

**San Diego City Schools**  
**Staff Bulletin – May 7, 2003**

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**MEET THE SDCS 2003-2004 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

- **Joan Boyle, Jackson Elementary School**

Joan Boyle has been teaching for eight years, all spent at Jackson Elementary School, an API 1 school located in the Mid-City area. Boyle began her teaching career later in life, finding the motivation to become a teacher from within after growing up in a small village in northern England where no girls went to college. Intensely dedicated, Boyle has aimed to ensure that every child who comes through her class is given the chance they deserve to become a successful, independent, globally aware learner.

Boyle is a patient teacher who cares about students both socially and academically. She describes her teaching style as “firm yet warm and nurturing” and defines discipline expectations “so every child gets the chance to become a successful independent learner.” This caring and child-centered attitude is appreciated by students and parents alike. One student explained that even when he’s thinking, “Don’t pick me, Ms. Boyle,” he knows that she wants to know how he is doing and if she can help him understand more.

Described as a “global educator,” Boyle constantly seeks opportunities to expand her knowledge of and familiarity with the world. She has tremendous experience with international students at all levels, including undergraduate students from abroad who she hosts in her classroom through the International Studies Education Project. She makes efforts to travel to countries from which her students hail, becoming familiar first-hand with their cultures and applying what she learns in her classroom.

Colleagues at Jackson value Boyle’s “continued support and mentoring to teachers,” both veteran and new, and praise her open door policy. Vice Principal Bill Bailey describes her as “a leader and exemplary teacher” who works collaboratively and participates in a variety of academic and social groups at their site. In fact, Boyle’s record of involvement in efforts to improve student achievement for English learners extends beyond her work at Jackson Elementary.

As an English as a Second Language teacher, she worked with other teachers in the creation of the district’s English Language Development Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Additionally, Boyle is the first teacher in San Diego County to achieve National Board Certification in English as a New Language. These achievements, and her current work towards GATE certification, reflect Boyle’s belief that all students “deserve having a teacher who can understand their talents and differentiate the curriculum to meet all needs” and that parent involvement is a key to that.

In Boyle’s classroom, a great deal of emphasis is placed on creating a partnership between students, parents and teachers. She has an excellent rapport with parents and makes regular contact by phone, letters, and even home visits. Wanda Evans, a parent of a former student, commends “the positive changes and differences in my own child as well as in the other children in the class” that she saw while volunteering. “Joan Boyle is more than just a teacher. She is a very special person. She cares about the children in her class, as well as others. She has a very positive effect on the children. She communicates and interacts well with parents, as well.”

“There is nothing or no one that I am afraid of when it comes down to talking about our challenging but wonderful vocation as teaching,” said Boyle, who plans to continue to work closely with colleagues as Teacher of the Year to help students reach their full potential.

- **Jami Wright, Muirlands Middle School**

Jami Wright has worked at Muirlands Middle School for the past eight years of her fifteen-year career, teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art and serving as yearbook advisor. An Art Education major in college, Wright put aside teaching to raise children and take advantage of the travel opportunities afforded military families such as hers after receiving her degree from Oregon State University. As she traveled the world with her Marine husband and two children, though, art remained her focus. Wright soon realized she had a talent to be shared-- "helping people of all ages find satisfaction, pride, and a sense of accomplishment, a 'sense of self worth' for themselves and in others." Her desire to help students develop those traits is but one reason Jami Wright was selected Teacher of the Year for the middle school level.

In the classroom, the key words for Wright are "respect and courtesy." She helps her students see that "different is okay" and uses art to teach tolerance, critical thinking and decision making. Students learn positive ways to comment on each other's projects and offer help or suggestions to peers within an environment of mutual respect.

Wright is also very successful at integrating other subjects into her classes. "When students comment on the literacy work we do in class, I never miss an opportunity to tell my classes that I don't know any illiterate artists," she says. Students get information by reading about art, writing about art, speaking about art, and finally getting their hands-on opportunity to make art. Besides literacy, Wright also ties in content from other areas whenever possible, including math, social studies and science.

"Regardless of content area, teachers need to make connections with their students," noted Wright in her Teacher of the Year application. To that end, Wright involves students in a myriad of activities outside of her class, as well. Under Wright's leadership, Muirlands Middle School's yearbook has won numerous awards at the Del Mar Fair and throughout the county. Eighth grade students have also enjoyed the opportunity to travel to the East Coast each year through the trip she co-directs and organizes.

A team player, Wright generously assists her fellow teachers. According to Cassandra Countryman, principal, Muirlands Middle School, "Jami is the epitome of what an outstanding teacher should be. Quick to offer help to others without being asked," Wright is "truly respected and admired by students, parents and staff."

Wright reciprocates those feelings of respect, especially for her colleagues at Muirlands. "I know that we are a team and I appreciate all their efforts and hard work to be the staff they are today," says Wright, noting that she can't thank her peers enough "for their support and their appreciation for the job I do every day."

- **John King, Scripps Ranch High School**

John King is literally a veteran educator, having served in the Navy before beginning his teaching career 23 years ago at Crawford High School teaching second language students. In his current position, he teaches Exploring Algebra and Unified Algebra to students in grades 9-12 and serves as varsity basketball and badminton coach and athletic director at Scripps Ranch High School.

Possessing a special ability to work with students who have not always had great success in school, King enjoys the challenge of dealing with the less than motivated student. "I believe all students can be reached and sometimes we just need to look for different ways to reach these students. The process of reaching these students is a daily effort and the challenge keeps me fresh and enthusiastic," says King.

King strives to help his students balance sport with the academic side of school. He feels that the success of getting a correct answer to a math problem "must make students feel as excited as if they were in an athletic contest." Likewise, King pushes his athletes to succeed in school and considers one of the greatest joys he has had as an educator is the chance to work professionally with people he has coached. "Being able to help encourage these students to become educators is a satisfaction that cannot be repaid with anything but happiness."

Colleagues credit King for his dedication to his students and ability to motivate. "Visitors marvel at his outstanding student rapport and how each student strives to impress him by working through each activity. He has a unique way of making students feel successful, as he appreciates each victory they have over the difficulties they face in learning each new concept." Parents also rave about King. "A good teacher will work with the student to channel his energies appropriately," notes one, and "John King has definitely exemplified that strategy."

Students feel that King genuinely cares about them and works to help them succeed. When asked why they thought "Coach King," as they call him, should be selected Teacher of the Year, they responded with heartfelt recommendations. "Coach King is always there to help, is funny, will give individual help while keeping the whole class enthusiastic about math. He teaches like he coaches basketball, fun and intense. He pressures everyone to achieve their potential."

King is also active outside of Scripps Ranch High School, hosting the National Junior Basketball (NJB) Program each of the last seven years for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the community. The league has more than 600 participants, and King spends at least 8 hours each Saturday and almost 11 hours each Sunday during the 10-week run of the program. Robert McLoughlin, NJB Chapter Director, explained "without John, this tournament would be an average experience for these kids, but with him at the door... greeting them, noticing them, making them feel welcome... the experience becomes more memorable."

The personal touch and sense of dedication that King shares through his teaching, coaching and community service will be sources of strength as he begins his service as the district's senior level Teacher of the Year.

## District Teacher of the Year History Chart

Dozens of teachers have been honored by their peers as Teachers of the Year in San Diego City Schools. We've got some gaps in our history book though! If you can help fill them in, please contact Music McCall at (619) 725-5598. Thank you!

Year	Teachers of the Year
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ernestine (Rae) Riner</li> <li>• Nancy Anderson</li> <li>• Maureen Nolan</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Walters</li> <li>• Tammy Wu</li> <li>• John Turner</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Betsy Shirazi</li> <li>• V.C. Groves</li> <li>• H. Dean Hickman</li> </ul>
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alma Hills</li> <li>• Gualter Moura</li> <li>• Jim Solo</li> </ul>
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda Elliot</li> <li>• Glenn Hillegas</li> <li>• Dorothy Bruntz</li> </ul>
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean Small</li> <li>• Robin Dime</li> <li>• Brady Kelso</li> </ul>
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harry Steinmetz</li> <li>• Godwin Higa</li> <li>• Mark Heinze</li> </ul>
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vincent Morris</li> <li>• Ana Maria Alvarez</li> <li>• Chas Moriarty</li> </ul>

1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loni Jo Soderberg</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joan Yost</li> <li>• Allison Pollock Carpenter</li> </ul>
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dolli Marcos Asaro</li> <li>• William Stallo</li> </ul>
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Jeannie Wolf</li> <li>• Donald Robinson</li> </ul>
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marc Knapp</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Gabay</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joan McCollom</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elizabeth Zmich</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rick Schofield</li> <li>• Mary Shoupe</li> </ul>
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph Nyiri</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patricia Oyeshiku</li> </ul>
1973-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zelma Crider</li> </ul>

## Origins of the California Day of the Teacher

On May 14, 2003, California will celebrate “Dia del Maestro” (Day of the Teacher). This date was entered into legislation in 1982 at the request of the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) Inc. Dia del Maestro honors and supports the many people who make it their life’s mission to educate our children.

According to the AMAE’s state president, Magdalena Mallen, the idea for Dia del Maestro came from Mexico. In 1917, a group of students in San Luis Potosi began a tradition of honoring their favorite and oldest teacher, Señor Isidro, on May 15, his birthday and also “Saint’s Day.” As time passed and students moved to other parts of the country, they would still return to San Luis Potosi on May 15 and seek out their most revered teacher. This show of love, appreciation and respect paved the way for Mexico’s official establishment in 1918 of Dia del Maestro.

In 1985, the California Legislature set aside the second Wednesday of May as our “Day of the Teacher.” This year, it is especially important to honor the teaching profession because of the current economic climate of the state, and the impact it can have on our students and teachers.

This year’s “Day of the Teacher” theme is “Imagine, Inspire, Involve.” Each year, the AMAE commissions a poster to represent the theme. F. John Sierra of Fresno created this year’s poster. If you would like to obtain a copy, please contact Enrique Franco of the AMAE at (323) 224-3376.

Source: Association of Mexican American Educators, [www.amae.org](http://www.amae.org).

## Teacher Layoffs Avoided

Superintendent Alan Bersin and San Diego Education Association (SDEA) President Terry Pesta April 30 that the district will rescind the layoff notices issued earlier in the year to 1,487 classroom teachers (1,166 full-time equivalent positions). Letters to rescind the notices will be sent in the coming weeks to affected teachers. Additionally, the district will maintain class size reduction in grades K-3 at 20 students to one teacher.

As a result of maintaining class size reduction, teacher layoffs could be avoided. Additional contributing factors include the deep budget cuts approved by the Board of Education on April 22 to central office administration, modifications in Blueprint spending to be considered by the Board on May 13, as well as the offering of an early retirement program that attracted significant participation.

“This is a great victory for our students and the community,” said Pesta. “We are pleased that the district was able to avoid losing so many dedicated teachers.”

“Working together with our employee groups, parents and the community, we heard that their top priority was protecting the classroom,” said Bersin. “The Board of Education has been able to protect the classroom, avoid teacher layoffs and maintain class size reduction, by offering the supplementary retirement program and making tough decisions to cut administration.”

### Background: Teacher Layoffs

Certificated layoffs are governed by Education Code Section 44955 or by an alternative negotiated agreement. The district must notify certificated staff by March 15 for a potential layoff the following school year.

- 1/23/03 – All site and central office certificated managers (500+) receive notice of potential reassignment in order to meet the March 15 mandate and to provide the district flexibility.
- 2/25/03 – Board adopts Particular Kinds of Services (PKS) resolution.
- 3/10/03 – District serves notices of intent to dismiss to staff affected by PKS (1,487 teachers).
- 4/14/03 – Scheduled layoff hearing postponed until May 19.
- 4/22/03 – Board takes action on 2003-04 central office budget cuts.

### Background: Class Size Reduction

California law currently provides incentive funding for schools that limit the average class size in grades K-3 to 20 students for each classroom teacher. Schools with reduced class size receive \$906 per student to subsidize a portion of the costs of smaller classes.

The district’s contract with the teacher’s union, the San Diego Education Association (SDEA), allows a ratio of one teacher for every 29 students in Kindergarten and 3rd grade, and one teacher for every 25.5 students in 1st and 2nd grades.

San Diego City Schools has 44,159 students in grades K-3. Maintaining class size at 20 students to one teacher costs approximately \$44 million each year, and the state pays approximately \$40 million to the district for the CSR program. That means the cost to the district of maintaining class size reduction as it currently stands is about \$4 million each year.

### About the 2003-04 Budget

On April 22, the Board of Education approved \$51 million in 2003-04 budget cuts, including \$43.2 million in cuts to central office administration. In making these decisions, the district, used the following guiding principles:

- Protect the instructional core;
- Minimize teacher layoffs to the full extent possible;
- Maintain employee salaries and benefits;
- Maintain class-size reduction in K-3;
- Protect the district from an unprecedented fiscal crisis that is likely to adversely impact public education over the next two fiscal years;
- Continue to streamline systems to ensure efficiency and effectiveness;
- Ensure the safety of students, teachers and staff; and
- Maintain lifecycle maintenance plans (major maintenance and repairs).

Serving more than 140,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with more than 200 educational facilities and more than 17,000 employees. SDCS is improving student achievement through a focus on basic education skills in reading, writing and mathematics. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

## News You Can Use!

- The district's **Partnerships in Education program** is marking its 21<sup>st</sup> year of existence with 47 new partnerships and 214 new Regional Occupation Program (ROP) and School to Career partners. District partners come from all spectrums of the community: arts, business, community/nonprofits, education, financial, high tech, science/research, government, military, hospitality/restaurants and service clubs. As the sheer numbers of partnerships increases, the value of these unique relationships expands as well. Partnerships today provide a variety of services, including classroom tutoring, mentoring, support for school fundraisers, helping to integrate service learning in subject areas, career awareness opportunities, technology support, in-kind donations of lab equipment, office supplies and computers, and parenting classes and speakers on health and safety issues. The new partners were recognized at the Board of Education meeting April 9.
- The **AOL Time Warner Foundation's Summer Program** application process is underway. The Summer Program is a new initiative of the Foundation that gives schools and community partners the opportunity to apply for a \$1000 grant to create a summer project, with young people ages 13-19, using writing, media or technology to highlight an issue of concern in the world and/or the local community. \$1,000 grants will be awarded to up to 50 qualifying organizations. The deadline for submitting applications is May 15, 2003. For more information, and to download an application, visit the AOL Time Warner Foundation website at <http://www.aoltwfoundation.org/programs/summerprogram.html>.
- **Friends of the Central Library** are encouraging teachers to pre-plan for classroom visits to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Wangenheim Room Exhibit** at the San Diego Public Library downtown. This fall's exhibit, "**Solving Pacific Mysteries: Early Exploration of the California Coast and Beyond,**" will feature important, historical volumes on early exploration of the Pacific Region, Edward Curtis' photos of Native Americans, and Andrew Jackson Grayson's drawings, "Birds of the Pacific Slope." The exhibit will run from September 21 through January 2004. An opening reception will be held Sunday, September 21, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., and will feature guest speaker Iris Engstrand, Ph.D., a USD history professor specializing in Californian, Mexican and Latin American history. For additional information, please call Vera Miller at (619) 291-8800, or Rick Crawford at (619) 236-5807.

## Hall of Fame

- **San Diego City Schools Police Office Rueben Littlejohn** was honored as the district's **2003 Peace Officer of the Year** at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Officer of the Year Awards Banquet, sponsored by the San Diego Peace Officers Association, an organization consisting of approximately 20 police departments and police officer associations. Rueben is assigned to Gompers Secondary School. He is recognized for his aggressive efforts in reducing school violence via behavioral and environmental changes, as well as his role in significantly reducing campus property crime. Rueben has also taken a leadership role in building student pride by helping them understand the negative effects of campus crime on a school's image and reputation.
- Nearly a dozen district schools have been honored in this year's **Best Practices Showcase 2003**, sponsored by the **San Diego Business Roundtable for Education** in its annual recognition of exemplary and replicable programs from throughout San Diego County. Of the 34 programs honored, 11 were from San Diego City Schools, nearly twice as many as the next most-honored district. The district schools spotlighted include: **Bell Jr. High, Darnall E-Campus, De Portola, Middle School, Fletcher Elementary, Green Elementary, Hickman Elementary, Lafayette Elementary, O'Farrell Community School** (two entries), **Standley Middle School** and **Vista Grande Elementary**. For more information about the Best Practices project, visit the Business Roundtable for Education website, <http://www.educationroundtable.org/>

**Gompers Secondary School teacher Era Turner** has been named the **California League of High Schools 2002-2003 Educator of the Year** for the San Diego area. Three other district teachers were finalists, including **Paula Earnest of Mira Mesa High School, Ruth Howell of Serra High School** and **David Oss of Patrick Henry High School**. All four were honored at the region's annual banquet April 24.

- **Cubberly, Hage and Sandburg** elementary schools, along with **Kroc Middle School**, have been honored with "**Healthy and Ready to Learn**" awards by the **American Cancer Society**. The award recognizes excellence in coordinated school health programs. School representatives were recognized at an awards dinner May 2.
- **Rolando Park Elementary teacher Ruthie Murray** has been honored with the **10Leadership Award** from KGTV, Channel 10. Ruthie was honored for her tireless efforts recruiting partners, tutors, mentors and other financial resources for the school. The Community Relations Department, which oversees the Partnerships in Education program, reports that Ruthie has recruited 11 partners on her own, including Walmart and Washington Mutual. Students from Grossmont College and members of the Blue Wolves Naval Squadron have also been recruited by Ruthie to tutor students and read to classes periodically. To date, Ruthie has raised an estimated \$25,000 for Rolando Park. See the rest of the story on the 10News website, <http://www.thesandiegochannel.com/kgtv/177427/detail.html>.
- **Patrick Henry High School principal Pat Crowder** has been selected as the **Administrator of the Year** for Region 18 of the **Association of California High School Administrators**. She was honored, along with the other regional winners, at ACHA's annual awards dinner April 29.

## Scenes from Schools

- **Lafayette Elementary School students in Room B-12** were recently asked to go beyond the literal when thinking about the meanings of certain sayings and clichés. Here's a sample:

- **Don't pop someone else's bubble** – Maybe it means not to hurt their feelings
- **The stronger the wind blows, the higher your kite will fly** – If you keep on trying, you will get closer to your goal.
- **You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth** – You should guide your children's path.
- **You'll have a lot more respect for a bird after you try making a nest** – It means if you be mean to birds and kick down their nest, it takes hard work to make another one with only two feet. So if you were a bird and someone came and kicked your nest you would not like it because you would have to make another one and make sure the baby birds in the nest are O.K. So how would you like it if you were in the bird's shoes and how would you like it if someone kicked your nest down?
- **Del Sol Academy** has started its first **intramural tournament**. High school students at Del Sol are participated in a round robin tournament with the championship games and runner up games the last week of April. The next competition will be an over the line tournament to begin this month. Uniform shirts and prizes are being donated by local businesses and teachers.

## Student Salutes

- **Silver Gate Elementary student Morgan Downey**, a second-grader in Mrs. Carroll's class, has connections in Sacramento! Morgan created an Earth Day poster and submitted it for a contest sponsored by **Senator Barbara Boxer**. Of the thousands of entries submitted, Morgan's was chosen as one of the best and is included on the senator's website, <http://boxer.senate.gov/>. In a letter to educators, Boxer describes the winning posters as those "best representing the spirit of Earth Day" and praised the students as being "very good stewards of our environment."
- Four district high school students are being recognized by the **Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation**, a nonprofit group that honors students who serve as role models to their peers by excelling in school and volunteering in their communities. Gold medallion winners include **Gompers Secondary School students Angelica Riestra**, in the category of health and science, and **Beatriz Paula Calamaco**, in the category of sports. Both students will receive \$2,000 scholarships. Silver medallion award-winners include **La Jolla High School student Andrew Fischer** in the area of health and science, and **Mission Bay High School student Yesica Salgado** in the area of leadership and community service. They will receive \$1,000 scholarships. The foundation gives out 144 awards to teens throughout the nation. One national winner will be chosen from the pool of regional winners and will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a laptop computer. Read winner bios on the Hispanic Heritage Awards Foundation website, <http://www.hispanicheritageawards.org/index.php>.
- **Serra High School 10<sup>th</sup> grader Melissa Looper** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the statewide "**When Not to Keep a Secret**" essay contest. Students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades were asked to write about what should be done if they knew a secret that could be potentially dangerous. Melissa wrote about the sensitive subject of "cutting" oneself with sharp objects because of constant stress and pressure. In her essay, she encourages other teens to talk about their problems instead of resorting to cutting, but more importantly, she encourages friends of those who are suffering to speak out. Revealing a secret to an adult about someone who is cutting "is better to have them safe and bitter than in pain." Click [here](#) to read her entire essay. Melissa received her award at a ceremony in Sacramento, sponsored by the California Medical Association Alliance (CMAA). Melissa was accompanied by **Marcia Heinrichs-Sorini** from the district's Life Skills team; her father, **Mike Looper**; her English teacher from Serra,

**Elizabeth Nixon.** Six other district students were also honored at the county level for the contest.

- **Serra High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC)** attended an invitational field meet in the city of Boulder, Colorado. Serra cadets were presented with the **Commanders Cup**, which is similar to the Commanding General's Cup at Camp Pendleton, in that it is given to the champions of the overall competition. The drill teams also returned home with six other 1st place trophies, and four 2nd place trophies: 1st place Armed Drill Overall; 1st place Armed Drill Exhibition; 2nd place Armed Basic Mixed; 2nd place Armed Basic Males; 1st place Unarmed Exhibition; 1st place Unarmed Basic Women's; 1st Unarmed Basic Mixed; 2nd place Unarmed Basic Males; 1st place Color Guard; 2nd place Armed Two-Member Exhibition. The cadets are now preparing and fundraising for the National Field Meet in Pensacola, Florida
- **School of Creative and Performing Arts student Nazareth Weldeghiorgis** has been honored with a \$2,500 Gold-1 scholarship award in the **Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship** program for California. Nazareth was recognized in the category of Science, Business and Technology Studies, and, as a Gold-1 winner, will go on to the national level to compete for one of three \$25,000 scholarships. The Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships, given in cooperation with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), recognize outstanding achievements of exemplary high school juniors in the U.S.
- **Mission Bay High School 10<sup>th</sup> graders Alyse Beni and Hoang Vu** have each been awarded a \$600 dance scholarship to the **Starlight Dance Studio** in an essay contest built around the theme, "Dance is good for the body and good for the mind." More than 50 Mission Bay students toured the studio last month, as part of a Physical Education class opportunity to learn dance techniques and hear about career options. Alyse and Hoang will study with studio owner **Michael Kiehm** and his partner **Brandi Northrup**, and will help develop a performance for the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up this fall. The anniversary event will also incorporate special efforts from the student television production and journalism classes.
- **Standley Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grader Ofer Harel** was invited to represent the district at the recent **Junior National Young Leaders Association** conference held in Washington D.C. The conference is sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council, which promotes leadership potential and academic excellence. While at the conference, Ofer had a chance to attend a variety of workshops designed around leadership traits such as character, communication, courage, goal setting and more.
- **A team of students from Challenger Middle School** has been honored as semifinalists in the Christopher Columbus Awards, a nationwide program that challenges middle-school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities. Sixth-graders **Tanya Kim, Britany Kvalvik, Sidney Schnepf** and **Megan Sharp**, and their science teacher, **Terry Allinger**, were concerned about crime in their neighborhood, especially after learning that burglars often ring doorbells to see if anyone is home before trying to enter. They felt the elderly or others who might take awhile to respond to a doorbell might need assistance, so they wanted to help. Their invention, the Doorbell Messenger, not only takes messages from a visitor, but also plays messages or sounds so it can appear as though someone's home but just not interested in answering the door. Read the write-up on the Christopher Columbus Awards website, <http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/events/bayernsf/start.htm>.

## Save the Date

- **Applause 2003!**, an annual celebration of student expression benefiting arts education programs in San Diego City Schools, will be Wednesday, May 21, 2003, from 5:30 – 9:30

p.m. at **The Prado** in Balboa Park. The evening will include a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner and student performances. Auction items will feature travel packages, works of art from local and nationally known artists, student artwork, performing arts tickets, fine dining and more. Tickets are \$150 per person, tables of ten are \$1,500, with \$100 of each ticket being tax deductible. For more information and to make a reservation, call Fran Carrillo at (858) 5389-5354. Reservation deadline is Friday, May 16. Applause 2003! Is sponsored by the San Diego Arts Education Partnership, a collaboration between San Diego City Schools and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

- The **San Diego City Schools Teachers of the Year** will be formally recognized, and honored along with all teachers, on Tuesday, May 13, in a ceremony during the board meeting. Read more about this year's winners, **John King** of Scripps Ranch High School, **Jami Wright** of Muirlands Middle School, and **Joan Boyle** of Jackson Elementary, at the top of this page. Each participating site's principal, SDEA rep., and site Teacher of the Year have been invited to attend the ceremony directly. To watch the proceedings on television, tune into Channel 16 at 4:00 p.m. on the 13th. For more information on this year's event, or the Teacher of the Year process, contact Music McCall at 619-725-5598 or [mmccall@sandi.net](mailto:mmccall@sandi.net).
- The **California Consortium of Education Foundations (CCEF)** will host a regional meeting on Wednesday, May 14, to discuss the significant role local education foundations play in fundraising efforts for schools and to provide strategies on writing successful grant applications. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the County Office of Education's Joe Rindone Regional Learning Center. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Stanley Levenson. A cost of \$15 for CCEF members, \$25 for nonmembers will cover costs of training, educational materials and breakfast. Please send checks payable to CCEF to P.O. Box 19290, Stanford, CA, 94309. For additional information, please contact Susan Sweeney at [susan.sweeney@stanford.edu](mailto:susan.sweeney@stanford.edu). The CCEF was established in 1982 to strengthen public education by facilitating the creation, growth and effectiveness of local education foundations (LEFs). Visit the CCEF website, <http://www.cceflink.org/>, for more information.
- The **Association of African American Educators** will hold its annual scholarship fundraiser, the districtwide "**Let Us Entertain You**" talent show, on May 15, 2003, from 5-7 p.m. at Eva's Cocina, 6690 Mission Gorge Rd. The show typically includes board members, central office staff and school site staff demonstrating special talents and unique, stageworthy skills. For more information, please contact AAEE president Dr. Juel Moore, (619) 286-8769 or email [gjamoore@aol.com](mailto:gjamoore@aol.com).
- The **Transportation Department** is sponsoring a "**End-of-the-year-celebration Cruise**" on May 17, 2003. The cost is \$25.00 per person (this is half price) and all district employees are invited to come along. The cruise begins at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude at 11:00 p.m. There will be a buffet, beverages, dancing on two decks, karaoke and door prizes. Boarding will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (858) 496-8783.

## Retirement Announcements

- **Lynn DePaul, principal at Standley Middle School**, will be honored at a retirement reception on Tuesday, June 3, from 5-8 p.m. at the Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive. The cost is \$21, payable to Standley Middle School, attention Gloria Garcia. The school address is 6298 Radcliffe Drive, San Diego, CA 92122.
- **Dave LeMay, principal at Scripps Ranch High School**, will be honored at a retirement reception on May 29, from 4-7 p.m. at a location to be determined. For information, contact Esther Caluza at (858) 621-9020, ext. 103.

- **Memorial Academy** will host a retirement reception/dinner for **Aurora Jimenez, Joanne Thompson** and **Lucille Toulouse** on Friday, June 20, from 6-10 p.m. at the Bayview Restaurant on MCRD. Cost is \$20 per person. Please RSVP to Veronica Gonzalez at Memorial, (619) 525-7343, by Monday, June 9.
- **Muirlands Middle School** will host a retirement celebration for **Mary Havrilla, John Long, Steve Morrison, MaryAnn Padilla, Ted Schriefer** and **Jim Stansell** on Wednesday, May 21, from 3 – 5:30 p.m. at the Kensington Park Villa. Cost is \$15 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres and gift. RSVPs to Anetha Johnson at (858) 459-4211, ext. 181 or Pat Spire at (858) 459-4211, ext. 182.
- **Serra High School** will host a retirement reception on Thursday, May 22, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Serra's Media Center. Retirees include teachers **Robert Blanchard, Tom Cassie, Marty Domaille, Richard Domaille, Jackie King, Sue Minnock, Michele Rodgers, Kay Seabaugh, Larry Serafin, Carl Stahnke, Dave Szuch, Sandra Williams** and **Maurice Woods**. Classified retirees include **Julie Campbell, Lynn Elmore** and **Mary Ann Jenkins**.
- **Standley Middle School** will host a retirement tea for **Kathleen Dayton, Lynn DePaul, Geri Lauriano, Sue Stone, Roger Strasner, Debbie Torres** and **Janet Walther**. on Thursday, May 22, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the school's media center.
- **Toler Elementary School** will host a retirement reception for **Jane Davis, Emily Jenkins** and **Sue Manion** on Thursday, June 5, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Toler auditorium, 3350 Baker Street.
- **Wangenheim Middle School** will host a retirement dinner for 18 staff members retiring this year. They include **Rik Almryde, Don Artimez, Ruberta Castro, Pete Fink, Gary Gentile, Rita Hoerr, Lin Ingram, Mary Jones, Kathy Keller, Terry Lowman, Skip Miller, Rick Ogden, Loren Salter, Esther Taylor** and **Mary Thom**. Other retirees unable to attend the dinner include **Filomena Bumgardner, Sharon Locatelli** and **Rosita Tajalla**. The evening will begin with dinner at the Catamaran Hotel beginning at 6 p.m., followed by gift presentations aboard the Bahia Belle. Cost is \$30 per person. If you would like to make a dinner reservation and/or gift donation, send a check, made out to Wangenheim Middle School to: Financial Clerk, Wangenheim Middle School, 9230 Gold Coast Drive, San Diego, CA 92126. Reservation deadline is May 30. For additional information, contact Susan Porter, (858) 578-1400, ext. 2208

## In Memoriam

- **Antonia Christopher**, whose service with the district began January 25, 2002, passed away April 13, 2003. Ms. Christopher was a special education assistant at Bird Rock Elementary at the time of her death.

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** North Park bungalow, close to Ed. Ctr., \$269,000, 858-490-6116; Pentax ZX-7, 28-200AF zoom, AF330FTZ flash, \$350/obo, 619-222-5654; Antique living room furn., camel back sofa, coffee/end tables, chairs, rug, 619-417-7500; Wedding gown, boxed, Eve of Milady, cost \$1,200/sell \$75, have photos, 858-467-0585; Olhausen pool table, oak w/leather pockets, red felt, 619-316-5951; Pottery Barn rustic pine furn., two dressers, bookcases, bedside cabinets, armoire, cal. kg. bed frame, 619-994-9492; '96 Ford Mustang GT conv., 4.6L, leather, CD, pwr. wind./locks, 62k, \$7,300, 619-846-1009; Treadmill, gently used, Lifestyle 600, speed, heart rate, calories, distance, \$200, 619-299-9449; '90 Ford Ranger tailgate, excl. cond., black w/alum. panel, \$80, 619-248-4636;

**For Rent:** House, 3bd/2ba, 2 car gar., lrg. yard, Paradise Hills, 619-316-5951; Rolando/College area, 2 bd/2ba, lrg. fam. rm., pet O.K., \$1,400, 619-297-1054; Allied Gardens, 1 bd. condo, gated, parking, pool, \$850/mo. avail. 6/1/03, 858-560-6700;

**The next Staff Bulletin will be posted online May 21, 2003.  
General staff submission deadline is May 14, 2003.**