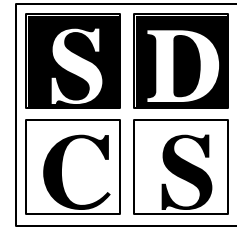


Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



Vol. 75

December 14, 2000

No. 10

The True Spirit of The Season



WARMING THE HEARTS ACROSS GENERATIONS--Clark Middle School seventh-graders continued a tradition in the consumer studies classes of teacher Janell Ahlers by making holiday cards for San Diego's elderly, blind or wheelchair-bound patients no longer with family. Students Edwin Rodriguez (left) and Emanuel Santos showed their cards to Ahlers before delivering them to seniors. Students crafted more than 200 individual cards for seniors at Alvarado Convalescent Hospital, Sunbridge Terrace, and Summerville at Clairemont.

Liberto and Steckel Receive Board Scholarships

Classified employees Karen Liberto and Paul Perretta Steckel received the 2000 School Board President's Scholarship awards to continue their teacher-preparation studies.

The \$1,000 scholarships are given to monthly classified employees who are studying to become teachers. Trustee John de Beck began the effort in 1994 when he served as board president. California Coast Credit Union provides funding.

Liberto serves as a special education technician at Kumeyaay Elementary in Tierrasanta. She is presently studying at San Diego State University to earn her teaching credential in May 2001. Liberto hopes to become a special education instructor, and is keen on helping children early in their lives to overcome disabilities

so that they can achieve to their fullest.

Kumeyaay Principal Bob Jones said that Liberto "will be a strong teacher and an asset to the profession. She has demonstrated a willingness to work hard and appropriately."

Steckel works as a clerk typist II at Mission Bay High while studying for her teaching credential at Chapman University. Steckel earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare from San Diego State, and expects to receive her credential from Chapman in January 2003.

Steckel will also be an asset to the teaching profession, according to her colleagues at Mission Bay.

"She will make a fine teacher," said Steve Stangland, the school's magnet coordinator. "Paula has a keen interest in young people, likes them, and relates well to them."

Bus Diesel Experiment Gets Clean Bill of Health

A year-long experiment with clean low-sulfur diesel fuel has produced stunning results, according to school bus fleet manager Roger Hansen.

The district has concluded testing of some 20 late model buses retrofitted with special engine particulate filters and fueled with "green" diesel, a low sulfur mixture.

Hansen said that carbon monoxide emissions were practically eliminated, and that hydrocarbons and particulate matter were reduced to the point of being undetectable. The emission levels were comparable to those registered by buses using natural gas. In addition, the clean diesel buses showed no significant performance or mechanical problems.

The testing was important because of state and federal regulations that will increasingly require diesel trucks and buses to be virtually exhaust free in the future, given health hazards posed to people from diesel engine exhaust. Retrofitting an existing diesel bus to accommodate clean fuel technology costs about \$6,000. About 20 late-model buses could be retrofitted for the same price--\$120,000--as buying a single natural gas-powered bus. A new clean-diesel bus costs almost \$40,000 less than a new natural gas bus. The savings on a single bus purchase could pay for as many as 16 computers, 1,300 new textbooks, or the salary of a teacher.

The low-sulfur diesel and particulate trap testing was part of a public-private study involving the California Air Resources Board, the district, Ralphs Grocery, the Santa Monica bus system, ARCO and the Navistar International Transportation Corp. San Diego was the only school district to participate.

Transportation Services Director Alexandra Robinson hopes that all of the district's 580 buses can be eventually converted to cleaner diesel.

Holiday Greetings

From the Board

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all district employees and their family members a safe and happy holiday season. 2000 has brought many changes for all of us--changes that you have addressed as valued professionals. Thank you for your committed service. Each of you makes a difference for our 142,000 students.

Board of Education

Edward Lopez, *President*
Sue Braun, *Vice President*
John de Beck
Ron Ottinger
Frances O'Neill Zimmerman

From Alan Bersin, Superintendent

Dear Colleagues:

Best wishes for the holiday season! May you take justifiable pride in the improved teaching and learning we have seen this year.

I hope you will take time during our winter break to reflect on your contributions to San Diego and its children. Your work is a wonderful gift to our students that is appreciated by parents, our community, the Board of Education and district leadership.

Lisa, our daughters and I wish you and your families a joyous holiday and a new year filled with health and with professional and personal satisfaction.

For our students,

Alan D. Bersin
Superintendent
San Diego City Schools



District News

The district's winter food and clothing drive for homeless children in San Diego City Schools continues through Dec. 21. Barrels have been placed in three areas at the Eugene Brucker Education Center: in the foyers outside of Benefits and Payroll and the auditorium, and in the lunchroom next to Annex 9. Donations are especially urged for children between ages 5-18, although any blankets and clothes, and food not requiring refrigeration, will be appreciated. Gift certificates for restaurants such as McDonalds are also sought. The winter drive is sponsored by the Building Committee at the Ed Center.

Volunteer hours valued at more than \$6.5 million were donated to San Diego City Schools during the 1999-2000 year by members of the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs and San Diego City Schools PTA. The hours total 527,318.

A leadership seminar was held by the Center for Student Support and Special Education where 150 district employees talked with Supt. Alan Bersin and others on how to improve services that contribute to greater academic performance. The center's mission is "to support the school district's mission by promoting the physical, mental, emotional, personal and social well-being of students and families."

Coaching Education Workshops for athletic directors and coaches cover teaching styles, motivation of athletes, risk management and other issues necessary for coaches to become certified with the California Interscholastic Federation. The next series will be held Jan. 20 and 27. Contact Rita Clegg at (619) 725-7122.

Nominations are being sought for classified man and woman of the year. Any employee with at least three years of continuous service is eligible for nomination. Please call Christine Arreguin at (619) 293-4450, ext. 120, between 7 a.m. or 3:30 p.m., or fax her at (619) 497-0918, or send an e-mail at <carregui@mail.sandi.net>. Information Circular No. 530, available on the district web site, contains details.

District employees are eligible to join 24-Hour Fitness at reduced rates. Contact Greg Vorce at 24-Hour Fitness, (800) 600-2007, ext. 2634. Information is available in Site Operations Bulletin No. 10 available on the district web site.

OOPS! Those employees who use automatic deposit can relax regarding their December paychecks. Information in the Dec. 2 *Staff Bulletin* was wrong. Deposit dates have not changed. The pay warrants will be automatically deposited as follows: Dec. 28 for all monthly classified employees; and Jan. 2, 2001, for all monthly certificated employees. Questions? Call Kris Panfil in fiscal control: (619) 725-7672.

Educators from Vietnam, Japan and Singapore

visited several San Diego City Schools programs. Japanese teachers spent two days talking with central office administrators and visiting Jefferson Elementary and Pershing Middle schools. Vietnamese officials concentrated on teaching methods for deaf and hard of hearing children. The group from Singapore's Coral Secondary School (right) visited five schools



about district efforts in integrating technology with curriculum. In photo, **Steve Kleinstuber**, technology coordinator at San Diego High, discusses projects with (from left to right) teachers **Kong Kum Yew, Joel Seow Sze Hon, Principal Ang Ju Lang and teacher Cong Mui Choo.**

People and Places

Morse High teacher Robert Lunsford was named the Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year 2000 by UCSD. The honor is based on nominations by the university's freshmen of high school teachers who worked hard to instill a lifelong love of learning in the students and who had had a strong positive academic influence on student lives. UCSD received nominations from more than 2,600 students for some 2,100 teachers.

Madison High dedicated its new Warhawk Fitness Center with fitness equipment donated by Operation FitKids, the Greater San Diego Inner-City Games and San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts.

Wangenheim Middle received a new computer from Vulcan Materials Co., its business partner, to be used by school police officer John Corduff in his new office on the campus. Jock Scott and Suzanne Avila of Vulcan made the presentation.

San Diego City Schools received \$2,500 from Papa John's Pizza. The restaurant chain donated 15% of the proceeds from meal prices paid by customers using special coupons that Papa John's distributed during the "San Diego Goes Back to School" celebrations from Sept. 26 through 28.

Neither Rain or Snow nor Sleet...Shall Keep the Marines From Their Appointed Rounds for Books!

The Marines from Aircraft Group 46 at Miramar are at it again!

Last year they biked to Palm Springs to raise money for books at Mason Elementary. Last month they hiked 46 miles through sleet and snow in the Grand Canyon, from the South Rim to the North Rim and back, to raise \$2,400 in pledges--to be split between Mason and Walker elementaries. The



hardy four were: **Staff Sgt. Mike Pfister, Cpl. Patrick Baker, Cpl. Alvin Paniagua and Lance Cpl. Demetrius Steele.** They averaged 16 miles a day through the rugged terrain and inclement weather. (*Photos Courtesy USMC*)

Looking Ahead

Newspaper in Education announces two new free programs: The Stock Market Game for students, grades 4-12; and Character Does Matter, for students, grades 3-12. Deadline to sign up is February 1, 2001. Contact NIE at (619) 293-2110, or register online at: <<http://nie.uniontribune.com>>.

Students from throughout San Diego County are invited to the Ice Jam 7 New Year's Eve Event, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the University Towne Center rink. Tickets are \$14 in advance by Dec. 25 and \$20 after Dec. 25. The fun and safe event is cosponsored by the San Diego Prevention Coalition, United Youth of the World, Friday Night Live and Club Live, and the Tobacco Control Resource Program.

Parents and students can call (858) 467-1222 or go to: <<http://IceJam.homepage.com>>.

The 14th Annual Peace Writing Contest is open to students grades 9-12. The topic is: "How Can We Resolve Our Conflicts Fairly and Without Violence?" There are two categories: essay and creative writing (story, play poem). Deadline is Feb. 23. For complete information, call San Diegans for a Peaceful World Writing Contest at (619) 263-9301. Scripps Ranch High had five of the 14 winning entries countywide last year.

Nominate a Hero in Education in the new award program by the California Lottery. The program intends to reward outstanding volunteers who go the extra mile to help school children through the state. Through

their efforts, students benefit in major ways. Information and nomination forms are available at: <www.calottery.com>.

Nine scholarships will be available in California for outstanding high school juniors under the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship program. Deadline for receipt of applications is Jan. 12, 2001. High school guidance counselors should already have received information from the American Association of School Administrators, which is coordinating the program for Discover Card. Applications may be obtained from the program web site: <www.aasa.org/discover.htm>. In addition to the state-by-state scholarships, there will be nine scholarships awarded on a national basis.

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads run on a space-available basis. Send to Communications Office, Room 2145, Eugene Brucker Education Center. **Limit to 10 words (not including phone) or ad not accepted. Include work location and phone (for identification purposes only).**

FOR SALE: '68 Mercedes-Benz 200, black, 4-cyl., 4-speed, 142K, \$3,000/obo, (619) 435-8354; NordicTrack Pro, \$175, oak nightstands, \$50/pair, Epson LQ570 printer, \$100, (619) 255-7171; '89 Mercedes-Benz, great cond., \$9,000/obo, (858) 292-8870; '74 Ford pickup, good cond., \$2,500, '73 VW Beetle, \$2,500, (619) 421-4296; '98 VW Golf, AC, power locks, excel. cond., \$11,000/obo, (619) 265-1613; '98 VW Golf, AC, power locks, excel. cond., \$11,000/obo, (619) 265-1613; Couch, leather, like new, Kenmore washer/dryer, good cond., \$75, (858) 571-7486; '97 Dodge Dakota, 4-cyl., 5-speed, \$9,000/obo, (858) 453-9473; '87 Nissan Pathfinder, AC, cruise, power, 4X4, CD, nice, (858) 259-7306; Bar stools, oak, captain style, swivel, excel. cond., \$50 ea., (858) 560-2052; '98 Jeep Sahara, hardtop, 5-speed, 6-cylinder, loaded, \$18,000, (858) 565-2262; Tijuana house, 3-story, with 3 separate units, \$52,000, (619) 280-2755; Diamond solitaire, 1-carat, 5mm band, \$3,200, diamond heart necklace, \$500, (858) 467-0585; Bev Doolittle prints, \$500-\$2,400, Nishiki 26" sport bike, (858) 277-1941; Linnaeus tower speakers, new \$800/pair, sell \$250, (619) 656-1485; Dining table, walnut, 3 leaves, excel. cond., \$200, (858) 578-3636, eves; **FOR RENT:** San Carlos condo, \$425, includes utilities, (619)589-1315

The first Staff Bulletin for 2001 will appear January 18. Deadline for submissions is January 8. Staff Bulletin is on the district web site: <www.sandi.net/staff/staffbull/index.html>.

Staff Bulletin

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Board of Education

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Sue Braun, Vice President

John de Beck

Ron Ottinger

Frances O'Neill Zimmerman

Superintendent of Public Education

Alan D. Bersin

Student Salutes

"The Full Monty" has taken ahold of Taft Middle School student Thomas Michael Fiss. Fiss has the role of Nathan Lukowski in New York's Broadway production of the award-winning musical, which had its birth at the Old Globe Theatre. The play is adapted from the popular English film about a motley male troupe of amateur strippers. Fiss plays the son of one of the would-be strippers. It's not just fun-and-games. Nightly performances are preceded by a full day of backstage schoolwork handled by his mother.



Several high school students and their teachers will attend a Dec. 16 dinner honoring five Nobel Prize laureates: Dana Ung and teacher Rebecca Castellor from Crawford; Kathy Lee and teacher James Ballantine from La Jolla; Elizabeth Chau and teacher Ann Straub from Lincoln; Emily Harris and teacher David Hamilton from Point Loma; and Paula Schaffer and teacher Rachel Tenenbaum from Scripps Ranch. The annual dinner is sponsored by BioCom, which decided this year to invite students.

Henry senior Lanna Walsh received a \$1,000 PennySaver Youth Excellence Scholarship. Her award was based on academics, citizenship and community involvement.

Miramar Ranch Elementary student Saba Fallah Tafti won the \$1,000 grand prize in the Mimi's Café Annual Thanksgiving Writing Contest. Tafti wrote on the topic, "What are you thankful for?" Her family emigrated from Iran two years ago, and she said her greatest thanks is for the freedom that her family now enjoys.

Clairemont High student Laurel Herriman will compete in Nagano, Japan, in April 2001 in the Miyoshi Cup, a event in flat water sprint kayaking for women under age 18. She is one of four women selected to represent the United States.

Second and third graders at Darnell Elementary collected clothing for Becky's House, a home for domestic abuse victims, filling three computer boxes. Their teacher is Kristi Nelson. The success of the clothing drive earned students a spot on a Channel 8 "Cool School" segment.

Several high school students sang in the 2000-2001 Southern California High School Women's and Mixed Voice Honor Choirs, held at the Louis E. Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton: **Carolyn Jorstad and Morgan Selby from Clairemont; Annette Coleman from Henry; Katie Fillius, Ashley Kunz, Sara Kunz and Cate McGuire from Scripps Ranch.**

The Scripps Ranch Marching Band and Pageantry, under the direction of teacher Dean Hickman, placed first in its division in the Mira Mesa and Temecula Valley field tournaments.

Watermelon was the landslide winner in the election conducted for elementary students on Nov. 7 by Food Services. Some 90,000 students marked ballots listing numerous fruits and vegetables. The voting was tied to a nutrition awareness program.

Songs of the Season to Air on KUSI

Choirs from 10 city schools will be featured on the 8th annual "Songs of the Holiday Season" to be broadcast Dec. 24 on KUSI, Channel 9/51, from 8 to 10 p.m., and on Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. The schools are: Bird Rock, Field, Hawthorne, Oak Park and Pacific Beach elementaries; Marston, Marshall and Wangenheim middle schools, Morse High and SCPA.



IN MEMORIAM

Jo J. Nickles, a resource specialist assigned to Madison High School and a district employee since February 1976, died Oct. 7.

Rachel Rodriguez, a former principal at Torrey Pines and MacDowell elementary schools and a district employee since September 1981, died Nov. 17.