School at the time of her retirement on November 18, 1997. She is survived by her husband, Warren.
- **Charlene Roux**, whose service with the district began in September 1954, passed away on February 5, 2004. Mrs. Roux was a basic education consultant in the Basic Education/Language Arts Department at the time of her retirement on July 1, 1984. She is survived by her husband, Harry.
- **Dan Showley**, whose service with the district began in 1936, passed away on July 3, 2004. Mr. Showley was a teacher at Hoover High School at the time of his retirement on July 20, 1972.
- **Phillip R. Smith**, whose service with the district began in September 1961, passed away on August 10, 2004. Mr. Smith was the principal at Hickman Elementary at the time of his retirement on January 8, 1994. He is survived by his wife, Mary Sue.
- **Kathleen M. Tuxbury**, whose service with the district began in October 1986, passed away on September 3, 2004. Ms. Tuxbury was a teacher at Hawthorne Elementary. She is survived by her sister, Mary.

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