

May 23, 2006

To: Board Members
From: Tom Bishop
Subject: Staff Members – Employees of the Month

Jake's Del Mar is continuing its support of our educational program by honoring staff members each month who are recognized by their site or department as "Employees of the Month". Jake's provides honorees with a \$30.00 gift certificate.

Employees of the Month for May are:

Ashley Falls	Julie Geisbauer, Technology/ESC Teacher
Carmel Del Mar	Rebecca Jones, 6 th Grade Teacher
Del Mar Heights	Courtney Wildman, 5 th Grade Teacher
Del Mar Hills	Nicole Nelson, Art Teacher
Sage Canyon	Lynn Brooks, 3 rd Grade Teacher
Sycamore Ridge	Brigida Hasler, 5 th Grade Teacher
Torrey Hills	Sarah Keena, Special Day Class & Academic Learning Program

RECOMMENDED: For Information Only; No Action is Required.

May 23, 2006

To: Board Members
From: Tom Bishop
Subject: Staff Recognition – DMUSD 2006 Teacher of the Year

The Board of Trustees and the District are pleased to recognize Becky Zebold, DMUSD 2006 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Zebold has been invited to attend the May 24, 2006 meeting to be recognized by the Board.

Becky Zebold's colleagues at Ashley Falls School regard her as an inspirational teacher leader. Ms. Zebold is the K-6th grade Science Specialist at Ashley Falls, however her talents are not limited to the science classroom alone. She also collaborates with other Ashley Falls enrichment teachers to implement the site's GATE program, she supervises 6th grade lunch, and she collaborates with classroom teachers to ensure an integrated approach to science, seeking out participation from community and corporate sponsors. The Ashley Falls' school community has been enriched because of the dedication of Becky's commitment and leadership.

Cindy Crew, a third grade teacher at Ashley Falls said, "Becky is an outstanding choice for Teacher of the Year. She does so many great things for our school."

Outside of Ashley Falls, Becky Zebold has dramatically impacted the professional development of statewide teachers through the Coast Alive! Program that moves students out of the classroom and into field sites to investigate how tide-pools, lagoons, beaches, and streams interconnect and how human society depends on them. Carol J. Baird, Ph.D., Executive Director of the California Institute for Biodiversity, stated that, "Becky Zebold's impassioned, magnetic energy as a mentor "teacher-of-teachers", has enhanced the professional development experiences of teachers who have participated in workshops on coastal and marine environmental education." Tom Bishop, DMUSD's Superintendent, echoed Dr. Baird's remarks with his own observations: "Ms. Zebold's exuberance for science effectively engages all learners as she challenges them to pursue their individual curiosity about the world in which they live and to make a positive difference." School Board members experienced the exemplary teaching skills of Ashley Falls' Pied Piper in action during a recent school visit!

Ms. Zebold will be recognized at the televised awards ceremony, "A Salute to Teachers", sponsored by Cox Communications, in cooperation with the San Diego County Office of Education, which will be held at the Civic Theater in early October 2006.

The DMUSD Board of Trustees congratulates Becky Zebold as the District's 2006 Teacher of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the Del Mar School District

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May 23, 2006

To: Board Members
From: Janet Bernard
Through: Tom Bishop
Subject: Staff Recognition – DMUSD 2006 Reading Teacher of the Year

The Board of Trustees and the District are pleased to recognize Sophia Tsoukas, Resource Teacher at Del Mar Hills Academy and DMUSD 2006 Reading Teacher of the Year. Ms. Tsoukas has been invited to attend the May 24, 2006 meeting to be recognized by the Board.

Sophia Tsoukas has made many contributions to the Del Mar Hills Academy Learning Community in the area of reading and language arts development for ALL of our students

Ms. Tsoukas' impact on students goes far beyond the four walls of her exemplary Resource Specialist classroom. She has utilized her position as site Resource Specialist teacher as a vehicle to provide the vision and reality of high academic standards for all students. Every child that she works with shows consistent gains year after year on both formative and informative reading assessments. She makes the dream that ALL students can learn a reality each day! Moreover, she makes it a reality for students who do not fit into the neat and tidy mold of the model student.

The word "can't" does not exist in Ms. Tsoukas' vocabulary. She will pursue any and every means at her fingertips to expose students to high interest text, phonics games, enhanced educational technology, and individually tailored instruction. She is continually on the "cutting edge" of researching the most effective teaching practices to meet the needs of our diverse population of students...and she never stops!

A visitor to her program will notice that her day is driven by student need. She works with both the "push-in" and pull-out" model to capitalize on every teachable moment that she can. Moreover, her student-centered style has built capacity for every teacher at our school site. She is a true "on-site-staff-developer, "resource" teacher in every sense of the word. She is a wealth of information to every teacher and parent that she works with. She knows how to share strategies and techniques

that truly helps others make reading come to life for our kids.

Ms. Tsoukas changes lives by teaching children to read. Her commitment to excellence in education translates into a learning environment that cultivates the student as a life-long learner as well as a life-long reader. She is consistently on the forefront of cutting edge instructional practices and is extremely passionate about making reading meaningful for kids. Her differentiated reading program is a direct reflection of the frequent research and professional growth activities that she engages in on a regular basis.

Ms. Tsoukas ability to motivate the elementary learner is extraordinary. She approaches every endeavor with a clear sense of purpose and vision. She may not know it but she is a role model for all of us each day!

Congratulations, Ms. Sophia Tsoukas!

May 24, 2006

To: Board Members
From: Trish Snider
Through: Tom Bishop
Subject: Staff Recognition – 2006 School Nurse of the Year – Mrs. Lori Smiley, R.N.

The Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize Mrs. Lori Smiley, a school nurse at Ashley Falls School, Del Mar Heights School and Del Mar Hills Academy for being selected as the 2006 “School Nurse of the Year” by the North Coast Civic Association (NCCA), California Nurses Association (CNA), and the Coast News Group. Mrs. Smiley has been invited to attend this evening’s meeting to be recognized by the Board.

Trish Snider, DMUSD Director of Pupil Services, enthusiastically nominated Mrs. Smiley. The award is not meant to recognize the “best” nurses, because the profession of nursing requires all nurses to be the “best.” Rather, the nurses selected to receive these awards exemplify, by their exceptional performance, the skills, dedication and care given by all the nurses in their specialty.

Mrs. Snider wrote, “Lori Smiley is an exceptional, highly respected School Nurse in her 10th year with the Del Mar Union School District. Her vision and dedication is worthy of recognition on Florence Nightingale’s birth date as we salute the nurses that give selflessly to promote wellness, awareness, and good health. Mrs. Smiley has assisted our district to grow from three schools in 1996 with only her one position to provide exemplary service to seven schools plus child care programs at all sites serviced by three nurse positions and seven health technicians. Lori, without a doubt, exemplifies the NCCA’s principles of integrity, accountability, harmony and humanity. We are grateful for this opportunity to share Mrs. Lori Smiley’s years of consistent quality of service with all of North County and salute her achievement along with all the other nurses being recognized this year.”

Mrs. Smiley was recognized at the “Salute to Nurses Awards Ceremony on May 12th at the Encinitas Community Center along with nurses representing nineteen additional categories such as Hospice Nurse, Obstetrics Nurse, and Surgical/Medical Nurse.

Congratulations, Lori Smiley!

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May 24, 2006

To: Board Members

From: Tom Bishop

Subject: Staff Recognition – 2006 Innovations in Education Awards Program
Mike Honsberger, Honorable Mention

The Classroom of the Future Foundation announced that Mike Honsberger's, 6th grade teacher at Torrey Hills School, nomination "Grand Conversation for the 21st Century" was recognized as an Honorable Mention at this year's 2006 Innovation in Education Awards Program. The Classroom of the Future Foundation in concert with the San Diego County Office of Education "shine the spotlight" on dedicated education professionals who create programs that promote innovative technology applications in teaching and learning."

Mike Honsberger created the following unique learning project of utilizing blogs to respond to literature.

The Blogging Process: Using a blog hosting website, an account for teacher and students is set up. They are given a writing prompt once a week, which they are required to respond to. The prompt is posted on the teacher's blog page. After thinking through their ideas, they create their document and 'submit' their article for review by the teacher. After receiving the blog in their email the teacher can review and publish the blog, or, comment back for the student to make corrections or clarify their ideas. Students are required to comment on other student's entries, as well. As we practice constructive criticism and praise during commenting, students are learning the etiquette of the read/write web. Our rule is we would never say something in our comments that we would not say directly to the author we are commenting to.

When a student has the ideas but the effort of getting them down on paper is so laborious, blogging offers inherent freedoms: no time limit, writing in the comfort of home, legible text on the computer monitor, and the tools that word processing provide, such as spell check, grammar check, thesaurus and dictionary. The freedom of expression that blogging allows is a powerful ally in sparking a love of writing for all students..

Congratulations, Mike Honsberger!

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May 24, 2006

To: Board Members
From: Tom Bishop
Subject: California Distinguished School Award, Torrey Hills School

Congratulations to the Torrey Hills students, staff, and parents for Torrey Hills recognition as a 2006 California Distinguished School. A three-member validation team of outside evaluators visited Torrey Hills just prior to spring break. At the end of the validation team's visit, it was announced that Torrey Hills was being recommended for a 2006 California Distinguished School Award.

The District appreciates the high expectations and positive attitude of the entire Torrey Hills School community.

Torrey Hills will be invited to attend the State Department of Education ceremony on May 26, 2006 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

RECOMMENDED: For Information Only; No Action is Required.

May 19, 2006

To: Board Members

From: Tom Bishop

Subject: DMUSD Schools Selected for the Inaugural CBEE Honor Roll

The Board is pleased to announce the following DMUSD schools have been recognized on the CBEE Honor Roll:

*Del Mar Heights Elementary
Del Mar Hills Elementary
Sage Canyon Elementary*

California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) was founded in 1999 by major businesses and business organizations to represent the business community in state education policy-making and to restore excellence to California education. Since its inception, CBEE has helped put in place rigorous academic standards for all students, a testing system that measures progress, and an accountability system that reports progress, rewards success, and provides clear consequences for failure. CBEE remains the business community's leading voice for standards, accountability, raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps.

An overview of the California K-12 public schools which were selected for the Honor Roll included the following statement: using data from Just for the Kids-California, the CBEE Foundation has identified and is honoring the highest performing public schools in California that are consistently raising academic achievement and closing the achievement gaps for all students. Our hope is that all schools can learn from the proven best practices of these schools.

The 261 California public schools on the list all have demonstrated consistent high academic achievement and have made tremendous progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

RECOMMENDED: For Information Only.

May 18, 2006

To: Board Members

From: Tom Bishop

Subject: Report: DMCTA President, Jennifer Steinman

DMCTA President, Jennifer Steinman, will be present to give a brief report to the Board.

RECOMMENDED: For Information Only.