

# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



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## San Diego Parent University: Teaching parents how to help their children learn

Research shows that far-reaching and in-depth parental involvement can be very valuable in boosting a student's academic performance. *San Diego Parent University*, an innovative program designed to motivate parents to become involved in their child's education as academic coaches, was created with that in mind. Begun in October 2000, *Parent University* was designed for parents of Title 1 eligible students and targets families from the lowest performing elementary schools (the district's ten Focus Schools) and the middle and high schools in those areas to help parents work with their children so they can be successful in school.



*Parent University* quarterly classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Classes target all levels, from classes for parents of early elementary students such as "Help your Young Reader in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade" (see pictures, left and below) to those for parents of secondary students, including "Prepare Yourself to Help Your Child in Algebra." Classes are taught by teachers, about 95 percent of whom work at the schools *Parent University* targets. "The wonderful and important thing about the *Parent University* classes is that they are developed based on the needs of parents and students. Teachers who spend the day with students are then working with the parents,

which means the curriculum and supports are aligned," says Bea Fernandez, the *Parent University* coordinator.

*San Diego Parent University* classes focus on more than just academics. One of the program's goals is to help parents help their children develop both in and out of the classroom, so classes such as "Active Parenting" and "Parenting Your Teenager" are led by counselors from the district and the community.

The 2001-2002 school year marked the expansion of *Parent University* from evening classes at the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center at Gompers Secondary School to additional locations and offerings, including some evening classes at Madison High School and daytime classes at the Barrio Logan College Institute, a community center. Parent Leadership classes have been added for parents serving on School Site Councils, the District Advisory Committee and English Learner Advisory Committees. An academically structured childcare program is offered at each of the workshop sites, and transportation is available for most classes to encourage as many parents as possible to participate.

The convenience and variety of courses offered results in a high demand for *San Diego*  
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## State of the District Achievement goals outlined

On April 4th, 2002, the Superintendent held the first ever State of the District event at Kearny High School, outlining some of the district's achievements over the past four years, as well as the vision for the next four. The following is an excerpt of this speech pertaining to goals set for the next four years:

### By 2005, San Diego City Schools will have:

1. 100% of high school students passing the California High School Exit Exam.
2. Two-thirds of graduating high school students meeting the University of California/California State University "a-g" requirements and either going on to college or using teachings from those required classes in order to become successful in the workplace.
3. Each student enrolled in a UC or CSU program meeting the entrance requirements for English and mathematics proficiency.

### By 2006, San Diego City Schools will have:

1. No schools in the bottom 20 percent academically, as compared with others across the state in the Academic Performance Index.
2. 50 schools achieving an Academic Performance Index of 800 or higher.
3. 52% of students in grades 2 to 5 and in middle school meeting or exceeding the state standards on the California Standards Test in Language Arts.

There are other goals as well. They include:

1. A new district accountability system

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## Coming up next issue...

- Responses to questions from Mid-Year Professional Development Conference for Classified Office Employees
- De-spamming your email

# Student Salutes

The Lincoln High School Choir performed before more than 800 teachers, principals, administrators, parents and community leaders at the recent State of the District event. The choir, pictured right, sang “*The World’s Greatest*,” featuring soloists **Curtis Freitas, Terrell Thompson and Cassheila Mullen**, and “*Keep Hope Alive*,” featuring soloists **Tiffany Ferguson, Isaac Godkin and Crystal Flournoy**. **Everleena Pree** entertained the audience with her compelling sign language translation while **Darius Days** and **Michael Parker** provided musical accompaniment. Choir leader **Nat White** and director **Louise Pearson** were also part of the outstanding program.



**Maria Isabella Verendia**, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Mt. Everest Academy, won the 2002 San Diego Countywide Spelling Bee. Isabella, pictured left, won the grades 6-8 competition by correctly spelling the word “proboscis.” Now, with a word like that, how could we possibly pass up an opportunity to quiz you on your vocabulary skills? Does “proboscis” mean A) the corner of a boxing ring B) the trunk of an elephant or C) the concealing pattern or coloring of an insect. See answer at the bottom. **Noel Lopez**, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Mt. Everest Academy, is one of two high school students in San Diego county who will present an original electric motor design at the **International Science and Engineering Fair** in Louisville, Kentucky on May 11.



**Cadman Elementary 1<sup>st</sup> grader Margaret O’Flaherty** recently participated in a fundraising activity, “Speed Read,” sponsored by **I2 Technologies**. The event supports the First Book program, which provides new books to children who cannot afford to buy their own. The money raised will also buy books for the Head Start program in Clairemont. Margaret raised money through pledges for each word that she could read in one minute. She read 125 words - #1 in her age group! Congrats to Margaret (and her teacher **Joy Bigler** for helping her students be good readers).

**La Jolla High School student Lisa Hollingsworth** was named runner-up for all secondary students in the annual **Border Voices** poetry contest. Fellow Vikings **Jeff Bishop** and **Liz Edwards** are also honorees. Other La Jolla students being honored recently: **Alexandra Kritchevsky**, a finalist in the **Dream Keepers** creative writing contest sponsored by the California Association of English Teachers and the **San Diego Union-Tribune**; and **David Cohen, Justin Glavis-Bloom, John Griffin, David Popkin, Michael Shis, Alex Smith, Matt Valji** and **Albert Wu**, who are qualifiers for the **California State Speech Championships**.

The **Speech and Debate team** from **Mira Mesa High School** took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the **City School Debate Tournament**. **Leilani Marquez** has been chosen **Mira Mesa’s Outstanding Team Member** at the Senior High Math Field Day sponsored by the **Greater San Diego Math Council**. Marauders are big scholarship winners too. They include **Monique Marbrey**, receiving a \$24,000 President’s Scholarship from Christian Heritage College; **Steve Miller**, receiving an \$80,000 football scholarship from New Mexico State; and **Tina Bacong**, who was awarded a five year scholarship to attend San Diego State University for the fall and a guaranteed teaching job upon completion of her teaching credential. Additionally, **Ford Scholarships** were awarded to **Dina Baltazar, Lindsay Crampton, Autumn Hawes, Christian Kelly, William Ragsdale, Gregory Ranches, Andre Rosemond** and **Vida Vongvanith**. The school’s **Enterprise Class, IGEW**, received an award for Top Ten Best Web Design.

**Answer to spelling bee question:** “B” – Trunk of an elephant. Proboscis also means any long flexible snout and can describe the human nose if it’s especially prominent.

# Science Fair Winners!

San Diego City Schools was well-represented at the recent Greater San Diego Science Fair, with dozens of students winning for their creative experiments and inventions.

Winners included those from Bell Junior High School: **Dorothy Mercado**; Clairemont High School: **Garrett Weekly**; Crawford High School: **Arturo Torres, Dana Ung**; Farb Middle School: **Aparicio Davis, Cory Stevenson, Khoa Tran**; Gompers Secondary School: **Angelica Riestra**; Hoover High School: **Barbara Jaroszynski**; Keiller Middle School: **Luis Montoya**; La Jolla High School: **Harish Khandrika, Jacob King**; Lewis Middle School: **David Bettwy, Claire Eisenberg, Vincenzo Ellis, Levi Jenkins, William Kintzele, Ryan Leonard, Ozzie Lubach** and **Katie Saylor**.

Additionally, there were participants and winners from Marshall Middle School including: **Ryan Daggett, Eden Delphey, Lauren Eby, Greg Golembeski, Stephen Meth, Elizabeth Tauscher, Macy Tom, Meredith Wolfe**; Mira Mesa High School: **Justin Shih, Alex Shih**; Montgomery Academy: **Thuy Diep, Kim Macias, Lauryn Stephenson**; Morse High School: **Jane Alejandro, Judy Her**; Mt. Everest Academy: **Noel Lopez, Katie Rehm**; Muirlands Middle School: **Matthew Bohrer, Alice Coutinho** and **Mary Plant-Thomas**.

There were also students recognized from Pershing Middle School: **Elizabeth Dean, Julie Hull, Corey Jackson, Sean Myrick, Marcus Pingel, Grant Trimboli**; from Point Loma High School: **Virginia Dick**; from Roosevelt Junior High School: **Jesus Macias**; from the School of Creative and Performing Arts: **Caitlin Couey, Colin Eldred-Cohen**; and from San Diego High School: **Milena Andzelm**.

## Student Web Team Needed

The district’s Web Services department is looking for students to help design and build a “For Students” page for the district’s website.

Groups will be formed at elementary, middle/junior and high school levels to determine need and content, and subsequently design and build the pages. To participate, submit your name and skill/interest to Ursula Kroemer at [ukroemer@mail.sandi.net](mailto:ukroemer@mail.sandi.net).

## Prop. MM's new principals' liaison

When Mike Giafaglione walks the hallways and playgrounds of our schools, he notices the things principals notice – the first impression of the school office, the



placement of electrical outlets, the lighting in a classroom or the condition of the floors.

As a “mentor principal,” Giafaglione (pronounced jeff-a-LO-nee) serves as the voice of the principal for Facilities Management. He works with principals and teachers as they identify concerns about their site’s construction and maintenance projects that fall under Proposition MM or Maintenance and Operations.

Giafaglione brings these issues back to the construction and project management teams for resolution. On new projects, he gets involved with the design team before work begins. Once projects get underway, he’s available to consult on problems before they become too big.

With a 33-year career as a teacher, vice principal and principal, Giafaglione is well qualified to be the communications link between principals/instructional leaders and the MM and M&O teams.

“Principals look at things in a different way from an architect or a construction or project manager,” he says. “We notice the little things that make a big difference – like the arc in which a door swings. I might catch a detail in the original plans that could be tweaked to avoid a functional or aesthetic problem.”

Giafaglione spent the past six years as principal at Lindbergh-Schweitzer Elementary, where he dramatically improved the school’s appearance on a slim budget.

“The way a school looks aesthetically from the moment you walk in the front door says volumes about the school itself,” he says. “As Proposition MM projects occur, principals are instrumental in determining what image they want their school to project.”

For questions or consulting help, Giafaglione can be reached at (858) 637-6243 or via email at [mgiafag1@mail.sandi.net](mailto:mgiafag1@mail.sandi.net).

## Looking Ahead

**Wangenheim Middle School** is inviting all former staff to attend the schools 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on campus. Relatives of the school’s namesake, Julius Wangenheim, will be in attendance and will make a presentation to the school. All principals, former and present, will be ‘head chefs’ for the hamburger and hotdog barbeque. A group photo will be taken to commemorate the event. For additional information, please call Susan Porter or Rita Hoerr at (858) 578-1400. Late arrivals welcome!

**Zamorano Elementary** will be holding its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Art, May 1, 2002, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Over 1,400 pieces of student art work will be displayed.

**Spreckels Bilingual Magnet School** will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo/Day of the Child with a carnival on Wednesday, May 1, 2002, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Food, entertainment and games will be available for everyone. Mexican food and homemade desserts, donated by Spreckels parents, will be sold throughout the evening. Students and special guests will provide entertainment. The event will include what’s being called the “World Full of Music,” which will recreate music from cultures throughout the world in various classrooms. Tickets go on sale start April 29. For additional information, call (858) 453-5377 or fax (858) 546-1269.

**The 20<sup>th</sup> annual End-of-Year Community Recognition Event**, sponsored by the district’s Community Relations Department along with SeaWorld San Diego, will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2002, at SeaWorld. Invitations have been sent to all principals, partnership liaisons, school-to-career coordinators and advisors, volunteer coordinators, OASIS tutors and business/community partners. For additional information, please call the Community Relations Department at (619) 725-5592.

## San Diego Parent University

*(Continued from page one)*

**Parent University.** With an average class size of around 30, waiting lists have been implemented in the case of the more popular classes such as “*Hablando Claro* (Speaking Clearly).” Those who get spots eagerly attend classes because they want to improve their parenting skills. As one parent said, “I took the classes to have better communication with my child. I want him to be a better citizen and for us to have a better relationship. I want to improve my parenting techniques so I can implement them in my daily life.”

**Parent University** also attracts participants by thinking “outside the box,” or the traditional classroom, as it were. One of the most exciting aspects of the program is the new Mobile Learning Center, a specially outfitted bus, seating up to 17 parents at a time that travels from site to site across the district. A different topic is covered at every visit in workshops that focus on working with parents of preschool, kindergarten, and first grade students, and include activities to develop skills such as helping their child develop motor and thinking skills, building responsibility, and

processing and applying information.

Incentives, in addition to learning, include parents earning “Parent Points” for each class they attend and receiving a \$20 Target Stores Gift Certificate after earning ten “Parent Points.” Additionally, parents who attend ten or more classes by the end of the year are eligible for a drawing for a fully equipped computer, an academic support many *Parent University* attendees may not otherwise be able to afford.

The organizers of *Parent University* are enthusiastic about the program and look forward to its further expansion. “I am really proud to say we’ve exceeded our expectations. We get parents saying, ‘Thank you for helping me help my child read, and for helping me to select books that are at the right reading level.’ We’ve really surpassed our attendance goal for helping parents help their children at home,” says Fernández. “Now it’s just a matter of getting the support we need to expand our work.”

For more information on Parent University, please visit the Parent Involvement page on the district website at [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net) or call (619) 725-5605.

## State of the District

(Continued from page one)

that will be both consistent with state standards and requirements and will provide varying levels of curriculum autonomy to schools that meet and sustain high academic achievement targets.

2. The district's business reengineering efforts will produce \$100 million in savings in the next five years through improvement of existing processes and procedures in order to redirect more money into teaching and learning in the classroom.

3. By 2008, we will have spent the \$1.51 billion in Prop MM funds on reconstructing our schools and we will have completed the work on time and on budget.

4. The majority of communication regarding students and their needs will take place at the school sites, and the central office will become a transparent feature in the process.

To review all the State of the District presentations, please visit the district website at: <http://www.sandi.net/SOD.html>.

## In Memoriam...

**Kathryn M. Dronenburg**, whose service with the district began August 1998, passed away March 2002. She was a teacher at Juarez Elementary at the time of her death.

**James F. Gregory**, whose service with the district began February 1978. He was a teacher at Wangenheim Middle School at the time of his retirement in June 2000.

The next *Staff Bulletin* will appear May 8. Deadline for submissions is April 26. Please note that deadlines are final and cannot be extended. *Staff Bulletin* is on the web site.

### Staff Bulletin

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Send news items and classified ads to:

Staff Bulletin

Education Center, Room 2145

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## People & Places

**Community Relations Director Janet Delaney** has been selected by the San Diego chapter of Phi Delta Kappa to receive the organization's "Community Education Award." The award is presented to educators and community leaders for their contributions, hard work, and dedication to the community and to the field of education. She'll be honored at the annual "Kappan Night" event in May.

**District psychologist Lynne Aung** has been voted in as the president of the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP). Another school psychologist, **Martchen Dickson-Cooper**, has been named Outstanding Psychologist for Region VII and was recognized by CASP at its annual convention in Sacramento in March.

**Muirlands Middle School world history teacher Dr. Karen Hom** has been named a recipient of the Korean Fellowship for American Educators. She will study Korean culture and history in Seoul this summer with other educators throughout the world.

**Speech-language pathologist Claudia Dunaway** and **preschool language group speech-language pathologist Sandi Shanklin** were each named recipient of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Outstanding Service Award for District 9. The awards were presented at the annual state convention in Los Angeles. Both women were recognized for their excellence within the speech and language profession.

**Horace Mann Middle School** recently organized its first school-wide staff development day, held – at of all places – the San Diego Zoo! Mann peer coach Shandon Harbour says the day was a chance for the entire staff to participate in inquiry-based learning, to learn how to support each other in building a scholarly environment and



behavior plan. Highlights included a scavenger hunt and a special staff dinner at which a boa constrictor, a spotted owl and Australia's version of the porcupine, an echidna, all made special appearances. Kudos for creativity in professional development and for including all staff!



## 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: CWR Air Purification Unit** - \$400, '91 Toyota, nice body – runs but needs engine work, \$800 (619) 287-2030: '00 Pontiac Firebird, black, 19,000 mi., \$19,000 (619) 286-7700, X2117: '92 BMW 325i, maroon, 4 door, 5 speed, everything, \$8000 obo (858) 720-0249: '94 Cutlass Cierra, original owner, excellent, 99K mi., \$3000 obo (619) 283-1447:

**Sony car cassette & 10 cd changer**, transferable warranty, \$215, (858) 483-7096 **Record player**, portable, 7'8" x 45" x 33 1/3", collector's item – make offer (619) 544-0740: **Universal Studios fun pass-ID** done on this visit, \$25 (858) 273-3837: **Electric piano**, computer compatible; electric organ, \$300 each or both for \$550 (858) 277-0110: **Pianos**, \$500, (619) 263-8002: **Furniture**, oak roll-top desk, \$325, captain's bed- 5 drawers, \$125 (858) 571-5004:

**Oak office furniture**, desk, file cabinet, bookcase, chair, beautiful, \$300, (619) 670-4317: **Wedding gown**, small size, train, satin bodice/tulle skirt, beautiful \$500, (858) 467-0585: **Invacare wheelchair**, "Prude Jazzy" anti-tipping model, excellent condition, best offer! (619) 934-2555: **Queen-size sofa bed**, great condition, beige tweed, \$150 (619) 287-1233:

**Printer**, new, Canon BJC-2110, 720x360 color, Windows 95, 98, 00, \$50 (619) 697-7723: **Eight Acre view lot**, on creek in Oregon, \$75K (619) 222-5654: **Timeshare**, Monarch grand vac., 5 great location, 1 wk bi-yearly, \$45,500 obo (619) 992-2298.

**FOR RENT: College area room**, female, non-smoker, \$500 (619) 269-3470: **Kauai Condominium**, two-bedroom, sleeps six, \$1500/week (619) 301-3189.