



Staff Bulletin

San Diego Unified School District

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June 2007 issue:

Page 1

Enrollment Center
Becoming America's Best
Getting to Know

Page 2

Connect-ED®
News You Can Use
Family Friendly
Classifieds

Page 3

Our Schools as Jewels
Hall of Fame

Page 4

Out and About
In Memoriam

Getting '07-08 to Know Classified Employees of the Year



Kathy Reed

Special Ed Technician
Patrick Henry High



Preston Robinson

Network System-
Media Support Tech
De Portola Middle

At school sites, central offices, or on the road, in more than 700 job classifications, SDUSD classified employees share a common goal: to provide our students with safe and positive learning environments. The Board of Education honored more than 7,100 dedicated classified employees at a ceremony held May 22 in recognition of Classified Employees Week.

continued on page 4

Center Jumpstarts 2007-08 Enrollments District Opens Central Enrollment Center in July

In order to provide 'one-stop shopping' for parents wishing to enroll their children before the new school year, the district will be piloting a Central Enrollment Center at Roosevelt Middle School. The center, open to all families across the district, will have the ability to provide:

- New-to-the-district enrollments
- Transfers within the district enrollment
- VEEP, CHOICE, Magnet, and NCLB enrollments

The Enrollment Center will be staffed by representatives from the district's Enrollment Options, Information Technology, Nursing and Wellness, Communications, Translation and other departments.

The center will be able to:

- Collect enrollment information from parents
- Enter the information into the Zangle enrollment system
- Create a cumulative folder
- Complete critical enrollment forms/applications, including the Lao language survey and applications for Free/Reduced Price Meals

- Review transcripts and report cards for appropriate grade level placement
- Send for cumulative student records from previous schools
- Review student IEP information
- Distribute information about programs at school sites
- Forward the newly enrolled student's information to the receiving school

Enrollment Center Days/Hours:

	Mon 12-7p	Tue 12-7p	Wed 12-7p	Thu 12-7p	Fri 12-7p	Sat 8a-1p
July	23	24	25			
	30	31				
Aug			1			
	6	7	8			
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	25

For more information, please contact Mike Price at (619) 725-7560 or mprice1@sandi.net.

Becoming America's Best Balboa Named Nation's Top Math Elementary

Balboa Elementary has been named top elementary school math program in Intel Corporation's annual Schools of Distinction Award. The school was honored for its rigorous, challenging and engaging math program, and its track record in improvement over the last several years.

"We're pleased that Intel has chosen to recognize nationally the excellent work of the students, parents, teachers, staff and principal at Balboa," said Superintendent Carl Cohn. "The remarkable track record of Principal Sylvia Gonzalez and her staff over

the last several years shows how persistence can pay off in math for our students."

During the last five years, the school's math test scores increased substantially; for example, in 2006, students scoring "proficient" or "advanced" in the math portion of the California Standards Test was 175, rising from a 51 in 2002.

At a ceremony honoring the award on May 30, Cohn lauded the efforts of the teachers and staff.

"This type of hard work makes all of us who head the school system look good, but



Balboa Principal Sylvia Gonzalez (far left) & staff accept a check for \$170,000 from Intel Corporation.

most importantly it creates a bright future for these youngsters that we are privileged to serve," he said. "I salute you and thank you for this amazing accomplishment."

The school received \$10,000 in cash and an award package valued at more than \$160,000 in curriculum materials, professional development resources, hardware, and software.

News You Can Use

Did You Know? *We're Building on our Success*

Be on the lookout for your copy of this year's edition of *Did You Know?* This publication celebrates some of the significant accomplishments made in 2006-07 by our schools, employees, students, sites and programs. Employees can take pride in knowing that SDUSD is making strides in becoming America's best large urban school district.

This year, in addition to staff, copies will also be available to schools to share with all families. We believe families will enjoy reading about these accomplishments, too. An electronic version is available under Quick Links at www.sandi.net. We welcome your collaboration in sharing *Did You Know?* For information or additional copies, contact communications@sandi.net or (619) 725-5578.

Save the Date *Return to Glory*

Mark your calendars. The dedication of the new Lincoln High School is Saturday, September 29, at 9 a.m.

Classifieds

For Sale

Greenwood Memorial Park, two side-by-side plots in "Evergreen;" retail for \$11,000, make offer. Call (619) 562-0382.

For Rent

One-week vacation time share condo at beautiful Pono Kai Resort on Kauai, Hawaii. Nov. 18-25, 2007. Up to 4 people allowed. \$900/obo. E-mail mgrantham1@sandi.net.

District Pilots School Communication System

Linking schools and parents through Connect-ED®



San Diego Unified is joining the ranks of hundreds of school districts across the state and country with the implementation of Connect-ED® at several of our schools. Connect-ED® is a web-based communications system that enables school administrators to record, schedule, send, and track personalized voice messages to parents, students and staff in minutes.

Principals can use the versatile system to relay important student information, conduct parent surveys, or even send school-wide emergency messages from their cell phones. School staff can streamline the attendance notification process with tools that help maintain accurate student data throughout the year.

Detailed reports showcase "successfully de-

livered messages" versus "bad numbers", and provide valuable feedback on the best time to reach parents.

Both Dailard and Foster Elementary are current users of Connect-ED®. "This has become the cornerstone of our school's communications plan, and our parents love it," says Dailard Principal Joe Erpelding.

Through the Annie E. Casey Foundation Grant, 38 schools throughout the district are participating in a year-long pilot project, enabling the district to test Connect-ED® on a larger scale. For information on the pilot project, contact Jennie Breister at jbreister@sandi.net or (619) 725-5598.



The Every Day Counts! campaign and Connect-ED® pilot project are supported by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Family Friendly Schools

Welcoming Families on Campus

For many parents, deciding how involved to be with their child's education starts with how they feel about their school. First impressions matter, such as friendly telephone voices and helpful staff. Creating an atmosphere that embraces parent involvement and cultural connections further strengthens a family's commitment to their school.

With the launch of the Family Friendly Schools Initiative in February, the district is helping schools create and maintain welcoming campus environments for families and local communities. So far, 68 schools have pledged their participation and jump-started their efforts by attending a "Nuts and Bolts" training session. The final goal is to become a certified Family Friendly School, the model for positive learning environments for students and staff.

The initiative also encourages parents to get involved

with school activities and to recognize staff members who provide outstanding service. Super Service Commendation forms and drop-off boxes are available at most schools. More than 600 parents and visitors have embraced the opportunity to say "thank you" to staff members who go above and beyond in the area of exemplary service. Here are some recent comments:

- A parent at Correia Middle School recognized a staff member for being "a solid teacher with a mission to make sure every student who leaves her classroom is well prepared for the next grade level."
 - A parent at Patrick Henry High recognized a counselor for "making communication her number one priority and addressing questions, concerns and e-mails in a consistent, kind and professional manner."
- The message behind the



Family Friendly Schools Initiative is so positive that many district offices are also using Super Service Commendation forms to recognize fellow employees.

- Mason Elementary recognized a member of the Pupil Accounting team "for her professionalism, her excellent recommendations, and for sharing valuable knowledge and positive feedback that will be put to use at our school."

More schools and departments are expected to join the program in the 2007-08 school year. For more information and a schedule of upcoming training opportunities, contact Edward Caballero at ecaballero@sandi.net or (619) 725-5519.

Our Schools as Jewels: Colors Bloom at Central Elementary School

Central Elementary School has become a botanical oasis amid the concrete and buildings of City Heights. Everywhere you look, flowers are blooming, adding a splash of color to the campus.

Alongside some of the buildings, there's a picket fence protecting gladiolas growing in planters. Just outside the lunch court shelter, there are large concrete planters that contain trees, shrubs and flowers that provide color as well as shade.

Just beyond some of the classrooms

is a row of sunflowers amid a courtyard. Near the office, brightly painted tulips decorate planters bearing trees, ferns and other shade plants.

Staff members Michael Shefcik and Augustine Lozano lead the beautification efforts with help from students and staff.

According to Mintie Bowman, site operations specialist, the school could not have accomplished this project without generous donations from City Farmer's Nursery and the Rice Family Foundation.



The new Central Elementary School plant life provides a lush contrast to the urban landscape.

Hall of Fame

SDUSD Lead Psychologist **Michele Bronson** received the San Diego Council Administrators of Special Education (SANDCASE) Service Award for San Diego Unified School District. She received her award at the Special Education Awards Luncheon held May 15.



Moss

Toler Elementary Teacher **Scott Moss** was one of 15 teachers nationwide to be selected a 2007 Time Warner Cable National Teacher Award winner. Teachers are judged on the creative use of cable television resources in the classroom.

For her extraordinary efforts to bring the history of Old Town San Diego alive to San Diego's school children, Old Town Program Administrator **Karla Shiminski** received the Award of Excellence in Education from the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board.

Mike Hastings from Point Loma High, **John King**, from Scripps Ranch High, **Gerry Knuppel** from Clairemont High, **Ron Lardizabal** from Hoover High, and **Steve Walters** from Kearny Educational Complex, have earned the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association (NIAAA) designation of Certified Athletic Administrator.

Winners at the 2007 Innovation in Education Awards event included **Madison High School** for its NEEDS Outreach Transition Page and **Hoover High School's** Academy of Information Technology. High Tech Academic Achievement Scholarships were presented to outstanding AVID students including La Jolla High School senior **Daniel Guerrero**, Clairemont senior **Sean Allen**, Henry senior **Kristine Rodda**, and Point Loma senior **Shanelle Watkins**. To learn more, go to www.classroomofthefuture.org.

The San Diego Unit of the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) has named **Grant Math/Science Magnet School** and its P.E. teacher **Laurie Roeder** as this year's recipient of the Gallup-Robinson Award for outstanding physical education program with a specialist.

SciTech High is one of only a few high schools in the country to be selected to work with NASA on the Phoenix Mars Mission. Students will

participate in the Phoenix Student Interns Program (PSIP), working with Dr. Mike Hecht of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Ca. The students will experience first-hand the excitement of exploration and discovery on Mars.

Language Academy eighth grader **Jonathan Crow** received a First Place award in the National French Contest, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. More than 100,000 students participated in the contest.

Language Academy fifth grader **Giovanna Diaz**, Challenger seventh grader **Rodger Yan** and Preuss School ninth grader **Paul Tran** were the Grand Prize winners in the Sixth Annual Family Histories Essay Contest sponsored by the New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center (NAIMLC). To read the winning essays, go to www.naimlc.org.



Pictured (left to right) Miramar College student Mark Sena, Rodger Yan, NAIMLC Founder and Chair Deborah Szekeley, Giovanna Diaz and Paul Tran.

The International House of Blues Foundation (IHOFB)-San Diego Blues Ambassador Scholarship Committee has selected School of Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) senior **Guilain Bwinika** as the 2007 Blues Ambassador. Guilain came to the U.S. from his native Congo at the age of 11. He is fluent in four languages and is an exceptional dancer and performer who mentors other students through various local dance programs.



Hendrix



Brown

Deborah Hendrix (left) from Boone Elementary and **Brenda Brown** (below left) from Webster Elementary are the latest winners in the district's Recycling Contest. Each received a Jamba Juice plastic mug with a free smoothie coupon, a certificate for a free appetizer at TGI Fridays, and two coupons for a free Chipotle burrito. Interested in participating in the contest? Contact Andrea Eaton at (858) 627-7376.



In Memoriam

Deborah Broderick, Administrative Assistant I with Extended Learning, May 29, 2007.

George Castro, former Teacher at Bird Rock Elementary School, May 17, 2007.

Judith Kenyon, Special Education Assistant with Whittier Center, June 6, 2007.

Judy Leard, Special Education Assistant with Hawthorne Elementary School, June 10, 2007.

Maria Del Rosario Maldonado, Food Service Worker with Morse Prep Kitchen, May 20, 2007.

Olga Moeller-Neveu, Special Education Technician at Bay View Terrace Elementary, May 22, 2007.

Kate Murty, former Teacher at Garfield High School, May 10, 2007.

John Parsons, former Teacher at Wangenheim Middle School, June 3, 2007.

Tracee Parsons, Vice Principal at Roosevelt Middle School, May 24, 2007.

Teresa Ray, Food Service Worker with Wilson Prep Kitchen, May 27, 2007.

Dates to Remember

June 19
Last Day for Students at Traditional Schools

July 4
Independence Day - All schools and offices closed

July 20
Year Round Schools Close

September 4
First Day of School

ADS RUN ON SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS - Email ads to communications@sandi.net or send to Communications Office, Room 2145, Education Center. Limit to 15 words (not including phone). Include work location and phone (for ID purposes only).

Getting to Know cont.

Included in the ceremony was the announcement of the district's 2007 Classified Employee Man and Woman of the Year and runners-up.

Preston Robinson, from De Portola Middle School, is the 2007 Classified Man of the Year. His official job title is Network System-Media Support Technician but according to De Portola Principal Listy Gillingham, "Preston Robinson is a magician." He is responsible for the maintenance and repair of hundreds of computers at the school and is the "go to guy" for help with e-mail, Zangle, and the school's website. His talent is obvious; his dedication to the staff is inspiring.

As dedicated as he is to the staff, Preston is even more caring and concerned with students. Every year, he takes two to three "at-risk" kids under his wing, helping struggling students turn the corner and strive to follow the right path.

"Preston works tirelessly to help students achieve by working with them directly and assisting staff to support those students," said teacher Aaron Frick. "He does not quit, he does not say no. He is always working hard, giving it his best and making wherever he is a better place to be."

Kathy Reed, a Special Education Technician assigned to Patrick Henry High School, is the 2007 Classified Woman of the Year. Kathy has dedicated more than 23 years to working with special education students in Integrated Life Skills (ILS) classrooms. She has spent 19 of those years at Patrick Henry.

With so many years in ILS classrooms, the special education curriculum and philosophy are second nature to Kathy. She treats her students with respect. She sets high expectations and works diligently with the students to make sure they reach their goals. She remains positive and kind in every situation. Her efforts are rewarded by her students' enthusiasm, smiles, pride and social progress.

"Kathy devotes her whole day, every day, to making sure the severely handicapped special education students under her supervision receive the best care possible," said Special Education Resource Specialist Florise Seip. "She is dedicated to meeting their numerous individual needs, which allows each student to grow as an individual. She is a tremendous guiding force in the lives of her students and an outstanding asset to our high school."

First runner-up honors went to **Carol Lee** from the Special Education Satellite Office, and **Ryan Barbrick**, assigned to Twain Jr./Sr. High School. **Karen Lacey-Jackson** from Encanto Elementary School and **Nick Nicolas** from the Program Studies Department were second runners-up.

Out and About Out and About Out and About



Taft Middle School received a \$40,000 Charger Champions grant from the San Diego Chargers. The school will use the funds to transform its old, unused weight room into a state-of-the-art cardio-fitness room. From left to right: Jacques Cesaire #74; Andrea Bazer, Adapted Physical Education; Kris Dielman #68; Jackie Wilton, Physical Education; Kimberly Meng, Vice Principal; Nick Hardwick #61; and Robbie Klinefelter, Physical Education.



Senator Christine Kehoe observes a biodiesel demonstration conducted by SciTech High students. Kehoe visited with students and staff on May 25 to learn more about the cutting-edge biodiesel program offered at San Diego High School.



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Send all news items and classified ads to communications@sandi.net, Education Center, Room 2145, 4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103 or fax to (619) 725-5576.

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Superintendent of Schools

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