



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Staff Bulletin

February 17, 2006

MINORITY FIRMS AND ALUMNI TAKE PRIDE IN REBUILDING LINCOLN HIGH

As you drive by the construction site of what will be the new Lincoln High School, you will see an amazing transformation taking place. Steel is going up, buildings are taking shape, and more than 100 construction personnel are hard at work on the sprawling 24-acre site.

An even larger transformation is taking place, however, than just the construction of a high school. Many of the workers are Lincoln alumni who wanted to have a hand in rebuilding their alma mater. An unprecedented number – two-thirds – of those working on the project are minorities. Women are also playing an important role in the management of the project.

Barnhart Construction, the general contractor, and Black IPO, a local minority-owned firm, forged a unique relationship with the goal of recruiting minority workers and minority-owned businesses to help on the Lincoln project. Other minority firms are also partners in the project, including Black Contractors Association, owned by Lincoln alum Rickey Laster, and Multicultural Contractors Group, owned by Lincoln alum Abdur-Rahim Hameed.

The partnership has resulted in unique apprenticeship and journeyman programs that are allowing laborers to build careers in the construction industry, using the Lincoln project as their launching pad. The effort is being lauded as a model and is gaining attention regionally and nationally.

Overall, the Proposition MM program has yielded impressive business outreach statistics. Since its inception, about 38 percent of construction dollars have gone to small businesses and firms owned by minorities, women and disabled veterans.

The San Diego Union-Tribune recently printed an article about the business outreach program at Lincoln High School. The article profiled several Lincoln alumni who are working on the construction site. To read the article, go to www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20060101/news_1m1lincoln.html.

Opening of Lincoln High School delayed by one year

The new Lincoln High School will open its doors in September 2007, one year later than originally anticipated. The project faced construction delays in early 2005 due to a record-breaking rainy season and the bankruptcy of Turnkey, the classroom building contractor. Despite the setbacks and tight schedule, the district worked toward opening two small schools in September 2006 and two small schools in September 2007. However, Hurricane Katrina resulted in a delay of steel delivery in September 2005. District staff worked closely with the contractor to restore the schedule through increased workforce, acceleration and resequencing of construction activities but by January 2006, it was determined that the schedule could not be recovered. The school will be completed in early 2007, and the first day of school is scheduled for September 4, 2007.

“The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.”

The new Lincoln High School, at 323,196 square feet, will feature four comprehensive high schools on 24.4 acres. Campus features include 77 general classrooms, an arts complex, library, 16 science classrooms and eight science prep rooms, seven technology classrooms, a Career Center, a 790-seat auditorium, 376 onsite parking spaces and more. Athletic facilities include locker rooms, weight room, adaptive PE room, two gymnasiums, baseball fields, track, football field, press box and concession stands. The building materials and colors were selected in consideration of the school's colors of green-and-white and include roofs striped with green and light green standing seam metal.

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STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Youthful energy and enthusiasm filled the chilly air at the Education Center on Tuesday, January 23. On that day, the San Diego City Schools Board of Education recognized more than 600 students from across the district for their outstanding achievements at the semi-annual Student Recognition Awards Ceremony. More than 180 students representing two elementary schools, eight middle schools and 11 high schools attended the ceremony. The students were selected by their schools and were recognized for excellence in a variety of competitions and contests. They were celebrated for diverse and enriching endeavors including: fine arts, language, and writing contests; competitive debates; scholarship contests; musical performances; robotics; and athletic, cheerleading, color guard, and JROTC competitions. Parents, principals, teachers, counselors and other district staff joined the Board of Education in honoring the students.

The next Student Recognition Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006. Keep an eye out for the information to be released in March for the opportunity to recognize outstanding student achievement at your schools. For additional information, contact Linda Zintz, coordinator, at (619) 725-5568 or lzintz@sandi.net.

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FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926. Initially known as "Negro History Week," it was extended to a month-long celebration known as "Black History Month" in 1976. This celebration provides the opportunity to emphasize the history and achievements of African Americans.

The celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, is credited to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age 20. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Each year, the San Diego City Schools Board of Education recognizes February as Black History Month with a formal resolution. School sites and district staff are encouraged to mark the event in ways that best match the needs of their school and community. Resources are available to staff at the newly created web page at <http://www.sandi.net/events/blackhistorymonth/>.

February 6 – 10 is National School Counseling Week

Have you thanked a school counselor lately? If not, there is no better time than today. The Board of Education recognized February 6-10 as National School Counseling Week but our school counselors help change lives and build promising futures on a daily basis. They help students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development. Their efforts help ensure today's students become tomorrow's productive, well-adjusted adults. Incorporating leadership, advocacy and collaboration, professional school counselors promote equity and access to opportunities and rigorous educational experiences for all students. Take the time to let your counselor know how much he/she is appreciated as a vital member of the education team at your school site. For more information about Counseling and Guidance Department services, go to <http://www.sandi.net/depts/counseling/index.html>.

February 13 Designated National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)

National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) was observed on Monday, February 13. NAAPID is a national call to action to get parents, particularly those of children of African American descent, more involved in their educational lives. The purpose of this national observation is to open dialogue among teachers, parents, and students, which will lead to a more conducive learning environment for African American students from kindergarten through college. This initiative was founded in 1995 by Principal Joseph Dulin. He conceived the idea after accepting the challenge made at the Million Man March. The men were encouraged to return to their individual homes and community and do more to build, involve and increase their commitments to improving quality of life for the African American community, in particular.

Held on the second Monday in February (during Black History month), the focus of the day is primarily on African Americans but the purpose and intent of NAAPID is to be inclusive of all parents. According to Dulin, "Every parent wants their child to have a better quality of life than they themselves have had. It is the American dream, and for many African-Americans, this dream has not been realized as a result of their child's failure in school. Education is the key to success and parents are educators' greatest allies."

At the January 24 SDCS Board Meeting, the board members passed and adopted the Resolution recognizing February 13, 2006 as National African American Parent Involvement Day. For information about NAAPID, visit the website at www.naapid.org.

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Enrollment Options - Priority Application Deadline Date is March 15

With the March 15th priority application deadline date rapidly approaching, to say that the Office of Enrollment Options is busy would be an understatement. The office is currently assisting 200 walk-in parents a week, fielding 6,000 telephone calls a month and processing thousands of Enrollment Options applications from parents and students interested in educational experiences outside of their neighborhood school. According to Sandy Robles, enrollment options manager, "This is our busiest

time, along with the opening of school. Everyone in the office is working really hard. We are expecting to receive the same number of applications as last year.”

The Office of Enrollment Options oversees four of the programs available to students who reside within district boundaries and wish to attend a school other than their neighborhood school. The programs include the Magnet Program, Voluntary Ethnic Enrollment Program (VEEP), Program Improvement School Choice (PISC) and School Choice. Each of the programs requires that a parent/guardian submit an Enrollment Options Application. Applications received between October 1 and March 15 are considered priority and are offered enrollment before all later applications.

Magnet school programs have goals and characteristics that make them distinctive from other district programs. They offer special learning opportunities for all students attending the school. In integrated settings, magnet schools use particular subject themes – science, humanities, art, music, performing arts and second language acquisition—to significantly enhance student learning. In addition to implementing all required state and district standards, each magnet program receives additional resources that allow it to provide specialized themes, learning materials and equipment, staff, and much more. The district currently has 14 elementary magnet school programs, four atypical programs and 13 secondary magnet school programs, including the small schools at the San Diego High and Kearny High Educational Complexes.

The Voluntary Ethnic Enrollment Program (VEEP) is an integration program that encourages students from communities with diverse ethnic compositions to attend schools outside their neighborhood schools. Schools with predominantly White student enrollments are “paired” with schools having predominately non-White student enrollments in order to achieve a student body diversity that more closely reflects the composition of the district and the San Diego community. VEEP is open to all students residing within a specific boundary having an approved VEEP pattern.

The Program Improvement School Choice (PISC) program was implemented after the passage of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. It is available for SDCS students attending a school that has not met one of its identified achievement targets for two years in a row. The PISC option is limited to designated schools.

The Choice program provides students with the opportunity to attend a school other than their neighborhood school. Students may apply to any school within the district with the exception of magnet schools. Enrollment through Choice is on a space available basis and may be limited due to recent legislation that requires students from Program Improvement schools to be enrolled first. Additionally, some school may be unable to enroll Choice applicants due to capacity limits and demands from other programs.

Students may apply to more than one program. More than 19,000 students applied for the 2005-06 school year – 25,114 magnet applications, 12,436 VEEP applications, 9,099 PISC applications and 15,233 Choice applications. More than 8,000 new students were enrolled from the applicant list in the four programs. Other enrollment options, such as Charter, Alternative and Home Study, do not require an application from the Office of Enrollment Options. Parents and students interested in one of these programs should contact the school directly to obtain specific enrollment requirements.

Complete information and application forms are available from the Office of Enrollment Options website at <http://enrollmentoptions.sandi.net/>.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

District Email and Internet Usage

To enhance communication and access to information, San Diego City Schools provides email and internet access to employees. Employees should remember that the use of the district email and internet should be limited to district business. Important notices are routinely sent via email to employees on a regular basis. Employees should check email at least once a day for information coming from the Central Office, schools, or parents. For additional information about the district's policy on staff use of email and the internet, review Administrative Procedure 7039 at <http://www.sandi.net/policy/pdf/pp7039.pdf>.

Classified Employee of the Year and Classified School Employee's Week

At a special meeting on Tuesday, May 16, the Board of Education will present the 23rd Annual Classified Employee of the Year Awards to an outstanding man and woman. A nominee for the award must be a classified employee with at least three years of service in a monthly position, and must have demonstrated extraordinary service, involvement, and accomplishments through his/her employment with the district as well as involvement in the community. If you know of a classified employee who is deserving of this special award, please submit his or her name using the nomination petition found at <http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/0506/ac066.pdf>. Please send or hand-deliver completed petitions in a sealed envelope to: Gloria Rangel, Education Center, Room 1241, no later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 3. Incomplete petitions and those received after the deadline will not be considered.

In conjunction with the presentation of the Classified Employees of the Year awards, the Board of Education will adopt a Resolution recognizing May 14-20, 2006, as Classified School Employees' Week. To honor the district's classified employees, the board has requested that a classified employee be selected from each school/work site to also be recognized at the May 16 meeting. Please use the selection form at <http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/0506/ac065.pdf> to submit the name of your site's classified representative. Please send or hand-deliver completed forms in a sealed envelope to: Gloria Rangel, Education Center, Room 1241, no later than 5 p.m. Friday, April 14. For more information, contact Gloria Rangel at (619) 725-8172 or grangel@sandi.net.

CSET Prep Courses for Teachers

The Teacher Preparation and Student Support Division is offering a California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) Prep Course to prepare educators for the March 18, 2006 CSET. The courses will be held at Kearny High School, 7651 Wellington Way, Linda Vista, 92111. Passing the CSET qualifies educators to become compliant with the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and its "highly qualified teacher" requirement. Courses are available in Single Subject English, Single Subject Science (Chemistry/ Physics/ Biology), Single Subject Mathematics, and Multiple Subjects, with an optional book available for purchase for \$20. The course schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, February 23, from 4:30-8:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays, February 28, March 7 and 14, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursdays, March 2 and 9, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 16, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Multiple Subjects and Science only)

Courses are free for SDCS employees and \$60 for others (checks only). Registration is due no later than 5 p.m., on Tuesday, February 21. For more information, call Gail at (858) 539-5330.

National Board Certification Informational Meetings

The Teacher Preparation and Student Support Division has scheduled information meetings and orientations regarding the process for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. All meetings will be held at the Instructional Media Center (IMC), Building G, 2441 Cardinal Lane, San Diego, 92123. Interested individuals should plan to attend one information meeting and one orientation meeting. Meetings schedules are:

- Information Meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 15 and Tuesdays, February 21, March 7, and March 14, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Orientation Meetings will be held on Saturdays, April 29, May 13, and September 16, from 8 a.m. to noon.

To register or for more information, contact Velvet Wright at (858) 496-1882 or vwright@sandi.net.

New Discover Class

Professional Tools: Online Resources is a five-week course being offered at the Instructional Media Center (IMC). The course will introduce attendees to the electronic educational resources available to teachers and students. This research process will teach how to access, evaluate, discard, select and use information from multiple sources. It is a great opportunity to learn how to develop the skills and understanding needed to find, process, and use information effectively. The course will meet Thursdays, February 23 - March 23, from 4-7 p.m. Registration fee is \$15. For more information or to register for the class, visit the Discover web page at <http://216.122.44.192/SandiNet/Discover>.

Association of African American Educators (AAAE) 15th Annual Conference

The Association of African American Educators (AAAE) will hold its 15th Annual AAEE Conference on Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1, at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel, 8757 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, 92108. This year's theme is "Educational Revival: Moving beyond Excuses." The focus for the conference is to challenge San Diego's educational community to confront the persistent issues facing our children and, more importantly, to empower ourselves to make meaningful changes. Keynote speakers include Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach and Dr. Noma LeMoine, director of programs for Standard English Learners for the Los Angeles Unified School District. The cost of the conference is \$150 for current AAEE members and \$175 for non-members, if registration and payment is received before March 10. Late registration is \$175 for members, \$200 for non-members. On-site registration on Friday, March 31 is \$225. For registration brochures, contact Vernon Moore at (619) 208- 0698 or moore@sandi.net or visit the AAEE website at <http://www.sdaaae.org/>.

SALSA (Save A Life Saturday Activities) Offers CPR Class

On Saturday, March 18, hundreds of instructors and volunteers will be available to teach CPR. The free, three-hour CPR training is being offered to the public by the San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross. All participants successfully completing the course will receive certification at no cost. The event will take place at Golden Hall at the San Diego Concourse, 202 C Street, Downtown San Diego, 92101. Classes start at 7 a.m. and continue every hour and a half until 1 p.m. Participants should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the session. Each session is 3 ½ hours long. New this year, the event will include training sessions for children ages 5-11. Children can participate in Basic Aid Training (basic first aid & safety information) and Whales Tales (how to be safe in, on and around water). For more information, visit www.sdarc.org.

U.S. Department of Education Call for Teacher Nominations

The U.S. Department of Education plans to again honor outstanding classroom teachers through the *American Stars of Teaching* program. The Department's Teacher-to-Teacher initiative is seeking nominations and information about teachers who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom, and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored this fall as *2006 American Stars of Teaching*. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an *American Star of Teaching*. One teacher will be recognized from each state. To learn more or nominate a teacher to become an *American Star of Teaching*, visit the Teacher-to-Teacher initiative web site at <http://www.teacherquality.us/TeacherToTeacher/AmericanStars.asp>. All nominations must be completed by Saturday, April 15.

San Diego City College Intensive Summer Spanish Language Program

San Diego City College is sponsoring its fourth intensive Spanish language program in Cuernavaca, Mexico from June 24 - July 22, 2006. Six levels of Spanish will be taught by on-site instructors and offered for college credit. Participants will live with Mexican host families and receive three daily meals. Excursions to Mexico City, Teotihuacan and Taxco are included. For information, contact Marion Froehlich, international education coordinator, San Diego City College at mfroehli@sdccd.edu or (619) 388-3652. Detailed program information can be found at www.sdcity.edu/studyabroad by clicking on the Mexico brochure link.

Yosemite National Institutes (YNI) Offers Field Science Education

Founded in 1971, the Yosemite National Institutes (YNI) has been a leader in environmental education in beautiful National Park settings, including Headlines Institute and Yosemite Institute in California. At each campus, YNI offers programs that incorporate three core education themes – Sense of Place, Interconnections and Stewardship – through fun, hands-on activities. The programs are customized to augment classroom lessons and support California State Education Content Standards. The California campuses are now offering Field Science Education during weekends and the summer months in addition to the traditional school year. Reservations for late spring and summer 2006 are currently being accepted. Financial assistance is available. For information, visit the website at www.yni.org.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is looking for qualified students for Academic Year 2006-2007 scholarships, which range from \$500 to \$10,000 annually. To qualify, the student must be the child of a Marine on active duty, in the Reserve, retired or deceased; the child of a Marine or Marine Reservist who has been honorably or medically discharged or killed in the service of our country; or the child of an active duty, reserve, or former US Navy Corpsman who is serving or has served with the US Marine Corps. Applicants can be a senior in high school, a high school graduate, an undergraduate at an accredited college or university, or enrolled in a post high school accredited vocational/technical school. Application submission deadline for graduating high school seniors is March 1. For all other students, the application submission deadline is April 15. To learn more and/or to download application forms, go to <http://www.mcsf.org>.

Immigration Stories Deadline Nears

The New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center (NAIMLC) is now accepting essays for its fourth annual essay competition, "Family Histories: Migrants to the United States Since 1945." Students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to apply before the deadline of March 18. This competition is open to students with a wide range of writing abilities and experience, and it is designed to work within the California Standards in Language Arts and History-Social Science. Applications, user guides, teacher aids and posters are available online at www.naimlc.org or by contacting the Museum at (619) 515-0403.

The San Diego Art Institute (SDAI) Offers Educational Program for Grades 1-8

The Museum of the Living Artist at the San Diego Institute of Art (SDAI) offers a self-guided tour for children in grades 1-8 called Art Box 2. The SDAI Art Box 2 program is designed as a self-guided exploration of exhibits where children discover the many elements found in art and that stimulate communication between children and adults. Children 12 and under are admitted free to the museum located in Balboa Park, 1439 El Prado, San Diego, 92101. For information, call (619) 236-0011.

Retreat Center

Young Life's Oakbridge in Ramona is a retreat center that can be used by public and private schools, churches, and non-profit organizations. The beautiful property, located half way between Ramona and Julian, has 150 acres and offers a junior Olympic size swimming pool, tennis, basketball, volleyball, a high elements ropes course, 25 foot rock wall, a large playing field, and a skateboard park. The center can accommodate up to 175 people in four comfortable cabins and the deluxe Ballena Valley Lodge.

Meals are served in a large, open dining room. The center has a big meeting room equipped with sound, video projection unit and a computer with PowerPoint. An example of a typical mid-week retreat would be 2 nights / 6 meals/ 1 free snack for \$92.60 per person. For more information, visit the website at www.oakbridge.younglife.org or call (760) 789-6980.

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HALL OF FAME

Patrick Henry High School nurse **Susan Efting, RN**, has been selected as the School Nurse of the Year 2005-06 for the San Diego/Imperial section of the California School Nurse's Organization (CSNO). Susan is being recognized for her numerous accomplishments, sincere dedication, tireless service, and commitment to prevention, support and education. Susan was honored at the local CSNO meeting in November 2005 and at the CSNO State Conference in February 2006.

The **Charter School of San Diego** was one of 17 companies and organizations to receive the prestigious 2005 California Awards for Performance Excellence (CAPE) from the California Council for Excellence (CCE). The award program, which emulates the Malcolm Baldrige National Award, recognizes companies and organizations that demonstrate continuous improvement and superior performance in several key business areas including leadership, customer focus, strategic planning, human resources, and business results. In addition to the Charter School of San Diego, top recipients include such industry standards as Boeing's Air Force Systems, Sharp Healthcare and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. The CAPE Award recipients will be honored at the 12th Annual CAPE ceremony to be held on Friday, April 7, at the Hyatt Regency Irvine.

On February 10, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced that **DePortola Middle School** has been designated as one of California's 2006 Schools to Watch—Taking Center Stage model middle schools. DePortola is the only San Diego County and one of only four California middle schools to receive this honor. The schools were selected as models because they have replicable practices in academic excellence, responsiveness to the developmental needs of young adolescents, fair and equitable education for all students, and organizational processes and procedures that foster and sustain academic growth. Formal recognition will be given at the annual California League of Middle Schools Conference in San Jose, March 9-12.

Martha Aranda from the Instructional Media Center (IMC) and **Gary Sanderson** from Dewey Elementary School were the January winners of the district's Recycling Office recycling contest. Each winner received two tickets to the Maritime Museum and a \$5.00 off coupon from Sammy's Woodfired Pizza. 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. Fill it in, print it out and put in the card in District mail, or fax it to Andrea Eaton at (858) 627-7414.

Best Buy has selected **Lindberg Schweitzer Elementary, Miramar Ranch Elementary, Wilson Middle**, and **Crawford Educational Complex-Multimedia & Visual Arts Schools** to receive a \$2,500 Best Buy te@ch Award. The Best Buy te@ch program recognizes schools and teachers who make learning fun by integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. Thousands of schools across the country applied, making the selection process highly competitive. In February, the schools will receive a package from Best Buy containing a Best Buy te@ch Gift Card for \$2,500, along with a PNY USB flash drive loaded with tools to help garner recognition for the school in the community. In January, it was announced that **Kumeyaay Elementary School** was selected from among the \$2,500 winners to receive a \$15,000 regional te@ch award.

A new book, *Challenging the Classroom Standard Through Museum-Based Education: School in the Park*, highlights an innovative program in San Diego City Schools that takes learning out of the traditional classroom for students at Rosa Parks Elementary School and into the outstanding educational institutions available in Balboa Park. The book presents the experiences of "School in the Park" from the perspective of different disciplines—oral language, reading, writing, social studies, math, science, and the arts to determine how students are learning content within the museums and the Zoo. Published in November 2005, the book is edited by Douglas Fisher, Ian Pumpian and **Susan Wachowiak**, "School in the Park" administrator at Rosa Parks Elementary. The book is available online at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.

On Saturday, February 4, several SDCS high school students and their drama teachers received top honors at DramaFest, sponsored by the Grossmont College theatre arts department. Students from ten high schools throughout the county participated in the competition. **Dennis Hollenbeck**, Madison High School director, **Bill Doyle**, School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) director, and **Beth Flesh**, Hoover High School director, along with their students, made the finals in the Scene and Monologue divisions. Madison High School students **Robyn Manion** and **Romy Remigio** received first place honors in the Scene division for "Prisoner of 2nd Avenue." Romy also tied for third place in the Monologue division. SCPA student **Dustin Evans** took top honors in the Monologue Division.

Madison High School Head Coach **Bob Bishop** was recently honored at the High School Sports Association's (HSSA) All-Star Recognition Program 2006. Bob was honored for his efforts in helping the further the education of young men and women through athletics.

Four students from **Morse High School's** newly formed Career Success Club and their advisor, School to Career Coordinator Doug Elliot, have been selected to attend a three-day, all expense paid Young Worker Leadership Academy at UCLA in February. Sponsors include the University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley, along with the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation and the State Compensation Insurance Fund. The California Center for Civic Participation, experts in the area of youth development and empowerment, will facilitate the Academies. Each Academy will bring together seven teams of high school-aged youth from seven communities in California. Participants will learn about how and why youth are injured at work, their rights on the job, and how youth can have an impact on public policy, at both the local and state level. As a first step, each team will plan a local action to promote teen worker safety during May 2006, "Safe Jobs for Youth" month.

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SCENES FROM SCHOOLS

When first grade student Colin Cretain's grandfather entered him in a contest to bring a Harlem Globetrotter to Colin's **Grant Elementary School** classroom, he could only hope he would win. Imagine the surprise when Colin's grandfather did win! On Tuesday, February 14, Globetrotter Anthony Blakes visited with Colin and his classmates. Blakes spent time talking with the children and demonstrated some of his amazing ball-handling moves. As a special treat, each child in the class received free tickets for his or her family to attend the Globetrotters game at the ipayOne Center later that week.

The First Tee National School Program trains physical educators to introduce the basics in golf skills to children. The curriculum is based on national physical education standards and emphasizes character-education through an introduction to The First Tee's Nine Core Values. On Saturday, January 21, 25 SDCS elementary physical education specialists gathered at **McKinley Elementary School** to attend the First Tee training in preparation for implementing the golf curriculum in February. Twenty SDCS elementary schools will participate in the program this year and 20 schools will participate next year. The district's participation is a direct result of our involvement in the Buick Invitational, Support Our Schools program and the PGA.

On Thursday, January 26, 50 deserving students from **Kimbrough Elementary School** went on a San Diego Harbor Excursion whale-watching expedition. The field trip was part of the "Catch a Rising Star" program. The students were joined by Board of Education Trustee John de Beck and *The San Diego Union-Tribune* Reporter Helen Gao. The program is the brainchild of de Beck and San Diego Harbor Excursion Company President George Palermo. "Catch a Rising Star" recognizes students for a variety of positive behaviors and achievements - improved attendance, grades, attitude and behavior- and rewards them with an educational field trip. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* ran article about the "Catch a Rising Star" program in the February 7 edition of the newspaper.

Students at **High Tech High**, in collaboration with the department of Conservation and Research of Endangered Species (CRES), San Diego Zoological Society, have successfully begun an innovative study of forensic conservation biology. The focus of the project is the identification of African bushmeat through a barcode-like process using DNA analysis. Bushmeat, a term used to refer to food obtained through the hunting of wild animal species, has become a serious area of concern for conservationists in the last five years. The illegal trade of bushmeat obtained from endangered animal species is considered to be seriously effecting the populations of these animals. The collaborative effort was developed by Oliver Ryder Ph.D., director of genetics for CRES, and Jay Vavra Ph.D., biotechnology teacher at High Tech High. Vavra's biotechnology students successfully extracted, isolated, amplified and sequenced DNA from dried meat samples. In collaboration with CRES genetics researchers, the students partially or completely sequenced the gene Cytochrome Oxidase I from each dried meat sample and were able to correctly align the sequences generated with existing genetic databases to determine the species of origin. The experimental work is also being supported by Invitrogen Corporation and the San Diego City Schools School-to-Career program. It is hoped is that this new innovation will be incorporated into efforts to stop illegal bushmeat trafficking undertaken through the Consortium for the Barcode of Life. For more information about High Tech High Biotechnology efforts, go to <http://hthbiotech.sandiegostc.org/>.

On Saturday, January 28, **Serra High School** physics students got up early to participate in the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot (MCRD) Command Museum's new education program. The students participated in two activities. Their first assignment was designed by their physics teacher and former Marine, Ted McColl. The students studied the physics of the artillery pieces in the museum's courtyard and the specific trajectories of bullets (which are in display cases) used by the Marine Corps throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In addition to their physics lesson, the students listened to a presentation on the history of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, and its significant impact on San Diego history.

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SALUTE TO STUDENTS

Sam Tall, a senior at the Crawford Educational Complex School of Community Health and Medical Practices (CHAMPs), was recently honored with the CHAMPs Outstanding Service award and the Plaque of Courage. During winter break, while jogging in his neighborhood, Sam encountered a woman who had collapsed on the sidewalk. As a result of his enrollment in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course at CHAMPs, Sam is CPR certified. He immediately assessed the situation and began to administer CPR to the woman while another bystander called 911. Paramedics arrived on the scene and transported the woman to a nearby hospital. Because of Sam's quick and courageous actions, the woman recovered. The woman, along with her family, expressed her gratitude to Sam "for caring enough to save my life."

Five 7th graders from Marston Middle School were winners in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1104 annual essay contest. This year's theme was "Who are Today's Patriots?" Receiving honorable mention for their entries were **Hannah Jackson** and **Jeanette Norton**. **Meleke Lizik** was awarded the

\$25 third place prize, **Becca Hovey** was awarded the \$50 second place prize and **Ryan Smith** was awarded the \$100 first place prize.

La Jolla High School seniors **Joseph Lin** and **Praveen Subramani** have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. This prestigious program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. Joseph and Praveen were chosen for academic achievement based on having scored a perfect 2400 on the SATs.

On Saturday, January 28, three SDCS high school students were awarded scholarships from the San Diego Chapter of the Links, Inc. **Arian Dyanat** and **Nancy Tran** from Hoover High School, along with **Christopher Khavarian** from The Preuss School, UCSD, will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be dispersed over four consecutive years of their college careers. The students were selected based on their academic achievement, community involvement and extracurricular activities. The San Diego Chapter of the Links, Inc. is a socially conscious organization that has served San Diego for 49 years in the areas of arts, youth service, national trends and services, and international trends and services.

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SAVE THE DATE

All SDCS employees (classified and certificated) are invited to attend the next “**Cookies with Carl**” on Wednesday, February 22, from 4 -6 p.m., at Bethune Elementary School, 6835 Benjamin Holt Road, San Diego, 92114, (619) 267-2271. This third in the series of informal meetings with Superintendent Cohn gives employees the opportunity to come by and speak with Dr. Cohn as well as to hear what others are saying. If you have something you would like to share with or ask of the superintendent, please plan to attend.

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming **SDCS Honor Concerts and Music Festivals:**

- Elementary Instrumental Honor Concert
Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Brown Chapel, Pt. Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive, 92106
Elementary Honor Orchestra and Honor Band
- City/County Choral Honor Concert
Saturday, March 25, 7 p.m.
Brown Chapel, Pt. Loma Nazarene University, 3900 Lomaland Drive, 92106
Elementary, Middle/Junior High, and High School Honor Choirs
- Secondary Instrumental Honor Concert
Sunday, April 2, 3 p.m.
Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street in Downtown San Diego, 92101
Middle School Honor Band, Secondary Honor Orchestra, High School Honor Band

For information, contact the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Dept. at (858) 539-5349.

In conjunction with National Engineering Week (February 21 – 24), the Invention and Design Educational Academy (IDEA) at Crawford High School Educational Complex will be hosting the “**IDEA Student Showcase**” on Thursday, February 23, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Crawford High School Educational Complex, 4191 Colts Way, San Diego, 92115. Parents and community members will have the opportunity to see various projects (such as artwork, engineering and architecture projects, presentations) created by students from IDEA. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact (619) 583-2502.

The County of San Diego and the Coalition on Children and Weight San Diego are sponsoring the **School Fitness Summit** on Thursday, March 2, at the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley. The goal of this one-day event is to assist school and after-school decision-makers with developing strategies and action plans to enhance opportunities for physical activity during and around the school day. School board members, superintendents, administrators, teachers, parent leaders and student leaders are encouraged to attend. The School Fitness Summit is free, but pre-registration is required. There will be no on-site registration. The registration deadline is Friday, February 17. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.ccwsd.net/WhatsHappening.asp>.

The **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center** is holding a Community Family Day on Saturday, March 25, from 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the Fleet Science Center located in Balboa Park. Attendees will enjoy fun family-oriented activities, plus receive admission to the center's exhibit galleries, an IMAX film and breakfast free of charge. Space is limited and RSVP required. To RSVP, call (619) 238-1233, ext. 847.

Parents of all students are invited to attend **College Expo 2006** on Saturday, April 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at San Diego City College, 1313 Park Boulevard, San Diego, 92101. The Expo will provide practical tips and information on how to support student success and college preparation, including UC, CSU and private college admissions requirements; community college options; financial aid information; and parent support group information. Admission and parking are free. For information, call (858) 534-0092, or email collegeexpo@yahoo.com.

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IN MEMORIAM

Caroline Abiva, whose service with the district began September 1960, died on December 19, 2005. She was a teacher at Jones Elementary School at the time of her retirement.

Ronald Byrd, whose service with the district began November 2004, died on December 18, 2005. He was a community service officer at the time of his death.

Sayla Givens, whose service with the district began September 1971, died on July 29, 2005. She was a teacher at Gage Elementary School at the time of her retirement.

James 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.

James Stevenson, whose service with the district began January 1990, died on January 24, 2006. He was a community service officer at the time of his death.

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CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

Maytag washer. Great condition. \$50. Call Marcy Millar at Challenger Middle School, (858) 586-7001, ext. 2261 (6:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.).

Nikon N55 camera w/ lens. Brand new. Still in the original box. \$145. Shere at (858) 578-2526.

Old upright Cable-Nelson piano, dark wood, fair condition. \$250.00 obo. (619) 241-2054.

Rear cargo tray/lid from Honda Civic '88 Hatchback, dark blue, great condition, \$40 obo. Call (619) 665-1577.

Korg M-1 256kb RAM memory card, all original, \$30; Korg M-1 Sequencer Handbook, mint, \$25. Call (619) 665-1577.

White brocade couch, good condition, \$100. New crystal chandelier, still in box, from Prague, \$100. Call (858) 212-5544.

Olhausen 7' Billiards Table, Drake II, light blue felt, immaculate condition, ready for pick-up or delivery, \$995 obo. (619) 255-9108.

For Rent:

2 br, 2 ba, Granny Flat in Bonita. W/D. Professional male/female, one child OK. No pets/smoking. Available March 1. Ginger (619) 475-0419 (evenings).

3 br, 2 ba House in San Diego 92114. Views of the ocean/downtown. Central air/heat, hardwood floors, all appliances. \$2,000/mo. (619) 944-2663.

Wanted

Carpoolers from Temecula to San Diego. Low monthly fee. Enterprise van. Call Dean, (619)725-7400.

Discounted

Piano lessons to SDCS employees with ID badges. Classical piano training including solfeggio, harmony, technique, note-reading, improvisation, composition. (619) 206-7006 or laugh2loud@hotmail.com.

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