



**Carlsbad Unified School District**

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*...a world class district*

February 13, 2012; For Immediate Release  
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### **POINSETTIA PRINCIPAL STEPHEN AHLE ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT**

Carlsbad, CA ... On February 13, 2012, Poinsettia Elementary School Principal Stephen Ahle announced that he will retire from Carlsbad Unified School District as of June 30, 2012. Ahle, who has served as Principal of multiple sites since joining the District at age 29 in 1982, says, "I plan to move forward to the next phase of my life, which will certainly involve education-related pursuits."

District Superintendent John A. Roach, Ed.D., states, "Our District, the thousands of students Steve has inspired, and the staff he has led are the better for his 30 years of service. Steve possesses a rare combination of traits, which has made him exceptionally valuable as an administrator. He has the ability to think and act outside the box in creating and implementing innovative programs that entice and excite children, while never taking his eye off the 'prize' of student achievement."

Ahle began his CUSD career as Principal of Pine Elementary School, and then of Pine and Jefferson. The two schools merged as Jefferson Elementary in 2000. During his tenure at the site, Ahle set a framework for success. He implemented the school's Voluntary Integration Plan, Dual Language Academy and Title I College Prep Program. Jefferson went on to be recognized as a California Distinguished School in 2004 under then Principal Carol Van Vooren.

Ahle became Opening Principal of Pacific Rim Elementary in 1999. Under his leadership, Pacific Rim was named a California Distinguished School in 2004. The school has continued its tradition of academic excellence with Principal Robert Devich at the helm since 2007, consistently attaining Academic Performance Index (API) scores that lead the District. Its 2011 API of 975 ranks among the highest elementary school score in San Diego County. In 2010, the school was again honored as a California Distinguished School.

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**Poinsettia Principal Stephen Ahle Announces Retirement**

Ahle opened Poinsettia Elementary in 2007. He notes, “We have outscored our projections for the first four years. Our scores have continued to grow, even with our targeted Title I population. This is an outstanding feat for our school. The staff has been committed to excellence from the very first day we opened.”

Ahle has earned significant professional recognitions. In 2002, he was named Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 18 Elementary Principal of the Year. In 2006, he was honored as the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) California Principal of the Year.

Looking back over the past three decades, Ahle relates, “I leave behind a wealth of fun, excitement, challenges and accomplishments that could not have been done except for the efforts made by the students, teachers, staff and parents with whom I have worked. I thank the District and our Board members, past and present, who believed in me. It’s been an incredible journey.”