



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

Lewis Middle School ♦ 5170 Greenbrier Avenue, San Diego, CA 92120 ♦ (619) 583-3233

December 2006/February 2007

Year in Review

As this year comes to a close and a new one begins, I would like to reflect upon the many events and activities that have been occurring in the classrooms at Lewis. During classroom visits I see students more engaged in their work, delving deeper into their reading and asking key questions about the text. Teachers are implementing ideas gleaned from our staff inservices, such as accountable talk, using academic language and questioning techniques. During KBAR students may have the opportunity to sit down with their teacher and engage in a one-on-one conversation to discuss what they are reading or build their reading stamina by reading uninterrupted for 30 minutes. Science classes are a buzz with students participating in hands-on experiments.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the efforts of all of our teachers who have made over the past months as we continue to put emphasis on the quality of our academic programs.

Literacy

Lewis teachers have been working diligently to implement the district's literacy framework, because they know that during the middle grades students face increasing demands on their literacy skills. Students are asked to read and write much more than in earlier grades, and they are given assignments that increase in complexity. To our parents and community, we thank you for supporting this effort by donating books and funds to purchase reading materials, and ensuring that your child always has a KBAR book.

Reading is a critical concern at the middle level, and below are some ways that parents can participate to help the efforts the school is making:

- Encourage your student to read more and read widely
- Set aside time at home for the entire family to reading. Modeling is a very powerful teaching tool
- Talk to them about what they are reading
- Remind them to bring a book daily to read in KBAR
- Purchase 'post-it-notes for them to write their questions, connections, or thoughts as they read their books, both fiction and nonfiction

Within the last year the school has committed more than \$25,000 for class sets of 8th grade science textbooks. Additionally, more than \$18,000 has been spent on library books and KBAR books to support our literacy focus.

New Technology

The School Site Council voted to purchase 22 document cameras, and soon all of our classrooms will be equipped with this latest technology. This technology will support various classroom teaching strategies and enhance student learning. Please plan on attending our Foundation's' First Silent Auction on April 2, 2007. All money raised will be used to enhance technology at Lewis as we continue to upgrade our computer labs. See more information about the Silent Auction in this issue.

New Phone System

Our school now has a new automated phone system. You will be greeted with a menu that will allow you to access the extension of the employee that you wish to speak to. If they are not available or their line is

busy you will be able to leave them a voicemail. We hope that you will find this a beneficial change from our old system.

Traffic Update

This morning (2/26/2007) two Lewis students were crossing Waring Road and were struck by a car. Fortunately, neither student seemed to be seriously injured, but they were transported to the hospital to be thoroughly checked out. Their parents were notified immediately.

In advance of today's accident, Board member Nakamura, Councilman Madaffer and I have been very concerned with the traffic issues that face our children and have met with city traffic engineers and the San Diego police department to discuss changes that can be made to ensure the safety of our children.

We are planning on conducting a community-wide meeting to discuss traffic issues that face our community. As soon as I have confirmation on the date, I will let you know.

Update on the accident that occurred this morning:

Only one of the students will remain in the hospital overnight, and I have been told there are little complications. They want to keep eye on him regarding his headaches and a leg that is bothering him.

After an earlier accident this year, I timed the length of the light to see how long it gave pedestrians to walk across Waring Road, which wasn't very long. What concerned me most was that I noticed that the light was green on Waring Road and Greenbrier for both pedestrians crossing Waring Road and cars turning left onto Waring. I brought my concerns to the city engineers at that time to see if something could be done to adjust the lights.

I am pleased to say that Councilman Madaffer met early this morning with the Director of Engineering and Capital Projects and the Deputy Director of Transportation Engineering and Senior Traffic Engineers. The following is what has already taken place at the intersection this earlier this today.

1. The Traffic Signals at Greenbrier and Waring Rd. have been changed so that when the pedestrian button has been pushed for crossing Waring Road, no traffic will move when pedestrians are crossing Waring Rd. (Exactly what I have been lobbying for!)
2. In addition, Count Down signs for the intersection also arrived this morning and have just been installed and put into operation.

As of now, when anyone pushes the pedestrian walk button to cross Waring Rd, it will automatically activate the "pedestrian crossing only phase" of the traffic signal. This means that all traffic signals will be RED during the WHITE walk and Flashing Orange portion of the traffic signal phase. At the same time the orange hand is flashing, the count down numbers will be counting down to "0" As soon as the Flashing Orange Count Down Numbers is at "0", the Orange Hand will turn SOLID Orange and the green traffic lights will display for automobile traffic on Greenbrier Avenue to cross Waring Rd. This will delay traffic on Waring Road so we suggest you leave a little earlier in the morning to drop off your student.

There was also a traffic officer from our police department at the intersection this afternoon when school let out to monitor the crossing.

Parents: we ask that you to take the following precautions when dropping off and picking up your student:

- Do not get distracted by talking on your cell phone when driving near the school

- Do not double park on the street while dropping off or picking up your student
- After dropping off your student, do not allow your student to run across the street to get to the school sidewalk. Running in between cars is extremely dangerous.
- Do not make U turns on Glenroy Street. You will be ticketed if a police officer is present.

Please help us keep all children safe by following these rules.

Best wishes to all of our Lewis families.

In partnership,

Bobbi Forcier