

# *San Diego City Schools*

## **Staff Bulletin – December 3, 2003**

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### **A Holiday Greeting from Superintendent Alan D. Bersin and Board of Education President Ron Ottinger**

As the end of the calendar year quickly draws near, we would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our employees and your families a happy holiday and a healthy New Year. Thank you for your continued dedication to our goal that each of the nearly 140,000 students in San Diego City Schools receive the opportunity for a high-quality education. Whether inside the classroom, or supporting teaching and learning in the classroom, you have an important impact on the education of our students. Please accept our warmest greetings and best wishes for a holiday season filled with joy and peace.

Alan D. Bersin  
Superintendent of Public Education  
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Ron Ottinger  
President, Board of Education

### **San Diego City Schools Receives \$11 Million Grant From Gates Foundation**

*Will fund creation of 18 small high schools aims to improve student achievement, graduation rates and college preparedness*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded an \$11 million grant to San Diego City Schools (SDCS) and New American Schools (NAS) to transform three large San Diego high schools into high-performing small learning communities. The under-performing high schools (Crawford, Kearny, and San Diego) will be reorganized into 18 small, rigorous schools designed to increase student achievement and high school graduation rates. The grant will also support strategies for redesigning the district's alternative education system, including the development of middle college high schools.

The primary goals of the programs that will be supported by the grant are to increase the number of college-ready SDCS high school graduates, particularly among low-income and minority populations, and to improve students' post-secondary options, whether college, technical training or the world of work.

Breaking down large, impersonal high schools into small learning communities is one aspect of San Diego's ongoing, comprehensive reform plan, the Blueprint for Student Success. It focuses on providing rigorous curricula, enhanced teacher and administrator leadership, high-quality resources, and increased parent and community involvement.

In San Diego City Schools, the second largest district in California, just 62 percent of high school students graduate, and only one in three leave high school prepared to do college work, according to a Manhattan Institute study. The situation for Hispanic and African-American students, who total over 55 percent of the school district, is even grimmer. Fewer than half of Hispanic students and only 54 percent of African-American students make it to graduation day.

Evidence shows that good small high schools offer increased personalization, provide rigorous coursework, cultivate positive adult-student relationships, and better prepare students for college and work. According to multiple studies, students in good small high schools pass more courses, graduate, and go on to college in greater numbers than those in large schools. These positive outcomes appear to be greatest for low-income and minority students.

The \$11 million grant builds on two previous partnerships between San Diego City Schools and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2001, the foundation joined the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to grant \$22.5 million to support the city's Blueprint for Student Success. Also in 2001, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York jointly granted \$8 million to improve instruction and college preparation at 18 comprehensive high schools in San Diego.

This new investment is part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's overall strategy to help create a diverse portfolio of small school options to meet students' needs. To date, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has invested more than \$670 million to support 1,800 schools nationwide.

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## **December Pay Warrant Reminder**

Today is Deadline to Enroll for Electronic Deposit

The December pay warrants for all monthly employees and food service workers will be payable on December 30, 2003, during winter break.

### **Closed sites**

All warrants for closed sites will be placed in the U.S. Mail on December 29, 2003. If you will be out of town, please sign up for electronic deposit and your pay warrant will be automatically deposited on payday to the bank account you designate. An "Employee Authorization for Automatic Payroll Deposit" form **RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 12 NOON DECEMBER 3**, will affect your December 30 pay. The form is available at your site. The automatic payroll deposit will continue for future payrolls or until it is terminated.

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## **Parent Congress**

The second 2003-04 Parent Congress meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2003 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Quality Resort Hotel in Mission Valley. After consideration, the Agenda Planning Committee decided the evening's topics for discussion will be:

- Superintendent's Update
- 2004 – 05 Budget Update

All principals are invited to attend all meetings. Parent delegates attend the meetings, share the information with the principal and distribute the information to parents through a variety of ways. All information is translated into Spanish and an interpreter is present at all meetings. Childcare is provided to the children of delegates and alternates at no cost.

For more information about Parent Congress, please visit the website at:

<http://www.sandi.net/parents/parentcongress/>.

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## **AYP Phase II**

On November 14, 2003, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the second phase of the 2003 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Report for schools and districts. The Phase II reports provide data for the third and fourth components of the AYP – the Academic Performance Index (API) and graduation rate. The Phase I reports that were released on August 15 provided information on the first two components of the AYP – participation rates and performance on the English Language Arts and Mathematics California Standards Tests (CSTs) at Grades 2-8 and on the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) at the high school level.

### District 2003 Adequate Yearly Progress Phase II Summary

The following tables summarize the results from the **District** 2003 AYP Phase II Report.

#### 2002-2003 District API

	2003 Growth	2002 Base	Change	Met 2003 AYP Criteria
<b>Districtwide</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Criteria</b>	Minimum of 560	---	Minimum 1 point Growth	

#### Graduation Rate

	Rate for 2003 (Class of 2001-02)	Rate for 2002 (Class of 2000-01)	Change	Average 2-Year Change	Met 2003 AYP Criteria
<b>Districtwide</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Criteria</b> (districts/schools must meet at least one)	Minimum 82.8	---	Minimum +0.1	Minimum +0.2	

#### District Level Phase I and Phase II Reports

The release of the 2003 AYP Phase II Report confirms that San Diego City Schools has met all AYP criteria – performance, participation rates, API, and graduation rate. The following table provides summative AYP information for San Diego City Schools and several other large urban California districts.

#### 2002-03 AYP Data for Selected California Urban Districts

DISTRICT	Made AYP All Criteria (Phases I and II)	AYP Phase I Criteria		AYP Phase II Criteria	
		Met 95% Participation Rate	Met Annual Measurable Objectives	Made API Indicator	Made Graduation Rate
Fresno	Pending	N	N	Y	Y
Long Beach	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Los Angeles	N	N	N	Y	Y
Oakland	N	N	N	Y	Y
Sacramento	N	N	Y	Pending	N
San Bernardino	N	Y	N	Pending	Y
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
San Francisco	N	N	Y	Y	Y
<b>STATE</b>	<b>Not Yet Reported</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Not Yet Reported</b>	<b>Not Yet Reported</b>

#### School-Level AYP Phase II Results

The table below summarizes the performance of district schools according to the 2003 AYP Phase II Reports. Individual school reports are available at <http://ayp.cde.ca.gov/>.

SCHOOLS	Total #	Made AYP All Criteria (Phases I and II)		AYP Phase I Criteria		AYP Phase II Criteria			
				Made Participation Rate and Annual Measurable Objectives		Made API Indicator		Made Grad. Rate	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Elementary	119	88	74%	89	74%	118	99%	N/A	N/A
Middle	21	4	19%	4	19%	21	100%	N/A	N/A
Senior High	21	11	52%	11	52%	17	81%	17	81%
Contract	4	1	25%	1	25%	4	100%	1	50%
Charters	19	5	26%	5	26%	18	95%	3	100%
ALL	184	109	59%	110	59%	178	97%	21^	87%

^ Twenty-four high schools have graduation rates (19 Senior High Schools, 2 Contract schools, and 3 Charter schools).

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### News You Can Use

San Diego City Schools is once again participating in the countywide teddy bear drive to benefit Children's Hospital. Last year, staff and students filled a school bus with more than 1,300 donated teddy bears. This year, the goal is to fill two buses. Organized by **School Police**, the drive will run from December 1-5. You can drop off a new teddy bear at any school or the School Police Office at the Education Center. The Transportation Office will then pick up the bears between December 9-12. We will join other law enforcement agencies on December 15 to deliver the bears to Children's Hospital.

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### Hall of Fame

**Marston Middle School** Teacher **Mehrak Selby** has been nominated for the California League of Middle Schools Region 9 Educator of the Year award.

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### Scenes From Schools

- The **Roosevelt Middle** School Associated Student Body and Principal **Julie Martel** welcomed Greenfield Middle School Principal Maria Kehoe and student representatives, and presented 25, \$25 gift cards to them.

Wanting to help middle schools students affected by the recent fires, Roosevelt Middle School students learned that Greenfield Middle School in El Cajon had 25 student lose their homes during the Cedar fires and decided to take a collection. They raised \$625, enough to purchase \$25 gift cards to Target for each student, then created goodie bags, complete with gift cards, hand-made cards an candy.

- Students are celebrating the grand openings of their new Proposition MM facilities by hosting ribbon-cutting events

**Kroc Middle School** dedicated its new science labs and unveiled the new science curriculum to parents. Students cut the ribbon with science scissors, then performed science lab experiments for guests. At **Sessions Elementary School's** library dedication, an all-student assembly attracted an "overhead" crowd. The Channel 7/39 traffic helicopter flew over during the event and aired a segment on the evening news. Students dressed as historic figures gave library tours. **Grant Elementary School** dedicated its new two-story classroom building, which has made possible the removal of portables from the playground. At **Cabrillo Elementary School**, the school community

held festivities in conjunction with the five-year anniversary of Proposition MM. Students spelled out the word "L-I-B-R-A-R-Y" and read aloud stories about why libraries are important.

- **Students Show off Their Musical Talent for the Holidays**

The San Diego City Schools Visual and Performing Arts Department is proud to announce that a dozen San Diego City Schools will showcase their student musical talent on the KUSI Songs of the Holiday Season program this December 24 & 25. Look for the Clairemont HS Varsity choir (dir. Cindy Jorstad) on the KUSI morning news December 1. Other schools featured on Songs Of The Holiday Season will be: Jerebek Elem. Recorder Club - **Debbie Burton - Dir**; Torrey Pines Elem. Choir, **Ann Clark, Dir**; La Jolla Elem. Choir-**Dawn Sykes, Dir**; Darnall Elem. Choir - **Jill Peck, Dir**; Marston Mid School Choir - **Malou Rogers, Dir**; Wangenheim MS Choir - **Cassandra Southworth, Dir**; Gompers Charter MS/HS Choir- **Sharletta Richardson, Dir**; La Jolla HS Choir- **Brenda Henderson, Dir**; Patrick Henry HS Choir - **Carol Fleming, Dir**; Oak Park Elem. Conservatory of Music Choir - **Deanna Hastings, Dir**; Morse HS "Singing Tigers" Choir - **Rosalynn Symington, Dir**.

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### **In Memoriam**

- **Stanley Cokkinis**, whose service with the district began May 1969, passed away on August 8, 2003. Mr. Cokkinis was a teacher at Lee Elementary at the time of his retirement.
- **Marcia G. Cook**, whose service with the district began September 1989, passed away on September 4, 2003. Ms. Cook was a teacher at Encanto Elementary at the time of her death.
- **Amee Hadr**, whose service with the district began September 1967, passed away on September 13, 2003. Ms. Hadr was a teacher at Schweitzer Elementary at the time of her retirement.
- **R. E. Harper**, whose service with the district began September 1979, passed away on August 17, 2003. Mr. Harper was an instructional assistant at Chollas Elementary at the time of his death.
- **Joseph Lynch**, whose service with the district began July 1990, passed away on September 7, 2003. Mr. Lynch was a custodian at Linda Vista Elementary at the time of his retirement.
- **Susan L. Steinberg**, whose service with the district began September 1989, passed away on September 3, 2003. Mrs. Steinberg was a teacher at Ross Elementary at the time of her death.
- **Mary Zopatti**, whose service with the district began January 1974, passed away on September 4, 2003. Mrs. Zopatti was a teacher at Ocean Beach Elementary at the time of her retirement.

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