

***Cypress School District
Teacher of the Year 2011***

During the May 12, 2011 Board meeting, Cypress School District recognized their Teacher of the Year nominees for 2011: Gemma Opinaldo, Arnold; Jennifer McShane, King; Linda Geyer, Landell; Jennifer Olsen, Luther; and Lori McMullin, Vessels. **Doug Bettencourt, Morris School Teacher**, was recognized as the Cypress School District Teacher of the Year. Being selected as a nominee is an outstanding accomplishment, because it reflects the consensus viewpoint of these teachers' colleagues that they represent the epitome of the teaching profession in terms of attitude, classroom skills, relationships with children, and professionalism. As the teacher selected by his peers from among these nominees, Mr. Bettencourt was presented with a plaque to acknowledge his accomplishment. In addition, Cypress Rotary Club President Penny Dash presented him with a plaque and a check from the service club, in memory of former Cypress School District Superintendent Dr. William Eller.

In addition to his selection as the Cypress School District Teacher of the Year, Mr. Bettencourt represents the District in the Orange County Department of Education Teacher of the Year program. The Cypress School District is very proud to announce that **Doug has been named as one of the five finalists for Orange County Teacher of the Year**. In recognition of this accomplishment, Mr. Bettencourt was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of \$15,000.

Since 1999 the Cypress School District has joined with the Association of Cypress Teachers to recognize outstanding teachers from each site and select one to represent the District at the county level. The Orange County Department of Education Teacher of the Year program is supported by the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Disneyland, and many prominent private donors. Cash prizes, gifts, and trips are awarded to Teacher of the Year recipients, and a dinner in the fall recognizes winners and their families in a beautiful ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel.

Congratulations to Doug Bettencourt!