Dear Members of the San Bruno Community:

Another school year in the history of San Bruno Park School District has come to an end. With the support of a caring community of parents, teachers, citizens and the business community, I have felt encouraged in this my first year as Superintendent, that you join me in putting San Bruno’s children first.

We launched a journey in the fall to accomplish a vision for Schools with Tomorrow Inside that will restore fiscal solvency to the District to prepare our children to be successful in an ever changing global workplace. School consolidation was the first step in that process and we pay tribute in this Report to El Crystal Elementary School’s 70-year legacy that comes to an end this month and to the leadership at El Crystal, which is enabling the transition to move forward smoothly.

As we go to print, the Board of Trustees will be considering placing a facilities bond measure on the November 2018 ballot so that San Bruno Park School District is a beacon for our City as an educational gateway to the world. Information will be forthcoming in that regard.

As we turn the page to planning for a new school year, introducing new and innovative programming, and welcoming new leadership to support the District’s mission and vision, it is a pleasure to share with you in this Report about some of the accomplishments we have realized in San Bruno Park School District this past year. The variety of awards is a commentary on the breadth and scope of the opportunities we strive to provide our students, teachers and parents.

Thank you again for welcoming me to the San Bruno community and for your enduring support of the children we serve.

Sincerely,

Stella M. Kemp, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Our Mission
San Bruno Park School District educates and empowers all students to thrive academically, socially and emotionally to be contributing members of society.

Our Vision
The San Bruno Park School District will engage and inspire our students to be productive critical thinkers who embrace diversity, curiosity and innovation throughout their lives.
New Leadership to Support District Mission

Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Supporting the District’s vision and mission is new Assistant Superintendent Valerie Rogers, Ph.D. who comes to us from Fontana Unified School District in San Bernardino County. Her breadth of experience includes moving a large, under performing elementary school with a demographic of low income and English Language Learners, to new heights of performance. For example, hers was the first elementary school in the Fontana Unified School District to implement inclusive practices for students with disabilities. Also, under her leadership, attendance increased from a low of being ranked 29th out of 44 schools to 4th in that district with attendance at consistently over 97%. Additionally, she created an award-winning school-wide system of behavioral and academic support.

Director Special Education & Student Services

Sarah Notch brings an impressive background of skill and experience in all areas necessary to meet the needs of our student population with special needs. Parents and colleagues alike attest to her dedication to shape school culture to become more safe and inclusive and her ability to build capacity of faculty and staff to serve at-risk students and students with special needs. Holding Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Special Education, Ms. Notch’s 16-year career has been devoted to serving students with special needs. Described as an “effective, compassionate, inclusive administrator”, Ms. Notch has successfully transformed intervention initiatives in her previous assignments, most recently with Fremont Union High School District in Sunnyvale. Among her honors is that of being credited as leading one of the top 1% of innovative and effective Special Education Services Departments of the State.

Principal Parkside Intermediate School

Donald C. Smith has been Assistant Principal at Parkside since 2016. His teaching and administrative background has focused on strengthening relationships within culturally diverse school communities. He is well-versed in a leadership philosophy that is inclusive in accomplishing school transformation. Before joining the District, Mr. Smith was an administrator at Westborough Middle School preceded by nine years as a teacher of English during which time he led ELD (English Language Development) and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination); at Parkside, he is leading PBIS (Positive Behavioral & Intervention Supports). Last summer, Mr. Smith was principal of the District’s Big Lift Inspiring Summers Program, serving predominantly low income Rising K-1st graders.
Saying Goodbye to El Crystal - 1948-2018

Celebrating a 70-Year Legacy (see back cover for photos)

At the end of June 2018, El Crystal Elementary School will officially be consolidated. Students residing in the current El Crystal attendance area have been reassigned to Allen and John Muir schools. The three school PTAs and administrations are collaborating effectively to create a smooth transition for El Crystal students, teachers, programs and traditions into their new home schools. Welcoming Open Houses in May at John Muir and Allen were packed with new faces. The Posy Parade featured a spectacular float commemorating El Crystal’s 70 years, followed by an alumni event in San Bruno Park as part of Community Day.

To appreciate the legacy of El Crystal Elementary School, built in 1948 a few years after the end of World War II, we reflect on what was San Bruno at that time. Until the 1940’s, San Bruno was known as a rural town. Several events changed the City dramatically. The first was the use of Tanforan horse racing track during WWII for the internment of American Citizens of Japanese descent before sending them off to detention camps. The Army created a personnel depot near the track resulting in thousands of military personnel passing through San Bruno on their way to and from military outposts in the Pacific, many of whom decided to settle in San Bruno upon their return to the US. The second was the acquisition of land for housing development resulting in a housing boom in San Bruno transforming the City from a town of about 6,500 in 1940 to a population of over 35,000 by the mid 1960’s.

In 1948, a jar of peanut butter cost 29 cents and a can of milk, 35 cents. Among the hit tunes on the radio were “Buttons and Bows” (Dinah Shore) and “Red Roses for a Blue Lady” (Vaughn Monroe). Enter, El Crystal, named after one of the subdivisions built during the housing boom. The school remains to this day, as it was 70 years ago, nestled in the 1940’s-50’s neighborhood, at the south side of San Bruno Park. The school opened with grades K-3, eventually growing to house students K-8 until the District built its first middle school.

For this story, we were able to talk with staff and alumni dating back to the 1950’s. The overarching theme of the conversations was that the El Crystal environment was one of “family” – strong parent and teacher involvement in creating programs and activities for children to support their social, emotional and academic achievement. Following are some highlights of those conversations.

Retired Principal Gus Xerogeanes (1972-1989) who has lived in San Bruno for sixty years, began his tenure teaching at Belle Air. He founded the Outdoor Education program (now operated from the County level) and speaks about the abundance of field trip opportunities the diverse student body at El Crystal received to expand their horizons. Students recall the tradition he instituted of taking Fifth graders fishing at Lake Merced at the end of school with support from parents, teachers and the police department. Former teacher Lucy Mulkerins reflects on how Mr. Xerogeanes walked the neighborhoods introducing himself, and the low turnover rate among teachers attributed to his leadership style and the sense of belonging he created such that every teacher knew every student. She also recalls the annual spring bonnet tradition/parade. Former parent leader Anna Marie Jones (born and raised in San Bruno) shared that parents and teachers were so closely bonded to the school that, when funding was not available, they painted the entire outside of the school creating murals on the Cypress Avenue side.

Retired Principal Skip Johnson (1994-2016) followed several principals after Mr. Xerogeanes. During his tenure, El Crystal became a California Distinguished School. The AudioBook Project was established for non-proficient readers resulting in measurable growth in comprehension scores. The El Crystal Pledge was revived and recited by the entire student body to begin each school day. The Board of Trustees approved his faculty’s four-year plan for the school to become a Demonstration School for the Integration of Technology and Curriculum resulting in Mr. Johnson procuring hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funding from the Danford Foundation to create a STEM magnet school. (With the consolidation of El Crystal, STEM equipment follows El Crystal students and teachers to Allen and John Muir.)

Alumnus Raul Gomez (1974-1980) and parent of El Crystal alumni, reflects on a school experience that for him and his children provided positive life lessons that remain with them today. “When my children went to El Crystal, twenty-five years after I attended there, it looked the same. Although I am sad it is closing, I honestly believe that we need to support change in our City in order to grow, celebrating the past and looking forward to the future of Schools with Tomorrow Inside”.

The District is excited to build upon the work of El Crystal with the expansion of STEM focus schools to Allen and John Muir.

The El Crystal Pledge
I pledge for myself, my family, my school, and my country
To be the best person I can be
To learn all that I can learn and
To treat others the way I would like them to treat me. Origin: Unknown
Parkside Student Coding Expo at YouTube

Coding at Parkside has become a major attraction at the school. The students have advanced such that they were the guests of YouTube to present video games they have created through coding to a panel of YouTube engineers judging the student creations in an exposition format. Each student took to the podium to explain the genesis of the games they had created.

Alexander String Quartet Performs

What a way to start the day for Parkside string musicians! Thanks to music director Elyse Mahfouz and Music at Kohl Mansion, over 100 student musicians were treated to a mini concert/master class by the Alexander String Quartet. Recognized internationally as a premiere ensemble, the Quartet, whose home base is in San Francisco, performed string quartets composed by, among others, Mozart and Beethoven, sharing with the students about historical background to the compositions.

The Quartet has been performing together for 35 years in major music venues on five continents. Their recordings have won critical acclaim and are used in Ms. Mahfouz’s instruction with her string musicians. The Music at Kohl Mansion collaborative with schools is brought to Parkside by Ms. Mahfouz. For nearly one hour, students sit motionless, in close proximity to the musicians, in awe of the sound they themselves are striving to accomplish.

Parkside Girls Expand Their Horizons at National Conference

Resulting from a successful grant application written by Principal Kerry Dees, 20 Parkside girls, grades 6-8, attended Expanding Your Horizons Conference held at Skyline College in March. Expanding Your Horizons is a national math-science conference for girls that seeks to encourage the success of women in science and math-related fields and to promote education as a means for young women to achieve a desirable lifestyle. The chapter at Skyline College has received National and State recognition for having served over 30,000 young women at the conference since 1980.

Math and science were chosen as a conference focus to help break down sex-stereotyping regarding the success of females in traditionally male-dominated careers and to provide role models and encouragement for the young women attending EYH. The conference targets girls because the number of women in scientific and technical fields is not proportional to the population and the science proficiency of girls is below that of boys. Reasons for this include that high school girls:

- are less likely than males to enroll in high-school science classes;
- feel science will not help them earn a living;
- expect they will not use science as adults.

Female participants conduct lab experiments, wire high-tech network systems, examine microscopic creatures and design their own computer software. Each girl attends three hands-on workshops during the all-day conference.

Celebrating Diversity

The PTA sponsored an evening of celebrating cultural diversity featuring music, traditional ethnic food prepared by Parkside families, dancing and more. Students and parents dressed in cultural attire.

Parkside Basketball Teams Win Big

Congratulations to Parkside Basketball 8A Girls and 8B Boys teams for another championship season. The Girls team set the standard for girls’ basketball in the area with a season of 12-0 this year and 31-0 for the past three years. The athletes are also scholars and we are proud of their resiliency, dedication, and positive role modeling. Thanks to City Parks and Recreation and parents for supporting our teams and players.
Allen Student Wins San Bruno Lions Club Posy Parade Poster Contest

Congratulations to Allen student Caleb Corpus on winning the San Bruno Lions Club annual Posy Parade Poster Contest with his art work expressing why he is Wild About San Bruno, the theme of this year’s Posy Parade. Pictured with Caleb is Posy Parade Chairman, Lion Dr. Stephen Kelly who presented the award to Caleb at the May Board of Trustees meeting. Caleb, who will be in third grade next school year, drew why he is “wild about San Bruno Park”. His art work was used on the Lions Club posters and brochures promoting Posy Parade. During the parade on June 3, Caleb and his family rode in a VIP car. San Bruno Lions Club also made a donation to the art department at Allen.

Honors for Parkside Musicians

Parkside’s String Ensemble (pictured) has become a hot ticket in San Bruno, having performed at the Senior Center, several City Council meetings, and at the January swearing in of the new Mayor and Council. Most recently, the Ensemble was invited to perform at a VIP reception preceding the annual Capuchino spring concert. The Parkside Orchestra and Band took top honors at the recent Festival of Gardens Competition. Nearly half the student body at Parkside is enrolled in the music program. Special thanks to the Music Boosters, San Bruno Education Foundation and San Bruno Community Foundation for their support of Parkside musicians.

Parkside Student Takes First Place and Advances to National Braille Challenge

Parkside sixth grader Luke Pilar, who is blind, has advanced through competition to the 2018 National Braille Challenge to be held at the University of Southern California. The Challenge is sponsored by the Braille Institute. Luke competed and won First Place at the Sophomore level in the recent Northern California Braille Challenge.

The Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind in North America for students who are blind or visually impaired. Braille Institute developed the Braille Challenge to motivate students to practice and hone their braille literacy skills, which are essential for academic and employment success. “Braille plays an important role in literacy development as the most efficient tool for reading and writing. E-braille technologies are being integrated into mainstream products for education, work, daily living and other information making it easier than ever to access”, shared Luke’s teacher Jane Unger. Pictured are Luke Pilar and teacher Jane Unger who travels with him to the competitions.

Rollingwood and Skyline College Partnership

Developing community partners for the District is a priority for the Superintendent and Board. One such partnership we are excited to bring to the District next year is with Skyline College and Rollingwood Elementary School. Working with the College’s Environmental Sustainability program, Rollingwood teachers will participate in two days of professional development and then work closely with Skyline staff to develop projects focusing on grade level NGSS related environmental stewardship standards. Additionally, Skyline College, in partnership with Strategic Energy Initiatives (SEI), is partnering with Rollingwood.
National Recognition For SBPSD Music Program

The District is one of only 16 districts in the state and the only one in the Bay Area to receive the 2018 Best Communities in Education national award presented from NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The award recognizes the music program at Parkside and the $495,000 Music Education Strategic grant from San Bruno Community Foundation to San Bruno Education Foundation and Capuchino Alumni Association. The grant is providing music education through Music for Minors to every elementary student in the District as well as funding for Parkside music program and new uniforms for the Capuchino Marching Band. The Welch Family Foundation is funding, through SBEF, music for preschool students. San Bruno Education Foundation supports after school music for 4th & 5th graders. Nearly half the students at Parkside are enrolled in instrumental music and move on to Capuchino enhancing that music program. We also congratulate Capuchino on receiving the NAMM Award in the School Category.

District Receives J. Russell Kent Award

The San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA), representing 23 school districts, the San Mateo Community College District, and the San Mateo County Office of Education, presented a 2018 Kent Award on May 18, 2018 to San Bruno Park School District honoring the San Bruno Student Health Center’s myriad of programs and services for students and parents. The Kent Award is given to outstanding and innovative programs either in the classroom or outside the classroom as well as district-wide programs. Applicants must demonstrate their programs promote student success, employ a high degree of creativity, and demonstrate transferability.

Programs operating through the Student Health Center reach not only our students, but parents as well, including in areas of nutrition. Among other services are those from San Bruno Lions Club with free vision screening and grant funding from Healthier Kids for free dental and hearing screening.

Peninsula Health Care District has been the primary funder with grants totaling in excess of $1 million to create and sustain the Center. Marie Lukehart is the District’s Health and Wellness Coordinator. Named after past San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, J. Russell Kent, SMCSBA initiated the program in the 1980-81 school year. Pictured left to right are Ashley McDevitt (Community Benefits Manager, Peninsula Health Care District); Dr. Stella Kemp, Superintendent; Marie Lukehart, District Wellness Coordinator; Kathleen King (Healthier Kids Foundation).

One Planet Challenge Recognition For Our Schools

San Mateo County Office of Education’s One Planet Challenge seeks to recognize leaders who are doing meaningful sustainability work at districts and sites, and to recognize them for their impact on the greater community. This recognition and awards program fosters a culture of sustainability in school communities across the county by providing a structure and roadmap for achieving the vision of whole school sustainability integration. The One Planet Challenge outlines how to prepare environmentally literate graduates who can bring forward an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically thriving existence.

Nominations were considered by the County in three levels: entry, mid-level, and full integration programs in environmental sustainability. On April 30, 2018, at an awards presentation at the County Office, San Bruno Park School District was recognized at mid-level for its long standing partnership with Recology San Bruno resulting in nearly half of generated waste being diverted to landfill by recycling paper, plastic, metals and glass, and by composting organic materials through Recology San Bruno’s organics program, which is then turned into a rich soil amendment used by farmers and landscapers.
Additionally, several of the District’s schools were singled out for their creative and robust programs: Parkside (study of plastic in the ocean), Special Day Class at Portola and the Green Team at Portola (pictured right), and Belle Air Preschool (using art and agriculture to teach about sustainability).

John Muir’s Organics Crew (pictured left) was recognized and honored in June, as having a full integration program and is eligible for a monetary award to continue their work.

San Bruno Rotary Club Honors District Teacher

Jonathan Moyer is recipient of San Bruno Rotary’s 2018 “Larry Mobley Special Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Moyer serves San Bruno Park School District’s population of students with special needs. The Rotary recognition highlights his “commitment to communicating candidly with parents, students, staff and administration about the needs of students. He understands the way to make the learning environment positive so that students feel happy and successful, thus building good will and better friendships with one another. His dedication exceeds the bar as he searches out struggling students, works closely with classroom teachers to provide detailed support strategies and, when he notes that students are unable to meet learning goals, he offers to support them and their teachers”.

Pictured left to right are Kris Gonzales (Rotary), Jonathan Moyer (Honoree), Dr. Jeanne Elliott (El Crystal Principal); Superintendent Dr. Stella Kemp (also Rotary), George Pierce, San Bruno Rotary President-Elect, and Denise Granville (Rotary).

Tenth Annual Children’s Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 28th, an estimated gathering of over 600 enjoyed the District’s tenth annual Children’s Day in San Bruno Park celebrating youth and the joy of reading. Schools set up booths of craft activities; cultural performances and music were alive throughout the day; San Bruno Lions Club donated and cooked 350 hamburgers; Learning Wheels brought in free books; Parkside donated books; and, a piñata activity, face painting, and a clown creating balloon sculptures rounded out the memorable afternoon. Special thanks to Trustee Jennifer Blanco for coordinating the activity the past ten years.
San Bruno Park School District enjoys a supportive collaboration with Google/YouTube that makes possible numerous funding and event opportunities for our students and teachers. Recently, Allen teachers were treated to a field trip of sorts to engage with YouTube engineers about strategies to strengthen their work in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). Getting a first-hand feel for a 21st century workplace is a different experience than being in elementary school classrooms built in the 1940’s. Interacting with YouTube engineers was provocative and reinforced that creativity and problem solving are essential strategies for teaching and learning. It was an inspiring day. Thank you, YouTube!

Google arranged for Allen students to end their week on a high flying note: The “Chris Clark Bicycle Stunt Show and Athletes Who Say NO” came to Allen in May. The entire student body sat spellbound on the playground as Chris performed one stunt after another on his mountain bike, all the while interacting with students about his passion for cycling and how important it is for them to find a passion and stick to it. Chris takes his program across the country with the mission to inspire children and young adults to find an active, healthy passion and use their desire to constantly improve as a means of keeping their lives on track, making healthy decisions and surrounding themselves with like-minded friends. Thank you, Chris and thank you Google!

Race to the “Sweet Spot”

Fourth grade teacher Gina Bertuzzi posed the question to her class, “how can a car run without gas?”, which introduced them to the study of energy and motion – STEM in action. Students were encouraged to think about the energy that things need in order to move by exploring how energy makes things go, from powering vehicles to moving one’s body. The “Sweet Spot” race involves students making rubber band racers (mock cars) then releasing them from a starting point on a class-made track, hoping to get them to the “sweet spot” at the end. In so doing, students discover the relationship between how much energy is stored in a material and how much is released. In this case, how many winds does it take to propel the racer to reach the “sweet spot”. The hands-on activity focuses students on engineering, testing hypotheses and using results to develop their ideas. Their write-ups of the exercise required them to name and draw their racers, integrating English and art into the STEAM lesson.

The racers were made from rubber bands, paper cups, disposable plastic cup lids with a straw slot in the middle, a toothpick, plastic straw, pony beads and a large paper clip.

I named my vehicle Tornado because a tornado rushes around quickly and wrecks everything in its path. Tornado gets its energy by solar panels and wind turbines. Energy is the ability to do work. I used solar panels and wind turbines as a form of energy because I don’t want to pollute Earth. Also, it cost less money than fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are expensive. They cause the air to be bad while people smell it. Solar and wind are also renewable. Although most vehicles use fossil fuels such as gas, coal, and oil to get energy, I believe alternative ways should be used because solar and wind don’t spread bad air around. They are helpful to our mother Earth.
Parkside Students Talk With Astronaut in Space

In March, students at Parkside Intermediate School made school history when they talked directly via amateur radio with Astronaut Captain Scott Tingle on board the International Space Station. The contact was assisted by members of the San Bruno Amateur Radio Volunteers, the Millbrae Amateur Radio Club, and the students’ own Parkside Radio Club, in cooperation with NASA and ARISS. Beginning on time at 10:05 a.m. PST, the International Space Station had contact with the students for about ten minutes as it passed overhead. Students had been preparing their questions to ask the astronaut which included asking what meals he has in space. While the students asked their questions, 800 plus of their classmates sat with them in the school gym, captivated by the once in-a-life time experience.

Parkside is one of just 13 educational organizations in the United States to have an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) contact this season after the school’s proposal was accepted by NASA. Parent Nick Hart authored the proposal, organized the activity, and is co-advisor with teacher Linda Ballentine for the Parkside student radio club.

In preparation for Parkside’s conversation with Astronaut Tingle, students in the school’s new radio club quickly caught on to using radio frequency spectrum for purposes of non-commercial exchange of messaging. With the assistance of volunteer amateur radio operators from the community, students have made and are using several special antennas which required them to learn new skills including soldering. After learning how to tune the antennas they have been able to communicate with other amateur radio operators as far as 20 miles away. Their conversation with the astronaut in March was over 250 miles away with the space station in its 10,272nd orbit. Pictured below right are members of San Bruno Amateur Radio Volunteers, Parkside Radio Club students and Astronaut Tingle.

SFO Airport Partnership with Belle Air

Since adopting Belle Air School a number of years ago, San Francisco International Airport has partnered with Belle Air to create a garden for the students to plant, harvest and maintain as well as mural art on the campus. Most recently, SFO provided playground improvements with labor and installation of new basketball hoops and poles (purchased by the PTA), which involved their sheet metal, carpentry, pavement and grounds shops. Parent volunteer Martín Garfias spearheaded the project. Airport and school officials, joined by the hands-on airport staff who did the work and the parent leaders who fundraised to purchase the hoops and poles, gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony recently during lunch hour at the school so the students could learn first-hand about the bond of support that SFO Airport and Belle Air parents bring to their school.

Pictured front center with the large scissors are: Ivar Satero (Airport Director) and Leo Alvarez (Principal) joined by airport staff: Leroy Sisneros (SFO Facilities Director); Linda Young (SFO Administration and Policy Director); Susan Kim (Airport Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Manager); Kevin Allen (SFO Pavement and Grounds Supervisor); Jeremy Reis and Warren Donald (Carpenter shop); Tony Garcia, Esidro Martinez, Andrew Espinoza (Pavement & Grounds). Superintendent Dr. Stella Kemp and parents Yolanda Suarez and Martín Garfias complete the photo.
"Touch a Truck" Gift From San Bruno Public Works

In conjunction with celebrating National Public Works Week in May, San Bruno’s Public Works Department reached out to San Bruno Park elementary schools to arrange a Touch a Truck activity, bringing their service vehicles to our schools to teach students about what Public Works does for our community – services we take for granted until we need them! Numerous trucks of all sizes and functions were greeted at the schools by enthusiastic students waiting to learn about what they do and how they work. The vehicle operators invited the students to “touch a truck”, which included having students sit in them. Pictured are Portola students.

Some of the tasks San Bruno Public Works Department provides are managing design and construction projects, testing water quality to ensure it meets the regulated standards, responding to and repairing water main breaks so residents and businesses have continued service, keeping our drain inlets free from debris, repairing potholes, cleaning sewer pipelines and more.

Thank you to City Manager Connie Jackson, Public Works leaders Jimmy Tan and Dennis Bosch, and the equipment operators for organizing “Touch a Truck” for our schools demonstrating yet again that San Bruno is indeed the City with a Heart.

STEM Focus at John Muir – Building 21st Century Skills

Robotics and Coding

The LEGO Corporation would be delighted to spend a day at John Muir watching students as young as first grade, using LEGO products to learn the principles of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through hands on, interactive, discovery-based science. LEGO bricks are naturally engaging to elementary students and ignite their young desire to explore and discover. Working in small teams, students - 1st-5th grades - collaborate, using computational thinking and engineering principles to solve the problem of building their robots using LEGO lessons and activities, designed to meet curriculum standards.

Coding is what makes it possible for us to create computer software, apps, and websites. The Coding Club at John Muir allows for advanced study in robotics with students using Python - a powerful, expressive programming language that is easy to learn and fun to use, and especially appealing to John Muir students who are already thinking about careers as professional coders. The robots these students design and build are sophisticated and intriguing to watch in action. Pictured are John Muir 1st grade (right) and 5th grade (left) students.

Special thanks to volunteer science teacher, Bev Turnbaugh, who works with John Muir teachers each week in 8-10 classes, teaching applied sciences including engineering, robotics and coding. Ms. Turnbaugh brought students from Nueva High School Robotics Team to demonstrate and speak with John Muir 4th and 5th graders. Their Robotics Team donated thousands of dollars of LEGO Robotics and equipment to John Muir’s STEM program.
At each monthly School Board meeting, individuals who have been selected by the schools are honored by the Superintendent and the Board as "Difference Makers". The schools can select parents, teachers, staff, or members of the community for the recognition. Central to the Award is honoring those who manifest the District’s Core Values of Teamwork, Respect, Ethical Behavior, Innovation and Accountability, and who focus on The Whole Child. These are the “go to” people, ready and willing to do anything they can if it means improving the school and helping students succeed.

**ROLLINGWOOD**
Judy Droge Office Manager and Iris Clifford Learning Center Teacher.

**BELLE AIR**
Raquel Gonzalez Media Center Aid
Lisa Gemma Teacher

**DISTRICT OFFICE**
Marco Casazza Maintenance
John Daley MOT Supervisor

**ALLEN**
Holly Mawhinney Teacher
Andrea Vander Lugt & Ed Agra Parent Volunteers

**JOHN MUIR**
Bev Turnbaugh Volunteer Science Teacher

**EL CRYSTAL**
Dawn Fanara PTA
Erica Woliczko PTA President
Debbie Pence Teacher

**PRE-SCHOOL**
Officer Scott Rogge San Bruno Police Department
Regina Herbert Classroom Aide

**PORTOLA**
Michael Casey Retired Teacher and volunteer

**PARKSIDE**
Alfredo Plascencia Maintenance
Linda Ballantine Teacher

Community Difference Makers will be recognized in the Fall issue of the Report to the Community.
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EL CRYSTAL - CELEBRATING A 70-YEAR LEGACY.
See page 3 for story.

Report to the Community