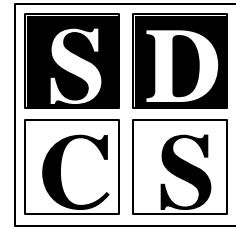


Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



Vol. 75

February 1, 2001

No. 12

Up!
Up! and Away!!!



Fifth-graders and their parents at Miramar Ranch Elementary enjoyed the school's Hot Air Balloon Festival 2001 in perfect January early-morning weather. Students built five-foot-high tissue paper replicas and launched them using charcoal fires. Teacher Dennis Christian coordinated the event.

Year 2 Blueprint Presented to Trustees for Discussion; Focuses on Retention Issues

New elements for the second year of the *Blueprint for Student Success* would include retention programs for all students achieving significantly below grade level following grade 1 and grades 6/7 and intensive support programs for students significantly below grade level when entering grade 9.

A preliminary draft on proposed second-year strategies for the *Blueprint* was presented to the Board of Education on January 30 for discussion. Following additional consultation with trustees, teachers, principals, parents and the community, a final proposal will come before the Board in March for approval and implementation beginning this summer.

In the draft, the Institute for Learning said the *Blueprint* would continue district efforts to eliminate social promotion by adding new retention programs and by continuing prevention and intervention programs begun in September 2000 in *Blueprint's* first year. Some first-year strategies would be expanded to additional schools and students as well.

The estimated cost of the new and expanded strategies is \$35 million, bringing the total budget of a second-year *Blueprint* strategy to \$96 million.

Here are highlights of proposed retention strategies from the draft plan: (The complete proposal is available on the district web site at www.sandi.net or by calling the Communications Office at 619-725-5578.)

—Students would be identified for retention who are significantly below grade level in elementary school after grade 1, in middle school after grade 6 and in junior high after grade 7. Students would be placed in special programs with additional support.

—Those identified after first grade would be expected to attend summer school or

Newest API Rankings Validate District Reform Efforts

The new Academic Performance Index (API) scores released for San Diego City Schools show that the district's ongoing back-to-basics reforms have enabled more schools to meet the state's required academic improvement growth targets.

Twenty-nine schools out of 151 that received scores recorded a 2000 API score at or above 800, the point on a scale from 200 to 1000 that represents a high-performing school. In 1999, 16 San Diego city schools received an index score at or above 800. The index scores are computed and released by the state Department of Education based on results from the spring 2000 Stanford 9 (SAT 9) standardized

achievement test. Twenty-four elementary schools had scores at or above 800, compared to 13 in 1999. Four middle/junior high schools were at 800 or above, compared to two in 1999. One high school was above 800, the same as in 1999.

"I am gratified that our literacy and math reforms, together with the dedication and hard work on the part of so many teachers and administrators, are bringing positive results for our students," said Alan Bersin, superintendent of public education. "But we still have much to accomplish to bring our schools to the point where all students meet and exceed academic standards, especially for those schools which still have scores

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IMC Encourages More Use

The Instructional Media Center has a collection of professional resources available for teachers to check out. Titles include the latest educational research topics. In addition, there are full-text articles from 240 professional journals, from 1990 to present, provided on the web-based EBSCO professional development collection. The IMC urges district employees to take advantage of the facilities. The IMC is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert W. Silberbauer, an art history teacher at Crawford High School and a district employee since 1975, died Dec. 20.

People and Places

Questions about Proposition MM? Visit the web site: www.sandi.net/repairs or call (619) 725-7390.

Gompers Secondary physics teacher Ernesto A. Abad had an article on "Boiling Ice; A physics demonstration illustrating the kinetic molecular theory of matter," in the January 2001 issue of *The Science Teacher* magazine.

Dana Sixth Grade School physical education teacher Jean Marmet has been busy. Marmet presented a paper on "Dance Tools You Can Use" at the fall workshop of the CAHPERD (an association of P.E. and recreation teachers). Marmet also won the Barona Casino Holiday Wish contest for her essay about twins **Dante**—a Fulton second grader—and **Trey Mikell**, a Longfellow second grader.

Oak Park Elementary teacher Elaine Evins received a \$5,000 grant from the Samuel and Katherine French Fund to support the school's reading lab.

Janet Delaney will join the board of directors of the **California Partners in Education**, a non-profit organization that raises awareness of business-education partnerships. Delaney is the district's program manager for the Partnerships in Education office.

Science Department Director Kim Bess received the **Outstanding Administrator Award** from the California Science Education Advisory Committee at the California Science Teachers Association for her work in the Vista Unified School District. Bess joined San Diego City Schools last year.

Jan Hintzman, facilities allocation department manager, and **Roy McPhail**, district demographer, received certificates of appreciation from the Scripps Ranch Civic Association.

Dutch photographer Ellen Kok spent a week documenting daily life at **Marshall Elementary** for a book she is doing on daily life in the United States through the eyes of a European. Kok will return in the spring for additional experiences at Marshall.

Newest API Rankings for City Schools Show Challenges Remain

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below the state averages. The latest data represents new goals which we must meet by continuing our focused instruction to improve student skills in the gateway areas of literacy and mathematics."

Seventy-four elementary schools received a 2000 API score at or above 675, the point set by the state to represent an average performing elementary statewide. In 1999, 72 elementary schools received scores at or above the average elementary API score set at 631. Thirty-six elementaries received a 2000 API score below 675, compared to 48 in 1999 with scores below the 631 average. Fourteen elementary schools did not receive 2000 scores because the district voluntarily reported testing irregularities or high numbers of parent waivers to state testing officials.

Thirteen middle/junior high schools received a 2000 API score at or above 657, the point set to represent an average performing middle school/junior high for 2000, and 10 had scores below. In 1999, 11 middle/junior highs were at or above the average index score of 633, and 11 were below the index score. Two middle schools did not receive 2000 scores from the state.

Nine high schools received a 2000 API score at or above 636, the point set to represent an average performing high school for 2000, and nine had scores below. In 1999, eight high schools

were at or above the average index score of 620 and 12 were below the index score. One high school did not receive a 2000 score from the state.

Using the index scores, the state ranks all schools statewide from 1 to 10 in ten groups of equal size, with 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest, showing how the schools ranked in relation to all other schools statewide with the same grade levels.

The latest scores are based on spring 2000 results of the SAT 9 taken by the majority of public school students in California. Schools were also given new API growth performance targets to meet in 2001. Each school statewide is expected to improve its API score by a certain number of points—the annual performance target—until it reaches the goal of at least 800. While the program is now based solely on the SAT 9 exam, the API in future years will include additional academic measurements that will be more closely tied to the subject standards that the state wants students to master.

Schools that meet all of their API growth performance targets each year qualify for cash performance awards from the state. In September 2000, 97 schools qualified for the 1999-2000 school year because they met or exceeded all of their targets, which measure

improvements for all students at a school as well as for students in significant ethnic/racial subgroups at the school. The state is expected to send the cash awards to schools and individual teachers during the next several months following a final review of data.

Summary chart of API 2000 Index Scores data for San Diego City Schools	2000	1999
Schools meeting API score	149	162
Schools with API score below 600	20	15
Elementary schools meeting API score	110	121
Elementary schools with API score above 675	74	48
Elementary schools with API score above average	74	72
Elementary schools with API score below average	36	48
Elementary schools not receiving API scores	17	0
Middle schools meeting API score	13	11
Middle schools with API score above 657	4	2
Middle schools with API score above average	13	11
Middle schools with API score below average	10	11
Middle schools not receiving API scores	0	0
High schools meeting API score	18	20
High schools with API score above 636	9	9
High schools with API score above average	9	9
High schools with API score below average	9	12
High schools not receiving API scores	1	0

Complete district API results are at: www.sandi.net. Statewide API results are at: <http://api.cde.ca.gov/>

Student Salutes

Birney Elementary student Wendy Stumman received a \$15,000 scholarship from the Bailey Family Foundation of Virginia and its Hope for Tomorrow Program. Stumman was nominated by Joanna Ellis, director of JUMP (Juvenile Mentoring Program of the YMCA), which works with Birney students. The money will be placed in a trust fund for Stumman until she graduates and enters college.

Hoover High student Leizel Vergara will be among 350 national scholars selected to attend the National Young Leaders' Conference in Washington D.C. in March.

Hoover High senior Lakeisha Rogers is a semi-finalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars program.

The U.S. Constitution team from La Jolla High won the regional "We The People" competition. Thirty students coached by Rhonda Zawadzki will represent the 49th Congressional District against other California teams in Sacramento from Feb. 5-7.

City schools students copped numerous awards in the "Living His Dream in 2000" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay/art contest sponsored by the Jackie Robinson YMCA. First-place winners from Kennedy Elementary: **Serena Boyd, L'Tanya Welch, Jasmin Williams and Anthony Williams.** First-place winners from Freese Elementary: **Daniel Johnson and Tony Ramirez.** Winners received savings bonds.

Sixth-graders at Holmes Elementary raised \$500 to aid victims of the Alpine fire.

Lewis Middle students took third place in the sixth-through-eighth grade division at the County Office of Education annual Geography Olympiad.

Rolando Park Elementary preschool-through-second-grade students read a minimum of 2.5 hours a day for two weeks as part of the RIF National Reading Challenge.

Have A Heart! Bring A Book!

San Diego READS and the Building Committee at the Eugene Brucker Education Center will co-host the second annual Share Your Love for Reading Book Drive on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. Employees are encouraged to donate new or gently used books and receive a chance to win special prizes. There will be refreshments in the Education Center first-floor lobby from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A gently used book is a paperback or hard-cover book in good condition, with no torn or missing pages, no broken spines, scuffed or scarred covers and no writing on pages. Please do not donate textbooks, or reference books earlier than 1993.

More information at (619) 725-7323.

Cementing A Love Of Reading



Jackson Elementary student Brittany Price showed teacher **Carol Hanson** her hand-painted tile of a favorite story. Jackson and Darnall E-Campus students took part in the "Readers Are Leaders," sponsored by the University Square Shopping Center. More than 100 tiles will be on permanent display at the center.

Looking Ahead

Here's the latest from the Union-Tribune's Newspaper in Education program. The stock market game is for students grades 4-12 and includes cash awards for school teams that invest most profitably. Deadline to register is Feb. 15. An optional teacher's workshop will be held Feb. 6 for \$10. The Character Matters resource guide, written by USD Professor Edward DeRoche, is available for students grades 3-12. Deadline to register is Feb. 1. Call the NIE 24-hour automated ordering line at (619) 293-2110, visit the NIE web site at <http://nie.uniontribune.com/progord.asp> or send an email to nie@uniontrib.com. Teachers can also purchase tickets to special NIE benefit performances of *Fiddler On The Roof* from March 6 to March 11 at a discount, with 20% of the ticket price benefiting NIE so most programs can remain free-of-cost to participants. Call (619) 570-1100 and ask for the NIE discount. Tickets can also be purchased at the box office for the San Diego Civic Theatre, at Third and B streets in downtown San Diego.

Fifth-grade teachers are reminded that applications for the fall 2001 entering class at the Preuss School UCSD are due on Feb. 23. Applications that are sent through district mail must be received before Feb. 23 as there is no postmark for district mail. Please make sure interested students are aware of the deadline.

The 2001 San Diego National and International Black Film Festival begins Feb. 23 at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Please call the festival office at (619) 234-4260 for information and a listing of films and activities.

The German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations is presenting eight educational seminars for American teachers and administrators in July. Deadline to apply is March 31. For information, go to the web site at: www.ifa.de/edutruvel/index.htm. Seminar coordinator Hanni Stellmach can be contacted by email at stellmach@ifa.de.

Nomination forms for educators who have furthered goals of industry-education cooperation are due by Feb. 28 for the annual "Salute to Industry and Education" breakfast to be held in April. Contact the Greater San Diego Industry-Education Council, at (858) 748-0010, extension 2241.

Several outdoor/environmental programs are offered by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the San Diego County Office of Education. Visit the web site: www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/outdoored or call Mary Ann Sardina or George W. Stratman in the outdoor education program at (858) 292-3694.

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: '93 Mazda MX-6 LS, auto, fully loaded, excel. cond., \$6,000, (858)587-1451; Roll top desk, entertainment center, 10-speed bike, (858)578-2500; Platform bed, king, dressers, \$500, Condo 3BR, San Carlos, 1500 sq. ft., (619)589-0954; Upright freezer, good cond., \$120, (619)267-2090 after 5:30 p.m.; '82 Yamaha Maxim 700, low miles, very sporty, looks great, (619)310-6439; '99 Honda Civic, 16,500 miles, A.C. C.D., cruise control, \$13,000, (619)287-5056; Dresser, French style, w/mirror, 10-drawer, cherry finish, \$350, (619)286-6253; King bed frame, massage table, body bridge, waterfall, prints, dresser, (858)273-3341; '75 Ford F-250 pickup, excel. cond., records, \$6,500/obo, (619)583-2912; '91 Honda XR250L, excellent commuter tool, 70 mpg., hwy legal, (619)528-1503; Linnaeum Tower speakers, new, \$800, sell \$200, (619)656-1485; **FOR RENT:** SDSU area, studio, utilities, cable, secure, \$400, (619)583-3034; La Penita house, near beach, 45 mi. from Vallarta, 4400, (858)715-0149; Carlsbad, new 4BR/3BA, ocean view, walk to Coaster, no pets, (760)476-0396; Southwestern College area, room, female preferred, \$350/mo., (619)216-9216; **WANTED/MISC:** Old costume jewelry, perfume bottles, vanity items, chandeliers, pottery, (619)722-6903

The next *Staff Bulletin* will appear February 15. Deadline for submissions is February 5. *Staff Bulletin* is on the district web site: <www.sandi.net/staff/staffbull/index.html>.

Staff Bulletin

Published for employees of San Diego City Schools twice monthly except during school holidays, and monthly in July and August.

Send news items and classified ads to:

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Year 2 Blueprint Proposal Presented to Trustees

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intersession. If still significantly below at summer's end, they would remain in grade 1 and receive a year of intensive instruction to focus on literacy for three to four hours daily as well as on concentrated mathematics for 75 minutes daily. There would be a four-day-a-week extended day reading program. Each classroom would receive an additional \$5,000 of literacy materials and \$1,000 of math materials.

—Those identified as significantly below grade level in literacy only or in literacy and math by the end of sixth or seventh grade would be retained and would receive a special three-period literacy core class and a two-period math block with reduced student/teacher ratios of 20 to 1. Each literacy classroom would receive an additional \$5,000 of instructional materials. A reading/writing resource teacher would both work with two literacy core teachers and provide individual and small group student instruction in reading and writing. Each mathematics block class would receive an additional \$1,000 in materials. Retained sixth grade students would be offered an extended day science explorations through literacy class, and seventh grade students would be offered an extended day arts exploration through literacy class. Each class would receive an additional \$2,000 in materials.

—Ninth grade students significantly below grade level in reading would take special literacy and math classes for four to five periods per day. The three-hour genre studies course would have a 20-to-1 student/teacher ratio and \$5,000 of additional materials, as well as help from a core of 20 reading/writing teachers who would provide specialized instruction. Those students significantly below grade level in algebra would take an algebra explorations class with a 20-to-1 student ratio and \$3,000 in additional materials.

Special professional development would be available for teachers of these special classes. Students would be offered an extended day science explorations through literacy course to earn additional graduation credits. A six-hour summer school program would be available to students who remain significantly below grade level at the end of ninth grade. It would include additional literacy and math courses as well as elective courses to allow students to earn needed graduation credits.

Here are highlights of proposed expansions of first-year strategies:

- \$3,500 in additional materials for all kindergarten classes.
- \$5,000 in additional materials for all second-grade classes.
- Eight literacy support program specialists for the district's eight learning communities.
- Early literacy support resource teachers to work with students at schools with large numbers of below-grade students.
- Elementary math specialists to teach at 34 schools.
- Secondary math supervisors to serve as department chairs at each middle-level and high school.
- A secondary demonstration classroom at a high school where district teachers can watch outstanding literacy teaching practices.
- Junior First Summer Academy or intersession at all elementary schools.
- Six-week, six-hour-per-day summer school bridging program for all incoming grade 9 students below or significantly below grade level with two hours of literacy, two hours of math, and elective classes to earn graduation credits.

Early Valentine

Printing Services received an early "valentine" from radio station 102.9 K-LOVE, which advertises more Mexican music with less interruptions. The station brought coffee and donuts to employees after selecting the department from among office listeners hoping for the free munchies.

