



SD
USD San Diego Unified School District

STAFF BULLETIN

Encanto Elementary teacher Carol Benesch and her fifth grade class are all smiles. Mrs. Benesch was among three STAR Discovery Educators chosen to attend the National School Boards Association Technology + Learning (T+L) Conference in Dallas. The premiere K-12 education technology event, the conference will highlight best practices and trends at school districts nationwide, showcase model school district initiatives, and give educators a chance to see the latest education technology solutions. She will receive free airfare, lodging and conference registration.



Carol and Jeff joined us for lunch recently, and we had a chance to hear all about her one week stay in Dallas. She reported that the conference was very busy, with all day long sessions each day. She found it to be well worth the time and effort, however, since she learned a lot of new teaching techniques.



She also had a chance to see Jessica for two days. Although Jessica was in Houston early in the week on a working Continental flight from Newark, she had to fly back to Newark and then take a non-working flight back to Dallas. She then spent two



days with Mom, and passed on some great career news. Recently she took a test in the Italian language, and successfully qualified for service in Italy. She still has more work to fully qualify, but will be able to work not only USA to Italy flights but also flights in Italy. She is very excited about this new assignment, which means more pay and more off time to enjoy the Italian scene. We congratulate Jessica on this advancement in her career as a flight attendant.

The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

November, 2006

Curtis completes training course at Fort Huachuca-graduates with honors

We had a pleasant surprise to see Curtis and Susan at a recent Saturday lunch. As you can see from the certificates,



Brian and friends tour Northern California

Dear Grandpa

How have you been? I have been excellent! I just got back from a 4 day camping trip with my friends Matt and Rachel (who you meet at the last Riel Bowl) WITH NO PARENTS!!!!!! We drove up to Big Sur California. It was a lot of fun! We left Thursday the 9th right after 1st period at school which ended at 8AM. We then got on the road and started our 8 hour journey up the coast. We took highway 1, which was gorgeous! We arrived at our campsite around 4:30PM and got everything set up by 5PM. We drove around a bit and watched the sun set from a turnout on highway 1. The next day we drove up to Monterey which was only 26 miles away. While there we went to the beach, and what would a good vacation be without Starbucks, so we had to stop there and get some. There wasn't much to do there but look around so we drove back to Big Sur and did some hiking in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Afterwards we headed back to camp for the night. The next day we drove into Monterey for breakfast, but we wanted to have a little fun so at every stop light we hit we did a Chinese fire drill (running around the car while the light is red and you have to end up in a different seat); it was a lot of fun, we even had people cheering us on!! On the way back we learned that there were little trails from the turnout points to the cliffs edge to take pictures of the coast. But being adventurous teenagers, we decided the cliff's edge wasn't good enough. So what else to do but climb down these cliffs! We found it to be sooo much fun and you can get a lot better pictures, so why not do it with every turnout we come across. Out of all the turnout points my favorite was our last. It was getting dark and this was the steepest cliff we were climbing, but it was so worth it. We were able to get on some rocks that left the cliff and went out over the water and we sat on a rock watching the sunset while the waves crashed against the rock only a few short feet away from us (we got a little wet). It was truly AMAZING!!!! Just the beauty of it all brought tears to all of our eyes. I urge everyone to take a trip up north to see nature at its best! But as everything does, the trip came to an end.

We didn't like that, so we took an idea we had before we left and put it into action. Before we go home lets go to Sequoia National Park. Now don't get me wrong, this wasn't a random idea. In school, if I got a picture of me standing next to General Sherman (the largest tree in the world) I would get 200 extra points in Government class. So we took the detour and it was well worth it. The beauty of the park is having us plan another camping trip out there. This was a great experience and I loved every minute of it! I'm actually having withdrawal and really want to go back, and hopefully, soon I will.

-brian-

(see page 3 for pictures)



To all who shall see these presents greeting
We it know that SPC Curtis J. Hartman, 602-14-1906 having successfully fulfilled
the requirements of instruction prescribed for the
DOD STRATEGIC DEBRIEFING COURSE (3A-S13Q/3C-AS19N/241-ASIN)
4 October 2006 - 8 November 2006
is hereby declared a

Graduate

In testimony Whereof, and by authority vested in us,
We do confer upon the individual this

Diploma

Given at Fort Huachuca, Arizona this 8th day of November 2006



Timothy J. Quinn
Timothy J. Quinn
COL, MS
Chief of Staff

Barbara S. Fast
Barbara S. Fast
Maj, Commanding

FD Form 672-4-6, March 99

he not only graduated, but was the number one scorer in the final test. According to Birdy (proud Mom) he turned in a perfect paper, which was reviewed by one of the other school officials in order to try and find any slight errors. None were found, and as a result he was awarded another coin, as shown in the following pictures. Coins are awarded to recognize some special accomplishment, and Curtis has accumulated eleven, thus far. He is now on leave, and will be returning to South Korea on the 25th of this month. We certainly congratulate Curtis on his latest accomplishment, and wish the best for him when he returns to his duty station. Susan will be staying in San Diego, but hopes to join Curtis in South Korea sometime in the near future.

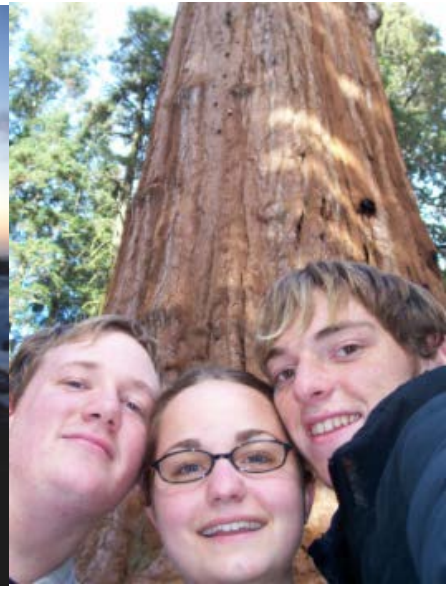


The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News



November, 2006



Me standing on the cliff's edge
Hey, everyone!

One of the waves that got us a little wet

Me, Rachel, and Matt under Gen. Sherman

Francie and Lyle do Australia again

Had a great trip to Australia this time and I think that Lyle and I now hold the record for the most modes of transportation in the shortest amount of time. We left Sydney harbor in a cab, went to a train station, took a 14 hour train trip in a very cool sleeper car



to Brisbane, jumped on the subway to the airport, flew to Gladstone, took a bus to the harbor, took a boat to Heron Island and took a helicopter back. It was an awesome trip and the barrier reef is every bit deserving of being one of the 7 natural wonders of the world list. I took some pictures of my new best friends I met walking out in and around the reef. The water was only about 2-3 feet deep and these pictures were taken with my digital above the water. How great is that, all that beauty and I never had to get my hair wet!!!! Sunrise was a pretty spectacular sight; check out this view from the helicopter. The island is formed by the coral that dies on the reef and turns into sand. What a great trip it was, and hats off to Lyle for the great transportation plans.

Xoxoxoxo Francie



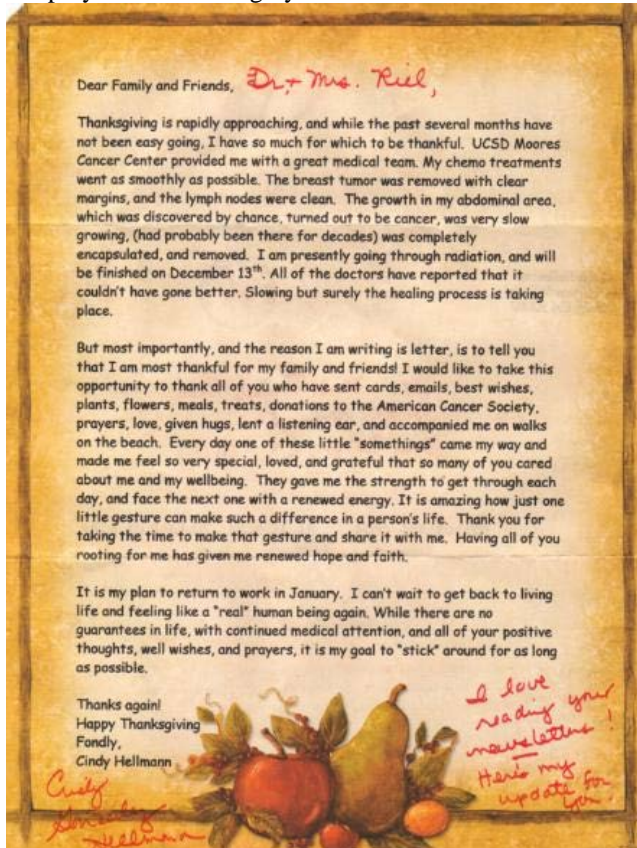
The Riel Family Newsletter

Catch the News

November, 2006

Some good news from Cindy!!!

You will recall that we reported in the September RFNL that our family friend Cindy Gonzalez would have cancer surgery on the 19th of September. Recently she sent us the following report on her progress, and we were delighted to learn that our prayers and the surgery have been successful.



Great news, Cindy!!! Congratulations

Gillinghams meet Keiths in Sonoma

Our Trip to Sonoma

We had a great trip to Sonoma to meet and greet the Keith Clan. Our whole family flew up on Friday and met at a bike store in downtown Sonoma. We rented bikes and headed straight for the wine country. There were 12 of us as we met up with Seamus' sister, brother in law, roommates, and friends (many of the people you all met at Francie's party in SD). We toured 3 wineries, tasting their wares and enjoying the day away with a picnic stop each time. After that, the Keith's hosted a small barbeque for the bikes adding a few more friends and family to the mix.

Saturday was the official "Engagement Party." There we met all of Seamus' relatives including grand parents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends. Tom and Jamie had a big poster that had pictures of Kristy and Seamus growing up through the years. In addition, they blew up the RFNL newspaper showing the article announcing Kristy and Seamus' engagement. All of the guests enjoyed reading Dad's article and were impressed with this family tradition. We had a sit down dinner for 50 people and Tom and Jamie did an amazing job with the dinner and decorations. We couldn't hold back, so during the toasts, we got up (Annie and David joined us) and sung to the tune "If I were a Rich Man," from Fiddler on the Roof, a song we titled, "We Just Loved Sonoma." We had fun sharing with everyone our impressions of the weekend and our appreciation to the Keith's for welcoming Kristy into their family.

On Sunday, it was off to shopping in San Francisco. That was fun but we had a little surprise event occur on the way back to Oakland to fly home.



David said his face was beginning to feel numb...two minutes later he said his hands were beginning to feel numb as well...then he said he couldn't move his fingers as they were cramping up...then he said his chest was hurting...all not good signs...we pulled off the freeway in lovely downtown Oakland on Martin Luther King Blvd. We stopped at a liquor store to see if they had any Benadryl...no

luck...then as I got in the car, David said it was getting worse and he was having trouble breathing...again...not so good...luckily, we saw an ambulance down a closed street picking up what appeared to be a homeless guy. There were a couple of policemen there as well. We pulled over and let David give all his symptoms. They called for another ambulance and immediately gave him a shot of Benadryl in case of allergies and hooked him to all kinds of machines. They took him to the hospital, where the ER doctor listened to his heart and ordered him an EKG. He said that his heart rate had dropped very low (44 bpm) and that might



have caused his blood pressure to drop, causing the symptoms. His advice was to go home and see our cardiologist there. He said it could be that the scarring tissue has healed making the extra conductor work again...or it could be something else. He did have a cardiologist there look at it. They cleared us to go, and so we were lucky to get on the last flight headed to SD that evening....



He's had one more case of this and he has still not seen the doctor. He got the referral from Kaiser and now we're waiting for an appointment at the end of the month...can't say I like the response, but if he does feel immediately bad, then he can always just go to the hospital which will force them to review his case.

If you ignore the adventure in Oakland, it was great trip and we can't wait to continue the party next August with everyone all together in San Diego

It's Thanksgiving time again, with Bud and Margaret. New Year, same schedule, check with M if you have questions