

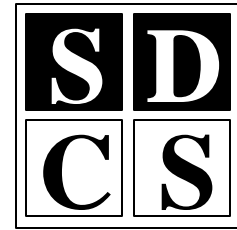
Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools

Vol. 76

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No. 14



Visual & Performing Arts: Alive & Thriving in San Diego City Schools

Parent Congress' Lessons Learned



Monica Morales, Gr. 10, San Diego High School

San Diego City Schools is home to some of the best arts teachers in the state. In fact, two of our teachers have recently been so honored (*please see People & Places column*). With the leadership and support of the district's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program, our teachers have implemented creative and quality arts instruction.

Their work has been supported by the Board of Education, which has more than tripled funding over the past 10 years for elementary instrumental music. The results are evident throughout the district where examples of the talent of our students are plenty. The following is an interview regarding arts education with Dr. Ella Steinberg, director of VAPA.

Does the district have arts standards?

The district has not only adopted the state standards for visual and performing arts, our office is working with teachers and arts specialists to continually strengthen our standards-based arts instruction.

How is VAPA involved with the district's high school reform efforts?

VAPA will play a significant role in our high school reform efforts so that our SDCS graduates will be prepared to meet the University of California's new entrance requirement of a year-long course in the arts.

How does the VAPA department support our arts teachers?

Our program team is committed to assisting teachers in their efforts to bring quality instruction to all students. Our resource teachers keep arts teachers involved in every aspect of the arts curriculum including: being involved on textbook adoption committees; providing meetings where teachers can get together to share teaching ideas, concerns and needs; and providing opportunities to showcase the student talent fostered by these dedicated teachers.

What are some of the unique programs that you have underway?

We currently have two model schools, Sunset View Elementary and Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary, where arts specialists and teachers are exploring ways to strengthen the

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Cassandra Parkman, Gr. K, Vista Grande

The inaugural year of the Parent Congress is drawing to a close – capping a series of forums where parents and district leaders have met to discuss such pressing issues as school reform strategies and improving communication between parents and district leaders. All schools were invited to select a parent delegate to the Parent Congress. Meetings were held four times during the school year. This year's final meeting is scheduled for May 16.

"It's been a learning process for both the parents and the administration," said Clifford Weiller, a parent delegate representing Fremont Elementary. "Nothing on this scale has ever been done before in the district. All in all, it's been a good first or second step towards better communication."

The Parent Congress began this school year as a district initiative to encourage parent involvement at a strategic level. Delegates have the opportunity to get information and provide feedback to district leaders about current reform efforts under way to improve student achievement. The Superintendent's Executive Committee, other senior district administrators, and some representative principals are on hand at each Parent Congress to listen and participate in the discussions. Delegates are then responsible for going back to their school sites and sharing what they've learned.

"We want to create an environment where parents and district leaders can engage in

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In This Issue...

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- Extended Hours at IMC

106 "Principals" Take On the Day

"This helps me appreciate the challenges and hurdles that administrators and teachers face everyday," declared Patricia Winter, speaking as one of the more than 100 business and community leaders who took part in this year's *Principal for a Day* at San Diego City Schools. Winter, Education Outreach Consultant for General Atomics and Executive Director for San Diego Science Alliance, added, "we hear of bad things in the media, but the arts are strong at Clairemont High School," where she had visited.

"Guest" principals spent the day getting a close-up, behind-the-scenes look at school operations. At an end-of-the-day reception, sponsored by Mission Federal Credit Union, "guest" principals shared their thoughts about the schools and their experiences. Most commented about how impressed they were with the level of



Jason Ma's "principal" at Hickman Elementary, Dave Strobel, is a VP at Meltronix Inc. in real life.

academics in the classroom; their surprise at how involved the principal's job was; and their admiration for their principal's commitment. Other observations from participants:

Paula Cordiero, Dean, University of San Diego School of Education (Dana Middle School) – "I heard teachers talk about their practice. They acted as critical friends about their practice."

Howard Carey, President & CEO Neighborhood House Association (Encanto Elementary) - "Leadership at Encanto is going to guarantee success at that school."



Correia Jr. High students greet guest administrator Joe Craver, president & CEO of Galaxie Mgmt., Inc., while principal Ernie Calderon looks on.

Reverend Louis G. Wargo, Kensington Community Church (Franklin Elementary) – "What I saw was multicultural, multilingual, multinational – we are having to weave a tapestry of community out of these threads of diversity, but the gap between those who have and those who have not is increasing."

This was the 10th annual Principal for a Day, organized by the district's Community Relations Department. "It gives our community members the opportunity to see and appreciate the efforts and successes of our principals, teachers and students, and hopefully encourage them to become more involved," said director Janet Delaney.

People & Places

Dr. George Flanigan was honored posthumously as the **Irish Congress of Southern California's San Diego Educator of the Year**. Flanigan was recognized for his lifetime of service to San Diego.

Lindbergh/Schweitzer Elementary teacher Patti Read was selected the winner of the **"2002 Youth Garden Grant."** The winning grant was selected from 1,100 applications. The **Fleet Maintenance team** has been honored by School Bus Fleet Magazine for being one of the top ten school bus maintenance operations in the country.

San Diego High School's **Greg Williams** is being honored as **Administrator of the Year** by the San Diego Science Alliance Partnership. He was recognized for his collaboration, design and launching of the SciTech Academy at SDHS.

Community Relations Director Janet Delaney has been asked by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delaine Eastin, to participate in the statewide **Civic Mission of Education (CME) Forum** as a representative for San Diego City Schools. The event promotes schools' responsibilities and part in educating students to be active participants in a democratic society. The Forum will be held in Sacramento April 29. Honors galore for our music teachers!

Walker Elementary teacher Dianne Park has been honored by the Music Educators' Association as the Multicultural Music Educator of the Year. **Jerabek Elementary teacher Debbie Burton** was honored by the MEA as its southern border section Music Educator of the Year. **Serafin Paredes** has been presented with the David Paul Schuchmann Award for Elementary Music Teacher of the Year, and **Cindy Jorstad** has been presented with the MacKenzie-Haney Award for Outstanding Choral Teaching.

Point Loma High School English teacher Tchaiko Kwayana recently presented at an international Langston Hughes symposium, sponsored by the University of Kansas.

Business Services Director Ronne Froman has been named as a recipient of the YWCA's **Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Award**. TWIN salutes women in executive and managerial positions who have made outstanding contributions in their workplace. **Hage Elementary teacher Lynn Wallace** was named the California Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) Elem. PE Teacher of the Year.

Instructional Media Center Open Evenings

In order to provide greater service to district staff, beginning April 18, several Instructional Media Center operations will be open on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. The Teachers' Media Center, the elementary curriculum library and the multimedia collection will all open for the extended evening hours.

IMC hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday will remain 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. for the IMC elementary curriculum library and the multimedia collection and 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. for the

Teachers' Media Center. The IMC will continue to be open the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The change in schedule will not affect hours of operation for the IMC Warehouse or for Instructional Materials Services, which is located at the IMC.

To celebrate these evening hours, teachers who come to the IMC between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on April 18 will receive a coupon for either 25 free copies or 5 feet of free laminating.

For more information, call (858)496-8448.

VAPA Program

(Continued from page one)

strategies in standards-based arts instruction as well as ways to integrate arts to reinforce learning throughout the curriculum.

In addition, all of our 5th grade students participate in a hands-on arts and culture experience as part of the Balboa Park program.

What is the San Diego Arts Education Partnership?

The partnership is a collaborative organization dedicated to providing sustainable and sequential arts education curriculum and programming to all students enrolled at SDCS in grades K-12.

The partnership was formed to connect the resources of approximately 90 arts and culture organizations, the City of San Diego, the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, the California Arts Council and local civic and business communities with the needs of the VAPA department and our schools, teachers and students.

What is ahead for VAPA?

We will continue to focus our efforts on what is best for all of students, our arts teachers and on finding ways to increase the access to a quality arts education. With this in mind, this spring we will be celebrating the talents of our teachers and students:

- On April 24th at 5:30 p.m. at the Eugene Brucker Education Center, a recognition ceremony will be held for the *Superintendent's Art Exhibition*, which consists of more than 650 artworks currently on display at the Ed. Center.
- On May 23rd, we will host *Applause 2002*, an event to showcase student talent in all of the arts and to raise funds to support district arts programs.
- Throughout the spring, audiences across San Diego will attend various instrumental and choral honor concerts, as well as numerous drama productions and other arts-related programs at our schools.

In Memoriam.....

Sandra K. Brown, whose service with the district began in March 2001, passed away February 2002. Mrs. Brown was a secretary at School to Career.

Grace E. Ehlman, whose service with the district began in September 1968, passed away January 2002. Mrs. Ehlman was a teacher at Jackson Elementary.

Student Salutes

First graders at **Miramar Ranch Elementary** deserve a big salute for raising more than \$3,700 for St. Jude's Hospital with a "Math-A-Thon." Thirteen of the hospital's current patients are children from San Diego County, being treated for catastrophic diseases including leukemia and sickle cell anemia. Math-A-Thon coordinator Valerie Oriente, above right, celebrates with top money-raisers



Casey Aguinaldo, Erin Barker, Amy Boerner, Sarah Crawford, Ellen Gable, Julia Nguyen, Austin Osborne, Abby Raymundo, Waverly Rocklin, Tate Salazar, Kylie Sullivan and Michael Whitten. Sarah raised the most funds – a total of \$344.

Patrick Henry High School senior Kevin Tostado is one of 32 students nationwide accepted by the Olin College of Engineering to receive a four-year scholarship valued at \$140,000. Olin is a new, independent engineering college and Kevin will be part of the first graduating class.

Four district students were winners in the **19th annual Union-Tribune Newspaper in Education Student Writing Contest.** They include **Katrice Candler and Laura Cass,** San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts; **Lisa Shields,** University City High School; and **Sasha Vaghefi,** La Jolla Elementary School.

Sharing A Moment: Salute To Excellence



San Diego Education Association President Marc Knapp and Superintendent Alan Bersin share a light moment at the "Salute to Excellence" program at SeaWorld San Diego. The program, which honors the top one percent of San Diego City Schools graduates drew about 400 people, including the students, their families, teachers, principals, the instructional leaders supervising high schools, Jack Fleck and Shirley Peterson, head counselors and members of the board of education.

Students received a medal of excellence, a framed certificate and commemorative pen from Mission Federal Credit Union.

Hot Meals Back for School Staff

On April 15th hot meals will be reintroduced at school sites for staff. The meals will include an entrée, starch and vegetables and will cost between \$2.25 and \$3.00.

"We originally scaled back staff meals to offering sandwiches, soup and salads because we had low-participation in the hot meals program and it was costing the district in excess of \$60,000 a year." said Sue Gilroy, director of food services. "But when we heard from employees that they preferred the hot meals and with our increasing focus on customer service, we decided to bring the hot meals back."

For the first few weeks, staff will be asked to sign up, so that food services can provide sufficient meals at each site. Employees at the Ed Center may sign up at Birney Elementary, and staff at other facilities may inquire at their neighborhood school about accommodations at those sites.

Sample menus include meatloaf with mashed potatoes and gravy, and chicken fajita wrap with fresh fruit and cobb salad. Watch for additional information at your site.

Menus will also be posted on the district website at <http://www2.sandi.net/food/>. For additional informational, call (858) 627-7305.

Parent Congress

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sustained, civil dialogue focused on what is best for *all* our students” said Jeana Preston, program manager for the district’s Parent Involvement Department. “Our students deserve the best thinking and problem solving that adults can provide. The Parent Congress is designed to help us talk together about how to best support students, whether they are high performers or really struggling to do well in school.”

As a result of the first meeting of the Parent Congress in October 2001, the agenda planning committee, made up of volunteer delegates, pinpointed the three most important issues: school reforms, high school issues, and improving two-way communication between parents and the district. Meetings in December 2001 and February 2002 focused on those issues with Superintendent Alan Bersin and Chancellor of Instruction Anthony Alvarado attending and participating in Q&A sessions with small groups.

Participant feedback is already shaping next year's efforts, including having more frequent meetings and working more closely with the principals.

“The district is aware that the parents have a lot of good feedback,” said Randall Farley, a parent delegate representing Green Elementary School. “This program shows that the district understands that parents want to be informed and engaged in the framework of what the district is trying to do with its reform efforts.”

The next Staff Bulletin will appear April 24. Deadline for submissions is April 12. 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
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Looking Ahead



The Curie Elementary PTA presents its 15th annual **School Performance**. Over 280 students (and staff) are participating this year in a variety of skits and dance routines. Day performances are scheduled for April 17th and 18th at 8:30 a.m. Evening performances are April 18th and 19th at 7 p.m.

The **San Diego County Classified Employee of the Year** program is accepting nominations through April 19th. The program honors the noteworthy contributions made by support staff. To have nomination forms emailed or faxed to you, please call Florine Belanger at (858) 292-3850.

Anyone interested in becoming certified as a **Peer Coach/Staff Developer** is invited to attend an orientation meeting on April 22 at 4 p.m. at the Eugene Brucker Education Center auditorium. For more information and to RSVP, please call Emily Lovci at (619) 725-7262. Applications for the **2001-2002 Association of Educational Office Employees (AEOE) Scholarship** are due April 26. The scholarships are provided to graduating high school seniors who are the children of AEOE members. Application packets were sent to all high school counselors. Applications should be returned to Donna Sawvelle, Education Center, Room 1008A, (619) 725-7119.

The **National College Fair**, sponsored by the National Association for College Admission (NACAC) will be held April 29, 2002 at the San Diego Convention Center downtown from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. The free event includes representation from approximately 200 colleges. For more information, visit www.nacac.com or call (800) 822-6285.

The Junior Recorder Festival at Point Loma Nazarene University has been rescheduled from May 29 to May 22 to avoid testing conflicts for year round schools.

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: '00 F-150XL, 5-speed, leer shell, V6, ps/pb/ac/cd, lmted slip, \$9,999 (858) 483-4520. **'98 Dodge Neon**, 4cyl, a/c, alarm, \$5495 (619) 980-6341. **'96 Mazda Miata**, exc. cond., power everything, 62k mi., \$8000 (619) 229-9992 eves. **'94 Harley Sportster 1200**, aqua, custom tank, chrome, \$7500/obo (858) 627-0855. **'93 Toyota 4runner**, 4wd, loaded, 154k mi., needs trans work, \$6500 (619) 561-2184. **'92 Nissan Maxima**, dual camp, 200 horse, sunroof, \$4000 (619) 656-5986. **'88 SAAB 900s**, hatchback, runs & looks great, 197k mi., \$1800 (619) 276-0525. **'66 Chevy Impala, SS**, 2dr, hrd tp, 327-auto, \$2500/obo (619) 262-7962. **Jeep Cherokee 4x4**, red, cd, all power, alarm, \$4500 (858) 292-7217. **Adjustable twin bed**, massage and remote, originally \$1200 asking \$700 (619) 449-4442. **Teak desk**, w/ file drawer, and 3 smaller drawers, \$145 (619) 523-5044. **Queen-size sofa bed**, good cond., dark blue, \$150 (858) 587-2506. **Couch**, tan colors, animal print pillows, one year old, \$200 (619) 303-2021. **Double bed**, attractive solid wood frame, mattress, exc. cond., \$125, (619) 224-2116. **Queen-size waterbed frame & headboard**, \$250, olympic weight set \$150 (858) 277-1134. **Wooden daybed**, new mattress, good condition, make an offer, (619) 280-9929. **Ivory GE Refrigerator**, top/bottom. 18.5 cu. Ft. \$300 (619) 590-0798. **Treadmill**, 20" wide, incline, folds/up, runs great \$325 (619) 561-5187. **Free reptile cage**, 3 1/2 ft. tall, 1 1/2 feet wide, screen front (619) 888-0044. **Fish aquarium**, 18-gallon, includes heater and filter, new \$50 (619) 544-1747. **Wedding gown**, white, beaded bodice, size 12, beautiful, \$550/obo (619) 296-7140. **27-inch television**, wonderful color, great television, name your price (619) 475-3291. **Three acre view lot**, 20 min. east of Temecula \$60K (909) 694-1282. **Mexican ceramics close out sale**, 20-30 and 40% off on some items (619) 741-6222. **100 spoke wire wheels**, new in box, \$400/set (619) 262-7962.

FOR RENT: Condo, share rent, college students more than welcome, \$575 monthly (619) 475-0246. **South Mission Beach**, weekly summer rental, spacious townhouse (858) 488-6023. **Condo**, beautiful 1500 sq. ft. 1bd/1.5 ba., cath. ceiling, decks, fp, no rent raises, view. \$1000 (619) 276-2347. **House painting**, or fence, deck staining, free estimate (619) 988-5876.

WANTED: Treadmill, portable (619) 280-9929