

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

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& Resources Support
Biology at Eastlake High

CATE 2012 - 2013
Creative Writing Contest

\$5000 NEA Grant
Awarded to San Ysidro High
Dynamic Teaching Duo

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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New Sweetwater Team



Board of Trustees

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Dr. Edward M. Brand Superintendent

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\$5,000 NEA Grant Awarded to San Ysidro High Dynamic Teaching Duo



The National Education Association (NEA) awarded a \$5,000 Student Achievement grant to San Ysidro High School co-teachers Melissa Hernandez and Diana Cintron to support their SYHS writing initiative efforts. The dynamic teaching duo will initially receive a check in the amount of \$4,500 and the final \$500 will be disbursed to them upon receipt of their final report at the conclusion of their writing initiative project.

Hernandez and Cintron's project will require students to analyze different aspects of reading rhetorically and work collaboratively to produce a rhetoric video diary to demonstrate mastery of an essential English Language Arts standard. Students will read and annotate texts, complete written responses, and discuss their findings on video. "I am impressed with [their] innovative ideas and am looking forward to learning more about [their] accomplishments," wrote grant manager Jesse Graytock in their award letter.

If you are interested in learning more about your fellow grant recipients, visit the NEA Foundation website at www.neafoundation.org/pages/educators/grant-programs/grantees/. The NEA Foundation is located at 1201 Sixteenth Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 and on the web at: www.neafoundation.org

Host a Blood Drive at Your School

The San Diego Blood Bank is offering any Sweetwater school or department the opportunity to host a Blood Drive. Every day in San Diego, more than 30 area hospitals rely on the San Diego Blood Bank for their supply of blood. And every day, nearly 400 units of blood need to be donated just to meet demand.

For more information call coordinator Lorena Covarrubias at 619-346-3953 or email her at lcovarrubias@sandiegobloodbank.org.

You can also visit their website at <http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org>.



Community Grants & Resources Support Biology at Eastlake High

Eastlake High School's Biology Department is receiving 15 iPad 2's along with a charging station and QuickOffice software. The technology is thanks to a grant made available by the Eastlake Educational Foundation (EEF). "We are very excited to start incorporating cutting-edge iPad technology into our Biology lessons and hope they will help us inspire students to be interested in pursuing science and technology careers," says teacher Kimberly Petrov.

Students will be able to use the iPads as a science learning tool, providing them with access to interactive web content to support lessons, as well as self-assessments with immediate feedback through a "Bio-Coach" program. Students will also be using the iPads for web-based science labs, which provide a unique opportunity to have students engage in activities such as virtual dissection, for which physical resources are not always available.

Petrov also has two projects that have been funded by the public through www.donorschoose.org, a website that allows the public to donate to classroom teachers' projects online. Her projects are "Exploring Our Local Ecosystem through Owl Pellets" and "What's In My Genes?" The resources she received for the first project include five class sets of owl pellets that we will dissect as part of our Ecology unit, and the materials she will be receiving for the second project include a complete hands-on curriculum [module for teaching DNA and Genetics](#).

For more information about Donors Choose, visit the SUHSD Grants & Communications webpage at grants.sweetwaterschools.org

DonorsChoose.org

OCTOBER 2012

National Arts & Humanities Month

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Halloween



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Sweetwater
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Board Meeting

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National Boss
Day

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“Let’s Talk”
Pregnancy
Prevention
Workshop

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School Bus
Safety Week

Eastlake High Needs Community Members to Mentor Medical Pathways Students

Eastlake High School is looking for community members to mentor their medical pathway students. Interested community members can go to <http://eastlakemedicalpathway.com/mentor-our-students/> to fill out a survey if they are interested in taking on a student for a job shadow or internship.



Thank you in advance for helping us support our students. For more information contact Jewyl Clark, EHS Medical Pathway Co-Coordinator at jewyl.clark@sweetwaterschools.org.

Open Seat on Prop O Bond Oversight Committee

The Sweetwater Union High School District needs one member on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. There is one vacancy in the following position: Parent and Active in Parent-Teacher Organization Member. If appointed, terms for new members will be through April 30, 2014.

More details about how to apply can be found [here](#). If you have additional questions, please call Paul Woods in the Planning and Construction Department at (619) 691-5553. Get to know Prop O by following the link on the [Sweetwater Union High School District Website](#) or go to: <http://buildingpropo.sweetwaterschools.org>.



6TH ANNUAL

MARIACHI SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Mariachi Scholarship Foundation proudly presents its 6th Annual Mariachi Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament scheduled at the Salt Creek Golf Club on Friday, October 26, 2012.

Since 1996, the Mariachi Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$200,000 worth of college scholarships to students from the Sweetwater Union High School District and Southwestern College.

For more information, contact Sandi Smith at (619) 796-7715. or by e-mail at sandra.smith@sweetwaterschools.org



SWEETWATER TEACHERS NOMINATED FOR

San Diego County Teacher of the Year

Sweetwater District teachers are well represented this year at the San Diego Salute to Teachers event. This year all 6 of the district teachers of the year have advanced to the finals for the San Diego County Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to
Ben Cassel (SUH)
Lourdes Duran (ELM)
Chandra Goodnough (MVM)
Emily Jimenez (RDM)
John Patel (SYH)
Terrance Smith (CVH)

The Salute to Teachers event will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at the Balboa Theater. For more information go to <http://www.sdcoe.net/comm/salute/teachers.asp>

KUDOS!
Briana Rodriguez

Congratulations to **Briana Rodriguez** student at **Sweetwater High School** who was recently featured on Cox Cable for her efforts on the Red Devils Girls Golf Team.



Greater San Diego Council of Teachers of English Student Writing Competition



The **Greater San Diego Council of Teachers of English (GSDCTE)** is sponsoring a creative writing contest. This competition gives students a great chance to express their creativity and work on their writing skills. The finalists are recognized in a very nice awards ceremony held at the San Diego County Office of Education.

“Our district was very successful last year in placing finalists in this competition, and we had a very good number of Sweetwater entries in the various categories,” says Steve Rodriguez, Olympian High School English teacher who is once again coordinating the Greater GSDCTE student writing competition.

The GSDCTE is a local chapter of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE). They are currently accepting student entries for the contest and the deadline is November 1. Students submit entries to their English teacher and the teacher submits it to CATE. See the flyer [here](#). For more information go to CATE’s website at <http://www.cateweb.org/> or email Steven Rodriguez at steven.rodriguez@sweetwaterschools.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Patricia Perez

AP Student Activities

Sweetwater High

KUDOS!

Mar Vista High School

Congratulations to **MVH** for hosting the “**Celebrate My Drive**” event on September 15, 2012. In collaboration with State Farm Insurance, the event raised awareness of the dangers that face teen drivers.





OCTOBER 11th
SUHSD College Fair

5:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Mar Vista High School
505 Elm Ave. Imperial Beach, CA 91932.

Over 50 colleges and universities from all over California and the U.S. will provide student and parent workshops about financial aid, applications, career choices, and transferring from a community college to a 4-year university. Shuttle transportation is available at Mar Vista Middle. Free event to all.

[CLICK HERE FOR EVENT FLYER](#)

OCTOBER 17TH

“Let’s Talk” Pregnancy Prevention Coalition

4:30 p.m.
Castle Park Middle School
160 Quintard Street Chula Vista, CA 91911.

Middle school parents and students can learn ways to increase communication about pregnancy prevention and other social and health-related issues facing teens.

Workshops are conducted by community agencies including Operation Samahan, San Ysidro Health Center, SANDAPP, Planned Parenthood, South Bay Community Services, and the Chula Vista Collaborative. Dinner will be served. Free event to all.



Superintendent | Dr. Edward M. Brand

SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

The Future by Leaps and Bounds

It wasn't too long ago when we would watch a science fiction movie or television show and the technology in it seemed so advanced and almost unattainable. However, in today's classroom, we are not only using that same technology, but we have the ability to surpass it.



Today in Sweetwater District classrooms we have the ability to do almost anything thanks to technology. We can research topics in an instant. We can watch videos made by people from the other side of the planet. We can carry hundreds of books on a tablet computer no bigger than a notebook.

In 1964, Dr. Harold Edgerton famously captured a picture of a bullet traveling through an apple. At the time it was considered a major breakthrough in science and technology. Nearly 60 years later, that same moment can be captured using something significantly faster – light.

I recently **watched an incredible video** discussing the emerging advancement of high-speed photography; images caught in trillionths of a second to match the speed of light and capture the movement of light through an object.

The scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) who developed this camera had to start somewhere. They were probably middle school and high school students who dreamed of bigger things than what they learned in the classroom.

As your superintendent, I want to take that spirit of forward-thinkers and progress-makers to the forefront of our classrooms. I want to make sure that students in all subjects have the ability to dream bigger things and get the tools they need to make those tools a reality.

With programs such as the iPad initiative, the Middle School/High School Redesign effort and so many others throughout the district; we can make dreams come true for students.

Students in the Sweetwater District can be the next great scientists, novelists and business leaders. We as educators have the responsibility to prepare students for greatness.

The future isn't just in the movies or on TV, the future for our students is now. We must continue to challenge students. The investment we make now will be one that will pay off for years to come.



Superintendent's Hotline

A reminder that Dr. Brand is accepting calls at the Superintendent's Hotline on Tuesday, Oct. 2. If you have a suggestion or concern, call 691-5570 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. to talk directly with the superintendent. The hotline is open the first Tuesday of every month.

