

## Superintendent's Monthly Update

Poway Unified School District  
November/December 2005

Donald A. Phillips, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

### TOPICS:

- ◆ Superintendent's Message
- ◆ District Recognition
- ◆ School and Community Holiday Projects
- ◆ Student Recognition
- ◆ Staff Recognition
- ◆ National Board Certified Teachers
- ◆ Calendar

Dear Parents and Community Members,

We are so fortunate to work in a community that values quality education and actively partners with our schools to help us collectively ensure your children have every opportunity to realize their potential. We hope that during the holidays you have the opportunity to encourage your children to dream about their future and to discuss the importance of education as the key pathway to success.

We feel very privileged as educators in Poway Unified to have so many talented and thoughtful students. We know that you are their primary teachers, and we are very thankful for the outstanding and wonderful children you send to our classrooms and schools each and every day.

On behalf of the Board of Education and Poway Unified School District, I wish you a very special holiday season.

Warm regards,

Don Phillips  
Superintendent

### VISIT THE DISTRICT WEB SITE

For more information about the Poway Unified School District,  
please visit our Web site at <http://www.powayusd.com>

## DISTRICT RECOGNITION

*These are examples of the fine accomplishments occurring at our schools every day.*

- **Poway Unified School District** received a Best Academic Practice School District Gold Award for Outstanding Efforts in Education from the San Diego County Urban League. The award was given at the Fourth Annual "Best Academic Practices Schools for African American Students" Awards Ceremony on December 3, 2005. The Gold Award recognizes the achievements of African American students as indicated by API scores ranging from 747-799. Poway Unified has a district API score for African American students of 755.
- **Lynn Grindstaff** and **Pat Carlisle**, Elementary Library Media Technicians at Painted Rock and Park Village, initiated a districtwide book drive for Katrina victims to restock school libraries in Harrison County, Mississippi. These libraries, mostly located in Gulfport, were completely devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Enlisting the support of school library and library techs at **31 of our schools**, students, parents, and community members donated just over **60,000 books**. Allied Van Lines of Poway donated shipping the 31,000 pounds of materials, which completely filled one large moving van. Other donations included 1,500 boxes from Houghton Mifflin Publisher, boxes and packing materials from Rancho Bernardo Moving, and various community donations such as \$500 from BAE Systems and \$500 from Poway resident Wilma Townsend.
- Our Poway Unified school communities are reaching out in many ways to help others during this holiday season. Several of the holiday projects in which students and staff are participating include:

### **Adobe Bluffs**

Food Drive (Kiwanis)  
Adopt-a-Family  
Community Holiday Store  
Toys for Tots

### **Canyon View**

Adopt-a-Family (San Diego Police Dept. SWAT Team)  
Donations to assist setting up shelter for Katrina families with autistic children

### **Chaparral**

Food Drive (Interfaith Community Services)  
Adopt-a-Family  
Sack lunches for low-income and homeless families  
Coat drive  
Coin collecting for Farr Elementary Garden (Sister School)  
Recycle collection: Money for orphanage in Mexico  
Foster Care blankets  
Letters to Fire Fighter/Military  
Singing carols at Remington Club  
Spanish greeting cards to children of Tijuana

Chaparral ESS - Holiday Toy Drive

### **Creekside**

Adopt-a-Family Angel (trees for 10 local families)

### **Deer Canyon**

San Diego Food Bank  
Toys for Tots  
Adopt-a-Family

### **Garden Road**

Family Caroling to a local assisted living facility  
Food Drive (Interfaith Community Council)  
Six Giving Trees for Palomar Council PTA

<b>Highland Ranch</b>	Adopt-a-Family Toy Drive
<b>Los Peñasquitos</b>	Organized Adopt-a-Family for Los Pen families San Diego Police Department Holiday Party for Kids Cookie sale fundraiser for Katrina victims through American Red Cross Tree decorating at Doubletree
<b>Midland</b>	Adopt-a-Family (3 local families) Adopt-a-Family (7 families coordinated with local businesses) Gift cards (Wal-Mart) for 7 Katrina families
<b>Morning Creek</b>	Adopt-a-Family Chores for Charity (MCES Student Council) Canned Food Drive (PTA) Toy Drive (PTA)
<b>Painted Rock</b>	Gift Cards and donations for Needy Families in Community Teddy bears handmade by fifth graders (North County Interfaith Council) Post Holiday Food Drive (Student Council) Handmade fleece blankets (Fourth Grade) Pen Pals with Seniors (Third Grade) Singing for Seniors at Joselyn Center (Third Grade) Christmas Tree Decorations at the Nelson House in Old Poway Park
<b>Park Village</b>	Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving meals to Los Peñasquitos families
<b>Pomerado</b>	Canned Food Drive (San Diego Food Bank) Holiday Songs at Brookview Retirement Home Caring Coins (Donations for needy families)
<b>Rolling Hills</b>	Adopt-a-Family Canned Food Drive Student Council coin drive for local military families for the holidays
<b>Shoal Creek</b>	Handmade teddy bears donated to local charities Doctors without Borders - \$942 donation Operation Gratitude letters to troops Goodie bags for Villa Pomerado Convalescent Center Adopt-a-Family
<b>Stone Ranch</b>	UNICEF Classroom bake sale for Katrina victims The Giving Tree Teddy Bear Project Adopt-a-Family
<b>Sundance</b>	Adopt-a-Family Food Drive (San Diego Food Bank) Letters to Military Personnel "Giving Tree" holiday gifts for a needy family (PTA)
<b>Sunset Hills</b>	San Diego Food Bank Letters to Military Personnel

<b>Tierra Bonita</b>	Habitat for Humanity (continuation of collecting coins for Katrina Disaster) Adopt-a-Family Food Drive (San Diego Food Bank)
<b>Turtleback</b>	Toys for Tots Shoeboxes for the Needy Food Drive (November - Scouts) Clothing Drive (January and end-of-year - Scouts) Adopt-a-Family Care packages for the VA Hospital Caroling at Retirement Center
<b>Valley</b>	Hands to Hearts Adopt-a-Family (Kiwanis) Canned Food Drive
<b>Westwood</b>	Canned Food Drive (San Diego Food Bank) Adopt-a-Family (through Los Peñasquitos Elementary School) Caroling at Casa de las Campanas
<b>Bernardo Heights</b>	Food Drive (San Diego Food Bank) Adopt-a-Family
<b>Black Mountain</b>	Adopt-a-Family BMMS ( <u>B</u> eanies, <u>M</u> ittens, and <u>M</u> atching <u>S</u> ocks) to five local shelters
<b>Meadowbrook</b>	Adopt-a-Family Canned Food Drive
<b>Mesa Verde</b>	\$7000 for Katrina victims Operation Shoe Box Adopt-a-Family (9 local families)
<b>Oak Valley</b>	Adopt-a-Family Toys for Tots Holiday Food Drive
<b>Twin Peaks</b>	Adopt-a-Family Canned Food Drive \$3900 for Ocean Springs Middle School, near Biloxi, Mississippi
<b>New Directions</b>	"Giving Tree" for Katrina victims Care packages to military personnel who were former New Directions students
<b>Abraxas</b>	S.A.F.E. Center Food Drive to assist Abraxas families Holiday cards/supplies to the military Aid to families in Mexico
<b>Mt. Carmel</b>	Adopt-a-Family Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving Dinner Wheel Chair Foundation Animal food and donations for animal shelters Teddy bears for children who are victims of domestic violence

**Poway** Toys for an orphanage in Mexico  
Toys for Tots  
Adopt-a-Family  
Canned Food Drive  
Collection for local women's shelters  
Adopted families for Thanksgiving  
Collected blankets, food, and clothes for the homeless  
Helped feed the homeless at Thanksgiving  
Free gift-wrapping for staff (provided by peer counselors)  
Bike for Kids

**Rancho Bernardo** Canned Food Drive  
Adopt-a-Family  
New books and food to benefit Los Peñasquitos Elementary School  
Collect blankets, jackets, and socks for homeless  
Stocking stuffers for 400 foster children (Friends and Family)  
Assist at Foster Family Party and Los Pen Family Night

**Westview** Adopt-a-Family  
Letters to soldiers in Iraq  
San Diego Canned Food Bank

**Business Support Services and Administration Center** Salvation Army Toy Drive

- Schools and staff throughout the school district responded to a request to write letters and send donations to troops serving in Iraq. The following schools joined in the 2005 Support Our Troops Letter Writing and Donations Campaign:

**Adobe Bluffs Elementary School**  
**Bernardo Heights Middle School**  
**Canyon View Elementary School**  
**Creekside Elementary School**  
**Deer Canyon Elementary School**  
**Los Peñasquitos Elementary School**  
**Meadowbrook Middle School**  
**Mesa Verde Middle School**  
**Midland Elementary School**  
**Morning Creek Elementary School**  
**Mt. Carmel High School**  
**Oak Valley Middle School**  
**Painted Rock Elementary School**  
**Rancho Bernardo High School**  
**Rolling Hills Elementary School**  
**Turtleback Elementary School**  
**Twin Peaks Middle School**  
**Westwood Elementary School**  
**Partners in Education**

Many schools and PUSD departments participate in the Adopt-a-Family program organized by Palomar Council PTA. The following are among those who have volunteered this year:

**Learning Support Services and Extended Student Services**  
**Partners in Education/Youth Programs**  
**Personnel Support Services**  
**Special Education/Health Services**  
**Superintendent's Office**  
**Transportation Department**

- **Chaparral Elementary School** was one of ten schools in the nation recognized as a 2005 National School of Character at the Character Education Partnership National Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. The National Schools of Character Program, now in its ninth year, recognized K-12 schools and districts demonstrating outstanding character education initiatives that produce positive results in school climate, student behavior, and academic performance. Winners emphasize core ethical values such as honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring. Chaparral received a cash award of \$2000.
- The "**No Excuses University**" at **Los Peñasquitos Elementary School** received the Channel 8 Cool School Award. The segment aired November 4. An on-going promotion for Cool School nominees will feature Los Peñasquitos students.
- **Poway High School's** Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) chapter was selected to receive a \$1000 grant from the ESA Foundation through the National Association of SAVE. The grant is to be used to enhance and expand SAVE activities in the school and surrounding community.

### STUDENT RECOGNITION

- **Sarah Thead**, Poway High School junior, has been named to the Hewlett-Packard Scholastic Junior All-Americans by the American Junior Golf Association and Hewlett-Packard. The 2005 team consists of ten young men and ten young women who demonstrate the ability to excel both on the golf course and in the classroom. Sarah will be eligible to participate in the Polo Golf Junior Classic taking place November 19-25 at Sea Island Golf Club in Sea Island, Georgia.
- **Arianna Afsar**, freshman at Westview High School, has been awarded scholarships totaling \$25,000 for achieving First Runner Up in the Miss America Outstanding Teen event in August.
- **Emily Yang**, fourth grader at Deer Canyon, placed in the top ten from over 600 entries in the Time Soldiers essay contest, which is sponsored by the San Diego Union Tribune. Emily was recognized at the Kroc Center during Literacy Day and was presented an award
- The following high school students have been accepted to participate in the Southern California Honor Choir at Orange Coast College on November 19:

#### Poway High School

**Allison Barnes**, junior  
**Gary Barnes**, sophomore  
**Katie Chludzinski**, senior  
**Amanda Eldreth**, junior  
**Abigail Frisch**, junior  
**Rebekah Helms**, senior  
**Karen Hoey**, senior  
**Alisha Kassel**, senior  
**Chase Kassel**, sophomore  
**Ben Rollins**, senior  
**Chris Rossio**, junior  
**Conor Tibbs**, junior

#### Rancho Bernardo High School

**Alize Rozsnyai**, junior

#### Westview High School

**Alicia Archambault**, junior  
**Rufina Bavin**, junior  
**Anastashia Blanch**, junior  
**Mandy Gill**, senior  
**Anthony Lagar**, senior  
**Kezia Liu**, junior  
**Lauren Steffler**, senior  
**Andrew Sykes**, junior  
**Paul Yoon**, senior

### STAFF RECOGNITION

- **Keith Koelzer**, Rancho Bernardo High School teacher, was selected by the Scottish Rite of Freemasons as their Teacher of the Year. Keith and the three other San Diego County Teachers of the Year were honored by the Freemasons on November 2, 2005. Each teacher

received a plaque and check for \$250 in recognition of his/her work. Keith received an additional check for \$750 and a second plaque for his special recognition.

- **Marissa Ochoa**, fourth grade teacher at Valley Elementary, received the Virginia Reid Scholarship Award from the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE). The award encourages professional involvement and provides a scholarship to the annual CATE convention. Marissa is being honored as an exemplary K-6 teacher with fewer than five years experience. She will be honored in Anaheim in January.
- **Wayne Branstetter**, Poway High School's wrestling coach for the past 27 years, was honored by the Poway City Council at its October 25 meeting. The City Council presented Wayne with a plaque to recognize his demonstration of excellence in coaching, promoting character among athletes, and inspiring young men to achieve their personal best.
- Several workshops will be presented by members of our Extended Student Services staff at the Early Years Conference on November 17, 2005. **Lori Williams** and **Katie Whitney**, preschool teacher and instructional assistant at Westview High School, will present, "Literacy at Home... It's in the Bag." "Redirecting Children's Behavior – Time Out is OUT!" will be presented by **Sharon Dutton**, preschool teacher at Oak Valley Middle School, and **Denise Dukellis**, preschool teacher at Stone Ranch Elementary, will present "The Standards Pathway: Preschool and Kindergarten Language Arts."
- **Kathlyn Roberts**, Director of Extended Student Services, presented two workshops titled, "Standards Development: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How," that focused on developing preschool standards at the Fall Conference of the Southern California Valley Association for the Education of Young Children at Pierce College in Woodland Hills on October 29, 2005.
- **Brenda Connors**, New Directions counselor, and **Dorothy Long**, New Directions teacher, presented a workshop on "Streamlining the Independent Study Enrollment Process" and **Elaine Cofrancesco**, Executive Director of Student Support Services, facilitated an "Advanced Compliance" workshop at the California Consortium of Independent Study (CCIS) fall conference in Palm Springs on October 12-14. The conference focused on effective practices to improve student achievement and addressed nine Essential Program components for instructional success and the use of interventions and embedded assessments in targeting appropriate instruction for students.

#### **TEACHERS RECEIVE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION**

- Seven Poway Unified School District teachers earned National Board Certification for 2005 based on extensive year-long assessments. The assessments measure not only the knowledge teachers possess, but the actual use of their skills and the ability to demonstrate highly accomplished teaching in the classroom as they work to improve student learning. These teachers join others who received recognition from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in previous years, bringing the total to 106 teachers in PUSD who have earned this distinction.

The Poway Unified teachers earning certification for 2005 are:

**Robert Kinder**, Stone Ranch Elementary School, Grade 4 Teacher  
**Tanya MacMartin**, Bernardo Heights Middle School, Science Teacher  
**Katharine Murphy**, Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher  
**Dena Riedl**, Sundance Elementary School, Grades K-2 Special Education Teacher  
**Vickie Stowe**, Black Mountain Middle School, Grades 7/8 Teacher  
**Jan Van Horne**, Twin Peaks Middle School, Resource Specialist  
**Robert Voelkel**, Oak Valley Middle School, Grades 7/8 Teacher

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, based in Arlington, Virginia, began certifying teachers in 1995. Since 1995, there have been 3,379 teachers in California who have received certification (California has a total of 300,000 public school teachers). California certified 298 teachers this year, ranking seventh in the nation in national certification.

#### CALENDAR

Dec 19 - Jan 2	Winter Break
Jan 16	Martin Luther King Day [no school]
Jan 17	PUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7 pm Morning Creek Elementary School
Feb 13	PUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7 pm Morning Creek Elementary School
Feb 20 - 24	District Recess/Lincoln, Washington Holidays

#### VISIT THE PUSD SAFE SCHOOLS WEB SITE

For information about Megan's Law from the Office of the California Attorney General including:

**How to Protect Yourself and Your Family**  
**Information on Registered Sex Offenders**  
**Facts about Sex Offenders**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Parent Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Planning Guide**  
**Student Internet Safety**  
**Ways Parents Can Help Their Children During Difficult Times**  
**Coping with Children's Reactions to Tragedy and Disaster**  
**Measures that Contribute to Safe Schools**