

SWEETWATER'S SUPER FIVE

Outstanding teachers from the district are being recognized for their passion, commitment and creativity in the classroom.

The following five faculty members have been selected as finalists to represent Sweetwater in the San Diego County Teacher of the Year competition. Nominated for the honors are:

- Antonio Gutierrez – SUH
- Eric Mabrey – OLH
- Cherylyn Sias – MVH
- Marilyn Stutler – ELM
- Jesus L. Ulloa-Higuera - ELH

EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE CELEBRATED

Staff members at two schools won a catered breakfast to celebrate their sites' attendance record. EastLake Middle School had the highest staff attendance rate for year-round with 78.65%; Bonita Vista High with a 74.17% attendance rate for traditional. At each site, there were also two lucky winners of a \$250 Target Gift Card. At Bonita Vista High the winners were Fred Santillan and Joan Kramer. At EastLake Middle the winners were Marilu Castaneda and Irma Ornelas-Hurtado. After the celebration, a teacher at one of the winning sites suggested that next year, staff members challenge themselves to meet or beat their students' attendance rates. Districtwide, student attendance rates range between 96.13 – 97.78% for middle schools and 86.59 – 96.78% for high schools.

GET MONEY FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

DonorsChoose.org is a resource used by several district teachers over the past few years. The website helps teachers publicize their classroom needs and connect with potential donors.

Teachers submit their proposals for creative, classroom projects to the website. DonorsChoose.org reviews all projects. If approved, the project summary and total cost are posted on the website. Individual donors can search the website and make cash donations towards the projects of their choosing.

For more information on DonorsChoose, please visit the Grants and Communications page on the SUHSD website.

THE SCIENCE OF YOU - EXPO

From the tides to the stars to the inner workings of the human body, you'll find activities and experiments you can put your hands into at the San Diego Science Festival Expo this Saturday, April 4 at Balboa Park.

There will be lots of show and tell by local scientists, but plenty of show and do where you can participate, create, play games and interact. The expo runs from 10:30 am to 6 pm with over 200 booths and 20 performances on a variety of topics aimed to excite attendees of all ages.

And, for one day only, free admission will be offered to The Reuben H Fleet Science Center, The Natural History Museum and The Hall of Champions Sports Museum. Get a map and full schedule at <http://sdsciencefestival.com/performanceschedule.html> online.

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY

Attention Costco members, all 13 wholesale warehouses in San Diego county are inviting Sweetwater employees, families and friends to a special Easter event. Free pictures with the Easter bunny, prizes and refreshments will be offered Saturday, April 4 from 7 to 9 pm. You must be a current Costco member to attend or sign up there and receive \$20 in Costco cash cards.

SENSATIONAL STRINGFEST

District orchestra students invite you to sit back and relax at this year's StringFest. The concert on April 15 will feature performances by the District String Orchestra, District Symphony and groups from six middle schools and nine high schools.

The evening's performances will be led by guest conductor Philip Tyler from Point Loma Nazarene University. A grand finale will be performed by the Point Loma Nazarene University Strings. Enjoy the free event, starting at 7pm in the Eastlake High Gym.

MARIACHI SPRING CONCERT

Come and enjoy Sweetwater student mariachis performing at the Mariachi Spring Concert. The event will take place April 16 at 6 pm at the Olympian High Multipurpose Room. Admission is free and open to the public.

DIRECT DEPOSIT ONLINE PAY STUBS ARE COMING!!

In an effort to become more cost efficient and reduce paper waste, the San Diego County Office of Education will no longer be printing pay stubs for those who are enrolled in direct deposit and only receive a pay stub. This change will be effective with your July 31, 2009 pay warrant.

Employees will be able to view their pay warrants beginning April 30, 2009 and will continue to receive a pay stub through June 30, 2009. After June 30, you will no longer receive a pay stub.

In order to enroll and access your pay information, you will need information that can be found on your current paystubs. So please hold on to your March pay stub.

We hope to have the step-by-step details on how to enroll, view and print your pay stubs on the District's FIRST CLASS All SUHSD section by mid April.

Anyone currently receiving a regular pay warrant will continue to receive a regular check.

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH

April 1 = April Fool's Day

April 16 = School Librarian Day

April 22 = Administrative Professionals Day
(Formerly Secretaries Day)

April 22 = Earth Day

APRIL

Schools Return.....13
Board Meeting.....20



Summer School Update

With students and staff well into second semester and spring recess upon us, summer school is right around the corner. While we hope that all of our students and staff take some time to relax and be with their families, we also hope that many of you will take advantage of the opportunities that summer school provides. This year there are some very important changes that are worth noting.

As you are aware, the Sweetwater District is transitioning into a common calendar beginning next year. Summer break will be six weeks and all Sweetwater District schools will begin the school year on July 27.

To accommodate our new calendar, summer school this year will be a three-week session that runs from June 29 to July 17. This schedule gives students and families an opportunity to enjoy some valuable time off both before, and after the summer session.

A key change to summer school this year is that the three-week session will be for one credit, as opposed to years past where students were able to make up additional credits. Also, priority will be given to students who are enrolling to make up credits as opposed to enrolling for enrichment courses.

This year's summer school sites are:

- Bonita Vista Middle
- Castle Park Middle
- Montgomery Middle
- Rancho del Rey Middle
- Granger Junior
- Bonita Vista High
- Castle Park High
- Eastlake High
- Southwest High
- San Ysidro High

High schools will host incoming grades 10-12, while middle schools will be hosting incoming grades 7-9.

Enrichment courses will be:

- Bonita Vista High - Economics, Health and Government
- Southwest High - Economics, Health and Government
- Southwestern College - American History and Health

Priority registration for summer school will be on May 4 and is given to students living within the summer school boundaries and to students who are most in need, such as repeating courses and seniors needing graduation courses.

Any Sweetwater students who wish to attend a school outside their transportation boundaries can enroll after June 2, given that there is room and that they can provide their own transportation.

Transportation maps will be available at each school's counseling center that will show the areas of attendance. The location of a student's residence, not their usual school of attendance, will dictate their summer school site. Information on bus passes will also be made available at that time.

Students from outside the Sweetwater District will be able to register during the week of June 23, and will be accepted based upon available space.

Finally, this year's Rainbow Graduation will be held on July 17 at 4 pm at the San Ysidro High School stadium. Seniors who meet the requirements to attend this year's summer school Rainbow Graduation will be contacted the first week of summer school with information about the ceremony.

For any additional information, we urge you to contact your school's counseling center or the Special Sessions/ROP office at (619) 498-8860.

As we strive to fulfill our vision of 100% student success, we hope that you will all work with us on ensuring that the new summer school format is a success. Thank you and we hope to see you this summer!

Board of Trustees

Jim Cartmill • Bertha J. López • Pearl Quiñones • Arlie N. Ricasa • Greg R. Sandoval
Dr. Jesus M. Gandara, Superintendent

KUDOS

Nancy Yamada, Hilltop High Counselor, was awarded the Academy Award for the 2009 SPARC (Support Personnel Accountability Report Card) by the California Department of Education and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Russ Sperling, VAPA Director, was recognized as District Administrator of the Year by the California Association for Music Educators Southern Border Section.

Roxanne Ronacher, BVH Teacher, was recognized as Choral Educator of the Year by the California Association for Music Educators Southern Border Section.

Bettina Batista, BVH Principal, was awarded Secondary Administrator of the Year by the California Association for Music Educators Southern Border Section.

Melanie Brown, Academic Support Team, was appointed by the State Board of Education to serve as a member of the Curriculum Framework and Evaluation Criteria Committee for the update of the Science Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through 12 (Science Framework).

Lynn Garcia, HTH Coach, was named the State CIF Model Coach of the Year for Field Hockey.

Bob McKinney, Speech Therapist, will be receiving an "Outstanding Service Award" from the California Speech and Language Hearing Association (CSHA) (District 9).

Margaret Sedor, Psychologist, will be the California Delegate to the National Association of School Psychologists.

Students from **Bruce Groff and Emalee Huls, HTH Teachers**, for winning 11 months in the Sweetwater Authority's calendar photo contest.

SYH School, will receive the Best of the Best Awards from McGraw-Hill Construction.

SYH School, has been selected to receive the Healthy & Ready to Learn Award for exemplary efforts in Coordinated School Health from the San Diego Coordinated School Health Workgroups.

ELH School, will receive the Honorable Mention Award for its exemplary efforts in Coordinated School Health from the San Diego Coordinated School Health Workgroups.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Dianna Carberry, Principal, **ELH**

Karen Janney, Principal, **NCM**

Mary Lawlor, Assistant Principal, **HTH**

Samuel Montes, Principal on Special Assignment, **D.O.**

Lee Romero, Principal, **MOH**

