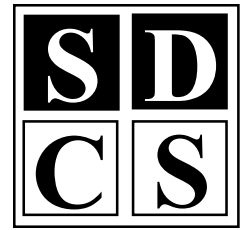


# Staff Bulletin

For the employees of San Diego City Schools



Vol. 76

November 6, 2002

No. 23

## Happy Birthday Proposition MM!

The following article was submitted to the Union-Tribune for publication as an opinion piece by Gil Johnson, chair of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC). The ICOC is a volunteer citizens advisory group that monitors the implementation of Proposition MM.

Four years ago, 78 percent of San Diego voters passed Prop. MM, a \$1.5 billion bond measure that resulted from the largest review of school facilities in San Diego City Schools' history. Roofs were leaking, pipes were bursting, and classrooms lacked electrical outlets to operate computers. Overcrowding had become a huge problem; portable classrooms had overtaken playground space. San Diego's children needed new and modernized school facilities.

Prop. MM sought to fund major repairs and renovation at 165 existing schools, construction of 16 new or rebuilt schools, 160 new classrooms, 104 new libraries, 40 new science buildings, 84 new instructional support rooms, classroom technology, new



Students and school district officials cut the red ribbon on the new Proposition MM library at Sequoia Elementary on the four-year anniversary of the bond measure.

playground equipment, and improvements to allow access to the physically disabled so all students can achieve in a safe and healthy environment.

Today, Prop. MM is on track to accomplish the work on its agenda as promised to voters – a claim that few large urban school districts can make – and serves as a critical backdrop to supporting teaching

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## An Update on the DWA Program

The most significant information technology investment ever undertaken by San Diego City Schools is moving forward on schedule. The first steps toward implementing the new District Wide Applications (DWA) are already underway.

The DWA process began last fall, as part of the Business Operations Branch's (BOB) strategy to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the district's operations. With the implementation of the DWA, the district will meet its long-term goal to provide information systems that are dependable, cost effective, efficient and flexible. Specifically, the DWA will provide new, integrated information systems for Student Information, Human Resources and Finance.

"The district's current office applications are no longer a viable solution for the business needs of an organization the size and complexity of San Diego City Schools. For years we have struggled with the reporting capabilities that are required by federal and local agencies as we go about our daily business. Our business processes are based on a (paper) system that is slow and inefficient for our current business

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

### Lance Lareau

#### Proposition MM Project Manager

Before construction workers pour foundations and painters start painting, Proposition MM work at our schools has to be scoped, designed, budgeted and scheduled. Prop. MM project managers like Lance Lareau handle these behind-the-scenes details for every aspect of each school's Prop. MM projects. From start to finish, they work closely with the outside architect and school community on design plans, then monitor the budget and schedule during construction.

"The project manager makes sure the project is on time and on budget while delivering the scope of work committed to in Proposition MM," said Chuck Brown, supervising project manager. "Lance Lareau epitomizes the project manager as the consummate professional, taking complete ownership of his projects."

That professionalism was instilled in Lance at a young age when he began working with his father, Richard, an architect.

"My father designed Burbank, Doyle and McKinley Elementary Schools," Lance said. "When I was in tenth grade, I helped my dad with the drafting on Doyle."

Lance's interest in design grew while he attended Cabrillo Elementary School, Dana Junior High (as it was called then)



and Point Loma High School. The San Diego native earned his degree in architecture at University of California,

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# Proposition MM 4th Anniversary

(Continued from page one)

and learning in our neighborhood schools. This wasn't the case just two years ago. Prop. MM was slow out of the gate, and the school district was unprepared to handle a program of this magnitude. But the program made a major turnaround when the district recruited Lou Smith, a retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral who served as the Navy's Chief of Civil Engineers and head of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C., to lead Prop. MM.

The Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, an advisory group established as part of the bond measure, closely monitors Smith, his team and Prop. MM

expenditures. As watchdogs for the citizens of San Diego, we walk school campuses, review project planning documents, monitor community meetings and examine audit reports to verify the district is effectively using citizens' tax dollars. San Diegans should be proud of the remarkable progress to date:

• **Modernizing existing schools:** Renovation and repair work is ongoing year-round at 80 schools at any given time. Prop. MM efforts are beyond our expectations and, in some cases, two years ahead of schedule.

• **Building new schools:** We're pleased that sites have been selected for five of the 16 new/rebuilt schools. Ellen Browning Scripps

Modular Elementary School opened in September 2001, and most other new schools will open by Fall 2006. This year, the American Planning Association gave a first place award to the Prop. MM New Schools Site Selection Process for the district's community-oriented approach to selecting sites for new schools.

• **Local commitment:** We continue to press the district to support the local economy. San Diego City Schools has awarded 97 percent of Prop. MM contract dollars to San Diego-based firms.

• **Contractor outreach:** We have also emphasized the importance of an aggressive business outreach strategy. As a result, the district has awarded 37 percent of contract dollars to Emerging Business enterprises, with 17 percent going to disadvantaged-, women-owned- and disabled veterans-business enterprises, and 20 percent going to small business enterprises.

• **Fiscal responsibility:** This year, two of the world's leading credit firms, Moody's and Standard & Poors, gave AA ratings for Prop. MM general obligation bonds, the highest rating given to any California school district. The San Diego County Taxpayers' Association awarded Prop. MM the Golden Watchdog Award for efficient use of taxpayers' dollars.

• **Independent audits:** As part of the bond measure, the ICOC is committed to completing independent financial audits of Prop. MM. The 2000-2001 financial audit was completed by KPMG with satisfactory results; the 2001-2002 audit will soon be underway. We're also conducting specific project and quality audits to ensure schools receive the promised improvements.

Despite the good news, challenges lie ahead. We're closely watching two major cost pressures: the rising costs of land in San Diego and costs associated with bringing schools in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fortunately, school district staff have foreseen these cost pressures and are developing strategies to ensure the bond program is completed. The ICOC will continue to represent the citizens of San Diego to make the public aware of these ongoing challenges.

As Prop. MM celebrates four years of implementation, the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee congratulates the team at San Diego City Schools and thanks San Diego voters who made it all possible.

## Scenes from Schools

Silver Gate Elementary's gone buggy! The school entered a national contest with the Smithsonian Institution last year and ended up being the big winner in San Diego. The prize was a visit by a traveling exhibit called "Insect Safari," which is making its rounds among 100 communities throughout the U.S. As part of the contest, the school had to develop a lesson, project and video to match the ECO lab theme of Rainforests.

If you have 30 dozen donuts and 130 dads, what does it make? It makes the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Donuts with Dads Day" hosted by the Sunset View Elementary Dads Club. Students were invited to bring dads,



granddads, uncles or the important men in their lives to the morning event. Moms were nowhere to be seen, and were, in fact, not allowed! In addition to being a fun experience for all involved, "Donuts with Dads Day" celebrates and recognizes the importance of fathers and other male role-models in their children's activities. "Sunset View wants to reinforce with males their

importance and the positive difference their involvement can make in their children's academic success," said Dan Mashburn, Silver Gate dad. All the different dads had such a good time getting to know each other, they've already started planning their next event - an overnight campout on the baseball field at Point Loma Nazarene College - the school's Partner in Education.

As part of "Taylor Guitars for Schools," the San Diego Music Awards Foundation teamed with the San Diego CityBEAT Magazine and Taylor Guitars to create a unique program to provide music instruction in the San Diego City Schools. To date, Jackson and Longfellow elementary schools and Mt. Everest Academy have been awarded guitars as part of the program, which donates between 24 and 30 "Baby" Taylor guitars - perfect for the small hands of elementary school students - to each site. District music teachers provide guitar instruction in the innovative program. For more information, visit <http://www.sdmusicawards.com>.

Local author Pam Munoz Ryan visited Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary for the school's Author Day. She talked with the students about her writing and about leading "writerly lives." The students were especially excited to find out that Ryan taught her dogs how to read! Ryan is the author of several children's books, including the 2001 American Library Notable Book "Esperanza Rising."



Getting to Know:

## Lance Lareau

(Continued from page one)  
Berkeley.

Lance has worked in the architectural field for two decades – 10 of those years as an architect. Previously, he worked for a prestigious San Diego firm, McGraw-Baldwin, where he worked on projects for Legoland, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla Cancer Center, Point Loma Nazarene College and San Diego State University's library and student commons. He joined the Prop. MM team as a project manager two years ago.

"Clearly what I like most about working with the district is being able to help schools and improve the learning environment for children," he said. "As with all public projects, the challenge is solving the budgetary problem of providing the most school for the least amount of money."

Lance's current Prop. MM projects include his alma maters: Point Loma High School and Dana Middle School. He is also overseeing the largest and most complex Prop. MM project to date – the rebuilding and expansion of Lincoln High School.

"Lincoln has been a great process for me personally," Lance explained. "The district and the community had to address the challenge of how to demolish and rebuild the school on the existing campus without disrupting teaching and learning. We sought community input, and the community walked through the process with us. When I was an architect, I never had the opportunity to participate in community outreach like this, so it's been rewarding to get the community, parents and students on board."

"It's also been eye-opening to see Lincoln from other people's perspectives – not only the people who live in the homes that will be acquired for the school expansion, but those who don't."

Projects like those at Lincoln, Point Loma and Dana are not only rewarding to Lance as professional and an alumni, but they're personal because he is a parent. He and his wife of 8 years, Lisa, have three girls – Emily, 7; Natalie, 4; and Nina, 8 months. Emily attended Cabrillo Elementary School until the family's recent move to East County. Lance was the parent representative on the Design Task Force for Dana's Prop. MM project.

By Cynthia Reed-Porter

## People & Places

**Life Skills Program Manager John Miranda** has been selected as the recipient of the **Debi Nixon Education Award** for his commitment, dedication and support for substance abuse prevention in San Diego County. The award was presented by the **San Diego Prevention Coalition** at its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Red Ribbon Celebration. The coalition is a partnership between Senator Dede Alpert, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the San Diego County Office of Education, the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, Californians for Drug-Free Youth and the California Border Alliance Group. The Red Ribbon campaign continues to symbolize a unified and visible commitment for millions of Americans who show they are united for a drug-free America. John's award was named for Debi Nixon, a Life Skills Program Coordinator who dedicated much of her career to serving San Diego City Schools students before passing away earlier this year.

**Science Department Program Manager Bonnie Schindler** has been selected as a recipient of the **California Science Education Advisory Committee's (CSEAC) Administrator of the Year Award** for her dedicated leadership and support of science instructional in San Diego. The award is a statewide recognition of the importance of administrative support for systemic reform. The award is given in conjunction with the annual **California Science Teacher Association (CSTA) Convention Leadership Luncheon**, held October 25<sup>th</sup>.



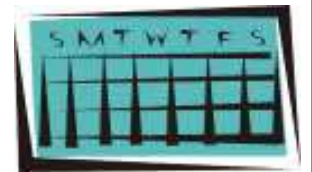
The annual **Day of Concern**, a national gun-safety observance held October 24 at schools districtwide, included some special guests at Roosevelt Middle School. **Ples Felix** and **Azim Khamisa** from the **Tariq Khamisa Foundation**, left, joined in the observance at Roosevelt with **Superintendent Alan Bersin**. The shooting death of Azim's 20-year-old son, Tariq, at the hands of Ples' grandson, Tony Hicks, a 14-year-old gang member, brought Ples and Azim together. The two men forged a unique friendship and bond, and together formed the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to break the epidemic of youth violence.

## Looking Ahead

The ninth annual "**Taste of the Triangle**" benefiting schools in the University City area, will be Thursday, November 21, 2002, at 7 p.m. in the La Jolla Marriott's Grand Ballroom. The event is sponsored by **EdUCate**, the University City Foundation for Public Schools, which has distributed nearly \$300,000 to language arts, math, science, technology, social studies and arts programs for the purchase of supplemental materials and supplies. The evening will include food from several University City-area restaurants and bakeries and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30 in advance, and \$40 at the door. For more information or for a ticket form, contact EdUCate at (858) 677-0989.

The fifth annual "**Garfield High School Thanksgiving Gourmet Luncheon**" will be Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at the Prado restaurant in Balboa Park, from noon-2 p.m. The Garfield High School ROP Culinary Arts Class will prepare the luncheon with top chefs from the Cohn Restaurant Group. The students will also box 200 Thanksgiving lunches for local homeless citizens. Tickets are \$20 per person, or \$200 for a table of 10. For more information or to order tickets, please call (619) 525-2059, ext. 1112.

**The San Diego Children's Museum** is holding an artful garage sale, in preparation for demolition and re-development of a brand new facility. Two- and three-dimensional art, an airplane, even half of a Mercedes Benz will be available for sale. Items will be sold by the piece, with prices starting at \$1. The garage sale will be held Saturday, December 7, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, free for children 18 and under. For more information, visit the museum website at [www.sdchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.sdchildrensmuseum.org).



## Student Salutes



For the 14<sup>th</sup> year, **San Diego High** students have shown their exceptional writing ability by the winning the **National Council of Teachers of English Achievement**

**Award in Writing.** This year's winners are **LaToya Lee** and **Jennifer Paton**. In their junior year, they were selected to represent San Diego High in this prestigious national writing competition. The students wrote a creative piece and sat for a timed essay. San Diego High students have received more awards at this competition than any other student group in the nation.

Other San Diego High School student notables:

**Anamaria Robles** was one of 60 students nationwide selected through an essay competition on diversity to participate in the **Stanford University Fall Visitation Program**. Anamaria is a National Hispanic Scholar.

**Jade Smith** was recently selected to participate in the **National Youth Leadership Forum on Law** in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in law and justice, Jade will join approximately 350 outstanding high school students from across the U.S. at the Forum.

**Michael Ward** was one of 200 students selected nationwide to participate in the **Carleton College Liberal Arts Experience** for African American youth.

**The next Staff Bulletin will appear Sept. 4. Deadline for submissions is Aug 23. Please note that deadlines are final and cannot be extended. Staff Bulletin is on the web site.**

### Staff Bulletin

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Editor: Ursula Kroemer

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Staff Bulletin

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## An Update on the DWA

*(Continued from page one)*

needs," said Mike Casey, program manager of the DWA.

"By updating our decades-old technology with the latest systems, we will be able to employ current best practices, as well as minimize redundancy (such as dual-entry in multiple systems) and reduce manual processes and paperwork," said Casey. The return on investment of these systems will provide considerable savings, which will be dedicated to supporting teaching and learning.

The following are some of the more frequently-asked questions about the DWA:

### How did the DWA project get started?

The DWA project began on November 27, 2001, when the board approved (5-0) the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP). In February 2002, the RFP for the new information systems was released. After careful consideration by a team of over 50 employees from throughout the district, the following applications were selected and presented to the Board on August 6, 2002: PeopleSoft for Human Resources and Finance, Zangle by C-Innovations for Student Information System, and 4GL School Systems for Special Education information. "We are confident that PeopleSoft, Zangle and 4GL are the best products to help us meet our goals," said Casey.

### Where are we now?

A separate RFP for assistance in implementing the PeopleSoft Human Resources and Financial systems was released in early August. The proposals have been evaluated and an implementation partner will be recommended to the Board on November 12. (C-Innovations and 4GL will provide assistance in implementing the Student and Special Ed systems.) "We're now finalizing the contracts to be presented to the Board for approval on November 12. Once approved, we'll begin the process of implementing the solutions. At that point, releases will be scheduled and published," said Casey.

### What kind of training can we expect?

The DWA team also takes training and support for district employees seriously. "We are absolutely committed to making sure you remain informed of the process, that you have a sense of the timeline involved, and that you have more than adequate training and support," said Casey. "We know it can be very frustrating to adapt to new systems without proper training and support, especially if they've been talked up a great deal. We won't let that happen here. You can monitor our progress by visiting the DWA page on the main website at <http://www.sandi.net/dwa>. There's a new DWA Fact Sheet available on the web now, and we'll continue to make sure progress is reported to you through the Staff Bulletin and through Newsline."

## 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:** '94 Ford Escort, 120K, 4dr., runs strong, \$1,890/obo, 619-475-7633/619-252-2528; Kenmore sewing machine, Ultra-stitch 12 w/attachments, extra thread, \$50, 619-282-3689; Exercise bike, \$15, 858-578-3636; Antique 'Chickering' player piano, all original ivory keyboard, \$550, 619-579-9872; Kiln, elementary school, 110 volts, three settings, manual shut-off, \$350, 619-294-8831; '92 Daihatsu Rocky, 4 x 4, soft top, great cond. \$2,500/obo, 619-223-1070; Dining table w/4 chairs, black, w/smoke glass top, good cond. \$100, 858-668-0986; '96 Ford Ranger XLT, 5spd., 103K, good cond. \$4,800, 619-264-6464; Bird cage, black, like new, \$25, Baby Graco swing, \$40, Symphony mobile, \$30, Infant Girl clothes, 858-715-0919; Mens golf clubs w/bag, 3-9 irons, 1,3, woods, \$125, 858-569-8463; Dining chairs, 2 high back upholstered, taupe/black, \$60 ea., 858-455-5330;

**For Rent:** Lrg. upstairs, 2bd/2ba, w/d, North Park, \$1,300, 619-276-6078; El Cajon house, 3bd/2ba, w/garage, \$1,800, 619-445-6019; La Jolla/UTC, 2bd/2ba, 2 car gar., walk-in closet, \$1,375, 619-427-7500;

**Wanted:** Indian arrowheads or metates, must be authentic, 619-222-8562; Carpool partner, No. County to Serra Mesa area, 760-758-9454.