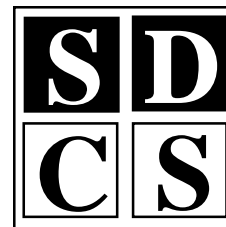


# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



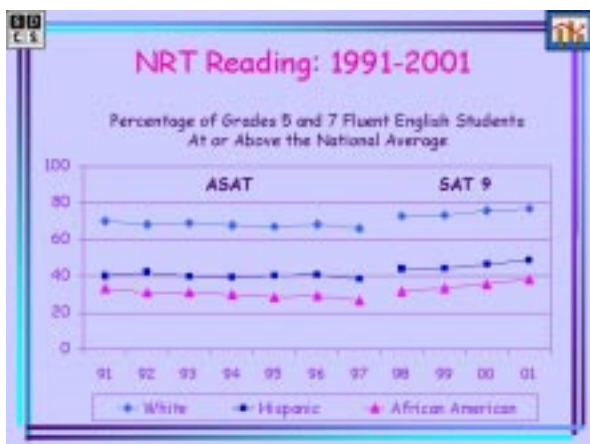
Vol. 76

February 13, 2002

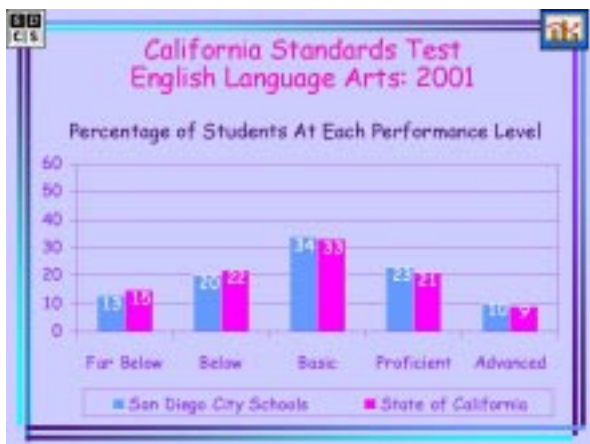
No. 11

## District Data Shows Students Making "Steady Progress"

"You're making steady progress since 1998." They were welcome words coming from Dr. Andrew Porter of the University of Wisconsin as he presented his third-party findings of student achievement data at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting. Following his report to the board, a presentation on student performance on state tests was provided by Dr. Karen Bachofer and Dr. Sally Bennett, Director and Assistant Director of the Standards, Assessment and Accountability Department. The following is an interview with Drs. Bachofer and Bennett:



Staff Developers, were widely implemented throughout the district in the 1999-2000 school year. The chart (*above*) NRT Reading, provides a look at student performance on norm-referenced reading tests from 1991 to 2001, broken down into three major ethnic groups, for English fluent students in grades 5 and 7 (the only group of students that has been tested each year since 1991).



meeting state standards. Because our curriculum is aligned with state standards, information about our students' performance on the new California Standards Test is much more

(Continued on page 3)

## UC Approves Physics Curriculum For Lab Science Requirement

The district has received confirmation from the University of California's Undergraduate Affairs, Student Academic Services, that the district's *Active Physics* curriculum and the course descriptions for Physics 1, 2 and Honors Physics 1, 2 meet the "d-laboratory science" requirement for the University of California. In the letter from Carla Ferri, the director of Undergraduate Admissions, she states "They (the reviewers) observed that the new curriculum, using *Active Physics* as its core text, taken at the 9th grade level would provide a solid foundation for students in preparation for work at the college level."

The letter goes on to state that the reviewers "liked the way in which the proposed curriculum helps students to develop a deeper conceptual understanding of physics, as opposed to the traditional approach to physics instruction, which emphasizes solving numerical problems."

Reviewers also noted that "by teaching physics prior to chemistry and biology, students would have the added advantage of being able to develop a better understanding of the core concepts in these other disciplines that have their basis in physics."

The letter is available on the district website at: <http://www.sandi.net/pdf/020218letter.pdf>.

### In This Issue...

- \* Student Achievement Data
- \* UC Approves Physics Curriculum
- \* \$5 Million Grant For Reform Initiatives
- \* Student Salutes

# Student Salutes



**THE SMILE OF A WINNER** - Encanto Elementary student **Cynthia Kashiwagi** is joined by her principal, **Angela Bass**, and Superintendent **Alan Bersin** at the recent Board Recognition of Student Achievements. Cynthia was the sole elementary student honored in the Engineering, Science & Technology category. More than 600 students districtwide were recognized for outstanding achievements in categories such as academics, science, athletics and the arts.

**Standley Middle School AVID student Aja Wheeler** was selected as co-master of ceremonies at the **Junior Achievement's San Diego Business Hall of Fame Program** held at the Hotel Del Coronado in November. Aja spent the evening with her partner, **George Chamberlin**, from the San Diego radio program "Money in the Morning," conducting the ceremony. A fellow AVID student, **Servando Lopez**, presented the Hall of Fame award to **Julie Meier Wright**, the President and CEO of **San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation**. Other AVID students who participated included **Adriana Nave**, **John Blackwell** and **Naomi Ramirez**, all of whom shared their views on AVID, Junior Achievement and the quality education that they are receiving.

**Students from Brooklyn Elementary School** helped raise \$1,100 for the families of New York City that were affected by the September 11 terrorist attack. The fourth and fifth graders sold snacks after school during the first trimester and at the fall festival to help raise the funds.

**San Diego High School senior Shea Standerfer** was one of 10 students from the county selected by an essay contest to attend the **Centennial Nobel Laureate Celebration** at the Hotel Del Coronado. Shea and her biology teacher **Tim Towler** attended the reception and dinner and were recognized by the large group of dignitaries. Other San Diego High School students making news include **Alex Herbert-Brown**, **John Swartz**, **April Tra**, **Christopher Mancilla**, **Valeria Lopez**, **Yuriy Platoshyn**, **Mariam Aboushadi** and **Justin Jones**, who all attended a City Club luncheon with **Bill Press**, host of CNN's "Crossfire."

**Sandburg Elementary's Student Council** has been busy - raising \$482.75 for the Afghani Children's Fund. This, along with a letter to President Bush signed by the student council members, is being sent to the White House.

**Patrick Henry High School senior Emil Metroka** has been selected as a Scholar-Leader-Athlete for the 2001-2002 school year by The National Football foundation and College Hall of Fame. He is the 2001-2002 MVP in football and has won various other football awards. He was selected for his athleticism and high GPA.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *\$5 Million Grant Supports Districtwide Reform*

San Diego City Schools has once again attracted national recognition for its reform efforts.

The Atlantic Philanthropies has awarded the district a five-year, \$5 million grant to support the Blueprint for Student Success and the coordination of research and evaluation studies. The growing support from foundations and organizations from across the United States is a testament to the work of teachers, administrators and district staff who are demonstrating that our educational reforms are considered leading edge.

Atlantic Philanthropies has awarded more than 2,600 grants totaling \$2.1 billion since 1982. The organization provides approximately 70% of its support to youth development, pre-collegiate education and higher education. The remaining funds are distributed to nonprofit organizations supporting seniors, healthcare, and human rights.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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**George C. Callahan**, a teacher at Johnson Elementary, and a district employee since Dec. 1986, died Jan. 16.

**George E. Flanigan**, retired Human Resources deputy administrator whose service with the district began Sept. 1960, (retired July 1999) died Jan. 2002.

**Roy E. Kronk**, a steamfitter with the district since March 1999, died Dec. 28.

**Carl H. Larson**, retired teacher at Montgomery Middle School whose district service began Sept. 1973, died Dec. 23.

**Sandra L. Mitchell**, retired teacher at Tierrasanta Elementary whose district service began Sept. 1987, died Jan. 21.

**Margaret A. Nagel**, retired teacher at Wilson Middle School whose district service began Sept. 1949, died Dec. 27.

**Shirley J. Philbrook**, retired teacher at Henry High School whose district service began Sept. 1957, died Jan. 18.

**Victoria B. Storer**, a secretary I in the secondary schools office whose district service began Nov. 1959, died Jan. 14.

**Donna Mae Tennesen**, a school clerk II at Kearny High School and a district employee since Aug. 1966, died Dec. 19.

## Making Steady Progress

(Continued from page one)

informative than results from SAT-9, which is not well-aligned with state standards. This year is the first year that performance levels have been published for the California Standards Test for English Language Arts. From the results (*see chart, front page*), we see that 33% of our students tested meet or exceed state standards (measured by being at the proficient and/or advanced level), another 34% are close to meeting the standards (basic level), and 33% are below the standard (far below and below levels). District students slightly outperformed students across the state on this new standards-based test.

Over the course of implementing these reforms, we expect that more students will score at or above the proficient level on the State California Standards Tests and fewer will perform at the below and far below levels.

### **How is student achievement measured?**

We measure student achievement progress in a number of ways. The district participates in California's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, which includes the SAT 9, the California Standards Tests and Spanish Assessment of Basic Education (SABE).

The California Department of Education uses results from these state assessments to produce an Academic Performance Index (API) rank for every school. The state has begun to incorporate the results of standards based test results to expand the API calculation beyond the SAT 9. Beginning in Fall 2001, English Language Learners took the state-required California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Additionally, beginning with the class of 2004, all students must pass a state-mandated High School Exit Examination (HSEE) to graduate from any public high school in California. Both the CELDT and the HSEE are slated to be included in the API in the future.

Schools also administer a number of locally selected assessments to measure student growth throughout the year. Among these are the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA), Analytical Reading Inventory (ARI), and the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test (SDRT).

### **Where can we get more information?**

A complete copy of the presentation made at the board meeting is on the district website [www.sandi.net/](http://www.sandi.net/).

## New Professional Development Calendar

The Spring 2002 Professional Development Calendar, the guide for all professional development opportunities and instructional support staff meetings, is in the making. Entry request forms, due March 1, 2002, were attached to a memorandum sent out on January 23, 2002, and are to be completed and returned to IMC, Building A. Additional forms may be obtained by calling (858)496-1882. Forms received after the deadline will be held for inclusion in the Summer 2002 edition.

Requests are evaluated according to specific criteria to determine whether the activity meets district's guidelines, and whether the activity overlaps an intended audience or adversely impacts the school site or department staffing. Some requests may be reviewed by the Professional Development Coordinating Group for final approval.

Please direct questions to Marty Stultz at (858)496-1875 or via e-mail at [mstultz@mail.sandi.net](mailto:mstultz@mail.sandi.net).

## Scenes From Our Schools!

**Students at Ulysses S. Grant Math/Science Magnet Elementary aren't practicing**

math in the classroom alone – they have all been looking for evidence of math being used at home and have used it to build a Miniature Math Museum. The school's primary math lab teacher, **Katie Bence**, had students from kindergarten, first, and second grade classes read books, bring



in 'artifacts' from home and take photographs of how they use math in everyday life.

**Lindbergh/Schweitzer's Partner in Education, the Navy Public Works**, went above and beyond the call of duty. **Navy Traffic Tech Peter Bowie** recently organized a fundraiser through the office to purchase a "HeadMouse" for a second grade student with the rare joint disorder called arthrogyposis. The "HeadMouse" allows the student to access the computer via his head movements. The fundraiser not only covered the sensor and software costs at over \$2,000, it also generated an additional \$1,000 through client contributions which were presented to the school.

### **Bugs? You eat bugs?**

Superintendent Alan Bersin shares an animated rendition of "Stellaluna," the famous fruit bat with the many misadventures, during a visit to Amy Schmutz's 2nd grade class at Cesar Chavez Elementary. Classroom visits are part of the itinerary during the superintendent's school site visits.



# Student Salutes *Looking Ahead*

(Continued from page 2)

**Patrick Henry Freshman Christopher Bettwy** has been selected into the 2002 All-State Honor Band by the California Band Directors Association. He'll be one of 270 students selected out of 900 applicants.

**The Junior Varsity cheer squad at Henry High School** took first place honors at the **2002 Cheer Extreme Competition** at San Diego State University. They competed against 7 teams in their division. The teams were judged on choreography, dance, tumbling, jumps, stunts, performance, skills and technical difficulty.

**The Spirit of America Youth Conference in Valley Forge**, meeting February 28 – March 6, will include several San Diego City Schools students. They are: **Christine Ortiz, Madison; Laura Bauman, Marshal Wilke, Point Loma; Nicholas Cabal, Linda Chau, Ross Dakin, Elise Korican, Michael Kosty, Annie Le & Anne MacDonald, Serra. Mira Mesa High School** students have received the **Silver Spoon Award from the Neighborhood House Association** for their outstanding support and participation in the Holiday Food Drive. The students collected nearly 3,400 pounds of food. Mira Mesa's **Unarmed Drill Team** won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Exhibition Phase of the **Long Beach Poly drill meet** on January 26. **Armed Drill Team** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Exhibition and the four-man **Armed Team** won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy. Mira Mesa student **Tim Wu** was selected to the **All-Southern California Honor Band**.

The next *Staff Bulletin* will appear Feb. 27. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 14. Please note that deadlines are final and cannot be extended. *Staff Bulletin* is on the web site.

## Staff Bulletin

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

Send news items and classified ads to:  
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Education Center, Room 2145  
phone: (619)725-5578; fax: (619)725-5576  
e-mail: communications@mail.sandi.net

## Board of Education

Ron Ottinger, *President*  
Edward Lopez, *Vice President*  
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Superintendent of Public Education  
Alan D. Bersin

The **Association for African American Educators Annual Conference** will be held March 7-10 at the San Diego Marriott in Mission Valley. The pre-registration deadline is **February 15**. On-site registration includes a late fee. Over 50 workshops, plenary sessions, roundtable discussions and exhibits will be included. Speakers will include **Dr. Wade Nobel**, San Francisco State University; **Dr. Maulana Karenga**, Long Beach State University; and international syndicated columnist **Dr. Julianna Malveaux**. For more information on the conference, please call Juel Moore at Oak Park Elementary at (619) 264-3179.

**A farewell to John C. Fremont Elementary School** will be held on May 30, 2002, when the Fremont community will celebrate its distinguished educational history as well as the memories generated through the years. In order to be included on a mailing list for the farewell event, organizers are asking for RSVP's by February 28. For additional information, please call (619) 293-4430.

**A farewell retirement reception, will be held for Donna Dominico** on Friday, March 1, 2002, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Eugene Brucker Education Center, Room 2249. If you have any questions, please contact Christiane McPhee at (619) 725-7142.

Applications are now begin accepted for **California Coast Credit Union's 2002 Scholarship Award Program** that recognizes outstanding students for their dedication to academic excellence. Three graduating seniors in San Diego County will receive scholarships of \$1,000 each to help further their education. Eligible students must be a member of the California Coast Credit Union, or the son or daughter of a member in good standing. Students must also have a cumulative high school grade point average, or equivalent, of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, and be accepted or plan to attend an accredited college or university. Scholarship applications can be printed from the credit union's website ([www.calcoastcu.org](http://www.calcoastcu.org)) and are available at all branches. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 19, 2002**.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**ADS RUN ON 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 ID purposes only).**

FOR SALE:

'86 Ford Ranger, X-Cab, 4X4 callen shell, dual fuel tanks (858) 272-6291. '94 Ford Explorer, excellent condition, low miles, alarm, power everything (619) 584-2560. '94 Nissan Sentra, 5-speed, loaded, runs great, 66K miles, \$4,000, (858) 693-8342. '97 Honda Civic EX, red, fully loaded, 49K miles, \$10,800 (619) 299-6827. '98 Mitsubishi Mirage DE, 5-speed, a/c, CD, cruise, 56K miles, \$7,500 (619) 447-2408. Sofa & Loveseat, cream on cream, scotch guarded, excellent condition, \$250 (619) 200-1620. Armchair w/ ottoman, large, comfortable, nearly new, putty in color, \$250 (858) 569-1770. Antiques: 2 burgundy chairs, mahogany tables, electric hurricane lamps, couch (858) 587-1492. Dark oak occasional tables, round cocktail, 2 end tables, \$200 (619) 542-1599. Beautiful wood table w/ leaf, Danish style, \$100 (858) 509-1972. Antique roll-top desk, great condition, \$3,500 (619) 291-7652. 7-piece oak youth / teen bedroom furniture, excellent condition, \$425 (619) 523-5044. Bed frame,

full, solid wood, \$75, mattress, excellent condition, \$50 (619) 224-2116. Little Tykes cottage, \$50, Two bed frames and mattresses, \$75 (858) 273-2418. Boys wetsuits, winter 14, spring 16, California chariot, \$50 each (858) 459-8903. Dive computer-Dacor, used 5 times, excellent condition, \$300/obo (858) 274-5156. PowerBook G3/400 computer, FW, DVD, 64MB, 5.1 lbs., like new (619) 582-6677. Ten speed bikes, 2 girls \$50 each or best offer and 2 boys 26-inch \$50 each or best offer (858) 569-6875. Beautiful Tierrasanta townhouse, 2 master suites, 2 ½ baths, double garage, 249K (858) 569-4049.

FOR RENT:

La Jolla/UTC, lg., 2/2, walk-in closet, w/d, gar., amenities, \$1,275 (858) 587-1492. Beach vacation rental, Las Gaviotas, south of Rosarito, 3br/3ba (760) 730-9557. Puerto Vallarta Oceanfront Studio, Mid-July, \$400/week (858) 748-9455. Bay Park Condo, 1500 sq. ft., 1 bd, 1 ba, fireplace, 2 decks w/ view (619) 276-2347.