

**PRESS RELEASE 0405-05**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT DR. STEVEN E. KELLER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
(949) 497-7700 Ext. 200

**SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT**

Kicking off the 2004-05 school year for the Laguna Beach Unified School District employees, is a SEED (Social Emotional Education Development) Committee sponsored Staff Development Day on September 7<sup>th</sup> that will assist school employees in learning how to meet the social emotional needs of our students.

A subcommittee of the District's Quest for Excellence (Q4E) Committee, SEED is actively raising awareness and inspiring action among the community, adults and educators that will benefit our school children. Chris Duddy, principal of El Morro Elementary School and SEED member, explains, "This staff development program is the kickoff to what we hope will be our most successful school year yet by meeting both the academic and social and emotional needs of the students in our school district. Research has shown that by meeting students' social and emotional needs, it is natural that students' academic performance will increase."

The Staff Development Day, to which all employees are invited, includes a presentation on teaching excellence by Drs. Michael Bernard and Gary Greene. Dr. Bernard is an Associate Professor of Education at California State University Long Beach who created and compiled the data from the student survey, "*How Our Students See Things*" which was administered by our school district in 2002. Dr. Greene, who co-chairs SEED with Betsy Gosselin, is an Associate Professor of Special Education at California State University Long Beach. Both speakers are Laguna Beach parents.

Following their presentation is a True Colors Interactive Show. This dramatic program, which is being performed at Thurston Middle School's new Black Box Theatre, is an opportunity for staff to participate in student, teacher, and parent interactions that mirror real-life social and emotional student experiences.

Renowned international speaker, H. Clay Roberts will conclude the day with a "*From Words to Action*" lecture.

The SEED sponsored program, which promises to be both educational and entertaining, is the first of many such educational events planned. Parents will have the opportunity to hear more about SEED's programs and goals at the first PTA's Coffee Break this October.