

# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



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No. 21

## Revamped Science Program to Start Roll Out This Year

A three-year rollout plan begun last school year is bringing an inquiry based, hands-on science program to San Diego City Schools elementary classrooms through multi-layered professional development for teachers and new instructional materials for students. As part of the \$6 million grant from the National Science Foundation, now in the second of year of funding, San Diego City Schools pledged to raise literacy in science and mathematics. Through groundwork that has been laid in the past year, the district is now able to offer 64 elementary schools across the district a revamped curriculum that combines hands-on science for students with enhanced materials and teacher training and support.



New science curriculum at the elementary level is being implemented each year by discipline and by cohorts of schools. Each year a new discipline will be added until each grade level has a total of three sets of lessons in earth, physical, and life science. By implementing only one discipline per year, teachers have the opportunity to learn the content with enough depth to teach it effectively. Last year, about 700 teachers were trained in earth science, and this year's focus is physical science.

"Teachers were really able to develop their expertise with the different lessons that make up each kit through professional development," said Kim Bess, Director of Science. "Hands-on activities support the teaching and learning of science, helping students see the connections between scientific theories and real world applications. It is important, therefore, that teachers have well-stocked materials as well as the professional development necessary to support students and to evaluate their progress."

In the 2001-2002 school year, Joyce Elkins, Senior Stock Clerk, Ray Conser, Science Resource Teacher, and their team at the Science Resource Center, located at the Instructional Materials Center, set up the largest FOSS refurbishment center in the country, restocking, reorganizing and delivering almost 5000 kits to school sites throughout the district. Full Option Science System (FOSS) kits are complete, modular instructional materials that combine the content of

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## 2001-02 Partnership Survey Completed

San Diego City Schools benefit from approximately 1,200 business/community partnerships in education. These partners are essential participants in the education of our students. Every year the Community Relations Department/Partnerships in Education Program asks participating schools, departments/programs and business/community partners to complete a survey regarding their partnership activities. The 2001-2002 survey was substantially modified to reflect a recent national survey effort completed by the National Association of Partners in Education (NAPE).

In addition to changing the content of the annual survey, this was the first year that respondents had the option of completing the annual survey via the Internet, a result of collaborative efforts between the Community Relations and IT Departments. Survey response rates were 50% overall, 37% for business/community partners, and 93% for schools or district programs.

The San Diego community has formed strong and productive relationships with district schools, departments and programs resulting in the donation of valuable services and resources. Volunteers and partners donated more than \$14.5 million in goods and services in 2002, the largest portion of which included the amount for volunteer hours – over \$11 million. Respondents reported that their partnerships focused on objectives that support a broad range of districtwide

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## National Day of Concern



When San Diego City Schools students participate in this year's national observance of the Day of Concern on October 24, 2002, they'll see some familiar faces. A number of district students are featured as on-camera hosts and actors for the series of videos that will be shown as part of the program. The Day of Concern is an observance designed to empower young people to see themselves as part of a large national initiative and to realize that they can reverse a national tide of violence.

As part of last year's observance, district students saw one of two versions of a nationally-produced video featuring the story of Tariq Khamisa, a 20-year-old college student who while working as a pizza delivery man was shot to death by 14-year-old Tony Hicks. Tariq's father, Azim Khamisa, reached out to Tony's family in the belief that Tony's family had lost a child, too – to the prison system. They formed the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to work with students to promote peaceful decision-making and the power of forgiveness.

In planning for this year's observance, it was decided to re-edit the videos to appeal to the current student population. District student focus groups were formed to evaluate the effectiveness of the videos and offer suggestions for revisions or improvements.

"We felt it was really important for students to be part of the planning process so the all the materials would be meaningful

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### Next Issue...

- \* Parent Congress
- \* Transportation Safety

# Looking Ahead

The San Diego Science Alliance is hosting its annual Fall Community Event on Thursday, October 17, 2002, 5-7 p.m. at the Neurosciences Institute, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, San Diego. The program will highlight new and special opportunities for the K-12 audience with guest speakers. Light refreshments will be provided, and the 2002-2003 revised edition of the San Diego Science Alliance Resource Catalog will be available. RSVPs are required. Contact Patricia Winter at [pat.winter@gat.com/](mailto:pat.winter@gat.com/). You can also visit the Science Alliance website at <http://www.sdsa.org/>.

## The Students Volunteering for You

### After Hours Site Entry

There continues to be a problem with district staff who are attempting after-hours site access without proper authorization from a site administrator. The problem is especially acute at school sites, but affects all district offices and facilities. What's been happening is that employees are entering sites after-hours, on weekends and holidays without authorization. These entries set off intrusion alarms, and all after-hours alarms are investigated by San Diego Police, rather than School Police.



This can result in some very serious consequences. First, armed police officers respond to the school/site to investigate a possible burglary in progress. Secondly, if San Diego Police is dispatched to any given site more than three times in a week on a false alarm, they may designate the site as being chronically false and may refuse further service. This means the site will be completely unprotected for the remainder of the week and subject to vandalism and burglary.

San Diego Police are also considering levying fines against the district for repeated false alarm dispatches. Staff are requested to review Administrative Procedure 5000, under District Policies and Procedures on the "For Staff" page of the website for additional clarification on after-hours entries. School Police is currently working with Video Services on a training video that will provide additional clarification and protocol support. The video will be distributed districtwide in a few weeks. For additional information, please contact School Police at (619) 725-7000.

(SAVVY) Youth Leadership Conference will be Tuesday, October 29, 2002, 8 am. – 3 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley. Speakers include Congresswoman Susan Davis and Superintendent Alan Bersin. The event is open to students in grades 8-12, and will include workshops, a resource fair and a hosted lunch. For information or to register, contact Volunteer San Diego at (858) 636-4184 or visiting <http://volunteersandiego.org>.

The district's School-to-Career program is hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> annual School-to-Career Conference November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002, from 7:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Town



& Country Hotel. Keynote speakers will include David Zach, a professionally trained futurist who has worked with over 1,000 corporations, schools and associations on the professional impact of strategic trends in technology, economics, business, education and society, and Elliot Washor, co-principal of the Met Center, a school where each student has an individualized learning plan and learns through internship experiences. Registration fee is \$100 per person before October 18, \$130 per person after October 18. Group discounts are available. For a registration form or for additional information, contact Arlene LaPlante at (858) 496-1847 or email [alaplant@mail.sandi.net](mailto:alaplant@mail.sandi.net).

## Partnership Survey

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initiatives, with 50.5% indicating a commitment to increasing community awareness of district goals and programs.

Fulfilling the district's mission of improving student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom is paramount for the majority of partnerships. Partners are participating in direct student support activities that are closely aligned with district reform priorities. Large percentages of respondents indicated that tutoring (43.7%), awards/incentive programs (40.1%), and mentoring (37.4%) are used to support teaching and learning. Additionally, 61.3% of respondents indicated improving student achievement as a priority of their partnership. However, they also reported that their activities also focus on characteristics that affect achievement such as motivation, attitude, and citizenship. These objectives demonstrate the community is also sharing in the district's accountability for student performance.

In an effort to continue to expand and utilize the wealth of resources and services offered by the community, the Community Relations Department recently developed "Building Reform-Level Partnerships through Strategic Partnership Activities." This guide will assist schools and their partners as they focus on partnership efforts. Focus area menus include curriculum, tutor/mentor recruitment, training and retention, school-to-career and educational technology. Subject area menus are linked to state standards and include literacy, mathematics, physical education, science, social studies and visual and performing arts. This document was distributed to all schools, departments/programs and business/community partners in September.

For a complete report of the 2001-2002 Partnerships in Education Survey or for additional information, contact the Community Relations Department at (619) 725-5592 or visit their web site at [www.sandi.net/partners](http://www.sandi.net/partners).

## People & Places

She knows her way around a bus, but **Transportation Director Alexandra Robinson** knows the value of a good book, too! The district recently identified certain textbooks as obsolete due to outdated content. Not content to have the district toss something that could still be useable by someone, somewhere, Alex took it upon herself to find a home for the textbooks. And a home she did find. On Thursday, September 19, the district turned over three pallets of textbooks in English and Spanish to the librarian from the **Donovan Correctional Facility** for sharing with prison inmates.

The **Food Services Department** has donated

400 pieces of educational software valued at over \$28,000 to support teaching and learning at the district's **child development centers and state preschool programs**. The software purchases were made possible through award credits earned by the use of e\*Carton milk cartons in our school cafeterias. Titles such as "Sammy's Science House," "Mighty Math Number Heroes" and "Reader Rabbit's Learn to Read with Phonics" were selected. There's another plus to the e\*Carton program in that educational sidebars on the cartons have students reading while they dine.

**Food Services** recently came up with a very delicious way to introduce students to Campus Cafés available at all secondary

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## Day of Concern

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for the different age groups,” said Bev Douglas, Behavior Intervention Specialist for Counseling and Guidance. “We took the parts of the videos they liked best and put them together according to how the students felt they would be the most effective.”

The student role didn't end there. “The student feedback was so helpful that we

decided to have the kids on camera themselves, asking the questions they'd had after watching the various videos,” said Ursula Kroemer, Video Services manager. “The video for grades 4 and 5, for example, has



students from Farb and Kroc as the on-camera role models, doing an intro to the revised video, and then following it up by appearing with Tony Hick's grandfather Ples Felix and Azim and asking those same questions and hearing first-hand the response.”

The series of videos are grade specific, with one for K-3, another for 4-5 and a third for 6-12. All videos and curriculum were provided to school sites in September so there would be time for staff and parents to

review them. Additionally, the entire curriculum packages and pledge documents are on the district website for parental review in advance of the observance. “We know parents appreciate the opportunity to review curriculum whenever it involves a sensitive or serious subject, and by putting all the materials on the website, they can review it directly and be comfortable with what will be talked about on October 24,” said Douglas. “We're also fortunate in that the

author of 'Gorp's Gift', the story we'll be sharing with the K-3 students, has consented to letting us post the entire story on the website so parents can see how child-centered it is.”

The students appearing in the Day of Concern projects

include Ashley Bolden, Serra High School; Teelee Ann Merrill, Madison High School; Aaron Loanzon, Kroc Middle School; Tony Bertolino, John-Magus Cambridge, Zackary McClure, An Nguyen, Jonathan Roberts, Victoria Turek and Jazmyne Wilson, Farb Middle School.



For information about the national Day of Concern, please visit the district website at [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net), or call Bev Douglas in Counseling and Guidance at (858) 490-8684.

## Board President's Scholarship

The Board President's Scholarship Award is presented annually by the President of Board of Education and California



Coast Credit Union to two monthly classified employees interested in becoming teachers. Each year, the California Cost Credit Union donates \$2,000 to fund these scholarships. The recipients of the scholarships will each receive a \$1,000 check that will be presented at an upcoming Board of Education meeting. Scholarship funds are to be used for tuition, fees or books at any local two- or four-year college or university. The award this year will be announced in November. Previous winners are not eligible. Applicants must submit an application form and two applicant reference forms, available on Site Operations Circular #1016 on the district website's "For Staff" page, <http://www.sandi.net/staff/circulars/20022003/ac/achtml/so1016.pdf>. Completed applications must be received by the Board of Education Office, Room 2231, Eugene Brucker Education Center, no later than 5 p.m., October 21, 2002.

## Science Program

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science with the process of science to accomplish its goals: science conceptual understanding for all students and instructional efficiency for all teachers. Prior to the Science Resource Center, teachers at each site were responsible for their own kit refurbishment. “The Science Resource Center ensures that everything the classroom teacher needs to teach the kit is prepared and delivered to the classroom. Once completed, teachers pack up the kit and send it back to the center for refurbishment, where it will be forwarded to the next teacher that needs it,” said Conser. “It's a much more teacher and school site-friendly system.”

A lead teacher and a coach are supporting science teachers at each of the 64 sites as they use the FOSS kits. The lead teacher helps organize the kits and the coach supports the delivery of science instruction.

Lead teachers and coaches received two weeks of professional development this summer to hone their skills in dealing with scientific content, process, and materials and are supported by 18 staff developers from throughout the district, including the Science Resource Center staff.

Teachers have been trained, through the professional development sessions they attend, on how to know what it looks like when a student “gets” what is being taught. They will integrate notebooks into the curriculum, encouraging students to express their knowledge of concepts learned in science lessons. “Data shows that students keeping notebooks of science lessons outscored those who don't in reading, meaning that these science lessons will help students develop skills across curriculum areas,” according to Kim Bess. “Aligning professional development with

exemplary materials helps support the in-depth science instruction that will prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.”

The new FOSS kits and the training have received rave reviews from teachers who have used it. Jim Van Noy, a fifth grade teacher at Clay Elementary, said that the refurbished FOSS kits are even better than before. “Every single thing you need is in there and the lesson plans are easy to follow. There's a video in each kit in addition to the teacher's guide and it's all very well laid out.”

“We've just scratched the surface,” said Bess. “Next year we plan to add 64 more schools for the third phase as the district continues its collaboration with the K-12 Science Alliance and the San Diego California Science Projects.”



## In Memoriam...

**Peggy Bennett**, whose service with the district began September 1964, passed away September 12, 2002. Mrs. Bennett was a teacher at Perry Elementary at the time of her retirement June 1993.

**William A. Cain**, whose service with the district began September 1987, passed away September 5, 2002. Mr. Cain was a teacher at Morse High School at the time of his death.

**Bill H. Karamoto**, whose service with the district began February 1958, passed away August 16, 2002. Mr. Karamoto was a landscape maintenance supervisor at the time of his retirement November 1988.

**Thomas Patton**, whose service with the district began September 1961, passed away August 30, 2002. Mr. Patton was a teacher at Crawford High School at the time of his retirement.

**Larry Webb**, whose service with the district began December 1990, passed away August 14, 2002. Mr. Webb was a building services supervisor at Dailard Elementary at the time of his retirement May 2002.

## People & Places

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schools. They held a drawing for one student at each site to win gift certificates for 80 Pizza Hut Personal Pan Pizzas. Winning students' names were drawn September 27, and they'll be able to use their coupons on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays throughout the school year.

**The next Staff Bulletin will appear October 23. Deadline for submissions is October 9. 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

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

An anonymous, interactive website on drugs, alcohol and tobacco has been established for San Diego teenagers, in both English and Spanish. The new site, [www.bubblemonkey.com](http://www.bubblemonkey.com), was built by the nonprofit organization DrugStrategies, in partnership with San Diego City Schools. The website allows students to learn information about substance abuse, test what they already know, and get answers from medical experts across the nation and from teens here in San Diego. The interactive site also allows students to rate their risk of abuse, and provides referrals for local assistance and support if students think they have a problem. Visitors can choose either English or Spanish language pages.



Ever wish you had a simple one-pager to provide to parents or the community regarding district departments or key programs and initiatives? You do now! The Communications Office has created a host of one-page Fact Sheets in direct response to requests from parents, principals and staff on a variety of curriculum areas and district programs and initiatives. Fact Sheets explain a given topic in parent-friendly language providing an overview, definitions of relevant terms, statistics (if applicable) and contact information for the department associated with the topic. Right now there are more than 30 different Fact Sheets available, ranging from Student Testing and Social Studies to descriptions about various key programs like Partnerships in Education and Transportation Services. Fact Sheets are ideal for distribution to parents at Back to School Night activities, PTA events and for inclusion in individual school newsletters. They're also good tools to share at staff meetings to raise awareness of key initiatives and resources.



The Fact Sheets are accessible through the "For Staff" page of the district website at [www.sandi.net](http://www.sandi.net).

## 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:** Sofa bed, queen size, Lazy Boy, good cond., blue, \$250, 858-587-2506; Entertainment Center, wood look, holds TV, Electronics, Ample Storage, \$100, 858-587-2506; '99 Chevy Camaro, red excel. cond. V6, auto, 36K, \$15,000, 858-273-0947; Electric Dryer, Works like a charm, \$50, 858-292-5883; Farm style dining rm. Table w/4 chairs, \$40, 858-292-5883; Oak bedroom furn., twin bed w/drawers, dresser, bookshelf & desk, \$700, 858-279-6965; USD CLAD books & tapes 1-4, \$35 ea., 619-299-4963; '98 VW Jetta GLX, V6, 56K, excl. cond., \$13,000/obo, 619-670-1632; Exercise bike, \$150, 858-578-3636; Antique, Singer sewing mach., \$100/obo, 858-578-3636; Bicycle, Bianchi, 21 spd, hybrid, \$600 new, asking \$150, excl. cond., 858-569-8463; Aquarium, 100gal., stand, accessories, good cond., \$325, 858-442-1291; Oak veneer computer armoire, \$350 new, asking \$150, 858-505-0182; Manufactured, 3bd/2ba newer home, many upgrades, family park, \$120,000, 858-505-0182; '99 Ford truck, F150, new tires, great cond., \$12,500, 619-276-9677; 8 lrg. dining chairs, pine, \$30 ea., orig. \$85 ea., 858-483-7311; Children's books, class sets, BBKS, Theme pack, preK-3<sup>rd</sup>, 619-807-7761; '99 Honda Civic EX, take over paymts., \$386/mo., 858-204-8425; '01 Kawasaki Ninja, excl. cond. full warranty, 08/05, low mileage, 619-281-3955; '93 Lexus ES-300, excl. cond., 113K, 619-463-4362 (after 4:30 pm); Sofa, botanical pat., stainsafe protection, \$275, 619-448-9978; Teak desk, w/file drawer plus 3 others, \$135, 619-523-5044; **For Rent:** Plush cabin in Idyllwild, 3bd/2.5ba, great view, \$200 a wknd, 858-391-1038.