



A Community of Learners

*Superintendent's Perspective  
September 4, 2007*

***Providing an Extraordinary Education ....***

Hello Everyone!

We hope you had an enjoyable and productive first week of school. Here's to staying happy and healthy the entire year. See you all very soon at upcoming Back To School Nights!

The California Department of Education released the official Accountability Progress Report for California Schools on Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. California's accountability system measures the performance and progress of a school or district based on results of statewide tests aligned to curriculum content standards for each grade level. We are proud to report that our district continues to rank among the top 10 percent in the state, with an Academic Performance Index (API) over 900. The API is a numeric index (or scale) that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. A school's score on the API is an indicator of a school's performance level. An API of 800 is considered high performing.

Each year our district and school reports are posted on California's website at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). This year, scores have been reported for both schools and they will be compared with last year's scores. It is important that we remember that both Hall and Neil Cummins began last school year as new schools - 5-8 and K-4. The addition and loss of students will impact the formulas used to calculate the API. We are new schools and our new baseline from which to formulate school goals will be the Spring 2007 results. This does not change our ability to monitor cohort groups of students as they move through the grade levels.

The staffs of Hall and Neil Cummins have already begun to analyze the results of the spring testing. These results, as well as other local measures of student achievement, will be used to set specific, measurable, attainable, results-focused, time-bound (SMART) goals for student learning. Working collaboratively in grade and subject area teams, and in partnership with parents and our community, we will assure continuous improvement! We are fortunate to live in a community that supports public education and allows us to provide exemplary programs and services to our students.

Larkspur School District is the best! We continue to grow and improve both in enrollment and quality. Our vision is to provide an extraordinary education for every child and we aim to do just that!

**DATES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

The first superintendent/board coffee chat has been changed from Sept 20 to Sept 24. See you then. Board Highlights – *It Happened Wednesday* can be found on the website under Board at [www.larkspurschools.org](http://www.larkspurschools.org).