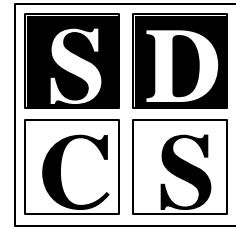


# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



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No. 14



**FIMSE--Chavez Elementary Math Specialist J.C. Rodriguez demonstrated a math lesson for members of the new Foundation for the Improvement of Mathematics and Science Education (FIMSE) during a visit to the school. The foundation is providing an initial \$10 million over three years to improve math and science instruction.**

## New Foundation Already Working To Improve District Mathematics And Science Instruction

Two of San Diego's largest publicly held corporations—QUALCOMM and AMCC—and the Waitt Family Foundation are together contributing nearly \$10 million over three years to improve math and science instruction for students in San Diego City Schools. The new Foundation for the Improvement of Mathematics and Science Education (FIMSE) will be the major recipient of these gifts.

District math specialists already are benefiting from focused multi-year mathematics teacher training at San Diego State University, where a new Professional Development Collaborative and the SDSU Center for Research on Mathematics and Science Education are also being funded through the public-private collaborative. The venture helps fund new textbooks and

related curriculum materials, and allows math specialists to meet regularly with colleagues to design and review instructional strategies.

Students will be reaping the results of better-trained, well-prepared instructors—the lynchpin to long-term academic improvements, as noted in a recent National Research Council report. The San Diego region will benefit from a greater number of high school graduates prepared to enter career-track employment in technology-related work.

The financial support represents a systemic, multi-year effort to improve math and science achievement through improved curriculum, stronger teacher and administrative training, and extra classes for students needing more time to master

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## Prop MM Potential Shines At Oak Park

Lunch is much more than a meal. It's also a time for socializing. Oak Park Elementary students can now do both underneath a new lunch court shelter. In fact, the school's new shelter has become a hub of activities for students as well as teachers. Built with funds from Proposition MM, it's only one of many improvements as part of Oak Park's complete renovation, one of the first to be completed under the \$1.51 billion bond measure.

"On nice days, teachers and parent volunteers use the lunch arbor to work with small groups of children," Principal Juel Moore said. "Teachers use the area to conference with students. It's turned into a lovely addition."

The first phase of work at Oak Park began in June 2000, reducing the large backlog of unmet maintenance: interior painting, asphalt paving, concrete replacement, new flooring, repair or replacement of ceiling tiles, and replacement of rotted wooden elements. Oak Park received the lunch shelter as well as exterior painting and new playground equipment.

"The old playground was horrible," said Moore. "The new equipment has really helped improve our outdoor activities. I've been here 10 years, and the school has never looked better. Proposition MM funds have been well spent at Oak Park."

"I'm glad to see students benefiting from the improvements," Proposition MM Executive Director Lou Smith said. "That's what Proposition MM is all about, improving the learning environment for the children."

"We have a lot work ahead of us, but success like this shows that the community was absolutely on-track when it passed this bond," Smith said.

Construction crews will be returning to Oak Park in coming years to improve disabled access, build a library addition and upgrade technology.

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## District News

In an effort to reduce energy costs, the district has posted an "Energy Conservation Measures" circular on the web site for all employees. It is Site Operations Circular No. 1053 at the web site: [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net). The circular includes measures for daily conservation measures at all sites, as well as special measures to take during stage three energy alerts called by the state.

**Chancellor of Instruction Anthony Alvarado** was awarded a \$12,500 bonus for his performance during the 1999-2000 school year by the Board of Education.

**Crystal Cavanagh is the new legal specialist in the Placement and Appeals Office.** She has worked as a deputy state attorney general in the San Diego Office of the State Attorney General for the past six years. Her phone number is: (619) 725-5660 and her e-mail address is: [ccavanag@mail.sandi.net](mailto:ccavanag@mail.sandi.net).

**Students at Garfield, North Park, Jefferson and Central elementaries have benefited from the generosity of Joe Schloss, owner of A&B Sporting Goods in North Park** and chair of the charity committee of the North Park Lions Club. Schloss donated new hardback sets of the Harry Potter book series through San Diego READS. The donation benefits more than 2,300 students.

**San Diego READS reports donations of 1,378,049 new and gently used books through February**, which include 641,000 new books being purchased by schools with \$3.1 million donated to the campaign. Nearly 5,750 teachers have attended a Book Warehouse Open House, which is held the first Saturday morning of every month at the Instructional Media Center. There have been 308 book drive sites sponsored by businesses or community organizations. Read-aloud volunteers have been placed at 121 sites.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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**Ann E. Watt**, a teacher at Wangenheim Middle School and a district employee since 1970, died Feb. 5.

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## Student Salutes

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Five students received awards in the 16th annual KPBS Reading Rainbow Writing Competition, which had the theme, "We Just Need a Hero!" The students are: **Jimmy Kerr at Pershing Middle**, with a silver award in poetry for seventh and eighth graders; **Rachel Lee at Mt. Everest Academy**, with a gold award in poetry for first and second graders; **Sarai Salamanca at Central Elementary**, with a silver award in creative writing for fifth and sixth graders; **Anthony Williams at Kennedy Elementary**, with a silver award in creative writing for third and fourth graders; and **Spencer Williams at Pershing Middle**, with a gold award in creative writing for fifth and sixth graders.

**Fifth graders Erika Doyle and Darryl San Juan at Hickman Elementary** had individual poems published in the 2001 edition of the *Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*. Their teacher is **P.J. Jeffery**. The fifth-grade students of **Rachel Eisenberg** at Cubberley Elementary will have their group poem about nature published in the same anthology. The students penned their entry after reading the book *Water Dance*.

**Sandburg Elementary students Brittany Rivas, Genevive Matundan and Michelle Regas** were selected to participate in the districtwide Elementary Honor Choir. Its concert will be presented on March 24 at 7 p.m. at College Avenue Baptist Church, 4747 College Avenue, San Diego.

**Henry sophomore Chelsea Sauer took first place** in the Old Mission Rotary Club's four Way Test speech competition. She is vice president of the school's speech and debate club.

**The Mira Mesa High AFJROTC unit took first place** in color guard and in unarmed fancy drill at the annual Orange Glen Drill Meet. **Cadet Major Rodalyn Landagan** won the Best Commander's Medal for leadership.

**The University City High Science Olympiad team placed first** among city schools in the annual Regional Science Olympiad and third overall. **Eric Weals** is the faculty advisor.

**Gompers Secondary seniors Yadani J. Beyene and Jesse N. Prescod are finalists** in the national Achievement Scholarship Program's Competition for Black American students.

**Madison High student Lorena Pastor won in comedy monologue** at the Dramafest festival sponsored by Southwestern College.

**Scripps Ranch High students Brian Geluz and Sally Yeh** placed first in the regional Japan Bowl, and will now compete in the national version in Washington, D.C. in April.



## Command Performance at Miller Elementary

When Miller Elementary second grader **Mac Osborn** asked to write a letter to **Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr.**, Commanding General of the Third Marine aircraft wing at MCAS Miramar, principal **Josephine Wraith** thought it would be a good literary exercise. Little did she know that Gen. Bolden would accept Mac's invitation to speak at the school as part of Black History Month. Bolden, a decorated military and Space Shuttle pilot, engaged students in a wide-ranging speech about the importance of school and the future.

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# People and Places

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**Scripps Ranch High teacher Deborah A. Elliott was named the outstanding high school technology education teacher in California** by the International Technology Education Association of Virginia. She will be recognized on March 23 at the ITEA's annual conference for "exceptional accomplishment in teaching."

**Jason Stewart is the first student teacher in the deaf and hard of hearing program at Madison High.** Stewart is working with Madison teachers **Joyce Brody and Ken Schwartz**. He is from the deaf education program division of special education at the University of Northern Colorado.

**San Diego High social studies teacher Orville G. Brown has received a Fulbright grant** to participate in its overseas teacher exchange program. He will learn later where he will spend a semester abroad.

**Dana Sixth Grade School physical education teacher Jean Marmet** taught dance clinics at the National Girls and Women In Sports Day held at San Diego City College. More than 400 girls grades 3-8 participated.

**Montgomery Middle and Penn Elementary have big plans to celebrate the third annual "Read Across America" nationwide event on March 2.** State Senator Dede Alpert and State Assemblyman Howard Wayne will headline a community read-in program at Montgomery, and San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano, children's author Janell Cannon, meteorologist John Coleman from KUSI 51/9 and reporter Lisa Lake from KGTV 10 will read to students at Penn.

**Benchley-Weinberger Elementary received 31 computers and 33 printers from the San Diego State University Foundation.** The school's instructional assistant, **Enid Stein**, talked to her husband, **Eugene Stein**, who works for the foundation, and, as is said, "the rest is history."

## Year 2 Blueprint Meetings



Grant Elementary Principal **Bethney DeView** briefed parents on Year 2 Blueprint proposals, which trustees will consider on March 13. Every school has held separate feedback meetings with staff and parents.

## Serving a Good Cause



**Superintendent Alan Bersin** was among the celebrity waiters at the annual luncheon for STAR/PAL, a non-profit organization and district partner that provides athletic, academic and recreational opportunities for under-served San Diego children, including many in city schools.

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## Looking Ahead

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**The musical *Godspell* will be performed** tonight and March 2 at 7 p.m., and March 3 at 2 p.m., at Clairemont High, under the direction of **Stacey Allen**. \$7 for adults; \$5 for children.

**The San Diego Science Educators Association's annual conference** will be held March 9 and 10 at the San Diego Community Concourse downtown. The theme is: "2001" A Science Odyssey." Call Nancy Taylor at (858) 292-3854 for information.

**A poetry reading to celebrate International Women's Day** will be held by Memorial Academy at 6 p.m. on March 9. Call (619) 525-7400, ext. 132, for information.

**K-12 teachers may apply for the national Christa McAuliffe Fellowships** for 2001-2002 through the California Department of Education. Deadline is March 28. Forms are available on the department's web site: [www.cde.ca.gov/ope/ae](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ope/ae).

**The Scripps Research Institute offers two programs for teachers:** The Science Partnership Scholars Program beginning March 20, and the Summer Research Internship Program beginning June 25. Call Robin Goldsmith at (858) 784-8134 for information.

**One-week Advanced Placement Institutes will be directed this summer at the University of San Diego by city schools teachers Mike Auer and Bob Litchfield.** Call (858) 874-5260 or visit the web site: <http://amfec.org>.

**The 11th Annual English Language Development Institute** will be held March 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. Registration deadline is March 16. Call Lupe Saucedo at (858) 292-3548 for information.

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## 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:** Cross country skis, 6'8", poles, 2 sets, excel. cond., \$80/ea., (760)726-7022; '97 Dodge Intrepid, 3.5 liter, V6, Auto, A/C, CD, \$6,900/obo, (619)464-3931; Roll top desk, entertainment center, 10-speed bike, (858)578-8763; Dining table, 72" glass, 6 upholstered chairs, \$250, (858)530-0028; Playstation, perfect cond., \$50, (858)565-1026; Car seat, infant/toddler, \$35, deluxe stroller, excel. cond., \$40, (858)689-1210; Bedroom set, excel. cond., white w/gold, 9 pieces, \$350, (619)997-8433; '77 Mercedes 450 SL, canary, mint cond., one owner, 168K, \$11,500, (619)579-2087; Ultegra road bike, 54", specialized, excel. cond., \$350/obo, (619)276-0756; Amana refrigerator, almond, water, ice, \$400, Maytag dryer, electric, \$100, (619)463-0976; Queen sleeper couch, cute, neutral narrow stripes, \$140/obo, (858)569-4049; Mahogany table, drop-leaf, 4 chairs, classic, \$300/obo, (858)569-1770; **FOR RENT:** Condo, Banker's Hill, luxury view, 2BR/2BA, no pets, \$2100, avail. 3/15, (858)792-7930; House, Rolando, large 2BR, new hardwood floors, \$1,550, (619)297-1054; El Cajon, room, female senior preferred, \$200, (619)588-8480

## Got Golf?

**The San Diego Educators Golf Association** is on the hunt for new members to play courses every other Saturday. Membership is free. Call Mike Askey at (619) 283-6281 or Greg Morrill, (858) 457-3040, ext. 222 (M-T) or (619) 583-3233, ext. 206 (W-F).

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

### Staff Bulletin

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**Superintendent of Public Education**

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## Foundation Means Better Achievement

(Continued from Page 1)

subjects The two corporations are among San Diego's largest in terms of market capitalization values.

FIMSE directly funds activities to increase the participation and achievement of students in math and science.

"School districts teach students, universities prepare teachers, and the private sector depends upon their success for an educated work force," said Harry Albers, executive director of FIMSE. "In the past, these three entities have not coordinated their agendas. What is unusual here is that a foundation has been established to take philanthropic venture capital and use it in a systemic, coordinated fashion to initiate long-term improvements to math and science teaching and learning."

The corporate effort in San Diego gives substance to a concern expressed nationwide by cutting-edge technology industries that the country must improve its math and science education.

QUALCOMM Chairman and CEO Dr. Irwin Jacobs made an initial three-year, \$6 million investment to establish the foundation and the SDSU development collaborative.

"QUALCOMM recognizes that improving math and science education is an issue that needs to be addressed to allow the high technology industry continued access to a highly skilled work force," Jacobs said. "We are investing in the technical development of education in San Diego."

AMCC CEO and Chairman David Rickey cited personal and professional experiences for undertaking his company's three-year, \$3 million investment.

"I am a math and science guy, with three college degrees, my wife has degrees from Stanford and MIT, and we are the parents of four daughters who are currently in the school system, the youngest being eight and the oldest 17," said Rickey. "I feel more passionately about quality education than anything else in this world. We need this type of proactive effort in order to induce an even greater impact in the indulgence and mastery of technology by our students, and thereby have a long-lasting impact on San Diego's high-technology industry as a whole."

John Heubusch, president of the Waitt Family Foundation, said, "Working together with this community partnership of San

Diego City Schools, corporations and higher education, we look forward to significantly increased student achievement in mathematics and science, and finding a model for improvement that can be effective for all students."

San Diego State University President Stephen L. Weber noted that more than half of teachers in San Diego City Schools are graduates of SDSU.

"Beyond preparing the next generation of teachers, our responsibility extends to providing continuing education and professional development to all educators in the region," Weber said. "We embrace this opportunity to serve the community and its schools."

City Schools Superintendent Alan Bersin praised the private sector and SDSU for rising to the challenge of helping the district and the community forge a school system that serves all children.

"I thank them for helping further our admittedly ambitious agenda to make our large, urban, diversified school district a source of pride for all," Bersin said.

The 32 math specialists at eight schools who already benefit from the help of FIMSE will be augmented in September by a planned increase in their numbers to cover an additional 34 schools. The math specialists focus exclusively on math instruction for fourth- and fifth-graders in an effort to improve learning in the upper elementary grades, where studies show lagging achievement among many students exposed to more challenging math concepts. FIMSE provides these teachers with tuition-free coursework at San Diego State over a three-year period to strengthen and expand both their mathematics background and instructional skills.

FIMSE also is sponsoring seminars for kindergarten-through-second-grade teachers to hone new skills in linking mathematics and literacy, as well as special sessions for middle-school teachers to buttress algebra teaching strategies. Students in city schools now begin algebra in the eighth grade and the subject is part of the new state-mandated High School Exit Exam required for graduation.

FIMSE will also begin working this year with city schools to support planned enhancements to science education programs.