



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Staff Bulletin

March 17, 2006

San Diego City Schools Applauds Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department

On February 28, the Board of Education passed a resolution designating March as Arts Education Month. The resolution recognizes that arts education, which includes dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential part of basic education for all students and is vital to the development of the whole child. The SDCS Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department is leading these efforts in our district and is a model for other arts education programs.

VAPA is one of only three such art education departments out of 42 San Diego County school districts and stands alone as the only arts education program to benefit from discipline specific resource teachers for dance and drama, visual art, general and choral music, and instrumental music. VAPA is dedicated to providing resources and support to teachers in instruction and curriculum in all schools and grade levels and to helping elementary teachers become more comfortable with using the arts in their classrooms. Currently, more than 57,000 SDCS students are receiving arts instruction and the enrollment in arts courses is growing.

In addition to expanding the role the arts play within our schools, VAPA is creating and maintaining a network of community arts and cultural institutions to support all teachers and students. For example, a partnership with ArtsBusXpress provides bus rides for fieldtrips to music, theatre and dance performances, art galleries and museums. Students participate in a variety of community events, including solo and ensemble music festivals, honor concerts, a jazz festival, a recorder festival, Drama Fest, and choral showcases at local schools, museums and universities. The SDCS Student Exhibit, presented annually in March, showcases student art to the community by displaying pieces at the Eugene Brucker Education Center.

The importance of arts education is recognized by and included in the California State Education Code Standards and the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act*. The beauty of arts education is that connections can be made to all curricular subjects. Students can improve literacy skills through the creation of a musical theatre or opera script. They can explore American history by incorporating Native American painting styles into lessons on Western expansion. The study of the solar system can be linked to musical symphony scores that aim to capture the attributes of nearby planets.

The value of arts education goes far beyond dance, theatre, music and visual arts. According to Karen Evans, VAPA director, "Studies show that students who are enrolled in arts education have improved reading skills and math comprehension, write better, are more focused in class, develop higher self-esteem and social skills, solve problems more creatively, and are more likely to stay in school." For their efforts in helping our students develop to their full potential, the dedicated and talented VAPA staff definitely deserves a standing ovation!

For more information on the Visual and Performing Arts Department resources and upcoming events, go the webpage at <http://www.sandi.net/depts/vapa/>.

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

Spotlight on VAPA School for Creative and Performing Arts Hosts Award-Winning Dance Artist

The School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) hosted award-winning dance artist Scott Wells for a weeklong residency, February 27 through March 3. An expert in contact improvisation and partnering, Wells taught workshops in partnering technique, flying lifts and fluid acrobatics to students at all levels – beginner through advanced. More than 85 students were involved with the inspirational week-long workshop.

Aida Anderson, dance teacher at SCPA for the past 15 years, studied with Scott Wells in Vienna, Austria this past summer, at Impulstanz International Dance Festival. Ms. Anderson received the prestigious Surdna Arts Teaching Fellowship to study dance at Impulstanz and to extend that knowledge with follow up activities for her students at SCPA. According to Anderson, “Scott Wells was a big inspiration for me this past summer, and I was thrilled to bring him to SCPA to share his expertise. Scott inspires dancers to trust each other and take risks, resulting in exciting, contemporary partnering with dazzling lifts, falling and catching. I know our students really appreciated his electrifying style of work.” Anderson, along with fellow dance teachers Cynthia Morales and Sandra Foster-King, will be following up the workshop by creating dances utilizing the dancers’ new skills. “This was a great opportunity for our dancers to expand their idea of what dance can become,” said Cynthia Morales, Advanced Ballet Ensemble teacher. “Scott really changed this department,” said Modern Dance Ensemble teacher Sandra Foster-King, “Students worked in a way they never have before, and I know we’ll start to see some different choreography here in the future, by the teachers and the students. “

Scott Wells was named one of the “25 to watch in 2005” by Dance Magazine, received an Isadora Duncan Award for outstanding choreography, the Lester Horton Award for Choreography, and the Martha Hill Award from American Dance Festival. Based in San Francisco, his company Scott Wells and Dancers has presented his choreographies internationally to the acclaim of dance critics.

If you want to see first-hand what SCPA faculty and students create out of this inspiring workshop, plan to attend SCPA’s Spring Dance Concert on May 31, June 1 and 2, at 7 p.m., at SCPA. To learn about other upcoming VAPA events, go to <http://www.sandi.net/depts/vapa/#2>.

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Community Support Helps our Students in Many Ways

In a time of budget cuts and stretching dollars, SDCS is ‘rich’ when it comes to community support for our students and schools. Last year, parents, volunteers and partners logged in more than 676,000 hours by participating in activities such as tutoring, mentoring, reading with students, providing classroom assistance, and participating in school activities and events. The financial value of these hours is \$11.8 million but the impact on our schools and students is priceless.

Here are highlights from some recent events that exemplify community and schools working together for the betterment of our children.

- In January, **Toler Elementary School** held its first Family Science Night, in conjunction with its partnership with the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The Toler Auditorium was “swimming” with activity as Toler teachers joined faculty from the Birch Aquarium to set up interactive learning stations using live animals and real science tools to create age appropriate activities. The activities taught students about what scientists do and provided hands-on experience with the scientific method process. Students will be able to utilize this information with their Science Fair

projects later this year. This event was the first of five monthly Toler Family Science Nights. The theme in March is astronomy and in April, Birch Aquarium returns to the school.

- ArtsBusXpress, a non-profit organization, provides the needed transportation so students can have a culturally enriching experience as an extension of their school programs. Linking students and the arts community, ArtsBusXpress transports thousands of students to visual and performing arts venues throughout our region. Recently, ArtsBusXpress partnered with two SDCS schools on an event, "When I'm 64...A Magical Mystery Tour to the Arts," a fundraiser benefiting ArtsBusXpress at Art Expressions Gallery. Students from **Freese Elementary School** painted the "Yellow Submarine" that greeted guests as they entered the gallery. **Mission Bay High School** art students created and donated Beatles "record album covers," which were professionally framed and mounted at the Art Expressions Gallery. The Mission Bay High artists rode a bus sponsored by ArtsBusXpress to visit the Beatles exhibit at San Diego Mesa College, then continued to Art Expressions to see their work on display for the first time in an art gallery. Priced at \$150, each student painting that sells launches another arts fieldtrip bus for up to 75 students.
- Thanks to an overwhelming response from the community, **Encanto Elementary School** recovered its losses and more, after thousands of dollars were stolen from the school last summer. One Good Samaritan donated \$4,000 to the school fund, which was matched by US Bank. Total donations to the school equaled more than \$12,000. On February 16, Encanto students, teachers and staff held an appreciation assembly to thank the community heroes who rallied behind them during a difficult time.
- Coming together under one hat – a famous red-and-white stovepipe of a particular Cat – **Gage Elementary School** celebrated "Read Across America" Day. "Read Across America" was created to celebrate the joy of reading and is observed on March 2, the birthday of "Cat in the Hat" creator Dr. Seuss. Community members, SDCS Trustee John de Beck, *The San Union-Tribune* reporters Ozzie Roberts and Maureen Magee, and even the Cat in the Hat himself, joined the festivities at Gage to demonstrate to students that reading is a life-long enjoyment. The event was also supported by California Coast Credit Union.

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Replica Weapons Prove to Be Dangerous Toys

One of San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Superintendent Carl A. Cohn's goals is "to provide safe, orderly and well-maintained schools." The district is finding, though, that lately certain toys have presented a unique challenge to school safety and security.

Pellet, airsoft, paintball, and bb guns—many of which closely resemble real firearms—are very popular with children of all ages. However, these toys are not allowed on district campuses. Under district policy, students found in possession of these or any other replica firearm are automatically suspended for five days and recommended for expulsion.

These replica weapons are dangerous for a variety of reasons. The risk of injury from one of the weapons firing is clear. Less obvious, but possibly more frightening, is the danger faced by someone holding one of these real-looking pellet, airsoft, paintball, or bb guns. When someone is brandishing or discharging these replica weapons, the public does not readily know that these are not real guns—and neither do the police who get the panicked calls and rush to disarm a threatening situation with real guns.

"These replica weapons are so realistic," explained SDCS Police Sergeant Mike Marquez. "They look like authentic firearms and could be mistaken for real guns. We could end up with a tragic situation on our hands."

SDCS Board of Education Trustee Katherine Nakamura was so concerned about the replica weapons that she brought the subject up at a recent school board meeting and has been actively involved in efforts to educate the community. "Parents need to know that these guns, which are even sold at ice cream trucks, can be really dangerous, and that they're not allowed on campus," said Nakamura.

The district's Communications Office has partnered with SDCS School Police to spread the word about what to do if students find one of these toys on campus. School Police officers have visited schools to remind students that replica weapons violate the Zero Tolerance Police, and principals have been provided with information to share with parents, staff and students. These communications efforts are part of a larger move to build awareness about district discipline policy. To view the policy, go to http://www.sandi.net/depts/placement_appeal/discipline_policy/.

School Police are also working to stop the issue at the source: vendors selling replica weapons. According to Marquez, there are sections of the penal code that prohibit selling bb-type guns to minors. Additional sections make it a misdemeanor for any adult to furnish the guns to a minor without the express or implied permission of the minor's legal guardian.

"The law is clear: don't sell or give airsoft or bb guns to kids," said Marquez. "As part of our education campaign, we're also working with the City Attorney's Office to educate local businesses about the rules around these dangerous toys."

With the community's help, it is possible to make great progress to ensure the safety of our students and staff while at school. School site staff is encouraged to share the following with students and parents:

- Pellet, airsoft, paintball, and bb guns violate the district's Zero Tolerance policy and are NOT allowed on campus.
- Students who have these toys are automatically suspended for five days and recommended for expulsion.
- Anyone caught with one of these toys—even if the gun is found in a student's backpack, or if a student is seen holding it for only a moment— will be subject to disciplinary action.
- If students find any of these items in their backpack, pockets, or on the school grounds, they should immediately tell a teacher or staff member. Students will not get in trouble if they notify a responsible adult immediately.

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News You Can Use

CSET Prep Courses for Teachers

California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) Prep Courses are again being offered by the district's Teacher Preparation and Student Support Division. The courses are designed to prepare educators for the May 20 CSET and will be held at Kearny High School, 7651 Wellington Way, Linda Vista, 92111. Passing the CSET allows 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. An optional book is available for purchase (\$20). The course schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, April 27, 2006 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 2, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 4, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 9, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 11, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 16, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 18, 2006 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Multiple Subjects and Science only)

Courses are free for District Employees and \$60 for others (checks only). Registration is due no later than 5 p.m., on Thursday, April 20. For information and to register, call Gail at (858) 539-5330.

Education Center Flea Market

Make extra money on your new/used items or come shopping for bargains or both. The Eugene Brucker Education Center Building Committee is organizing a flea market to be held on Saturday, April 22, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the main parking lot of the Ed. Center. Space rental is open to all SDCS employees and the community. For information and space rental application, contact Julie Hendershot at (619) 725-7317 or jhenderson@sandinet.net.

Site Classified Representative

In conjunction with the presentation of selected Classified Employees of the Year, 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. Use selection form located at <http://www.sandinet.net/staff/circulars/0506/ac065.pdf> to submit the name of your site's classified representative. 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 information, contact [Gloria Rangel](mailto:grangel@sandinet.net) at (619) 725-8172 or grangel@sandinet.net.

Forum on Fund-raising Strategies for School Foundations

The Community Relations and Office of Resource Development Departments are co-hosting a forum on fund-raising strategies for school foundations on Thursday, March 23, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Eugene Brucker Education Center, Room 2249, 4100 Normal Street, San Diego, 92103. Topics will include "Learning More about Successful School Fund-Raising Events," "Grant Opportunities," and "Effective Fund-Raising Strategies." This meeting is the result of feedback received from a school foundation workshop held in February. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required by Monday, March 20. For information and to register, call Kathy Gartland at (619) 725-5591 or email kgartland@sandinet.net.

Discover Program Online Catalog

The Discover Program's Winter Session catalog is available on the District's website. New course offerings are posted to the website daily. The Spring Session catalog will be posted soon for classes starting in May. To view course descriptions and to register online, go to the Discover Program website at <http://216.122.44.192/sandinetdiscover/>. For information, call Esther Caluza at (858) 496-1887.

Discover Program Seeking Instructors for Spring/Summer Session

Do you have knowledge that you would like to share with other professionals? The Discover Program is seeking instructors to teach classes to district employees during the Spring/Summer Session, May-August, 2006. The Discover Program offers a variety of professional development and training opportunities to both certificated and classified employees. Courses provide opportunities for teachers to learn from other practicing professionals while earning district salary enhancement credit. Instructors are paid at a rate of \$40.62 per hour for teaching time and \$27.41 for preparation time spent outside of assigned workday. For a schedule of current Discover courses, go to <http://216.122.44.192/SandinetDiscover/ClassesAtAGlanceWINTER.htm>. If you are interested in teaching a Discover Program course, call Esther Caluza at (858) 496-1887 or email ecaluza@sandinet.net.

San Diego Walk and 5 K Run for Autism

The *San Diego Race for Autism* raises funds to benefit children living with autism in San Diego. On Saturday, March 25, at 8 a.m., friends, family and community members will gather in Balboa Park to run, walk and enjoy music, activities and prizes. Proceeds from last year's event funded the San Diego Autism Teacher Fund, which provided grants to 35 teachers throughout San Diego. The funds are being used to buy specialized programs, software, materials and equipment to enhance a student with autism's

ability to learn. For information, visit the website at www.NFAR.org, email Race@NFAR.org or call (858) 679-8800.

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Hall of Fame

- U.S. Department of Education Senior Advisor Kerri Briggs presented SDCS representatives, Deputy Superintendent Geno Flores and SDCS Board of Education Trustee Mitz Lee, with a \$17.5 million “Striving Readers” grant, to be dispersed over five years. The grant will be used to improve the literacy skills of students at middle and high schools, which have significant numbers of struggling readers. The grant award was announced on Friday, March 10, with students from the **School of Digital Media and Design at the Kearny High Educational Complex** assisting with the check presentation.
- Students and staff from **Creative Performing Media Arts (CPMA)** celebrated being named the recipient of a grant from the VH1 Save the Music Foundation and Time Warner Cable. CPMA will receive \$25,000 worth of new musical instruments. The VH1 Save the Music Foundation and Time Warner Cable are committed to ensuring all children receive the benefits of music education.
- KSWB-TV selected **McKinley Elementary** teacher Monika Gardner and her class as the winners of the Dream Classroom award for the month of March. Gardner and her students will receive a \$1,000 grant for educational materials and supplies. Gardner plans to use the money to purchase digital video cameras so students can write, shoot and edit short films.
- **Erika Macias**, from the New Dawn program, and **Jean Marmet**, from Dana Middle School, are the February winners of the district's Recycling Office recycling contest. Erika and Dana each received a free smoothie and thermos from Jamba Juice and a canvas bag full of goodies from Trader Joe's. Interested in participating in the contest? All administrative sites have pledge cards in their lunchrooms, or download the card at http://prod031.sandi.net/Energy/pdf/pledgecard_form.pdf. Completed cards can be put in District mail, or faxed to Andrea Eaton at (858) 627-7414.
- **Madison High School** has been selected a “Breakthrough High School” by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Madison is one of only nine schools in the nation to receive this distinction. The Breakthrough High Schools project was initiated by NASSP in 2002 with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the project is to identify schools serving high minority/high poverty student populations—schools that are a least 50% minority and with at least 50% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals assistance. Of this group, schools that are graduating significant numbers of students—at least 90%—and sending at least 90% of their students on to postsecondary education are eligible to be named “Breakthrough High Schools.” Madison's achievements will be highlighted in a special edition of “Principal Leadership” magazine scheduled to be published in June 2006. For information about the Breakthrough High School project, visit the website at http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?CID=66&DID=52669.
- In conjunction with being selected a “Breakthrough High School,” two Madison student council members and their advisor have been invited to participate at no cost in the *Raising Student Voices & Participation (RSVP)* training program and Leadership Experience and Development (LEAD) Conference. Eleventh grade students **Haley Montgomery** and **Samantha Norton**, along with ASB advisor **Steve Miner**, will attend the training program and conference in Atlanta from March 17 -19. *RSVP* is a new student engagement program that has been developed as a civic engagement process to involve and empower students to identify issues in their schools and communities and to take steps to address and resolve them.

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Scenes from Schools

- Four hundred 4th -8th grade girls from throughout SDCS participated in the “National Girls and Women in Sports” Day, which took place on Saturday, February 18, at San Diego City College. This year’s theme was “Count Me In.” Participants were provided with a light breakfast, nutritional lunch, t-shirt and the opportunity to participate in four sports clinics taught by some of the top coaches in San Diego. Sports included basketball, dance, field hockey, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, golf, and volleyball. **Dana Middle School** Physical Education Teacher Jean Marmet taught the Dance Clinic, which included Step Aerobics/Dyna Bands.
- The Black Storytellers of San Diego (BSSD) shared African-American folktales with students at **Correia Middle School** on Wednesday, February 22. BSSD’s mission is to maintain a network of individuals and groups to preserve the African Diaspora Oral Tradition in San Diego County. Black Storytelling is an art form which embodies the history, heritage, and culture of African Americans.
- **Oak Park Elementary School** was rewarded with an ice cream party for being the school that collected the most stuffed animals for the 15th Annual Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive benefiting Children’s Hospital and Health Center. To celebrate the school’s efforts, Food Services Director Gary Petill and School Police Sergeant Mike Marquez organized the ice cream party for the students and staff. The party took place on March 2.
- Taylor Guitars for Schools (TGS), the guitar donation program co-founded by El Cajon-based manufacturer Taylor Guitars, and the non-profit San Diego Music Awards Foundation (SDMAF), donated its 1,000th guitar to the **Wilson Middle School** music program. In celebration of this milestone, the music department at Wilson Middle School received 32 Baby Taylor “travel guitars” through the TGS program during a special assembly held on Friday, February 24. Local singer/songwriter Carlos Olmeda performed and answered students’ music-related questions at the assembly. A group of 12 sixth grade beginning guitar students also performed.
- When one of the school’s students saved a neighbor’s life because of his CPR training, the staff at **Community Health and Medical Practices School (CHAMPS)** at the Crawford High Educational Complex started thinking about how the training could benefit *all* students. On February 24, all 225 11th and 12th grade students at CHAMPS were trained in Heartsaver Adult CPR. (Freshman and sophomore students will be trained later in the year.) The training concluded with a written test that was graded immediately. All students who passed the test left the training certified with a Heartsaver card in hand. CHAMPS is a small school within a school devoted to preparing students for careers in the medical, dental and biotech industries.

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Salute to Students

- Point Loma High School Senior **Martha Thompson** was recently named a “Student of the Week” by XETV-TV (Channel 6). Thompson, the school’s ASB president, is an athlete (ballet and field hockey) and is actively involved in the Youth and Government program. According to Point Loma High Principal Bobbie Samilson, Thompson “is the sort of leader others want to follow. In addition to this, she is kind, thoughtful, and a real listener.”
- **Christopher Khavarian**, a senior at The Preuss School UCSD, was awarded the \$10,000 Nordstrom Community Leaders Scholarship, which recognizes academic talent and the drive to make a positive impact on their school and community. Christopher’s involvement at school has been widespread, including taking leadership positions on campus such as President of the National Honor Society and

Editor-in-Chief of the Preuss Newspaper. He is also an active member of the Student Advisory Board to the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair and serves on the Student Advisory Board for the California State Board of Education.

- **Tyler Knell** and **Eric Louie**, seniors at Point Loma High, had their film documentary, "I'm Still Here," screened at the prestigious FILM SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL at the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts. The film, about 100-year-old San Diego author and artist Laura Simon, received tremendous praise from the packed audience and has been submitted to the National Student Emmy Awards Committee as well as several other film festivals.
- Hard training paid off for **Andréa Schiller**, a sophomore at Scripps Ranch High School. Andréa placed first in the 17 and under female age division at the 2006 Carlsbad Marathon. She finished her first 26.2-mile race with a time of four hours and 19 minutes and also celebrated the completion of her 50th non-school race. Andréa hopes to complete 100 races before she graduates from high school.
- Three SDCS high school students were honored at the San Diego State University (SDSU) 2nd Annual Diversity Scholarship Gala held on March 3. **James Shaw**, San Diego High School, and **Richard Carr** and **Renae Dudley**, Morse High School, will each receive a four-year scholarship to SDSU. The President's Diversity and Equity Community Advisory Council, SDSU, awarded ten outstanding local, low-income, high-achieving students with the scholarships.

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Student Competitions

"Come Clean San Diego" Contests for Elementary/Secondary Students

As part of KGTV, Channel 10's "Come Clean San Diego" campaign, the station is holding a series of student contests. Elementary students are invited to participate in an art contest. Secondary students are invited to participate in an essay contest or to create 30-second public service announcements (PSAs). Prizes will be awarded to the winners. The deadline to submit entries is Friday, March 24. For information, contact Steven Baratte at (619) 725-5567, email sbaratte@sandi.net or visit Channel 10's website at <http://www.10news.com/comecleansandiego/index.html>.

Food Services Essay, Poetry and Rap Contest for Grades K-12

SDCS Food Services is once again sponsoring the Food Services Essay, Poetry and Rap contest from March 1- 31, to coincide with National Nutrition Month. This year's theme is "Why is it Important to Stay Fit and Eat Right," and students in grades K-12 are invited to enter. Grade categories are K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. First, second and third place winners will be selected in each category. The entry deadline is Friday, March 31. For information, contact Joanne Tucker at jtucker@sandi.net or visit the Food Services Department website at <http://www2.sandi.net/food/>.

National Association for Pupil Transportation Speech Contest

Each year, the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) sponsors a speech contest for high school students in grades 9-12. Students prepare a short speech, 4 to 6 minutes in length, regarding the school transportation industry and/or school bus safety. For the first time, a local competition will be held in San Diego on Monday, April 10, in conjunction with the California Association of School Transportation (CASTO) Annual Conference. Winners of the local competition will compete at a state competition; the winner of which then represents California at the national level being held this year in Kansas City. For information, contact Alexandra Robinson at (858) 496-8710, email arobinson@sandi.net, or visit the NAPT website at <http://www.napt.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=90#press>.

Innovative Video in Education (iVIE) Student and Teacher Film Festival

The Innovative Video in Education (iVIE) 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.

Character Matters Essay Contest for Grades 3-12

The University of San Diego (USD) International Center for Character Education is sponsoring an essay contest for students in grades 3-12. The contest is about character and provides a platform for insightful discussions and reflections on experiences that call for honesty, respect, responsibility, courage, self-discipline, and many other character traits. The deadline to submit entries is Friday, April 21. For information and an entry form, go to <http://www.sandiego.edu/academics/soles/instcenter/icce/essaycontest06/> or call (619) 260-2250.

25th Annual Congressional Art Competition for High School Students

Each year, Members of Congress hold contests within their districts to choose winning pieces of art by high school students to be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC. This impressive art exhibit brightens the Cannon Tunnel and showcases the talent of our nation's young people. This year's competition, *An Artistic Discovery*, is being co-chaired by San Diego Congresswoman Susan Davis. The competition is open to high school students and accepts artwork from several categories including paintings, drawings, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art and photography. Entry deadline is Friday, May 12. For information and application form, visit Congresswoman Davis' website at <http://www.house.gov/susandavis/artcompetition.html> or call (619) 280-5353.

Essay Contest for 11th Grade Students

The San Diego Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is sponsoring an essay contest for 11th grade students. Participating students will research and report on their own family heritage and what this heritage means to them. Winning essayists will be awarded cash prizes, medals, certificates and professional genealogical services. Essays must be submitted by April 20. For information, contact Ted Rudisill at (858) 456-6179 or tedrudisill@sbcglobal.net.

Art Contest for 4th Grade Students

Fourth grade students are invited to participate in the 43rd annual Cabrillo Festival art contest. This year's theme is *Cabrillo Festival: Where Cultures Come Together and History Comes Alive!* The winner will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and the winner's teacher will receive a check for \$100 for classroom supplies/enhancements. All contest entries must be received by Friday, June 2. For information, call Mary Correia at (619) 223-0056.

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Save the Date

Cookies with Carl

All SDCS employees (classified and certificated) are invited to attend the next "Cookies with Carl" on Monday, March 27, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Mason Elementary School, 10340 San Ramon Drive, San Diego, 92126, (858) 271-0410. This fourth 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.

Education Center Building Committee Casino Night

The Eugene Brucker Education Center Building Committee is planning a Casino Night at Viejas Casino and Gaming Center on Friday, March 24. The cost is only \$5 per person, which includes bus transportation to and from Viejas and a Casino Fun Book with a discount coupon for the buffet, 15% off gift shop purchases and more. Bus pick-up schedule is 5:15 p.m. at the Education Center and 5:45 p.m. (approximately) at Parkway Plaza Shopping Center in El Cajon. Employees and guests are welcome to attend. Space is limited so sign-up early. For information and to sign-up, contact La Donna Chase at lchase@sandi.net, Trini Germann at tgermann@sandi.net.

Fiesta Educative, Inc.~ San Diego Conference

On Saturday, April 1, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Fiesta Educative, Inc.~San Diego will be holding its Tenth Annual Conference for Spanish-speaking parents of children with special needs and for the professionals who serve them. The conference will be held at the San Diego County Office of Education, Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center, 6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, 92111. The keynote speaker is Edmundo Sánchez, PhD, an internationally renowned psychologist. For information and registration, contact Manuela Valdez at (858) 490-8523.

Parent Forum on Measuring Student and School Performance

Parent Voices for Education San Diego (PVSD), formerly PAVE, will be holding its next parent forum on Wednesday, April 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Harold J. Ballard Center, 2375 Congress Street, Old Town, 92110. The topic, "Measuring the Performance of Our Children and Driving the Improvement of Our Schools," will be presented by Dr. Joseph Johnson, director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation, and an elementary and a secondary school principal. Child care and Spanish translation will be provided. RSVP to parentvoicessd@sbcglobal.net by Friday, March 31. For information, visit the PVSD website at www.parentvoicesforeducatingsd.org.

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

The Association of African American Educators (AAAE) will hold its 15th Annual AAAE 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 cost of the conference is \$150 for current AAAE 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 vmoores@sandi.net or visit the AAAE website at <http://www.sdaaae.org/>.

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Family Day

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. This free family-oriented event will include breakfast, admission to the center's exhibit galleries, and a viewing of the IMAX film, *Special Effects*. Space is limited and RSVP required. To RSVP, call (619) 238-1233, ext. 847.

College Expo 2006

College Expo 2006 will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at San Diego City College, 1313 Park Blvd., 92101. The Expo will provide practical tips and information on how to support student success and college preparation, including college admissions requirements; community college options; financial aid information; and parent support group information. Admission and parking are free. For information, visit the website at www.collegeexpo.org, call (858) 534-0092, or email collegeexpo@yahoo.com.

Education Center Craft Faire

The next Education Center Craft Faire is scheduled for Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Annex 9 Testing Room. Sellers must work at the Education Center but "shoppers" from throughout the district

are invited to attend. Talented artisans interested in selling their crafts must submit an application. This Craft Faire will be patterned after the one held in December and is just in time for Mother's Day gifts. For information and an application, contact La Donna Chase at lchase@sandi.net or Elaine Lindberg at elindberg@sandi.net.

University of San Diego (USD) Summer Conferences

- University of San Diego (USD) has announced several summer conferences being held on the campus. The USD International Center for Character Education is conducting the Character Development Conference on June 23 & 24, at USD, 5998 Acalá Park, San Diego, 92111. This year's theme is "Character-Based Behavior Management in Schools and Classrooms." For information and registration, go to <http://www.sandiego.edu/academics/soles/instcenter/icce/06conference.php> or call (619) 260-2250.
- USD's Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA) is sponsoring two comprehensive institutes from June 25-29 to help administrators meet the challenge of leadership. One of the institutes is on instructional leadership and one on leadership of schools of choice. The institutes, "Leading Learning for Results" and "Entrepreneurial Leadership for Schools of Choice," will be held simultaneously and will give participants the opportunity for intensive interaction with nationally recognized experts on a range of topics. For information and registration, go to the Elda Institutes website at <http://sandiego.edu/eldainstitutes> or call (619) 260-8839.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON ALL UPCOMING EVENTS, BE SURE TO READ *NEWSLINE* EVERY THURSDAY.

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In Memoriam

Monica Salinas, whose service with the district began October 1994, died on February 17, 2006. She was a Math Resource Teacher at Herbert Ibarra Elementary at the time of her death.

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Classifieds

For Sale:

Player Piano CONN electric studio model, plays from piano rolls. \$400/offer. (858) 560-9392.

Matching twin head/footboards w/ rails, dresser, and nightstand in maple, \$150 obo. Matching sofa & loveseat sleepers in med. brown, \$300 obo. Buffet hutch, \$75 obo. (619) 286-5032.

Cherry bedroom suite with granite tops. Queen modified sleigh bed, 2 night stands, chest of drawers, dresser and mirror. Mint condition. \$3,000. (858) 637-6242 or (858) 268-9827.

Lovely townhome in "Cottages" near Cowles Mtn. \$514,000-\$569,000. Call Annette Rieger. (858) 922-1320.

For Rent:

2 rooms in nice, sunny house near 805 and Balboa Ave. (Clairemont). Yard w/ pool. Prefer professional women. No smoking. \$675 each room + utilities. (619) 851-8374.

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