

# San Diego City Schools

## Staff Bulletin – February 4, 2004

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### **Budget Website Updates Now Available**

The district's website section regarding the budget is updated regularly and is available at <http://www.sandi.net/budget/index.htm>. The following information has been recently added:

- Details Regarding the Hiring Freeze ([http://www.sandi.net/budget/hiring\\_freeze.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/budget/hiring_freeze.pdf))
- Site budget reductions process initiated January 2004 (<http://www.sandi.net/budget/>)
- Summary of principal responses to the budget survey at the December 2003 Principals' conferences:
  - Elementary Principals' feedback (<http://www.sandi.net/budget/031202ElemPrincFdbk.pdf>)
  - Secondary Principals' feedback (<http://www.sandi.net/budget/031202hsPrincFdbk.pdf>)
- Feedback from Parent Congress delegates ([http://www.sandi.net/parents/parentcongress/031210budget\\_survey\\_summary.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/parents/parentcongress/031210budget_survey_summary.pdf))
- Implementation of Union Budget Recommendations ([http://www.sandi.net/budget/031230suggest\\_implement.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/budget/031230suggest_implement.pdf))
- Comparison of SDCS Executive Committee to those of other school districts for 2003-04 ([http://www.sandi.net/budget/04exec\\_committee\\_comp.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/budget/04exec_committee_comp.pdf))
- Comparison of Executive Committees for 2002-03 ([http://www.sandi.net/budget/03exec\\_committee\\_comp.pdf](http://www.sandi.net/budget/03exec_committee_comp.pdf))

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### **Discipline Materials on the Way**

The Board of Education has made reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions in San Diego City Schools (SDCS) a priority. This can be accomplished, in part, by better informing students, parents and staff (including all school staff, teachers, central office staff, etc.) about offenses leading to, and the process surrounding, suspensions and expulsions.

Updated discipline materials regarding Suspension and Expulsion procedures and policies will be delivered to schools later this month. Included in this packet are three fact sheets, letter templates, newsletter and handbook article templates, flyers and a video which is to be shown to all secondary students. SDCS has collaborated with the local chapter of Californians for Justice, an advocacy group, to create materials that are easy for students and parents to understand. Please distribute the materials to students, parents and staff as appropriate. A webpage on the district website is also being developed and will soon be available at <http://www.sandi.net/discipline>.

Please take this opportunity to discuss school discipline policies and expectations with staff, students and parents. Together, we can make a difference in the number of suspensions and expulsions that occur this year and in the future. All of the materials (video, website and print) have been made possible by a generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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### **SDCS Teachers Pass National Board Certification**

Congratulations to the 23 San Diego City Schools teachers who passed the National Board Certification this year! This challenging certification process seeks to maintain high standards for accomplished teachers through a voluntary certification system. The National Board for Professional Teaching

Standards, available on the NBPTS website at [www.nbpts.org/about/](http://www.nbpts.org/about/), which determine these standards is comprised of classroom teachers, school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders and business and community leaders who are interested in advancing the quality of teaching and learning.

National Board Certification measures a teacher's practice based on high and rigorous standards. The process is an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and a thorough analysis of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject knowledge and test their understanding of how to teach the subject to students. Teachers who have participated in National Board Certification have overwhelmingly stated it to be one of the most powerful professional development experiences of their careers.

The following teachers from SDCS passed the National Board Certification this year. Congratulations!

Amanda Bain  
Brian Black  
Margaret Bower  
Kimberly Calloway  
Colleen Crandall  
Julie Garcia  
Sherryl Godfrey  
Amy Illingworth  
Erica Ingrassia  
Joan Kuzler  
Elena Lujan  
Rebecca Mashburn

Al Miller  
Janet Mitchell  
Gerald Niehaus  
Minta Nieto  
Angela Pantaleone  
Ruth Reyes  
Zamaria Rocio  
Cheryl Rodenhi  
Annmarie Stuartolson  
Terry Swain  
Nancy Wooten

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## **Outstanding Student Achievers Recognized by Board of Education and Superintendent**

Last week, Tuesday, Jan. 27, the semi-annual Student Recognition Awards Ceremony filled the Eugene Brucker Education Center Auditorium to recognize many of the district's exceptional student achievers. Over twice as many students and parents were in attendance this time. Students were awarded for outstanding achievements based on strict guidelines that require a first place award at the countywide or regional level. All subjects and programs—academic, arts, athletic, social services and others—were recognized. Students from 13 high schools and one middle school were honored by the Board of Education, Superintendent Alan D. Bersin, parents, peers and district staff. The next Student Recognition Awards Ceremony will be held in May. Keep an eye out for the Circular to be released in March.

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## **School Police to Sponsor 2005 Teddy Bear Drive**

The San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Police department has been selected to host the San Diego County Teddy Bear Drive for 2005! SDCS officers will organize the holiday drive and collect bears for patients in Children's Hospital. Each year, School Police collect hundreds of bears from SDCS sites and load them onto school buses provided by the Transportation department. Next year they're going to take on a much bigger load and organize the entire countywide drive. Over 2,003 bears were collected from SDCS sites and delivered to Children's Hospital this year as a result of the caring organizers and supporters who donated the bears. With SDCS police in charge, who knows how many more will be collected in 2005!

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## Hall of Fame

### • **Community Service Association Receives ARC Civic Award**

The Community Service Association (CSA), an employee contribution club, was recently honored by the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) of San Diego with a Civic Award in recognition of CSA's loyal support and commitment to persons with developmental disabilities. The awards luncheon was held at the Hilton on Mission Bay. Each year, CSA makes numerous donations to local families and charities. In early December, CSA donated \$2,500 to the Salvation Army to assist local families during the holiday season. At the end of October, employee donations from the 2002-2003 school year were disbursed to charities, such as St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army, to assist local fire victims.

### • **SDCS Lou Smith Listed in ENR's Top 25 Newsmakers of 2003**

*Engineering News Record* (ENR), a leading national publication of the construction industry, has released its list of Top 25 Newsmakers of 2003 which includes Lou Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Facilities Management. The list, created by the editors of ENR, is comprised of "leaders who serve the best interests of the construction industry." All leaders named in the list are also nominees for ENR's Award of Excellence, which will be announced in April. The article is available online at <http://enr.construction.com/people/people/archives/040112.asp>.

### • **Teachers Honored at 19th Annual Outstanding Black Educators Breakfast**

Five teachers from San Diego City Schools (SDCS) will be honored this Saturday, Feb. 7, as Outstanding Black Educators. The national sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. will recognize Angela Bass (Central Office), Lillie McMillan (Hamilton Elementary), Brené Patrick (Crawford High), Reashon Villery (Valencia Park Elementary) and Shirley Wilson (Oak Park Elementary) at a breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. for their contributions to black education.

### • **Holmes Elementary Awarded Third Place in Time Warner's Community Spirit Challenge**

In December, Holmes Elementary School received third place in the Community Spirit Challenge, Time Warner Cable's annual contest. Over 50 San Diego county schools participated by collecting more than 183,000 pounds of food for the San Diego Food Bank. Holmes Elementary's contributions won third place and a \$2,500 technology grant for the school. Teachers who are interested in participating in the contest for 2004 should visit <http://www.timewarnersandiego.com/aboutus/challengewinner.asp> to sign up for automatic updates.

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## In Memoriam

- **Caroline Crosby**, whose service with the district began in 1939, passed away on November 27, 2003. Ms. Crosby was a teacher at Point Loma High School at the time of her retirement in June 1977. She is survived by Julie Luhitz.
- **Louis Freitas**, whose service with the district began in November 1996, passed away on April 15, 2003. Mr. Freitas was a food service worker at Correia Junior High School at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Corriane.
- **Evelyn Kohr**, whose service with the district began in January 1963, passed away on November 30, 2003. Mrs. Kohr was a teacher at Kearny High School at the time of her retirement in June 1989. She is survived by her husband, Eugene.

- **Juris Kregers**, whose service with the district began in October 1996, passed away on January 15, 2004. Mr. Kregers was a stock clerk in the Supply Center at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Janice.
- **John V. Pecoraro**, whose service with the district began in September 1973, passed away on December 6, 2003. Mr. Pecoraro was a teacher at Jackson Elementary at the time of his retirement in June 1984. He is survived by his wife, Josephine.
- **Marlene Rosedale**, whose service with the district began in January 1957, passed away on November 15, 2003. Ms. Rosedale was a counselor at Twain Junior/Senior High School at the time of her retirement in June 1991. She is survived by her sister, Willa.
- **Benjamin Spann, Jr.**, whose service with the district began in April 1957, passed away on December 25, 2003. Mr. Spann was a custodian at Memorial Junior High School at the time of his retirement in October 1990. He is survived by his wife, Mary.
- **Lorie Tagliapietra**, whose service with the district began in July 2001, passed away on October 10, 2003. Ms. Tagliapietra was a teacher at Hearst Elementary at the time of her death. She is survived by her son, Brett Potter.

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## News You Can Use

- **2004-2005 Teacher of the Year Nominations**

At the Board of Education meeting on May 11, 2004, San Diego City Schools (SDCS) will recognize the Day of the Teacher, and the Board of Education will honor teacher representatives and announce the district's Teachers of the Year. The San Diego Education Association (SDEA) and SDCS are collaborating on the selection process. Principals and SDEA representatives should read Administrative Circular No. 57 on the district website at <http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/0304/ac057.pdf> for more information. Please note that teacher nominations are due no later than this Friday, Feb. 6. Any questions should be addressed to Lisa Jaycox at (619) 725-5598 or [ejaycox@mail.sandi.net](mailto:ejaycox@mail.sandi.net).

- **Contest Deadlines Fast Approaching**

Contests for teachers are available on the district website at [http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/newsline\\_040129.html#17](http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/newsline_040129.html#17). Student contests are at [http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/newsline\\_040129.html#19](http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/newsline_040129.html#19). These lists are published weekly in *Newsline*. Check the website for the most recent version.

- **Discover Program Seeks Instructors**

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 [dgiolzet@mail.sandi.net](mailto:dgiolzet@mail.sandi.net). More information is available on the Discover website at <http://www.surferjet.com/sandinetediscover/>.

- **Feature Your Students' Artwork in the Superintendent Art Exhibition**

Art teachers, your students' artwork can be part of the Superintendent Art Exhibition, starting Monday, Feb. 23 and lasting through the month of March. Student artwork is needed to brighten the hallways of the Eugene Brucker Education Center! Please encourage your students to participate, and plan to stop by the open house night on Wednesday, March 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. to visit the talent-filled student

exhibits. Entries are due in the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Office by Feb. 20. If you need more information or would like to participate, please contact Marty Stegeman at (858) 539-5353 or [mstegeman@mail.sandi.net](mailto:mstegeman@mail.sandi.net).

- **Golfers and Donations Needed for McKinley Golf Tournament**

The PTA at McKinley Elementary School will be hosting it's 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Feb. 9, a day filled with exciting contests, great raffle prizes, a BBQ awards dinner and of course, golf. Golfers, prize donations and sponsors are needed to support the tournament. Proceeds will be used to benefit McKinley's "Starting New at Golf" (SNAG) program which helps provide golf instruction to every kindergarten through sixth grade student. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Mike Miller at [mckielm@mail.sandi.net](mailto:mckielm@mail.sandi.net) or (619) 282-7694.

- **Named School Facilities Questionnaire**

Facilities Management and the Community Relations department are asking schools to provide information about "named" facilities, such as libraries, buildings, fields and auditoriums, that bear the name of a family, community member, donor or staff member. If you have a "named" facility at your school, please email Janet Delaney at [jdelaney@sandi.net](mailto:jdelaney@sandi.net) before next week, Thursday, Feb. 12, and respond to the following questions:

- If your school has a "named" facility, please indicate what kind (library, classroom building, science building, field, auditorium, etc.) You do not need to include classrooms or offices.
- For whom or what is the facility named? What is their relationship to the school?
- When did the naming take place? If unsure, please indicate, "Don't know."
- Did your school receive funds or donations for the naming? If so, how much?

Your response will assist in maintaining an official listing of named facilities. If you have any questions, please call Janet Delaney at (619) 725-5593.

- **PCIW Needs Assessment Survey and Action Plans**

This week, Feb. 2-6, principals will receive 50 copies of the brightly-colored *Parent Communications and Involvement Standards - Needs Assessment Survey and Action Plans*. If you do not receive your packet by this Friday, Feb. 6, please contact Victoria Hilton at (619) 725-5568. Principals are asked to take the lead in administering the different surveys during a regularly scheduled staff and/or parent meeting. This can be at a monthly teacher/staff school meeting or at an SGT/SSC or PTA meeting for parents and staff. Principals, vice principals and parents are all welcome to provide input through the surveys. The ultimate goal in completing the surveys is for all schools to improve student achievement through increased parent involvement activities. Surveys have been translated into other student languages and posted to the website at <http://www.sandi.net/parents/pciw/index.htm#standards> for easy access. The *Action Plans* should be completed and returned **no later than March 31, 2004**. If interested, join us on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Education Center Auditorium for a question and answer session. For more information or to schedule a PCIW member to speak at your school, please call Victoria Hilton at (619) 725-5568.

- **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Scholarships Available for Title I Schools**

The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center has scholarships available for Title I school field trips. Title I schools can qualify for free field trips to the Nierman Challenger Learning Center, IMAX films, Workshops and Science Center experiences. Please contact Joleen Farebrother at (619) 238-1233 ext. 802 to make a reservation or for more information.

- **Schedule a Prop. MM Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**

Is your new Proposition MM building or library nearly complete? If so, you should consider hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate with your staff, students and parents! Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are a fun and simple way to thank your community and showcase your new facility. For information and to reserve the "giant scissors," please contact Erika Wilgenburg at (619) 725-5602 or [ewilgenburg@sandi.net](mailto:ewilgenburg@sandi.net). Check out the online checklist at [www.sandi.net/propmm/principals.htm#plan](http://www.sandi.net/propmm/principals.htm#plan) for event ideas.

- **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 [www.sandi.net](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, available on the website at [http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/PDFs/photo\\_release.PDF](http://sandi.net/staff/newsline/PDFs/photo_release.PDF), 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](mailto:ukroemer@sandi.net).

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## Save the Date

- **AAAE Annual Conference**

The Association of African-American Educators (AAAE) Conference is scheduled for March 5-6, 2004 at the Hanalei/Red Lion Hotel in Hotel Circle in Mission Valley and is centered on the theme, *Effectively Teaching African American Students: 50 Years After Brown vs. Board*. The Annual Conference is one way that the AAEE 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. They will question their perceptions about African-American students and later act as agents of change as they take learned strategies back to school sites and the communities they represent. Take advantage of discounted registration fees by responding before February 11. The final registration deadline is March 5. Please contact Catherine Pope at (619) 668-8635 or Juel Moore at [gjamoore@aol.com](mailto:gjamoore@aol.com) if you would like more information.

- **Arts Pack Live! Event This Saturday**

This Saturday, Feb. 7, the San Diego Arts Education Partnership is holding its Arts Pack Live! event, the first countywide showcase where teachers and parents can learn firsthand about San Diego county schools' arts programs. This event will be held at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and includes mini-performances and table resources. The first 200 arrivals will receive FREE tote bags and post-it note cubes! Valuable information will be available including resources for assemblies, fieldtrips, tours, transportation and more. Further information and directions can be found online at <http://www.sandi.net/vapa/news.html> or by calling (858) 539-5354.

- **Cash for College Workshop**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell is urging all graduating high school seniors and their parents to attend a free Cash for College workshop where they will get hands-on help in applying for Cal Grants and other financial aid programs. "In California, any eligible student who makes the grade is entitled to thousands of dollars in free grant aid to attend a UC, CSU or community college," O'Connell said. "Any student who is thinking about going to college next year and needs financial aid should attend a Cash for College workshop." Students and parents can get assistance with completing applications for Cal Grants and other financial aid by attending a workshop offered by the San Diego California Student Opportunity & Access Program (Cal SOAP). There are several workshops scheduled during January and February. Please visit the website at <http://www.californiacollegegoalsunday.com/work2.asp> for specific dates. If you would like to sign up, please contact Linda Dougherty, Cal SOAP Director, at (858) 569-1866

or [ldoughty@ucsd.edu](mailto:ldoughty@ucsd.edu). More information is available on the Cash for College website at <http://www.californiacollegegoalsunday.com/>.

- **Kearny Students to Participate in Academic Decathlon and Sea World Awards Ceremony**  
Academic Decathlon participants from Kearny High School will be competing this Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004 in the 22nd Annual San Diego County Academic Decathlon. The Decathlon Awards Reception, which will recognize student and school winners in each of the Decathlon's ten events, is scheduled for the following Thursday, Feb. 12, at Sea World and is open to all interested parties. For more information, please contact Nicole Shina at (858) 292-3850.

- **"Little Shop of Horrors" Blossoms at Mira Mesa High School**  
A singing plant, a daring hero, a sweet girl and a demented dentist—look out, here comes *Little Shop of Horrors*. Spring arrives early at Mira Mesa High, as a dozen junior and senior cast members tell the story of a nerdish florist vying for success and romance with the help of a giant, hungry plant named Audrey II. Meanwhile, behind the curtain of the tech-intensive show, drama students of all grades assist with music, lighting, sound, props and costumes as Audrey II expands to eye-popping proportions. The cult classic goes up Feb. 5 for a three day run under the direction of drama teacher, Daniel Kriley. For ticket information please email [dkriley@mail.sandi.net](mailto:dkriley@mail.sandi.net).

- **Madison High School Music Benefit at Brick By Brick This Saturday**  
This Saturday, Feb. 7, 2004, So-Cal Show-Cal Productions will host an all-day benefit concert at *Brick By Brick* (1130 Buenos Ave.) in San Diego to raise money for the Madison High School music department. The concert will feature 10 hot local bands including Carbine, Roosevelt, Lighter, Jenn Grinels, The Trophy Life, Decompression, The Valentine Fist, Levity, Jake and Simple Life. This is the first benefit concert So-Cal Show-Cal Productions has hosted. For more details or directions, please call (619) 275-5483. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10. This is a 21 and older event. More information on So-Cal Show-Cal Productions is available on their website at <http://www.socalshowcal.com>.

- **Old Town Cultural and Historical Program 20th Anniversary Celebration**  
The Old Town Cultural and Historical Program celebrates its 20th Anniversary this month on Feb. 19, 2004. This Off-Campus Integrated Learning Experience (OCILE) program for all SDCS fourth graders teaches students about San Diego's rich cultural and historical past. An Open House will be held at Fremont School (3939 Conde St.) in San Diego from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Old Town Program at (619) 293-4432 or [oldtownpgm@mail.sandi.net](mailto:oldtownpgm@mail.sandi.net). More information on the Old Town Program is available on their website at [www.sandi.net/oldtown](http://www.sandi.net/oldtown).

- **San Diego Union-Tribune Race for Literacy**  
One of the highlights of the school year, the Union-Tribune Race for Literacy Weekend, will be held on May 1 and 2, 2004. Last year over 7,000 children, parents and teachers took part in the "Kids' Magic Mile" in Balboa Park (taking place this year on May 1<sup>st</sup>.) The kids ran, played, ate and listened to celebrity readers before going home with an official race T-shirt, a new book and a "gold" medal, hung proudly around their necks. On the following day, over 5,000 walkers and runners, including many school teams, had the unique opportunity to run down Highway 163 from Balboa Park to downtown San Diego in the "Race for Literacy 8K." The 8K will take place this year on Sunday, May 2. If you missed it last year, don't miss it again! Contact *In Motion, Inc.* at (760) 692-2900 or [teams@inmotionevents.com](mailto:teams@inmotionevents.com) to get involved this year.

- **SDSCPA Winter Dance Concert 2004**  
Tonight, Feb. 4, through Friday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., the San Diego School for Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA) proudly presents its Winter Dance Concert 2004. The concert will take place at the Florence Johnson Grand Theater at 2425 Dusk Drive. Ticket prices range from \$4-6. Please call the SDSCPA Box Office at (619) 470-0588 for tickets or more information.

- **STAR/PAL Fishing Derby**

STAR/PAL will be hosting a free fishing derby on Feb. 21, 2004 for kids, ages 8 to 15, at Chollas Lake (6350 College Grove Dr.) in San Diego. All registered kids will receive a free fishing pole and T-shirt. Participants will also receive a free lunch cooked by San Diego Firefighters. A raffle and tag fish program will follow lunch. The lake will be stocked with hundreds of pounds of trout paid through donations made to STAR/PAL. Over 100 Law Enforcement Officers are volunteering their time to assist with the derby, the California Department of Fish and Game will facilitate 101 fish biology learning stations, and the San Diego Fly Fishing Club will come out to instruct on fly fishing. If you would like more information, please call Officer Lee Brannon at (619) 531-2788 or (619) 531-2718. Walk-ups will be accepted, but space is limited and pre-registered kids will be processed first.

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## Scenes from Schools

### • **Cornelia Corn and Friends Visit Penn Elementary**

Penn Elementary School students and Principal Godwin Higa welcomed *the Five a Day Follies* (costumed fruits and vegetables) to their school in celebration of the first anniversary of Kid's Choice Café. Food Services staff from the Revere Center served carrot cake to students and staff during lunch while Anna Banana, Carol Carrot, Cornelia Corn, Mary Strawberry and Delicious Apple circulated among the students. Godwin Higa was recognized for his early and strong support of the program, and Channels 7, 8 and 10 were on hand to record the festivities. Penn was one of the first schools to introduce this innovative program to students a year ago. Today 85 elementary schools have implemented the Kid's Choice Café program because it is a healthy way to offer breakfast and lunch to students. At breakfast, choices include three entrees along with fruit, yogurt, granola, juice, milk and other items. At lunch, students make a choice from four entrees and visit a salad bar for selections of salad, vegetables, fruits and various toppings. Students and staff alike have embraced the new program and agree that, "It's cool to eat at school."

### • **Fletcher Fifth Graders Visit Translation Services**

Fifth grade students from Fletcher Elementary along with their teachers, Ms. Sandy Lee and Ms. Michaelann McKittrick, experienced firsthand the cultural diversity in our district at the Translation Services Unit. District translators presented multicultural activities and spoke about the cultures they represent. Translation Services provides services in Cambodian, Lao, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese and allows for the disbursement of more effective communication materials to parents and community members of different languages and cultures.

### • **High School Journalism Project Brings Professional Journalists and Students Together**

An unprecedented tutorial program by the San Diego Society of Professional Journalists is enhancing journalism classes at Patrick Henry, Kearny and San Diego high schools. Coordinator Leo Laurence, J.D., editor of *San Diego News Service*, along with special media guests, such as *Union-Tribune* Senior News Editor Todd Merriman (*shown here, courtesy of Leo Laurence, J.D.*), visit classes several times each week to lecture on journalism. KGTV Channel 10 Cameraman Mike Howder videotapes the lectures which will be distributed to high school teachers across the nation by Ball State University in Indiana under a \$10 million grant from the Knight Foundation. Teachers and schools who are interested in participating are encouraged to call (619) 757-4909 or email [info@sdnewsservice.com](mailto:info@sdnewsservice.com) for more information.

### • **Librarians and Others Tour New Correia Library**

A small group from Correia Junior High School recently caught an insider's glimpse of their new library. Library Volunteer Donna Stone, Principal Linda Taggart, Soltek Contractor Derrick Storm and Librarian Marcia Abbott snapped on their hard hats for a walk through of Correia's new state of the art library on Jan. 29, 2004. The new facility is scheduled for completion in August 2004.

### • **Montgomery Academy Dedicates 100 Minutes to Non-violence**

Last month, on Jan. 21, a peace theme event was harbored at the lunch arbor and surrounding fence at Montgomery Academy. 100 flowers, 100 paper cranes, 100 ribbons, a tree and a 100-minute ceremony were used to dedicate the new lunch arbor as a campus tribute to non-violence. The event was held on the anniversary of the shooting of Tariq Kahmisa. Tariq was shot by Tony Hicks while delivering pizza nine years ago. After his death, Tariq's father and Tony's grandfather created the Tariq Kahmisa Foundation, an organization dedicated to non-violence and forgiveness as a positive effort to stop the cycle of youth violence. The event was jointly organized by the Tariq Kahmisa Foundation, the Montgomery Academy Linda Vista Leaders and the San Diego City Schools Counseling and Guidance Safe and Drug Free program.

• **Morse Mural Brightens Downtown San Diego's Children's Museum**

The site of the new Children's Museum in downtown San Diego is now home to a new mural, thanks to the creative students in Bridget MacConnel's drawing and painting class at Morse High School. Just over a month ago, the Children's Museum asked the class to create a 40-foot mural on canvas to be part of the construction site for the museum located along Market St. between Front St. and 1st Ave. Originally, the museum suggested a jungle theme a la Henri Rousseau, but in the hands of the students the design became more like an "Urban Jungle." The mural depicts a collision between the past, the present and the probable future of an urban area such as downtown San Diego. "We tried to create a fanciful interpretation of the ongoing changes to San Diego's downtown – everything finding its way to coexist," says MacConnel. 24 students collaborated for three weeks to design and complete the mural, and even spent Saturdays in front of the canvas. MacConnel adds, "They really came together as a group on this and did an awesome job. I had a great time working with them and was impressed with their creativity and work ethic."

• **READING Program Really Scores!**

On December 18th, professional athletes Clayton Read and Greg Barber from the San Diego Gulls Hockey Club visited with Standley Middle School students and selected the winner of READ's hockey jersey. This fun event, which supported our Reading program, awarded super readers with prizes, autographs and the chance to meet professional athletes who really know the value of reading!

• **Sixth Graders Visit Camp Palomar**

During the first week of January, sixth graders from Roosevelt Middle School, Muir Alternative School and Mt. Everest Academy got a taste of the great outdoors at Camp Palomar. Students spent five days and four nights in the beautiful Palomar Mountains and enjoyed arts and crafts projects using natural materials, music, games and evening programs. Camp Palomar is part of the Off-Campus Integrated Learning Experience (OCILE) program. All San Diego City Schools sixth graders participate in the weeklong program at some point during the school year.

• **Students and Officers March in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**

Students and officers from the SDCS Police department marched in the 24th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade on Saturday, Jan. 17 to remember and honor Martin Luther King Jr. and his contributions toward achieving peace between all races of people. The group from SDCS held the School Police banner which depicts their logo and reads, "Protecting our future..." Attendees and organizations from across the county participated in this multicultural and festive event.

• **Toler Elementary Accessibility Ramp Completed by Prop. MM**

At Toler Elementary, the new accessibility ramp is a dream-come-true for Dominic Rock. Dominic attended Toler over a decade ago and now works at the school as a classroom aide. Before the ramp was built, Dominic's path of travel was cumbersome and out of the way, especially when trying to get to classrooms located on the higher tier of the campus. On Jan. 6, Toler students cheered as Dominic cut the ribbon and dedicated the new ramp, which was made possible through Proposition MM funding. Dominic's mom, Nancy Rock, attended the ceremony along with the construction team. Harlan Klein, principal, and Jane Davis, retired principal, also helped cut the ribbon. Proposition MM is funding accessibility upgrades at campuses across the school district.

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## Student Salutes

- **Muir Students Win Poetry and Art Contest**

Two Muir Alternative School students are winners in the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego poetry and art contest. Jordan White, grade 11, received \$500 as the first place high school winner, and John Yang, grade 6, won second place and \$250 in the middle school category. Each wrote a haiku on the subject of gardens. The haiku poems, written and illustrated by the winners, appear in a booklet published by RCD. The prize money, in the form of gift certificates to Mission Hills Nursery, will be used for school projects. Marcos Ortiz, grade 6, and Daisy Baran, grade 1, both took honorable mention awards in the same contest. Scott Phillips, education director of the RCD, presented the prizes at a Muir assembly on Jan. 14.

- **Roosevelt Student Growers Receive Two Awards**

Roosevelt Middle School's garden recently received two awards for their nutrition based lesson plans and activities: a grant from the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego and a first place scholarship from Garden Enhanced Nutrition. Ms. O'Donnell, Roosevelt's garden coordinator, will be presenting at the Annual Gardening Conference on April 23 to San Diego educators who are interested in school gardening. Roosevelt's school garden has also received awards from the California Youth Gardens Recognition Program (Way to Grow Gold Award, 2003) and the *I Love a Clean San Diego* organization (first place and grant, 2003.) *I Love a Clean San Diego* awarded student gardeners with the grant during a ceremony at Sea World.

- **Students Awarded for Outstanding Essays**

Five high school students from San Diego City Schools were winners of the Friends of San Diego Psychiatric Society's 2004 "When Not to Keep a Secret" essay contest. Merideth Ganon (La Jolla), Tracy Han (Scripps Ranch), Kian Samii (Scripps Ranch) and Jacqueline Zebrowski (La Jolla) each received a Westfield Shopping Mall gift certificate for \$250.00. Tricia Tompkins (Junipero Serra) received an honorable mention for her essay and a gift certificate for \$100.00. These award-winning student writers will go on compete at the state level later this month.

- **Students Selected as Presidential Scholars Program Candidates**

Four students from San Diego City Schools (SDCS) have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program, an honor that distinguishes graduating seniors in the areas of leadership, scholarship, community involvement and talent in visual, creative and performing arts. Mark Duncan (Mira Mesa), Ashley Fox (La Jolla), Alena Gribskov (Scripps Ranch) and Karen Jacobson (La Jolla) were the four SDCS students selected. Students will submit applications to compete for Semifinalist and Scholar positions later this month. Further information about this award is available on the program website at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>.

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