



# SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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## ***Staff Bulletin***

*December 16, 2005*

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### **INTERVIEW WITH JOSE BETANCOURT NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OPENS UP TO *STAFF BULLETIN***

Retired Rear Admiral Jose Luis Betancourt officially joined San Diego City Schools on November 28 as the new chief administrative officer. Betancourt is the newest member of the superintendent's executive leadership team. In his role, Betancourt will oversee operations, including business, finance, transportation, facilities and food services.

Betancourt comes to San Diego City Schools after a distinguished career in the Navy of more than 30 years. He has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and English from the University of Texas, Edinburg. He was a high school teacher for a short time until he joined the Navy in 1971. He later earned a master's degree in international security affairs at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in 1993 and a second master's in industrial management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1994.

His naval career took him all over the world, including commanding the *USS Merrill* in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. His ashore appointments have included serving as an intelligence officer with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, Belgium and New York City. He returned to San Diego in 2002 to assume command of the Navy's Southwest Region.

In this edition of *Staff Bulletin*, the new chief administrative officer shares his observations about SDCS after just one week on the job.

#### **How was your first week with San Diego City Schools?**

Great. I am delighted to be here. I began my career as a teacher in Texas before joining the Navy. I have a great deal of admiration for teachers. I was born in Mexico and my family immigrated to Brownsville, Texas when I was a young boy. Although we were a poor migrant family, my parents insisted that my siblings and I finish high school. I owe much of my success in life to many of my secondary teachers who inspired and encouraged me. Without the encouragement of these wonderful, dedicated teachers, I would not have finished high school and I certainly would not have gone to college.

I see SDCS as a tremendous opportunity for me to work as a team member in an inclusive environment. I look forward to working with the Superintendent and the Board of Education. I strongly support the Superintendent's goals and his vision, together with the Board, for the future of our public schools and for the success of all our teachers and students. I believe it is going to take everyone in the district to achieve our primary objective of improving student performance along with the other objectives. We have so many superbly talented people in this district, both certificated and classified, that I know we can accomplish anything we set as goals for ourselves. This will only happen to the extent that we never forget our reason for being – the success of our school children at all grade levels.

I am a believer in covenant leadership. I believe we make commitments to one another in any successful enterprise, whether business or education. Covenant leadership is about leaders being committed to providing their employees with the tools they need to be successful. It is about treating each other with respect and dignity. This type of leadership works both ways. If we as leaders fulfill our end of the covenant, then it is incumbent on the employee and all of our people to perform to the best of their ability and to help our district meet its goals. In my position as CAO, I am always mindful that we need to provide neat, clean, safe places to teach so that we can improve student performance. If everyone stays committed to the vision, objectives and each other, we will achieve our goals as a team.

**As a retired navy man, what attracted you to take a position with SDCS?**

First of all, the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students was my primary motivation.

Second, the responsibilities with the district are not that different from my last responsibilities with the Navy. So, I feel well-prepared for the job. Both systems have the challenge of having finite resources based on taxpayer dollars. The question is always how we mesh finite resources with the needs at hand. It will be my responsibility to work with the Superintendent, the Board of Education, district personnel, parents and the community to identify solutions that combine fiscal responsibility with supporting the mission of the district. In other words, we must make the best use of our resources, always focused on the objective.

Third, I see no better way to transition to a civilian career than working with San Diego City Schools. In addition to making a difference in the lives of students, it provides me with the opportunity to give back to San Diego and the state of California. Both have been very good to me during my previous career.

**What do you see in the future?**

I have every intention of staying with the district for as long as the Superintendent and Board of Education will have me. I intend to be the best

chief administrative officer San Diego City Schools has ever had. I'll stay as long as they'll have me. I love this job.

I have lived in this area off and on for more than 30 years. In the military, we moved around a lot but have always considered San Diego home. My wife and I are currently living in the house we bought in Chula Vista 30 years ago. My children all attended public schools in the South Bay. My older son, Jeff, is a film editor and writer in Hollywood and my younger son, Richard, is a nuclear-trained engineer in the Navy. My daughter, Jennifer, is in her second year at the University of Notre Dame. Nothing that my kids have achieved would have been possible without the public schools of our great nation and state. I know that every parent must feel as I do about education and that we want the best for our children. I tend to be an optimist and not a pessimist. So I see a very bright future, still full of wonderful possibilities.

I believe that at the end of the day, we all want to succeed and feel like we have made a difference. I want to help create an environment where all employees - certificated, classified, teacher, administrator - are happy to go to work each morning. This job satisfaction will be a key opponent in the success of our students.

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### **COOKIES WITH CARL**

The first "Cookies with Carl" was held on Wednesday, November 30, at Florence Elementary School. More than 100 district employees (classified and certificated) attended the forum where the superintendent addressed questions and concerns.

Mark you calendars. The next "Cookies with Carl" will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 from 4 – 6 p.m. at Holmes Elementary School, 4902 Mt. Ararat Drive, San Diego, 92111. All employees are invited to attend.

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### **FUR FLIES IN DRIVE TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SDCS SCHOOL POLICE LEADS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TEDDY BEAR DRIVE**

When the San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Police Department was given responsibility for coordinating this year's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive, Sergeant Mike Marquez embraced the daunting task.

A former National City Police officer, Marquez was nominated for the role by an officer from that city's police department. "He jokingly told [SDCS Police Chief] Don Braun that I should do it, and that idea stuck. It's such a good cause, and

I've been participating for years," explained Marquez. "The Teddy Bear Drive is incredibly rewarding."

Each year, county law enforcement groups take turns planning and organizing the massive campaign, which collects stuffed animals and monetary donations to benefit patients at Children's Hospital and Health Center. This year's drive ended December 13, 2005, when the bears were delivered to the hospital in a motorcade of police cars and school buses.

While it's called the "Teddy Bear Drive," any type of new stuffed animal is accepted. Last year, approximately 37,000 stuffed animals were donated countywide, with more than 4,000 coming from SDCS employees and school sites. This year, the goal was to collect 50,000 stuffed animals and monetary donations to purchase additional fuzzy friends year-round. The long-term goal is to collect enough stuffed animals to provide one for each of the approximately 300,000 children treated at Children's Hospital each year.

In order to accomplish those goals, SDCS School Police and other law enforcement agencies have been busy collecting stuffed animals, kicking off the drive in April with a collection event at the Rod Stewart concert at Coors Amphitheatre in Chula Vista.

"Most agencies don't start until August, but I wanted to make sure we got off to an early start. The effort we put in early in the year is going to make a difference in a child's life," said Marquez.

More recent activities have also been very successful. This year's "Teddy Bear Toss" with the San Diego Gulls hockey team, for example, resulted in the donation of three times more bears than were received at last year's event. Gulls fans were invited to bring new stuffed animals to the Gulls season home opening game and "toss" them on the ice after the Gulls scored their first goal. In all, the event brought the drive nearly 1,800 bears closer to the 50,000 goal.

SDCS Police Department Lieutenant Paula Rivera was among the volunteers who scrambled out on the ice at the Teddy Bear Toss to pick up the bears being flung onto the cold, wet rink.

"It was really exhilarating, a lot of fun," said Rivera. "I stuffed my arms [full of bears] each time until I couldn't hold anymore. We were all grabbing stuffed animals, jamming them in bags and then going back for more."

Students and staff at school sites have done their part in the drive, too. To encourage even greater participation from school sites this year, SDCS School Police offered to reward the district elementary school that donated the most bears with an ice cream social, and to reward the winning middle and senior high schools with school dances. School Police will pay all expenses and provide staff for the events.

Another major participant in the drive was SDCS Transportation Services, which has provided drivers and vehicles to pick up and transport the thousands of stuffed animals that have been donated. In fact, more than 40 bus drivers have volunteered regularly, picking up bears from sites after their routes. One driver has personally brought in nearly 80 bears.

Scott Caldwell, who has led Transportation Department efforts, initially began participating in the drive because of a friendly relationship with School Police Services. Then, he said, "It blossomed."

"We [Transportation and School Police] help each other out, but the Teddy Bear Drive is more than that. It's fun. It's important to me. Everything I do is about children. It's very rewarding when we get to go to Children's Hospital and watch them start passing out stuffed animals to the kids."

Look for an article in the January edition of *Staff Bulletin* with final totals from the drive, pictures of the bears' arrival at Children's Hospital, and an update on the winners of the ice cream social and school dance prizes.

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## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS LEAD TO SUMMER FOOD SERVICE SUCCESS**

### ***SDCS FOOD SERVICES WINS AWARD FOR SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM***

You may be familiar with the old saying "many hands make light work." During the summer of 2005, the San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Food Services Department and its partners proved that this bit of folk wisdom is indeed true. Their work creating a "summer feeding" program was recently recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with a 2005 Sunshine Award for successful community partnership.

Notifying the district of its selection for the award, Janet Allen, director of Special Nutrition Programs for the USDA Western Region, wrote "we selected your program in recognition of your dedication and commitment to increase the number of summer sites through excellent outreach to the community and collaboration with a wide variety of organizations."

According to the USDA, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created in 1975 to provide children from low-income families with nutritious meals when school is not in session. On a typical summer day, the program provides meals to more than two million children across the country. Unlike other USDA programs, the SFSP requires no paperwork, no income qualifications and is free to any child age 2-18.

SDCS Food Services began its first-ever summer feeding program in 2004, forging a partnership with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation

Department, to provide meals to children in low-income areas in the city of San Diego. While successful, it was clear that there was also the opportunity to feed even more students. The next year, summer 2005, saw expanded efforts to get the word out about the program.

The district's implementation of the summer feeding program stems from recognition that school lunches are a nutritious source of food for students across the district and that need exists year-round. After all, the importance of eating healthy meals does not end when school is out. Through the program, children and teens can participate in Park and Recreation Department programs, enjoying a fun, healthy atmosphere and eating the same type of nutritious meals they get during the school year.

To spread the word about the summer feeding program, Joanne Tucker, the district's food services marketing coordinator, convened a marketing task force that included a broad range of community organizations. Representatives from the California Department of Education, Hunger Coalition, Mexican Consulate, City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department, California 5-A-Day Power Play! campaign and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program committed themselves to effectively get the message out to community members who would benefit from the service.

"The task force marked the first time these diverse groups had ever come together to promote summer feeding," explained Tucker. "We knew we would have to develop the resources to make the program successful, which led to a lot of creativity."

The group designed a flyer to give detailed information about feeding sites, and distributed materials about the program to 37,000 SDCS students and their families. Task force members visited schools, churches, libraries, unemployment offices, probation departments, food stamp centers, the Food Bank, Head Start programs, health clinics and other community organizations to promote the program.

The effort was made successful by participation from a number of organizations and community groups, including the San Diego Nutrition Network and Sempra Energy, which awarded grants to cover the cost of printing flyers and event planning. California Food Policy Advocates supplied banners displayed at each of the 20 Park and Recreation sites hosting the SFSP announcing "free lunch for kids" in English and Spanish.

"The highlight of the task force's marketing plan was the 'Free Lunch and Summer Fun Kickoff,'" said Tucker. "The event was designed to draw maximum attention and exposure to the program, and it worked!"

Held June 29, 2005, at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Recreation Center, the kickoff event was attended by more than 600 people. Children participated

in nutrition and athletic events to win prizes as local dignitaries and school board members helped serve lunches to those in attendance. The Children's Hospital *10Mobile* staff gave children free health screenings, and balloons and free gift bags full of nutrition education materials for every child added to the festivities.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, 74,481 meals and snacks were provided during the summer of 2005.

Tucker concluded, "This was the true measure of success for our community partnership because it proved what can be accomplished with modest resources but a strong willingness to work together to benefit a community's children."

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### **ENERGY/UTILITIES TEAM STACKS UP AWARDS, SAVINGS**

San Diego City Schools recently received the 2005 Flex Your Power Award for outstanding energy efficiency achievements. Flex Your Power is California's statewide energy efficiency campaign. Only 35 organizations statewide received this award. In addition, the school district is the top award recipient in the San Diego region.

The award was presented at the Board of Education meeting on December 13, 2005, by Risa Baron, the district's SDG&E account representative.

Baron said, "San Diego City Schools has been a local, statewide and national leader in promoting and implementing energy efficiency initiatives since the early 1990s. These include an innovative photovoltaic roofing project, lighting retrofits, chiller replacements and low flush toilets, to name a few. These efforts have saved \$90 million and 621 million kilowatts per hour since 1994."

Baron went on to announce another award recently given to the school district. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named San Diego City Schools an Energy Star Leader, which places the school district in the top 200 organizations in the entire nation for consistently exceeding strict energy efficiency criteria.

Baron also highlighted the cost-savings associated with the 15 new energy-efficient schools being built under Proposition MM. All new schools and facilities are being designed to outperform California's tough energy standards by 30 percent. According to SDG&E's Savings by Design program, the design elements in these new schools will save about \$40,000 per year, per school in utility costs, as well as earn the district about \$50,000 per school in incentive rebates.

At the Board meeting, the district's Energy/Utilities team, led by J. William Naish, was recognized for its efforts, as was Evan Leslie, a Proposition MM project

manager who ensures energy efficiency features are incorporated in new school designs.

*Watch the January Staff Bulletin for a profile on the refrigerator change-out program. All old refrigerators across the school district are being replaced with new energy-efficient models for significant energy- and cost-savings.*

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### **STAYING HEALTHY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON 3,000 SDCS EMPLOYEES GET FREE FLU SHOT**

Fall marks the start of cold flu and season. Although there are no known cures for colds or flu, getting a flu shot is the most effective way to prevent the flu. To help SDCS employees get a healthy start on the cold and flu season, free flu vaccine clinics were held at various locations throughout the district in conjunction with this year's Open Enrollment. Between October 31 and November 7, more than 3,000 employees took advantage of the free flu shots as well as the opportunity to attend Open Enrollment meetings and meet SDCS healthcare providers. The flu vaccine clinics were coordinated by Employee Benefits and facilitated by Pacificare, one of our healthcare providers.

In addition to getting a flu shot, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gives the following tips that can help prevent the spread of germs at home, work and/or in the classroom and provide the best defense for staying healthy during the cold and flu season:

- **Wash your hands often.** Most cold and flu viruses are spread by direct contact. Wash the entire hand using warm water and soap, rubbing your hands vigorously together for 15 to 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. If using a gel, rub the gel in your hands until they are dry.
- **Cover your sneezes and coughs with a tissue, not your hand.** Because germs and viruses cling to your bare hands, muffling coughs and sneezes with your hands can result in passing along your germs to others. When you feel a cough or sneeze coming, use a tissue and throw it away immediately. If you don't have a tissue, turn your head away from people near you and cough into the air.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.** Most bacteria and germs are spread from the surface of your hands to your face. Germs can live for a long time (some for two hours or more) on surfaces like desks, tables, telephones and doorknobs. Few germs are transmitted through the air. Touching their faces is the major way that children catch colds, and a key way they pass colds on to adults.

- **Stay home when you are sick.** Get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Check with a health care provider when needed. Keeping your distance from others when you are ill may protect them from getting sick.
- **Practice other good health habits.** Get plenty of sleep and fresh air, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious foods. Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol. Practicing healthy habits will help you stay healthy during flu season and all year long.

# # #

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

### **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR WINTER BREAK CLOSURE**

The last day of instruction for school sites before Winter Break will be Friday, December 16, 2005. In addition, all Central Offices, including the Education Center, will close for the Winter Break starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2005. This closure is the result of a six-day work year reduction for all Central Office employees due to Board-approved budget cuts. Traditional school sites and Central Offices will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2006. Year-round school sites will reopen on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

#### **Closure Instruction**

Before leaving for Winter Break, please follow these instructions as applicable:

1. Record a new voicemail greeting to indicate that you are out of the office. Include dates of closure and when you will return.
2. Activate your "Out of Office Assistant" message on Outlook email. Include dates of closure and when you will return.
3. If your department has a departmental voicemail or email, please ensure that both indicate the Winter Break closure.
4. If you work in an office area with public/visitor entry doors (such as M& O, IMC, etc), please ensure that proper signage has been posted on doors to alert visitors of the Winter Break closure.
5. Consider notifying key contacts outside of the school district of your absence.

#### **Housekeeping Items for Offices, Workspaces, Classrooms**

1. Please take all items with you that might be needed during the Winter Break closure. With the exception of a few already identified employees, no one will be allowed to enter Central Offices during this time.

2. Due to rodent control issues, all food items, candy, and snacks must be removed prior to the end of the work day on December 16. Also, please empty refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, and wash out coffee cups, dishes and utensils. Remove any excess paper piles/clutter and TAKE HOME PLANTS as these provide harborage and a food source for rodents.
3. Ensure that all office recycle bins and trashcans are emptied. Call Custodial Services prior to the Winter Break closure if assistance is needed.
4. Turn off your desktop computers but it is not necessary to unplug them. All servers, routers, switches and other computer equipment located at your school site and in your equipment closets (MDF) should **not** be powered down or turned off under any circumstances. This equipment is designed to stay on indefinitely and powering it down can cause problems to your network and services when you return from the break.
5. Please shut and lock all windows and doors.

### **Specific to School Sites**

1. Traditional school site should ensure that staff, parents and students know that school will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2006. (Traditional calendar schools were originally scheduled to return on Monday, January 2, 2006, until the board voted in October to declare that January 2 is a holiday.) Year-round track schools will reopen on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.
2. In the case of an emergency at your school site during the Winter Break – fire, break-in or a critical facilities issue such as flooding or gas leak that threatens life, safety or district property and requires assistance from Central Office staff – please contact School Police. (Simply follow the same procedure that would be used in an emergency that occurs after hours or on a holiday). ONLY CRITICAL ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED.
3. For energy conservation, heat will be turned off at school sites where the heating system is centrally controlled by Maintenance & Operations.
4. If entering your school site during the Winter Break, please be sure to follow Site Entry Procedures, detailed at:  
[http://www.sandi.net/comm/factsheets/site\\_entry.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/comm/factsheets/site_entry.pdf)

### **Payroll:**

December pay warrants for all monthly employees, food service workers and hourly employees with reported time for December 1-16 will be payable on December 28, 2005. Payroll staff will not be available to answer questions during Winter Break. For more information, read the payroll circular:  
<http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/0506/ic506.pdf>.

### **District Server:**

There are no planned outages scheduled for the server during break. However, please note there could be periodic or unscheduled outages. Employees will be

able to access the district website, Outlook email and DWA online during the Winter Break closure.

### **ZANGLE UPGRADE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 9, 2006**

The district has identified a new date for upgrading Zangle. Beginning Monday, January 9, 2006, all Zangle users, including teachers, will use Zangle v.2005.2. At this time, the IT Department has identified that any teacher using an Apple computer running OS X (typically the white eMacs) must have version 10.3.9 or higher and must use Safari as their web browser in order for TeacherConnection to work properly. (Teachers using OS 9 computers can continue to use Internet Explorer.) For more information about what teachers need to do to prepare for the Zangle upgrade, go to <http://www.sandi.net/zangle/webapp/knowledgebase/details.asp?emailID=233>.

### **FAMILY HISTORIES ESSAY COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS**

Applications are available online or by request for this year's essay competition. All SDCS students in grades 6-12 may submit 4-to-10 page family stories about their immigration experiences. Over 600 students have received more than \$44,000 in prizes since the competition started. Approved by the Office of Instructional Support, the competition is designed to work with California standards in English and H-SS. Learn more at [www.naimlc.org](http://www.naimlc.org). Submissions may begin now – competition closed March 18, 2006. For information, call New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center (619) 515 0403.

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### **HALL OF FAME**

- **Jade Pak**, third grade teacher at Nye Elementary, has been nominated for the 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Pak joins an elite group of teachers from across the country who have been recognized by their communities. Established in 1989, the Disney Teacher Awards program honors teachers whose approaches exemplify creativity in teaching and who inspire a joy of learning in their students. The honorees will be announced in late spring and celebrated at an awards gala in July. During the gala, four honorees will be selected as Outstanding Teachers and one will be named the 2006 Disney Teacher of the Year.
- **Katrina Frontiero** from Marshall Elementary and **Jerri Harrison** from Challenger Middle School were the November winners of the district's Recycling Office recycling contest.

Katrina won two tickets to the Maritime Museum and Jerri won two tickets for a Hornblower Bay Cruise. Interested in participating in the contest? All administrative sites have pledge cards in their lunchrooms, or you can obtain

a copy of the pledge card at [http://prod031.sandi.net/Energy/pdf/pledgecard\\_form.pdf](http://prod031.sandi.net/Energy/pdf/pledgecard_form.pdf). Fill it in, print it out and put in the card in District mail, or fax it to Andrea Eaton at 858-627-7414.

- **Summer Catarius**, social studies and language arts teacher at Marston Middle School, and **Carmen Munnelly**, social studies teacher at De Portola Middle School, were recently nominated for the California League of Middle School's Educator of the Year Award. They will be honored at a dinner on December 13 for being selected as one of the 10 best middle school teachers in San Diego County.
- **Katy Nagy**, Marston Middle School's library/media teacher is a newly published author. The Continuum Encyclopedia of Young Adult Literature includes three articles written by Mrs. Nagy. Her articles include the biographies and notable work of three authors dedicated to writing adolescent literature: Robin Jarvis, Pam Ryan Munoz and Gloria Whelan.
- The Bird Rock Community Council recently presented a \$10,335 check to **Bird Rock Elementary School**. The funds were raised during the Council's 2005 Taste of Bird Rock event held on July 14, 2005. A second check of \$3,445 was presented to **Brooklyn Elementary School** to show the commitment of the Bird Rock Community to neighborhoods other than its own.
- On December 3, the students, parents and staff of **Lindbergh Schweitzer Elementary School**, Writing and Multimedia Publishing Magnet School, were recognized by members of the African American Community for the extraordinary gains made by the school this past year in the Academic Performance Index (API). Principal Bonnie Remington accepted the Urban League's 4th Annual Best Academic Practices Schools for African American Students Silver Medal at the Bayview Baptist Church, MLK Cultural Center, San Diego.

# # #

### SALUTE TO STUDENTS

On November 28, 2005, San Diego High School senior **Jose Mondragon** was honored by Congresswoman Susan Davis for his extensive community work. At a ceremony held at San Diego High School, Davis presented Mondragon with her 2005 Hispanic Heritage Community Award. Mondragon maintains a 3.81 GPA and is the Commissioner of Community Services for the Associated Student Body. He is a fervent advocate for educational opportunities for immigrant and working class students. In June, Mondragon was asked to speak at the California Public Utilities Commission hearing where he spoke about the lack of affordability in accessing the Internet for many residents in the community. Davis made the award presentation in front of members of the San

Diego High Associated Student Body, Principal Karen Wroblewski, and community representatives.

# # #

## SCENES FROM SCHOOLS

- Dakin Matthews, world-renowned dramaturge and associate artist of the Old Globe Theater, took time out of his busy schedule to talk to the AP senior English students at **Serra High School** on November 4. The focus of his talk was on the text analysis of "All's Well That Ends Well," one of Shakespeare's more difficult and interesting "problem" plays. The Serra High School Players, under the direction of Ruth Howell, will be performing the play later in the year. The students enjoyed the talk and learned how actors and directors approach Shakespeare, making it more understandable and interesting.
- On November 15, San Diego Chargers Kassim Osgood (#81), Justin Peele (#84) and Eric Parker (#88), as a part of their *Gold & Blue-Collar Workers* mentorship program, visited **Bell Junior High School** to recognize and reward youth who succeed in the classroom and who come from hard working families. The players awarded 20 tickets to the November 20<sup>th</sup> Chargers vs. Buffalo Bills game to those students.
- On November 18, the **Garfield High School** ROP Culinary Arts Class students teamed up with the top chefs of the Cohn Restaurant Group to prepare the Eighth Annual Gourmet Thanksgiving Luncheon. More than 300 people attended this fundraising event held in the Grand Ballroom of The Prado at Balboa Park (a Cohn Restaurant Group). In addition to preparing a delicious meal for those who attended the luncheon, the students boxed and delivered special Thanksgiving meals for Hurricane Katrina victims now residing in San Diego.
- On November 30, three pilots from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 43, homeported at Naval Air Station North Island, shared their experiences from providing humanitarian relief following both the Southeast Asia Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina to **Montgomery Middle School** students. The pilots showed the students a slideshow of images captured during the relief efforts as well as a video they shot and produced. According to Chris Adams, physical education teacher and coordinator for the visit, the reasons for the presentation were, "One, to allow the children to meet some people who actually worked in two of the biggest natural disasters of our lifetime; and two, to give them some experience with the Navy to broaden their horizons."
- The **Food Services Department** delivered toys and food to ten families in our district on December 14. In its fourth successful year, the Toy and Food Drive collects an array of age-appropriate toys, books, games, bicycles and sports equipment that are generously donated by employees of the Food

Services Department as well as employees from throughout the district. New this year, Food Services also decided to fill the kitchen cupboards of the families and included generous food donations and grocery store gift certificates with the toys. Toys not given to the families were donated to the Polinsky Center. The drive was organized by Shirley Cabri-Rumrill and her staff. Cabri-Rumrill noted, "The generosity of our employees never ceases to amaze me. We appreciate what everyone did to make this another successful year and are happy to make the holidays special for these families."

# # #

### SAVE THE DATE

- Fourth and fifth graders from the chorus at Fulton Elementary recently recorded two selections for KUSI-TV's annual **"Songs for the Holiday."** Fulton has participated many times over the years. "Songs for the Holiday" will air on Saturday, December 24, at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday, December 25, at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on KUSI-TV (Channel 9/51). Check your local listing to tune in and hear our students raise their voices in celebration of the holiday season.
- The next **"Cookies with Carl"** will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, from 4 – 6 p.m. at Holmes Elementary School, 4902 Mt. Ararat Drive, San Diego, 92111. All employees are invited to attend the forum where the superintendent will address questions and concerns.
- The Board of Education will recognize significant individual student and team achievements for the first half of the 2005-06 school year at a **Student Recognition Ceremony** to be held at the January 24, 2006, Board meeting at 4 p.m. For information, contact Linda Zintz at (619) 725-5568 or email [lzintz@sandi.net](mailto:lzintz@sandi.net).
- The Employability Counseling Services Department will holding its **Resource Fair 2006** on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club & Recital Hall, 2150 Pan American Road West, San Diego, 92101. The Fair is designed to provide transition resources to students, parents and staff involved in Special Education. Attendees will be able to find out about employment opportunities, learn about post-secondary educational programs and meet providers of vocational support services. School buses will transport students from most high schools, however seating is limited. For information, call (858) 693-5500.

# # #

## IN MEMORIAM

**Alice Hooper**, whose service with the district began in September 1980, died on September 15, 2005. She retired from Lafayette Elementary as a teacher for the deaf in June 2000.

**Joanne Midori Kimura Young**, whose service with the district began in August 2003, died on November 25, 2005. She was a special education teacher at Jerabek Elementary School at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband and two children.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### For Sale

**Yamaha PSR275 musical keyboard.** 61 keys. Great features. Fun for beginners or advanced. \$80 or best offer. (619) 244-5127

**Cherrywood computer desk:** 29.5" x72 "x29". Excellent condition. \$250 obo. (858) 569-6875

**Sofa, love seat & swivel chair,** yellow/black leather, \$600. Lawn mower, electric starter, \$100. \*82-858-274-3021.

**2000 Black Ford Mustang.** Excellent condition. One owner. 32,000 miles. 5-speed. V6. Grey leather interior. Call Glenn Decker (619) 719-2588.

**Motorized wheelchair.** Invacare XTGT. New batteries. \$1500. (619) 895-3589 after 3:30 p.m.

**Oak entertainment center,** one piece, 3 "sections," like new, on wheels, H=6' x W=5' x D=17". Call Karen or Jim, (619) 442-3118

### For Rent:

**Lakeside. 1200 sq. ft. building.** Private, secure for workshop/storage. \$800-\$850/mo + electricity. (619) 334-5561.

**House. 4br/2ba/fam. rm/living rm.** Excellent SD neighborhood. New carpet/paint \$2,000/mo. Available Dec.15/05. Call David Sanders, (619) 589-2778.

### Wanted:

**Small refrigerator and microwave** for PACE class. (619) 316-8953.

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