



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Staff Bulletin

July 21, 2006

Have a GREAT Summer! Remember: First Day of Class for Students is Tuesday, September 5.

###

Another New School “Sprouts” Up: Burbank Elementary School

Just as Luther Burbank’s new plants sprouted from soil, the new Burbank Elementary School will be “sprouting” from the ground shortly. Burbank, the famous horticulturist for whom Arbor Day is celebrated, is the namesake of the school that’s being rebuilt by Proposition MM.

Burbank students, teachers and Principal Minerva Salas joined the community, the Prop. MM team, district representatives, the architect and construction teams to break ground and celebrate the rebuilding of Luther Burbank Elementary School.

The event was punctuated with several memorable performances. Gilia Zizzo’s second-grade class sang “The World is a Rainbow.” Ana Goldberg’s third-graders listened intently as their classmates recited poetry. Sarai Nevarez and Miguel Arzeta read “Fishes.” Kendra Macedo and David Aguilar read “Fireflies,” and Kimberly Riveros and Lulu Barba read “Hop and Skip.”

Chief Facilities Officer Bob Kiesling emceed the event that featured Superintendent Carl Cohn, Board President Luis Acle and Dorothy Leonard, chair of the Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee, as guest speakers.

The event culminated with the breaking of the ground as three Burbank students joined the dignitaries in the ceremonial shoveling. The students were third-graders Yurida Bautista and Melissa Guillen and second-grader Niko Vega.

Burbank is being rebuilt and expanded on the same site at 2146 Julian Avenue. Originally built as a temporary school in 1971, it could only accommodate kindergarten through third grades. The new school, which is planned to reopen in September 2007, will be large enough to serve 500 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The old Burbank buildings have already been demolished. While construction on the new facilities gets underway, classes are being held on the east side of the campus. A wooden construction wall separates the portables from the construction.

The facilities will span 60,718 square feet on 4.15 acres and will include 24 permanent classrooms, 50 parking spaces, and a multipurpose building with a kitchen, restrooms, stage, seating area and storage. There will also be a library media center with a conference room, a lunch shelter, an elevator and accessibility features, covered walkways, administrative offices and faculty lounge.

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

The new school's energy-efficient design features will save the district about \$40,000 per year. All classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

In California, Luther Burbank's birthday (March 7, 1849) is celebrated as Arbor Day and trees are planted in his memory. It's especially appropriate that a half-acre of trees, numerous shrubs, vines and groundcovers and grass will be planted at the school.

Burbank Elementary School is one of 15 new/rebuilt schools being constructed under Prop. MM, the \$1.51 billion bond measure passed by San Diego voters in 1998. Prop. MM is funding the modernization of 161 existing schools and construction of 12 new and three rebuilt schools.

Managing the Burbank Elementary School construction project are Prop. MM team members Janet Gonzalez, project manager; John McGregor, construction manager; and Joe Gorak and Bryan Bauer, project inspectors. For more information, go to www.sandi.net/propmm/BurbankElem.htm or call (619) 725-5588.

by Cynthia Reed-Porter

####

Reader Survey: Thanks for Letting Us Know What You Think

The Communications Department publishes *Staff Bulletin* and *Newsline* online for employees. In May, a reader survey was distributed to make sure employees are getting the information they need, want and can use. The surveys were available online and also distributed to several departments in printed form.

More than 2,000 responses have been received. The data is being compiled and will be used to make some exciting changes in the upcoming months.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. We appreciate you letting us know what you think. For information, contact Linda Zintz at lzintz@sandi.net or (619) 725-5568.

####

News You Can Use

Discover Program Offers Several Courses in August

The SDCS Discover Program is offering the following courses in August:

- **Building A Community of Writers** (2 credits) on Tuesday to Friday, August 1 - 4, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the IMC, Bldg. G. This dynamic course will provide the techniques and strategies to make 2nd -6th grade students' writing come alive as well as effective ways to deal with classroom management and organization to ensure successful implementation of writing.
- **Next Step – Science Institute Cohort 1a** (2 credits) on Monday to Friday, August 7-11, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Next Step – Science Institute Cohort 1b** (1 credit) on Monday to Friday, August 7-11, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- **Next Step – Science Institute Cohorts 2 & 3** (2 credits) on Monday to Friday, August 14 -18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or For Chemistry strand only, on Monday to Friday, August 7-11, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants will receive intensive training in science (Earth and Life) content, science pedagogical strategies and current practices and collaboration to plan for implementation of

science in the classroom. For information, contact Kim Luttggen at kluttgen@sandi.net or (619) 725-7337.

- **Whiz Kids** (1 credit) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 8, 10, 15, and 17, from 3 to 6:45 p.m., at the IMC, Bldg. G. This course is designed for K-1 teachers and will provide fun, practical ideas and materials that will improve students' reading and writing skills.
- **Basic Life Support** (½ credit) on Saturday, August 19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the San Diego Firefighters Union, 10405 San Diego Mission Rd, Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92108. This class will teach CPR and meets the requirements for the professional clear health education CPR, B-level credential certificate.
- **Beginner Course in Running Records** (½ credit) on Tuesday, August 22, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Tuesday, August 29, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Zamorano Professional Development Training Center. This course will focus on how to accurately take, score, and interpret Running Records, and use it as an assessment of text reading as well as a tool for guiding instruction.
- **Advanced Course in Running Records: Using Running Records to Guide Instruction** (½ credit) on Tuesdays, August 22, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Tuesday, August 29, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Zamorano Professional Development Training Center. This course will take an in-depth look at Running Records to provide opportunities to analyze running records, identify patterns in student responses, look at implications for planning instruction and interpret running records of English Language Learners.

For information, to register, or to see a list of upcoming classes, visit the Discover Program website at <http://216.122.44.192/SandiNetDiscover/ClassesAtAGlanceSUMMER06.htm> or contact Esther Caluza at ecaluza@sandi.net or (858) 496-1887.

###

Hall of Fame

- Point Loma High English and art of film teacher **Larry Zeiger** was honored by 10News with the 10Leadership Award in June. Larry was recognized for his commitment to the education of the arts. In addition to being a hard-working teacher, for the last 30 years he has volunteered as the school's musical theater producer/director, and has produced and directed 30 original plays. His productions are such an integral part of student life at Point Loma High that ten years ago the high school's theater was named the Larry Zeiger Performing Arts Center.
- **Betty Plewak**, from the Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC), and **Janet Hund**, from Dewey Elementary, are the June winners of the district's Recycling Office recycling contest. Each received a Jamba Juice plastic mug with free smoothie, \$10 Whole Foods gift certificate, Conservation Fund magnet and a \$5 gift certificate to Sammy's Woodfired Pizza. Interested in participating in the contest? All administrative sites have pledge cards in their lunchrooms, or download the card from 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.
- The **Counseling and Guidance Department** received a three-year grant, in the amount of \$389,000 per year, from the Federal Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. This Project Aspire grant will be used to expand the department's comprehensive school counseling programs at several elementary schools. Project Aspire allows all students at target schools to have access to school counseling services, lowering student-to-counselor ratios and improving school climate and overall student performance. Project Aspire will also include implementation of the research-based violence

prevention curriculum Second Step, small groups, individual counseling, school-wide prevention programs and parent involvement.

- **Toler Elementary** received a City of San Diego Recycler of the Year award for its efforts in recycling and beautification. Teacher Myriam Pedersen accepted the recycled glass statue at the Very Important Planet (VIP) Awards held in May. During the school year, her class consistently recycles mixed paper, beverage containers and food waste. They maintain their own worm bin and use the organic vermicompost produced to fertilize their organic garden. The students grow sunflowers, green beans, lettuce and other vegetables and enjoy eating their garden-fresh produce. Toler's commitment to environmental stewardship has extended beyond the classroom. The school has hosted a litter cleanup, stenciled storm drains, made their own paper out of recycled newspaper, visited Tecolote Canyon and participated in the Wal-Mart Kids Recycling Challenge. Students have also been actively participating in the district's Planet Protector Club (see Scenes from Schools).
- **Mann Middle School of Exploration** received a \$5,000 grant from the Cox Foundation. These monies will be used to support the curriculum in the school's journalism elective classes for the 2006-07 school year.
- The American Subcontractors Association (ASA) honored the **Proposition MM** team with its 2006 Distinguished Government Agency award. The award recognizes the school district for its contributions and support of the San Diego subcontracting community's issues and concerns. In recent years, district staff and the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, which is responsible for monitoring Proposition MM, have worked closely with ASA to resolve issues related to timely payment, dispute resolution, change order procedures, bidding practices and labor compliance. ASA members work in nearly every trade in the construction industry, including electrical, mechanical, drywall, plaster, steel, masonry, concrete, plumbing, roofing and excavation. More than 80 percent of construction work is performed by the subcontracting industry.
- The **Proposition MM** team has also received the 2006 California Gold Award from California School Public Relations Association (CALSPRA) and the 2006 Gold Medallion from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). Each award is the highest honor given to school communications programs at the state and national level. The Proposition MM communications program was recognized for its comprehensive approach to informing the community of progress; involving the community in critical decisions; and effectively integrating broad strategies including media exposure, special events, issues management and community relations.

#

Scenes from Schools

- More than thirty 7th and 8th graders from **Bell Jr. High** attended the Athletes for Education-sponsored Camp Leon '06 held at the San Diego High Educational Complex on Saturday, June 3. The students were selected based on excellence in physical education, all other classes and school citizenship. "These students exemplified outstanding personal and social responsibility, including group cooperation and sportsmanship," said Bell physical education teacher Caryn Maroni. Camp Leon is an activity-based life skills and team-building camp, hosted by former Los Angeles Ram Leon White.
- Students from **Adams Elementary** visited the Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park as part of the "Catch a Rising Star" program. The "Catch a Rising Star" program, created by Board Trustee John de Beck, recognizes students who attend low performing schools and who have made significant academic growth. Each student receives a special badge that says, "I'm a rising star. My teacher caught me LEARNING!"

- Students from Myriam Pederson's class at **Toler Elementary School** received an “eco-treasure” award for completing their Planet Protectors treasure map. Planet Protectors is an environmental club in which students participate in “green” activities, including litter clean-up, container recycling and conducting energy audits of their school. For completing the treasure map, students received Planet Protectors jackets, newsletters, two treasure chests filled with Planet Protectors patches, seeds, bookmarks and pencils made of recycled denim and recycled money. Toler Elementary School recently received the City of San Diego’s Recycler of the Year award for its environmental efforts (See Hall of Fame). To set up a Planet Protectors club at your school, contact Ellyn Hae at ehae@sandi.net or (858)-637-6268.
- San Diego Zoo Ambassador Joan Embery brought along a real cheetah on a recent visit to **Cherokee Point Elementary**. The special visit was to say thank you to the Cherokee Point Cheetahs (the school’s mascot) for raising more than \$800 to contribute to the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Africa. Each month, students practiced a different character trait. During the month the students practiced generosity, they took on the project to raise money to save the endangered cheetahs. Students conducted research and became cheetah experts. “This whole process helped to create a strong sense of community, which is especially important for a new school,” said new Area Superintendent and former Cherokee Point Principal Rich Cansdale. “It will become an annual fund raiser.”

###

Student Salutes

- **John Muir School** presented a Student Showcase at the National Educational Computing Convention (NECC) held in July at the San Diego Convention Center. This annual conference features hands-on workshops, lecture-format and interactive concurrent sessions, discussions with key industry leaders, and the largest educational technology exhibit in the world. Students from Muir K-12 magnet school displayed several global collaborative projects with schools in other countries, including work done with Global Schoolnet, iEARN, and Atlas de la Diversidad. Visiting teacher Harry Konnor Tetteh from Ghana also participated in the showcase.
- Students from **Mann Middle School of Exploration** attended who participated in the Junior Urban Medical Professionals San Diego (J.U.M.P. - SD) Mentoring Program attended a graduation ceremony hosted by the Kaiser Permanente African American Association. The Mann students included **Erick Marroquin, Mohammed Mayange, Ashley Campbell, Cindy Cruz and Jonathan Visounnaraj**. J.U.M.P. - SD is designed to provide 6-8 graders with motivation and encouragement to develop a career in the medical field. The program includes tours of a hospital, clinic and the UCSD Medical School and a Parent Education day. Mentors include Kaiser physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and various department managers. The participants were selected based upon a brief essay describing why they wanted to be a medical professional and their grade level scores in math and science.
- Muir School sophomore **Javier Diaz** traveled to Washington, D.C. recently to receive a Platinum Award for his entry, Soccer and Its Power, in the Doors to Diplomacy competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Javier partnered with two students from the Mfantsipim School in Cape Coast, Ghana. The team was recognized for its ability to overcome major obstacles to collaborate in the website competition. To learn more about Global Schoolhouse projects and to see the soccer website, go to <http://www.globalschoolnet.org/GSH/doors/winners.html>.

###

In Memoriam

Walter Baranski, whose service with the district began September 1964, died on June 4. He was an Interim Teacher at the time of his retirement.

Mary Barrus, whose service with the district began September 1950, died on June 1. She was a Vice Principal at Snyder Continuation High School at the time of her retirement.

Joel Cameron, whose service with the district began August 2001, died on June 6. He was a Military Science Instructor at Hoover High at the time of his death.

Claudia Ferreira, whose service with the district began February 1997, died on May 12. She was a School Clerk at Mission Bay High at the time of her death.

Evelynne Hada, whose service with the district began September 1974, died on February 5. She was a Teacher at Chesterton Elementary at the time of her retirement.

Sabine McGraw, whose service with the district began January 2003, died on May 28. She was a Bus Driver at Pupil Transportation at the time of her death.

Rose Mary Montejano, whose service with the district began April 1997, died on May 19. She was a Child Development Center Assistant at Euclid Children's Center at the time of her death.

Robert Robinson, whose service with the district began September 1961, died on February 23. He was a Teacher at Crown Point Elementary at the time of his retirement.

Marlene Shaw, whose service with the district began September 1950, died on May 19. She was a District Counselor with Guidance Services at the time of her retirement.

Archie Taylor, whose service with the district began September 1961, died on May 17. He was a Teacher at Roosevelt Junior High at the time of her retirement.

#

Classified

Complete CLAD Course Materials for use with USD video correspondence program (registration required). \$125. (619) 702-3534 or meajim@yahoo.com.

3BD/2BA House in Lakeside with Pool and Spa. \$454,900. 13104 Julian Avenue. Call Leona at (619) 933-8113 or (619) 390-9101.

Black leather corner unit couch w/ fold-out bed, 9' x 10', \$500. Black metal shelf unit w/ glass shelves, \$75. White metal multi-media rack, \$25. E-mail: martyestu@cox.net.

Deluxe 2001 Dodge Grand Caravan. 78,000 miles. All wheel drive. Excellent condition. \$11,100 obo. (858) 270-2113.

2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS, Sport Coupe. 5 Speed. 55,500K. A/C. Excellent condition. \$7,500. Brian (619) 725-8070 or (619) 583-7186.

#