

## **Superintendent's Update - Friday, January 23, 2009**

Community Sing-a-Long - TONIGHT - 7:00 pm Hall Gym

So what is this Community Sing-a-Long anyway?!! During stressful economic times we need to be sure to continue to build community. A Community Sing-a-Long brings the community together to sing some fun songs, reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones--over a bite of dessert (potluck!). Bring your kids and spouses, or just come and rock out yourself. Christopher Smith, James Fester, Valerie Pitts, and Amy Friedrichs, along with staff from Neil Cummins and Hall, will be leading the singing. Plan on an evening of Beatles, Dylan, Eagles, classic oldies and maybe even some Disney or High School Musical if there is interest... We'll have lyrics ready for about 75 songs and we'll take requests. Kinda like group karaoke!! (Remember--safety in numbers!) We all could use a dose of fun music in our hectic lives...so we hope to see you there!

January School Board Recognition Month

Please join me in recognizing the incredible dedication and commitment of our School Board Members. Our Trustees are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the District. Working as a team with the Superintendent, Governing Boards provide direction and oversight for the professionals who manage the day-to-day operations of schools. School Board Members provide accountability to the community. School Boards are the only locally-elected officials chosen solely to represent the interests of children. They have a profound responsibility to build and maintain community support for school programs and policies that are used to achieve the District's vision for public education of our children.

This November, we will have up to three available Board seats. We want to begin early to encourage parent or community members who may have an interest in serving in the role of School Board Trustee. We know we have many qualified, capable and willing potential candidates. If you are one of them, please don't hesitate to e-mail the Superintendent ([vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us)) or our Trustees ([larkspurtrustees@larkspurschools.org](mailto:larkspurtrustees@larkspurschools.org)) for more information about Trustee responsibilities. Thank you!

## Budget

We continue to wait for news from Sacramento regarding the 2008-09 and 2009-10 state budgets. Due to the level of the fiscal crisis in the state, school districts are in "hold mode" and continue a freeze on spending in all areas except payroll. Because the state is deferring its school funding until beyond the normal February apportionment, districts, including ours, are strapped for cash. The budgeted funding hasn't been received, and we must use the cash we have to meet our obligations to employees. Unfortunately, this also means we can't spend in other areas. For more information on the cash flow issue in our District, please refer to our website.

The need to reserve cash prohibits us from running purchase orders through the system, and this has created a supply shortage in some of our classrooms. Many parents have asked how they can help. Principals and PTA's will be communicating with staff and parents regarding donation procedures for their sites. We invite you to drop off a ream of paper, write a check to PTA or CMLSF for supplies, or check with Head Room Parents or Friends of the Foundation for ways to support teachers through this phase of the budget crisis. Our goal is keep it simple and get supplies to classrooms. Thanks to the PTA's for stepping up and making more funds available for supplies during the freeze. And, thank you all for your support!

Valerie