



STAFF • O • GRAM

PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION • VIC PALLOS, EDITOR

2004-05 school year

December 15, 2004

Number 6

Board, colleagues applaud Kim Labinger as a Teacher of the Year

A district with so many exemplary teachers, Glendale Unified now has one of its own as a 2005 California Teacher of the Year! Kim Labinger, fourth grade teacher at Edison Elementary, is among five exceptional educators selected by Jack O’Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, for this prestigious honor.

Labinger was honored by the Board of Education at Tuesday’s meeting and received a standing ovation from her colleagues in the audience.

“I am choosing Ms. Labinger because of her passion and love for teaching, which she considers an art,” O’Connell said in a statewide announcement. “I was moved by her desire to serve the public that started in her childhood in India, working with leprosy patients. She brings that experience to her job where she feels great joy, purpose and pride in watching her students learn.”

In Labinger’s application for California Teachers of the Year, she said, “Education must involve teaching and learning more

than mere facts. It must include a celebration of humanity, rooted in the past, expressed in the language of the present, and with the ability to imagine the future.”

Kim was 19 months old when she first sailed with her parents from New York to

-Labinger, see page 2

Taking time to look for the good things in others

From Superintendent
Dr. Michael Escalante

During this busy holiday season, we should make it a priority

to look for the good things in others. The pressures of the season sometimes distract us from this important task.

We should also reflect on the positive aspects of our **own** lives and the many gifts we have been provided. I often find myself, at the end of a long day, attempting to sort out the challenges I have faced. What I come to realize is that each day truly is a gift and, therefore, a “good day.”

We are blessed to be in the business of education! We touch the lives of so many students and adults on a daily basis. We can help students and our colleagues to build “good days” by:

- Praising one another.
- Approving other people’s actions.
- Accentuating others people’s positive traits.
- Asking questions and listening attentively to the response.
- Stimulating thoughts and promoting creative acts.
- Causing others to think and learn.
- Taking time to note the positive aspects of our schools and community.

We have the power to make others appreciate each day, especially for those who may believe they are having a bad day. Make time to greet students, colleagues,

-Dr. Escalante, see page 2

Monte Vista, Mountain Avenue, Valley View nominated as NCLB ‘Blue Ribbon Schools’

Three district elementary schools – Monte Vista, Mountain Avenue and Valley View– are among California’s nominees for 2004-05 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Blue Ribbon Schools. Glendale is the only district in California with three nominated schools.

Schools nominated by the California Department of Education are among the state’s highest achieving campuses, having met both Academic Performance Index (API) growth targets and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements.

“This achievement is truly one we should all celebrate,” said Alice Petrosian, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services. “Credit for this success belongs to the staff, students and parents of these three schools.

“Our district is committed to rigorous, standards-based instruction for each student—and it shows,” she added.

Each school must complete an application, heavy on data-driven student results. It’s essentially a “show me the proof” report, which will be reviewed by a U.S. Office of Education team before a decision is made on Blue Ribbon designations.

Crescenta Valley High, Toll and Rosemont middle schools, R.D. White and Marshall elementaries are past recipients of National Blue Ribbon designation.

District moves toward goal of 100% fully credentialed teachers

Human Resources’ annual recruitment and staffing report again brings good news. As of Oct. 1, 97% of the district’s 1,278 classroom teachers are fully credentialed. That’s an improvement from the previous year’s figure of 94.1%. Of all 1,357 classroom and other teachers, including teacher specialists and teachers on special assignment, 96.4% are fully credentialed.

These numbers are well ahead of the statewide average of 91%.

In Title I schools, 98.5% of the regular education teachers meet the compliance requirements of *No Child Left Behind*.

Cathleen McMullen, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, is proud that the district continues to make progress toward a 100% goal.

Colleagues remember
Clark Magnet physics teacher
Dennis (Denny) Henderson

Denny Henderson was the “epitome of class and charm and teaching excellence,” Hoover Principal Kevin Welsh recalled.

“In many ways Mr. Henderson was a huge influence on the culture and development of Clark Magnet High School,” Principal Doug Dall added.

Dennis (Denny) Henderson, physics teacher at Clark Magnet, died unexpectedly on Dec. 1. This was his 17th year as a teacher in the district. He taught science and math, in addition to serving as golf coach at Hoover from 1989-99, prior to joining the Clark Magnet faculty.

“Many of us remember Denny as the gentle and genteel giant...who always conducted himself with grace and utter professionalism,” Welsh said. “He also single-handedly saved golf from extinction in the Pacific League by securing a yearly grant to support golf teams in the district.”

No public services have been held. A group of Clark Magnet staff and students will be receiving suggestions on ways, including a memorial scholarship, to honor Mr. Henderson’s good work and memory.

–Dr. Escalante

(Continued from page 1)

custodians, secretaries, cooks, and principals. Talk to students individually about their lives, feelings, classes, and hopes for the future. I have even seen teachers who use a daily journal for students to write and reflect on the positive issues and happenings going on in their lives.

Being in the business of education can be incredibly satisfying and rewarding, but it can often be fraught with many obstacles. No one has ever said it was going to be easy! We must face each day with a sense of humor and demonstrate patience under pressure. We must always show a sense of caring, even perhaps, when that caring may go unnoticed.

As true professionals, we must feel an inner sense of job satisfaction. That is what brings us back the next day, with a positive attitude, to meet the daily challenges we face.

Best wishes this holiday season to each and every one of you who gives the *gift of a “good day”* to our students throughout the year!

– Labinger a 2005 California Teacher of the Year

(Continued from page 1)

Bombay, where her parents served for many years as missionaries. Her father was a doctor who trained local doctors and performed surgeries in a 250-bed general hospital. Her mother taught English and psychology at the local theological college and at the nurses’ training school, and she met regularly with village women afflicted with Hanson’s Disease (leprosy).

Labinger recalls: “I grew up in the shadow of greatness: Mahatma Gandhi and his philosophy of non-violence, Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore and his poetry that transcends all faiths, and Mother Teresa, whose Home for the Dying and the Destitute stood on the street where I lived in Calcutta.

“So it was that I grew up in a culture

Crescenta Valley High holiday concert showing on Channel 15

Crescenta Valley High’s annual winter concert will be shown on Charter Cable Channel 15 beginning Friday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The 90-minute, professionally videotaped show will replay through Jan. 3 on Fridays and Mondays at 7, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m.

The concert features the symphony orchestra, jazz band and other instrumental ensembles, plus a guest appearance by the popular Charismatics and a cappella choir.

Matt Shick, instrumental music director, and Tammi Alderman, choral music director, are in charge of the production.

Funding for the cablecast is provided by fees paid by Charter Cable subscribers.

RETIREMENTS

The following retirements were accepted by the Board of Education on either Nov. 23 or Dec. 14:

Liv Davolos, Cook/Baker, Wilson Middle School, 26 1/4 years’ service, effective Dec. 30.

Maithe Harispe, Assistant Principal, Glendale High, 14 1/2 years’ service, effective Feb. 1, 2005.

Mary Powell, Cook/Baker, Clark Magnet/Glendale High, 26 years, 10 months of service, effective Dec. 31.

Velma Wallner, Typist Clerk II, Balboa Elementary, 3 years, 5 months of service, effective Jan. 1, 2005.

rich in its diversity of language, art, music and religion, and in a family where life was synonymous with service.”

At age 19 she left India for college in California – two years at Mills, then two years at Pomona College, where in 1980 she earned a B.A. degree in anthropology.

After completing a Master’s degree program in education at UCLA, she joined the district in 1986 at Mann Elementary. She taught six years at Mann, where she was selected as a mentor teacher, prior to transferring to Edison.

Labinger has made numerous presentations as a consultant and coordinator for the UCLA Writing Project and demonstrations for Title VII Academic Excellence.

People & Events

Congratulations also to **Eric Burrows**, Crescenta Valley High Class of ’78, for being selected as one of the five 2005 California Teachers

of the Year. Eric’s mother, **Frederika (Freddie) Burrows**, retired from full time teaching in 1993 after serving many years at Monte Vista. Eric teaches advanced placement U.S. and European history at San Marcos High in Santa Barbara..... For the month of December, The Character and Ethics Project presented awards to **Angel Besh**, ETIS; **Leslie Galban** and **Odette Hairapetian**, Rosemont MS; **David Gildersleeve**, Purchasing; **Sylvia Gonzalez**, **Peggy Van Pelt**, and **Pamela Martinez**, Cerritos Elementary; **Marylou King**, Financial Services; **Janie Roach** and **Patricia Harrold**, Fremont Elementary. Awardees are nominated by their peers.....Glendale attorney and business consultant **Richard Davis** is completing the term of **Dierdre Pies**, who resigned as the district-appointed member of the Classified Personnel Commission..... **Gene “Chip” Stone**, Crescenta Valley parent, senior vice president of Smith Barney and a long-time supporter of the district, has been elected president of the re-activated Glendale Educational Foundation. Comprising 20 local business and community leaders, the foundation’s board of directors plans to launch its first fund-raising campaign by next spring..