

Superintendent's Message - May 2007

Volunteers of the Year:

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~ Margaret Mead

Moreland School District could not operate successfully without the help and support of the many parents, friends, and family members that volunteer in our schools to support the students and staff. Many people have dedicated their time, knowledge, and money to help improve the educational experience for our students. A small group of our committed volunteers was recognized at the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 15th. The Volunteers of the Year are listed below:

District and Country Lane - Sharon Myers

- Payne - Heidi Gilles
- Baker - Ali Cherry and Jennifer Allen
- EDS - Melanie Christie
- Anderson – Esperanza Garcia
- Moreland Middle School - Kathy Harada

Our sincere thanks to all volunteers and especially to those listed above.

2007-2008 Prices for Lunches and Breakfasts: The last price increases for lunches and breakfasts were before 2004-2005. The rising costs for food and delivery of food are causing the need of the company that supplies our food services (Sodexo) to increase the lunch and breakfast prices for 2007-08.

Sodexo has proposed that the prices be increased from \$2.50 to \$2.75 for elementary schools and from \$2.75 to \$3.00 for middle school lunches. For breakfast the price increase would be from \$1.25 to \$1.40.

Administrators' Changes of Assignments: The district is undergoing an exciting metamorphosis. Some of our outstanding administrators are moving to new positions within the district to support and help our schools to grow. Colette Zea, Baker Elementary School Principal, will bring her strong elementary and middle school teaching and curriculum skills to the position of Associate Principal at Moreland Middle School next year. Ms. Zea will help the incoming students transition into middle school and the outgoing students transition into high school. Ann Doumanian, Moreland Middle School's Assistant Principal, will bring her strong administrative talents and love of students to her new position as the Principal at Baker Elementary. And finally, Tom Kennedy, Co-Principal at Moreland Middle School, will take his negotiation and administrative skills as he assumes the lead role in directing the construction projects for all of our school sites. Tom's familiarity with student and staff needs makes him ideal for this position.

We are excited to announce these changes that will help our students as they grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

STAR: The Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessments were administered between May 7 and 22. Thank you for your support to help our students do their best.

Construction: Now that STAR testing is complete, site preparation is beginning at Anderson, Baker, Country Lane, and Payne Schools. Construction fencing has been installed and playgrounds have been removed to make way for the new buildings. The modular contractor is on site and has begun the site demolition at Baker and Payne, and will begin work this weekend at Country Lane.

Open Enrollment (Intradistrict) and Interdistrict Transfer Requests: The deadline for the second round of open enrollment forms is May 4th. For requests to transfer from Moreland School District, the district is in the process of notifying parents. Interdistrict transfer requests for incoming students who have previously attended Moreland schools and are returning will be approved by the 1st of June. Interdistrict transfer requests for incoming students who have not attended Moreland schools previously will be approved during the first part of July.

Strategic Plan: Several community members, parents of Moreland students, teachers, and administrators met on April 27 and 28 to have discussions about their core beliefs about education, what students of Moreland School District need to know and be able to do, and what the district needed to do to improve. The four goals identified are

- Close the Achievement Gap While Raising the Achievement of all Students
- Prepare Students to Become Responsible and Caring Citizens
- Ensure Effective Communication
- Attract, Retain and Support Exemplary Staff

The first draft of a new strategic plan was completed by a writing team. The plan includes objectives, an action plan, persons responsible, and deadline dates for the elements of the action plan. The draft is currently being shared with committee members. The final form will be presented to the Board of Trustees for adoption.

Gang Awareness and Neighborhood Watch: On May 30, 2007, Moreland School District and Council Member Pete Constant are jointly sponsoring a Gang Awareness/Neighborhood Watch presentation by the Safe School Campus Initiative staff. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be held in the multi-use room at Moreland Middle School.

The schedule of Board meetings is available on the new District website. Regularly scheduled Board meeting agendas are posted 72 hours in advance.

Find a way to help your school serve students better.

Glen Ishiwata, Superintendent