

Welcome to 2009!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Superintendent's Coffee Chat – NEW TIME – January 12 at 8:00 a.m. (instead of 8:30) – at Il Fornaio

Regular Board Meeting – January 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hall Library

Community Sing-a-Long – January 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hall Gym

Special Board Meeting – February 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hall Library (dedicated primarily to budget study)

Schooling: a welcome consistency for our children.

With the New Year comes anticipation of hope, economic stability, optimism and security. The wonderful thing about schools is the consistency of curriculum and daily routines in the classroom. Our staffs are trained to plan to implement a balanced curriculum aligned with state and local standards. This means your child will continue to receive the very best education with the very best teachers despite the gloomy world economy!

After the last perspective on the importance of regular attendance I received some questions and clarification suggestions. Among these was a suggestion to rephrase the statement regarding sending your children to school unless they are "very sick". A better statement would have been "if you or your child's pediatrician believes your child is healthy enough to attend school, please send them!" Yes, much better. We never want children who are contagious to be spreading the illness among other children. That ultimately defeats the purpose, causing potentially more absences.

Another parent has suggested that while the goal is always perfect attendance, most parents can't commit to zero absences. Some parents are already voluntarily writing a \$35 dollar check to the school or CMLSF when their child must be out on an unwarranted or unexcused absence. This is a strategy we support and encourage.

A similar great suggestion was to develop a student run grassroots campaign on attendance underscoring the correlation between absences and resources. For instance, 1 absence = 5 reams of paper! We will happily accept a \$35 check in lieu of the five reams of paper.

Our Board of Trustees has scheduled additional meetings in February and March for Budget Study Development (1/21, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11). Parents are encouraged to attend and give input. Budget FAQ's can be found on our website and new questions about the budget can be asked by sending an email to Budget@larkspurschools.org. If you can't attend board meetings you are invited to attend Superintendent/Board Coffee Chats (1/12, 2/10) at Il Fornaio.

Wishing you a successful and productive New Year,

Valerie