



CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Weekly Update

Supporting Student Learning in CUSD

March 14, 2008

Capistrano Honors its Super Stars

Cheryl Des Palmes' Drama class at Tesoro High School was assembled in the theater when Superintendent Woodrow Carter, Deputy Superintendent Sherine Smith, CUEA President Vicki Soderberg, Principal Dan Burch, and a team of her admirers entered to announce that she had been named CUSD's High School Teacher of the Year. With balloons and treats in hand students arrived to celebrate their accomplished teacher. Superintendent Carter congratulated her, saying "Mrs. Des Palmes, we are all here this morning to honor you for creating an outstanding instructional program for your students. Your professional commitment to achieve the honor of National Board Certification demonstrates that you are truly deserving of this recognition."

Warren Nagano was teaching 8th grade Social Science, dressed for his after-school job as Tesoro's softball coach, when the team arrived. "Mr. Nagano, you have been selected as Capistrano Unified's Middle School Teacher of the Year," said Superintendent Carter. "I commend you for your passion for teaching and exemplary commitment to the success of all students." Mr. Nagano replied, "I am so honored to be a teacher. I truly believe that it is the noblest profession."

Chaparral Elementary School students and staff assembled on the playground in neat and orderly rows to hear the surprise announcement from their principal Kevin Rafferty and the balloon-festooned team that Christine Jones was chosen as Elementary Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Carter stated, "Mrs. Jones, you represent the best of the best, both as a classroom teacher and as an instructional leader on this campus and district-wide. Your knowledge and high standards contribute greatly to the achievement of all students here at Chaparral and in CUSD."



(Above) Cheryl Des Palmes is surprised at Tesoro High School; (right top) Warren Nagano at Las Flores Middle School; and (bottom right) Christine Jones at Chaparral Elementary School.

Principal for A Day

Elected officials, police chiefs, business leaders, and a broad spectrum of community members participated in Capistrano Unified's annual *Principal for a Day* event on March 11. *Principals for a Day* assembled at the Education Center to share their experiences and thank their principals for the opportunity to see the principalship "from the inside."

"Principals are not managers; they are leaders who are responsible for student learning at their schools," stated Superintendent Woodrow Carter. "Their duties extend far beyond oversight of their school's physical plant, enforcement of policies and laws, and supervision of employees. Principals create a climate for learning throughout their school community, communicate high expectations for students, and set a vision for academic excellence that produces the high caliber students that you have visited today."

Principal for a Day falls during Capistrano Unified's Week of the School Administrator, when trustees "applaud and commend the administrators and confidential employees of this school district for their passion and dedication to quality education in this community."

State Champions—Dana Hills Boys Cross Country Team

In Capistrano Unified School District's history, only one high school team has won a State Team Championship. That team is the Dana Hills Boys Cross Country Team, and they have achieved that lofty distinction not once, but twice. In 1988, and again this year, out of 1,200 high schools in California, the Dolphins claimed the title of Number 1 Boys Cross Country Team.

In December the boys ran in the Nike Team Nationals in Portland, Oregon, and achieved a top 20 ranking for all high schools in the United States.

Congratulations to the entire team, and to the students who achieved these individual honors:

- **All South Coast League- First Team**
Tyler Valdes (individual league champion), Tyler Alvarez, Zak Phillips, Ryan Valdes, Anthony Lacambra, Josh Dean, and Rusty Parker
- **All County- First Team**
Tyler Valdes, Tyler Alvarez
- **All-CIF – First Team**
Tyler Valdes
- **All State- First Team**
Tyler Valdes



Coming Up

March 18	Finance Subcommittee Meeting, CUSD Education Center, 6:00 p.m.
March 23	Easter Sunday
March 24-28	Elementary Parent Conferences, Minimum Days for Elementary Students
March 24	Special Board Meeting, CUSD Education Center, 6:30 p.m.
March 25	Curricula Subcommittee Meeting, CUSD Education Center, 6:00 p.m.
April 1	Communications Subcommittee Meeting, CUSD Education Center, 6:00 p.m.
April 4	End of 3rd Quarter for Middle Schools
April 7-11	Spring Recess for Students and Teachers
April 11	Spring Holiday for Employees (District Office Closed)