

LARKSPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Message sent - 9/9/2008

Superintendent's Perspective

BUILDING COMMUNITY

This past weekend, the Lions Club of Corte Madera hosted a Luau BBQ at the CM Recreation Center. Each year, the Lions Club selects a non-profit organization as the recipient of the proceeds from this event. This year, the recipient was the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Lions Club in this fundraising effort. And for those who attended the festivities, it was obvious the Luau did more than just raise funds for CMLSF. It was a heartwarming, energizing, community building activity that will hopefully continue for years to come.

What was unique and special about the Luau was the mix of people who attended. Many of us realize the citizenry of Corte Madera and Larkspur is a changing demographic. The Twin Cities area is comprised of a majority of senior citizens. But here in the schools, we're experiencing an increase in the numbers of new young families to our community. Rarely do we have an event that mixes these two populations. Saturday evening's Luau did just that - and with great success! People of all ages chatted, ate, drank and did the hula together! The result ... an appreciation of what age diversity brings to our community and what we can learn from one another.

I had a stimulating conversation with a woman named Maxine Cohen. Maxine is a retired teacher. Her husband was Milton Cohen, Superintendent in this district when I was in elementary school. Maxine is a vibrant woman who still gives her time to the betterment of our community. She is interested in what our children are learning and had all the recent information on our test scores and successes. Her perspective and wisdom is worth millions. Having never met Maxine before, I know I have made a new friend for life.

For those who missed the Luau, please be sure to attend next year. It is only one way of showing your support, but it goes a long way in building community - an important ingredient for the success of our schools. Thanks to the Lions Club and CMLSF for their show of support!

LARKSPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS SHINE

We are very proud of the recent announcement of Academic Performance Index scores by the State of California. Both schools had 20+ point gains in this indicator, which is a composite of scores from the CA Standards Tests students take each spring. Larkspur Schools rank in the top 10% of the state. While test scores are not the only measure of our exemplary programs they remind us of how fortunate we are to have the highest-caliber staff, talented students and supportive parents!

UPCOMING DISTRICT AND CMLSF EVENTS (not to be missed!!)

****Board Meetings**** – The next Regular Board Meeting is Wed., Sept. 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Hall Library. There will be a Special Board Meeting on Tues., Oct. 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Neil Cummins Gym to discuss the Facilities Master Plan.

****Community Sing-a-Long**** - Friday, Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m. - Hall Gym
So what is this Community Sing-a-Long anyway?!! The whole idea is to get the community together to sing some fun songs and then reconnect with old friends/meet new ones over a bite of dessert (potluck!). Bring your kids and spouses, or just come and rock out yourself. Christopher Smith, Valerie Pitts and Amy Friedrichs, along with some of the teachers 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!

****District Advisory Council**** (DAC)

DAC is comprised of staff, parents and the community who meet five times a year to provide input and recommendations to district staff on issues relating to special projects, curriculum and assessment. Members represent teachers at grade level, classified instructional staff, school site council, CMLSF and school administration. Our first meeting this year is Mon., Sept. 15 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Larkspur Parks and Rec Community Room, directly behind the district office. If you are interested in learning more about the DAC, or in attending our meetings on a regular basis, please e-mail me at vpitts@marin.k12.ca.us.

****Superintendent/Board Coffee Chats****

The first Coffee Chat is Fri., Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m. at Il Fornaio. If you can't make that one, the October Chat will be on the 8th, also at 8:30. The first evening Chat is scheduled for Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

****CMLSF Inaugural Golf Tournament****

Friday Oct. 17, 1:00 p.m. - San Geronimo Golf Course. For registration information go to www.cmlsf.org or pick up a registration form in the school offices or email golftourney@cmlsf.org. The registration deadline is October 3. Come out and play!!

