

Superintendent's Perspective

Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation Pledge Week

Beginning the week of November 5, the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation Family Giving Campaign is sponsoring its first pledge week. Foundation members will be hosting several activities next week to encourage everyone to support our Foundation! Your donation, large or small, makes a difference for every child in the District. The week's activities include: 1) Members of the Foundation being on both sites daily with informational fliers; 2) Watch for remittance envelopes to come home in backpacks; 3) **Tuesday, November 6 at 8:30 a.m.** the CMLSF Board Members will join the Superintendent at Il Fornaio and be available during this Coffee Chat to answer questions about the Foundation. The Superintendent will give an overview of Foundation funding and the Larkspur School District budget. Please join us!; and, 4) **Tuesday, November 6, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**, the CMLSF will host an evening wine and cheese event (for those who can't make the coffee) please contact the district office for more information.

November 17 Strategic Planning Parent/Community Input Workshop

One of our core values in the District is that we believe in the partnership between parents, the community and staff in moving the District forward, responding to changing initiatives and continuous improvement. This means we do our best to develop structures that actively engage our partners in conversations about future directions of our school district. Our vision is to provide an extraordinary education where each child can thrive. Our mission is to do that in partnership with the community, and our aim is the highest student achievement, safe and positive school climates and to support our outstanding teachers and classified staff.

Many of our parents are participating in School Site Councils, PTA's, CMLSF, the District Advisory Council and various topic-specific subcommittees. Our Staff and Trustees are usually represented in these groups as well. We (Staff/Trustees) listen to discussions, identify issues, needs and concerns, and use the input of various groups to help us in not only the day-to-day operations of the district, but also in developing long-term plans, setting direction and developing policy. We are thrilled that so many of you continue to give us your input.

With that in mind, we would like to offer yet another venue for listening to your ideas, feedback, impressions and suggestions for future priorities in the district. We will be holding an open workshop for all interested parents and community members on **November 17 in the Hall Middle School Library beginning at 8:30 a.m.** Yes, this is a Saturday morning and we realize it might compete with other family activities. However, we feel it is important to hold a session outside of the weekly day or evening meeting structures to accommodate those who have busy work schedules.

The workshop will consist of activities designed to gather input in the areas of student achievement, curriculum and instruction, safe, positive and healthy schools and facilities, attracting and retaining highly-qualified staff, and communication with constituents. These are the current strategic priorities of the District. Trustees will use the information gathered from this workshop, and the information from other groups and communication structures, to formulate the next two-year cycle of strategic priorities and goals. This will also be an opportunity to weigh in on some of the complicated issues we face with respect to our growing student enrollment and existing facilities.

We truly hope you will set aside this morning to participate and help us institutionalize the practice! See you then.

Have a safe, fun and healthy Halloween!

Valerie

** (It Happened Wednesday) – Board Meeting Highlights, can be found online at [www.larkspurschools.org/Board of Trustees/Meeting Minutes/October 24, 2007](http://www.larkspurschools.org/Board%20of%20Trustees/Meeting%20Minutes/October%2024,%202007).*

*** Hard copies of the Perspective are available in each school office.*