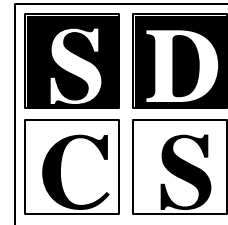


# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



Vol. 75

March 29, 2001

No. 16

## Student Art Draws Overflow Crowd to Opening Night



Gage Elementary student Alycia Powell was among student prize winners in the Superintendent's Art Exhibition at the Eugene Brucker Education Center. Details in *Student Salutes* on Page 2. (Photo by Shane Parmely)

## Trustees Approve Phase 2 Strategies for Blueprint

Strategies for continued implementation of the Blueprint for Student Success in Phase 2 were approved on March 13 by the Board of Education.

The top priorities for 2001-2002 are new programs to retain students achieving significantly below grade level after completing the entry level in elementary, middle and junior high schools (grades 1 and 6 or 7) and to support more strongly students who are achieving significantly below grade level in grade 9.

These programs will provide students with an accelerated curriculum, additional high-quality instructional materials, and additional teachers in the classroom.

The extent both of new programs and expansion of this year's Phase 1 strategies in 2001-2002 will depend on the availability of new state and federal education funding and on the district's ability to implement additional programs effectively.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## District Prevention and Intervention Efforts On School Violence Detailed

The tragic event at Santana High School called media, parent, student and staff attention to how the education community both responds to violence on school campuses and acts to prevent violence. For a number of years, San Diego City Schools has addressed the issue of violence on school campuses through a number of prevention and intervention programs. Staff have acquired skills necessary to address the aftermath of violent acts and to work effectively with students, parents, teachers and other members of the educational community.

### Prevention

--All school sites and child development centers have Crisis Response Boxes that include a comprehensive school safety plan. Plans are revised yearly and evaluated by School Police Services to ensure compliance. They include maps, disaster plans,

evacuation routes, staging locations, current aerial photographs of the campus, current crime data and additional information required by law.

--District Emergency Procedures were revised and a quick reference guide was written last year.

## BREAKING NEWS

**Jerabek Elementary teacher Nancy Walters, Kroc Middle teacher Tammy Wu and Mission Bay High teacher John Turner are the district's 2001-2002 Teachers of the Year. They will be officially honored on May 8 at the Board of Education. Complete coverage in the May 10 Staff Bulletin.**

--Multiple public safety agency "table top" exercises have been held to practice and test district emergency plans at selected sites.

--Twelve school police officer positions have been added over the past two years, augmenting seven additional officer positions added four years ago.

--Upgrades have been made to the fire and intrusion alarm system and to the school police computer-aided dispatch system.

--The district's emergency radio system is tested districtwide twice yearly.

--School police participate on the City of San Diego's School Safety Project. This project involves local, state and federal agency representatives.

--A Memorandum of Understanding exists between San Diego City Schools and the San Diego Police Department regarding

*(Continued On Page 4)*

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# District News

**Pre-enrollment forms for the 2001-2002 "6 to 6" Program** will be delivered to elementary and middle school sites from provider agencies by April 23. Sites should give the forms to students to take home. Parents will mail the forms to the agencies by May 11. Sites should not collect any completed forms. Parents of children at traditional schools will be notified by June 8 and those at year-round schools by June 29 if their students have been enrolled. Students not enrolled by those dates will automatically be placed on waiting lists.

**The Teacher Retention Credit**, effective with the 2000 tax return, allows credentialed teachers in public and private kindergarten-through-12th-grade classes a state tax credit of up to \$1,500. For the taxable year in which the credit is claimed, wages must have been earned for services as a credentialed teacher. More information is available by calling the Franchise Tax Board at (800) 852-5711 or at **the web site:** [www.ftb.ca.gov/other/Teacher/TRC.htm](http://www.ftb.ca.gov/other/Teacher/TRC.htm)

**Central Elementary will convert to a single-track, year-round schedule** for the 2001-2002 year. The district will no longer have any schools on multitrack schedules. To carry out the conversion, some 140 students now in the southernmost portions of the Central Elementary boundary area will be offered enrollment, with district-provided transportation, at: Adams, Birney, Carver, Clay or the Kwachiiyoa charter school.

**District sites wishing** to receive staff development funds from the Peer Enrichment Program (PEP) must send the principal and representatives from their associations to mandatory trainings from 4:15 to 6 p.m. on either April 17 at the Scottish Rite Center or on April 26 at the Quality Resort. Direct questions to Deberie Gomez at (619) 725-8005. PEP is the voluntary component of the Peer Review and Enrichment Program.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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**Friends of Richard Heuchert**, a longtime math teacher at Gompers Secondary, may make donations in his memory to The American Cancer Society or Sharp Hospicecare, PO Box 3739, La Mesa, Ca. 91944-3739.

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# Student Salutes

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**More than 500 students, parents, teachers and friends overflowed the Eugene Brucker Education Center for the opening night of the Superintendent's Art Exhibition.** Some 450 works of art from students K-12 are on display in the building lobbies and second-floor corridors through April 13. Thirteen students had pieces selected to illustrate the 2001-2002 district wall calendar: **Monica Haro, McKinley Elementary; Alycia Powell, Gage Elementary; Rebecca Habermacher, Angier Elementary; Victoria Abigania and Tyler Butler, Zamorano Elementary; Alyx Stewart, Dana 6th Grade School; Joseph Alvela, Bell Junior High; Juana Urzua Ruiz, Clark Middle; Jessica Green, University City High; Paul Lunetta, Mission Bay High; Melanie Florio, Point Loma High; Levon Lewis, SCPA; Melissa Retener, Mira Mesa High.**

**La Jolla High science students taught by Martin Teachworth** won the grand prize in the Using Technology to Promote a Community Value contest sponsored by the Computer Learning Foundation. The students, who won computers and digital video cameras valued at \$4,000, designed a web page and created a video to promote recycling among upper elementary school students. The winners were: **Yvonne Heung, Peng Huang, Rachel McDonald, Dahmian Owen, Min Roh, Cindy Wang, Yi-Tao Wang, Albert Wu and Satoko Yamaguchi.**

**Not to be outdone, other La Jolla High science students** took first place in the high school division of the Walk On Water contest sponsored annually by the University of San Diego. **William Frymann, Mike Oliver, Ben Reineman and Chad Valderamma** created a pair of shoes that a "pilot" used to walk across a pool without getting wet.

**City schools students took several first place honors in the San Diego/National Fleet Reserve Association Americanism-Patriotism Contest**, "What the United States Flag Means to Me." They are: **Sharon Nguyen, Challenger Middle eighth grader; Hang Chau, SCPA eleventh grader; and Thomas J. Mantione, Mira Mesa High twelfth grader.** Winners will enter their essays in regional and national finals with the chance to earn up to \$15,000.

**Mira Mesa High senior Stephanie Nguyen** was fourth statewide among hundreds of students who wrote essays in the "When Not to Keep a Secret" writing contest sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association Alliance. She was recognized at a State Capitol ceremony in Sacramento.

**Dana Sixth Grade School student Michael Campbell** has advanced to the state level in the National Geographic Society Spelling Bee contest for 2001. He will compete for national honors on April 6 at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento.

**Madison High students from the M.E.S.A. club** (Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement) took the math champion honors at the M.E.S.A. Day competition at San Diego State University. **Darwin Saylor and Edward Walach** advise the students: **Tabata Buraus, Nhu Hoang, Daniel Hoffman, Karen Hom, Toung Vi Nguyen, Van Nguyen, Vi Nguyen, Son Nguyen, Chiho Saito, Tyisha Seymour, Tyrell Semour and Emily Villagrana.**

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## Phase 2 Blueprint Approved

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Superintendent Alan Bersin will bring three alternatives for Phase 2 implementation for 2001-2002 to trustees in April.

In approving continued implementation, the Board also approved closure of magnet programs at API 1 and 2 schools, and the redesignation of the schools as Academic Academies. Integration funds at the schools will be redirected to support Blueprint academic strategies and assist all students in meeting state content standards across the curriculum. The schools are: Baker, Balboa, Burbank, Chavez, Edison, Emerson/

Bandini, Encanto, Horton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kimbrough, King, Logan, Perkins, Sherman, Gompers and Lincoln. The integration funds total \$5.6 million.

The cost of a full Phase 2 Blueprint in 2001-2002 would be \$112 million, of which \$43.5 million would cover new programs and \$68.6 million would include continuing and expanding Phase 1 programs.

**THE COMPLETE BLUEPRINT IS ON THE DISTRICT WEB SITE:** [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net)

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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:** '94 Dodge Ram 1500, 4x4, shell, tow package, \$11,200, (619)562-0382; Serger, white, rarely used, thread, \$150/obo, ostrich eggs, \$12, (619)275-1393; '90 Jeep Cherokee Laredo, 4WD, every option, low miles, \$6,000, (619)229-0106; '99 Nissan Sentra GXE, loaded, urgent sale, low miles, (619)298-7720; Trundle bed, wood, \$100, computer desk, \$50, TV, \$50, (619)222-7749; Couch, leather, burgundy, \$550, Kenmore washer, \$75, Dryer, electric, \$75, (858)571-7486; Scooter for handicapped, portable, excel. cond., \$725, (858)672-4108; CRACO infant car seat, \$35, walker, \$20, entertainment center, \$150, (619)501-6575; Entertainment cabinet, oak, \$175, (619)670-7471; '00 Ford Mustang, 5-speed, 12K mi., excel. cond., \$12,500/obo, (619)690-3369; Sofa, love seat, \$350, queen bed, 6-drawer, \$200, BBQ, \$20, (760)749-7070; Hotpoint refrigerator, top freezer, almond, great cond., \$125, (619)464-4050; Violin, full size, excel. cond., bow, case, metal music stand, \$150, (858)484-7903; Coffee table, oak & glass, 42" sq., excel. cond., \$95, (619)523-5044; Yamaha Maxim 700, \$1,200, couch, \$250, queen bed, \$100, (619)310-6439; Indian jewelry bracelet, silver & turquoise, 30 years old, \$55/obo, (619)593-8153; Full size bed frame, still in box, \$25, (619)741-7979; Video system for classroom/home, Barco projector, Stewar screen, line-dblr, (858)486-0080; **FOR RENT:** Idyllwild cabin, plush, 3BR, 2 1/2 BA, great view, \$200/weekend, (858)391-1038; North Park, craftsman house 2BR/1BA, fireplace, \$1,450/mo. (619)464-8285; Rolando, 2/BR/2BA, large family room, hardwood floors, pet, \$1,475, (619)297-1054

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### Safe Schools Video Sent to Sites

Copies of the video, "Safe School Plan: Ensuring Compliance Through Review and Revision," have been sent to all sites. The video is a step-by-step explanation to help schools with the process of reviewing crime data in a timely manner, then revising and sharing the safe school plan with their school communities before sending it to School Police Services. Video Services made the video with the help of police Lt. Tim Smith and Henry High administrators.

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## People & Places

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**San Diego High biology teacher Stephanie Rico** was named Woman of the Year for 2001 by State Senator Dede Alpert of San Diego. Rico joined 119 other women nominated by each California state senator and assembly representative at a State Capitol reception in Sacramento to honor their achievements. Rico earned a doctorate at Stanford and achieved national board certification last year.

**Henry High teacher Bill Thomas** received the **CADA Hall of Fame** award at the group's state convention. CADA is the California Association of Directors of Activities and Thomas was recognized for his work in the field of student activities.

**Hickman Elementary fifth-grade teacher Sharon Therieau** received the California D.A.R.E. Officers Association Educator of the Year award for 2001. The association honored Therieau for her assistance and support of the D.A.R.E. program.

**Morse High Vice Principal Yvette Davis** won a \$500 Target Teachers Scholarship from the chain's Chula Vista store and the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America Inc.

**Holmes Elementary Principal Jean Holmes and her staff** mixed shakes, bagged burgers and shook fries at the Balboa Avenue McDonald's during an evening shift as part of a school fundraiser.

**Mira Mesa High peer coach apprentice Joan Horvath** was named to the national faculty of Turner Learning, Inc. Turner Learning annually selects educators nationally to provide expertise so that the company can offer more effective programs. Horvath also presented at the California Council for the Social Studies on nonfiction reading strategies in meeting California social science standards with Joy Hakim's American history series.

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## Looking Ahead

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**Chavez Elementary will hold a rally**, a neighborhood march, a cultural exhibit and an afternoon fair on Friday, March 30, in honor of the late Latino civil rights leader whose birthday is observed on March 31. Please call Armando Solo Hernandez at (619) 267-0639 or (619) 527-4098 for more information.

**A Youth Leadership Training for students ages 12 to 18** will begin on Saturday, March 31, at the Weingart City Heights Branch Public Library at 3795 Fairmount Avenue in San Diego. The topic will be investment management. Scholarships will be awarded monthly to students who excel in the training, which is sponsored by the Brooks & Brooks Foundation. Students can register at: [www.youthleadertraining.com](http://www.youthleadertraining.com)

**The Dance Institute will hold its final workshop** for elementary and middle school teachers on Tuesday, April 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. For the location, please call Denise Lynne, dance and drama program specialist at VAPA: (858) 539-5351.

**Fiesta Educativa**, a special education conference for Spanish-speaking parents, consumers, staff and the community, will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the San Diego County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Road, in San Diego.

**School Preparedness Week is April 8-14** as part of California Earthquake Preparedness Month in April. A statewide "Earthquake—Duck, Cover and Hold" drill is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3. More information on preparedness is at the web site: [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov).

**AVID will hold its summer institute** from Aug. 6 through 10 at the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley. Registration discounts are available up to May 1. Call the AVID Center at (619) 682-5050 or visit the AVID web site: [www.avidcenter.org](http://www.avidcenter.org).

**The San Diego Area Writing Project** will hold institutes this summer at UCSD from July 24 to Aug. 8 and at MiraCosta College from July 30 to Aug. 16. Call (858) 534-2576 or visit the web site: [www-tep.ucsd.edu/sdawp/index.html](http://www-tep.ucsd.edu/sdawp/index.html).

**The California History-Social Sciences Project** will host a two-week institute for K-12 teachers at UCSD from June 25 to July 6. Registration deadline is April 15. Call (858) 534-3446 or visit the web site: <http://chssp.ucsd.edu>.

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# District Efforts to Prevent School Violence Detailed

(Continued From Page 1)

police service and the handling of school-related incidents.

--The district's Crisis Response Team developed effective procedures to address crises in schools. A cross-divisional work group included representatives from counseling and guidance, school police, psychologist services, communications, facilities planning, nursing, life skills and student assistance. There also were representatives from the county's Health and Human Services, UCSD, Children's Hospital, U.S. Disaster Preparedness, Los Angeles Unified School District and the Centers for Disease Control. The work resulted in a revised process and procedure that has been in place since January 2001. All principals have been directed to prepare a site intervention plan that outlines immediate steps in a crisis. Sites are required to form teams that would be the first line of support for students, faculty and staff. A revised Crisis Response Team manual addresses preparation in the event of an incident, the three-tiered approach to crisis response, and follow-up. A training video is in production to assist sites. Administrative personnel have been encouraged to attend a one-hour training as part of professional development.

--Cluster/district crisis response team members are in training, with sessions planned for April 25 and May 30. The Mira Mesa cluster will provide a pilot opportunity for training in its regional area. Three members of the district's crisis response team attended training in November 2000 on critical incident stress management and are working toward certification in this well-recognized process.

--"Hot Cards" distributed to students by life skills teachers during presentations include a listing of telephone numbers to report threats of violence or criminal behavior. These cards can be carried in a wallet or purse. More than 60,000 have been distributed during the past two years. In 1998, a telephone number to report threats of violence was added.

--A domestic violence program has been part of classroom education for three years. Lessons help students identify warning signs, develop communication skills, set clear boundaries and identify resources for those in a violent relationship.

--The Middle School Safety and Prevention Coordinators grant has placed a full-time district counselor at 10 middle schools with the highest numbers of suspensions, to coordinate safety programs and reduce disruptive behavior. The program began in January. A grant application has been submitted for six additional positions.

--In August 2000, trustees approved mandatory life skills instruction in grades 6-8 that requires 60 hours of instruction in peer relations, conflict resolution and violence prevention skills.

--Seven life skills program specialists work collaboratively to provide training to parents, school site staff, student peer educators and community organizations.

--A proposal to mandate health instruction in middle schools is under development for implementation in 2001-02 and will be presented to the Board later this year.

--The Tariq Khamisa Foundation is working with 70 elementary and middle schools this year on violence prevention through meetings with staff and parents and assemblies for students. Expansion of the program is under discussion for this spring. The foundation is working on a pledge against gun violence that students would sign as part of school presentations.

--Lesson plans and two publications, Tips for Parents and Tips for Educators, from the Peace Games will be distributed to all schools K-8.

--Elementary counseling is focusing on small group and classroom lessons on violence prevention and when students should tell an adult about knowledge of threats and threatening behavior.

--Money from a state grant received this year included \$1.4 million for safety-related and

violence prevention expenditures.

--The "When Not to Keep a Secret" essay contest allows students to write about situations that often present a moral dilemma, including when to betray a confidence of a friend to prevent a tragedy. The contest is in most high schools.

--Light for Life Yellow Ribbon Program is a suicide prevention strategy that is used together with prevention education by nursing and counseling services.

## Interventions

--The student assistance program approved by trustees in 1991 is a comprehensive K-12 primary prevention and early intervention program for high risk students. The process identifies, supports and educates students experiencing personal, social, mental health and/or chemical issues that may interfere with education and life development. A multi-disciplinary team is the hub of the process at a school site and shares in the identification, referral, support and follow-up process. Support groups are an important proactive site-based intervention. A support group covers such issues as decision making, health relationships, coping skills, anger management, grief and loss, recovery, eating disorders, sobriety and healthy living.

--All nurses have undergone training focused on crisis intervention. Topics include trauma, stress, suicide prevention, relationships and domestic violence.

--Education materials relative to critical incidents and "Bunny Bag" kits for elementary nurses have been distributed. These kits, developed by the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence and the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, are used by nurses as they assess and counsel students for domestic violence and child abuse issues.

--Nurses will continue to facilitate student support groups as part of the student assistance program, act as first responders in health related critical incidents and assist in the coordination of disaster plans at school sites.

**MORE DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEB SITE: [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net)**

**The next Staff Bulletin will appear April 26. Deadline for submissions is April 16. 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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