

San Diego City Schools

Staff Bulletin – May 21, 2003

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS & INVOLVEMENT STANDARDS

Since January 2003, a volunteer group, the Parent Communications & Involvement Workgroup (PCIW), comprised of over 35 parents, teachers, principals, and representatives has shared their ideas on improving communications and engagement of parents. Their collaborative effort has culminated in the development of the Parent Communications and Involvement (PCI) Standards. The Standards articulate parent communications and involvement expectations by district, school, classroom, and home levels toward student success and academic achievement.

Beginning with the April 30th Parent Congress meeting, copies of the document have been distributed to an extensive number of groups. They include the Board of Education, all school principals, childhood educational center administrators, instructional leaders, parent academic liaisons, parent volunteer coordinators, representatives from district parent groups, employee bargaining units, Parent University, Parent Involvement Taskforce, and several community organizations.

More than 4,500 printed copies of the Standards have been distributed so far. Distribution efforts have included articles in the Operations Update and weekly Newsline. It is also directly linked on the front page of the district's website, www.sandi.net, under the Parent Communications and Involvement link, in both English and Spanish. It is anticipated that over 26,500 people will have reviewed the document through our efforts to inform parents, schools, staff, and the community. You are encouraged to review the Standards directly and provide feedback.

All parents/guardians and one representative from each parent group should complete the Response Form available on the website or at any school and return to the Communications Dept., 4100 Normal Street, Room 2145, San Diego, CA 92103 or Fax to 619.725.5576 by **June 13, 2003**. If you have any questions or you are interested in reviewing the entire distribution list, you are welcome to telephone Victoria Hilton at 619.725.5568.

The PCIW was established from a three-year grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. It is through the generous efforts provided by the Casey Foundation that the document will be reproduced, distributed to schools, which is planned for the beginning of the 2003-04 school year, and through other appropriate venues.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Magda Aranda,
School Secretary II, Bilingual, Washington Elementary

Tell us about your career here in San Diego City Schools.

I started my career with SDCS as a Senior Account Clerk in fiscal control. I worked there for eight months and got to know many people at the Central Office. Then a colleague of mine suggested I consider a job at a school site so I could have summers off. I applied for the position of School Secretary at Washington Elementary, and got the position. I've been at Washington for four years.

What do you like best about your job?

Being there for the kids. The kids in my school need so much and when I can give them a little love, it's very satisfying. It's all about the kids. I also really love working with the staff at Washington. When I can solve a problem for somebody, it feels great. I love my job.

What do you do as a school secretary?

A school secretary has many responsibilities, especially at an elementary school. I'm an office manager and supervise clerical staff. Since we only have a nurse on-site one day a week, I also act as a school nurse. Children come to me when they don't feel well or need a hug. I also have many administrative roles as well, such as timekeeper, financial clerk, and budget analyst. I work as a translator with our student teams as many of our parents are Spanish speakers only. Every day is different and challenging. Anything that can make my administrative duties less time-consuming would be great.

What kinds of things would help?

Oh, streamlining processes and paperwork. I am looking forward to the completion of the DWA (Districtwide Applications) because of that. I think it will help us become more efficient.

Can you explain?

When I learned that the district was in the process of replacing our antiquated computer applications with an integrated and improved Student Information System, Human Resources System and Financial System, I was excited. I've attended demonstrations of the new PeopleSoft financial and human resources applications and when I saw timesheets online, for example, I said thank goodness. The DWA is going to eliminate so much paperwork. Everything will be linked together and it's going to be so much easier. Currently, we have to work on multiple systems and when the DWA is implemented, there will only be one integrated system. * (See editor's note at bottom) That will be such a help. We are a small school and we don't have a vice principal, so sometimes I have to take work home. I think once the DWA is up and running, I won't have to take work home anymore.

How will you and your staff manage change?

Change is scary. You sometime wonder if you are still capable of learning, or wonder if you'll be able to adjust to what the future will bring. I tell my co-workers that we will take it one day at a time. We'll get together, learn the new applications as a team and move on. If we don't change, I we're in trouble in a way. We have to take full advantage of what technology can offer in order to improve efficiencies within the district.

Editor's Note - The DWA (District Wide Applications) is well underway; an unprecedented, large-scale project to replace the district's aging business systems with an integrated and improved Student Information System, Human Resources System, and Financial System. While PeopleSoft is a significant part of the overall applications strategy, it is just one of three applications being utilized (PeopleSoft, Zangle and 4GL). Eventually, it will all feel like one application because employees logging into the planned employee Intranet will be able to launch into any application without logging in separately! Upgrades to the district's IT infrastructure are in process, and you will continue to receive regular updates through the Staff Bulletin and Newslines. For additional information, please also visit the DWA website at www.sandi.net/dwa.

MISSION BEACH AREA BOUNDARY REGISTRATION

Registration forms for families affected by the **Mission Beach area boundary changes** are now available on the district website, www.sandi.net. The deadline to submit the forms is June 13, 2003. The boundary changes were approved by the Board of Education at the March 25, 2003 meeting. (Visit the Board of Education page on the web to review the board actions or minutes.) Amendments were approved as follows:

- **Current residents**, as of March 25, 2003, in Area 6 (Mission Beach) with children born before August 1, 2003, shall be given the option to attend La Jolla or Torrey Pines Elementary. The optional secondary feeder pattern to Muirlands Middle and La Jolla High School or Pacific Beach Middle and Mission Bay High School will be continued for these students. Staff is directed to define a "subscription period" during which time a list of eligible future students will be established based on parent applications.
- **New residents** moving to the area after March 25, 2003, will be given an option to enroll in any one of the following elementary schools: Pacific Beach, Crown Point, Sessions or Bayview Terrace. The secondary feeder pattern for those students, aligned with the normal elementary feeder pattern for Pacific Beach, Crown Point, Sessions and Bayview Terrace Elementary Schools, will be Pacific Beach Middle and Mission Bay High School.

For additional information, please review the registration document online or contact the Instructional Facilities Planning Department at (619) 725-7372.

NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

The **Community Relations Department**, marking its 21st annual End-of-Year Community Recognition Event, is celebrating new 10- and 20-year anniversary benchmarks for nearly 30 partnerships in education. Celebrating their 20th anniversary this year are:

- **Logan Elementary** and **National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO)**
- **Morse High School** and **NAVAIR Depot North Island**
- **Point Loma High** and the **Rotary Club of Point Loma**
- **Point Loma High** and the **San Diego World Trade Center**
- **Roosevelt Middle** and the **Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, San Diego**
- **Silver Gate Elementary** and **Fleet Combat Training Center, Pacific**
- **Spreckels Elementary** and the **La Jolla Plaza Bank of America**

Nineteen other schools and businesses are marking their 10th anniversary. They include:

- **Birney Elementary** and **Kindred Hospital San Diego**
- **Brooklyn Elementary** and **Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation**
- **Challenger Middle** and **Amec Earth & Environmental**
- **Chollas/Mead Elementary** and **Navy Personnel Support Detachment Naval Station**
- **Franklin Elementary** and the **USS Peleliu (LHA5)**
- **Hickman Elementary** and the **Scranton Road McDonald's** restaurant
- **King Elementary** (coalition) and **Bethel Memorial AME Church**
- **Lincoln Academy** (coalition) and **The Scripps Research Institute**
- **Lindbergh Schweitzer Elementary** and **Soroptimist International of Mission Bay**
- **Miller Elementary** and the **Kearny Mesa Wells Fargo Bank**
- **Perkins Elementary** and **CP Kelco**
- **Scripps Ranch High** and the **Scripps Ranch Wells Fargo Bank**
- **SDCS Gate Program** and **Judges in the Classroom**
- **SDCS Parent Involvement** and **Target Stores, San Diego**
- **Sherman Elementary** and the **Horton Plaza Mervyn's**
- **Sherman Elementary** and the **East Village Union Bank of California**
- **Silver Gate Elementary** and **McDonald's #1014**
- **Standley Middle** and **Hughes Network Systems**
- **Twain Jr./Sr. High** and **Linda Vista Health Care Center**

SeaWorld San Diego and **California Coast Credit Union** sponsored the event. The **Madison High School AJROTC Color Guard** provided the Presentation of Colors. **Madison High**

student Cynthia Mattus performed the national anthem. Door prizes valued in excess of \$9,700 were also awarded as part of the festivities.

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

- District staff who either attended or worked at **Lincoln High School** are invited to attend **Lincoln's Closing Celebration** on Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Events include Alumni Decade Booths, documenting Lincoln history from its opening in the 50's through the present; a display of historical memorabilia; sale of "Hornet" merchandise; a video presentation; school tours and much more. A sock hop-style dance will be held in the gym beginning at 7 p.m. Admission to the dance is \$5.00. For more information on these events, please visit the Lincoln Closing Celebration page on the front page of the district website, www.sandi.net. Demolition for the new Lincoln facility will begin later this year, with the plans calling for an \$89.9 million dollar state-of-the-art "school within a school" concept designed by Joe Martinez, a Lincoln alum who also attended Knox and Gompers. For more information, click on Lincoln under the "New Schools" section of the Proposition MM Webster, www.sandi.net/propmm.
- New hours of operation will take effect July 1, 2003 for the **Instructional Media Center (IMC)**. Both the IMC and the **Teachers' Media Center (TMC)** will have modified hours for teacher browsing, check-in/check-out of instructional materials and use of the TMC. Both facilities will be open Monday through Friday, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. The IMC InfoLine ((858) 496-8122 and the IMC web page, www.sandi.net/imc, will continue to be a source for current IMC and TMC information. The IMC will continue to provide diverse instructional materials for all K-12 students. The circulation desk staff will only take phone orders during the modified hours of operations, but teachers and staff may continue to place orders for instructional materials using the Elementary Curriculum Library and Multimedia Resources order forms found on the IMC web page. Orders can also be faxed to (858) 560-7218 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

In addition to modifying hours, the IMC will not continue to be open the first Saturday of the month for the 2003-2004 school year. The last Saturday for both the IMC and TMC will be Saturday, June 7, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

- **EdUCate!**, a volunteer foundation supporting public schools in University City, has awarded 22 educational grants totaling more than \$40,000 to its five schools; **Curie, Doyle and Spreckels** elementary schools, **Standley Middle School** and **University High School**. The foundation, developed a decade ago to provide supplemental resources to University City schools, will present the awards this afternoon from 4 – 5 p.m. at a special ceremony at University City High School. The awards are divided into categories, including Science & Technology, Language Arts, Humanities, Fine Arts and Interdisciplinary. For more information about EdUCate!, contact Rashmi Bhargava at (858) 457-4295.
- The **Discover Program** is seeking instructors to teach classes for district employees for the Summer and Fall sessions (July – December 2003) in all areas: 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 district salary enhancement credit. Instructors are paid at a rate of \$39.04 for teaching time, and \$26.34 for preparation time spent outside of an assigned workday. To submit a course proposal, or if you have any questions, please contact Debi Giolzetti at (619) 725-7255 or dgiolzet@mail.sandi.net. You can also visit the Discover page on the district website, www.sandi.net under Offices and Departments

SCENES FROM SCHOOLS

- Ribbon-cuttings here, ribbon-cuttings there! Many school sites have been holding special ceremonies to mark the completion of Proposition MM-funded libraries, computer labs and more.
 - At **Clay Elementary**, librarian **Diane Castro** snuggled up with **Clifford the Big Red Dog** as he helped lead the festivities celebrating Clay's brand-new library. Diane was presented with a new library cart from the staff as a surprise gift.
 - At **Gage Elementary**, students, teachers, and parents officially opened the doors of their new 3,000-square-foot facility May 1. Gage principal **Lynne Batchelor** had a lot of help with the official ribbon-cutting, including **Chris Lavache**, SDCS construction manager; **Katherine Nakamura**, board trustee; **Scott Patterson**, deputy chief operations officer for Facilities Management; **Jeff Hudson**, SDCS project manager; and **Lou Smith**, chief operations officer for Facilities Management.
 - **Marvin Elementary** celebrated the grand opening of its new library and computer lab May 2. The ceremony including a ribbon-cutting, musical entertainment, and many other activities.

More than 100 school libraries are funded by Proposition MM. If you have a project being completed soon and would like to plan your own ribbon-cutting event, please take advantage of checklists, invitation ideas and other resources available on the Proposition MM website, <http://prod031.sandi.net/propmm/principals.htm#plan>

- Students in **Sue Herz's first grade class at Ocean Beach Elementary** have been really hands-on with science! The class took on the school garden as part of their science curriculum, meeting all life science standards. The class has planted, explored, cultivated, weeded and watered the garden all year. They've also had the exciting opportunity to study some slimy worms and big, fat caterpillars under a microscope! As a result of their collective green thumbs, the garden has been awarded a **Golden Garden Award Certificate** for superior work in the **California Youth Garden Recognition Program**. Some of the judge's comments:
 - Allowing children to choose the plants was great
 - Wonderful partnerships
 - Excellent nutrition education
 - Outstanding outdoor classroom experience for students

Ocean Beach's partners; **SeaWorld**, **ARCO Navy dry-dock** and **Ocean Beach People's Food Co-Op** contributed time and materials to make the project a success. Way to grow!

- **Keiller Middle School** students are learning how to build character one "swing" at a time. Golf pros **Steven Kaese** and **Dave Graffigna** from the **Mission Trails Golf Course** joined Coach Jason Quillin's classes for two days this to teach students golf. They taught students basic golf techniques, swinging techniques, hand/eye coordination, safety techniques and the general excitement of playing golf. The clinics were sponsored by the Nike Golf Learning Center at Mission Trails Golf Course.
- **E.B. Scripps Elementary School** recently hosted acclaimed illustrator **Nancy Velick Smith** during its Illustration Day celebration. Smith, the illustrator of *"Elfinbright, the Tale of the Forever Present"* and *"The Christmas Eve Journey of Mrs. Claus,"* conducted two workshops for students to give them insights into the illustration process. Students were shown the correlation between the writing process they study in school and the drawing process necessary for completing the project

STUDENT SALUTES

- Six district students have been named winners in the annual **Campbell and Flores Art Competition**. Each year, the law firm sponsors a K-12 Art Competition by selecting at least one piece of artwork per selected grade level to purchase for their permanent art gallery. All selected two-dimensional work is professionally matted and framed. Each student receives a \$250 U.S Savings Bond. This year's winners include:

- **Michelle Cass, 9th Grade, SCPA**
- **Phoebe Gonzales, 9th Grade, Bell Jr. High**
- **Fern Lim, 10th Grade, San Diego High**
- **Darlene Vargas, 10th Grade, Garfield High,**
- **Anh Nguyen, 11th Grade, Mission Bay High**
- **Ryan Gerrish, 12th Grade, Mission Bay High**

The firm will host a special reception May 29th to honor the recipients, their families, and teachers **Mary Jane Resley, Marilyn Williams, Shawny Sheldon, David Como** and **Marian Palmieri**.

- Eleven district students were named winners in the recent **San Diego County History Day 2003** poster competition. This year's theme was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." Participating students work with teachers in research, creating and completing standards-based projects aligned to the theme. Honored students include:
 - Winner/Group Poster - **Melissa Barlin, Jennifer Dias, Cristen Enge** and **Allison Western, Vista Grande** (*The History of the PTA: Protecting the Rights of Children*)
 - Honorable Mention/Group Poster - **Lindsay Elgin** and **Kassandra Newendorff, Vista Grande** (*San Diego Zoo*)
 - Winner/Individual Poster and Special Award: Exemplary Understanding and Use of Geography – **Gray Williams, Vista Grande** (*Homeless During the Dust Bowl*)
 - Honorable Mention/Individual Poster - **Abbey Cavendish, Vista Grande** (*Smoking*)
 - Winner/Senior Group Documentary/Special Award "Excellence in Writing" - **Jay Fox** and **Tim Fox, High Tech High** (*For Virginia: General Robert E. Lee's Fight for State Rights*)
 - Special Award: Exemplary Understanding and Use of Geography – **Katie Timmons, Vista Grande** (*Mission Trails Regional Park*)
- Twelve district students have been recognized in **Food Services** third annual **Essay, Poetry & Rap Contest**. This year's contest challenged students to answer the question "Where DOES food come from?" More than 700 students entered. First, second and third place winners were selected in four grade categories, K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. They include:
 - **Adyron Thomas II, Kindergarten, Zamorano** (K-2 First Place)
 - **Betsy Armitage, 2nd Grade, Holmes** (K-2 Second Place)
 - **Jesse Aceron, 2nd Grade, Sandburg** (K-3 Third Place)
 - **Delaney Maghanian, 5th Grade, Rolando Park** (3-5 First Place)
 - **Tuyet Cam, 5th Grade, Hamilton** (3-5 Second Place)
 - **Allura Hays, 3rd Grade, Doyle** (3-5 Third Place)
 - **Dung Nguyen, 6th Grade, Wangenheim** (6-8 First Place)
 - **Jillian Smith, 8th Grade, Wangenheim** (6-8 Second Place)
 - **Thomas Smith, 7th Grade, De Portola** (6-8 Third Place)
 - **Sonya Gofman, 9th Grade, Scripps Ranch High** (9-12 First Place)
 - **Katie Rehm, 10th Grade, Mt. Everest Academy** (9-12 Second Place)
 - **Cristina Garcia, 11th Grade, High Tech High** (9-12 Third Place)

Sea World donated prizes for first place winners, ranging from family four-packs of tickets to weekend camp experiences. The **Pear Bureau** contributed Barnes & Noble gift cards for second and third place winners, and provided plush “Pear Bears” for the top winners. The contest was also supported by **California Department of Health Services, Project LEAN**.

- Five teams of students from SDCS are being honored in the annual **Innovative Video in Education (iVIE) awards**. The entries are from **Knox Elementary, Holmes Elementary, Lewis Middle School, Crawford High School** and **Point Loma High School**. An awards ceremony was held last night at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park to recognize all participants. The iVIE program is a student and teacher film festival and competition designed to foster visual literacy skills and encourage and reward the use of video to support curriculum standards. For more information, visit <http://www.ivieawards.org/>.
- **Serra High student Jessica Baris** has been honored as a gold medalist in the **National Endowment for the Humanities “We the People” essay contest**. Jessica was invited to attend a forum at the White House, where First Lady Laura Bush presented her with the gold medal and a \$1,000 cash prize.
- Loads of salutes for students at **La Jolla High School**. The **LJHS Band** received a “Superior” rating from all three judges at the recent Clairemont Festival, including for sight-reading! Five students have been named “Salute to Education” winners, including **Eugene Fan, Andrew Fischer, Alexander Fortes, Alexandra Kritchevsky** and **Kelly Tomlinson**. The National Ocean Sciences Bowl bestowed a fourth place award on a student team comprised of **Marwa Kaisey, Drew Lambert, Lisl Esherick, Amy Liao** and **Adela Rahmati**. Six students captured a first place at the National Comedy Theatre’s High School Improv Tournament, including **Matt Ascitutto, Jason Robertson, Henry Finkelstein, Armin Houshmandi, Seth Biberstein** and **Matt Kosak**. The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) invited two teams of students to the national competition. The senior team includes **Anand Subramani, Michael Bento, Nicole Green** and **Hannibal Sonderegger**. The junior team includes **Praveen Subramani, Brittani Chapman, Shanly Hopkins, Michael Savvas** and **Maha Odeh**. The Speech and Debate State Qualifying Team captured third place at the recent State Tournament. Members include **Matt Valji, Michael Shih, Ashley Fox** and **Justin Glavis-Bloom**. **Kelly Tomlinson** won the Fire T-shirt/Emblem Design Contest for San Diego Fire Station #9. Kelly won \$100 cash, a ride-along with lunch and dinner at the fire station and will see her graphic design displayed on Engine #9.

SAVE THE DATE

Look for Save the Date in our next Staff Bulletin, June 7, 2003.

RETIREMENTS

- **Bird Rock Elementary School** will host a retirement party for **Vikki Kocar, Catherine Montgomery** and **Maribeth Rodee** on Wednesday, June 4, from 4 – 6 p.m. at the Mission Bay Yacht Club. Guests are asked to bring an appetizer for 20 people. Dessert will be provided and a no-host bar will be available. A contribution of \$10 for retirement gifts is greatly appreciated. Please RSVP by May 23 to Sandy Sibley at Bird Rock Elementary School, (858) 488-0537.

- **Birney Elementary School** will host a retirement party for **Barbara Brookman, Harvena Hickman** and **Linda Rankin** on Friday, July 11, from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Bay View Restaurant, MCRD. \$25 per person includes dinner and gift. Please RSVP by June 20 to Margie Ohl at (619) 295-5959.
- A retirement dinner for **Rachel Flanagan, Mira Mesa High School principal**, will be Tuesday, June 3, 2003, at the Admiral Kidd Club, MCRD. No host bar opens at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Cost of \$27.50 per person includes dinner, gratuity and gift. Reservation deadline is May 27, with check payable to Mira Mesa High School. Attendees' names must be on the guest list in order to enter the base and a picture ID is required. For additional information, please contact Nancy Benson at (858) 566-2262, ext. 2201.

IN MEMORIAM

- **Robert Cowan**, whose service with the district began February 1997, passed away April 25, 2003. Mr. Cowan was a school bus driver in the Transportation Department at the time of his death.
- **Edgar Driver**, whose service with the district began September 1990, passed away April 22, 2003. Mr. Driver was a campus security officer at Keiller Middle at the time of his death.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: New 17" Sony Trinitron monitor, flat screen, excellent buy, \$150, 619-584-7663 (leave message); Like new! 6' cat tree, molded, cream colored plastic w/blue carpeting, \$70, 858-672-8752; Horse tack and girl's riding gear/asst., wedding gown, \$50; woman's wetsuit/\$40, 858-467-0585; '77 ¾ ton Chevy Suburban, 4X4, new engine, needs transmission work, \$2,500, 619-818-4011;

For Rent: 1 Bd. Condo, fireplace & more, Vista Del Lago Master Community off W. Bernardo Dr., 619-583-6492; Lakeside 55+ park, 2bd/2 full ba., fenced yard, pets ok, freshly painted, storage, 20' x 48', \$33K, 561-5787

The next Staff Bulletin will be posted June 7, 2003. Please submit all items by Wednesday, May 30, 2003, to the Communications Office, Room 2145, Eugene Brucker Education Center.