

San Diego City Schools

Staff Bulletin – February 18, 2004

Update on Discipline Materials for Secondary Schools

The district's webpage on student discipline is now available at http://sandi.net/depts/placement_appeal/discipline_policy/index.html. Please review this information and pass it along to staff, students and parents.

Packets of information regarding student discipline will be sent to all secondary in March. Included in these packets are Talking Points for principals, five Fact Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.'s) by students, letter templates to send to parents and staff members, newsletter and handbook article templates, student flyers and a video which is to be shown to all secondary students. San Diego City Schools has collaborated with the local chapter of Californians for Justice, a student advocacy group, to create materials that are easy for students and parents to understand. Please plan on distributing the materials to students, parents and staff as appropriate.

All of the materials (video, webpage and print) have been made possible by a generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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Getting to Know Kurt Supinger

By Cynthia Reed-Porter

At work, he's a construction manager for the Proposition MM program; at home, Kurt Supinger is an artisan and family man. When he isn't managing the renovations at our schools, he's making wooden train cars and creating needlepoint artwork – That's right, needlepoint. He's an award-winning needlepoint artist when he's not busy being a husband, a stepfather and grandfather.

Kurt, 40, comes by his creativity and craftsmanship naturally.

"My dad was a shop teacher and did a lot of woodworking," Kurt said. "But, I didn't start woodworking until 2000. I made a toy golf cart. I started making wooden train cars for my Prop. MM schools in 2001. My next project is going to be wooden golf carts."

You can see Kurt's handiwork in the display case outside the auditorium at the Education Center where approximately 30 wooden train cars are exhibited. Each car represents a completed Prop. MM school project.

Although Kurt started the project, he is quick to point out that it was a team effort. Kurt's dad, Ron Supinger, makes some parts and ships them from North Carolina. Corporate and independent sponsors, such as Jim Maletic, another Prop. MM construction manager, donate money and materials. To date, nearly 50 cars have been completed.

Long before Kurt began woodworking, he was perfecting his needlepoint skills. "Both serve as good stress relievers," he says.

"I started doing needlepoint when I was 12 years old," Kurt explained. "My grandpa bought me a kit for a hook rug."

After mastering hook rugs, Kurt progressed to making his own plastic canvases and drawing original designs. He said his needlepoint creations can be almost anything, but he does a lot of animals. He proudly points out that he competed against women and won a second-place award in 1997 at the Antelope County Fair for his "Elephant on the Serengeti."

Besides needlepoint and woodwork, golf is another one of Kurt's favorite leisure-time activities. He's been hitting the links since he was in fifth grade.

"I like the competitiveness," he said. "It's also good for informal networking."

Considering his creativity, it's easy to understand why being tied to a desk isn't Kurt's idea of fun. He would much rather be out in the field overseeing his Prop. MM projects, he said. Since coming to the district in July 2000, Kurt has managed 18 Prop. MM construction projects at 15 of our existing schools.

As a construction manager, Kurt works closely with the general contractor, the school site staff and the Prop. MM team at each of his sites to ensure that construction projects and upgrades get done on time and within budget.

"My job is one of influence," Kurt said of what he likes most about his job. "No one works directly for me. (A construction project) is kind of like a wild horse. You can stand in front of it and try to tame it or run alongside it and get the best overall project possible."

"There's also a lot of public relations and customer service in my job," he explained. "I try to come as a guest and not as 'big brother.' (The construction team is) there to serve the school, not be served. We're there to upgrade the school, not just complete a contract. And, because the construction work affects so many people, we have to be sensitive to a lot of different needs."

For example, moving students and teachers in and out of classrooms is often part of the process of renovating schools under Prop. MM. While coordinating moves is a significant challenge for construction managers, moving is a major undertaking and adjustment for teachers and students as well.

"At Loma Portal Elementary School, we moved a teacher who had been in her room for 20 years," Kurt said. "It was very traumatic for her."

Along with his current projects at existing schools, he is also the construction manager for the new Scripps Ranch-area middle school. He will play a critical role in getting the school open by Fall 2006. However, if he needs some insight into how middle schools function, he said he can always call his dad who was a middle school teacher and principal in Michigan where Kurt grew up.

Kurt brings a variety of professional experience to Prop. MM. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and an emphasis in transportation.

"Engineering trained me to solve problems logically, and that has helped me throughout my career," he added.

Kurt spent five years in the Navy as a civil engineer for the Seabees, a naval construction unit, and is still an active reservist.

"I liked the military culture, especially the discipline and the orderliness," he said.

When Kurt left the military, he started his civilian career in Los Angeles. He worked on the Green Line transit system in L.A., managing contracts for the \$800 million project. It was during this project that Kurt discovered he didn't want to pursue a career in transportation.

After three years of working on the Green Line, Kurt spent three years assessing the damage to approximately 300-400 L.A. county facilities after the Northridge earthquake. In 1997, Kurt went on to

work with Los Angeles Unified School District as a project manager where he oversaw repairs and renovations to many of the district's schools.

After L.A. Kurt came to San Diego City Schools to help improve the district's teaching and learning environment through Prop. MM. He is especially looking forward to building the new Scripps Ranch-area middle school.

"I have a different role with the middle school," he explained. "I've never been involved in the design stage. This time, I'm helping the project manager earlier in the process. I'm learning a lot."

Kurt balances his work and hobbies with his home life. He and his wife, Lorinda, have been married for 15 years and live in Murrieta. He has two adult stepdaughters and two granddaughters.

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Old Town Program Celebrates 20 Years

The Old Town Cultural and Historical Program celebrates its 20th Anniversary this month. This Off-Campus Integrated Learning Experience (OCILE) program for all SDCS 4th graders teaches students about San Diego's rich cultural and historical past. An Open House will be held at the Old Town Program at 3939 Conde St. in Old Town, San Diego from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19. For more information, please contact the Old Town Program at (619) 293-4432 or oldtownpgm@mail.sandi.net.

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CSA Has Heart!

Join Community Services Association (CSA), the district's employee contribution club and help make a difference in our local community through donations to non-profit agencies throughout San Diego County. As a result of the current state of the economy, many worthwhile charitable organizations are finding it difficult to raise much-needed funds to continue providing services to those in need. CSA is now recruiting new members for the current school year. Joining CSA is a fast and convenient way to make charitable contributions to the local community. Plus all donations are tax deductible!

CSA assists over 150 agencies through yearly grants. Past charities have included St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Clubs, several YMCA branches, Elementary Institute of Science, the Children's Museum, the Maritime Museum, California Ballet, the Burn Institute, AVID, the Links, and two CSA Scholarships through the San Diego Education Fund Future Teacher Program. Employees may also designate a specific agency to receive their donations.

Make a difference in the lives of SDCS students, their families and fellow employees who may need the services of agencies supported by CSA. For more information, please contact Mary Bartholomew, Membership Secretary, at (619) 465-2210.

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Hall of Fame

• Music Teachers Honored

The California Association for Music Education honored the following teachers from San Diego City Schools:

- Serafin Parades, a Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher, as General Elementary Music Educator
- Beverly Tesch, as Retired Music Educator
- Steve Steinberg, from Marshall Middle School, as Jazz Educator

• **Clark Middle School is an Outstanding Year-round School**

The National Association of Year-round Education (NAYRE) has named Clark Middle School an “Outstanding Year-round School.” On Feb. 8, an award was presented by Jeannie Steeg, from the NAYRE Board of Directors, to Principal Frank Petersen, Vice Principal Michael George and Resource Teacher Connie Gearhart.

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In Memoriam

- **Marjorie Craig**, whose service with the district began in September 1956, passed away on December 25, 2003. Ms. Craig was a Program Evaluator in Testing and Consolidated Application at the time of her retirement in August 1989.

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News You Can Use

• **Instructors Needed to Teach Discover Program Classes**

The Discover Program is seeking instructors to teach classes being offered to district employees for the Spring Session (April-June) in all areas including Math, Science, Literacy, Fine Arts, Social Studies, Second Language, Technology, Guidance and Staff Development. Discover courses provide opportunities for teachers to learn from other practicing professionals while earning professional development credit. Consider offering a course through the Discover Program as a way of sharing your knowledge with other professionals in the district. To submit a course proposal, or if you have any questions, please contact Debi Giolzetti at (619) 725-7255 or dgiozlet@mail.sandi.net. You can also visit the website at <http://www.surferjet.com/sandinethdiscover/>.

• **Journalism Workshop for Students**

The “Pro for a Day” Student Journalism Workshop, presented by the San Diego Association of Black Journalists, will be taking place at Southwestern College this Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please contact Denise Ward at (619) 718-5304.

• **Teachers of the Year Applications Due March 12**

Applications from school site nominees for the district’s Teacher of the Year awards are due in the Communications office (Education Center, Room 2145) no later than 5 p.m. on Mar. 12. Applications can also be faxed to (619) 725-5576. Questions can be addressed to Lisa Jaycox at (619) 725-5598 or ejaycox@sandi.net.

• **Time and Talent Sought by Arthritis Foundation**

The Arthritis Foundation, San Diego Area Chapter, is hosting the national conference of the American Juvenile Arthritis Organization. Children and their families, whose lives have been touched by juvenile arthritis, will be visiting San Diego at the Town & Country Resort on July 22-25. While speakers present the latest information on arthritis, children will have the opportunity to take part in fun, educational activities. We need your help to assist as Children’s Activity Leaders. Please consider volunteering your time and talent, and contact Kathryn Grosnof at (858) 492-1090 x124 or kgrosnof@arthritis.org.

- **WANTED: Your Kodak Moments for the SDCS Website**

The Web Services team would like to invite you to submit your best color photos of recent (+/- 30 days) school events to be included on the front page of the district website at <http://www.sandi.net>.

Events could include:

- Science and Invention Fairs
- Family Science, Math or Literacy Nights
- Cultural Fairs
- Olympic-type Events
- Performing and Visual Arts Activities

Digital photos are preferred, with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi at 3" x 5". Still photographs are also acceptable if they can be easily scanned. Photographs that are close up should not depict more than three children. If the photograph does show a child close up and clearly identifiable, a Website Photo Release form (see below) must be used to obtain parental consent before posting the photo online. For additional information, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (619) 725-5579 or ukroemer@sandi.net.

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Save the Date

- **AAAE Annual Conference on Teaching African-American Students**

The Association of African-American Educators (AAAE) Conference is scheduled for Mar. 5-6, 2004 at the Hanalei/Red Lion Hotel in Hotel Circle and is centered on the theme, *Effectively Teaching African-American Students: 50 Years After Brown vs. Board*. The annual conference brings educators, students and parents together to focus on strategies for improving the academic achievement of African-American students. Attendees will listen to researchers and motivational speakers and participate in discussions and problem-solving sessions. The final registration deadline is Mar. 5. Please contact Catherine Pope at (619) 668-8635 if you would like more information.

- **Bell Students Star in "Much Ado About Nothing"**

Actors, actresses and a theatre production crew at Bell Junior High will be bringing Shakespeare's classic, "Much Ado About Nothing" to life on Feb. 23-25. For ticket information please contact Mr. Maher at (619) 479-7111 x267.

- **Excellence in Teaching Conference**

The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) is hosting this year's state conference on "Excellence in Teaching" on Mar. 4-7 at the Pasadena Sheraton. For more information, please visit the website at http://www.cahperd.org/conference/conf_schedule.html or contact CAHPERD at (916) 922-3596, 1-800-499-3596 or cahperd@cahperd.org.

- **Forum Promotes Best Practices for Educating Urban Students**

The Preuss School at UCSD invites secondary educators (grades 4-12) to a forum titled "Best Practices for Educating Urban Youth" on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Preuss School UCSD Campus. Through studying current research and engaging in hand-on activities, educators will examine what students should know and learn from an academically rigorous curriculum in an urban setting such as San Diego City Schools. Participants will be provided with a workbook full of research and teaching strategies. One (1) unit of credit will be available through UCSD Extension. This event is free to educators and \$45 for non-educators. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Pete Selleck at (858) 458-9500 or pselleck@ucsd.edu.

- **Honor Concerts to Fill Brown Chapel at Point Loma Nazarene University**

On Saturday, Mar. 13 and Tuesday, Mar. 16 at 7 p.m., Brown Chapel at Point Loma Nazarene University will be filled with the sound of music as SDCS students perform with their talented voices and instruments. On Saturday, Mar. 13, the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) department in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education and the California Association for Music Education is

hosting the Honor Choir Concert, a display of songs from the Elementary, Middle and Secondary School Honor Choirs. On Tuesday, Mar. 16, the Elementary Honor Orchestra and Elementary Honor Band will perform at Brown Chapel. Questions should be directed to the VAPA department at (858) 539-5349 or Ann Marie Haney at (858) 459-3637.

- **Join the Fun of the Junior Olympics at Green Elementary**

Mark your calendar for Mar. 29 through Apr. 2; it's Junior Olympics Week at Green Elementary School! Opening ceremonies will be at 9 a.m. on Mar. 29. Everyone is invited to attend and cheer on the Green athletes. For more information, please contact Green Elementary at (619) 460-5755.

- **Let the Groundbreaking Begin!**

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Cherokee Point Elementary School in City Heights has been set for Thursday, Mar. 25, at 10 a.m. This is the first of five Proposition MM new school groundbreaking ceremonies to be held in 2004. Official invitations to the ceremony will be sent in late February and early March to all appropriate officials, guests and community members. Surrounding neighborhoods will soon be properly notified of upcoming construction. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Wilgenburg, Proposition MM Communications, at (619) 725-5602.

- **Parent Congress Connects Parents and District Administration**

The next Parent Congress meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Mar. 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn, 875 Hotel Circle Drive in Mission Valley. Food Services will be hosting a food fair from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., so be sure to bring your appetite. For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.sandi.net/parents/parentcongress/>.

- **Performance Arts Explode at SDSCPA**

The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA) has a number of upcoming theatre and dance shows in February:

- "Senior Dance Concert" on Feb. 18-19
- "1940's Radio Hour" on Feb. 18-22
- "Sing Along Wizard of Oz" on Feb. 27

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.scpa.sandi.net/>.

- **Race for Literacy with the Union-Tribune**

The *Union-Tribune* Race for Literacy Weekend will be held on May 1 and 2, 2004. The "Kids' Magic Mile" on May 1 will give kids a chance to run, play, eat and listen to celebrity readers at Balboa Park. On Sunday, May 2, walkers and runners will have the unique opportunity to run down Highway 163 in the "Race for Literacy 8K." Contact *In Motion, Inc.* at (760) 692-2900 or teams@inmotionevents.com to get involved.

- **San Diego Civic Theatre to Host Honor Concert**

On Sunday, May 9, the Middle School Honor Band, Secondary Honor Orchestra and High School Honor Band will perform at the San Diego Civic Theatre. For ticket information, please contact the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) department at (858) 539-5349.

- **S.H.A.P.E. San Diego Expo Has Something for Everyone**

The Safety, Health, Advocacy, Prosperity, Education (S.H.A.P.E.) Expo will be visiting San Diego on Saturday, Mar. 13, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Students of all ages will have the opportunity to learn about financial aid, safety, internships, etc. and will be entertained by performers and a visitor from *Cartoon Network*. Teachers and parents will benefit from over 60 seminars. To get involved, please contact Deb Ingersoll at (858) 638-7782 or debi@joderegroup.com or visit the website at <http://www.shapesandiego.com>.

- **STAR/PAL Fishing Derby**

STAR/PAL is hosting a free fishing derby this Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004 for students, ages 8 to 15, at Chollas Lake (6350 College Grove Dr.) in San Diego. All registered students will receive a free fishing pole, T-shirt, and lunch cooked by San Diego Firefighters. The lake will be stocked with hundreds of

pounds of trout paid through donations made to STAR/PAL. If you would like more information, please call Officer Lee Brannon at (619) 531-2788. Walk-ups will be accepted, but space is limited, so call today!

- **Superintendent Art Show Brightens Ed. Center**

Student artwork from across the district will soon be on display at the Education Center. The annual Superintendent Art Exhibition will last from Feb. 23 through the end of March. An Open House on Mar. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. will feature the talent-filled student exhibits and give students a chance to show their creative projects to family and friends. If you would like more information, please contact Marty Stegeman at (858) 539-5353 or mstegeman@mail.sandi.net.

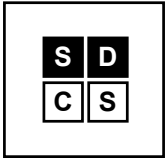
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Student Salutes

- **Field Elementary Students Chosen for All-City Choir**

Three choir members from Field Elementary School have been selected to participate in the all-city Honor Choir. Melody Nielsen, grade 6, Anne Reathaford, grade 5, and Jamie Savoie, grade 5, will perform with 150 other elementary singers on Mar. 13 at Point Loma Nazarene University's Brown Chapel.

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SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Website Photo Release Form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Date: _____

A representative from the district's Community Relations division will be on our campus on _____ to take pictures in the classroom of _____. The purpose of the session will be to gather photographs for use on the district's website, featuring the faces of San Diego City Schools. We value your child's participation in this photo session, and ask for your permission to include him/her in the project. Please return your form promptly, and no later than _____.

Principal

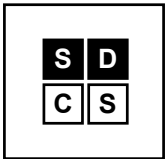
_____ I give my permission to have my child photographed.

_____ Please do not include my child in this activity.

Child's name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian's name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian's signature/date



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Formulario de Difusión de Fotografías en el Sitio Electrónico

Estimado Padre/Madre/Tutor:

Fecha: _____

Un representante de la división de Relaciones Comunitarias del distrito estará en nuestra escuela el _____ para tomar fotografías en el salón de _____. El propósito de la sesión será reunir fotografías y usarlas en el sitio electrónico del distrito, para mostrar los rostros de San Diego City Schools. Valoramos la participación de su niño en esta sesión fotográfica y le pedimos permiso para incluirlo/la en el proyecto. Por favor devuelva este formulario con prontitud y a más tardar el _____.

Director/Directora

_____ Doy permiso para que se fotografíe a mi hijo/hija.

_____ Por favor no incluyan a mi hijo/hija en esta actividad.

Nombre del niño/niña (use letra de molde) _____

Nombre del Padre/Madre/Tutor (use letra de molde) _____

Fecha del Padre/Madre/Tutor y Fecha
