

Dear Parents,

Have you voted today? Never underestimate the power of your single vote - indeed it can make a difference, as students at Neil Cummins experienced last Thursday, when they staged a mock election. Over 75% of the students participated in the election to determine which costume Principal Clark would wear as she greeted parents and students Monday morning. The results - for those of you who missed it - Ms. Clark became Mr. Abe Lincoln, (complete with black beard) taking her usual spot at the front of the school waving, smiling hello and subtly reminding citizens to vote! The losing costume - the Statue of Liberty - standing tall on its hangar is in the closet...conceding her loss to the great Mr. Lincoln.

Coordinated by Nancy Wilson's second grade students, the class conducted a registration drive - registering each class and its students to vote in the Thursday election. Room C-6 was set up with voting booths and volunteers who eagerly ensured a successful voting process.

The spirit and enthusiasm of the Neil Cummins students as they voted on Thursday, is remarkably similar to what we are experiencing today with the election. Eager, optimistic, each student hoping their preferred costume would win and each trusting the school would have fun (and be a better place) no matter what the outcome. Voting is the hallmark of our constitution - the right of the people to govern themselves. Make your investment in your child's future - vote now!

In addition to the fervor created by the election, the economy has created havoc on our budget (again) in the State of California. The governor has called the legislators back to revise the 08-09 budget, due to serious revenue shortfalls. The effect this will have on the Larkspur School District budget remains to be seen but could range from \$200-\$750K in reductions. Last year the district cut approximately \$175K from its 08-09 budget mostly in supplies and materials, utilities and contracts. Mid year (January 09) cuts are unavoidable and we will be working on these the next few months as we hear more from the state.

Have you made your CMLSF pledge this week? Another way you can make an investment in your child's future is through pledging your donation to the Corte Madera Larkspur Schools Foundation. The CMLSF provides much needed financial resources for our district. Foundation funding ensures our children will continue to receive the quality of education we are proud of in the Larkspur School District. The economic crisis will take its toll on state and federally funded programs, class size and materials. With the support of the Foundation we can maintain and sustain our curriculum, small class sizes, and classroom aides. Please make your pledge to the Foundation - large or small - your contribution will make a difference.

Lastly, the Larkspur School District Board of Trustees will hold another public hearing on its Facilities Master Plan on Monday, November 10th at 10:00 am at the Corte Madera Rec Center. This is an opportunity for those who may have missed a similar evening meeting held on October 14th. We are interested in your thoughts and input. Please encourage friends and neighbors to attend. You may also come to

the regularly scheduled board meeting, Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00 pm in the Hall Middle School Library.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov.3-7 CMLSF Pledge Week

Nov.6 Superintendents Coffee Chat 5:30 PM Il Fornaio

Nov.10 Larkspur School District Board of Trustees Meeting
Facilities Master Plan, 10:00am Corte Madera Recreation Center

Nov. 19 Larkspur School District Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:00 pm
Hall Middle School Library