

June 20, 2007

To: Members of the Board

From: Tom Bishop

Subject: Article of Interest

Attached is the following article of interest:

11.1 *“Readers rewarded with visit by Padres star”* – Del Mar Times,
May 25, 2007

11.1

Del Mar Times

6/25/07-6/26/07

Readers rewarded with visit by Padres star

By Jim Kerr

Although there may have been some droopy eyelids among Andrea Sleet's fourth-grade class after reading a hefty 1,064 books in a four-week period, those eyes were wide open after a special visit from San Diego Padres outfielder Mike Cameron.

Cameron visited the Del Mar Hills Academy classroom May 15 as a reward for the class placing first in the county-wide "Read With A Pro" contest sponsored by Shea Homes, XX Sports Radio and Ultra Star Cinemas.

Now in its second season, the contest challenges San Diego area school classrooms to read as many books as possible during a one-month period, with the winners receiving the Cameron visit and a trip to Petco Park to see he and his teammates in action.

Either Sleet knows a little something about motivation, or there are some Del Mar kids with a special attachment to their hometown team. This is the second straight year Sleet's class has been the overall reading champ in San Diego County. Last year her class earned a visit from Padre — now Giant — Dave Roberts. It also probably helps that the contest reward might have meant as much to Sleet as it did to her students. An admitted baseball fanatic, Sleet integrates the

sport into her daily curriculum, including math, history and character education.

"It is so exciting to see students become excited about something just by expressing enthusiasm for it yourself," Sleet said.

"Having a professional baseball player visit our class just seemed to bring it all

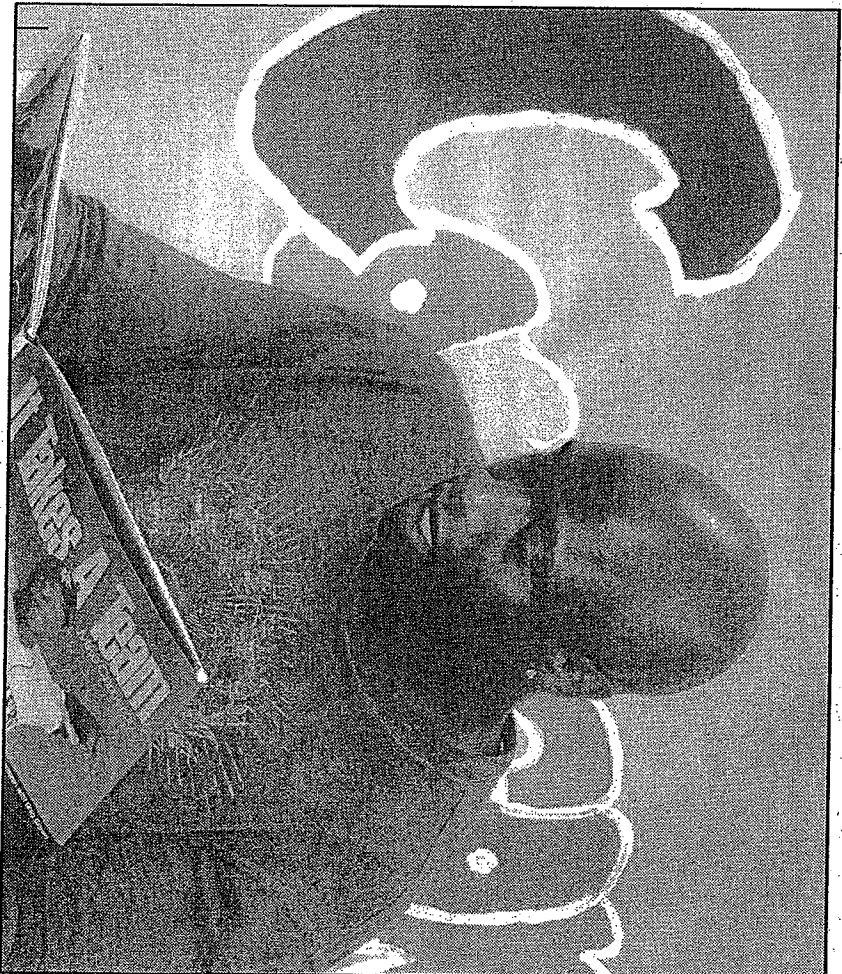
I've learned as I have had kids of my own, that baseball is only one part of my life.

—MIKE CAMERON

"Congratulations you guys," said the Padres star. "1,064 books... that pretty good."

Cameron read passages to the class from his motivational autobiography "It Takes a Team," and fielded questions from students ranging from how he was inspired to become a baseball player to why, when playing in a game for the Seattle Mariners in 2002 during which he had already hit four homers, he elected to lay off a 3-0 fastball down the middle that could have been the pitch to give him a major league record five homers in one game.

For the record, Cameron mentioned something about the unwritten rules of baseball, showing respect for another team when you are up by 10 runs — and



Padres outfielder Mike Cameron visits Andrea Sleet's fourth-grade class at Del Mar Hills Academy.

JIM KERR

expressed some concern that he may have been the subject of a little payback reprisal the next night.

Cameron also talked of the "team-work" involved with his childhood, being raised with 10 other children by his

grandmother. "It took a whole team to raise me," he quipped.

Cameron told the students that growing up in Georgia, baseball started out to

be just a way to enjoy being outdoors in summer and eventually he kept getting better and better at the sport, while standing out from the rest of his teammates. He said he used baseball as a way to get to college — he received a full scholarship to Auburn University in both baseball and football — and it soon became a passion of his.

The students also asked Cameron about the legacy of Jackie Robinson. Sleet's class is studying the life of the baseball great and the role he played in breaking baseball's color barrier.

"He's the reason I got to play baseball for a living," Cameron told his rapt audience.

"To have the opportunity for a

ballplayer to share the importance of reading and working hard to succeed in life is so valuable," said Sleet. "I am always impressed by the obstacles in life that some players have to overcome and how they go on to be successful and help others along the way."

"There are obstacles every day playing at the highest level," said Cameron. "We just make it look easy sometimes."

"I've learned as I have had kids of my own, that baseball is only one part of my life," Cameron added. "But it gives me a chance to sit back and be a kid for three hours."

And for a little over an hour one fourth-grade class felt very much like kids instead of just students.

"It was very cool," said student CJ. Von Herrath.