



### **KNOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHARING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S DREAM FOR 29 YEARS**

During the month of January, the Board of Education recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a formal resolution. Throughout the district, schools commemorate the life and contributions of Dr. King in various ways. Students read books, write essays, and give speeches about the civil rights leader. Freedom songs are sung, posters are designed, and parades are marched in, as a new generation learns important lessons about the historic struggle for civil rights. The model for celebrating the life of the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner is Knox Elementary School's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemorative march, held annually for the past 29 years.

This celebration began in 1977, nine years after Dr. King's death and six years prior to Congress passing federal holiday legislation commemorating his birth. On November 4, 1991, Knox received national recognition when the school was honored with the George Washington Honors from the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation for its commemorative march and related activities.

Knox is celebrating its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March on January 20, 2006. The theme of this year's march is "Share the Dream," and will involve approximately 2,000 elementary school students from 36 schools across the district. The majority of visiting schools come from north of Interstate 8, providing all students with a unique opportunity to celebrate diversity. The march is the culmination of weeks of activities including the preparation of signs and banners, which replicate those used in Dr. King's civil rights marches. Students prepare special reports and learn songs that emphasize the messages of equality and brotherhood inspired by Dr. King. Knox teachers are paired up with the teachers from the visiting schools and begin to coordinate classroom activities weeks prior to the march. Knox students are paired up with visiting students and often begin corresponding with them before the event.

Before the march begins, there is a brief presentation during which students have the opportunity to sing freedom songs and listen to Dr. King's momentous speech, "I Have a Dream." Following the speech, the students are led in a mile and a half march around the community by community leaders. After the march, the students and teachers from visiting schools join Knox students and teachers in their classrooms. According to Knox Principal Ana Biffle, "The purpose of the march and related activities is to help children gain a better understanding of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to guide children in developing an understanding of his principles on human rights for all mankind."

For the past three years, this event has been coordinated by Parent Academic Liaison (PAL) Edna Smith. After 25 years as a classroom teacher, Smith decided to move into the role of PAL at the encouragement of colleagues. As a teacher, Smith was a firm believer that success in the classroom relies on parental support. She made it her goal to reach out to parents, not just by telephone, but by making personal visits to students' homes. Smith's transition from classroom teacher to PAL was a natural progression, although she admits she was nervous her first year

coordinating the event. "After so many years with another coordinator, I wasn't sure how the community would accept me," says Smith. "I am blessed that the staff and community have been very welcoming and supportive."

Smith's planning for the event starts in September. Neighborhood streets are closed for the march so permits are required from the city, which can take time. As with any major event, Smith relies on the help from many to be successful. "I am fortunate to have the support of the community as well as the school staff. The staff really believes in the march and the importance of reaching out to the African-American community," says Smith. "Everyone pitches in: the principal, teachers, technology staff, aides, support staff, parents, neighbors, everyone! I couldn't do it without them."

The longevity and success of this nationally recognized event is a tribute to the dedication of Knox and its community. They share a strong commitment to sharing Dr. King's dream with students and other citizens in hopes of creating a better world tomorrow. As Smith explains, "It's important work. We all want to make a difference in the lives of children, now and in the future."

For more information about and resources for commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visit the web page at [http://www.sandi.net/staff/principals/resources/mlk\\_commemoration.html](http://www.sandi.net/staff/principals/resources/mlk_commemoration.html).

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### **"CATCH A RISING STAR" PROGRAM CATCHES STUDENTS LEARNING**

*Dear Mr. de Beck,*

*Our class would like to thank you for inventing the "Catch a Rising Star" program. Also for picking us (Birney) as your first school to try it out.*

*We had a great time at the harbor cruise excursion. We saw many places. We also learned many things. There were so much information I couldn't fit it on this page.*

*Like a human I ask questions. What made you think up "Catch a Rising Star?" Did you pick the excursion cruise or did someone else. How long will the "Catch a Rising Star" last?*

*Don't worry I will keep my grades up no matter what. I will always work hard to do good in school.*

*A hard working student/a new friend,  
Kristen*

The above note, written to San Diego City Schools Board of Education Trustee John de Beck, is one of many he has received from students expressing appreciation for the "Catch a Rising Star" program. The brainchild of de Beck and San Diego Harbor Excursion Company President George Palermo, the program kicked off in October 2005.

Earlier that year, Palermo met with de Beck and SDCS Community Relations Director Janet Delaney to offer educational harbor and whale watching tours as a reward for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who made academic gains. That offer triggered the idea of a series of community opportunities for students at all grade levels.

"'Catch a Rising Star' is a motivational program, supported entirely by the community, that helps show the connection between what students are learning in school and what's going on in the working world," explained de Beck. "It shows students that there are people who look like them working in a variety of areas, from travel and tourism to trades, and makes them think 'Hey, I could do that!'"

The program has been designed as a way for SDCS and the community to recognize students who attend low performing schools that have made significant academic progress. Initially, six elementary schools were chosen based on the notable gains they have made over the past several years on the Academic Performance Index: Baker, Birney, Edison, Garfield, Jackson, and Kimbrough.

The recognition process invites teachers from each school, during a designated month, to collectively select a total of up to 50 students that will participate in special fieldtrips. Each student receives a special badge that says, "I'm a rising star. My teacher caught me LEARNING!"

"We spend a lot of time talking about fixing teaching and the classroom, but the real key is motivation," de Beck continued. "We always reward the top end-- those students who do the best-- but not those who are in the middle- to low-end."

"Catch a Rising Star" changes that by recognizing students for a variety of positive behaviors and achievements. Improved attendance, grades, attitude and behavior are some of the factors that have been rewarded with the educational field trips.

Students attending the field trips have been very positive about their experiences, which range from trips to the USS Midway to the Birch Aquarium to the harbor excursions that were the genesis of the program. To date, 18 trips have been offered to students at the six schools.

Many community institutions, wanting to help give children learning experiences outside of school, stepped forward to build the program. According to de Beck, businesses also benefit from the collaboration.

"We are expanding kids' vision of what our community offers, but we are also giving the community more exposure to our students. These kids will be working in our community someday, and this helps the business community get to know good kids who come from a variety of backgrounds."

This community support means that each trip is fully funded by sponsors and does not affect the district budget. The trips do, however, affect students' attitudes.

It is hoped that "Catch a Rising Star" will provide learning incentives for all students in the school by encouraging every student to exhibit the positive behaviors being rewarded. To follow the progress of this program, the district's Program Studies Department will collect a broad range of information that addresses program outreach, district and community support of the program and, most importantly, student behavior and achievement.

"We know that many factors contribute to improved student behavior and performance," said SDCS Program Studies Manager Susie Millett. "The results from our study of the 'Catch a Rising Star' program will provide important information about the kinds of activities and programs that help motivate students to succeed."

Anecdotal data suggests "Catch a Rising Star" does, in fact, motivate students. One Birney student wrote that the program "inspires us to work harder and earn more field trips because a classroom who doesn't try their best and work at it doesn't earn much."

Another student put it this way: "since you picked Birney, we have a treat for you. We will be very well behaved. We try as hard as we can."

“Catch a Rising Star” also has the potential to increase parent involvement at participating schools. Some schools are offering VIP passes donated by Old Town Trolley Tours of San Diego to those who attend parent nights. Winners of the tickets not only get involved at their child’s school, which has been shown to increase student achievement, but also get to enjoy a two-hour docent-guided, fully narrated, historic city tour with their child.

With all these benefits, it is no wonder de Beck is excited about the prospect of expanding the program as additional funding becomes available.

“The response has been very good,” said de Beck. “We continue to look for all kinds of places where kids can learn how to apply the things they’re learning in school. We’re already working on finding additional venues to host students and additional funds to grow the program.”

A variety of community partners have come forward to support “Catch a Rising Star.” Some institutions generously provided venues for students to visit and other organizations and companies donated funds to finance transportation for students to and from the field trips.

The organizations that have made commitments to this project include (in alphabetical order):

- **Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill & Bar** has donated 800 free “Kids Meal” certificates that will be distributed to the six participating school sites.
- **Biogen IDEC Foundation Incorporated** has donated \$3500 to cover transportation costs.
- **Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institute of Oceanography** has agreed to provide one tour, per month, for one year.
- **California Coast Credit Union** has donated \$700 to cover transportation costs
- **Cubic Corporation** has donated \$300 to cover transportation costs
- **Old Town Trolley Tours of San Diego** has agreed to donate family VIP passes for two-hour, docent-guided, fully-narrated, historic city tours. Areas of tours include Old Town, the Embarcadero, the Gaslamp Quarter, Coronado and Balboa Park.
- **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center** has agreed to provide one field trip experience per month for one school year. The visit will include the exhibit galleries and an IMAX film or planetarium show screening. Theatre programs and exhibits are aligned with state science standards.
- **SeaWorld San Diego** has agreed to provide two field trips.
- **San Diego Harbor Excursion** has agreed to fund one bus per month for one year and provide harbor excursion and whale watching tours.
- **San Diego Natural History Museum** has agreed to provide one field trip experience per month for one school year. Forty-five minute docent-guided tours will be provided; following the tour, students will be permitted to tour the museum.
- **San Diego Padres** has agreed to provide four tours per school year and will fund the four buses for student transportation to Petco Park.
- **San Diego Zoo** has agreed to provide one tour per month.
- **USA Federal Credit Union** has donated \$500 to cover transportation costs.
- **USS Midway** has agreed to provide one tour, per month, for one year through a grant from Southwest Marine. Fourth grade students participate in a two-hour program about electricity and magnetism that is aligned with state science standards. Students eat on board and tour the aircraft carrier.

Donations to support the “Catch a Rising Star” program are tax deductible (make checks payable to the San Diego Ed Fund). If you are interested in contributing, please contact Melissa Mabe in the Board Office at (619) 728-5550.

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## **TEDDY BEAR DRIVE RESULTS ARE IN DRIVE SMASHES PAST RECORDS**

Each year, county law enforcement groups take turns planning and organizing the Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive campaign, which collects stuffed animals and monetary donations to benefit patients at Children's Hospital and Health Center. This year's drive, led by San Diego City Schools Police, officially ended 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. This year, the drive set a record for the most stuffed animals collected in the 15-year history of the program: 66,679. This represents more than 15,000 over the program's goal, and more than 29,000 collected over last year's drive.

"A bear can make a difference to a child awaiting or recovering from medical treatment and help in the healing process," said Mike Marquez, the SDCS Police sergeant who spearheaded this year's drive. "It's great that we were able to collect so many."

Of the nearly 66,000 stuffed animals, 14,000 were donated by San Diego City Schools students, staff, and community supporters; an amazing 10,000 more than last year. This increase is due in part to a strategy designed 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.

Standley Middle School brought in the most bears overall, with a total of 1,014 donations. Next was Scripps Ranch High with 910 and Oak Park Elementary with 864. Other top donors were Mission Bay High (250), Jackson Elementary (184), and Mira Mesa High (133).

On the morning of December 13, 2005, representatives of law enforcement agencies from across the county gathered at the Balboa Park Club for a catered breakfast compliments of Sycuan Casino. Speakers including Board of Education President Luis Acle discussed the importance of the stuffed animals collected during the Teddy Bear Drive, particularly during the holidays, to the young patients at Children's Hospital and Health Center.

"Some of the patients in Children's Hospital are, in all likelihood, SDCS students," said Acle. "These stuffed animals give comfort, enliven the spirits and give happiness to children who must spend time away from their homes and families."

After the breakfast, officers mounted motorcycles and manned police cars, while SDCS Transportation bus drivers got behind the wheels of school buses filled with stuffed animals. The motorcade wound its way through Balboa Park and headed north on Highway 163 to Children's Hospital with lights flashing as media helicopters flew overhead to capture the sight.

Once at the hospital, officers and volunteers piled the stuffed animals into a large pyramid outside the front entrance. In a brief press conference, Children's Hospital officials thanked the law enforcement officers, and the San Diego community, for their support of the hospital and its patients. The officers and hospital staff- joined by several players from the Chargers- then set out to distribute the bears, some of which were larger than the patients.

Before heading off to deliver stuffed animals, SDCS Sergeant Marquez reflected on all the planning involved in the Teddy Bear Drive.

“Everyone put in so much work to make this happen—making donations, getting sponsors, picking up and delivering the bears. Today, we get to see what it’s all about. The look on a child’s face when given a bear is priceless.”

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### **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS HELPS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH HOLIDAY HOPE DRIVE**

On the Friday before Winter Break, about 100 of our students and their families received a special gift from Maintenance & Operations (M&O) employees – a full and festive holiday dinner with all the trimmings.

As part of the second annual M&O Holiday Hope Drive, 75 Maintenance & Operations employees joined the "food basket assembly line" to stuff 100 baskets with ham, turkey, dinner rolls, potatoes, corn, fruit, pumpkin pie, mixed nuts and more. The food baskets were delivered later in the day to 100 of our neediest students’ families. Each employee donated a couple hours of vacation time to participate in the activity.

The "Holiday Hope Drive" concept was originally spearheaded by the Maintenance Construction Program in 2004, but now M&O employees from all areas of the department are embracing the event as a holiday tradition. Martin Perez, construction crew leader, and others contact schools in advance to identify students’ families in need. Principals, counselors or Parent Academic Liaisons (PALs) in turn contact families ahead of time to get approval and coordinate delivery.

This year's event nearly tripled in size compared to the inaugural event in 2004. Employees raised \$4,000 this year (compared to \$1,500 last year). The funds help pay for the food supplies. Jesse Macias, maintenance construction supervisor, anticipates the event's popularity will keep growing each year.

This year's event even garnered media attention. KUSI (Channel 9/51) Reporter Rafer Weigel visited the M&O crew at 6 a.m. as employees stuffed food baskets. Employees were overheard saying, "It's a great feeling to know we helped 100 families have at least one really good meal this holiday."

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### **FOOD SERVICES TO HELP STUDENTS “CATCH THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT”**

In February, the eyes and ears of the world will be on the athletes who meet in friendly competition at the Olympic Winter Games taking place in Torino, Italy. The Food Services Department has partnered with the United States Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista to bring the message of the Olympic Games to our students. Our district’s elementary teachers and students are invited to “Catch the Olympic Spirit” by bringing the Olympic games into the classroom.

The classroom who best demonstrates the Olympic Spirit will win a special tour of the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista along with an Olympic Assembly for their school. The assembly will include an Olympic athlete and the Olympic Training Center Nutritionist.

Teachers can “Catch the Olympic Spirit” and bring the Olympics into the classroom in a number of ways. Curriculum guide activities and lessons developed by the U.S. Olympic Committee are available for Grades K-3 and 4-6. To receive Olympic Experience classroom packets, or to ask questions about this contest, email Joanne Tucker at [jtucker@sandi.net](mailto:jtucker@sandi.net). Include your grade level and school. A “Catch the Olympic Spirit” flyer sent to every elementary teacher gives complete contest entry details and ideas for classroom activities.

During the week of February 14-17, a special Olympic Spirit Menu will be featured in each Kid’s Choice Café to show the importance of healthy eating. Encourage students to eat at their school’s “Olympic Training Table,” the Kid’s Choice Café salad bar.

The Olympic Training Center houses and trains athletes for a variety of Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic events. It is one of only three Olympic Training Centers in the U.S. San Diego is fortunate to have this high caliber training center in our midst. The Center’s willingness to share its facility and athletes with this partnership is greatly appreciated.



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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### **Board of Education Election Results**

At the December 13, 2005, Board of Education meeting, the board voted 3-2 to re-elect Luis Acle as president of the Board of Education. The board voted 3-2 to re-elect Mitz Lee as vice president of the Board of Education. Their terms are effective for the period December 14, 2005 through December 12, 2006.

### **SDCS Office of Resource Development (ORD) Identifies Grant Opportunities for K-12 Public Education**

The Office of Resource Development (ORD) researches and identifies educational grants and other funding opportunities available for K-12 public education in an effort to secure outside/private funding for programs and projects that enhance student achievement and support teachers in the classroom. Adhering to district procedures ensures that funds awarded to the district are appropriate for use with district programs and projects. To learn about current grant opportunities and other available resources, visit the department’s webpage at <http://www.sandi.net/depts/grants/index.htm> or call (619) 725-7564.

### **Winter Sports All-Academic Prep Team Deadline**

*The San Diego Union Tribune* and the San Diego County Office of Education are again co-sponsoring the All-Academic Prep Team, which recognizes outstanding high school student-athletes for their **cumulative** grade-point averages. The deadline for submitting names for Winter Sports is Friday, January 27. Eligible student-athletes include juniors and seniors from varsity teams with cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or better, as determined by their most recent grading period. Only varsity athletes are eligible. Cheerleaders are not eligible. For more information and/or to obtain an entry form, contact Leana Rush at (619) 293-1354 or email [leana.rush@uniontrib.com](mailto:leana.rush@uniontrib.com).

### **Volunteer San Diego's Youth Leadership Conference – Student Applicants Needed**

Volunteer San Diego's annual Youth Leadership Conference, formerly known as the SAVY Youth Leadership Conference, will be held on Tuesday, February 28, from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Joan Kroc Peace and Justice Center at the University of San Diego. The conference is geared to ignite and enhance the leadership qualities in San Diego's young people. San Diego County students currently enrolled in grades 8-12 are eligible to apply to attend the conference.

Applicants must submit a written application, a letter of recommendation and commit to attending the entire day in order to be eligible for acceptance. (Students/schools provide their own transportation.) Through a partnership with SDCS Community Relations Department, there will be no registration fee for the first 100 SDCS students who apply. A \$15 registration fee is required for all other students who wish to attend. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, January 31. For more information, call Joy Jankowiak at (858) 636-4124, email [jjankowiak@volunteersandiego.org](mailto:jjankowiak@volunteersandiego.org) or visit the website <http://www.volunteersandiego.org>.

### **iVIE Student and Teacher Film Festival**

The iVIE (Innovative Video in Education) Student and Teacher Film Festival and Awards Ceremony is celebrating five years of showcasing student and teacher achievement in video production. Open to all students and teachers in San Diego County, the iVIE program is sponsored by the San Diego County Office of Education in partnership with sponsors including Sony, Apple, Pinnacle, and the San Diego Computer Using Educators (CUE). The 2006 iVIE rules, categories, and resources are available on the iVIE website at <http://www.ivieawards.org>. There will be special recognition this year for novice entries. All 2006 submissions are due on Monday, April 3, by 5 p.m.

### **Recycling Program Update**

The Recycling Program of SDCS has created new activities for the Planet Protector Clubs. Planet Protectors Clubs are and, can be set up, at elementary schools to help with recycling, energy and water conservation at the school. Activities are geared for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade levels. Planet Protectors assist with collection and education. Members receive jackets, fun activities and prizes for participating, at no cost to the school. Call the Recycling Program at (858) 627-7376 or email Andrea Eaton at [acalbow@sandi.net](mailto:acalbow@sandi.net) to get activity materials or more information about starting a club at your school.

### **Support P.E./Health/Athletics, Attend the 2006 Buick Invitational**

As a fundraiser, the district's P.E./Health/Athletics Department is selling tickets to the 2006 Buick Invitational PGA Golf Tournament, taking place January 23-29, 2006, at Torrey Pines Golf Course. Tickets are currently being sold for \$15 and will be available for purchase until January 22, 2006. For more information, call (619) 725-7126.

### **Next Race/Human Relations & Advocacy Diversity Workshop**

The San Diego City Schools Race/Human Relations & Advocacy Department is continuing its series of monthly workshops for administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses and other interested staff on "Building Positive Relationships with Students of Color." Contemporary topics applicable to urban school settings are being offered in the workshops, which include presentations from Race/Human Relations & Advocacy Staff and experts in the various topics.

Workshops being offered in February are:

- Tuesday, February 7, 3 – 4 p.m. at the Malcolm X. Library — Closing the Achievement Gap Discussion regarding challenges and barriers to teaching and learning.
- Thursday, February 9, 3 – 4 p.m. at Serra High School —

Building Community Relations Discussion regarding parent involvement and community resources.

RSVP by January 31, 2006, to Race/Human Relations & Advocacy at (858) 490-8678.

Future workshop topics include Peer Mediation; Biases and Stereotypes; African American Females/Males; Latina Females/Latino Males; Gangs, Schools and Communities; and Immigrant Populations.

### **Emerging Technologies Workshop**

The Educational Technology Department is presenting a series of monthly workshops to provide an overview of and resource for some of the latest technologies. The next workshop is:

- Wednesday, February 15, 4 – 6 p.m. at the Center for Technology, Montgomery Middle School, 2470 Ulric, Room 305  
How to Make a Podcast This workshop will give an overview of Podcasting, demonstrate Podcasting software, and provide ideas for student projects, assignments, and other educational uses.

To register for the workshop, go to <http://edtech.sandi.net/prodev/emergingtech/index.html>

Upcoming workshop topics are Blogging in Education, Create an Educational Online Learning Community using Moodle and Wikis.

### **New Discover Course Explores Online Resources**

A new course, "Professional Tools: Online Resources." is being offered by the district's Discover Program. The class will explore the electronic online resources available to you and your students in the district's Online Resources Package. This hands-on research process will teach you how to access, evaluate, discard, select and use information from multiple sources. The one-credit course will be held Thursdays, February 23 through March 23, from 4-7 p.m. at the IMC Horizon Lab. For more information or to register, go to the Discover web page at <http://216.122.44.192/sandinetcdiscover/>. For questions about the course, call Martha Karanopoulos at (858) 496-8439.

### **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 four to ten-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 closes March 18. For additional information, call New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center (619) 515 0403.

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## **HALL OF FAME**

**Shirley Wilson**, principal of Oak Park Elementary School, was recently selected the new Basileus (President) of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Delta Upsilon Chapter of San Diego. Phi Delta Kappa is a sorority of educational professionals with a mission to: Stimulate professional growth among educators, foster true sisterhood, promote the highest ideas of the teaching profession and encourage the development of the fullest potential of our youth and adults.

**Dr. Susan Weinshanker**, chemistry teacher and science department chairperson at Mission Bay High School, has been nominated for the 2006 Disney Teacher Award. A former student

nominated Weinshanker. The student had received recognition in the Science Fair program at the site, district, county and international level as a result of Weinshanker's encouragement and support. 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.

On November 19, 2005, the Urban League of San Diego County Young Professionals group selected **Vince Riveroll**, director of Gompers Charter Middle School, as the recipient of a 2005 "Urban Leaders Under Forty" Award in the category of education. The award honors the achievements of businessmen and women in several categories who are working hard to improve the community.

**Silver Gate Elementary** received the Best Entry award for elementary and middle schools at the Ocean Beach Holiday Parade held on December 3, 2005. The nighttime holiday parade features a variety of floats and marching bands. Silver Gate's entry included a Christmas tree, Santa in his sled and students dressed-up in costumes.

Best Buy Co., Inc. has presented **Kumeyaay Elementary** with a 2006 Best Buy **te@ch** award, worth \$15,000, for demonstrating innovative use of technology to improve students' classroom experience. As a result, the district has been invited to apply for a \$250,000 **te@ch** award that will be announced in late summer 2006. Kumeyaay's grant application was selected from a pool of more than 7,000 applications.

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## SALUTE TO STUDENTS

Three district students were selected as winners in the California Young Playwrights Contest. Playwrights Project in Plays by Young Writers at The Old Globe from January 13-22, will present their winning scripts. **Julianne Athon**, University City High School, and **Emily Bookstein**, La Jolla High School, will receive full productions of their scripts, *Tripping* and *Spanish Rhapsody*, respectively. **Stephen Whiting**, High Tech Middle School, will see *Joe the Tomato* performed as a reading, the highest honor given to entrants under age 14. All three writers began their scripts during playwriting sessions in their schools. Once they learned that their scripts had won the contest, the writers revised their entries with guidance from theatre professionals.

On December 8, 2005, the Walter J. Porter Educational & Community Foundation honored two SDCS students. Porter Elementary students **Jonathan Franco**, fifth grade, and **Tanya Benitez**, sixth grade, were recognized for their commitment and dedication to leadership.

**Elizabeth Lapensee**, a third grader at Balboa Elementary, was one of the first-place winners in the Wells Fargo Youth Poetry and Art Tribute contest for her essay on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elizabeth received the award on Friday, January 13, at the 21st annual YMCA of San Diego County Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley.

Farb Middle School seventh grader **Christian Lardie** was honored by the Allied Gardens Optimist Club of San Diego at its 35<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Appreciation Week celebration in November. Christian was one of 12 middle and high school students from the San Diego area recognized for "upholding the dignity of youth, for showing sincere devotion to the welfare of others, and for generous and unselfish contributions to society." Christian was honored for his high academic achievement, his outstanding citizenship, and his contributions to his community. Christian is in

Honors and gifted classes, participates in the Band and in ASB, and is active in Boy Scout Troop 970.

A drawing by **Tristan Riersman**, a third grader at Holmes Elementary, was selected by San Diego National Bank for the cover of its holiday card. Tristan's design was selected from more than 1,700 entries submitted by 2005/2006 third grade classes from twenty schools in San Diego County.

**Miranda Rutherford**, a seventh grader at Marshall Middle School, recently won an international poetry competition sponsored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Her poem "The Black Bird" was selected for the prize from hundreds of entries, and was published in the BBC's online "Onion Street" forum for teens. Miranda's accomplishments led her to be featured by Girls Inc., that promotes girls' leadership and achievement. An interview with her was presented on the "Girls Inc. Online" website.

**Tyler Sinks**, Point Loma High School, has been named the recipient of the 2005 Paul J. Hartley award by the San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC). The award symbolizes the San Diego Area Junior Yachtsman of the Year. Sinks received his award for excellence in competition, service to the community and efforts to advance junior sailing programs. Sinks won the Club 420 North American Championship in 2005 and was skipper for the three-time national champion Point Loma High School sailing team.

Twenty-eight **Point Loma High School** vocational students received multiple awards at the Southern California International Economics Summit held on December 8, 2005, at the University of Southern California (USC). The summit tested more than 400 students from the region on their knowledge of international trade and economics. Four Point Loma seniors placed in the tenth percentile, while the group as a whole took home the competition's highest.

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## SCENES FROM SCHOOLS

After months of rehearsing their roles, **Dingeman Elementary** students in Rooms B10 and B25, along with their teachers, Mrs. Schwartz and Mr. Saguil, were proud and excited to present their production of "Cinderella's Glass Slipper". On Wednesday, December 14, 2005, the talented 4th and 5th grade students treated students, families, and invited guests to several performances. "Cinderella's Glass Slipper" is based on the book by Vera Morris. Music and lyrics are by Bill Francoeur.

Two 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from the **School of Business at the San Diego High Educational Complex**, along with their physics teacher Vence Donlan, recently took a field trip to the U.S.S. Midway Museum. Donlan is a former Navy pilot/officer who had more than 200 "traps" on the deck of the Midway before it was decommissioned. The field trip was centered on learning about the physics involved in the catapult/retire systems aboard the carrier, and helped the students to contextualize the practical applications of Newton's Laws. According to School of Business Principal Joe Austin, "The school is in the midst of developing a Partnership in Education with the U.S.S. Midway Museum. This was the first of many field trips aboard the carrier."

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## SAVE THE DATE

The Board of Education and the superintendent 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 Board meeting at 4 p.m. For information, contact Linda Zintz at (619) 725-5568 or email [lzintz@sandi.net](mailto:lzintz@sandi.net).

A **Retirement Celebration for Tom Yount**, principal at Mission Bay High School, will be held on Thursday, February 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bali Hai Shelter Island Restaurant, 2230 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, (619) 222-1181. To R.S.V.P. or make a donation to his gift, please call Jennie Minor at (858) 273-1313 ext. 124 or email [jminor1@sandi.net](mailto:jminor1@sandi.net).

On Saturday, February 4, from 4 – 7 p.m., de Portola Middle School will hold its **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**. The entire community and alumni are invited to attend this event that will be held at the school located at 11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd in Tierrasanta. Through the generous support of Time Warner, this fun-filled evening will feature food, musical entertainment by DJ Billy Fallon, and a “walk down memory lane.” De Portola’s former Teachers of the Year will attend as well as video yearbooks and slide shows featuring scenes from years gone by! On site Tierrasanta Girl Scout Troop #3108 will provide childcare for this event. For information, contact Yvonne Walden at (619) 286-7700, ext. 216 or [ywalden@sandi.net](mailto:ywalden@sandi.net).

The Administrators Association of San Diego City Schools (AASD) will be hosting its **Annual Community Leaders Celebration** on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 a.m. at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in Mission Valley. Guest speaker, Superintendent Carl Cohn, will address the topic: “Our Plan” to Move San Diego City Schools Forward. Cost is \$26.00/person, which includes breakfast and validated parking. Contact Linda Crout-Hamel, AASD office manager, at (619) 295-2118 or via e-mail at [linda@aadcs.org](mailto:linda@aadcs.org) for a registration form or additional information.

Parent Voices for Education (PAVE) will be hosting an educational forum on Wednesday, February 1, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Harold J. Ballard Center, 2375 Congress Street in Old Town. The topic is **What Does It Take to Educate a Child Well?** and will be presented by Dr. Carl Cohn, SDCS superintendent; Geno Flores, SDCS deputy superintendent; and Dr. Joseph Johnson, director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation at SDSU. A “meet and greet” reception for Superintendent Cohn will take place prior to the presentation from 6:15 – 6:30 p.m. Childcare, Spanish translation and refreshments will be provided. Seating is limited. RVSP by Friday, January 27, to [paveparents@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paveparents@sbcglobal.net).

The Employability Counseling Services Department is holding its **Resource Fair 2006** on Tuesday, February 28, 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

**Thomas Craghead**, whose service with the district began July 1976, died on December 20, 2005. He was a custodian at Kearny High School at the time of his retirement. He is survived by his wife.

**Ann Earlywine**, whose service with the district began September 1958, died on October 28, 2005. She was a teacher at Sunset View Elementary School at the time of her retirement. She is survived by her daughter.

**Alice Hooper**, whose service with the district began in September 1980, died on September 15, 2005. She was a teacher at Lafayette Elementary School at the time of her retirement. She is survived by her daughter.

**Kathy Kiniry**, whose service with the district began in February 1979, died on December 11, 2005. She was a Speech-Language Pathologist at Jefferson Elementary at the time of her death. She will be greatly missed by her students and her many colleagues.

**James C. Smith**, whose service with the district began September 1962, died on September 14, 2005. He was a teacher at Mann Middle School at the time of his retirement. He is survived by his wife.

# # #

## CLASSIFIEDS

### For Rent

4br Del Cerro home, quiet cul-de-sac. New carpet, paint, refinished hardwood floors. \$2475/month. Mark (619) 246-6969

Master suite, Sabre Springs. Nice, quiet, laundry, pool/Jacuzzi. \$750 + utilities/ deposit. Professional male/female to share. No pets/smokers. Kerri (858) 490-8418.

### For Sale

Oak entertainment center, one piece, 3 "sections," like new, on wheels, H=6' x W=5' x D=17". \$95. (619) 442-3118

White pick-up (Dodge Dakota size) camper shell. \$850 or offer. (619) 206-7006

1999 Ford Contour, 93K miles, good maintenance and condition. Courtney (760) 310-1427

Baby Grand Piano, Brambach, built 1928, recently tuned, good condition, antiqued paint, needs work. (858) 359-3457.

Greenwood Memorial Park, one beautiful plot in "Evergreen", lot 766. Make offer (retail \$5,500). (619) 562-0382.

Home audio/music studio liquidation; sold by piece or complete. Great deals! Call for details. (619) 993-0991.

Nearly new couch, love seat, large arm chair and ottoman. \$600. Call Mina at (619) 470-9060

### Free

Balance Beam. Call Marcy Millar at Challenger Middle School, (858) 586-7001 ext. 2261 between 6:30am-2:30pm.

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