

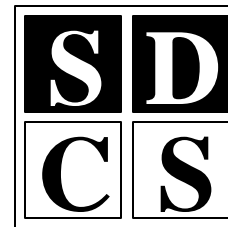
Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools

Vol. 76

March 20, 2002

No. 13



LOOK, MOM! I'M HUGGING THE TERMINATOR! - Members of the Monroe Clark Middle School girls water polo team pose for a photo with "Terminator" star and fitness advocate Arnold Schwarzenegger. The actor visited the school to launch California's After School Education Safety Initiative set for the November ballot.

Last Time for SAT 9: A New Standardized Test On The Way

With the advent of spring comes STAR testing time. This year, the round of state testing brings with it a significant change: it will be the last time the SAT 9 will be administered in California.

"A new standardized test will be selected by the State Board of Education in 2003. Portions of the SAT 9 will be used in conjunction with the California Standards Tests (CST) to determine the Academic Performance Index (API). However, the CST will have increasing significance in the calculation of the API," said Bob Raines, testing program manager.

The CST is closely aligned to state education standards. Since the API is now specifically linked to the CST, "we anticipate that this new way of ranking API scores will better reflect the work of teaching and

learning being done in our classrooms," said Superintendent Alan Bersin.

This means that San Diego City Schools should continue to show improvement on the API, the "steady progress" that Dr. Andrew Porter noted in his January 2002 study of district test scores since the state introduced the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program in 1998.

Like the SAT 9, the CST covers English-language arts and mathematics in a multiple-choice format, but features an added writing component at grades 4 and 7. The scoring of the CST, however, is done quite differently.

"The California Standards Tests measure student performance against the state grade-level standards. The SAT 9, on the other hand, measures student performance against

(Continued on page 3)

Valencia Park Magnet To Stay

A month ago, a drama and dance magnet program at Valencia Park Elementary was destined to be replaced by a more back-to-basics approach. That's because Valencia Park and four other schools were at risk of having funding redirected because they are not meeting integration or standard achievement goals.

Now a change, thanks to compelling testimony provided by the Valencia Park community at a meeting March 4th organized in response to the potential funding changes.

"We listened, we heard and we are going to do the right thing," said Superintendent Alan Bersin, in agreeing to withdraw the district's request to the board to refocus the Valencia Park magnet program this year.

"Our reform programs are all about improving student achievement, and, as we have looked at the school, there are efforts here than can help improve student outcomes," he said.

"Valencia Park is an API 3 school. Certainly there is room for a lot more improvement – the school is meeting neither its integration targets nor its student achievement goals – but the district recognizes that other schools supported have been API 1 and API 2 schools. The school has certainly made progress in the past four years, and

(Continued on page 3)

In This Issue...

- *Last time for SAT 9*
- *Valencia Park magnet*
- *Revved up about reading*
- *Housing incentive program for educators*
- *Student Salutes*
- *Looking Ahead*

Revved Up About Readin'

A number of district schools coordinated special activities and events for National "Read Across America" Week. Students at Kroc Middle School, right, celebrated by choosing their favorite character and displaying the names in a creative way.



Students and staff at Paradise Hills Elementary celebrated all week long. Day one saw principal Yvonne Harper, below, dressing up as Mr. Lowe, her favorite character in the Dr. Seuss book "Hooray for Diffendoofer Day," and reading the book to the entire school. Students and staff caught the dress-up bug and did the same thing the next day. Staff, students and parents culminated the week's events with an evening birthday party for Dr. Seuss, dressing like a character from their favorite Seuss book and reading the story out loud. Some students even came dressed in their pajamas with teddies and blankets in tow.



The pajama thing was big at Ocean Beach Elementary as well – which held its Read In on a Friday night and encouraged participants to

come dressed as a Seuss character or in their pajamas.

At Muirlands Middle School, Chargers cornerback Scott Turner, below, read excerpts from the Jerry Spinelli novel "Crash" to students in Honey Leshaw's second language genre class. He also talked with students about staying in school, making good choices and reading a LOT.



Literacy activities are never confined to any one week, of course, so schools are continuing to host visits with famous authors and poets. Acclaimed poet, essayist and fiction writer Gary Soto recently visited Serra High School, entertaining students enrolled in the ninth and tenth grade Literacy Workshop classes with stories about his adventures as a Mexican American growing up in Fresno, California. A biography he just completed, "Jesse De La Cruz: A Profile of a United Farm Worker", is currently being read in literacy classes at Serra.

Local community members and special guests from healthcare, law enforcement and the media participated in Marshall Elementary School's 9th annual Read In/Career Day. Volunteer readers visited classrooms, read their favorite books and talked about how being able to read well is really important to later success in careers.

In Memoriam.....

Deborah D. Nixon, whose service with the district began in June 1972, passed away January 2002. Mrs. Nixon was a Central Office Research Teacher at Student Support Services at the time of her death. **William T. Olive**, whose service with the district began in September, 1953, and who retired as teacher from Mann Middle School in June, 1991, passed away January 2002. **William E. Self**, whose service with the district began in July 1973, and who retired

as Principal of Mead Elementary in July 1979, passed away January 2002.

Pamela J. Stuart, whose service with the district began April 2000, passed away February 2002. She was a Special Ed Bus Monitor at Lindbergh/Schweitzer at the time of her death.

Lawrence B. Valadez, whose service with the district began April 1993, passed away January 2002. He was an instructional assistant at Mann Middle School at the time of his death.

Student Salutes

The **Memorial Builders Club**, a student service club at Memorial Academy sponsored by the **Balboa Park Kiwanis**, held a blood drive at the school a few weeks ago, dedicated to student **Elijah McCray**. Elijah is a 7th grade student at Memorial diagnosed with leukemia. All donors received a t-shirt from the American Red Cross. The **Lewis Middle School ASB**, in conjunction with the **Vietnam Veterans Homeless Shelter**, collected over 600 pairs of wearable socks for the shelter in February. The "Sock-a-thon," organized by Lewis teacher Bob Lamont, was in response to an urgent plea from the shelter for socks to help prevent foot disease among the homeless.

Madison High School JROTC Cadet Captain Isaac Salazar has been awarded a full, four-year Army nursing scholarship. It's the third time in the last four years a Madison cadet has been awarded the scholarship, presented by Grand Canyon University at Phoenix, Arizona. Madison's entire JROTC unit has also been honored with the U.S. Army Cadet Command's highest rating, the "Honor Unit with Distinction."

Hoover High School students and recipients of the **President's Student Service Award** were recognized at the February 26th meeting of the Board of Education for their community service and leadership efforts. They included **Salwa Hagi Ismail, Naima Hagi Ismail, Huda Hagi Ismail, Venda Abdilahi, Monica Lansdale, Jazell Sandiford, Velma Calvario and Wakita Anthony**.

Roosevelt Junior High School 6th grader Adriana Blair has been awarded the Christian Crowley Scholarship through the San Diego Junior Theater outreach program. She was one of two scholars to receive this award, which entitles her to a year of classes at the San Diego Junior Theater and the 2002 theater summer camp. Six district high school students recently attended the **Future Educators of America (FEA) National Conference** in Denver. They include **Jennifer Markland and Lauren Thompson, Pt. Loma; Paula Obana, Mira Mesa; Sophia Champi and Yesenia Hernandez, Serra; and Pa Moua, Mission Bay**. Sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa, a professional educators' organization, the conference brought together middle and high school students from 27 states who share a common interest in becoming

(Continued on page four)

STAR Testing Time

(Continued from page one)

the performance of other students.” said Dr. Karen Bachofer, director of Standards, Assessment and Accountability.

Much like before, however, schools have a stake in how their students do on the test. Schools that meet or exceed their API growth targets are eligible for rewards such as monetary awards and statewide recognition.

The district is committed to helping each student do as well as possible on these important tests, so this year, every student will be provided with free breakfast for the three-day testing period, regardless of whether or not they normally qualify for free or reduced cost meals. According to Sue Gilroy, director, Food Services Department, this program is special because of its expansiveness and the variety involved. “The menu provides options that support our students’ many dietary and cultural influences and our schools will really be able to tailor menus to meet those needs.”

It is anticipated that 80 percent of district schools will participate, meaning that 110,000 children will be served breakfast each day at a cost to the district of approximately \$40,000. As Gilroy notes, “This is money well spent. We’re investing in our kids and reinforcing the link between nutrition and learning.”

For more information about the API, log on to <http://www2.sandi.net/research>.

Classified Employee of the Year Nominations Due

Nominations are being accepted until Friday, March 22, for this year’s Classified Man and Woman of the Year. Nominees must be a classified employee with at least three years of service in a monthly position and must have demonstrated extraordinary service, involvement and/or accomplishment through his/her employment with the district and/or involvement in the community.

If you know of a classified person who is deserving of this special award, please submit his or her name as directed by site operations circular #1044, available on the district website at <http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/20012002/soc/sochtml/soc.1044.020304.html>. Nominations can be delivered to Alice Lobisch Fernandez, Eugene Brucker Education Center, Annex 9, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22. For more information, call (619) 725-8113.

Looking Ahead

Team entries for the annual **Union-Tribune Dr. Seuss Race for Literacy** and the **Kids Magic Mile** are due on March 22nd. Individual ‘Early Bird’ entries are due April 5 but you can register up to and including race day, May 5. Last year over 6,500 children (most of them San Diego City Schools students) and their parents and teachers took part in the Magic Mile in Balboa Park. At the end, children were given Cat in the Hat t-shirts, books and gold medals to wear with pride. Another 6,000 runners and walkers took to the streets for the 8K portion of the race the next day. For additional information, or to register online, visit www.ut-drseuss8k.com or call the race organizers, Contact in Motion, at (858) 792-2900.



The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) will hold its 50th National Convention here in San Diego from March 27-30. Workshop sessions will cover all aspects of science teaching. Costs is \$195 for NSTA and San Diego Science Education Association (SDSEA) members who register on-site. For additional information and online registration, visit the NSTA website at www.nsta.org/conventions.

An orientation for the **Scripps Research Institute’s Science Partnership Scholars Program** will be held April 6, with the program continuing weekly from April 9 – May 14. The program is taught by graduate students and senior scientists and funding is available for 12 teachers, who will receive a \$500 stipend at the conclusion of the program. For more information, visit the TSRI website at <http://www.scripps.edu/community/spsp.html> or call Robin Goldsmith at (858) 784-8134.

Food Services is celebrating **National Nutrition Month** with an **Essay, Poetry and Rap Contest** through April 12. This year’s topic is “Why is breakfast the most important meal of the day?” Students may enter and turn in their essays to the school cafeteria by April 12, or submit their essays by mail, postmarked no later than April 12 to San Diego City Schools, Food Services Essay Contest, 6735 Gifford Way, San Diego, CA 92111. Categories include grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Each category will have a first place winner, receiving a \$300 bookstore gift card; a second place winner, receiving a \$200 gift card; and a third place winner, receiving a \$100 gift card. For more information, contact Connie Hom at (858) 627-7316.

The special recognition event for the **Superintendent’s Art Exhibition** has been changed from April 18th to April 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Center auditorium.

The **Secondary Instrumental Honor Concert** will be held Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. at Copley Symphony Hall. For information, please call Ann Marie Haney at (858) 459-3637.

Wangenheim Middle School is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on April 27, 2002. All former staff members who haven’t received an invitation and would like to attend should contact either Susan Porter or Rita Hoerr at (858) 578-1400.

Advance registration is being accepted for the **San Diego Natural History Museum’s “After the Dinos: When Crocodiles Ruled”** field trip program, offered from June 29 through September 3, 2002. On this trip you’ll be able to embark on an expedition to explore what the world was like 60 million years ago, after dinosaurs disappeared from earth. There will also be a recreated dig site to see how paleontologists pieced together the story. For more information or to make reservations, call (619) 232-3821.

Valencia Park Magnet

(Continued from page one)

there are promising trends.”

“We are calling on the Valencia Park community – teachers, parents and students – to work together with the district to address shortcomings in academic

achievement,” he added.

Bersin noted after the meeting that “parents went to a great deal of trouble to show us why the school deserves to keep its magnet program and we’re paying attention.”

Student Salutes

Continued from page two)

teachers. The students chose from a variety of workshop sessions in addition to hearing several keynote addresses, including one from **Michele Forman**, the 2001-2002 National Teacher of the Year.

Patrick Henry High School students Mitch Williams, Andrew Gilmore and Abby Harley won the essay contest sponsored by the Friends of the San Diego City Public Library, San Diego City Public Library and the San Diego Unified School District Library Media Teachers. Each student will receive a Barnes and Noble gift certificate when they are presented with their awards March 26 at the San Carlos library. The **Patriots Varsity Cheer Squad** took 3rd place honors and the **JV Cheer Squad** took 2nd place honors at the **West Coast Cheer And Dance Championship**. **La Jolla High School student Matt Teachworth** won second place in the national Igniting Creative Energy contest. **Jamie MacIntyre** was selected as a finalist in the Union-Tribune's Newspapers in Education contest. **Yimin Yao** and **Julian Sonderegger** took first and third place in the International Aviation Art contest for San Diego County. Members of La Jolla's **Constitution Team** won 3rd place in the **California State Finals** of "WE THE PEOPLE" in Sacramento.

Loma Portal Elementary second grader Claire Brand was the January winner of Wells Fargo Bank's "Excellence in Writing" award. Claire's short story, "The Mystery Miracle," details the adventures of four orphaned teenagers.

The next Staff Bulletin will appear April 11. Deadline for submissions is April 1. 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:
Staff Bulletin

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
John de Beck
Sue Braun
Frances O'Neill Zimmerman
Superintendent of Public Education
Alan D. Bersin

Educators' Housing Programs

Special incentives available for staff who accept & remain in jobs at low-performing schools

A new loan program offered by the California Housing Finance Agency (CHFA) is helping turn teachers and principals throughout California into first-time homeowners and providing additional incentives for teachers and principals at low-performing schools.

The Extra Credit Teacher Program provides below market interest rates on a CHFA first loan, plus forgivable interest on a second based on the applicant's years of service at a low-performing school. An added bonus is geographic flexibility: teachers or principals are not required to live in the same jurisdiction as the employing school and the property may be located anywhere in California.

"This program may help bridge the gap between educator salaries and home purchase prices in California," said Jerry Smart, who runs CHFA's home ownership programs. "We've heard from principals and teachers throughout California who say this has been an incentive for them to accept – and remain – in positions at low-performing schools where their experience and commitment really serves students."

Administrators and educators interested in obtaining more information about this program can contact CHFA lenders at (800) 78902342 or visit www.chfa.org.

Another affordable loan program is available through the California State Retirement System (CalSTRS), which has agreements with lenders who provide 30-year and 15-year fixed rate loans for purchase and refinance of single and various multi-family dwellings. These loans are purchased by CalSTRS. For information on these programs, call 1-800-228-5453 or 1-916-229-3541 (TTY), or visit the CalSTRS website at <http://www.strs.ca.gov/benefit/homeloan/homeloan.html>.

Classified Ads

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: '99 New Beetle, 5- speed, 22k, 3+ yrs on warranty, \$13,500/obo (619) 501-6868. **'99 Civic Ex**, 2dr, blk, 36k miles, \$11,900/obo (619) 469-3775. **'97 Toyota Camry Xle**, loaded, 49k miles, superior condition, 1 original owner, \$13,000 (858) 483-1259. **'96 Ford Ranger**, 4.0, 6-cyl, 5-sp, Ext. cab, 60k miles, \$7,850 (858) 455-9858. **'96 Itasca**, 25' A-class, low mileage, \$27k (619) 561-5187. **'95 Dodge Neon**, low miles, great condition, 1 owner, \$3,500 (619) 229-0106. **'91 Honda Accord**, 133k miles. Excellent condition, 1 original owner \$4,800 (858) 274-3536. **'90 Honda Accord**, 138k miles, \$4,400/obo, excellent condition, extra set of low profile chrome rims, sunroof, power windows, cruise control, power steering (619) 527-0803. **'85 Pontiac Fiero**, 4 cyl, 5-speed, player, clean (619) 255-7202. **Oak bedroom furniture**, for youth/teen, excellent condition \$425 (619) 523-5044. **7-piece children's bunk bed set**, two dressers, desk \$475 (619) 460-0357. **Bed**, full, solid wood frame plus mattress, excellent condition, \$125 (619) 224-2116. **Crib and changing table/dresser**, cream/white washed wood \$200 (619) 501-9470. **Crib**, firm mattress, drawer underneath, makes into daybed, excellent condition \$125 (858) 270-9000. **1950 Swedish walnut armchair**, from Dux Cosmopolitan Collection, 1 original owner \$250 (858) 272-2086. **Cane dining set, armchairs**, \$250, **end tables**, \$50 **coffee**, \$75 (619) 226-0766. **China cabinet and table**, \$400 **Curio cabinet**, \$250 (619) 423-5589. **White refrigerator**, Admiral, top/bottom, excellent condition, \$225 (858) 546-9362. **Maytag dryer**, 2 years old, \$250/obo (858) 229-0850. **Electric range/oven**, ceramic cook-top, self cleaning, excellent condition \$200 (858) 755-7550. **Zenith sewing machine**, turn of the century treadle, tigerwood & cast iron \$400 (619) 287-1260 eves. **1919 Chickering player piano**, excellent tone, great for practice, \$700 (619) 579-9872. **Keyboard, Roland XP-80**, semi-weighted, manuals, master racks pro software included, \$1,300 (619) 295-7059. **Apple Airport Base Station**, unused, \$50 (858) 578-9806. **Basketball hoop & backboard**, never used, \$65 (858) 560-2052. **AKC Doberman Pinscher puppies**, blues & fawns, IST shots, \$500/ negotiable (619) 266-9429. **Ramona Home**, S.D.C.E. ½ acre, 3 br/2ba, \$284,000 (760) 789-0487. **FOR RENT: Resort Condominiums International, Gold Crown, Red**, 2br/2ba, sleeps 6, 7 nights (619) 582-3154. **South Mission Beach**, weekly summer rental, spacious townhouse (858) 488-6023. **Mission Valley condo**, \$1100/month, 2br/1ba, lots of amenities, no pets, covered garage, near trolley, avail March 1, (760) 476-0396. **Point Loma Tennis Club Townhouse**, 2br/1.5ba, \$1195 (619) 224-8040. **Carmel Valley condo**, 2br/2.5ba, 2-car garage (858) 259-6988. **La Mesa room**, near freeways 94 & 125, w/d (619) 922-2086. **WANTED: Donkey Kong arcade game**, stand up (619) 562-3388.