



# District Newsletter

August 2007

Volume 3

## Welcome Back!

You know I've shared with some of you how I absolutely know when my last year in education will be... it will be the year I can sleep the night before the first day of school. I can't help it! I still get excited at the start of a new school year. We have the most amazing jobs. There wouldn't be any doctors, lawyers, actors or astronauts without schools. We truly touch the future. So, I'm excited, because this year will be a great one and while I can't promise it will be easy, I'm sure it won't be boring. Some of the plans for this year include expanding technology, increasing the arts, opportunities to get involved in the school bond campaign and continuing our commitment of excellence to the children of Salinas. As always, please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Thank you for your dedication.



### Message from the Personnel Department:

We have been very busy in Personnel this summer. Staffing for the expanded Afterschool Program has been exciting and challenging. We still have openings for Homework Assistant/Supervisor of Activities. We have hired 40 new teachers and continue to recruit for long-term substitutes and classroom positions. We are happy to welcome three new Principals: Jennifer Zanzot at Kammann, Rhonda Van Deusen at El Gabilan and Hilda Huerta at Los Padres. They have already been interviewing staff and preparing for the new year. There have also been several changes in the District Office. Recent staff changes include Malisa Cazarez, Business/Benefits Clerk, Victoria Wong became Financial Analyst, Dolores Cardwell moved to Categorical Analyst, Bonnie Cazarez has moved from the IMC to Certificated Payroll Technician and Barbara Pacheco has moved to Classified Payroll Technician. We are always looking for qualified classified and certificated staff. You are our best recruiters so I encourage you to encourage others to apply for positions to become part of our District. All classified staff are invited to attend the staff development workshop to be held on August 20th from 8:30 to 11:30 at Boronda Meadows. There will be coffee and registration from 8:00 to 8:30. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

## Welcome Back Luncheon

### Tuesday, August 21, 2007



**11:30 – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Elks Lodge**  
**614 Airport Blvd.**

proficiency or better in reading/language arts and mathematics. 3) All students will be taught by highly qualified teachers. 4) All students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug-free, and conducive to learning.

These goals are replicated in the individual site plans and are the basis of decisions about professional development, hiring and

placement of personnel, selection of materials, and other programs or projects to improve the school site. Every employee is part of the decision making through grade level meetings, site staff meetings and the School Site Councils.

Great goals, wonderful professional development and beautiful facilities, however, won't improve achievement. For that we need a daily commitment to high expectations, excellence in instruction and full student engagement. Together we will make 2007-2008 a major growth year.

Summer School 2007: Over 1000 students from the entire district participated in summer school at Boronda Meadows, El Gabilan and Sherwood. Wonderful activities were observed with great instruction in the regular classroom, enrichment programs, GATE, Visual and Performing Arts, Outdoor Education, field trips, and others. Summer school was served by over 100 classified, certificated employees and three (3) summer school principals.

Staff Development: During the 2007-08, all district personnel (classified, certificated and administrators) will have opportunities to attend workshops/in-services during the school day, after school, on Saturdays, or during intersession. The week before classes begin, every school principal will receive a Staff Development Master Calendar for the entire school year. Are you interested in methodologies and/or passport hours? Every Monday and Tuesday, Language Arts, ELD, Math, Technology and other workshops will be provided. All classified staff are invited to attend staff development on August 20 from 8:30 – 11:30 and all Instructional Aides from 12:30 – 3:30 at Boronda Meadows. Save the dates! Certificated personnel:

1 <sup>st</sup> Buy-Back Day:	Aug. 20	Science Materials Inservice by Grade Level
2 <sup>nd</sup> Buy-Back Day:	Aug. 21	Writing Strategies by Grade Level

(see enclosed Buy Back/Preservice Calendar for time and location)

### Educational Services Information:

Program Improvement: As a program improvement District, we are required to build our District Plan and school plans around the 9 Essential Program Components of Effective Schools. These 9 components are embedded in the District plan and every site plan. They are: 1) Use State and District standards-based approved materials and strategies; 2) Dedicated instructional time; 3) Fully trained administrators (AB75/430); 4) Fully trained teachers (AB 466/472 ELA & Math); 5) Progress monitoring system (online assessment); 6) Ongoing instructional assistance and support; 7) Collaboration meetings; 8) Use of pacing schedules; 9) Fiscal support.

The four (4) goals of our District Plan are: 1) All students will reach high standards, at a minimum, attaining proficiency or better in reading and mathematics, by 2013-14. 2) All English Learners will become proficient in English and reach high academic standards, at a minimum attaining



3<sup>rd</sup> Buy-Back Day: June 11 Math Adoption

1 <sup>st</sup> Minimum-Extended Day	Sept. 27	ELD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Minimum-Extended Day	Oct. 25	ELD
3 <sup>rd</sup> Minimum-Extended Day	Nov. 29	ELD

Locations will be provided by your principal.

**New Additional Classroom Support:** Our district is very happy to announce the following new classroom support:

- Eight (8) Mentors for New Teachers (2 each at Sherwood, and Los Padres; 1 each at Natividad, El Gabilan, Loma Vista and Roosevelt.)
- Three (3) Math Coaches: Serving four (4) sites each.
- Curriculum, Technology and Data Analysis support for school site grade level meetings.
- New teacher/intern curriculum and classroom support.

**Music Program:** We are proud to announce the addition of two more music teachers in the district, making a total of five. This will allow us to offer vocal music to every site every week all year. Three of these five teachers will have after school instrumental music included in their schedules. The instrumental music program will be housed at three sites but will be offered district wide. The three sites will be determined based on availability of space. More information will follow as the school year begins.



**The Pupil Personnel Service and Special Education Department, Student Information and Assessment and Informational Technology** wish to extend a hearty welcome back to school. The department has increased its ability to provide service to the school sites and teachers. Virginia Garza Nunez will continue to lead the student information and assessment section of the department. Monika Macias will begin this year heading the IT department and assisting the staff at the sites to use assessment data in planning so that students can advance in their academic growth.

Over the past few months, the school sites have been hard wired or wireless systems have been installed. Now all the sites have the ability to get on the Internet with ease. The District has contracted with MCOE for the IRT portal and each teacher will be able to use this link to augment lessons.

**Instructional Resources & Technology Services — MCOE:**  
Great opportunities available for the entire District Personnel! The Monterey County Office of Education's Instructional Resources & Technology Department will be offering a wide variety of services. Please take advantage of the following:

- Professional Development
- Technology Planning & Integration
- MCOE Website Address: <http://www.monterey.k12.ca.us>
- Learning Resources Display Center
- KMST Educational Television
- Distance Learning
- Instructional Videos
- MyIRT Web Services Portal
- New Teacher Support
- Teacher Resource Center



Additional information on these services is available at your school site. Please visit their facilities. MCOE, 831-373-2955 or 831-755-0300 at 901 Blanco Circle, Salinas, California.

The District is launching its new Student Information System this fall. With the PowerSchool program we will be able to have more accurate attendance, data will be more accessible to all who need specific information about a student. Teachers will be able to take attendance from the computer in the classroom and will be able to have information about the students at their fingertips. This program also offers a grading

program that can produce report cards for students. This part of the program will be introduced later in the year. Trainings will be available throughout the year.

The Pupil Personnel Service and Special Education Department have a few changes due to retirements and resignations. The department completed the State required Special Education Self Study and the results will be forwarded to the state next month. We did well in providing the services required and timelines. We are looking forward to getting to know the new staff and provide the best service to students with special needs.



### Information from the Business Department

The development and revision of our annual operating budget is a vital process in the delivery of District's resources and services to our students. The school district's adopted budget document indicates how the District's financial and human resources are spread across schools and administrative offices based on the District's current operational and programmatic structure. The preliminary adopted budget approved by the Board of Education for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 is based on information currently known regarding the State's ongoing budget development process.

Unfortunately the Senate has been unable to pass a budget this year. Without a State Budget in place, Controller John Chiang has indicated that he is unable to make \$1.1 billion in payments, including \$170 million to school districts for categorical programs including special education and remedial summer school. If the impasse continues through the end of August, the amount withheld for various programs increases to approximately \$2 billion. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger held an 11:00 a.m. press conference on August 2, 2007, to express his disappointment that the Senate was unable to pass the overdue State Budget.

While all this uncertainty is going on at the State level, our school district's budget is in good shape and is able to meet its obligation for the current and two fiscal years. The business office is fully staffed and is ready to support the sites and administrative offices.

### Welcome Back 07 News Flash from Maintenance, Operations, Transportation & Food Service

Our departments ended the instructional year in high tempo by helping all to end the school year on a positive note, both programmatically and fiscally, while simultaneously planning for our busy summer. Maintenance wrapped up \$1.3M of deferred maintenance projects (roofs, moisture remediation on portable classrooms, plumbing, playgrounds, flooring in many of our modular bathrooms and electrical improvements). Operations (custodial work) continued its tasks under the direct supervision of their principals, with my department's admin staff answering every phone call for help! Transportation ran full schedules for home-to-school and after-school programs – our first buses left the yard at 6:30am and the last scheduled returning bus was usually after 6:30pm, all summer long. Last, but not least, was food service – after a bumpy start, we successfully completed our first year with meals prepared by our dedicated district staff: Hot meals at all schools, with sandwich and salad bar options galore! If you missed an opportunity to eat in your cafeteria last year, please make an effort to try it this year. It's great! And tell you students' parents about this option for breakfast and lunch – this is a district business that will improve with increased participation.

In welcoming you back, please know that we welcome your comments, both positive and constructively critical. Feedback is important as we focus on maintaining a positive attitude, often in the face of daunting challenges, and improving all of our departmental services to you, our customers.

