

San Diego City Schools

Staff Bulletin – July 14, 2004

2004-05 Classified Employees of the Year

On Tuesday, May 18, at the 21st Annual Classified Employee Recognition Ceremony, San Diego City Schools honored our classified employees and publicly announced the district's Classified Man and Woman of the Year for 2004-05.

During the ceremony, the Board of Education and Chief of Staff Leslie Fausset recognized the contributions of the district's classified employees and emphasized that their hard work and dedication are sincerely appreciated by the students, parents and staff to whom they provide service. Employee representatives from each school and work site were introduced, and each received a copy of the Board Resolution.

The San Diego City Schools 2004-05 Classified Woman of the Year is:

- **Betty Hicks**, Attendance Assistant, Doyle Elementary School
First Runner-up: Guadalupe Galindo, Community Assistant I, Alcott Elementary School
Second Runner-up: Linda Ridgeway, Instructional Assistant-Support, Chesterton Elementary School

The San Diego City Schools 2004-05 Classified Man of the Year is:

- **Victor Parra**, Delivery Operations Support Supervisor, Food Services Department
First Runner-up: Ralph Brice Jr., Community Service Officer, Valencia Park Elementary School
Second Runner-up: Ali Gholamzadeh, School Bus Driver, Hoover High School

Each winner received a clock and various tokens of appreciation from local companies and organizations, including Boise Office Solutions, SYSCO Food Services of San Diego, the San Diego Zoo, CSEA Chapters 724, 759 and 788, the San Diego City Schools Peace Officer Association, COR-O-VAN, California Coast Credit Union, Mission Federal Credit Union, and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of San Diego.

If you have any questions regarding the Classified Employees of the Year Awards or Ceremony, please contact Gloria Rangel in the Human Relations Department at (619) 725-8172 or grangel@sandi.net.

Betty Hicks, 2004-05 Classified Woman of the Year **Attendance Assistant, Doyle Elementary School**

Radiating amiability, Attendance Assistant **Betty Hicks** provides cheerful and consistently whole-hearted service to the students, staff, parents and community members of Doyle Elementary. As Doyle opened its doors in 1979, Betty opened her heart to the community, and she has stayed there ever since, providing smiles, dependable service, community connections, and solutions to problems on an everyday basis.

Betty has been deemed the "mother hen" of Doyle. "She treats each child as if they were her own and really cares for their welfare," explains Doyle Principal Beverly Charles. "Her smile is one of the first things students see when they get off the bus in the morning and the last things they see when they get back on the bus to return home." Betty knows all of the students and most of the bus drivers by name, and greets them each day with a warm "Mrs. Hicks" welcome. Parents, students, staff and community members depend on her for pleasant salutations and respectful service.

As the "fairy godmother" of Doyle, Betty knows what it takes to get a job done, and everyone knows that they can count on her for miraculous results. Among the myriad of roles Betty has assumed during her tenure at Doyle are guidance assistant, bus monitor, VEEP liaison, clerk typist, volunteer coordinator, parent liaison, lunch duty aide, partnership coordinator, office staff substitute, school safety patrol coordinator, and her current position as attendance assistant. "Betty has had so many positions because she takes personal responsibility to go above and beyond the requirements of any job no matter what the task is," says Vice Principal Steve Mosher. She also plans and produces special events, such as student recognition awards ceremonies and the International Festival Dinner. "Betty purposely works to make each event special, unique and memorable," explains Parent Mark Crowley. She always goes the extra mile, whether she is answering the phone, supervising students at lunch, helping on a rainy day, delivering items to classrooms, registering students, vacuuming the multipurpose room, coordinating field trips, or helping out in the nurse's office. Her versatility and dedication are truly one of a kind.

Betty relies on her interpersonal skills not only to provide excellent service to Doyle parents, students and staff, but also to recruit the service of others in the community. Her efforts have provided teachers with free copies from Kinko's, donuts for Dad's Donut Day, McDonald's breakfasts for Caught Being Good Awards, weekly bank day with Washington Mutual Bank, and computers and software for the computer lab. She is also currently working with a fitness store for free memberships for the teachers. As the volunteer coordinator, Betty has recruited employees from UPS to help with the morning Jogging Club for Doyle students and routinely encourages college students and high school seniors to volunteer to work with students with special needs on their reading skills.

A problem-solver at heart, Betty is always looking for ways to improve Doyle and increase both safety and learning opportunities for students. When the traffic flow before and after school reached new heights of aggravation, Betty took up arms against it. She persuaded the City of San Diego to put up "No Stopping" signs to keep traffic moving and to reduce the number of school tardies. She fought for a traffic light and arranged for student and parent parking monitors. She also established the Doyle Valet Services, where fourth grade valet volunteers help students with their school bags, thus enabling parents to drop off their students quickly and efficiently.

"Her dedication to making Doyle a better place for every student, teacher, parent and administrator is truly remarkable," explains Parent Pamela Madden. Her contributions provide the support necessary for students to receive the best education possible, for teachers to enjoy a less stressful working environment, for parents to be informed, and for community members to be involved. Teachers Dalise Jackson, Juli Redmerski, and Laura Tusa agree, "Doyle Elementary could not survive without Mrs. Hicks."

Victor Parra, 2004-05 Classified Man of the Year Delivery Operations Support Supervisor, Food Services Department

Over the past 14 years, Victor Parra has moved up the ranks of the Food Services Department, powered by his drive to do the best job possible and motivating those around him to do the same. Entering the district as an hourly van driver, Victor was soon promoted to a truck driver, and then a lead truck driver. Now, as the Delivery Operations Support Supervisor, Victor juggles a number of responsibilities and faces daily struggles with a can-do attitude. His industrious and innovative efforts help feed over 93,034 students per day and promote the Food Services vision for providing high quality food service through continuously improved skills, systems and facilities.

Beginning at 6:15 a.m. each day, Victor ensures that 29 trucks are up and running and that 30 truck drivers are ready to drive from 23 preparation kitchens to over 220 locations where meals are served. He keeps an eye on every detail. "Victor's job is one in which 'failure is not an option,'" says Food Management Supervisor Sally Spero. "Our department cannot tell students that lunch isn't being served to them today because the traffic was bad or someone called in sick or the street was being repaved. Victor and his drivers get the meals to our students every day, no matter what." By 11 a.m., the rush has subsided, but Victor never slows down. He supervises the storage of food and supplies, coordinates various food and equipment deliveries and installation, and manages a large Food Services warehouse and distribution facility.

Victor's enthusiastic support of improvement to the daily meals leads him to take innovative, cost-saving measures. For example, he oversees the construction of specially designed food carts, created exclusively by his staff. Other districts spend \$3,000 or more on each food cart, but because of the efforts of Victor and his staff, Food Services is able to spend less than \$800 on the materials. To date, over 150 carts have been created, and thousands of dollars have been saved. Victor and his team are also the designers of one-of-a-kind holders for signs, pots and banners.

Beyond this, Victor's list of activities include the "Kids Choice Salad Bar" program, which converted 130 elementary schools to a new and exciting salad bar program, and the Parent Congress Food Fair, which brought parents, administrators and staff together in an effort to educate attendees about the goals of the Food Services Department. "Victor does so much more than can be accomplished in a normal 40-hour work week, and performs many of these extra tasks on his own time after hours or on weekends," states Facility and Equipment Supervisor David Wray. Not to mention that, as a supervisor, there are always scheduling, training and personnel issues to deal with.

His colleagues describe Victor as an outstanding leader, as evidenced by his staff management skills as well as his participation in team activities. The huge tailgate party at the annual Padres outing and the retirement reception featuring Victor in a grass skirt were events not to be missed. Every year, Victor also helps coordinate the department's Holiday Toy Drive and puts together an annual breakfast to honor his staff.

An avid sports fan, Victor uses his seemingly endless supply of energy outside of work as well. As a father of four, he is his children's #1 fan. He also helps with fundraisers for his children's schools. "His outstanding work and tireless

dedication to children and to the community have impressed me profoundly,” expounds Sally Spero, whose statement is undoubtedly joined by a thousand other grateful voices.

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Teacher Inquiry Project Hones Teaching Skills

More than 200 San Diego City Schools teachers participated in the second Teacher Inquiry Project– an intensive examination of their teaching strategies. The professional development project, underwritten by California Coast Credit Union, allows teachers to enhance and customize teaching practices through daily research with students and the sharing and discussion of ideas with fellow teachers. A “graduation” on June 9, 2004, at Marina Village, allowed teachers to share their projects and findings.

District Instructional Leader Kari McVeigh began the program last fall with 109 teachers from the 22 elementary schools she oversees. “This year, more than 200 teachers voluntarily chose to participate in the Inquiry Project, which allows them the opportunity to self-select an area of their teaching craft to investigate and improve,” said McVeigh. “Teachers focus on one issue of student achievement, whether it’s about how they teach or how their students learn, and then spend the year learning about how they can improve.”

In the project, teachers analyze student progress in meeting standards in order to evaluate their own performance as a teacher. The process is constant and fluid, and teachers change their teaching practice to maximize student performance. Teachers then share with their colleagues the approaches they have devised based on their research. Through the Teacher Inquiry Project, students improve academically while teachers gain ideas from their peers regarding best practice instructional strategies.

Teacher and staff developer participants came from elementary schools throughout San Diego City Schools, ranging in years of experience from 1 to 40, with the majority of participants having spent at least 10 years in the district, and from areas including Special Education, GATE and the English Learner program. Teachers praised the program. Grant Elementary teacher Melissa Everest explains, “The data I collected throughout the year has been helpful for me as a first year teacher because I feel that I am more aware and informed about the needs of my students’ writing.”

Across the board, the program encouraged increased student learning and achievement. Jones Elementary teacher Cindy Albers recorded the following exclamation from one of her students, “My teacher is proud of me, and my parents are proud of me. I’m so happy!” Parents also notice the effects of improved teaching. “I love reading my child’s writing. The stories make me laugh and I can’t wait to share them with the relatives. I’ve actually learned a lot about my kid through their writing,” writes one McKinley parent. The Teacher Inquiry Project Responses (194 pages) are available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*.

For more information about the Teacher Inquiry Project, please visit the website at http://www.sandi.net/news/2004/040615teacher_inq_results.html or contact Kari McVeigh at (619) 725-7131 or kmcveigh@sandi.net.

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High School Renewal Initiative Provides Personalized Environments for Student Success

To help high school students achieve higher levels of academic and personal success, major changes are taking place in our high schools. These efforts are part of the district’s High School Renewal initiative, which was precipitated by several key factors:

- Student requests and desires for more challenging and relevant coursework;
- Demand for more high school graduates with the increased intellectual, emotional and social ability to compete in and shape today’s workplace;
- The rising dropout rate;
- Research indicating students perform better in smaller, more personalized learning environments; and
- Generous funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation’s *Schools for a New Society* initiative.

By redesigning traditional, large high schools, the district intends to improve academic achievement by:

- Increasing student engagement in the learning process;
- Fostering meaningful, sustainable relationships among students and adults, including their teachers, parents and the community; and

- Providing students with the best opportunities for personal success by supporting their individual academic, social, and civic development needs.

Through the High School Renewal initiative, our goal is that all high school students will meet or exceed the California State Standards and pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Opportunities for our graduates, including options to pursue higher education, vocational or technical training, or to enter the workforce or military service will improve, and we will have a greater number of college-ready high school graduates.

As part of the high school renewal program, five school "models" have been developed:

- **Alternative Education High Schools** are small schools that focus on reinvigorating non-traditional formats and options in order to enhance student engagement and improve student achievement.
- **Challenge High Schools** focus on enhancing the achievement of all students. Many of these schools met their Achievement Performance Index (API) school-wide targets, but did not meet their API targets for subgroups of students. They are intent upon closing the achievement gap between groups of students.
- **Community Engagement Schools** will focus on retaining neighborhood students. These schools will work to unify and broaden community engagement for schools within their feeder pattern, mobilize parents and the community to support the K-12 community of schools, and promote the involvement of parents of children participating in the Voluntary Ethnic Enrollment Program (VEEP).
- **Freestanding Small Schools** are under current development through Proposition MM. These new schools will be designed by the High Tech High Learning Network in conjunction with district implementation teams, which include parents and community members.
- **Small Schools** focus on enhancing student engagement to improve student achievement. Each has formed internal leadership teams to begin the process of modifying the large high school complex into a group of small, separate schools. Redesigned high schools will have the authority to implement their own curriculum (within district and state standards) and their own school structure.

If you have any questions about the High School Renewal initiative, please visit the district website at <http://www.sandi.net/hsrenewal/index.html> or contact the Office of Secondary School Innovation at (619) 725-7079.

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Outlook Web Access (OWA) Soon to be Default Email Program

Since May 2003, when the Microsoft Outlook/Exchange Pilot was initiated, 900+ users have switched over from QuickMail Pro and Netscape Calendar to the Outlook/Exchange email and calendar system. To improve performance, accessibility, security and support, the Information Technology Department (IT) will begin migrating the rest of the district from QuickMail Pro to Microsoft Outlook Web Access (OWA) in August 2004. All district department and school site users will be migrated by December 31, 2004.

For those staff members who are currently using Outlook, a few changes will occur. Information regarding these changes will be sent in the near future.

As Microsoft Outlook Web Access (OWA) becomes the default email program for the entire district, it will yield many benefits for users. Email information will be available from any supported Internet browser. All email, up to 50 MB, will be centrally stored, freeing up users from needing one specific computer to view new and saved messages. Calendar and task list information will also be available to all district users through any supported Internet browser. Security will be enhanced with built-in encryption. Employees will use their 6-digit employee ID number to access the new email system, thus reducing the number of login/password combinations that users have to remember. In a future enhancement, group email distribution will also be possible through PeopleSoft queries.

As QuickMail users switch over to the new email system, they will receive a new email address. It is recommended that sites and offices not print business cards until their changeover timeline is confirmed. This will help to cut down on the costs associated with printing new business cards and the confusion of handing out cards with old email addresses. For some time after December 2004, email sent to old email addresses will automatically forward to new email addresses. Old QuickMail messages will be accessible through QuickMail but new sent and received email will not. Users will only be able to send and receive email from their new Outlook email address.

Beginning in August 2004, IT will lead "Basic Training" workshops at the Eugene Brucker Education Center Auditorium (Ed. Center) on a rotating schedule. These initial workshops will be for key department and school site staff. Participants will bring the information back to their sites to share their knowledge with staff. Individual sites will execute training based on their particular needs.

Timeline

Mid-August 2004:

- IT will be the first of the Pilot users to be completely migrated from the current Outlook/Exchange Pilot to the new Outlook Web Access (OWA) system.
- Each site will designate a key employee to attend a "Basic Training" workshop.
- "Basic Training" workshops for key staff members begin at the Ed. Center.

Late-August 2004:

- Individual site-based training, led by key personnel from each site, begins.
- A web-based registration site will be available for all users to activate their new Outlook Web Access (OWA) email accounts. Users may choose to activate their new email accounts within their own timeframes, but **ALL users must migrate to the new Outlook Web Access (OWA) system by December 31, 2004.**

September 2004:

- "Basic Training" workshops at the Ed. Center continue for key department and school site staff (mandatory) as well as for all other users (voluntary).
- Web-based registration site continues to be available for all users.

December 31, 2004:

- QuickMail Pro shutdown.
- Migration complete.

More information on the workshops will follow shortly. If you have any questions, please email the Outlook Team at outlookteam@sandi.net.

###

Parent Volunteers Enforce Safety at Mid-City Elementary Schools

At 20 elementary schools in the mid-city area, the School Police Volunteer and Parent Patrols help ensure the safety of our students. As the eyes and ears of School Police and administration, these active parents, staff, and community members assist schools' Safety Patrols at crosswalks before and after school in order to protect students' safe passage to and from school.

The Parent Patrols began as a pilot program at Horton Elementary in December 2002 to address parent concerns regarding student safety before and after school. Volunteers, donned in brightly colored orange and yellow safety vests, remind drivers to obey traffic laws and assist both student and adult pedestrians with obeying posted signs and crosswalks. Armed with whistles and two-way radios, the Parent Patrols also keep an eye out for speeding motorists and illegally parked cars. Their efforts have significantly reduced parking problems and have helped hold motorists accountable.

During Intercession and special events, the volunteers take turns, enabling all parents to enjoy the school festivities, while continuing to provide their valuable service. All patrol candidates are required to complete an approval application and agree to background checks, including a criminal history computer check and Megan's Law.

The members of the Parent Patrols were honored at a luncheon on Wednesday, June 23, 2004, for their dedication to student safety. While parents, staff, and community members enjoyed their lunch, Community Service Officers (CSO) Patrick Wafer and John Hannon, as well as School Police Chief Don Braun, Lieutenant Rick Roda and Deputy Superintendent Leslie Fausset, commended volunteers and staff members for their contributions to safety. One of the students who has benefited from their services, School Safety Patrol Major Michael Mothershed of Johnson Elementary, led the group through the Pledge of Allegiance. Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation, and smiles were shared all around.

###

Supreme Court Rules Against Challenging the Pledge of Allegiance

On Monday, June 14, the Supreme Court ruled that a California father could not challenge the Pledge of Allegiance. The ruling by the high court reversed the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decision did not address the broader question of the separation of church and state, but merely the father of the child did not have the legal standing to bring the case.

Per state education code and district Procedure 4922, available on the district website at <http://prod031.sandi.net/procedures/pdf/pp4922.pdf>, the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is to be recited daily at the elementary level. At the secondary level, the pledge may be recited as part of the appropriate patriotic exercises that are conducted daily. There are no changes to district procedure as a result of this case.

The district does not have an official opinion regarding the case; however, we do support patriotic exercises in the classroom, while remaining sensitive to our diverse student/school populations.

###

Food Services Offers Free Summer Lunch for Kids

The Food Services Department knows that a well balanced diet is essential to a child's growth and development. In order to meet these needs when school is not in session, it is participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a federally funded program that furnishes free, nutritious meals to low income children during the summer.

There are no enrollment, paperwork or income qualifications required to participate.

Meals and snacks are prepared at the Morse High School cafeteria under the direction of Food Services Area Manager Hiromi Churning and sent daily to 16 San Diego Park and Recreation Centers for distribution. Park and Recreation Center personnel give the meals and snacks to any child ages 2-18. There is also a SFSP at Freese Elementary School serving a hot lunch from their Kid's Choice Cafe between 12:30 and 12:50 p.m.

The 16 Park and Recreation Centers are listed on the Food Services webpage at <http://www.sandi.net/food>. Information is available in both Spanish and English.

The SFSP is vital for many low-income children. Free school breakfast and lunches during the school year provide these children with up to 75% of the Recommended Dietary Allowances for key nutrients. When school is not in session, these meals are lost and may not easily be replaced. As children obviously do not stop growing physically or cognitively just because they are not in school, the SFSP fills a crucial gap, helping to ensure that students will return to school ready to learn and succeed.

For more information, please visit the Food Services webpage at <http://www.sandi.net/food> or contact Joanne Tucker at (858) 627-7316 or jtucker@sandi.net.

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Proposition MM Reaches \$1 Billion Milestone in Contracts Awarded

In June, San Diego City Schools surpassed the \$1 billion milestone in the value of contracts awarded in its Proposition MM program. Of that, \$875.6 million has been expended, and approximately 60 percent of work has been completed.

Proposition MM is the \$1.51 billion facilities bond measure approved by San Diego voters in 1998. It is funding the modernization of 165 existing schools in San Diego. Projects include new libraries, new science labs, new classroom buildings, technology infrastructure, access for the physically disabled and major repairs (roofing, interior/exterior painting, fencing, electrical, plumbing, water in classrooms, lunch court shelters, ceiling tile, flooring, etc.). To date, 87 schools are completed and the remaining schools are near completion or in progress. The modernization program will be completed by the end of 2005, two years ahead of original schedules.

The program is now entering its new school phase, which includes the construction of 12 new schools and reconstruction of three existing schools.

To date, more than 98 percent of construction dollars have gone to San Diego-based firms, with more than 40 percent going to emerging business enterprises, including businesses owned by minorities, women and disabled veterans.

For more information about Proposition MM, please visit www.sandi.net/propmm or contact Erika Wilgenburg in Communications at ewilgenburg@sandi.net or (619) 725-5602.

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San Diego City Schools Teachers Visit Williamsburg to Bring Back a Little History

With the Fourth of July just behind us, once again we are confronted with the troubling news that many young Americans still seem to know more about Britney Spears than John Adams. Fortunately, some teachers in San Diego City Schools are tackling this dilemma by improving their own knowledge and gaining better understanding about both the events and the values upon which our country was founded. Susan Yates of the Literacy Department, Les Henderson of Encanto Elementary, and Debra Thigpen of Jefferson Elementary recently attended the Teacher Institute at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, the largest, most populous, and most influential of the American colonies. They were among 21 teachers from San Diego during the session from June 28-July 5, 2004.

The Teacher Institute at Williamsburg is the nation's largest and most respected living history museum, where teachers can still experience Colonial times through reenactments and demonstrations and learn how to educate their students for successful citizenship. The week-long workshops allow participants to be involved in an interdisciplinary approach to teaching social studies with Colonial American history as the focus. Teachers have the opportunity to exchange ideas with noted historians, meet character interpreters, and take part in reenactments of eighteenth century events. They review various interactive teaching techniques with a mentor teacher and with each other. Instructional materials in a variety of media are provided to participants to use in their classrooms so they are ready when they return to class in the fall.

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News You Can Use

Advanced Placement Summer Institute for Teachers

This summer, California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) Extended Studies will host approximately 300 Advanced Placement (AP) instructors in refresher courses in 16 subjects. The *Advanced Placement Summer Institute for Teaching Professionals* program is scheduled for July 26-30. AP consultants will lead teachers through a week of structured and intense training. Subjects to be covered are Art Studio, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Language and Composition, English Literature, French Language and Literature, U.S. Government and Politics, Physics B, Statistics, Spanish Language and Literature, U.S. History and World History. Although the Spanish and the English Language and Composition workshops are filled, prospective participants for the other sessions are encouraged to contact the Office of Extended Studies at (760) 750-4020 or visit the website at <http://www.csusm-es.org> for registration and other information.

California's Fact Book 2004 Available on CDE Website

Now available on the California Department of Education (CDE) website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fb/> is the *Fact Book 2004, Handbook of Education Information*. The annual *Fact Book* is a collection of statistics and information on a variety of subjects and issues concerning education in California. It is designed to serve as a reference for educators, legislators and the public, and to aid reporters covering education. The *Fact Book* is available online for printing purposes. Hard copies are not available from CDE. For additional information, please contact Jan Agee at (916) 319-0583 or jagee@cde.ca.gov.

CASA Volunteers Needed for Foster Children

Become a powerful voice for a child. Volunteer to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) through Voices for Children. There are over 7,500 children in foster care waiting for help. All training is provided. Volunteers research the case, gather information, attend court hearings, and lend support to the child. Educational surrogates are also needed. The next information session is on July 21, and training begins on August 17. For more information, please visit <http://www.voices4children.com> or call Voices for Children at (858) 569-2019.

Cell Phones for Soldiers

In an effort to help overseas troops stay connected with their families, Assemblyman George Plescia is collecting old cell phones, pre-paid phone cards and donations. The phones will be sent to the Massachusetts teenagers who founded "Cell Phones for Soldiers" who will then forward the shipment overseas. For more information on the program, please visit <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com> or call Aaron Pottichen at (858) 689-6290. Cell phones, pre-paid phone cards and

donations can be dropped off at Assemblyman Plescia's District Office located at 9909 Mira Mesa Blvd., Suite 130, in Scripps Ranch, 92131. Please make checks payable to "Cell Phones for Soldiers" c/o South Shore Savings Bank.

CSUSM Extended Studies Offers Computer Technology for Teens

To further young people's artistic expression and help prepare them for a job market heavily dependent on technological know-how, California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) Extended Studies is offering two *Computer Technology for Teens* (ages 10-16) courses this summer:

- *Computer Illustration & Special Effects* (Photoshop), July 10 and 17
- *Designing Webpages with Dreamweaver*, August 7 and 14

These classes will be team taught by local computer artist Mari Abril (CSUSM professor) and Los Angeles-based entertainment designer Scott Salzman (Stan Lee Media's Spiderman and X-men Art Director). Previous class projects include designing CD covers, movie posters, an interactive website and animated effects for a computer video game. The cost is \$149 per student. If you or one of your students is interested, please call (760) 750-4020 or visit the website at <http://www.csusm-es.org>. Both instructors are also available to discuss the classes and creative job options available to today's artistic youth.

Field Trip Opportunity: Fore-Edge Paintings at the San Diego Public Library

From September 19, 2004 through January 2005, a special exhibit will run at the downtown San Diego Public Library, featuring fore-edge paintings (books) from the library's extensive collection. Self-guided tours of this exhibit are free. The opening reception on Sunday, September 19 will include a guest speaker, hors d'oeuvres, and a harpist. For more information, please contact Vera Miller at (619) 291-8800 or v-miller@cox.net or Rick Crawford at (619) 236-5807.

Mathematics Professional Development Experience: Teaching Algebra

If you are a teacher or curriculum specialist, you are probably aware of the strategies and learning activities being used in the classrooms at your site, but how about in classrooms on the other side of the world? Classroom observation is a powerful professional development activity, yet many teachers face time constraints that make observations difficult. An online course, based on TIMSS Video Study research, makes available a virtual tour of classrooms from countries known for high student achievement in mathematics. The 10-hour online course can be completed at your own pace by September 17, and a certificate of completion will be awarded. The Intel Foundation has underwritten the development costs of the course so that it is free for San Diego teachers. If you are interested in participating in this professional development opportunity, please contact Georgana Winters at (619) 725-7304 or gwinters@sandi.net by August 1.

Part-time Employment Opportunities with Food Services

The Food Services Department has part-time monthly positions, typically two hours/day, that are available to current district employees who may have had their workday reduced during the budget crisis. If an employee's hours were reduced, that employee may also be able to work a two-hour position at their school or at a neighboring school. Please pass on this information to employees who have suffered a reduction in hours. Additionally, any employee who is being laid off is encouraged to contact Food Services regarding employment opportunities. Food Services provides training and is happy to offer reduced employees the opportunity to work additional hours or laid-off employees the chance at a job. For more information, please call (858) 627-7320 or visit Food Services in person between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Revere Center in Linda Vista at 6735 Gifford Way, San Diego, 92111.

Summer SAVY Activities for Middle and High School Students

Looking for something fun, interesting and worthwhile for middle and high school students to do during summer vacation? *Volunteer San Diego* offers many exciting ways to get involved in the community through the Students Actively Volunteering for You (SAVY) program. Options include a leadership summer camp, SAVY Leaders who identify and develop solutions to community issues, and SAVY Members who volunteer on an event-to-event basis. More information is available online at <http://www.volunteersandiego.org>, or by contacting Sarah Lumbert-Biscomb (SAVY Leaders/Members) at (858) 636-4139 or sbiscomb@volunteersandiego.org or Matthew Lesh (summer camp) at (858) 636-4129 or mlesh@volunteersandiego.org.

Wells Fargo Team Up for Our Schools Program

From August 30 to October 31, 2004, Wells Fargo will donate up to \$30 to our district for every customer who opens a new consumer Wells Fargo Package, which is a checking account plus three or more additional services. Please spread the word to families and friends who may like to open a new account and support our schools in the process. The flyer is available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer Junior at (760) 967-3962.

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Hall of Fame

Ice Cream Social

On the afternoon of Friday, June 18, following the principal's conference, an ice cream social was held at the Eugene Brucker Education Center to honor the contributions of district leaders and central office staff. Vanilla and chocolate ice cream was served, along with all the fixings. The Mission Bay High School Dixie Jazz Band provided musical entertainment, and socializing was a must. Photos from the event, including group photos of all principals and central office managers in attendance, are available on the website at http://www.sandi.net/events/yearend_meeting/index.html.

Marvin Wins School Beautification Award

Marvin Elementary School was awarded a "School Beautification" award by the San Diego County Office of Education. The school garden, an extension of the science lab, won the award. In celebration, ice cream sundaes were presented to all Marvin students on Friday, June 11.

Parent Center Employees Represent San Diego Hispanics in Washington, D.C.

On Thursday, July 8, Bea Fernández, coordinator of San Diego Parent University and chair of the first *No Child Left Behind* Educational Fair, and Maria Moore-Flagg, coordinator of the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center and chair of the Fair's *Youth Strand*, traveled to Washington D.C. as representatives of the San Diego Hispanic community and San Diego City Schools. They participated in events surrounding the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence, which recognizes the efforts of the Partners in Hispanic Education and honors the formation of this historic collaboration which brought together the nation's leading Hispanic organizations, corporate leaders and national private entities to work toward improving education for all Hispanics in the United States. MANA, a Latina Organization, San Diego Chapter, is among the partners participating in this event; Ms. Fernández is the past national chairperson. During a reception in D.C. on July 8, local and national Partners in Education were recognized, and on Friday, July 9, the group convened in the White House Indian Treaty Room.

San Diego Foundation Awards Teachers' Fund Monies to Two SDCS Teachers

Teachers Heather Henkes of Mission Bay High School and Paula Loman of SCPA have been selected as awardees for the San Diego Foundation's Teachers' Fund. Both teachers completed an application in January for a proposed arts program. The cash prize allows teachers to conduct art projects ranging from printmaking to painting chairs representing famous artists. This annual grant is available for all art forms. For more information on this and other funding opportunities, please visit <http://www.sandi.net/vapa/fundinglinks.html>.

Winners Announced in Employee Recycling Contest

The district's Recycling Office, in conjunction with Keep California Beautiful, is conducting a contest to help promote recycling. Congratulations to our winners for June! Norma Gallegos of Mount Everest Academy and Sandra Nunez in Nursing each won two tickets to the San Diego County Fair. The Recycling Office is also conducting a contest for custodial staffs. The custodial staff of the school that recycles the most paper is rewarded with gift certificates and other prizes. Congratulations to our recent winners in May, Twain Junior/Senior High School, whose custodial staff also won tickets for the San Diego County Fair. For a list of previous months winners, more information, or to enter the contest, please visit the Recycling Office webpage at www.sandi.net/energy or contact Andrea Calbow at (858) 627-7376 or acalbow@sandi.net.

Women in Industry Honored

Angela Bass, Instructional Leader, and Peri Lynn Turnbull, Director of Communications, were among 79 women honored at the 25th Annual Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) YWCA award luncheon. The TWIN awards recognize women who have made significant contributions to their industry in manager, executive and professional roles.

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Scenes from Schools

Cyclist Visits Montgomery

On May 27, cyclist Tony Cruz made a special trip to Montgomery Middle School to talk to students about life as a professional cyclist. Tony is currently a member of the US Postal Cycling Team and was a member of the US Olympic Team in 2000. Tony described what it is like to represent the country in the Olympics and spent time answering questions regarding bike racing.

Proposition MM Ribbon-cuttings are Focus of Spring Open Houses

Several schools have held ribbon-cutting ceremonies to dedicate their Proposition MM libraries. Students of Mann Middle School dedicated their new library during a community-wide open house. The Color Guard kicked off the ceremony. Then guests were treated to tours and refreshments. At Montgomery Middle School, guests were treated to a band concert and picnic dinner. At Longfellow Elementary School, known for its Spanish language program, students performed part of the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Spanish. They recited the Pledge in Spanish and led skits featuring Frida Kahlo and other respected Latino artists. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Jackson Elementary's library, the "6-to-

6" students performed a rap called "I like to read." Students escorted guests to the new library and led tours that featured the new computers, book categories and research areas.

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Student Salutes

2004 Point Loma Graduate Wins Hispanic Heritage Award

On June 30, recent Point Loma graduate Jonathan Jourdane was honored along with six other national youth award winners at a special ceremony in Miami. Each year, the Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation (HHAF) selects seven students, this year out of 7,000 applicants, who have demonstrated extraordinary levels of academic achievement, community leadership, and cultural pride. The Miami event was lead by Mistress of Ceremonies and Emmy-winning actress/singer Liz Torres. Students will also be celebrated in September during the Hispanic Heritage Awards, broadcast on NBC and Telemundo. Jonathan was chosen for his academic excellence, and as a result, he will receive \$8,000 in educational grants and a laptop computer.

Immigration Museum Presents Essay Awards

At an awards ceremony hosted by the Immigration Museum of New Americans on June 29, 2004, 27 San Diego City Schools students were presented with awards by Superintendent Alan Bersin and others in celebration of their written work and creativity. Students submitted essays around the theme of "Family Histories: Migrants to the United States since 1945," and winners were awarded with scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$2,000. A complete list of honorees is available in the online version of *Staff Bulletin*.

San Diego County Fair Selects Winners from San Diego City Schools

On June 29, at a special awards breakfast for the Student Showcase at the San Diego County Fair, art entries crafted by student artists from San Diego City Schools were honored for their talents. Included were Heather Delleney of Marston Middle, Best of Class for Tempera; Anthony Ward of Marston Middle, Best of Class for Tempera; Andrew Applegate of Madison High, Best of Class for Watercolor; Jenny Ngo of Scripps Ranch High, Best of Class for Collage; John Lofgren of Point Loma High, Best of Class for Ceramic Thrown; Allison Morin of Madison High, Best of Class for Ceramic Other; Whitney Engler of Scripps Ranch High, Best of Class for Other 3-D; N. Nguyen of Crawford High, Best of Class and Show for Cultural Heritage of Southern California; Jerald R. Camacho of Scripps Ranch High, Best of Class for Other CAD/Non-CAD Project; Charles Nixon of Mission Bay High, Best of Class for Educational Info Web; Jessica Graham of Mission Bay High, Best of Class and Show for Promo eComm Web; Dat Pham of Mission Bay High, Best of Class for Entertainment Web; Brittany Vardy of Mission Bay High, Best of Class for Linear Multi-Media; Troy Marcikic of University City High, Best of Class for Screen Printing Two or More Process Color; Adal Haclemariam of Wangenheim Middle, Best of Class for Traditional Black and White Photography; Ella Bailey of Wangenheim Middle, Best of Class for Traditional Black and White Photography; and Jessica Severn of Marshall Middle, Best of Class for Digital Composite Image Photography. Also among the winners were the Muirlands Middle yearbook and the Scripps Ranch High yearbook, which each won Best of Show and Class. Henry High's yearbook won Best of Class. Serra High's newspaper won Best of Class for its feature stories (see story below), and Pershing Middle won Best of Show for its literary magazine.

Serrandipity Wins Additional Journalism Recognition

For the second time in the past three months, *Serrandipity*, Serra High's school newspaper and its staff, has received honors for outstanding journalism. The San Diego County Fair honored Editor-in-Chief Charles Nguyen and Advisor Christine Edwards at a breakfast and tour at the Surfside Race Place facility at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on June 29. The newspaper was recognized with a blue ribbon for Outstanding Journalism and a special award for Best in Class for their newspaper feature pages. A plaque was presented to them in recognition of the quality work produced by the *Serrandipity* staff during the 2003-2004 year.

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Save the Date

Aztec Teacher Night and High School Band Day at Qualcomm Stadium

All local teachers will be honored on **Saturday, September 11**, at the San Diego State University (SDSU) vs. University of Nevada, Reno football game at Qualcomm Stadium. Also, high school bands are invited to perform during halftime. For more information regarding tickets, please contact Alice Tym of the SDSU Corporate Sales Office at (619) 594-4285 or atym@mail.sdsu.edu. For more information regarding the band performance, band directors are asked to contact Bryan Ransom at (619) 594-1600 or bransom@mail.sdsu.edu.

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In Memoriam

Lyle Duplessie, whose service with the district began in September 1984, passed away on June 17, 2004. Mr. Duplessie was a teacher at Standley Middle School. He is survived by his children.

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Classified Ads

For Sale:

Navy blue child stroller, good condition, \$25, 619-972-8432;

Mac G4 zip drive 450mhz, \$450, 760-295-1976;

CLAD tapes, used once for USD/UCLA course work for CLAD credential, paid \$65/class set, asking \$50/obo, 619-840-5749 or 619-463-5749;

Weight bench by Gold's Gym w/ 170 lbs of weight, \$60, 619-469-2750;

'02 Explorer, silver, 37,500 mi., ps/pw/pl, alarm, towing pkg., A/C, privacy glass, good cond., \$16,500, 619-589-0872;

Various, 2 sofas, 1 microwave, 1 computer (purch. 2000), leather jackets, 1 dresser, plus much more, 619-252-3278;

TI-83 Graphic Calculator, with book. \$50. 858-405-4586.

Roomate:

Female, non-smoker looking for a **roommate**, good area, 2bd/2ba condo, Del Cerro-Allied Gardens, share utilities, 619-246-2307.

Wanted:

Teacher wants to buy **2 bedroom home**, fixer upper ok, financing pre-approved, 619-692-0054.

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