

# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



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## Focus on School Success: **FAMILY FRIDAYS**

When parents are involved, children do better in school. This fact is drawn from extensive research which provides evidence that parent involvement improves student achievement, attitudes toward learning, and student self esteem. "This is especially true for children from low-income, racially diverse families who experience greater success when schools involve their families, enlist them as allies, and build on their strengths. Research also reveals that schools that encourage such partnerships with families are more likely to produce students who excel than identical schools that do not involve families," says Jeana Preston, program manager for the district's Parent Involvement Department.

*Family Fridays*, a monthly schoolwide activity implemented this year at the district's ten Focus Schools, does just that - builds on family strengths, enlists parents as valuable allies in literacy and increases family involvement in education. *Family Fridays* were started by Instructional Leader Linda Trifon, who first implemented them with overwhelmingly positive results as a principal in New York.

"Since the road to reading proficiency is paved with a combination of skills, motivation and practice, *Family Fridays* are an effective way to help move children along this critical pathway. While teachers are primarily in charge of teaching the specific skills necessary for reading, children are more motivated to read when they see their parents reading," says Melissa Whipple, a resource teacher for Parent Involvement and trainer/coach for *Family Fridays*. "Children develop reading fluency and comprehension when their parents actively



encourage and help them to read. After all, being a good reader requires a lot of practice in school and at home. Thus when parents take the time to come to school on a *Family Friday* to read aloud a favorite story with their children, the power and importance of reading is clearly demonstrated to everyone involved."



Guest readers, including support staff, community and business partners, firefighters, police, military personnel and

junior high or middle school students, are invited to read with students whose parents are unable to attend. "This makes an interesting event even more special and exciting because there is nothing like special guests on campus to make a big impact. Teachers tell us they really enjoy seeing the connections made between students and other staff members, like math or PE teachers. Parents and teachers also see how much support there really is out there for their students," says Whipple.

Several schools regularly exceed 300 parents at each *Family Friday*, and their evaluations are full of praise. Silvia Torres, a parent at Chávez Elementary, wrote, "I enjoy this so much I wish we could have an hour [to read] instead of (Continued on page two)

## Applause 2002!

*A Celebration of Student Expression*

An inaugural event designed to showcase student art and benefit student arts education in San Diego City Schools, Applause 2002!, exceeded financial expectations, bringing in \$65,000. The funds will be dedicated to providing curriculum-based arts education and programming to all students K-12 in the district under the direction of the San Diego Arts Education Partnership, a collaborative organization bringing together the resources of approximately 90 arts and culture organizations throughout San Diego. It includes the district's Visual and Performing Arts department, the California Arts Council, the city's Commission for Arts and Culture, and local civic and business communities.

"This kind of collaboration has a significant impact on enriching visual and performing arts experiences for our students and our schools," says Superintendent Alan Bersin, adding that he expects Applause 2002! to be the first of several annual events showcasing the artistic talents of students in San Diego City Schools.

The purpose of the event was to showcase student talent and included the involvement of more than 135 students from 28 district schools.

The fundraising aspect of the event, organizers say, was surprisingly successful for an inaugural event. The event cost \$28,000, but was more than covered by the \$32,500 raised in underwriting by sponsors. They include: San Diego READS, Office Depot, Bank of America, KPMG, San Diego National Bank, Mission Federal Credit  
(Continued on page three)

## Coming up next issue...

- ⌘ *Retiree Recognition*
- ⌘ *Tiger Teams*
- ⌘ *Business Services FAQ's*

# Family Fridays

(Continued from page one)

only 30 minutes. There are no phones ringing, no TV, no laundry to do—nothing to interrupt me from reading with my child.”

Monique King, a parent at Baker Elementary, writes, “When I attend Family Fridays with my children, they are so exhilarating and uplifting. They give me the chance to experience classroom interaction with my children and their teachers!”

Teachers recognize the benefits of *Family Fridays*, too. As one teacher from Emerson wrote in an evaluation, “My parents came in and either read to their child or the child read to the parents. They were asking their child questions. Yeah! Students saw the value that parents place on reading and felt the support.”

Teachers’ understanding of the value and effectiveness of involving parents in student achievement cannot be overstated. The International Reading Association says as a result of such partnerships, families “better understand the work of schools, giving them more confidence in their children’s teachers” and that the teachers “have higher opinions of such families and higher expectations for their students which leads to increased achievement.” The organization’s latest position paper, *Family-School Partnerships: Essential Elements of Literacy Instruction in the United States*, can be reviewed at [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

Schools interested in hosting *Family Fridays* at their site will find the following three components helpful for getting started:

Designate one Friday each month and invite parents to come to one of their children’s classrooms to read a book aloud with their child for the first 30 minutes of the day. The child usually preselects a book the day before the event.

After reading with their child, invite parents to the auditorium or other group area to share some refreshments, receive some words of encouragement, discuss the reading experience and participate in a book give-away. Some schools have added a short (5-7 minute) mini-lesson sharing specific ways to enhance the read aloud session for parents. A bookmark describing the steps of the modeled reading strategy is provided to all participants (in English and Spanish) and a short Q&A is conducted.

Limit the entire event to one hour to enable parents to go to work and/or resume their daily schedules. Resist any temptation

# Student Salutes

Some local high school ball players are on their way to the big leagues! **Crawford senior Joshua Womack** was drafted in the second round of the 2002 Major League Baseball draft by the **Seattle Mariners**. **Patrick Henry student Jeffrey Ostrander** was picked up in the 17th round by the **Cleveland Indians**. Other district students are eligible for the draft, but results were not available at press time.



**Standley Middle School** students were featured on NBC Channel 7/39 recently for being champions at the “**24 Challenge**” math tournament. Student **Daniel Ring** was honored as the platinum champion. Other medal winners and valiant participants include **Daniel Spinosa, Diego Onuchic, Thomas Yao, Ryan Fainstein, David Lilley, Ben Wendel, Carson Kemp** and **Sophie Christlieb**.

Several district students have been honored as winners in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “**Images of Fatherhood**” art and writing competition sponsored by the **Scripps African American Prostate Cancer Control Center, African American Museum of Fine Arts** and the **Neighborhood House Association**. A first place in art went to **Lincoln High School student Alana Hammock**. A first place in verse went to **Michelle Logan, from O’Farrell Community School**. Honorable mentions in art were awarded to **Gilberto Chacon** and **Gisela Garcia** of **Lincoln High**; **Jose Olvera** and **George Pina** of **O’Farrell**; and **Tiffany Saly** of **Kennedy Elementary**. Honorable mentions in verse were awarded to **Jasmine Bennett, Shirley Harris** and **Nallely Millan** of **O’Farrell**; **Shakasia Maynard** of **Kennedy Elementary**; and **Sheree Morales** (the youngest honoree at age 9) of **Paradise Hills Elementary**.

**Mark Twain High School** students **Anthony Coronado, Andrea Eschborn** and **Cassie Kellner** have been awarded full scholarships to a local community college of their choice by the **San Diego County Junior Achievement**. The scholarship will pay for all their expenses, including tuition, books and parking, while they earn their associate degrees. All three will also receive a new computer and printer. Once their associate degrees are earned, the three are eligible to have the remainder of their studies toward a bachelor’s degree completely paid for at San Diego State University. **The Monroe Clark Middle School advanced band** recently received a gold rating at the **Forum Music Festival** in Newhall, California, with special recognition to the percussion section. The **advanced instrumental ensemble** was awarded a silver rating, with special recognition to the violin section.

**Mt Everest Academy 9<sup>th</sup> grader Noel Lopez**, who was top winner in the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, has been awarded first place in the statewide competition.

**Mt. Everest Academy 6<sup>th</sup> grader and county spelling bee champion Maria Isabella Verendia** is back from a trip to Washington, D. C. for the national spelling bee. While she wasn’t crowned national champ, Maria described her trip as “super fun.” Maria receives a commemorative watch, a \$100 savings bond and a cash prize. **Lincoln High School 10<sup>th</sup> grader Jamal Turner** was awarded the \$2000 grand prize in the **6<sup>th</sup> annual 4th Council District High School Oratorical Contest**. Turner also won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade category. Other winners included **Stephanie Juszie, Sophia Tovar, Teniqua Martin** and **Kamilah Hicks**.

Several district students were award-winners in the **Dream Keepers Creative Writing Contest**, sponsored by the **California Association of Teachers of English**

(Continued on page three)

to conduct other school business at this event.

Complete support materials for *Family Fridays*, including recruitment tips and a schedule of upcoming *Family Fridays* taking place at the Focus Schools are available from the Parent Involvement Department by calling (619) 725-5610. You can also email a request to Melissa Whipple at [mwhipple@mail.sandi.net](mailto:mwhipple@mail.sandi.net).

“There is nothing quite as heartwarming as watching a parent and child reading a book aloud together,” says Whipple. “It is absolutely a quadruple win (students-parents-teacher-community members) for everyone involved.”

## People and Places

Several district schools were honored at the recent **"Healthy and Ready to Learn"** event, which recognizes schools and districts that have demonstrated leadership in coordinated school health programs in San Diego county. The event was emceed by **Jack Campana, director of the district's Student Support Services**, and Beverly Bradley, Ph.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at University of California, San Diego. District schools recognized included **Sunset View Elementary, Hoover High School Health and Social Services Center, Patrick Henry High School and Serra High School's Serra Real Connections**. Program coordinators say these facilities do a great deal to teach students about practicing healthy behaviors at home and in the community, avoiding long-term health problems that overweight and obese children often face, including cardiovascular disease, stroke, hypertension, high blood pressure and forms of diabetes.

**Balboa Park administrator Pat Meredith** has been honored by **Brothers United**, an association for black firefighters in San Diego, for her commitment and support

of the organization's education outreach efforts. A video produced by Brothers United to teach students about education and prejudice has been seen by over 13,000 fifth graders participating in the Balboa Park program. Each group leader in the program was also presented a certificate during a gathering at the Balboa Park organ pavilion last month.

Several district teachers and administrators have been honored by the **Greater San Diego Reading Association**. They include **Mark Heinze**, teacher at **Muirlands Middle**, who was presented the **Irene Netter Award**, established to recognize teachers who use the newspaper as an integral tool. Other honorees include **Deborah Alexander, Maria Dominguez, Michanne Hctor, Stacy Jones** and **Rocio Weiss**.

**La Jolla High School principal Dana Shelburne** has been awarded the **Kurt Friedrich Secondary Administrator Award**. This honor is presented by the Department of Administration and Post Secondary Education of the College of Education at **San Diego State University**. The award recognizes integrity and courage in leadership. The **Educational Leadership Development Academy's Cohort II** will celebrate the this year's completion of the **Aspiring Leaders Program** at the University of San Diego.

The would-be principals began their apprentice work at the start of the school year and have attended classes for their Preliminary Administrative Services Credential throughout the year, while shadowing and being mentored by a district principal. The apprentices and their principals are **Donald Craig – King Elementary with Stacy Jones; Charles Grisier – Sherman Elementary with Valerie Voss; Frederick Hilgers – Crawford High School with Mary Jo Asbury; Caroline King – Encanto Elementary with Angela Bass; Tracy Linyard – Angier Elementary with Susan Manning; Marisol Marín – Euclid Elementary with Mitzi Merino; Sandra Martínez – Miramar Ranch Elementary with Tim Asfazadour; Bernadette Nguyen – Wilson Middle School with Mary Louise Martin; Sally Oppy – Carson Elementary with Carol Barry; Jan Perry – Pacific Beach Elementary with Barbara Shaw; Magdalena Ruvalcaba – Brooklyn Elementary with Carol Osborne; Penny Simmons – Marshall Elementary with Luisa Vargas; Stacy Spector – Bell Junior High with Janice Roudebush; Kathryn Wolfe – Balboa Elementary with Sylvia Gonzalez.**

*(Continued on page four)*

## Student Salutes

*(Continued from page two)*

(CATE) and the **San Diego Union-Tribune**. They include **Jacob Johansen, Dingeman Elementary; Megan Meza, Challenger Middle; Chenece Blackshear and Gregory Nelson, Lincoln High; Valerie Jaffee, University City High; Alexandra Kritchevsky, La Jolla High; and Justin Jones, San Diego High**.

**Third and fourth graders in Jean Small's classroom at Chesterton Elementary** recently took a twist on their love of reading and turned it into volunteerism for **National Youth Service Day**. Student used grant money to buy read aloud books to read to younger students as well as senior citizens at the **Kearny Mesa Convalescent Hospital**. Students later donated the books to the school library.

**San Diego High School student Arynne Mehl** has tied for first place in the Newspaper In Education program's **"You Be The Critic"** contest for 2002. She received a \$1,000 cash prize for her review of a live theatre performance.

## Arts Education Benefit Raises \$65,000

*(Continued from page one)*

Union, Sempra Energy, Cubic Corporation, the Prado at Balboa Park, Flynn Winery, Heying & Associates, Murray and Elaine Galinson, ConAM and the Oliver McMillan Company.

The live auction alone raised more than \$9,000, and included an acrylic painting done by Thu Mai, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Mira Mesa High School. The painting, which was featured on the cover of the event program, right, brought in \$600. The live auction also featured three violins which, once purchased, were immediately donated by the winning bidders to the district's music education program.

"This support is a very

positive step toward providing more resources for our classroom teachers and bringing them together with artists in the community for the benefit of our students and schools," says

Bersin.

"Picasso put it crisply, (*"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."*) Support like we have seen from this event makes arts education infinitely possible for all students."

Applause 2002! was co-chaired by Phyllis Epstein and Judy McDonald. Committee members included Barbara Daly, Janet Delaney, Gail Guth, Karen Heinrich, Carol Horowitz, Ella Steinberg, Tonnie Moss and Victoria Saunders.



## Retiring Types

**Karen McDonald of Nye Elementary.** A retirement celebration will be Wednesday, June 12, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. at Nye Elementary. Call Chelsea Cochrane at (619) 527-4901.

**Colleen Pettegrew and Carol Bowden of Lafayette Elementary.** A retirement potluck celebration will be Wednesday, June 12, from 1 – 4 p.m. in the Lafayette auditorium.

**Mary Holmes of Patrick Henry High.** A retirement reception will be Thursday, June 13, from 4 – 7 p.m. at Admiral Baker Clubhouse. \$20 per person includes hors d'oeuvres and gift. Call Dawn Suda at (619) 286-7700, ext. 2232.

**Arlene Cook of Sequoia Elementary.** A retirement celebration will be Saturday, June 22. Call Rosemary at (858) 296-8240.

**Pat Parks, Bev Marcum and Joyce Crawford of Jones Elementary.** A retirement celebration will be Friday, June 28, at 4:30 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton. \$15 per person includes pasta buffet. Call Suzy Ellison-Logan at (858) 496-8140.

**Doris Lovett of the Early Childhood Education Program.** A retirement party will be Friday, July 12, from 5 – 9 p.m. at the Bay View Restaurant, MCRD. \$25 per person. Call Lydia Dawns at (619) 262-7494.

**Arlene Smith of Sequoia Elementary.** A retirement celebration will be Friday, July 12, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the kindergarten area at school. Call Rosemary at (858) 496-8240.

## Looking Ahead

A reception to celebrate the appointment of **Luis Villegas** as **superintendent of the Santa Paula Elementary School District** will be held Wednesday, June 16, from 5 – 11 p.m. at the Handlery Hotel. It will include a reception, program, music and dancing. The cost of \$30 per person includes hors d'oeuvres and gift. For additional information, contact Barbara Wiseman at (858) 496-1963 or email [bwisema1@mail.sandi.net](mailto:bwisema1@mail.sandi.net).

**The culmination ceremony for the District Intern Programs** will be held Friday, June 28, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the Town and Country Hotel in Mission Valley. For more information, call Marcia Gugerty at (858) 539-5359.

**The San Diego Symphony** is offering a special **Summer Pops at the Navy Pier** program for students to meet musicians and have a backstage tour. The program is open to middle and high school students. Groups of 12 or less may be seated on the stage at Friday rehearsals. Student groups are also eligible for complimentary gallery seating for Friday evening performances. For information, contact the symphony's Education Program at (619) 235-0800, ext. 227 or [http://www.sandiegosymphony.com/sdsymphony\\_2002/education/index.shtml](http://www.sandiegosymphony.com/sdsymphony_2002/education/index.shtml).

## People & Places (cont...)



**Nearly 100 Facilities Management employees** recently attended an appreciation breakfast for helping **Proposition MM** earn the **Golden Watchdog Award** from the **San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA)**, which gives 'Watchdogs' to programs that exemplify efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The award was originally presented on May 2. An appreciation breakfast was held to include all facilities management staff. The award was then re-presented by Superintendent Alan Bersin and Lou Smith, chief operating officer for facilities management. Even the SDCTA got in on the second presentation, sending along representatives April Boling and Geoff Patnoe.

**District school nurse Cay Chapman Casey** has been awarded her **Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing**. Her dissertation and research was titled "*Role Perceptions of School Nurses Who Work with Medically Fragile Students.*" Casey represents the first school nurse from San Diego City Schools to earn a Ph.D. in Nursing.

**McKinley Elementary teacher Mary Mohamed-Morgan** and **Hage vice-principal Sharon Carr** are included in the latest edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." Teachers are named to this publication only by a previous student who is in high school or college who has been cited for academic excellence in "*Who's Who Among American High School Students*" and the "*National Dean's List.*"

## 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:** Vintage albums, Big Band Era, crooner type- 33 1/3, obo, (619) 656-1264; Entertainment center, pine w/oak veneer, 6' x 5', w/shelves, \$75, obo, (619) 298-1540; Bookshelf, pine w/gray paneling, \$25, (619) 298-1540; USD CLAD tapes, 4 classes, \$50/set, (858) 675-0969; Dachshund, black and tan, shorthaired, 8 wks. old, \$200, (619) 443-4053; Trundle daybed, iron, white, \$160, (619) 286-3902; Pilates Performer, new \$110, (619) 286-3902; Carpet, new, hi-grade, \$8/sq. yd. obo, (619) 697-1095; '95 Taurus SHO, 24DOHC, well below blue book, \$5200 obo, (760) 745-6480; '96 Toyota Camry, 72k, excl. cond. AC, power, \$9500, (619) 269-2108; '94 Chevy Lumina minivan, excl. cond., below blue book, \$5600 obo, (760) 443-2349; Oak Flat File, 45"x35"x38", for art prints, blueprints, etc. \$250 obo, (858) 569-1770; Air conditioner, used only one season, \$75, (619) 269-2108; Wedding gown from Italy, size 4-6, incredible, \$500 firm, (619) 460-6844; Condo, 2bd, 2ba, tile floors, garage, Normal Heights, views, \$255,000, (619) 291-9506; Beach timeshare, Mazatlan (Pueblo Bonito) RCI Membership Exchange, \$5500 obo, (619) 479-4732; Apple iBook, 500MHz, 10GB, 384MB RAM, DVD, barely used, \$1200, (619) 255-3929; Wild Animal Park tickets, \$15.00 each, fundraiser for Girls Youth Soccer, (619) 575-5525. **Wanted:** Roommate, male, Pacific Beach, pool, quiet, secure, non-smoker, \$600, (858) 483-3294; Roommate, 2bd, 1ba, ocean view, \$600/mo. utilities incl. & deposit, (619) 269-8333. **For Rent:** Condo, 1bd, 1.5ba, 1500 sq.ft., cath. ceiling, decks, fp., view, (619) 276-2347; Cabin, Julian getaway rental, modern, cozy sleeps 6, \$125, (858) 483-3294; **Service:** Residential landscape design and construction, 20 years experience, (619) 477-3694.

The next *Staff Bulletin* will appear July 17. **Deadline for submissions is July 5. 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:  
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Education Center, Room 2145

phone: (619)725-5578; fax: (619)725-5576  
e-mail: [communications@mail.sandi.net](mailto:communications@mail.sandi.net)

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