



April 25, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

DAY OF THE TEACHER IS EVERY DAY IN GUHSD

The Day of the Teacher is being celebrated nationwide this month. And while it is an important day, I hope that we express our appreciation to our teachers not on just one single day, but make it a part of what we do every day. We are very fortunate in the Grossmont Union High School District to have an exceptional teaching staff. I know because I've spent five months talking with and observing their work. Dedicated, creative, enthusiastic and caring only begin to describe our teachers whose everyday efforts make a difference in the lives of our young people. We have to ensure that those everyday efforts do not go unnoticed, and are recognized, supported and celebrated throughout the year.

"There's no word in the language I revere more than 'teacher.' My heart sings when a kid refers to me as his teacher, and it always has. I've honored myself and the entire family of man by becoming a teacher."

Pat Conroy, Prince of Tides

LIKE CAPTURED FIREFLIES

In her classroom our speculations ranged
the world.

She did not tell, she catalyzed a burning
desire to know.

Under her influence, the horizons sprung
wide,

Fear went away and the unknown became
knowable.

But most important of all, the truth, that
dangerous stuff,
Became beautiful and very precious.

She aroused us to shouting, book waving
discussions.

Every morning we came to her carrying new
truths,

New facts, new ideas
Cupped and sheltered in our hand like
captured fireflies.

When she went away a great sadness came
over us

But the light did not go out.

She left her signature on us, the literature of
the teacher who writes
On children's minds.

I've had many teachers who taught me
Soon-forgotten facts,
But only a few like her who created in me
A new thing, a new attitude and a new
hunger.

I suppose that to a large extent I am the
Unsigned manuscript of that teacher.
What a deathless power lies in the hands of
such a person.

What deathless power.

John Steinbeck



Board of Trustees Recognizes GUHSD's Outstanding Teacher Nominees

At its April Governing Board Meeting, the Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) honored Teacher of the Year nominees from our schools. These nominees were selected by the teachers at each site. A panel of previous Teachers of the Year and District staff then selected two representatives from this distinguished group of nominees to be considered for the San Diego County Teacher of the Year.

2008-09 GUHSD Teacher of the Year Nominees:

Fred Cole

Grossmont High School

Kim Bellaart

Mount Miguel High School

Joseph Cota Jr.

El Capitan High School

Daniel Root

Granite Hills High School

Marcus Barlow

Monte Vista High School

Donald Bainum

Santana High School

Melanie Ruiz

Chaparral High School

Fredda Schiffman Ferguson

Special Education

Daniel McDowell (Finalist)

West Hills High School

Thomas Waldron (Finalist)

Valhalla High School