

After school fun

A guest came into the back room of the Boys & Girls Club of Stockton's Cechini Clubhouse when first-grade student Giselle Gastalum asked for some help. Giselle was making a frog out of kelly green construction paper and needed some assistance folding it into the right position.

Luckily for Giselle, Talisa Juarez, a Boys & Girls Club employee, was quickly on the spot and the guest could simply watch. Giselle's older sister Jocelyn, also pitched in after finishing her frog. Completed pieces were then hung from the ceiling.

Arts and crafts provide some of the after-school activities that take place each weekday at the main office of the Boys & Girls Club of Stockton, two other clubhouses and 15 SUSD schools. The clubhouses, schools and the Podesta Impact Teen Center on El Dorado Street also offer sports and recreation time, tutoring and enrichment activities (such as music, dance and field trips) for almost 2,400 SUSD students who attend the program each weekday.

Former SUSD President Anthony Silva is the nonprofit organization's executive director.

"This really provides a structured environment for many kids," said Mr. Silva.

The Boys & Girls Club of Stockton employs about 125 people to run the various facilities, Mr. Silva said.



That works out to a ratio of one staff member per 15 to 20 students, depending on the site and need.

Each employee is certified by the federal No Child Left Behind Act to provide the kind of tutoring that will help students improve their scores on standardized tests. It's an important component, Mr. Silva said, because it aligns the after-school program to the same educational goals of the schools themselves.

It's difficult to miss the bright yellow signs at August, Bush, Fillmore, Fremont, Henry, Huerta, Kennedy, King, McKinley, Monroe, Peyton, Taft, Tyler, Van Buren and Washington elementary schools, where the Boys & Girls Clubs provide after-school care. Signups are taken at the beginning of the school year.

"We're here to help parents provide the best chance for their kids to succeed," Mr. Silva said of club, which costs \$25 per year. "We hope even more parents and students will consider us when school starts up again."

Graduation Dates

May 31: Edison HS (9 am, Edison HS)

June 3: Stagg HS (4 pm, Stockton Arena)

June 3: Weber Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (6:30 pm, Warren Atherton Auditorium—San Joaquin Delta College)

June 4: Franklin HS (6 pm, Stockton Arena)

June 4: School for Adults and Jane Frederick Continuation HS (7 pm, UOP Faye Spanos Concert Hall)

June 6: Chavez HS (7:00 pm, Chavez HS)

June 6: Institute of Business Management & Law (6:30 pm, Humphrey's College)

Si deseas una copia en español, por favor pídelo en tu escuela.

Message from the Superintendent

Thank you for the strong support you have shown Stockton students these past two years...years I have been fortunate to serve as superintendent.

2006-2008 has been a time of transition. The K-6, 7-8, 9-12 school system has changed to a K-8, 9-12 structure. Thanks to Stockton voters, our schools have begun a long overdue process of upgrades, repair and rebuilding so that SUSD students can have the same opportunities neighboring students experience.

Overall, our students are achieving at higher levels and, as a result, 22 elementary schools are either on hold or removed from "Needs Improvement" status. And, we have a data system in place that provides information to help teachers design instructional programs for all students in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. I believe the future is bright for our staff, students and families.

Challenges remain, as they always will in an organization as big and complex as SUSD. As I retire on June 30 and a new



Jack McLaughlin,
Superintendent

superintendent is named, there will be a need to continue wrestling with statewide budget cuts. The Board of Education will continue exhaustive efforts to keep critical programs in place and minimize loss of jobs for existing employees. Being named a "Needs Improvement" district by the state, an outside District Assistance and Intervention Team will utilize research-based strategies to continue the focus on student achievement.

Providing an outstanding education for 37,000 students every day in 55 schools spread throughout 57 square miles is not an easy task. Success in the effort is greatly enhanced when individuals, groups, organizations and unions work together toward the common goal of student achievement. It can be done. It must be done.

It has been my pleasure to work on behalf of Stockton staff, students and parents these past two years. I enjoyed much support and I know Stockton will provide that same support and more to the new administration.

Best wishes for a successful future.

Stockton Unified School District
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Stockton, CA 95202

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Students from the Weber Institute continue to place highly in SkillsUSA competitions. The state competition was held at Weber in mid April, and the following students received medals for their achievements: Marina Fipps (Nursing Assistant, gold; Job Interview, silver); Krishneel Dass (Photography, gold); Melinda Juarez (Photography, silver); Javier Padilla, Alexandria Cordova, Cindy Mujica, Sarah Graves (Health Knowledge Bowl, silver); Terry Edwards, Florencio Lopez, Marco Ramirez, George Leyva (Intro to Auto, bronze); Oscar Fernandez (Extemporaneous Speaking, silver); Miguel Guillen, Martha Hernandez (Web Page Design, gold); Cynthia Valencia (20 Second Elevator, gold); Alyssa Gibson (20 Second Elevator, bronze); Israel Valencia (Prepared Speech, bronze). Congratulations to all!

Congratulations to the following teachers, who have been honored by San Joaquin County A+ for 2007-08: Evelyn Wiedner, Monroe Elementary; Joe Balderston, Hazelton Elementary; Arminah Zaris, Marshall Elementary

Mollie Versti, a teacher at Fremont/Lopez Elementary, is being hailed for performing the Heimlich maneuver on a choking student. She dislodged a donut hole that was causing the problem for student Kathleen Wortham. Versti said of the incident: "I simply did what had to be done." Thanks, Mollie, for your quick reaction!

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SUSD Parent Tidings is published to foster communication between SUSD parents and the district. Questions and comments can be made to Rick Brewer, community relations officer, (209) 933-7025; rbrewer@stockton.k12.ca.us

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Around SUSD

Juanita Thomas, 84, whose husband walked with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., spoke at a Black History Month celebration at Adams Elementary School. Her daughter, Kelesha Martin, is a Visual and Performing Arts teacher at the school.

California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Jack O'Connell**, sent a letter of praise to the district on behalf of the Stockton School for Adults. "It is your commitment and dedication that makes California a leader in the nation."



Boxes of books were donated to Taylor Elementary School by the local chapter of the Tzu Chi organization, an international nonprofit charity. Each student was given a new book and the school had several boxes of books donated to its library. Tzu Chi is translated as "serving with compassion" in Chinese and was founded in 1966 in Taiwan.

El Joven Noble, or "The Noble Young Man," at Stagg High School celebrated its first anniversary with two special presentations in the chambers of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors on April 17. The gang intervention program is strongly supported through a collaboration with SUSD and El Concilio. San Joaquin County Supervisor Steve Gutierrez sponsored the event.

The **Dairy Council of California** brought its mobile display to Fremont Elementary in mid April. Students learned how to milk a cow as the traveling dairy showcased the importance of these animals and their nutritional contribution to society.

The **Stagg Line** continues to rack up awards. It was selected as the No. 2 small size paper at the recent National Student Press Association convention. Longtime advisor Don Bott was named one of four nationwide recipients of this year's Pioneer Award.



Health Career Academy

There's a (budding) doctor in the class

Cindy Garcia smothered her hands in ketchup. Meanwhile, Maggie Molina talked to a plastic baby and Keven Martinez walked around the classroom with an empathy belly strapped to his body.

With a description like that, it might seem as if dysfunction is the norm in Stagg High School's room K-7. It's anything but. K-7 is the home to Stagg's Health Careers Academy where students have the chance to learn enough about the medical field to earn medical assistant certificates and, starting in the 2008-09 academic year, one for pharmacy technician.

"We know that the medical field is one of the fastest growing professions, but fewer people are going into it," said Sabrina Edmond, a former registered nurse and pharmacy technician who teaches the program. "When these students graduate, they can actually go work in the field while they pursue advanced education."

Students take all their classes together in a cluster, and work as interns throughout Stockton. Some receive hands-on training at Kaiser Permanente's complex, others at the United Cerebral Palsy headquarters or Walton Special Center, and still others work in doctors' offices.



Maggie Molina practices CPR on an infant dummy.

"It's interesting and you can get ready for a job this way," said Maggie, a sophomore. One of her recent assignments was to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on an infant dummy. Maggie was one of the many students who could quickly rattle off how many fingers to use (2), how deep to compress (about 1/2 an inch), why not to go deeper (it might break the sternum) and how many compressions between breaths (30).

Cindy demonstrated how to correctly remove a pair of gloves with blood on them – slowly and carefully. Any false move and the "blood" (ketchup) could drip and contaminate the area.

Stagg's Health Careers Academy is a successful example of a small learning community, Principal Jessica Anderson said, because Edmond has worked to get community buy-in, school buy-in and grant money to run it. The academy is funded in part by the California Partnership Academy grant.

The SUSD Board of Education has made small learning communities a priority.

Keven is one of the few males in the health careers program. He sees himself working as a medical professional someday, although he's not yet sure which path that will take. He knew a surefire way to attract more young men into the program, however:

"There are a lot of girls here," he said.



Cindy Garcia takes "bloody" gloves off.



Budget Update 2008

Cutting positions, not people or programs

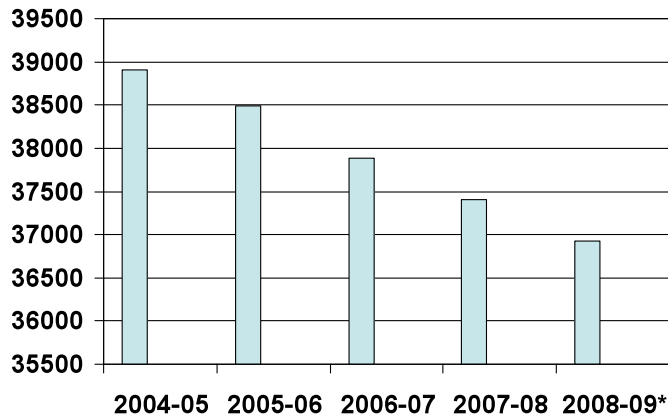
There may be some misunderstanding about the budget process. Especially this year, since Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced he wants to cut ALL state spending by 10 percent across the board. That has meant that school districts, including SUSD, have had to come up with a plan to cut its 2008-09 budget by 10 percent. It's not an easy thing to do.

A school district budget is developed based on the number of students we have in the district. At last count that was about 37,000 students, although that number has dropped in recent years and is expected to be slightly less next school year. (See chart 1). The state usually includes a cost-of-living increase each year – like a yearly raise at work - to ensure schools get the same amount once inflation is considered.

This year, the governor's budget eliminates the cost-of-living increase AND cuts more money. So, there are two reasons SUSD must cut its budget: 1) the number of students is less so the amount we get from the state is less; and 2) the governor is cutting funding.

By far and away the most money is spent on employee salaries and benefits. Teachers, principals, librarians,

Chart 1. SUSD Enrollment Trend



custodians, secretaries, etc. make up the vast majority of all expenses (See Chart 2). The fraction left over goes to paper and supplies, computers, other equipment and maintenance.

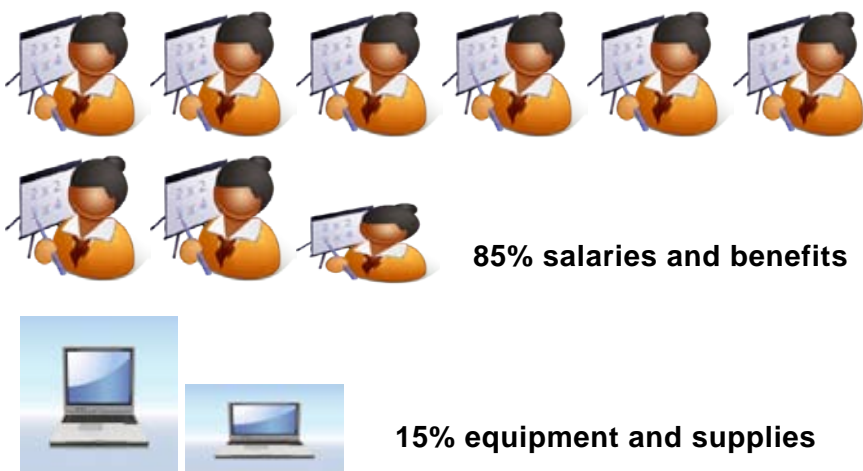
We simply can't cut enough computers, pencils, paper, textbooks and other supplies to make up the difference.

We could try, but then your son's or daughter's classroom wouldn't have enough critical materials to function correctly. We can't let that happen.

Still, with all the uncertainty, SUSD has been committed to ensuring that any full-time employee who works here now will have a job come July 1 if he or she wants it. We have also decided not to cut any programs. So far, we've done pretty well on those promises.

In fact, we're trying to eliminate excess positions, not people or programs.

Chart 2. SUSD Expenses



A word from our Board President

It's hard to believe another school year is coming to an end. State testing is over, graduations are around the corner, and most of our schools will take a few weeks rest before the 2008-09 school year is upon us.

Your Board of Education is working hard to get everything ready. The first and most important goal is to hire a new superintendent. It is my hope that our new leader will be in place when school begins again in late July. But even if it takes a few days or weeks longer, please know that we are determined to hire the best person for the job. This is one of the most important decisions we can make.

While I'm on that subject, I would like to personally thank Dr. Jack McLaughlin for his hard work during the two years he served as SUSD superintendent. He came in with a vision for how good our schools could be and worked hard to see that we at least started to head in those directions. He spearheaded the effort to pass Measure Q, and our district will have the look and feel of a more modern place for decades to come thanks to his leadership. We owe him our gratitude. Our district is healthier than it was when he came.

I also want to thank our faculty and staff for their hard

work, day in and day out. From kindergarten teachers to high school counselors to district-wide maintenance workers to our in-house police department to all the people who take care of our finances and EVERYONE in between, your efforts on behalf of our 37,000 students are appreciated.

We have some challenges coming up. We must face shrinking resources and yet still expect higher achievement. We must work with state regulators to improve our teaching strategies and test scores. And we must work together to ensure our students have safe, yet fun, places to learn.

I believe we're up to those challenges, and I look forward to supporting your efforts to make them a reality. Have a wonderful summer!

Dan Castillo



Dan Castillo

Extended Year

Intervention and Remediation Program

June 10 – July 11, 2008

- Chavez High School
 - Edison High School
 - Franklin High School
 - Stagg High School
 - Weber Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology
 - Merlo Environmental Institute of Technology
- Contact: Alan Scott, (209) 933-7130 x2322

José Valdés Math Institute

June 16 – July 18, 2008

Location: Delta College Program for incoming 8th graders

Contact: Armida Saldivar, (209) 933-7470 x2221

Summer Arts & Music Institute

June 10 – July 11, 2008

Location: Chavez High Program for interested band, choir, and dance students (grades 7-12)

Contact: Dean Gorby, (209) 933-7030 x2304

Gifted & Talented Education (GATE) Institute

June 19 – July 3, 2008

Location: Pittman Elem Program for students in grades 3-7

Contact: Sandy Del Porto, (209) 933-7030 x2302

School for Adults

June 9 – June 27, 2008*

Location: School for Adults

Program ending dates vary
Contact: Carol Hirota, (209) 933-7455

Note: Parents of elementary age students, please contact your site directly to find out about your summer programs.

Thank you

Thanks to the following for contributing to the success of the SUSD Physical Fitness program:

- \$50.00 from Winco for healthy snacks
- \$100.00 from Stockton Delta Lions for pedometers
- 300 pedometers from Kaiser Permanente
- Supplies from Health Plan of San Joaquin



Employee Spotlight:

Bonnie Mansfield, Administrator of Grant Development

Thank you, Super Volunteers

ADAMS: Leticia Orozco, Susana Regalado
 AUGUST: Juelyn Hendrix
 BUSH: Dhelia Oribello
 CHAVEZ: Sally Prieto, T.C. Caveness
 CLEVELAND: Paul Hammerich, Vanessa Languerand
 EDISON: Michelle Okazaki, Suzie Wilson
 EL DORADO: Darrin Halterman, Patricia Anderson
 ELMWOOD: Andrew Smith, Tonya Gemigniani
 FRANKLIN: Dana Crenshaw, Kathy Swanson
 FREMONT: Bernadette Peters, Karen Wortham
 GRANT: Martha Perez, Vickie Hernandez
 GRUNSKY: Renee Martinez
 HAMILTON: Blanca Saucedo, Lucila Mendoza
 HARRISON: Karen Ocegueda, Kennetha Stevens
 HAZELTON: Gary Eggert, Rita Likong
 HENRY: Antonia Duenas, Jackie Toschak
 HONG KINGSTON: Celestina Lopez, Secil Isaac
 HOOVER: Florita Ancajas, Melissa Aguilar
 HUERTA: Dulce Sanchez, Maria Garcia
 IBML: Angela Sola
 KENNEDY: Diane Acremant
 KING: Cynthia Quilantang, Pam Van Wagoner
 MADISON: Carla Van Huystee, Maria Olivares
 MARSHALL: Maria Guadalupe Padilla, Maria Rosalia Robles
 MCKINLEY: Hau Phung, Monique Torres
 MONROE: Michelle Okazaki, Raymond Williams
 MONTEZUMA: Karen Camper, Katrina Weaver
 NIGHTINGALE: Jeanette Draper
 PEYTON: Karen Ayala, Vicki Ergonis
 PITTMAN: Ronald Jackson, Tracy Zinski
 PULLIAM: Gurjeet Singh, Lisa Thomas
 RIO CALAVERAS: Archie Harris, Nancy DeWitt
 ROOSEVELT: Cora Esquivel, Darlene Vasquez
 SAN JOAQUIN: Andrea Manzo, Kelly Jones
 SKILLS: Diane Susbilla, Maria Urcelay
 STAGG: Betty Willard
 TAFT: Consuelo Simental, Irene Maldonado
 TAYLOR: Denise Jarod, Janel Sanchez
 TYLER: Faith Arnold, Odie Ngirachitei
 URBANI: Araceli Zuniga, Christina Borja
 VALENZUELA: Jesus Villagrana, Lorena Trejo
 VAN BUREN: Evan Johnson, Jesse Hanes
 VICTORY: Jim Tulipana, Kim Brandt
 WALTON: Elvin Maglinte
 WASHINGTON: Anna Sanchez, Marina Crippen
 WILSON: Phil Gonzalez, Sandy Martin

Whatever you do, don't call Bonnie Mansfield just a grant writer. Oh, sure, that's what she does. But successfully bringing in money from outside organizations and the government is a job that goes far beyond basic typing and storytelling.

"I've worked as a grant professional since 1983 and taught grant writing classes in several different postsecondary programs. I've worked for both nonprofit organizations and government agencies," Bonnie said.

People who are not involved in developing grant proposals often assume the job is a basic writing job. But there are numerous skills one needs in order to do it well. Among them are cultivating relationships with outside agencies, collaborating in project development, understanding budgets, sticking to deadlines and developing ways to measure results.

And Bonnie's successful grant proposals have brought nearly \$100 million into San Joaquin County. Since 2000, the SUSD grant development office has secured some \$74 million in extra funds for our students. That's an average of \$9.25 million per year. By March 1st of this year, the grant office (Candy Carlson is the district's other grant professional) has brought in almost \$10 million.



Bonnie was recently confirmed as one of the first 170 grant writing professionals throughout the U.S. to earn a nationally recognized credential, known as the Grant Professional Certified or GPC, after passing an intense, two-day exam and demonstrating her longstanding achievement in the field.

"The past decade of activity by the American Association of Grant Professionals shows this field now requires skills far beyond just the staff-level 'writer' role," GPCI President Marcia Ford said. "Today, grant professionals are held accountable not just by their employers, but especially by charitable and corporate foundations and governments."

Bonnie said she jumped at the chance to have a professional validation of her abilities based on a set of nationwide standards.

"Like passing the bar for a lawyer, receiving the GPC demonstrates that one has the essential skills for successful practice as a grant professional. It indicates that one cares about maintaining high standards in the grant profession, meets industry standards, and has been recognized by his or her peers," said Bonnie, who is one of 13 people in California who now holds the GPC.

Congratulations Bonnie on this achievement, and thanks for helping so many deserving students through your work!

Bringing culture to the Pixie 12

She saw a need, and started to fill it – long before most people noticed. Anne Hughes is a kindergarten teacher at Hoover Elementary School, who began to see a disconnect between the Hmong students at her school and the surrounding Pixie Woods/Louis Park community. So, about five years ago, Hughes began taking some of the school's students to artistic events in the area: theatrical productions, museum openings, symphonic concerts, the circus. She pays for them out of her pocket.

The group began small, maybe two or three girls. Soon, that grew to a dozen, whom Hughes calls her "Pixie 12." There have been as many as 20 current and former Hoover students go to one of the performances.

Usually once a month, they load in a van or two, driven by Hughes and her family or friends. But the last weekend of March was a busy time for the Pixie 12. They attended a Haggin Museum event on Saturday and the Stockton Symphony's annual family concert the next day. That included an instrument "petting zoo" where children were able to touch instruments provided by the symphony musicians.

"I don't think any of them had seen a play before we started going," Hughes said. "There are so many great events in Stockton and I thought they should all have a chance to be exposed to art and music."

A couple of years ago, as the cost of tickets began to increase dramatically and the success of the program began to draw more interest from young students, Hughes started a once-yearly fundraiser known as a Koon Lao party. There, she tries to raise enough money from her friends and colleagues to buy as many tickets as possible before having to dig into her savings account.

The Pixie 12 idea took on more meaning this spring,



Ann Hughes in the midst of the children she took to the Stockton Symphony Family Concert on March 30.

when Hoover Elementary student Aaron Kelly was shot and killed in Louis Park by a reputed gang member. Although Aaron was not one of the students Hughes befriended through her program, she said his death cast a pall on the Hoover campus that needed extra attention. That sad event precipitated the weekend excursion to the symphony and museum.

Now, other groups have begun to hear about Hughes' program and offered to help her pay for tickets and/or raise money to do so. Who knows? Someday it may be the Pixie 20, or Pixie 50.