

Up, Up and Away...

Dear Parents and Staff:

It is the time of year when we experience the ultimate crossover effect - we are simultaneously beginning close out and end of year activities and ramping up planning for the new school year. I think this is a particularly important time to honor our educators - teachers and support staff - and it is fitting that May is the month we celebrate National Teachers and Classified Staff Appreciation Weeks. Activities at school sites include luncheons, wellness fairs, open houses, and flower days to name just a few.

This year our Board of Trustees is adding an activity to honor the ways in which our staff inspires our students. We invite each of you to offer an inspirational commendation for a teacher or support staff that made a positive difference for a student(s). Please click on the link to submit an anonymous commendation. [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CM\\_2flVIgsgWRQoGJu689IMg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=CM_2flVIgsgWRQoGJu689IMg_3d_3d) You can also find the link on the home page of the district website. Trustees will select commendations to read aloud at their May Board meeting.

Our Board of Trustees plays a significant role in celebrating staff, among several other important duties. In December 2009, three of our loyal trustees will step down from their service. This creates three board vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a school board Trustee, I will be offering a workshop on "Becoming a Trustee on May 6 from 6-7pm in the Hall Library. Please email me if you have any questions, and please RSVP ([vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us)) if you plan to attend.

At this time of year we are also working on staffing and assignments for the 2009-2010 school year. We often face uncertainty due to enrollment fluctuations, budget, attrition and other contract factors. Please keep in mind that because these are personnel related issues, we are not at liberty to discuss them. Issues related to personnel and assignments are confidential. Thank you for your respect.

Last but not least, I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed two Principals to serve Neil Cummins beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. They are Michelle Walker and Leslie Beatson. One will serve as primary grades' Principal, and the other as intermediate grades' Principal. They will begin August 1 and be available for community introduction at that time. Until then, let's celebrate the long and successful career of Marilyn Clark and our good fortune to have had her as Principal at Neil Cummins for the past 6 years!

Look for more budget updates in the ensuing weeks! We are working diligently to maintain the quality of programs in our district. Check the website for more information.

Yours in education,  
Valerie