

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

October 22, 2008

Parents and Community as Partners in Professional Development

Dear Parents

Each year our PTAs sponsor speaker series that provide us with ongoing education about issues related to our children and their success. Often, these speakers provide both parent and staff presentations. These are valuable opportunities for educators and parents as we model our commitment to lifelong learning. Staff professional development is a priority for our district and requires a significant dedication of resources. We thank the PTA and the CMLSF for assisting us with this priority! In addition, we thank parents for supporting the school calendar which builds in staff development days and important collaboration time for our teachers and staff. Your children directly benefit from these activities.

In keeping with this strategic priority, as well as our priority to communicate consistently and effectively, we invite you to attend a special presentation (sponsored by Hall PTA) by Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist Peg Tyre. Ms. Tyre will discuss her recently published book, *The Trouble With Boys: A Surprising Report Card on Our Sons, Their Problems at School and What Parent and Educators Must Do* (2008), on Thursday October 23, at 8:30 am in the Library at Hall Middle School. In collaboration with Redwood High School, Ms. Tyre will also do a presentation at Redwood at 7:00 p.m. the same evening. Please join us!

Another equally compelling speaker, Dr. Dean Blumberg, from Kaiser Adolescent Dependency Center, will present at Hall Middle School on Thursday, October 30, from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Library. The title of this presentation is, "The Effects of Drugs and Alcohol on Adolescent Brain Development." Dr. Blumberg's talk coincides with National Red Ribbon Week, to be celebrated by both Hall and Neil Cummins next week. Red Ribbon Week, founded in 1985, is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation. Please be sure to talk in an upfront and honest manner with your children about the negative effects of drugs, making good choices and saying no. Establishing two way communication – early – about this important topic will help your child feel comfortable in staying connected with you during tough adolescent years.

Last but not least, I'd like to invite you to attend our Board meeting this evening. Trustees have several important agenda items up for discussion including budget revisions, strategic priorities, and facilities. Board meetings are a great forum to learn more about the policies that drive day-to-day programs in our district. It is also an opportunity for parents, staff or community members to address the board, giving input on or asking questions about district issues. Conversations are made richer and more meaningful with greater participation from our community!

Thank you!

Valerie

Upcoming Meetings

Regular Board Meeting – October 22, 2008 at 6:00 in the Hall Library

Superintendent's Coffee Chat – November 6, 2008 at 5:30 pm at Il Fornaio